

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION
(IRELAND).

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction
(Ireland) Inquiry Committee.

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LIST OF WITNESSES EXAMINED—continued

[illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) INQUIRY COMMITTEE

SUMMARIES

OF

EVIDENCE of WITNESSES examined and of written statements received from other persons, not examined, which are printed in the Appendix.

ADAMS, W. G. S. (*Summary of evidence*).—Superintendent of the Statistics and Intelligence Branch of the Department, 1883. The Branch undertakes the collection of statistics connected with agricultural crops and produce, live stock, migratory labourers, banking, railways and shipping. These statistics were compiled by other public Departments prior to the formation of the Branch. Its work embraces, in addition, the preparation of statistics of Irish imports and exports, tabular matter for publication in the Department's Journal, intelligence work, press editing and management of publications, and the compilation of leaflets, reports, &c. He describes the methods adopted in the compilation of statistics and the work done in the different sections of the Branch. The Department recognise that there is need for further development in the general work of the Branch, but to effect this an increased staff is requisite, 1884-1932. Re-constitution.—He replies to criticisms reflecting on the value of the forestry, 16289-363, and bee-keeping statistics, 16363-60; and explains the methods adopted in compiling statistics of the trade in imports and exports at Irish ports, 16361-406.

ANDERSON, Rev. W., M.A.—(*Summary of evidence*).—Representative of the Teachers' Guild on the Advisory Committee of Heads of Secondary Schools, 18706. He describes the condition of science teaching in secondary schools prior to the formation of the Department and subsequently, and the system of inspection carried out by the Department's Inspectors, 16077-109.

ANDERSON, R. A.—(*Summary of evidence*).—Secretary of the I.A.O.S., 14462. Origin of the agricultural co-operative movement, 14463. Formation of the I.A.O.S., its constitution, policy, methods and sources of revenue, 14469; financial relations of the Society to the Department, 14499-91, 14509-30, 14584-507. Provision of expert instruction by the Society prior to the formation of the Department, 14481-2. Description of the various forms of local societies organized, their constitution, objects and system of management; testimony of societies to the value of organisation, 14492-520. Statistics of the number of societies in existence, their membership, capital and turnover, 14520a-1; value of plant and buildings, 14492. General result of movement as affecting the material and social condition of the people, 14523-5. The necessity for continued and extended organisation consequent on the operations of land purchase legislation, 14528. Attitude of the Society towards co-operative hawm-curing, 14528-38; the Roscombe bacon factory, 14529-46, 14533-5. Evidence given by Mr. Shaw at Limerick, 14549-52. Alleged unfair competition of co-operative with proprietary creameries, 14557-60, 14569-70. Winter dairying 14561-8. Evidence of Mr. W. McDonald at Limerick, 14571; and of Mr. Lough in Dublin, 14571-6. The question of the absorption of the work of the Society by the Department, 14575-82.

ANDREWS, Mr. Hon. T., F.R.S., D.L. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Council of Agriculture, Chairman of the Down County Council, and a member of the late Roscom Committee, 18482. He appears of the existing constitution and methods of the Department, the Council of Agriculture, and of the two Boards, 1843-5, 1848. At meetings of the Council he has never seen any distinction made between the elected and nominated members, 18485. In the selection of elected representatives on the Council it is possible to conceive that some may be chosen on sectarian or political grounds, and that in such an event some of the best men in Ireland might be excluded. It would, in these circumstances, be open to the Department to exercise its power of nomination in favour of the excluded men, 1847. As regards the decision to publish a report of the proceedings at meetings of the Board of Agriculture he sees a difficulty in publishing only part of the minutes and withholding the rest, 1848-52. He makes no complaint of the inefficiency of the funds of the Department, and considers that it exercised a wise discretion in obtaining from using its unexpended balance till they reached such an amount as justified the Department in drawing upon them for specific agricultural purposes, 1863. Additional funds are needed, however, in aid of technical school buildings in urban areas, 1861-5; his attention has not been directed to cases where it might be possible to utilise existing secondary school buildings, equipped by the Department with science laboratories, and he is not, therefore, in a position to express an opinion as to the propriety of making the grants for laboratories conditional on the use of such schools for technical purposes, 1864-6. The Department, he considers, is served by an admirable staff of officials, and its creation is the result of an understanding come to by the Roscom Committee on behalf of the commercial and industrial North and agricultural South, 1853. The form of constitution recommended by the Roscom Committee was not strictly carried out by the Act of 1899, but was modified to meet the changed conditions of local government brought about by the Local Government Act of the previous year, 1894-6, and no fundamental change in the constitution would now be justifiable without the consent of those who, as in the case of the authorities of County Down and City of Belfast, have embarked upon a large expenditure for buildings and devoted their energies to the successful working of the local schemes, on the faith that the existing constitution would not be disturbed, 1866-7. Of the objects and working of the I.A.O.S. he cordially approves and questions the expediency of its absorption by the Department, 1873-3; several of its functions are outside those of the Department and would lapse in the event of absorption, 1874-6. He favours the continuance of the present connection between the Society and the Department, as well as the financial assistance rendered by the latter, 1876-7, but he would not object to a strengthening of the Department's control over the Society, 1877. With respect to the question of State aid to new industries, while sympathizing with the desire to promote such industries as

that the principle of making grants or loans for the purpose would be a bad one, 8978, 9027. Industries can best be helped by means of technical instruction, 8979, which should be adapted to the requirements of industries actually existing in a particular locality, 8985, or in process of formation, 8997-9001. In the latter case the instruction should be of the same character as that now given in the Belfast technical institute, 9005-14; he would not pay money direct to a manufacturer for the training of apprentices in a mill, but would, if necessary, establish a technical school and employ competent persons to impart instruction, 9023. If such instruction were not practicable elsewhere than in a factory, he might pay for the trade instruction, but the principle, he admits, is bad, and he sees difficulties in the way, 9025-33. Witness refers to the work of the County Committee of Agriculture, and to the claim made by the General Council of County Councils that the Department should be subordinated to that body, 9035.

ARCHDALE, E. M., M.A. (Summary of evidence).—

A representative of the Fermanagh County Council and County Committee of Agriculture. Formerly member of Parliament for North Fermanagh, 8225-6. He is of opinion that the Vice-President should not have a seat in Parliament, 8239. The relations of the Committee with the Department have proceeded very smoothly. As regards the live-stock scheme, there has been a great improvement in the breeds of cattle, more especially those owned by small farmers, 8256. He concurs in the views of Sir N. Gosselin as to the methods of selecting premium bulls, 8260. He suggests that the Department should place bulls, preferably half-bred, in the poorer districts, where the people are unable to purchase premium animals, 8226-31. The lectures given by the agricultural and poultry instructors are fairly attended, 8233; the Committee wish, however, to substitute practical lessons for lectures, but the Department object to this arrangement, 8234-8. The premium for boars should, he thinks, be increased, 8240. The scheme of prizes for cottages and gardens has worked most satisfactorily, and should be extended to prizes for farm drainage, 8242-5. The poultry scheme has also been successful, 8246. Witness believes his Committee would disapprove of any proposal to subsidise industries, 8247. He thinks that the compensation required by tenants for the surrender of their grazing rights with a view to ploughing, would be prohibitive, 8251; they might in some cases be willing to part with those rights if they were guaranteed subsequent employment, 8253, 8256.

ARDILL, Revd. Canon, M.A. (Summary of evidence).—

A representative of the Sligo Urban Technical Instruction Committee, 7094. Agrees with the views expressed by Mr. Smith, the Committee's Secretary, 7096. The work of technical instruction in Sligo has been very encouraging, 7094; but the existing accommodation is insufficient and unsuitable, 7097; a new building is required, 7113-9; a number of applicants have had to be refused admission, 7099. Unless the country becomes prosperous, technical instruction is calculated to lead to increased emigration; it fits the people for a state of things which they cannot find at home, 7099-7103; although many would emigrate whether or not they received such instruction, 7101. Witness thinks that the butter industry does not receive sufficient attention, and that it should be specially fostered by the Department, 7103-5. He believes that the farmers of the county are opposed to the importation of English breeds of cattle, 7103; which are injurious to the milking strain, 7104.

ARMSTRONG, G. E., M.Sc. (Summary of evidence).—

A representative of the Londonderry County Borough Technical Committee, 8336; and Principal of the Technical School, 8374. The Committee approve of the methods adopted by the Department in carrying out the provisions of the

ARMSTRONG, G. E., M.Sc.—continued.

Act in the city; they are elastic and practical; and the relations with the Department and their officers have been harmonious. The number of admissions to the various classes has doubled since the inception of the schemes of work, which, so far as possible, have been designed with a view to assist local industries. The Committee are borrowing a sum of £12,000 to build a new institute, and they require assistance to enable them to repay the loan and to develop their present scheme, 8336-48. The evening classes are financed at the expense, not of the Public Education Vote, but of the Endowment Fund. A course of elementary education is given to the students, with a view in the direction of technical work, but the National Board have not been asked to recognise these classes, 8352-59. It is proposed to utilise the new building for day as well as evening work, 8397-400.

ATKINS, R. A., J.P.—(Summary of evidence).—

Director of the firm of Morrough Brothers and Co., Cook, and of the Irish Lace Depot, Dublin, 4105-7. He outlines a scheme for the provision of State assistance in the promotion of industrial enterprise in Ireland through the medium of a Board of Industries, 4108-36.

BALFOUR, ROBERT HENRY, GERALD. (Summary of evidence).—

Chief Secretary for Ireland, 1895-1899, and Minister in Charge of Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, 1899, during its progress through Parliament. Had no official experience of the working, but is able to speak as to the general objects aimed at and the considerations which guided the Government in framing its provisions, 1. A Bill for the creation of a Department of Agriculture had been drafted in 1896; time could not be found for proceeding with it. The Report of the Reconc Committee issued in the same year, facilitated the preparation of the second Bill, introduced in 1897, 2. The Bill of 1897 was withdrawn in view of the undertaking of Government to introduce in the following year a measure reforming Irish Local Government; it was felt to be desirable before establishing a Board of Agriculture to await the promised reform and to utilize the new local authorities in connection with the Act creating a Board of Agriculture, 3. The Local Government Act was passed in 1898, and the Act creating the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in 1899, 4. The Bills of 1897 and 1899 differed materially; both provided for concentration of functions, previously scattered, under a single Department, and for an Endowment Fund, though of different amounts; but the Bill of 1897 was limited to agricultural and other rural industries, and did not extend, like that of 1899, to technical instruction; the machinery for administering the Endowment was also different in each case, 5. The concentration of functions under a single Department constitutes an improvement in organisation, and tends to add to efficiency and economy, 7. A list of the functions transferred is set out in Clause 2 of the Act of 1899. The powers and duties transferred are exercised by the Department independently of any right to interfere on the part of the Board or Council of Agriculture. The Endowment amounts to nearly £170,000 a year, in addition to which a capital sum of between £150,000 and £200,000 was originally placed to the Department's credit. Of the Endowment, £55,000 is set apart annually for purposes of technical instruction, and £10,000 for sea fisheries. The balance, £100,000, subject to the concurrence of the Board of Agriculture, is applicable to the "purposes of agriculture and other rural industries," and also to the "purposes of sea fisheries." These expressions are defined by Clause 30, and the definition was deliberately made as comprehensive and wide as possible. Similar elasticity and freedom are allowed in the application of the Endowment, subject to one limitation to which Government attached very great importance. The limitation is contained in Clause 15, Sub-section 5, the object aimed at being to ensure that State aid should not be a substitute for local enterprise or

BALFOUR, RIGHT HON. GERALD—Continued.

initiative, but should be employed to encourage and develop it, 8. Two points were specially considered in framing the Act, (a) was the administration of the Endowment to be subjected to effective Parliamentary criticism, and (b) how was the administration to be brought into intimate touch with local industrial needs? (a.) The Bill of 1897 constituted the new authority on the model of the Irish Congested Districts Board. It distinguished between the duties and powers transferred, and the work of administering the Endowment. To the Department it assigned the former duties, and for the latter work it created a Board consisting of the Chief Secretary as President, and of a Vice-President, and members nominated by the Lord Lieutenant. The scheme was abandoned in the 1899 Bill for a number of reasons, enumerated, and especially in view of (i) the existence of a strong public opinion in favour of making the administrative authority effectively responsible to Parliament. This would be impracticable in the case of a nominated Board, even with a Minister as its Chairman, unless the decision of the Board could be overridden by the Minister; the Congested Districts Board never has been, in any proper sense, responsible to Parliament. (ii) The Local Government Act of 1896 entirely transformed local government in Ireland, and account had to be taken of this new feature in the situation. In the construction of the Bills of 1898 and 1899, it was intended that the two measures should be worked together, as far as possible. These considerations were decisive in favour of making the Department, with a Minister at its head, the sole administrative and executive authority for the application of the Endowment. (b.) The machinery provided in the Act of 1896 for the creation of a Council of Agriculture, elected as to two-thirds by County Councils and as to one-third nominated by the Department, and for the appointment, by this Council and by the Department in the same proportions, of members comprising the Boards of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, was designed to bring the Department into close touch with popular feeling, 11. It was originally intended that the Vice-President should be in Parliament, 15, 16, though not in the Cabinet, 18. He was pressed to separate the Department altogether from the Irish Government, to constitute the Vice-President President, and to make him independent of the Lord Lieutenant or Chief Secretary. To this he strongly objected, 15. Questions of general interest might arise bearing on Irish Administration at large, and if the Vice-President had not been placed under the Chief Secretary and Lord Lieutenant there would have been no connection between the Cabinet and the Department, 18, and it would then have been absolutely necessary for the Vice-President to have a seat in Parliament, 15, 18. The Act does not make such obligatory, 16; the Department is strictly analogous to English Departments, and could not be worked otherwise, 19. The Board of Agriculture advises the Department in all questions submitted by the latter; its concurrence is required for any expenditure out of the Endowment, 11. Government did not overlook the objections which might be raised to this right of veto on the part of the Board—e.g., by withholding its concurrence the Board might produce a deadlock, and there might also be friction between the Department and the Board in the absence of harmonious relations between the two bodies. The scheme was an experiment, and as such must be judged by its results. It had three great recommendations; it brought the Department into close touch with local public opinion; conferred reasonable control on representative bodies without destroying the executive and administrative responsibility of the central authority, and provided the system worked harmoniously, the Board would be a source of strength to the Department. The concurrence of the Board in the expenditure of the Endowment was calculated, moreover, to act as a shield in protecting the Department from suspicion of unfairness. Another feature of the scheme designed to carry out effective co-operation between the central Government and local effort for promoting industrial development was

BALFOUR, RIGHT HON. GERALD—Continued.

secured by the appointment of local committees by County and Urban District Councils, 19. The Council of Agriculture meets at least once a year, 11; its functions are advisory; it has no definite power except to elect representatives to the Board of Agriculture, 21; the duration of both Council and Board is three years, 22, 23. The Board of Technical Instruction is larger than the Board of Agriculture; larger (though necessarily so) than he should have wished. Its powers are more restricted than those of the latter Board, 24. The allocation of funds at the disposal of the Board of Technical Instruction is regulated by Section 16 (c), and there may be a re-arrangement every three years, 25. The application of moneys is more limited in the case of urban industries than of agricultural or rural industries, 26; to give a free hand in aiding town industries would violate the principle that the State should not interfere in the field of private enterprise, 30, 39, 85, 86. The authors of the Bill did not intend that urban and rural industries should be placed on the same footing, 53. The Government could not have carried the Act if it contained such a provision, 30, 39. There is no such limitation in the powers of the Congested Districts Board; broadly speaking, there are no urban industries in congested districts, 31. The functions of the Board of Technical Instruction are carefully limited by the clause defining technical instruction, 32; lace-making classes might be started by the Board of Agriculture as a rural industry which was intended to include work done in the home as distinct from a workshop, 33, 68; difficulty might arise in interpreting the clause in the case of other industries. The Congested Districts Board gave assistance to carpet industries, when he was Chairman of that Board, 39; their powers are very indefinite, 41; but such assistance would not be practicable in other parts of Ireland, 38; to propose to give such power would raise a very grave question, 42; if a non-congested district is to be specially treated in this manner it should be scheduled as congested, 43, 45. He would not leave to the Department the power to discriminate whether a district should be scheduled, 50. Ireland has a special claim for consideration which she has received under the Acts constituting the Department and Congested Districts Board; to carry the matter further would be dangerous, 60. He is not prepared, however, to say that the definition of a congested district might not be revised, and probably it could be done, 80, 81. The appointment of a Consultative Committee was an effort to co-ordinate the educational system in Ireland, and might, he thought, be the foundation for further steps in that direction, 80.

BARRY, REV. R., F.R.S.—(Summary of evidence).—

Member of the Meath County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 11471. Local initiative is discouraged, in his opinion, by the Act constituting the Department, and though the Boards have the power of veto, they hesitate to take upon themselves the responsibility of exercising it, 11472-80. The relations between the Committee and the Department have not been very satisfactory; some friction arose two years ago in connection with a proposed appointment to the post of agricultural instructor, 11482-83. He disapproves of the appointment on the staff of the Department of non-Irish experts, 11490-1; and criticises the requirements of the domestic economy course for girls at secondary schools, 11527-39. The stoppage of instruction in poultry and bread-making, which was making steady progress in National Schools between 1900 and 1905, is attributed to an understanding on the part of teachers that the work would be taken up by the Department, 11540-81. The Committee also complain of the refusal of the Department to sanction an appointment to the position of manual instructor, notwithstanding that the person nominated held certificates of competency from the Board of National Education, 11583-95. Witness advocates the provision of garden plots in connection with National Schools, 11603-14.

BEAMISH, L. A. (*Summary of evidence*).—Hon. Secretary of the Board of Governors of the Munster Institute. Continues the narrative opened by Sir George Colles respecting the history of the Institute, and deals with the relations between the Department and the Governors, more particularly with reference to the founding of an agricultural school for male pupils, and the allocation of the sum of £10,000, provided by the Act of 1890, for the enlargement and development of the Institute, 4604-51.

BEAMISH, R. H. (*Summary of evidence*).—High Sheriff of the City of Cork, 4987. Refers to certain experiments in dairying conducted by him at the Munster Institute, as a result of the knowledge and experience acquired by him during a residence of some years in Sweden and Denmark. The Department gave no encouragement, however, to their continuance, and they were abandoned, 4668. He asserts that the general results of the working of the Department have been incommensurate with expenditure, and that public funds have, indeed, been absolutely wasted, 4780-85. As an illustration of the waste, he instances the calf-feeding experiments carried out by the Department at the Cork Exhibition, 4966-5000.

BEHAN, J. (*Summary of evidence*).—A farmer living near Monasteroran, Co. Kildare, 18763. He speaks of the advantages derived by him from attendance at agricultural lectures, 18766; of the need for suitable halls in which to conduct them, and for local committees of management, 18766-73. He approves of the suggestion made by Mr. Gmesa in favour of the abolition of the existing test for admission to agricultural classes, 18780-4. The horse and swine schemes are working satisfactorily, but their usefulness would be increased if draught stallions were added to the register, and sows, as well as boars, provided, 12820-7, 12838-9. The interests of small farmers are not sufficiently studied at local shows, and it should be the business of the Department to provide a remedy for this, 12838-7, 12843. Witness alludes to the necessity, in the interests of agricultural development, of co-operative organisation, 12792-9.

BELL, G., J.R. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the County Down Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 9158. He endorses the evidence given by other county witnesses, 9151, and, referring to the swine scheme, expresses his preference for the type of boar introduced by the Department, 9158-9.

BEST, W. E. (*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Council of Agriculture, 9364; member of the Antrim County Committee of Agriculture and of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, 9369. He is of opinion that the work of the Department has been carried out with marked ability and a considerable measure of success, and that the unfavourable criticism of their methods is due to a want of appreciation of the intricate and complex problems with which they have to deal, 9370. The funds and energies of the Department have been expended in laying foundations, and the results of this expenditure are already manifesting themselves even to those who, while condemning their methods, participate in the benefits, 9373-4. He disagrees with the suggestion that members of Committees should be debarred from becoming beneficiaries under county schemes, 9375-9; nor does he approve of the suggestion that they should be prohibited from exhibiting at subsidized shows, 9380. In districts where hired labour is required he thinks it would be desirable for the Department to encourage the training of boys in farm work, 9382-9403. He approves of the existing constitution of the Council of Agriculture, and deprecates the abolition of the nominated element, 9403; he has never observed any line of cleavage at Council meetings between the elected and nominated members, 9405; and every latitude is given to all alike to express their views,

BEST, W. E.—continued.

9406. As to the relations between the Council and the Department, there has been slight friction between the two bodies, but, generally speaking, they have worked together harmoniously, and the reasonable suggestions of the Council have, as a rule, been given effect to by the Department, 9410. The discussions, in any event, have been helpful to the Department, 9411. Witness sees no necessity for giving administrative powers to the Council. By exercising its right to appoint representatives on the Boards of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and in its advisory capacity, the Council has ample opportunity of making its influence felt, 9413. He is not in favour of substituting for the present system of appointments to the staff of the Department, a system of election by a popular body, 9414-5. As regards the constitution of his County Committee, the number of members has been reduced by excluding from it persons who do not take a practical interest in agriculture, 9415-22.

BOLGER, J. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Wexford County Committee of Agriculture and of the Council of Agriculture, 10559. The live stock schemes are, in general, working satisfactorily, 10563. With regard to fisheries, he considers that the County Council should be represented on the Board of Conservators, 10564-9. He recommends the establishment of school gardens and of an agricultural station in the county, 10570-4. The system of itinerant lectures has effected much good in the past, but the people have grown tired of the lectures, and do not now display the same interest in this form of instruction, 10580, 10589. The proposal to establish Veterinary Dispensaries, of which he approves, would confer an immense amount of good, 10592-3.

BOYLE, J. F. (*Summary of evidence*).—Secretary of the Waterford County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 10569. A penny rate is levied for agricultural and technical instruction purposes, a moiety of the amount raised being allocated to each, 10564-5. Owing to the inefficiency of funds it was not practicable to employ the poultry and butter-making instructors throughout the entire of the year 1905-6, 10561-2, and from the same cause it has been found necessary to further curtail expenditure on several of the schemes for the year 1906-7, 10587-9. He supplies an account of the work done under the county agricultural schemes. The itinerant lectures in agriculture have effected some good results, but the time has now arrived for supplementing them by practical instruction, e.g., the cultivation of agricultural plots in the vicinity of schools and the provision of an agricultural station for the county. The butter-making scheme is most popular, but it is desirable that the instructor should be employed continuously during the year, 10563. The lectures under the various schemes have been well attended, 10564, and popular interest in them is not diminishing, 10566-9. While strongly advocating the provision of school gardens, under the management of the instructor in horticulture, 10570-1; he was not previously aware that the regulations of the National Board provide for instruction to children in connection with such gardens, and for payment in respect of the same, 10575-7. In the Dungarvan district a number of one-acre fruit plots, planted by the Department's expert, have given much satisfaction. An increase in the number of these plots is desirable, 10570, 10577. Witness recommends the planting of waste lands, the requisite funds to be provided by the State, as to three-fourths, by means of a five grant, and as to the remaining fourth, by loan at a low rate of interest, 10578-9. The Cottage and Farm Prize Scheme has worked very satisfactorily, though it has been found necessary, consequent on the shortage of funds, to reduce the expenditure under the scheme by fifty per cent., and to exclude small farmers from benefit, 10579-80. The Horse-breeding Scheme has been a decided success, 10588. In the case of the Cattle Scheme, he considers that the value of the

BOYLE, J. F.—*continued.*

premium for bulls should be increased, 10690-2. The Bear Scheme is only partially successful, owing to the high price paid for bears; the Committee are of opinion that the Department should provide bears on the same terms as supplied by the Hungarian Government, 10695. Amended regulations under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act of 1903 have been issued by the Department, but these are still very cumbersome, and require to be further simplified, 10695. Witness made the suggestions made by the Chairman of his Committee relative to a scheme of Veterinary Inspectorships, 10695. He gives a detailed account of the work done on the technical side, for which additional funds are also needed, 10696-706; and hands in a paper on lapsed and possible industries of the county, 10706.

BRADLEY, L. (*Summary of evidence.*)—Secretary of the Tyrone County Committee of Technical Instruction, 8033. Gives an account of the work done during the past three years, and supports, generally, the views expressed by Mr. Delap, 8034-49. He hands in a resolution containing the observations of the Committee on the subject, 8049a. The Committee is representative of urban centres and rural districts, 8050-4. He states that in Omagh there exist four science laboratories in secondary schools, and that his Committee are equipping a fifth, whereas, one or two should suffice for the requirements of the town, 8055-9. He also alludes to the inconvenience caused to him personally by being required to prepare his accounts for audit in respect of financial years covering different periods, 8070-2.

BREEN, M., Esq., D.E. (*Summary of evidence.*)

—A representative of the County Clare Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 5065. There is very little confidence felt in the Department in the county, 5065-6, or in Sir Horace Plunkett; to insure confidence, the constitution of the Board of Agriculture must be changed, 5267; it must be made wholly elective, 5274. At present its functions are merely advisory, 5268; the real control is centred, not in the Board, but in the Department, 5270; the Board should have the power to appoint officials, 5272. The Department have turned out only twenty agricultural instructors; the examinations at the College of Science may be partly the cause of this, 5274-5, 5290-306. Witness considers that too much money is expended on live stock schemes in the county, and too little on agriculture, 5275; the expenditure on farm-prize schemes should be increased, 5276, 5314, 5380; and an additional agricultural instructor appointed, 5275. The money spent on lectures to men of thirty or forty years of age is wasted, 5276, 5326-32; such instruction should be given to children in primary schools, and experimental plots provided in the various districts, 5276, 5279; and an agricultural college established in the county, 5276, 5279, 5283-87. The people derive no benefit from the existing plots; he believes they take little interest in them, 5277. The means of transit should be cheapened, 5298. He is opposed to the rule which requires that an instructor shall not be employed in his native county, 5328-30. He does not believe that much benefit accrues from technical instruction, except in domestic economy, 5330; manual instruction is not worth the money expended on it, 5334; technical schools should be established in a number of centres, and building grants given, 5332, 5338. Industries should be subsidised, to some extent, and money also expended on the training of hands employed, 5335-50. The Department's scheme with respect to scholarships in secondary schools is defective, 5369-3. The fishery piece on the west-coast of Clare requires the attention of the Department; application was made for an instructor to teach fishermen the making of nets, but nothing came of it, 5364-5.

BRENNAN, G.—(*Summary of evidence.*)—Member of the Kildenny Agricultural Committee and of the Council of Agriculture. Criticises adversely the county live-stock schemes; objects to the payment of public moneys to the L.A.O.R.; recommends larger powers for the Council of Agriculture and County Committees, and the reconstitution of the Board of Agriculture, 11206-37.

BRYAN, CAPTAIN, D.E.—(*Summary of evidence.*)—

A representative of the Ennisore District Conference Committee, 13220. Contradicts certain statements attributed to Mr. Lough, affecting the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, 13223-25. He describes the system of agricultural co-operation in Wexford, the successful development of which in the future must be dependent on a basis of effectual organisation of co-operative credit institutions, to which it is necessary that the Department should afford a larger measure of financial support than has hitherto been given, 13226-9. The Committee are of opinion that County Councils and County Committees of Agriculture, as at present constituted, are not suitable bodies to promote co-operative trading organisation among farmers, 13227, 13247, 13255. The control of the supply of farming requisites, such as artificial fertilisers, is in many cases in the hands of "rings," whose operations have resulted in the Irish farmer being compelled to pay higher prices for manures than are paid abroad. Comprehensive trade organisation is essential to safeguard the trading interests of the agricultural community, and to this end the farmers should be technically instructed how to combine, 13250-3. Witness objects to the work of the L.A.O.R. being carried out by the Department; he is in favour, however, of a subsidy to the Society and of control by the Department in its expenditure, on the lines indicated by him, 13252-51.

BURKE, D. F. (*Summary of evidence.*)—Member of the Galway County Council and County Committee, 6084-5. Endorses the evidence

of Mr. Glynn, except with regard to the question of loans for industries; witness would prefer a free grant, 6086-8. The Bishop, he states, will not allow the Nuns in Gort to carry on a non-subsidised industry; witness was led to believe by an official of the Department that the latter had sanctioned the Gort scheme, 6085. The Department are too stringent in respect to the county technical schemes, 6088. Many people favour a system of centres of instruction over that of itinerant teaching, though in remote districts the latter is the only workable plan, 6090; these teachers have been fairly successful, 6091. Scholarships for boys, tenable at secondary schools, are useful and advantageous, an increase in the number is desirable, 6092-3. Witness refers to the horse-breeding schemes, 6094-6103. The people favoured the agricultural horse, 6094, but this year they are breeding more largely from the thoroughbred, 6104. He considers that the premiums for bulls are too high, 6105-6; all the premiums allotted to the county have been taken up, 6107. The practice of certifying bulls for premiums enhances their price, 6107; this might be avoided by buying them on their merits, 6113. The swine scheme has been a great success, 6114; the boars are obtained for almost nothing, 6115. The poultry scheme has also been very successful; it reaches a class of people whom the cattle or swine scheme cannot reach; larger numbers of eggs are laid, and prices are better, 6115. The lectures given in veterinary science by Professor Mason, and on the uses of manure by Mr. Dewar, have been very attractive and of great benefit, 6115-8. Witness approves of the provision of plots attached to National schools for theoretical instruction in gardening to the pupils, 6120. The leaflets issued by the Department are instructive and in some districts much appreciated, 6123-4. He draws attention to the alleged failure of the Department to contribute towards the carrying out of improvements at Kinavara Pier, 6127.

BUTLER, J., F.R.S.—(*Summary of evidence*)—A Member of the Kilbenny Agricultural and Technical Instruction Committee, 11354. The Department, as at present constituted, is in direct contradiction to the spirit of local government; the administration should be entrusted to the Vice-President and four elected representatives, and the nominative elements on the Council and Board of Agriculture dispensed with, 11355-7, 11361. The suggestions of the County Committee have been frequently ignored by the Department; a case in point is mentioned by witness—a cattle-breeding scheme prepared in 1905, and ultimately adopted in 1906, 11369-60. The classes for instruction in domestic economy have only been partially successful; it is believed that such instruction could be better given at centres connected with primary schools, 11369. The Trades Preparatory School in Kilkenny has been attended with indifferent results. He considers the multiplication of such schools to be undesirable, 11369-94; and instead of giving scholarships for the Trades Preparatory School to boys from National Schools, he would award them to boys from secondary schools, 11395.

BYRNE, M. J.—(*Summary of evidence*)—Refers to the circumstances under which the Department failed to consider him competent to hold the position of horticultural instructor, 14097-143.

CAMPBELL, Sir C., D.S.—(*Summary of evidence*)—Medical Superintendent Officer of Health of the City of Dublin and Public Analyst, 13689. He recommends the transfer to the Veterinary Branch of the Department of the powers vested in local Sanitary Authorities with respect to the supervision of dairy yards in rural districts, 13691-6, and that the Department or their officers should be empowered to institute proceedings for offences arising out of the sale of margarine as butter. The latter object might be effected by legislation or by general agreement on the part of County Councils to appoint the officers of the Department as sanitary sub-officers for the purpose of such proceedings, 13700-8.

CAMPBELL, Professor J. R.—(*Summary of evidence*)—Assistant Secretary in respect of Agriculture, 1222.

Administration.

Initial steps taken to give effect to the provisions of Act of 1899; conclusions arrived at and steps taken after consultation in 1900 with County Councils and study of local conditions; division of work between central and local authorities; expenditure from joint fund, 1233-4. Nationality of persons appointed to certain positions by Department and County Committees, 1556-28; rule precluding the employment as instructors in counties of persons who are natives of same, 1628-40. Suggested extension of system of loans, at cheap rates, to farmers for various purposes, 1736-46. Re-constitution. Delay in appointment of instructors, 15180-1, 15183-4. Formation of district Sub-Committees, 16408-11, 16530-7. Basis of distribution of expenditure on live-stock and agricultural schemes, 16456-79.

Agriculture.

Agricultural education. Special considerations influencing Department in formulating their policy, 1386-15. Programme of instruction provided—for farmers' sons, at Royal College of Science, 1315, 1320-35, 1432; at Albert Agricultural College, Glencree, 1309, 1315, 1436-78, 1473; agricultural stations at Achery, Conakilly, and Ballyhaise, 1315-6, 1376-20; winter schools of agriculture, 1319, 1386-1421; and by a system of itinerant instruction, 1472-94, 1844-9;—for farmers' daughters, at the Munster Institute, 1421-32, 1434-45; Loughree Institute, 1423-3, 1438; rural schools of domestic economy, Portlanna, Westport, Loughglyn, and Dun-

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manway, 1445-71; by means of itinerant instruction in dairying and poultry-keeping (see also County Schemes), and at Bosc-at-Tighe classes, 1472. Technical advice to correspondents, 1478-81, 1900-1; dissemination of leaflets containing results of field experiments, 1944-8. As to the practicability of imparting instruction in horticulture to children in rural primary schools, 2072-82, and the desirability of directing the elementary teaching in such schools towards rural interests, 2074-6, 2082. Re-constitution. Winter schools of agriculture, large increase in number contemplated, 15285-8. Agricultural schools at Monaghan and Downpatrick 15134. Additional agricultural stations contemplated in Ulster, North Munster, and South-east Limerick, 15134. Sale of moorland at Agheny station, the need for instructing students in reclamation, 15189-203, 16514. School gardens and horticultural plots, 16204-24. County model farms, 15236-42. Supply of lime to farmers, 15247-8. Winter dairying and tillage, 15243, 16515-26. County Mayo evidence, 15244-6, 15248-55. County Donegal evidence; non-appointment of instructor, 12255-72. Department's contribution to county, 15277-8. Suggestion that scheme of Scholarships for Royal College of Science attracted non-Irish students, 15182. Munster Institute, 16480-513. Basis of distribution of expenditure on agricultural schemes, 16456-79.

Agricultural Branch.

Staff. Sufficiency of, 2011-46, 2061-7. Re-constitution, 15200-4.

Congested Districts.

Special steps taken by Department for treatment of, 1772-95, 1820-2. Re-constitution. Policy of the Department with respect to; letter from Mr. Wynham, M.P.; account of work done and expenditure on supplemental schemes financed by Department, 16334-392, 16407-79, 16530-6. County Donegal evidence, difficulty of procuring applicants for premium bulls in congested areas, 18274-8.

County Schemes.

Cattle breeding. Procedure in relation to, 1640. System of premiums described, 1650-1704. Effect of system of selection for premiums on prices of bulls purchased, 1705-15. Effect of working of schemes on quality of stock, generally, 1716. Centres at which premium bulls are purchased, 1711, 1801. Institution of hand-book for dairy cattle with a view to improvement of milking strains, 1754-6. Creation of reserves of bulls to obviate the difficulty of supplying the more backward counties, 1796-1800, 1804-13. Number of bulls placed in congested districts by County Committees, 1819. Special steps taken by Department in congested districts, 1772-96, 1820-2. Opposition to introduction of Galloway Bulls, 1776-82. The re-importation of foreign stock would stimulate dairying, 1787. Suggested loans to farmers for purchase of cattle, out of the Endowment, 1743-5. Maximum expenditure on schemes reached, 1753-5. Re-constitution. Uniformity of schemes, sufficiency of time allowed to Committees for their discussion, and alleged disregard of local wishes, 18207-32, 18283. Half-bred bulls, 15085-8, 15096-7. Value of premiums, 15097-9. Ages of premium bulls, 15099-100. Service fees, 15103-6. Purchase of bulls, 15106. Tuberculin Test, 15105-10, 15211. Responsibility for selection of bulls, 15128, 16454. Number of premium bulls in Cavan and Mayo, 15161. The system of ticketing bulls before purchase, 15162-8. Their high-class condition, 15167-8, and treatment, 15171-3. Inspection of bulls at local centres, 15169-70. Refusal to renew premiums, 15174. Alleged favouritism by inspectors in selection of bulls, suggested

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employment of judges who act for Show Societies, 15174-5. Association of inspectors with representatives of Committees for purposes of selection, 15177-80. Action of Department with respect to poorer and more backward districts, 15130-87 (see also Congested Districts). Progressive growth of expenditure under schemes, 15136.

Horse breeding. Procedure in relation to schemes and their operation since 1905, 15040-60. Special steps taken by Department in congested districts, 1772. **Re-examination.** Uniformity of schemes, sufficiency of time allowed to Committees for their discussion, and alleged disregard of local wishes, 15077-82, 15282. Half-bred sires, 15060-63. Irish draught-horse, 15094, 15115-26. Responsibility for selection of stallions, 15128, 15434. Hackneys, 15159. Action of Department with respect to the poorer and more backward districts, 15130-37, (see also Congested Districts). Sale of a horse by Department at a profit, 15587-9.

Pig breeding. 1755-62, 1768-70. Special steps taken by Department in congested districts, 1794.

Sheep breeding. Scheme not now operative, 1771, except in Wicklow and the congested districts, 1772-83. Sheep-dipping, action of County Councils, 15434.

Denary Stud, 1794-6.

County Shows. Subsidies to, 1719-22, 1742. Increase in number subsidised, 1814-9.

Butter-making. Value of the butter industry; progress made under schemes, 1545-75. **Re-examination.** Winter dairying, 15343, 15515-26.

Poultry. Subjects of instruction given; extent of operations under schemes, 1545-1546. **Re-examination,** 15183.

Horticulture. Extent of operations, 1575-90; the practicability of imparting instruction to children in rural schools, 1072-81; the question of school gardens, 15204-24.

Bee-keeping, 1560-3. **Re-examination,** 15183.

Flax cultivation, 1593-1606; experiments conducted by the Department, 1563-66; assistance to co-operative flax societies, 1861; increased acreage under cultivation, 1962-3.

Farm and Cottage Prices. 1494.

Finance.

Limit to expansion of schemes reached owing to depletion of savings 1307, 1763-5. **Re-examination,** 15231, 15496.

Relations of Department to

County Committees. Allocation of funds 1283-4. Supervision by Department over expenditure, 1363-4. Administrative difficulties in earlier years, 1991-2010, 2061. **Re-examination.** Uniformity of schemes, 15077. Progressive growth of work, abandonment of friction, 15125, 15230. Formation of district Sub-Committees, 15408-11, 15533-7.

Council of Agriculture. Allocation of funds, 1294, 1307.

Board of Agriculture. Allocation of funds, 1294, 1307.

Special investigations undertaken by Department in connection with Barley growing, 1849. Calf-feeding, 1830. Cheese-making, 1870-86. Creamery management, 1923-30. Flax cultivation, 1963-65. Fruit growing, 1871-6. Fruit fuel and peat-moss litter, 1915-28. Potato spraying, 1933-6. Early potato growing, 1849-71. Sugar-beet cultivation, 2047-51. Seed-testing, 1972-83. Tobacco, 1893-1915. Outbreaks of diseases in cattle, 1893-4, 1952. **Re-examination.** Erection of a tobacco-curing shed in King's County without communication with local Committee, 15225-5. Tobacco-growing centres, 15227-30.

Forestry. Work of Department in connection with, 1823-43.

CAMPBELL, VEAR REV., DEAN. (Summary of evidence).—Representative of the Athlone Urban Technical Instruction Committee, 6433. The Committee have no fault to find with the Department's relations towards them, 6433. The instruction given in domestic economy has been very satisfactory, 6433-5. The class in wood-work training has not been so successful as desired; it is difficult to retain the boys, and it would be a great advantage if the Committee were in a position to retain them as apprentices by payment of a small weekly wage, 6438-40. The establishment of a trade school, at which the boys could be better trained for technical work, is also desirable, 6441-4. With a view to the establishment of an industry in wood-work the Committee recommend the formation of a Company to take over, on lease, the premises now used as a technical school, the Department to continue the services of the existing teacher and not to withdraw the present grant, 6450-77. Witness suggests that one or two scholarships should be given by the Department to enable boys to enter the local woollen factory or a printing establishment, 6482.

CAMPBELL, R., L.D.O.—(Summary of evidence).—Chief Clerk of the Department, 3252. General statement of his duties, 3253-8; and of the volume of work dealt with in the various branches of the Department, 3259-55. Work of the Veterinary Branch described under the following heads—its origin, functions, powers, and co-operation with the English Board of Agriculture, 3257; action taken for the suppression of diseases among live-stock, and results attained, 3258-77; relations with local authorities, provision of funds and their expenditure, 3273-8; relations of Branch with Agricultural Board, 3282-4. Transit of animals, 3285; and of agricultural produce; action taken and results, 3286-91. Railway rates; Department's powers and action taken, 3292-310.

CAREY, P. J.—(Summary of evidence).—A farmer living near Aughrim, Co. Wicklow, 12345. Recommends alterations in the constitution of the Department, the Council and Board of Agriculture; his recommendation is not based on the defects in the working of the Act, but merely on the belief that the Department would inspire greater confidence if the constitution were altered, 12348-79. He reviews the working of the several schemes in the county, 12350-422; suggests the establishment of an agricultural station at Avondale, 12622-4; of veterinary dispensaries, 12635-7; and the acquisition of waste lands for planting, 12637-43.

CAROLAN, A. J. (Summary of evidence).—Secretary of the Mayo County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 6643. Finds in report drawn up by the Committee of Agriculture, 6644. The grant for technical instruction in the county is insufficient; if it be not increased many schemes must fall through, 6644. The classes in domestic economy have been very successful, 6647; the subject should be taught in all National schools, 6648. The restriction on the attendance at technical classes of children in National schools should be removed, 6649; the defective education of young children on leaving such schools is not helpful to their training in technical subjects, 6648. With regard to the dual system of examination in secondary schools, it is considered that one body should control all the examinations, 6649. The county is without an agricultural instructor, the Department not being in a position to supply a qualified man, 6651. The provision of small experimental plots would be advantageous, though demonstrations on a larger scale would be still more so, 6657. Many members of the Committee consider that one general scheme is inapplicable to a county so circumstanced like Mayo, 6658. The Committee numbers sixty-four members, and meetings are held monthly at three centres, 5561-4. It is considered that none but registered bulls and stallions

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should be permitted to be retained, and that means should be adopted to encourage the keeping of young mares, 6665. The prizes given for young mares at local shows do not sufficiently meet the case, 6668-9. Agriculture should be taught in National schools, 6674. There are two dairy instructors in the county; their lectures have been successful; instruction is given in both the old and the new style of butter-making, 6674. More frequent lectures in veterinary science are essential, 6674. The live stock and poultry schemes are working satisfactorily, 6675; the number of premium bulls in the county is, however, insufficient, 6677-8; there are many large districts without a bull, 6678. Witness advocates the planting of waste lands, 6679-83.

CASEY, VEAR REV. W., M.A. (*Summary of evidence*).—Chairman of the County Limerick Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The Committee should have the power of initiative; at present they have none, 5153. They elected a poultry inspector, but the Department would not sanction the appointment, 5157, 5173. The Committee should be enabled to give money grants for tillage, 5153, 5187. The system of itinerant instruction has accomplished some good, 5169; in the poorer parts of the county it is not of much advantage, 5164. He would substitute for this system centres for training, 5153, 5168. The expenditure on manual instruction would be more usefully applied in other directions; needlework and domestic economy classes for girls should be extended from one to two or three sessions, 5164, 5171. The restriction on the attendance at technical classes of children in primary schools should be removed, 5155-6. Witness advocates financial aid to industries, 5185-6.

CASSIDY, M. (*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Donegal County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 5401. Endorses the evidence of the Rev. J. Mearns. He considers that the live stock schemes should be framed and administered by district committees; that bulls should be procured by these committees; that it should not be competent to any authority to reject a bull so purchased; and that the Department should register the animal, 5402-20.

CLANCY, MORGAN REV. DA., Bishop of Elphin.—(*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Board of Technical Instruction, Sligo County Committee of Agriculture and Sligo Urban Technical Committee, and of the Roscommon County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 3440-2. Constitution of the Department. Statutory defects—the concentration of many and incongruous functions under one Department, 3363-6, 3470-82; Departmental independence and patronage, 3447; position of the Vice-President, 3469; testimony to Sir H. Plunkett, 3450; the question of alteration in the Constitution, 3484. Relations of Department to the Board of Technical Instruction. Perfect freedom of discussion by Board of matters under consideration, and of control over finances. Cooperation of Department and their officers. The Board's power of initiative, 3443. Technical Instruction. Sligo Borough Scheme: framed to meet local demands, courses of instruction and attendance, 3482, effectiveness of Scheme, 3483-5. Technical training to girls at Loughglynn, 3490. Building grounds for technical schools, necessity for, 3482. Education. Inadequacy of existing means for providing higher technical education, 3447-51. Voluntary assistance afforded for educational purposes by Catholics, 3482-5, 3495-6. The necessity for co-ordinating the various educational systems, 3485. The Department's programme of science instruction, 3489-92. Claims of Convent schools to more generous assistance, 3497. Evening Confectionery Classes under the National Board; unpopularity of in Sligo, 3499. Agriculture. Provision of school gardens; instruction given to girls at Loughglynn, 3490. Industries.

CLANCY, MORGAN REV. DA.—continued.

Enlargement of the Department's powers and funds recommended to enable them to provide and to pay for expert teaching in the initial stages of industrial undertakings, including the training of factory bands, 3451-9.

CLARKE, REV. E. (*Summary of evidence*).—A Presbyterian minister, and member of the Strathane Urban Technical Committee, 5102-3. He agrees generally with the evidence of Mr. Delap and Mr. Bradley, 5164. He entertains some doubts as to the effects of the revised programme and the distribution of grants thereunder, 5165-74.

CLARKE, REV. DA.—Presbyterian Minister and member of the Galway Urban Technical Instruction Committee, 5668. The Department have done excellent work, 5670. The building used for technical classes is undervalued and ill-ventilated, 5670-3. Enumerates the classes, 5677. The commercial and art classes are attractive and well attended, 5678-6, those on the domestic side are not so popular, 5679. The attendance in the classes generally fluctuates, but on the whole there has been improvement, 5680. He considers that the local committees should include ladies on the domestic side, 5681-3, and that other persons with special qualifications should also be co-opted, 5684. Funds are inadequate, 5687, there is no margin left for instruction in history, net-making, horticulture, and other classes, which are essential, 5687-92. Means should be adopted for inducing pupils to give more regular attendance so as to qualify for teacherships, 5692-6. Increased grants can be earned under the revised programme, but it is not proposed to give effect to it for a year, 5691-2.

CLARKE, J. (*Summary of evidence*).—Secretary of the Mayo County Council, 6531, and formerly Secretary of the County Committee, 6532. He refers to schemes framed by the Committee when he was Secretary of that body, which the Department refused to sanction, 6531-532.

CLEEVE, SIR T. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce, 5698. Substantially confirms the statements of Mr. W. M. Donnell as to the injury sustained by the butter industry and by the owners of proprietary creameries owing to the action of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and its officials, 5699-1. He objects to the formation of co-operative creameries in districts where they would interfere with existing proprietary creameries; if the regulations of the Department, dated 12th February, 1905, were acted upon with a view to secure this result, his objection would disappear, 5693-7.

CLIFFORD, LIEUT.-GENERAL, C.B. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Carran County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 9321. The holdings in the county are very small, the average valuation being about £13. He bears testimony to the benefits resulting from the agricultural and cottage prize schemes; from the lectures given in veterinary science; and from the lace and manual instruction classes, 9322-4. It would be an advantage if the Department employed a shorthand writer to attend the veterinary lectures with a view to their distribution in leaflet form, 9354-60. The lace industry is a source of considerable revenue to the daughters of small farmers, and he urges the appointment of an additional instructor, 9324-26. He expresses approval of the introduction of pure-bred bulls and boars, and points out the reasons why these schemes have not given entire satisfaction, 9334-8. At the same time

CLIFFORD, LIEUT.-GENERAL, C.B.—continued.

he disapproves of the practice of certifying premium bulls before their purchase, 9805-24. He considers that in a county circumstanced like Cavan greater encouragement should be given to small occupiers, and he suggests that the grants by the Department in aid of local shows should only be made on condition that the major part of the money is paid in prizes to the small farmers exhibiting. The Committee have already made a proposal to this effect to the Department, though without success, 9822-24. He refers to suggestions made by an Inspector of the Department in connection with the Killyshannon Co-operative Creamery with the object of showing that they were not practical, 9827. It is believed that a large quantity of Irish butter is sold in England as Danish, and he asks that a Butler Inspector be appointed both in England and Ireland, 9828-35. He does not approve of the constitution of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and complains of an act of interference on the part of that Society with the affairs of Killyshannon Creamery, 9834-8. Witness describes the working of an agricultural bank, of which he is Chairman, 9839-53.

CLIFTON, H. C.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutes, 12366. Suggests a closer correlation between teachers and the Department, and the representation of the Association on the Board of Technical Instruction. The visits of the Inspectors to the Pembroke Technical School, of which he is a teacher, have been infrequent; additional Inspectors are needed, 12373-7. Technical teachers should be afforded opportunities of improving themselves in the higher branches of their profession by summer courses in Dublin or Belfast, and by visits to commercial and industrial centres in England and elsewhere, 12373. He refers to the unpreparedness of pupils for technical instruction and offers suggestions, 12379-41, and comments on the requirement of the Department in respect to the qualifications insisted upon for teachers, 12341-5.

CLOW, W. A. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the Periodown Technical Instruction Committee, 8655. He expresses concurrence in the views of Dr. Woolfitt and Mr. Richardson, 8666. He urges the desirability of an arrangement between the Department and the Commissioners of National Education whereby the pupils of National Schools shall attend the technical afternoon classes, 8667-71; and suggests that County Councils should pay capitation fees in respect of students living outside urban districts, who are in attendance at urban technical schools, 8675-4. The Committee have endeavoured, with satisfactory results, to bring about a closer relationship between the technical school and the proprietors of textile factories and master builders, in order that a preference may be given to students holding school certificates entitling them to increased wages, so long as they continue to attend the school, 8678.

CODD, J., J.P.—(Summary of evidence).—A member of the Wexford County Council and Committee of Agriculture 10824. He agrees with the evidence given by Mr. Hove, 10825, 10830, 10841. His Committee desire to be authorized to apply savings from moneys provided for a particular scheme to purposes not covered by the scheme, 10825-9.

COEY, E., J.P. (Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, 9535. He corroborates, generally, the evidence given by other representative witnesses from the County Antrim, 9536-43.

COFFEY, F. (Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Irish Cattle Traders' and Stockowners' Association, 5027. He outlines a scheme

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for the establishment in large dairying districts of stations at which to breed stock to take the place of premium cattle, against which farmers are prejudiced, 5028-32. The Association consider that the quality of cattle has deteriorated; their general treatment is bad, and steps should be taken to impress on small farmers the necessity for improved methods in the handling of live-stock, 5070-5. He refers to a cattle-feeding experiment conducted by himself, 5083-5; and he also alludes to an experiment conducted by the instructor on a demonstration plot, which has not been visited by the people for whose benefit it was intended, 5085-66.

COGAN, D. J., M.P.—(Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the Wicklow Committee of Agriculture, 11763, and member of the Agricultural Council, 11764. The two Boards should be invested with full executive and administrative functions, their policy initiated and directed by the Council, and all three bodies should be wholly elected, 11765-62. While testifying to the value of Sir H. Plunkett's services, witness asserts that the existing constitution vests in the Vice-President powers, the arbitrary exercise of which might conceivably lead to disastrous results; such a contingency would be avoided if the Department were subject to full popular control, 11772. The relations between the County Committee and the Department have been cordial, and many of the Committee's representations have been embodied in the county schemes. At the same time they consider that the Department's schemes are of too cast-iron a character, and should be capable of adaptation to special local needs, 11792. The acquisition of one or two farms in each county, to be worked as model farms on the most approved methods, is strongly recommended; their educational influence would be greater and more far-reaching than can be expected to follow from the establishment of stations, as at Clonsilla, etc., 11792-412. The Committee also hope that the Department will assist in forestry operations in the county, 11813-23. The horse-breeding scheme has effected much improvement in Wicklow; witness thinks it essential that steps should now be taken to induce farmers to retain mares for breeding purposes, and to this end he suggests a scheme of subsidies by the Department, 11829-39. A similar inducement should be held out in respect of heifers, 11835. He urges the necessity of adopting measures for preventing breeding from inferior sires horses and cattle, 11840-53. With regard to the selection of premium bulls, the opinion is held that the present system of ticketing the animals unduly enhances their price, and as an alternative it is suggested that provisional sales, without the tickets, might be allowed, subject to the animals being passed by the inspector, 11853-71. He protests against certain statements made by Professor Campbell on 1st June, which are considered to amount to a charge of corruption against County Committees generally, 11872-6. His Committee recommend the promotion of school gardens in rural districts, 11876, and of additional funds for technical instruction and school buildings, 11877. He makes suggestions as to the transfer of technical education to an Authority other than the Department, 11879-95, and proposes that funds be placed at the disposal of the Department for the promotion of industries, 11894-5.

COLLERY, R., ALDERMAN, J.P. (Summary of evidence).—Member of the County Mayo Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 7002. The Committee and the Department are working fairly well, 7006. He disapproves of the arrangement under which premium bulls are obtained from Dublin; they are too costly; their calves are bad; and better bulls can be obtained locally, 7006-10. The co-operative creamery system has not been a success; separated milk is injurious to calves, 7013. The farmers were better off when they made their own butter, 7014. The agricultural work of the Department is doing good, but the expenditure on administration is

COLLERY, B., ALDERMAN, J.P.—(Continued).

extensive, 7017. The money would be better expended in prizes to farmers for the cultivation of their crops, 7018. Disapproves of small experimental plots; prefers the establishment of a model farm, which would afford more practical methods of demonstration, 7019-22.

COLTHURST, Sir GEORGE, Bart., D.L. (Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Minister Institute, 4797. Traces the history of the Institute from its inception in 1853 to 1865. It was under the management of the Commissioners of National Education, exclusively as a school of agriculture, until 1866, when it was reconstituted on a new basis; a local Committee formed to assist the Commissioners in the management, and a school of dairying for females added, 4798-80, 4799-802. The popularity of the new school for dairymaids increased from year to year, and the demands for admission were so great that additional accommodation became necessary, and other special steps were taken. The number of male students was small, 4791-4.

CONNELLAN, MAJOR J. H., D.L.—(Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the Killybegs Committee of Agriculture, Member of the Joint Technical Instruction Committee and of the Agricultural Council, 11306. Concurs in the views of Canon Doyle as to the necessity for extended agricultural instruction, and suggests an amended rule, with a view to preventing applications for premium bulls from lapsing, 11309. The poultry scheme is working satisfactorily, 11311; as are also the butter-making and bee-keeping schemes, 11318-21; and the veterinary lectures have been much appreciated, 11323-4. He has never seen any differences between the elected and nominated members, as such, on the Council of Agriculture, 11315. A fuller report of the proceedings at meetings of the Board of Agriculture should be published, 11315-7.

CORBETT, W. M. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the King's County Council, and a representative of the Council of Agriculture, 4247. The latter Council is fairly representative, 4264; it would inspire greater confidence, however, if it were wholly elective, 4256. He is not aware of any occasion upon which the elected members, as a body, have differed from the nominated element, 4257-8. The Board of Agriculture is too small and should consist of four representatives from each province, 4261; to be elected, as at present, by the Provincial Councils, 4263, the nominated element being dispensed with, 4265. To the Board, as thus constituted, he would entrust the appointments of all officials on the staff of the Department, 4291-316. The Press should be admitted to meetings of the Board, 4267-82, though he would be satisfied if publication extended to such portions of the proceedings as might judiciously be published, 4283-9. He complains that the County Committee were not consulted by the Department relative to a local experiment in the cultivation of corn, and that farmers were not invited by the Department for the work of erecting a tobacco-curing shed, 4318-30. All sire horses, in his opinion, should be registered for soundness, and sires not so registered prohibited from serving, 4331; bulls should not be selected for premiums unless they had been previously put up to auction, an arrangement which, he considers, would tend to lower the excessive prices now paid for them, 4339-45. He also suggests that the premium paid for bulls for the first year should be increased, 4363-7. The vast majority of bulls in Ireland are of an inferior type, and an attempt should be made to eradicate these, 4350-61. There has been an improvement in store cattle in recent years, but not in the milking strain of cattle, 4367-72. He does not concur in the view expressed that there are too many calves in the country, 4374.

COUGHLIN, CAPTAIN, J.P.—(Summary of evidence).—Member of the Waterford County Council 18964. He approves of the livestock schemes, but questions the effectiveness of the system of itinerant agricultural instruction, and advocates the establishment of an agricultural station for the county, 18967-8. He refers to the assistance given by the Department to the sea and inland fisheries, 18970.

CREHAN, VERNY REV. DR.—(Summary of evidence).—A member of the Catholic Head Masters' Association and Principal of Blackrock College, 16172-3. He gives an account of the teaching of science in secondary schools prior to the establishment of the Department and subsequently, refers to the dual system of control of such schools, and criticises the Department's programme of science teaching, 16173-90.

CREIGHTON, A. J.P. (Summary of evidence).—Member of the County Sligo Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 6962. Endorses the evidence of Sir Joselyn Gore-Booth, 6963. Considers that the Committee should have a freer hand than it has at present in assisting local effort; a scheme cannot reach every class of the community in need of instruction, and, provided such a class combines and contributes, the Committee should be authorised to co-operate, 6963-72. More organisation is required among the producing class, 6973; and more assistance towards organisation, 6978. Industries should be aided on the same principle, 6974; and subsidies granted for instruction to the workers, 6975-81; he does not approve of loans, 6985; the risk to the State would be avoided by making small grants, 6986; equivalent to the cost of training new hands, 6982. Grants should also be given to existing trades or industries for improvement purposes, 6980. Witnesses allege that the action of the Department in respect of proprietary crammers has been unfair, 6991-7.

CROSBIE, G. (Summary of evidence).—Represents the Cork Industrial Development Association, 4742a. The Department is conducted on purely educational lines as regards technical work, but outside the Department, and independent of it, to a certain extent, there should be established a Board of commercial men charged with the duty of fostering industries, 4744-5, which should have at its disposal funds to enable loans to be made for the purchase of machinery, 4748. He would not confine the operations of this Board to particular trades or industries; he would give it a discretionary power to treat every case on its merits, 4749-50. He regards it as obligatory on the part of the Government to endeavour to make the people as prosperous as they can, and considers that a sum of £10,000 invested in Cork, in the manner he suggests, would give a quick return, 4760. It should be the business of the Department to institute proceedings against persons who send into Ireland goods represented as Irish, which are made elsewhere, 4766-70; and funds should be provided for supplying fruit trees for planting in plots attached to labourers' cottages, 4770.

CROWE, REV. P., F.R.S. (Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the North Tipperary Committee of Agriculture, 6793. Public interest in the working of the various schemes is steadily increasing, the lectures and classes of the instructors are well attended; there is an increased tendency to employ improved methods of farming; lands are more skillfully tilled, etc.; and there is an increased area under corn crops. The scheme of horticultural instruction promises to be very successful. The horse-breeding scheme is an unqualified success. The bull scheme is not sufficiently availed of in the dairying districts. The bear scheme has not been utilised to an appreciable extent. The poultry scheme has been

CROWE, Rev. P., F.R.—continued.

a marked success; the fattening station, established by the Department at Nenagh, has given a great fillip to the poultry industry. The farm and cottage prize scheme has produced good results. The butter-making classes have been well attended, and have effected considerable improvement in the quality of butter. The technical classes in domestic economy, cookery and laundry work have been most advantageous. The veterinary lectures by Professor Mason have aroused much interest. The county shows, subsidized by the Department, have been most successful, 5725-26. The Committee are in favour of the establishment of agricultural colleges throughout the county, 5740; they propose to curtail itinerant lectures in agriculture and to apply the funds to more extended work in connection with demonstration plots, 5747-48. Practical agriculture should, they consider, be taught by primary and secondary schools, 5749. The Committee recommend that the Department should aid, by way of grant or loan, the formation of agricultural co-operative societies and banks; that they should also aid County Councils to acquire waste lands for re-afforestation; that the Department should be more frequently represented at County Committee meetings; that before selecting bulls for premiums they should be subjected to the tuberculin test, 5749-51; and that in poor districts greater facilities should be given to small farmers for the acquisition of premium bulls, 5752.

CUFFE, Carr the Hon. G.—(Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the Kilkenny Woollen Mills Company, 11167. Urges the provision of State aid for the training of workers in the mills during the initial stages of the undertaking, the claims of which are especially strong by reason of the fact that it has been financed locally, and does not compete with any existing Irish industry, 11168-79.

DALLINGER, P. G. (Summary of evidence).—Secretary of the Tyrone County Committee of Agriculture, 7354. The relations of the Committee with the Department have been, generally, most friendly, 7371. He speaks of the operations and results of working of the county schemes, which comprise nine agricultural and three live-stock schemes, and one experimental scheme, 7355-70; and he makes special mention of the success attending the establishment of the portable poultry farm, 7360. Suggestions made by the Committee have been adopted by the Department on several occasions, and effect given to them in the schemes, 7372-7. With a view to affording increased facilities for practical training in agriculture in the county he recommends the establishment of a model farm at a convenient centre, and suggests that it might be possible so to arrange that a fresh site for the farm should be selected at intervals of four or five years, 7385-86.

DALY, J. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the County Galway Committee of Technical Instruction, 6131. He refers to the results of the adoption of the system of payment by Capitation Grant in the Current Schools at Tuam, 6131-2, 6141-7. Itinerant instruction has not been a success in the district; he would recommend, as a substitute, the establishment of technical schools at Tuam and Ballinasloe, where prizes and scholarships should be given to induce young women to attend, 6133-4. Facilities should also be provided to enable boys to learn trades, 6134; such boys, if sent a distance, would be required to give a written guarantee that they would return to Tuam, 6135-9; or a bond might be obtainable for the purpose from some person in the locality, 6140. Witness thinks that the contributions by the Department to Galway are, relatively, small, 6147-8. He is of opinion that the provision in the Act of 1899 prohibiting the Department from expending their funds on teaching the practice of a trade, or industry, should be repealed, 6159-8;

DALY, J.—continued.

and that County Committees should be free to frame their own schemes, 6156-74. He considers that the salaries paid to some members of the Department's staff are excessive, 6179; and contends that Tuam and Gort should participate in the Annual Grant of £7,500, provided as a substitute for the old "Equivalent Grant," 6178.

DALY, J. (Summary of paper in Appendix).—A member of the Menaghian County Council and Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. He objects to the uniformity of the county schemes; advocates premiums to half-bred bulls, and a supply of lime to farmers in poorer districts. The refusal of the Department to make provision for lime on the ground that to do so would be an interference with private enterprise, is inconsistent with their action in contributing to the funds of the I.A.O.S. He complains of the rule of the Department which precludes the employment of persons as instructors in their native county. The lectures in agriculture have lost their popularity; the attendance at the lectures would be well attended if practical farmers, not theorists, were employed. The type of beer supplied by the Department has been a failure. The Vice-President should have a seat in Parliament.

DARBY, J., D.L.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the King's County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 12811. Directs attention to the need for veterinary advice and assistance to farmers, 12813-24. The prices of premium bulls are excessive, 12824; the Department should encourage the supply of well-bred bulls, other than thoroughbreds, by a system of local selection, 12825-31, as well as prohibit the use of inferior bulls by requiring all bulls to be licensed for service, 12832-5. The distribution of rams should also be encouraged, 12836-7. Considerable improvement has resulted from the operation of the pig-breeding scheme, 12838; witness refers to the promotion of a bacon-curing industry at Roscrea which has been very warmly supported in the locality, 12840-43. He states that his Committee were desirous of curtailing expenditure on the poultry and butter-making schemes in order to apply the savings to other objects on which it was considered the money could be more usefully expended, but that the Department withheld their consent, 12841-57.

DAWSON, C.—(Summary of evidence).—A member of the Irish Forestry Society. Refers to the benefits of afforestation in some foreign countries as a source of national wealth and increased employment for the people, and recommends the establishment of a Bureau of Forestry to undertake the planting of waste lands in Ireland. Large tracts of such lands might profitably be afforested, and witness hands in a statement showing an area of 42,000 acres available for planting in twelve counties, free from complications of title, etc. The Board of Works, he states, are now empowered to grant loans for planting on the scale the Society have in view. An increase of woodlands, besides resulting in immediate employment, would ultimately lead to the creation of industries in wood, and have also a beneficial effect on the Irish climate. He alludes to the action recently taken by the Leeds Corporation in providing work for the unemployed by planting operations, 11897-910.

DELANEY, W., M.P.—(Summary of evidence).—Supports the application for a grant out of unexpended moneys in the hands of the Department towards the drainage of the River Barrow, 12380-61. He is of opinion that the Council of Agriculture and the two Boards should be wholly elected, and that any resolution or recommendation proceeding from the Council should be mandatory on the Department, 12382. The Vice-President should also be elected by the Council.

DELANEY, W., M.P.—continued.

His opinion in these respects is subject, however, to modification in the event of a change in the existing system of Government, 12363. Witness advocates an extension of the powers of the Department in the direction of enabling them to establish and subsidise industries, 12363-73.

DELANEY, Rev. J., F.R.—(Summary of evidence).—

Member of the Carlow County Committee of Agriculture, 13585, and formerly a member of the Kildare County Committee, 13587. Itinerant lectures have been productive of good, but may now be dispensed with. The lectures issued by the Department are not generally read, knowledge of this character would be better diffused through organised societies. Day and evening classes have produced good results though they have not been well attended in Carlow. The value of itinerant courses is not to be estimated by not results; failure to secure maximum benefits is due to the unpreparedness of pupils to receive instruction, 13587. The courses are, moreover, too short in manual instruction, cookery and laundry work; additional funds are needed for their expansion, 13583-91. The scheme of Scholarships has worked well in Carlow, 13582-903. Witness quotes statistics showing the relatively small number of children receiving instruction in cookery and laundry work in National Schools, and recommends that this work should be done through the Department, 13594-8, 13592-30, not in the primary schools, but at classes set up by the County Committee and during school hours, 13594-7. The representation of Leicester on the Board of Technical Instruction is limited to Dublin; it is desirable that the County Committee of the Province should be adequately represented on the Board, 13597-35. Much interest is displayed in the agricultural classes, 13597; the conditions on which candidates are admitted to them should, however, be relaxed, 13593-8. Witness refers to the case of a boy who, failing to retain a County Scholarship on the result of examination in chemistry by the Department's Inspector, was shortly afterwards awarded a Scholarship by the Intermediate Board, having passed with honours in the same subject, 13593-45.

DELANEY, Rev. A. H. (Summary of evidence).—

Rector of Strabane and member of the Tyrone County Committee of Technical Instruction, 1594-5. The work of technical instruction in the county is proceeding satisfactorily, 1596, 8005; but in the urban districts of Strabane, Omagh, and Crockettown it is greatly hampered by the want of suitable accommodation, 1597, 8065, and funds for new buildings are required, 8001, 8023. The programme of instruction in primary, intermediate and technical schools should be linked up, 8040. He alludes to the value of the evening continuation classes, aided by the Board of National Education, and expresses the hope that the new syllabus will not affect them prejudicially, 8011-30.

DENNEHY, Dr. P. R.—(Summary of evidence).—

Chairman of the Waterford County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 15620. Cardinal relations have always existed between the Committee and the Department, 15622-3. The county schemes have been fairly successful, 15624; but the cattle and swine schemes have not been eagerly taken up, 15625. He does not consider that popular interest in itinerant lectures is diminishing, 15620. County Councils should have the power to appoint representatives on Boards of Fishery Conservators, 15633-6; and while he would approve of rate aid to these Boards in certain circumstances, 15636, he would not make the representation contingent on a contribution from the rates, 15639. The Department should also be empowered to institute proceedings in cases such as indicated by him, 15639-41, in lieu of the Conservancy Board, whose funds are inadequate for the purpose, 15642.

DICKSON, G., J.P. (Summary of evidence).—

Chairman of the County Down Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 9086. He gives statistics of the number of thoroughbred sires, horses and bulls; the number of the latter has increased from eleven to sixty, but more are required. Cattle salesmen in England assert that the value of Irish stores has risen 25 to 30 per cent., and this he attributes to the shortness of straw, 9088-90. The flax scheme has not been so successful as is wished; the cultivation of the crop is attended with too much risk, and there is, besides, a scarcity of labour for pulling it. If the Continental system of selling the standing crop could be adopted, a larger extent of flax would, he thinks, be grown, 9097-110. The swine scheme has not been successful; he is informed that the type of pig supplied is not considered suitable, 9113-7. He states it would be a great advantage to press forward re-education, and he supplies an estimate of the cost of planting, 9118-23.

DOHERTY, Rev. J., F.R. (Summary of evidence).—

A member of the Donegal County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 7275. He declares, without qualification, the evidence given by Monsignor McGlynn, 7276. Witness is of opinion that the instruction formerly given by itinerant lecturers in congested districts in the county was productive of little benefit, 7277-80; if the Committee were themselves at liberty to appoint these lecturers he believes the instruction would be beneficial, 7281. Complaint is made that candidates for the position of lace-instructor are required to proceed to Dublin for examination at their own expense, instead of being examined at a centre nearer home, 7308-9. He states that the bull premium of £15 is insufficient in certain districts, 7293-65, and that the application of a uniform scheme over the entire county is inexpedient in the case of a county such as Donegal. Representations in this sense have been made to the Department, but without effect, 7296-301.

DOLAN, J. T., M.A.—(Summary of evidence).—

Member of the County Louth Agricultural and Technical Instruction Committee, 13414. The live-stock scheme has effected an improvement in the value of cattle, and the agricultural, poultry, butter-making, cottage and farm prize schemes have been, generally, successful. The itinerant lectures in domestic economy have also been successful, 13414-7. He suggests that the prejudice existing against the Department and the absence of co-operation on the part of the people in general, are due to the feeling that it forms part of the English Government, 13418. The Vice-President, in his opinion, should not have a seat in Parliament, 13420.

DORAN, H. (Summary of evidence).—

Chief Land Inspector of the Congested Districts Board, 15732. Gives evidence respecting agricultural development in the congested districts prior to and since the transfer of this work to the Department, under the following heads:—*Cattle*: types of bulls introduced, their suitability, etc., 15735-47, 15753-812, 15925. *Swine*: unsuitability of Spanish Jacks, 15747-9, 15763. *Sheep*: provision of pedigree sows, 15750, 15755. *Sheep*: provision of selected ewes and utilisation of ram lambs, their progeny by imported rams, 15750, 15753. *Horses*: high-class sires not required; suitable animals may be procured at a lower price than is at present paid by the Department, 15750-5, 15763. *Poultry*: the need for organisation and improved marketing facilities, 15758. *Agricultural development, generally*: remedies suggested, 15812-23. Employment of resident local instructors, 15825, 15826, 15827-30. Operations of the Department, administration of and expenditure on county and supplemental schemes, 15830-65, 15890-925, 15903-65. Co-ordination between the Department, Estates Commissioners, and Congested Districts Board, 15838-9. Co-operative Societies, 15896-35. School Gardens, 15915-23, 15922-30, 15927-54.

DOWLING, Rev. P. J., D.M.—(*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Technical Instruction Association and of the Cork County Borough Technical Committee, 15550. Constitution of Department; disapproval of any proposal to place the Department under the control of the Executive Government, 15551. Constitution of Council and Boards; necessity for greater powers of initiative, 15554-61, and for placing the Committee of County Boroughs in the same relation to the Board of Technical Instruction as at present exists in the case of other Urban District Committees, 15562-4. Constabulary Committee of Education; inefficiency of, failure to take practical steps towards the co-ordination of primary and technical education, and defective system of inspection in secondary schools, 15718-31. Building grants; the imperative necessity for aid to local authorities in the erection of schools; witness, on behalf of the Association, recommends that a sum of £20,000 be set aside annually to meet charges for sinking fund and interest on building loans, 15635-55. Finance; the hardship resulting to Cork by the adoption of population as the basis for distribution of the County Borough's share of the fixed annual grant, 15564-7; insufficiency of grant, which should increase with the growth of technical education, 15603; the diversion for purposes of primary and intermediate education in Ireland of moneys which, in Great Britain, were expended on technical education, 15620-1. Remedial instruction; waste of money on instruction as at present carried out, 15715-8. Industries; proposal to aid industrial enterprise by payments towards the training of apprentices, as distinct from instruction, 15597-607; removal of the statutory restriction prohibitive of such payment towards the training of apprentices, as law enabling a considerable expenditure to be made on the direct development of industries—the Department to be assisted in this by a Council of business experts and by a Bureau of Industries, 15653-714. Winter dairying, advocacy of, 15714-6.

DOWNES, R., J.P. (*Summary of evidence*).—Chairman of the Westmeath County Council, and member of the Council and Board of Agriculture, 3177-8. The Department, in his opinion, should be subject to the control of an elective general Council, which should be responsible for the administration of the Department and of all public Boards in Ireland, 3179-85. This Council would be a Cabinet or Parliament for other than Departmental work, 3195-7. If the question of public control were conceded other questions affecting the relations at present existing between the Department and Board of Agriculture, which are considered of primary importance, would become matters of secondary interest. The relations between the Board and the Department have been very friendly; there has never been any friction between them. It is possible, however, that these relations may not always continue, and to provide against such an eventuality it would be desirable, failing the creation of an elective Council as he suggests, to define and enlarge the Board's powers. He would give the Board power to initiate schemes and make Provisional Orders, as well as the right to veto the appointments of the principal officers on the Departmental staff, and of members of Advisory Committees. The Council of Agriculture should also be empowered to send forward proposals adopted by them, for consideration by the Agricultural Board and the Department, and the result of such consideration should be duly communicated to the Council, 3198-251.

DOYLE, Very Rev. Canon, D.D.—(*Summary of evidence*).—Chairman of the Killybegs Joint Technical Instruction Committee, and Member of the Agricultural Committee, 11077. He urges the importance of creating and reviving Irish industries, and the necessity of affording State aid, in their initial stages, for the training of workers 11079-83. Such aid should be given to every new industry, provided the Department are

DOYLE, Very Rev. Canon, D.D.—(*continued*). satisfied that it promised to be successful, 11080; and that it would not compete detrimentally with an existing industry, 11080-1. The Department have not given the weight of their support to the movement to secure adequate powers for industries, 11114. He recommends the appropriation of the Killybegs Model School for the purpose of technical instruction classes—a new school being provided for the pupils attending the Model School—and that domestic economy be taught in National Schools, 11122-5, 11133. Considerable losses are sustained owing to non-scientific methods of farming, one of the causes of which is the extent to which tillage has fallen away, 11128-9. The county is much in need of the services of a competent agricultural instructor, 11129-32. In rural National Schools instruction in the principles of agriculture should form part of the curriculum in the higher grades, similar provision being made in town and country schools for teaching the theory and practice of horticulture, and, where demonstration plots are accessible, arrangements should also be made to secure the attendance of the children during school hours for this special instruction, 11133-50. Witness refers to the constitution of the Department, and expresses the belief that public opinion is in favour of associating with the Vice-President four elected representatives, one from each province, 11140-66. The Trades' Preparatory School promises to be fruitful of good results. He agrees that the Department have not agreed to the proposal for employing one of the teachers to give instruction in woodwork at Callan one day each week, and hopes they will reconsider their decision, 11166.

DROGHEDA, THE RAIL CO.—(*Summary of evidence*).—Supports the application for a grant out of unexpended moneys at the disposal of the Department towards the drainage of the River Barrow, 12366-61.

DUNNE, C. J., J.P.—(*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Board of Technical Instruction, 3777. The relations between the Board and the Department are highly satisfactory. Schemes submitted by the latter are fully discussed by the Board, to whom the fullest information is afforded by the Department's expert advisers, and in his opinion the initiative in such matters should continue to come from the Department. Suggestions made by individual members in favour of modifications of schemes are always entertained and he is not, at present, prepared to propose an extension of the powers of the Board, 3778-9, 3823-44. The view expressed in opposition to the appointment of non-Irishmen on the Department's Staff is a mistaken and illogical one and he doubts whether it would have been practicable to establish the existing wool industry in the South of Ireland if non-Irish experts had not been imported, 3780-8. As trustee of the Cork butter market he had special opportunities of observing the benefits resulting from the improved methods of butter-making adopted at the Muntar Dairy School before its management was taken over by the Department, 3789-91. The School has been enlarged by the Department and the number of students has also greatly increased, 3791, and while there is a difference of opinion as to the merits of the creamery system witness believes that the scientific instruction imparted at the School in both systems, and by the county instructor, has effected further improvement and will have equally satisfactory results with those previously brought about, 3800-5, 3824-6.

EASTHOPE, A. E.—(*Summary of evidence*).—Head Master and Secretary for Technical Instruction in County Louth, 15421. Gives an account of the work carried out under the county scheme and of the allocation of funds available for the purpose. These funds are inadequate to meet existing needs and it has been found impracticable to expand the scheme on new developments of work in which

EASTHOPE, A. E.—continued.

instruction is sought. An annual charge of considerable amount has been incurred in repayment of a loan on buildings in Dandalk, and unless the funds available are augmented the scheme of work will have to be curtailed, 13493-34, and this notwithstanding the increased receipts expected to accrue from the operation of the revised Scheme of South Kensington grants, 13436-39. The provision made by the Commissioners of National Education for evening schools, owing to the uncertainty of the amount payable and other circumstances, is inadequate and offers no inducement to their formation, 13460-8. Itinerant instruction in rural districts is given under adverse conditions and it is suggested that National Schools should be made available at suitable centres for the purposes of such instruction, 13469-70.

EATON, S., J.P. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the Tyrone County Council and Committee of Agriculture, 7458. He speaks of the benefits of the poultry scheme to the poorer districts, 7459-60. Complaints have been made as to the class of stallions introduced, and it is suggested that some hackney cross should be provided, 7461-70. He thinks that the work of agricultural instruction should not be restricted, as at present, to districts containing good land, but that it should be extended to remoter districts, where the people are more in need of instruction, 7471, 7472-80.

EDMONDSON, T.—(Summary of evidence).—Representative of the Rathfriland Urban Technical Instruction Committee, 13021, and a member of the Board of Technical Instruction, 13070. Reads a memorandum descriptive of the specialised course of technical training afforded in the local School of Commerce. The Committee state, *inter alia*, that their relations with the Department have always been amicable; that they are of opinion that Sir H. Plunkett should be retained in the position of Vice-President; that the Vice-President should be a permanent official of the Department; that it is not sufficient that the Department should be concerned merely with the supervision of Technical Schools, that they should also initiate and push forward movements having for their object the creation of a medium in which the schools can be nourished; that provision should be made for defraying from moneys voted for primary education the expense of making good, in Technical Schools, the defective elementary instruction of students; and that additional funds should be placed at the disposal of the Department for providing grants for buildings, 13024. Witness suggests the desirability of encouraging country students to come to Dublin for the purpose of taking advantage of the instruction provided in the School of Commerce, 13025-42. No estimate has been formed of the amount of increased revenue available for the School under the new scheme of capitation grants, 13044-7, 13057-61; nor have the Committee considered the question of claiming from moneys already voted by Parliament, grants payable in respect of the elementary instruction of students attending the School of Commerce, 13048-55. The existing revenue is adequate for the present requirements of the School, 13062; if additional revenue is earned from the two sources mentioned witness is unable to say whether the lump grant now received from the Department would be liable to fluctuation, or whether it would be practicable to provide an annual balance sufficient to provide for additional building accommodation, 13063-7. He refers to the success of some of the students, 13068-8. As a member of the Board of Technical Instruction he expresses the opinion that the Board have an effective voice in the settlement of the Department's schemes and that unless steps can be taken to improve their usefulness it would be better to supersede the Board, 13070-1.

EGAN, J.—(Summary of evidence).—Member of the King's County Agricultural Committee, 11720. He does not think that there has been an improvement in the breed of horses commensurate

EGAN, J.—continued.

with the expenditure of money incurred, and complains that his Committee were not officially informed of the steps taken by the Department with respect to the steps taken to re-create the breed of the Irish draught-horse, 11722-5. He recommends the extinction of all unsound sire horses and cattle, 11751-2, and criticises the instructions in the Department's leaflets as to the feeding of bulls, 11742. The prices realised for butter and poultry remain low, notwithstanding the improvements effected by the county schemes, and better marketing facilities are needed to provide a remedy, 11743-53.

ELLIS, W. (Summary of evidence).—Represents the owners of the ool fisheries on the River Barro, 7382. He supplements the evidence of Mr. McDermott, and says that the Department should assist owners in the protection of the inland fisheries. He also agrees with Mr. McDermott in recommending the reconstitution of the Fishery Branch of the Department, 7383-903.

EMLY, LORD. (Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Limerick County Council, 5232. Protests against the retention of Sir Horace Plunkett in any official capacity, 5233. Refers to the county schemes and to the action of the Department in connection therewith, 5235-8; to Dr. Starkie's evidence on the condition of National schools, 5237-8; urges an extension of the course of itinerant instruction, 5239; considers that manual instruction should preferably be taught to young people rather than to adults, 5242; and in National schools, 5243; likewise horticulture, 5244-52.

ENNIS, M. A., J.P.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the County Councils' General Council, the Wexford County Council, and Wexford Urban Technical Instruction Committee, 10599. Reconstitution of the Department, the Agricultural Council, and Board of Agriculture, 11001-33. Encouragement of tillage, fruit culture, tobacco growing, poultry farming, and kindred agricultural industries, 11013-54. Agricultural stations, 11018-21. Transit facilities, 11022-5. Iveagh-Petrie scheme, 11026-30. Nationalisation of railways, 11031. Industrial development, 11032. Acquisition of Petty Sessions Courthouses for purposes of agricultural and technical instruction, 11033-7. Agricultural banks and station of county stock, 11037-38. Live stock schemes and Veterinary Dispensaries, 11051. Sea Fisheries, 11051-63. Distribution of funds for technical instruction in urban and rural districts, 11054. County and university scholarships, 11064-74. Trades' Preparatory Schools, 11075.

EVERARD, Col. N., R.M.L.—(Summary of evidence).—President of the I.A.O.S., Chairman of the Meath County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and member of the Board of Agriculture, 14655. Recites the conditions attached to the contribution made by the Department in March, 1906, to the funds of the I.A.O.S., 14656; explains the reasons for the omission from the published accounts of the Society of any reference to the grant previously made, 14658-60; and illustrates the character of the work done locally by two agricultural and industrial co-operative societies, 14660-3. Constitution of the Board of Agriculture. Absence of *ad hoc* initiative, 14673, and need for greater publicity to the Board's proceedings, 14674. He has never witnessed any cleavage between the nominated and elected elements of the Board, 14679; but their retention of the former element is necessary, but their number might now be reduced and a larger representation given to the elected element, 14675-80. Constitution of the Council of Agriculture. He recommends a similar enlargement of the

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elected element on this body, 14578-83. Constitution of County Committee. Though the membership is large the attendance is small and mainly confined to persons who are not members of the County Council, 14681-5.

Witness speaks of the improvements effected in March by the working of the live stock, poultry-rearing, butter-making, cottage and farm prize schemes, and by the domestic economy and manual instruction classes, 16585. He refers to the evidence given by Mr. Sweetman, 16586-9, 16571, and directs attention to the need for providing co-operative agricultural instruction to small occupiers, including migrants, in the West, who have purchased their holdings, 16589-700.

FALKNER, C. L., M.A.—(Summary of evidence).
—A member of the Board of Visitors of the Dublin Museum, 13708. He directs attention to the position of the Museum and to certain matters which, in the opinion of the Board, affect its efficiency, 13710-35, 13755-7.

FAVELL, A.—(Summary of evidence).—Secretary of the County Kildare Joint Technical Committee, 13472. Gives an account of the work performed under the scheme in the past three years and of the substantial progress made. The manual instruction classes are most popular in rural districts and the attendances excellent. The domestic economy classes have not been so successful in some districts, chiefly owing to the absence of suitable accommodation. The Committee complain that notwithstanding the expansion of their work the contribution from the Department has remained stationary. Further, much-needed expansion is impracticable and the provision of increased funds for the purpose is desired. Funds for buildings are also required, and these, if possible, should be retrospective in their operation. A closer co-ordination of the systems of primary and technical education is necessary; children in attendance at primary schools should be allowed, during school hours, to receive instruction under the technical scheme, and the present restriction on the attendance of these children at evening classes should be removed. The Committee are of opinion that the Department should be empowered to provide instruction for the training of hands for suitable industries, and that experts should be employed to advise those about to establish industries, 13473-82.

FINLAY, Rev. T. A., F.R.S.L., D.D.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Board of Technical Instruction, 3500.

Relations of the Department to

(a) *The Board.* These have been most harmonious, 3512. Effective control is exercised by the Board, 3515, and Schemes submitted to it have been critically examined and, in some cases rejected, 3513-4. County Borough Schemes, however, unlike other Schemes, are not required by Statute to be submitted to the Board and it is desirable that the distinction in this respect should be removed. Had the City of Dublin Scheme been referred to the Board the points of difference that have arisen in the absence of such reference would have been settled by discussion, 3517-21. Adaptation of Schemes to local requirements, 3523.

(b) *The Consultative Committee of Education.* As at present constituted it is merely an adjunct of the Department and is not sufficiently identified with the Boards of National and Intermediate Education. The Committee should meet at stated intervals, 3533-8. Usefulness of its deliberations, 3534, 3540-1.

(c) *The Board of Intermediate Education.* The Department's programme of science instruction in secondary schools, 3544-51. Action of the Executive Government in withholding an Inspectorate from the Board, 3545-9, 3561-75.

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(d) *The I.A.G.S.* Duty of the Department to promote and to aid co-operation among the farming population, 3552-3. Progress of the Society's work before the creation of the Department and effect of such creation upon its receipts from private sources, 3554-5. The Department's contribution to the Society and the conditions upon which aid should be given, 3557-8.

Educational policy of the Department, initial difficulties and general results, 3558-11. Primary education. The desirability of directing the elementary teaching of children in rural schools towards rural conditions, 3553-4, and of affording, for the purpose, adequate training of teachers by the Department, 3555-54. *Industries.* The problem of rural industries, 3555-605. Objections to State subsidisation, 3563-5; under a scheme of Home Rule witness would approve of bounties and protective tariffs, 3565-15.

FITZMAURICE, W.—(Summary of evidence).—Supports the application for a contribution out of unexpended moneys lying to the credit of the Department towards the drainage of the River Barrow, 12163-253.

FLANAGAN, T. (Summary of evidence).—Member of the Sligo County Council and of the Urban Technical Instruction Committee, 7122. It is considered that the County Committee should have jurisdiction over the seating and manuring of experimental plots, and over the inspectors sent down by the Department, 7124-5. The County requires an agricultural instructor, 7126. He considers that the distribution of the county funds should be dealt with by the county authorities, 7128-3. The instruction given by the instructors is too theoretical, 7126; Professor Mason and Mr. Gallagher are much appreciated, 7126. The County Committee should lead ploughs for the use of small farmers on mountain lands, 7127-6. He is of opinion that the Department's action with respect to the Sligo Shirt Factory has not been satisfactory, 7138. There should be Government protection for the butter industry, 7140-1. The swine industry requires attention; premiums should be given for meat slyes, etc., 7142.

FLETCHER, G., F.R.S.—(Summary of evidence).—Assistant Secretary in respect of Technical Instruction, 2583. Brief survey of the state of education, primary and secondary, at the time the Department was established, 2587-2111.

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In Secondary Schools. Considerations leading to the organisation of a system of practical instruction, 2105-11. The Department's Scheme of 1901, 2111, and its introduction, 2192-3. Establishment of resident schools of instruction, 2192-204.

Under local Schemes. Instruction in rural districts, 2257, 2260. Popularity of itinerant instruction, 2269; classes of girls who attend,

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2272. Progress of urban and rural schemes, and growth of expenditure, 2275-83. Suitability of premises in which itinerant instruction is given, 2281-2; difficulty of finding accommodation; suggested solution, 2283-6. The teaching of domestic economy a compulsory subject in Industries classes for girls, 2283-61.

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Equivalent Grant. History of. A grant placed for the first time in 1891-2 on the Estimates under the Technical Instruction Act of 1889, in aid of technical instruction in Great Britain and Ireland. Grant withdrawn from Great Britain when the Customs and Excise duties were made available there for technical instruction and for other purposes under the Local Taxation Act of 1890. Ireland's share of these duties was not expended on technical education; it was allocated by the Act of 1890 to primary and secondary education and the voted grants for technical instruction (withdrawn from Great Britain)—the administration of which was transferred to the Department by the Act of 1899—were continued to Ireland for a further period of three years, at the expiration of which they were replaced by a contribution, double in amount, from the Development Grant. Comparison of amounts expended in England, Scotland and Ireland in the ten years prior to the establishment of the Department, 2098-7, 2104, 2754-9. Expenditure of the annual sum of £7,000 provided out of the Development Grant, 2282-82.

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(b.) Board of Technical Instruction, 2254, 16673.

(c.) Consultative Committee of Education. Results of discussions by Committee, 2191.

(d.) Secondary Schools. Issue of Department's programme of practical instruction in experimental science, drawing manual instruction and domestic economy; payments based upon attendance and efficiency as determined by inspection, 2111. Results of system of inspection, 2178-9. Provision of laboratories, 2111, and assistance rendered in this connection by inspectors, 2146. The training of teachers in laboratory work by attendance at summer courses and other exceptional means, 2150-9. Cost of summer courses, 2156, 2171. Establishment of a Convention of Heads of Secondary Schools and its work, 2129-31. Introduction of the teaching of domestic economy, 2228-8; establishment of special schools for, 2194-2204.

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Miscellaneous. Action of Department in some matters specifically referred to by witnesses—the Portadown lace-crochet class, 16543-71; qualifications of lace instructors in County Monaghan, 16555-9; Father Murphy's evidence at Limerick, 16590-646; City of Dublin Scheme, 16647-97; County Mayo Scheme, 16690-760; Galway Scheme, 16701-15; Cork Scheme, 16717; Cookstown technical school, 16721-4; Killarney school of domestic economy, 16737-38; Equipment Grant to Cahirvinnon Convent, 16732; appointment of instructor in County Cavan, 16734-45; evidence of Father Dowling, 16734-7, 16790; evidence of Brother Hennessy, 16788; domestic economy instruction in National Schools, 16797-804; experimental science teaching in Secondary Schools, 16794-83; Monera examination in experimental science, 16810-7; multiplication of laboratories in Omagh, 16817-21.

FLYNN, P. J. (Summary of evidence).—Secretary of the Tipperary Urban (Joint) Technical Committee, 6038. Additional instructions are required in the Technical School; the results fees for manual instruction are inadequate, 6056. The science evening class has failed to attract students, and the giving of prizes would, he suggests, stimulate a better attendance, 6056. At the same time, he considers it necessary to bring about a closer application of technical instruction to the life-conditions of the people, to regenerate industries, and thus to give the instruction a marketable value. The development of advanced agricultural instruction in the district, which is predominantly rural, is desirable, but the Committee are deterred from expending funds in this direction. Inspectors' visits are too rare; the inspectors should be appointed by competitive examination, and be able to advise the local authority as to the best means of adapting their work to local conditions. Additional funds for these purposes are essential, 5603-31. It should be possible to bring about such a combination of forces between urban and rural interests as to secure the full development of both agricultural and urban instruction, 5528, 5584-5. There is nothing to prevent the County Committee from supplying funds for agricultural instruction in urban schools, 5523, but this they are not likely to do, 6025-6.

FOGARTY, W. G.—Secretary to the Galway Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 6040. Supplements the evidence of Mr. Glynn as to the relations between Department and County Committee on the subject of the scheme for payment by a Capitation Grant in concrete, 6023-4. Greater freedom should be allowed to County Committees in the preparation of schemes, 6044-54. He does not wish to convey that the Department are not actuated by the best intentions, but considers that greater attention should be paid to local opinion, 6049. The action of the Department constantly tends to sap the Committee's sense of responsibility, 6054. Success has resulted from the county scheme, and the Committee are working them extensively, 6054. Itinerant instruction is not sufficient; permanent centres are required, and should be formed in concrete where they exist; the share of the county in the funds for technical instruction, relatively to other counties, is insufficient; a technical institute should be created in each of the ten unions in the county at a cost estimated at £15,000; the money to be supplied either by way of free grant or loan, 6054. Children should be allowed to enter at an earlier age from National schools to domestic economy classes, 6054. The County Committee are allowed by the Department even less freedom in the case of agriculture than technical schemes, 6069, 6077. The

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Committee are bound to keep within the limits of the general scheme of the Department, 6059-70. The Department invite suggestions from the Committee, 6071, and the Committee have occasionally furnished them, 6074. The witness was pressed to mention instances in which proposals made by the Committee had been rejected by the Department, 6073-81. He was not prepared to give an instance of his own, 6081, but subsequently handed in a list of three cases, 6130a.

FOLEY, E., ALDERMAN. (Summary of evidence).—Member of the Sligo Urban Technical Instruction Committee, 6084. Agrees with the views expressed by the Secretary to the Committee, 6084. Considers that short lectures in domestic economy and cleanliness should be given in school hours to children in primary schools, 6080-83; and that leaflets on these subjects should be distributed amongst the children, 6081-2. He disapproves of gardens in connection with schools, 6083. The county formerly had an agricultural instructor; he was sent away at the suggestion of the Department, who over-ruled the wishes of the Committee, 6083-7. Witness was only recently informed that farmers could have their seeds analysed for a nominal sum; the fact ought to have been made known earlier to the Committee, 6089-93. The accommodation in the Urban Technical School is inadequate, 6070; and the Committee is prevented, in consequence, from extending the instruction, 6072.

FORDE, REV. J. D., M.A.—(Summary of evidence).—A Protestant clergyman, and Vice-Chairman of the Tipperary Urban (Joint) Technical Committee, 5436-7. The relations of the Committee with the Department are most friendly, 5438. Lays stress on the necessity of providing a building fund, and of augmenting the grant for technical instruction; one of the chief requirements is the extension of the period for scholarships in secondary schools, 5440-1. There is need for more supervision of technical classes by experts with local knowledge, 5443. Witness considers that technical instruction has not sufficient bearing on the life of the people to equip them for industrial pursuits; nor does he think it is sufficiently connected with agriculture, 5446. The Committee consider that scholarships should be given to girls for training in Dublin in domestic economy, 5447. Facilities should be afforded for marketing fowl in England, 5447. He thinks the State should finance the promotion of industries, 5448-61.

FORTH, F. O. Assoc. R.C.S.I.—(Summary of evidence).—Principal of the Belfast Municipal Technical Institute, 9542. State of technical instruction in Belfast at the time of the passing of the Act of 1889; steps taken to consolidate the work under the authority of the City Corporation; organization and administration of the Technical Institute, 9543-60. Occupations of students in attendance, 9561-3. Further developments in contemplation, 10358. Financial statement; receipts and expenditures, 10364; charges incurred by the Corporation on account of the erection and equipment of new buildings—request for grant in aid, 10375-36; the revised scheme of capitation grants—their value in mitigation of the burden of local expenditures, 10336-58. Primary education; inadequacy of the teaching at elementary schools in relation to subsequent technical training, 9624; the necessity of providing a remedy by improving the elementary system, 10312. Secondary education aims mainly at University training, and the percentage of pupils receiving secondary education in Belfast is so low as to preclude reliance upon a supply of students for technical training through this medium, 10318. Evening continuation schools under the National Board; unsuitability of programme to the requirements of industrial centres and insufficiency of grants, 9605-94. Trades' Preparatory School; establishment of, courses of instruction, classes in attendance, success of school, 10312-24.

FOY, P. B.—(*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutes, 13046. Refers to the necessity of preliminary scientific training in primary and secondary schools; to the tendency of the Department's present programme in Science; and to the difficulties experienced due to lack of practical training in primary schools, 13647-51.

FRASER, J. W., J.R.—(*Summary of evidence*).—President of the Irish Mill Owners' Defence Association, 9796, and Chairman of Fraser and Haughton, Limited, a firm engaged in the bleaching and finishing business on the River Maine, near Collybuckey. There are twenty-three mills on the Maine and its tributaries, paying in wages about £350,000 yearly. The existing powers of the Department under the fishery laws are very extensive, and an effort is being made to enlarge them by legislation. As they stand they are capable of being used to the serious embarrassment of the operations of the milling industry—e.g., by the refusal of the Fishery Inspectors to exempt a mill-owner from putting up a salmon ladder. There is no appeal from such an order of the Inspectors, and refusal of the exemption would mean the stoppage of the mill. The mill-owning industry is not represented in the Department. The owners suggest that the powers of the Inspectors should not be uncontrolled, and that they should have the right of appeal from an order of the Inspectors to the Board of Agriculture. The owners also suggest the adoption of other special measures to ensure that the Department shall take expert opinion in matters affecting fishery legislation and its bearing on manufacturing conditions. Witness takes exception to statements made by Mr. McDermott as to the injury alleged to be caused by mills to the fisheries, 9797-9806.

FRIZELLE, N. J.—(*Summary of evidence*).—Secretary of the Wexford County Council and Committee of Agriculture, 10882. Supports the evidence given by Mr. Here in favour of the reconstitution of the Council, the two Boards, and the Department, 10882-9. The relations of his Committee with the Department have been most cordial, 10890. As a result of consultations between them the live-stock schemes, which have worked successfully, have been brought into greater conformity with local wishes. Itinerant agricultural instruction has also been attended with satisfactory results, especially in the use of artificial manures, 10890-1. The failures to pass the elementary examinations for admission to agricultural classes suggest defects in the system of primary education, and it is considered that instruction in rural schools should be more closely identified with rural interests, 10894. He refers to the excellent work done by farmers' associations, established by the agricultural instructor, and contrasts these associations with the I.A.O.S. financial aid to which, by the Department, is strongly resented, 10894-9. The work of the I.A.O.S. should be amalgamated with that of the Department, and carried on by the officials of the latter, 10890. Pending, however, the provision of improved marketing and railway facilities, it will not be practicable to effectively develop agriculture in Ireland, 10893. Witness criticises the losses incurred by the Department, and recommends the addition of a journalist to the staff for the better preparation of these documents, 10876. As regards technical instruction, he alludes to the difficulty of procuring, in rural districts, suitable buildings in which to carry on the work, 10865-6. While he does not think that manual instruction in such districts is superfluous, he considers that they would be better served by agricultural instruction, 10870. A school of domestic economy has been established at Ramgrange, but the Committee are of opinion that instruction in this subject should be given in National Schools, and if arrangements could be made for securing adequate payment to the Committee by the National Board in respect of such instruction, it would be largely adopted throughout the county, 10881-93. He draws

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attention to the refusal of the Department to allow savings under an approved scheme to be expended on purposes not originally contemplated, 10891-5, and to the inconvenience caused by the rule requiring his accounts to be closed at different dates, 10871-3.

GALVIN, J. (*Summary of evidence*).—Chairman of the County Roscommon Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 6242, and a representative of the Council of Agriculture, 6270. The relations between the Department and County Committees have been most satisfactory, and no friction has occurred, 6243, 6267, 6270. All the Department's schemes, suitable to the county, have been put into operation, and are working successfully, 6243. The bull premiums have been fully taken up; more could be allotted if money were available, 6246, 6248, and large portions of the county are unaffected by the live-stock scheme from this cause, 6249. There is a visible improvement in cattle where the scheme operates, 6251, and the breed of pigs, especially, has been greatly improved, 6253. The butter scheme is very successful, and prices have improved; additional instructors are required, 6253. The poultry scheme is also working satisfactorily, 6253-6; a large number of people subsist mainly on the profits from this industry, 6260. Itinerant instruction in agriculture has been successful, 6266. In the preparation of the agricultural scheme there have been frequent interchanges of views between the Committee and the Department, and suggestions have been freely offered on both sides, but there has never been any difficulty in the adjustment of differences between them, 6267-8. On the technical side the domestic economy classes are popular and well attended, and the demand for itinerant instruction in wood-work cannot be met, 6266. Five scholarships have been given for boys in Secondary schools, 6269. The Committee were anxious to appoint four instructresses in crochet-work, but the Department sanctioned two only, 6270. Complaint is made as to the insufficiency of the funds contributed towards technical education in the county; if these are not increased many of the schemes must be abandoned, 6270. Witness considers that the functions of the Council of Agriculture are in need of enlargement; its work is, at present, of slight value, 6270; he would prefer that the Council as well as the Board of Agriculture should be wholly elected—provision being made on the same principle for minority representation, 6274.

GARRETT, H. (*Summary of evidence*).—Inspector for Technical Instruction in Ulster, 7814. He replies to the statements made by Mr. Ward on the subject of the springing classes in Donegal, 7815-23. (Fide evidence of Mr. Ward, 7801-7803).

GEORGESEN, G., J.R.—(*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Fish Curers' Association, 4555. Advocates the establishment of a Fishery Board, on the lines of the Scotch Fishery Board, and of a brand or national trade-mark for fish, 4556-742.

GILL, T. P.—(*Summary of evidence*).—Secretary of the Department, 660.

Organisation of the Department. General, 662, 667, 668. Position of Chief Secretary, 1237; of Vice-President, 1239; of Secretary, 661, 663, 667, 1240-3. Distribution of Department's work among its various branches—Agricultural branch, 667-76; Technical Instruction branch, 677; Fisheries branch, 677-83; Statistics and Intelligence branch, 683-90; Veterinary branch, 680; Accounts branch, 692; Registry, 692; Internal organisation, generally, 686-706, 1257-68. Central Institutions administered by Department—Royal College of Science, 690-2, scholarships to students of artisan class, 958-64; Museum

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of Science and Art, 661-2, functions of Board of Visitors, 791-800, their relations to Department, 17112-5, Royal Botanic Gardens, 691-2; National Library, 691-2; Geological Survey, 691-2, 901-2, 1037.

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- (a) Council of Agriculture. The nominated element, 706. Powers of Council and their extension, 709-12.
- (b) Boards of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The nominated element, 706. Powers of Boards and their extension, 709-12.
- (c) Consultative Committee of Education, 695, 926-8. Without specific powers, 945-7; effectiveness of Committee, 938, 940-4, 993.

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- (a) Council of Agriculture, 704-11.
- (b) Boards of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. Absence of fiction, 713, 726-1. Continuance of expenditure by, 714-90, 805-63, 868, 1221. Allocation of Agricultural funds, 827-37, of technical funds, 834-48, of funds for institutions centrally managed, 867, 1209-10, 1215. Board's control over estimates, not expenditure 870, 1211-4. Payments to the I.A.O.S., 874-926, to Exhibitions, 917-34. The power of suggestion and initiative inherent in Boards, 1216-22.
- (c) County Committees, administration of local schemes, 694-5, 809-48.
- (d) Advisory Committee, 693-4.

Agricultural credit. The need for development of, 955-92. Suggested extension of existing system of loans under Land Improvement Act, 963, and transfer of powers from the Board of Works to Department, 966-7. Department's loans to credit societies, 967. Types and suitability of societies, 969-1011. Effect of co-operation on dairying, 1011.

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Finance. Additional funds required for technical instruction, 859, 865, and for purposes of agricultural credit, 997. Sufficiency of Staff in Agricultural branch, 675, 688-90, an Statutes and Intelligence branch, 692-60. The Endowment, position of Funds, 12623-279. Detailed statement of increased funds proposed for agricultural and technical instruction development and for additions to Staff, 12676-12711.

Forestry. Extension of system of loans under Land Improvement Act for purposes of afforestation, 963.

Industries. The functions of training, instruction, and expert advice in the promotion of industries, 1012, 1044-1102, 1123-7. Economic inquiries and information as to mineral resources and raw materials, 1015-47, 1116-31. Proposal to make industrial loans, 1144-56. Limitation of Department's powers, 1102-15, 1144-50. Removal of restrictions, 1150, 1180. Draft of proposed amendment of Section 30 (1) of Act of 1898, 2562. Recommendation of Reces Committee, 1139-40. Promotion of industries by State loans, 1152, 1159-62, by other means, e.g., exemption from rates, 1153-5. Exercise by the State of powers similar to those exercised in Wurtemberg, 1174-85. The educational policy better calculated to lead to development of industrial enterprise, 1185-7. Action of Department in the cases of the following industries:—Monsiechaux Sandstone, 1218-9; Shantallagh (Co. Galway) quarries, 1218-9, 1040-51, 1063-76; Bonmahon Mines, 1019; Ballycastle coal, 1116-8; Kilkenny Woollen Mills, 1077-1103, 1168-71; Limerick quarries, 1139-50; Portadown fruit, 1153-3.

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Primary education. See Consultative Committee of Education.

Transit and Railway Notes. Powers of Department, action taken and results, 1258-1257.

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Technical School Buildings. Department's contributions towards, 850-51. Arklow Harbour, testimony of Messrs. Kynoch, Ltd., to the improvement works carried out by Department, 17145. Munster Institute, relations of Department with Governors, 17136-40. Royal Veterinary College, assistance to from the Endowment, 17116-38.

GLASGOW, H. L. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the County Tyrone and Cookstown Urban Technical Committee, 8178. Hands in the observations of the latter Committee on the results of working of the joint scheme of technical instruction in the county, 8177. He urges the necessity of a building fund to provide suitable accommodation for the classes, 8180-1, and makes a suggestion as to the source from which the fund should be provided, 8191. The Urban Committee are quite satisfied with the present contribution of the Department, and are opposed to the introduction of the elective principle, 8195. He refers to the action of the Committee in connection with the appointment of a teacher of springing at Castleblair and Strabane, and to the application made to them for a grant for a lace industry at Cookstown, and thinks it desirable that the relations of the Committee to business enterprises should be clearly defined, 8196-205.

GLYNN, J. A., J.R.—(Summary of evidence).—Secretary and Chairman of the Galway County Council, 5903-4. Complaints of the withdrawal of the county share of the Equivalent Grant, 5906. An annual sum of £7,500 has been substituted for the original grant of £3,500, but Galway gets none of it; its contribution from the latter source used to be £336, 5905-6. The county receives only £93 10s. a year from the Congested Districts Board for technical instruction in congested areas, though much more is spent there, 5911. There is need for more itinerant instruction, 5914-5; which is working fairly well, 5916. Written thinks that the increased grants under the new programme will benefit the towns, especially Galway City, 5919. The restriction on the attendance at technical classes, of children from National schools, who have not attained a specified standard, should be removed, 5927; girls should be admitted to domestic economy classes at the age of ten or eleven, 5930, practical not theoretical instruction in these classes be essential, 5932, and by qualified teachers, 5930-3. Such instruction would be preferable if it could be given in the National schools, 5933; for the younger children in National schools simple elementary teaching would suffer, 5934. Horticultural instruction to boys is carried out on a small scale, 5935. The introduction by the Department of the system of payment by Capitation Grant, dependent on a specified number of attendances, has affected injuriously the technical classes in the convents at Gort and Tuam; previously the teachers had been paid by salary, when the average attendances and the results were good, but the pupils were unable to give the attendances required under the Department's system. There would be no objection to the capitation system if the attendances were lessened, 5935-46. The Department does not give sufficient initiative to the local Committees; the adoption of the county schemes has been accompanied by friction with the Department, whereas there never was any difficulty, before the passing of the Act, with the South Kensington Authorities. If the Department's restriction was removed the matter would right itself again, 5947-50. The Department's methods have been too rigid in the cases of towns, such as Gort and Tuam, where technical schemes were in operation

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before the passing of the Act of 1896, and too rigid in connection with the working of the Act outside these towns, 5932-3. The capitation system has not been a success in Galway, 5938. In Ballinacorney, there is a fairly good scheme of technical instruction, which was not, however, in existence before the establishment of the Department; the town levies a special rate, which is largely supplemented by the county, 5951-2. Witness traces the history of the Gort Convent Industries. These were started in 1891 by the Sisters of Mercy, without capital, beyond ten linen looms; a local Technical Instruction Committee was formed under the Act of 1893, and assistance afforded by this Committee. With the full approval of the South Kensington Authorities teachers were appointed; the workers in the Industries were the girls attending the convent, to whom wages were paid, they became expert teachers, and found suitable employment. In 1903 the Industries were incorporated under the Friendly Societies' Act, and witness details the results of the subsequent trading by the Company. It was represented to the County Council in the same year that the Industries were badly housed, and the Council voted a sum of £2,000, nominally to build a technical school, though in reality to build a house for the Industries. In 1902, and again in 1903, the Department was asked to aid the Industries financially, but they refused. The proposal of the Council to expend the sum of £2,000 was not sanctioned by the Department until 1906. In the interval the Industries had collapsed, and witness has advised the Council not to proceed with the building. He suggests that the action of the Department helped to destroy the Industries, 5955-6007. With regard to the starting of new Industries, witness thinks that the State should afford assistance by loans, at a low rate of interest, 6008; such loans to be for the provision of buildings and machinery, 6008. Similar assistance should be given to existing Industries—experts to be available to advise on the most suitable form of local industry—and the temporary assistance of expert teachers to be given free of expense till the industry becomes established. Should the industry prove successful, a company could be formed, and the loan repaid out of subscribed capital, 6010. People would put their money into such a company, 6011-3. It would also be necessary to give a Capitation Grant to pupils under instruction until they earned wages, 6014; and to give a small allowance for spoiled material, 6015. The State would receive fair security for the loan, and would not be at any loss, 6019. Many people would be induced to subscribe if they knew that large sums would not be expended out of capital on training hands and on spoiled materials, 6020. The security he proposes is personal, 6021; and for buildings it might, in addition, be in the form of debentures, 6022. He does not think it possible to obtain much in the way of contribution for this purpose from the rates, 6023. He would make it a condition that State assistance should be given provided voluntary contributions were forthcoming, 6028. There would be no danger of the starting of non-paying industries if such a precaution were taken, 6035. It is not in the interest of the people to think that everything can be done for them by the State, 6039. In the case of the Killybeg industry, he considers that the Department should assist by teaching the workers and paying the teachers, 6032. He is opposed to a fixed Parliamentary Grant for technical education; estimates should be prepared each year by the Department showing the local contributions and the money required by each locality, and the balance should be provided from Imperial sources, 6038-9.

GORDON, J. E., J.P.—(Summary of evidence).—Chief Agricultural Inspector, 15398. He has personally represented to members of County Committees the desirability of effectively carrying out the provisions of the Act in the poorer and more

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backward districts. This course was adopted in Antrim, Donegal, Fermanagh, Kerry, Tipperary, Tyrone, and Wexford. The Committees of these Counties were themselves most anxious to do all they could for the poorer districts, but they experienced great difficulty in procuring applicants for the purchase of sites. The majority of the animals located in such districts in recent years have been placed there by the Department, 15394-5. His personal representations were not officially suggested by the Department, 15397, but he has more than once directed the attention of Professor Campbell to the condition of the districts in question and, as a result, the Department provided special facilities for their treatment, 15400-16.

GORE-BOOTH, Sir J., Bart., D.L.—(Summary of evidence).—Representative of the Board of Agriculture, 6374. He believes that a popular conception of the functions of the Department when it was created was that it would supplement self-help and local efforts in matters of business development. In practice, he thinks, this conception has not been realized, or that the Department has little to show. Witness illustrates his views by referring to three local industries—pottery, early potato growing, and the Sligo Shirt Industry. He recommends that in approved cases the State should foster industries by the adoption of a policy of subsidies. He makes no reflection on the system of teaching by the Department, which he believes is good, but considers that unless their work on the commercial side is developed on the lines which he indicates, the full advantage to be derived from their teaching will not be secured to the country, 6374-633.

GOSSELIN, Sir N. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the County Monaghan Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 7944. It is considered that sufficient initiative is not allowed to the Committee in the adaptation of schemes to the requirements of the county, 7945. There have been differences of opinion between the Committee and the Department, but these have been adjusted, 7949. He quotes from a pamphlet published by the Committee, showing the advantages held out to coopers by the cattle scheme, 7949-51. In lieu of large agricultural stations, as at Athlery, &c., he recommends that the Department should provide in each county a number of demonstration farms, of sufficient size, worked under the supervision of the county instructor, 7952, 7959, 7952-7. These stations are not accessible to poor men, as the demonstration farms would be, 7952-7, 7980, and small experimental plots are not sufficiently illustrative, 7956. He thinks the Department should be reconstituted a Board of, say, three members, to be responsible to Parliament through a Minister, 7956-6, and that publicity should be given to the proceedings of the Board, 7971. Witness objects to the selection of peonies built by the Department's officers, and suggests that the duty should be entrusted to the judges employed by the Royal Dublin Society, 7972-4. He considers that the effect of railway rates on agricultural produce is prejudicial, 7980-1; running cheap rate trains once a week might afford some relief, 7982.

GREEN, W. S.—(Summary of evidence).—Chief Inspector of the Fisheries Branch of the Department, 3619. Made a survey in 1880-2 of the fishing grounds off the West Coast, 3621. Development of fisheries by grants from Parliament for the construction of piers, 3625, and by loans administered by the Inspectors, C.D.B., and Department for the purchase of boats and gear, 3644-71. New duties imposed by the Act of 1899 and provision of additional funds for sea fisheries, 3677-8.

Salmon fisheries; their value to private proprietors and to the public, 3686-92; assistance required from public funds for their further development, 3693-709; number of persons

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employed, 3754. Fisheries, sea and inland; value of, 3753-6. Hatcheries; creation of and financial assistance to, 3693-704. Mackerel fishing; decline of, 3735-9, value of export trade and employment afforded, 3762. Herring fishing; income of, 3740. Fisheries intelligence, 3744. Instruction, 3747-53, 3755-60. Ed fishing; value of, 3756; further legislation with respect to, 3767. Oyster fisheries, 3743-5. Brand for fish, 3763. Piers; Grants from the Endowment for the erection of, 3716; necessity for an amendment of the law to enable co-operation between the Department and County Councils respecting the construction of new works 3768. Dredging of harbours, 3716-22. Trawling; steps taken for the suppression of illegal trawling and results, 3703-36; assistance refused by Admiralty, 3730. Finance; additional funds required for the development of sea and inland fisheries, 3761, 3771.

Relations of Fisheries Branch to

- (a.) Department. Functions of Inspectors and the Department, 3625-43, 3671. Separation of Branch from the Department and creation of a Board of Fisheries, 3770-6.
- (b.) Congested Districts Board, 3743-4. Responsibility of Department for enforcement of the fishery laws in congested and non-congested districts, 3763-4.
- (c.) Board of Agriculture. Provision of funds from the Endowment for purposes of inland fisheries, 3678-83, and for the acquisition of a dredger, 3722-3.
- (d.) Advisory Committee on Fisheries, 3770.
- (e.) Boards of Conservators, 3671, 3673-6. Inadequacy of their funds, 3765.
- (f.) Police; duties of in respect to inland fisheries, 3671-2.

GREEN, J. J.—(Summary of evidence).—Agricultural Instructor for County Carlow, 12525. The attendance at his itinerant lectures have been best in the more remote and poorer districts, 12526. The average attendance at lectures throughout the county has been about sixty, 12541. During the past two years winter classes have been held at different centres in the county; admission to the classes being dependent on success at a written examination, the most desirable class of candidates, namely, men between twenty and thirty years of age, who are engaged in practical farming, are deterred from competing. In witness's opinion the regulations in this respect should be relaxed; he would dispense with the written examination in the case of such men and merely submit them to an intelligence test, 12553-58, 12571-4. The value of the winter classes is shown by the formation, as a direct outcome, of successful agriculture associations in the county, 12543-4. The methods of farming recommended by him have been adopted by individual occupiers, and he attaches much importance to the influence for good of this aspect of his work, especially on persons who will not attend his lectures or are indisposed to take advantage, directly, of his instruction, 12550, 12593-5.

GREENBANK, J. C., J.P. (Summary of evidence). A member of the Monaghan County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 6639. He thinks that the work of the Department on the agricultural side has produced good results. There is room for improvement in the method of instruction adopted by the county instructor, who should move about freely among the small farmers and explain matters to them, 6641-3. Meetings are held by him on the experimental plots, but this is not sufficient, 9547. The Committee do not exercise complete control over the instructor's movements, 6649. With regard to the agricultural school at Monaghan, witness considers that the Department should accede to a request of the Committee to provide it with a model farm, 6653. He does not approve of the manner in which premium bulls are selected by the Department, 9549-52, 9554-52.

GRUBB, SIR H., F.R.S.—(Summary of evidence).—A member of the Board of Visitors of the Dublin Museum, 12736. Evidence in confirmation of that given by Mr. Falkiner respecting the new buildings for the Royal College of Science and certain matters affecting the efficiency of the Museum, 12736-54, 12752-73.

HALL, RAYN. J. (Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Fermanagh County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 8254. He does not agree with Mr. Archdale that half-bred premium bulls should be sent to the poorer districts in the county; he is in favour of pure-bred animals. He thinks that the difficulty of procuring bores might be largely overcome if the Department resorted to the plan recently adopted by the Congested Districts Board. Sheep-rearing should be encouraged, and a scheme issued. He approves of the practice of certifying premium bulls before purchase, and is of opinion that it in no way enhances their price. Favouring an increase of the premium, 8254-5. High-priced bulls should, he suggests, be sent by the Department to shorthorn centres, to encourage the production of first-class bulls at home, 8256-8. The schemes of agriculture and horticulture have worked very successfully, 8259; he agrees with Mr. Archdale that the agricultural instructor should be available for practical instruction, 8270. The relations of the Committee with the Department have been of the happiest nature, 8268. The work of technical instruction in the county has been most successful, 8271.

HALL, J. C., M.A. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the Monaghan County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 9667. He speaks of the improvements effected since the establishment of the Department. An extension of the horticultural work in the county is desirable in view of the large number of small holdings, and he suggests that inducements should be held out to the occupiers to take up more generally the cultivation of fruit for profit, 9668-73. He also thinks that the Department should increase their contribution to local shows, which are of considerable educational value, 9674-6.

HALLETT, T. G. P., J.P., M.L. (Summary of evidence).—Proprietor of the Galway Several Fishery, and member of the Galway Board of Conservators. The Irish Salmon Fisheries attract an increasingly large number of anglers; they are under the government of Boards of Conservators, which administer funds exclusively contributed by fishery interests. These funds are the Boards' only source of revenue, and are subject to local rates like other forms of property. But they are mainly dissipated in the cost of protection, a circumstance which differentiates the fisheries from other businesses that are exempt from payment of this expense, 6327. The fisheries are faced with other difficulties besides protection against poaching—*i.e.*, pollution, obstructions to the free movement of fish, &c., 6326-8. A Bill before Parliament proposes to alter the constitution of the Conservancy Boards and to hand over the fisheries to County Councils, who are not elected by the fishery interests for fishery purposes, and who contribute nothing towards fishery funds. The Bill, if passed, would be extremely detrimental to fisheries. Witness considers that the Irish fisheries have a claim on the Imperial Government for protection against the proposed transfer, and that the maintenance of their relations with the central fishery authority should be preserved, 6326. Personally, he thinks that the Fishery Inspector should be independent of the Department, 6210. He makes suggestions as to the constitution of the Advisory Board for fisheries, and as to the protection of fisheries at sea, 6215-41.

HALLINAN, ROGER REV. MORGAN, F.R., V.S.—(Summary of paper in Appendix).—A representative of the Limerick County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The work of the Department has not fulfilled the hopes entertained; he sees no improvement in the system of agriculture in the county, and while technical instruction has effected some little good, the results are not commensurate with expenditure. No effort has been made by the Department to foster local industries. They have observed an unreasonable tenacity in adhering to a rigid programme on the technical side of their work, and have adapted to Irish needs Continental ideals and methods which are unsuitable to the country. A great blunder was also committed in sending the Department with so many foreigners from England and Scotland.

HALPIN, A.—(Summary of evidence).—A farmer living near Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, 12761. The scheme of agricultural instruction has worked well and to the benefit of farmers who have taken advantage of it, 12765. He recommends the establishment of a couple of example holdings in the county, the Department to take no risks, but merely to supply seeds and manure, and the cooperator to provide labour and work the holding under the directions of the agricultural instructor, 12766-23. The improvement in live-stock has been considerable, 12724-5. Horticultural instruction has not been a success in his district owing to its elevation, 12783-36; veterinary lectures would be more beneficial, 12737. The cottage farm prize scheme has worked well and there is a marked improvement in the appearance of cottages, 12736-44. The butter-making scheme has also effected good results, 12745-7. He suggests the issue of loans to farmers on low terms for the purpose of planting trees for shelter, 12743, 12753-4, and the formation of a co-operative society to enable them to purchase seeds and manure, 12759-6.

HAMILTON, A.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Lenderrary County Council and Committee of Agriculture, 7589. The Committee express their high appreciation of the manner in which the Department have endeavoured to carry out the provisions of the Act of 1899. They approve of the existing constitution of the Department, and are opposed to any material change in it. They recommend that greater freedom be given to County Committees in the preparation and execution of schemes, and suggest a means by which to attain this object. They also suggest that the county should not be deprived of the Department's contribution in respect of technical instruction, because of the refusal of the only urban district in the county to make a contribution, 7589, 7603-7. Witness thinks it would be desirable for the Department to have the power of nominating one-third of the members on County Committees, 7592, 7608.

HANLON, P.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Carlow Committee of Agriculture and Member of the Agricultural Council, 11338-9. Considers that the appointment of Vice-President should be a Party one; that greater powers should be conferred on the Council of Agriculture; that every County Council should have a representative on the Board of Agriculture; that the proceedings at meetings of the Board should be fully reported; and that members of Advisory Committees should be elected, not selected, 11349-7. He speaks favourably of the working of the agricultural, cattle, poultry, and butter-making schemes in Carlow, 11347-53.

HANNA, W. J., J.R.—(Summary of evidence).—Member of the Donegal County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 7588. Advocates fruit culture and instruction to cottagers and small farmers in the selection and planting of trees. Provision for horticulture is made

HANNA, W. J., J.R.—continued.

in the County Scheme, but owing to the dispute between the Committee and the Department the county is without an instructor, 7591-789. He thinks that in the allocation of the Department's funds Donegal does not receive its due proportion, having regard to its circumstances and size, 7729-34. In rural districts where manual instruction is taught there should be continuity in the teaching, and for this purpose it would be desirable to construct annexes to National schools, and equip these with tools, etc., 7735-9. The system of itinerant lectures in agriculture is not suited to the small farmers in Donegal, 7600; they do not appreciate theoretical instruction; what is needed is practical training, and to this end witness would establish a school of a convenient centre similar to the schools at Clonally and Athlery, 7740-54. He expresses his views as to the constitution of the Department, 7753-73.

HARPER, J.—(Summary of evidence).—Expert adviser to the Department in matters relating to the marketing of fruit, 15453. Steps taken by Department for the grading, packing, and marketing of fruit, 15464-73, 15475-6, 15480. Canning, 15473-4. Increased growth of fruit in recent years, 15481-2. The demand for fruit stimulated by the establishment of fruit plots, 15530. Importation of foreign-grown fruit, 15474, 15494. The Drogheda fruit industry, 15435-95. Cider industry, 15503-8. Expert advice to persons about to start fruit growing or preserving, 15502-3.

HARTIGAN, F., C.E.—(Summary of evidence).—Architect, farmer, and small landholder, 5564. Owing to a dispute between the Department and Limerick County Committee of Agriculture, the county is without a poultry scheme, 5564. County Committees are too large and are not fairly selected; elementary chemistry should be taught in National Schools; he considers that the type of bull best suited to the county is one for dairying purposes; protection against poaching is needed for the inland fisheries, 5565.

HAYES, T. J.—(Summary of evidence).—Vice-Chairman of the Blackrock Technical Instruction Committee, 12609. He refers to the cordial relations that have existed between the Committee and the Department, and gives an account of the difficulties that were encountered and successfully overcome in the establishment of the technical school, 12609-11.

HEDGLEY, M., V.S.C.V.S.—(Summary of evidence).—Chief Inspector of the Veterinary Branch of the Department, 14215. Submits his observations respecting the evidence given before the Committee by Mr. J. Mooney, 14215-23; Mr. J. Darby, 14223-30; Mr. A. Watson, 14226-56; and on the subject of Veterinary Dispensaries, 14231-5.

HENDERSON, Srs. J., R.E.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Board of Technical Instruction, 9450, and Chairman of the Belfast County Borough Technical Instruction Committee, 9448-9. He reviews the progress of technical instruction in Belfast since the passing of the Act of 1899; the steps taken by the Borough Council to put the Act into operation; and the considerations which led the Corporation to build a Technical Institute. He gives particulars of the cost of the new building and its equipment, which will impose a heavy annual charge on the funds of the Committee, and draws attention to the appeals made to Government for grants-in-aid of the erection of such buildings. In referring to the necessity for closer co-ordination between the various educational Boards, he suggests that a representative from Ulster should be added to the Consultative Committee, and he also states that the programme of instruction in

HENDERSON, S. J., B.A.—*continued*.

National Schools is inadequate to prepare pupils in a suitable manner for technical studies, 9450. Witness reads letters received from the heads of several technical schools in Ulster, 9461.

HENNESSY, Rev. Brother.—*(Summary of evidence)*—A member of the Executive of the Order of Christian Brothers and of the Advisory Committee of Heads of Secondary Schools, 16143. He describes the working of the Department's programme of science teaching in the secondary schools of the Christian Brothers, and offers suggestions with a view to modifications of the programme, 16145-71. He also expresses his views regarding the suitability of *Traders' Preparatory Schools* to the conditions of Ireland and is of opinion that in lieu of giving instruction in such schools it would be better to recognise teaching by foremen in factories, 16191-213.

HENRY, F.—*(Summary of evidence)*—A member of clerical staff of the Department, 10504. He explains its action in refusing to allow the Westford County Committee of Agriculture to witness savings under an approved scheme for purposes not covered by the scheme (vide 10325-9, 10332-4), 10605-12.

HIGGINS, P. *(Summary of evidence)*—Member of the Mayo County Council and Committee of Agriculture, 6486. Suggestions put forward by his Committee have been usually ignored by the Department, 6486. An appointment to the position of agricultural instructor was recommended by the Committee but rejected by the Department, 6489, 6491. The Department also refused to purchase a herd of bulls belonging to a local gentleman; they were then sold privately, but subsequently bought by the Department at double the price previously paid for them, 6492-6. The system of co-operative agricultural banks is working admirably, 6499-501. Itinerant lectures should be more demonstrative than theoretical, 6502. The poultry scheme has been worked on wrong lines, 6506; the expenditure of the money in the distribution of eggs would be more beneficial, 6508. Much has been done for the improvement of live stock, but there is room for further improvement, 6513. The price of bulls is too high, 6515; no person should be allowed to keep a bull for public use unless it has been certified as suitable for breeding, 6621, 6632A. An uncertified bull should be put rid of, 6527. Witness advocates the planting of waste lands with trees, 6532A-42.

HILL, T. A. W., B.Sc.—*(Summary of evidence)*—Principal of the Blackrock Technical School, 13944. He urges the necessity that exists for providing a building grant, and for financial arrangements between the Department and Commissioners of National Education enabling the technical school to be utilised by senior pupils from National Schools for day classes in manual instruction and domestic economy, 13955-6. Attendance at evening technical classes, 13961-72. He refers to the inconvenience caused by being required to prepare his accounts for audit in respect of periods ending on different dates, 13979-80.

HOGG, L. *(Summary of evidence)*—A representative of the firm of McIntyre, Hogg and Marsh, of Londonderry. On behalf of the shirt trade he joins with Mr. Tilly in protesting against the subsidising of industries by the Department. The Trade offer no objection to assistance which pertains merely of the nature of payment for technical instruction, 7922-31.

HOLT, E. W. L.—*(Summary of evidence)*—Scientific Advisor, Fisheries Branch of the Department, 14979. Duties, staff, and distribution

HOLT, E. W. L.—*continued*.

of work, 14982. Fisheries investigations prior to the creation of the Department, 14984; and subsequently:—survey of the east coast trawling grounds, 14984; researches in connection with mackerel and herring fisheries, 14985-9; experiments in oyster culture, measures for restocking depleted public oyster beds, oyster culture by tenant purchasers, legal disabilities, 14993-7; survey of east coast oyster beds, 14996; exploration of deep-sea trawling grounds, objects and practical utility, 14998-15004; employment of steam cruiser for scientific work, 15008-12; grant to the Ulster Fishery and Biological Association, 15013-20; co-operation with the International Council, and work of Marine Biological Association, 14990, 15021-30. Inland Fisheries. Salmon marking and hatcheries, 15034-55; trout farming, 15055; need for detailed investigation of the life-history of salmon, 15056; necessity for increased funds, 15057, of placing members of the Scientific Staff on the permanent Establishment, 15058-62, 15068-74, and for additional clerical assistance, 15065-7.

HOPE, E., J.P.—*(Summary of evidence)*—A member of the Westford County Council and Committee of Agriculture, 10712-3. His Council are of opinion that the constitution of the Council and Board of Agriculture should be changed that each body should be wholly elected, and that the management of the Department should be entrusted to four paid members of the Board, who would elect the Vice-President, 10714-23. It is felt that the Department, as now constituted, is not sufficiently in sympathy with the people; it has not given adequate attention to the recommendations of the Council of Agriculture and County Committee, 10724-5. It is also considered that the Department should not finance the I.A.O.S., over which there is no popular control, and that the functions of the Society should be vested in the Department 10727-31. The County Council recommend the establishment in Westford, which is largely a tillage county, of an agricultural station similar to that of Comally, 10732-3, 10744-5. The cattle scheme is working very well, but additional bulls are required, 10752.

HUMPHREYS, Rev. J.—*(Summary of evidence)*—Representative of the King's County Joint Technical Committee, 13365. There has been no friction between the Committee and the Department, 13367. The Act is inoperative in many rural districts, but where it operates the results have been satisfactory. He is opposed to the control of the Department by County Councils, and considers that the Vice-President should not have a seat in Parliament, 13366. The Board of Technical Instruction is too small to be useful; each county should be represented on it, and its duties enlarged in the direction of initiation, 13368. Two properly equipped technical schools are required in the county; the funds for supplying them to be provided by the Department, 13369-50. Witness also advocates the establishment in the county of two 50-acre model farms, to be worked under the supervision of the Department, 13361-3; and that in the initial stage of industrial enterprises the Department should afford assistance by way of loans, 13368-9. The Consultative Committee on Education ought to be enlarged with a view to making it more representative, 13370.

HUNTER, A. B.—*(Summary of evidence)*—Manager of the Killybegs Woollen Mills, 11181. He points out that the inefficiency and consequent small output of the untrained hands employed in the mills will prevent the utilisation of the machinery to its full capacity for a number of years, and claims that the Department, in the special circumstances of the industry, should assist it in its initial stages, 11182-242.

HUSTON, B. T. *(Summary of evidence)*—Secretary of the Armagh County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 8444; a member of the Council of Agriculture, 8457;

HUSTON, R. T.—continued.

and a Veterinary Surgeon, 8486. He is of opinion that a member of a County Committee should be debarred from becoming a beneficiary under a county scheme, 8445-80. He approves of Irishmen being trained with a view to making them fitted for the position of agricultural instructor, but he would not exclude other qualified persons, who are not Irishmen, from filling the position, 8451-2. He approves of the nominated element on the Council of Agriculture, 8456-8; and considers it undesirable that the Vice-President of the Department should have a seat in Parliament, 8456. In the matter of county schemes he disapproves of their uniformity, and considers that the responsibility for their preparation should be devolved on Provincial Committees and the Council of Agriculture, 8457-8. He does not think that the instruction given at the winter classes in agriculture is sufficiently effective, 8459-74; and favours the establishment of an agricultural school in the county, with a demonstration farm attached, 8475. Agricultural Societies require to be made more generally useful than they are at present, and he suggests that their development on the lines indicated by him might be taken up by the Department, 8478-81. The cattle scheme has been most successful, 8482. He condemns, however, the Clydesdale sire horse introduced into the county by the Department, and recommends the establishment of Government stud farms for the purpose of breeding horses of a suitable type, 8483-94. He also disapproves of the type of pig supplied by the Department, 8495-601. He is of opinion that all animals standing for service—horses, cattle, or swine—should be licensed by the Department, 8501-6. As regards tuberculosis in cattle, he has submitted many animals to the test, and has arrived at the conclusion that one-fourth of the entire number of cattle in Ireland are tubercular, 8505-5; he considers that all premium bulls should be submitted to the test, 8515-9; and that the disease should be scheduled, 8523. The administration of the Diseases of Animals Act should be entrusted to Committees of Agriculture and not to County Councils, or to a sub-committee appointed by the latter, 8523-2. With respect to fairs, he thinks it would be an advantage, in view of the scarcity of labour, to introduce into Ireland the system prevailing on the Continent of purchasing the standing crop and dealing with it, after pulling, by factory labour, 8530-4.

HYNES, M. (Summary of evidence).—A representative of the County Galway Committee of Agriculture, 6181. Owing to the establishment of the agricultural station at Athlery, and of the school at Mountbellew, he considers there is no longer any necessity for itinerant agricultural instruction in the Gort district, 6183-91, 6196. People in this district do not attach to the cattle breeding scheme the importance it deserves, 6192; the six horses supplied by the Department are unsuitable, 6194-5. There has been much improvement in the breeds of poultry, 6195, 6197-9. Witness recommends the establishment of veterinary dispensaries for the treatment of cattle, 6200. He has planted trees successfully, and thinks that many others would do the same if enabled to buy trees in their neighbourhood, 6200-4. It would be desirable to have more working farmers on the County Committee, and he suggests that District Councils should be authorised to advise the Committee as to the requirements of their respective districts, 6204. The railway rates on agricultural produce are excessive, 6204.

HYNES, Rev. J. J., c.c.—(Summary of evidence).—Member of the Sligo Urban Technical Instruction Committee, 6738. Agrees with the views expressed by the Secretary to the Committee, 6731. The witness referred to the scheme initiated by Mr. Boardman for the establishment of an industry in Sligo, 6732-71. He

HYNES, Rev. J. J., c.c.—continued.

considers that the Department should be empowered to give more aid to urban industries, 6772; for example, manufacturers should be advised by the Department as to the best markets for their wares, and the Department should prosecute persons who sell imported articles as Irish-made goods, 6773. The appointment of all officers on the staff of the Department should be vested in the Council or Board of Agriculture, 6773-87.

IKERRIN, VINCENY.—(Summary of evidence).—Held the position of Transit Inspector of the Department, and is now acting as Inspector in Great Britain, 15956-7. He describes his functions in the latter capacity, which are conversant with the detection of fraud in the sale, in Great Britain, of Irish butter, eggs, and other articles of agricultural produce, the improvements of the methods of Irish producers and the protection of their interests, generally, 15974-16014. In the case of eggs the detection of fraud is difficult, and he suggests that the only method of dealing effectually with such a fraud is to require that every egg imported into Great Britain shall be branded with the name of the country of origin, 16016-5. He also suggests an amendment of the law which would enable the Department to make regulations defining the matters (country and factory) made in Ireland, 16026-7. His duties do not overlap those of the English Board of Agriculture, 16018-21, he has received much assistance from that Department, 16033-3. Irish butter has realised a higher price during the past season and witness has been informed that this result is attributed partly to the knowledge of the fact that the best interests of the industry are now being specially looked after, 16034-5.

IRWIN, T. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the Newry Chamber of Commerce, 10969. Holds in a resolution of the Council of the Chamber expressing approval of the methods adopted by the Department in the administration of the Act of 1896, and dissenting from proposed changes in the organisation of the Department, 10010-3. He speaks in terms of approval of the work done by the Department, 10014-52.

KEANE, B. (Summary of evidence).—Member of the County Leitrim Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 6788. The county has never had an agricultural instructor, 6791; one would be desirable, 6832, 6837. He believes that thoroughbred horses and pure-bred short-horn bulls are unsuitable to the county, 6797-802. He is unable to say how many premium bulls there are in the county, but the people in his neighbourhood are not satisfied with them, 6803; their price is considered too high, 6805. The county requires a model farm, similar to that in County Cavan, 6815-8. Itinerant instruction has been useful; the method of butter-making has been improved, 6819-20; many persons have discontinued taking their milk to the creameries, 6821; they are not suitable to the small farmers, and the separated milk is of little value for feeding calves, 6822. The poultry have improved, and the production of eggs is much larger than formerly, 6823-5. Greater attention should be paid by the Department to local opinion in the formulation of the county schemes, 6832.

KEANE, M. (Summary of evidence).—Secretary of the County Sligo Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 7153. There was formerly an agricultural instructor in the county, 7156. His services were dispensed with at the suggestion of the Department, 7157; a system of winter lectures by a Departmental instructor was substituted, and these were very successful, 7158-61. The county agricultural scheme has worked satisfactorily, 7165. He has never heard any objection to the live stock

KEANE, M.—continued.

scheme, 7156. A farm-prize scheme has been in operation since 1901. Sligo was one of the first counties to adopt the scheme, 7156. The relations between the Committee and the Department have always been harmonious, 7159. The poultry scheme has given great satisfaction, 7170; the lectures are very largely attended, 7171. The dairy scheme has been working well, 7172. Two domestic economy instructresses are employed and witness believes the instruction given is effecting good results. Owing, however, to the expense caused by the removal of the equipment from place to place, some members of the Committee consider that the money expended might be better utilised in other directions, 7173-4. The successful working of the system of itinerant lectures is largely due to the action of the clergy, 7175. All the county schemes are working satisfactorily, 7177.

KELLER, Right Rev. Monsignor, F.R., V.O. (Summary of evidence.)—Chairman of the Youghal Urban Technical Instruction Committee, 4558. The attendance at the classes in carpentry, joinery and building construction is very poor; the people take little interest in these classes, 4559, 4563, though they have been in operation for four years, 4570. The classes in wood-carving, modelling, and drawing have been well attended, but not by people whom they were intended to reach, 4573-4. The classes in commercial subjects have lapsed; an effort will be made to revive them, 4574. He suggests that prizes for attendance and proficiency might tend to attract students to evening classes, 4585. The lace industry, conducted by the nuns, employs a large number of girls, and is very successful; they also receive instruction in domestic economy; there is some difficulty, however, in inducing the girls to continue under the latter instruction, 4575, because it diminishes their earnings as lace-workers, 4576; last year the sum of £5,000 was paid in wages to the lace workers, 4592. To obviate this difficulty the domestic economy instruction, instead of being limited to a period of some weeks, should be extended over the whole year, 4583. Witness refers to the art metal work industry in Youghal, the existence of which is precarious; with a view to its development and establishment on a firmer basis, he asks that the Department should enable the employment of a superior class of teacher by increasing their contribution, and he also suggests that they should, if possible, assist in marketing the products of the industry, 4585-92, 4614-25. There is another industry in Youghal, the pottery industry, but nothing has been done to improve the specimens turned out, 4593-5. He thinks it would be desirable that boys from twelve to fourteen in National schools should undergo an elementary course of technical instruction; it would culminate their interest in technical work and conduce to better attendance at technical classes, 4596-7. With regard to agriculture, he believes that the system of itinerant lectures is not fruitful of good results; he is strongly in favour, however, of the classes set up at local centres at which lads receive practical instruction, 4627. He approves of having gardens in the neighbourhood of schools, to which the children could be sent for systematic instruction in horticulture, 4633-5. The experiments carried out locally in the cultivation of early potatoes have been a marked success, and he hopes the Department will continue to nurse the industry for some years, 4637-46. The funds available for agriculture are inadequate, 4637, 4643, and the Department should be placed in a position to organise industries, 4648-51.

KELLY, Most Rev. Dr., Bishop of Ross. (Summary of evidence.) A representative of the Board and member of the Council of Agriculture, 3663-4. Very harmonious relations have always subsisted between the Department and the Board. The Department has freely consulted the Board with respect to questions of importance, and as a

KELLY, Most Rev. Dr., Bishop of Ross—contd., result the Board's proposals have been either adopted, dropped, or modified, 3667. Greater freedom of action has been conceded to the Board than is contemplated by statute, and projects, of which he gives instances, have been initiated by individual members, 3669-72, 3683. There was difficulty at the outset in inducing the people and County Committees to understand the aims and methods of the Department, which were largely adapted from continental models and were new to Ireland, and another difficulty from which the Department suffered was traceable to the fact that it was regarded as a "Castle Board," 3685. Precautions were taken by the Act constituting the Department to make it independent of Castle control; any weakening of this independence would be regarded as a retrograde movement, and would be strongly opposed by the Agricultural Board. While it is not considered necessary that the holder of the office of Vice-President should have a seat in Parliament, the Board would object to an alteration in the position of that officer such as would make him a permanent civil servant, subject to the control of the Lord Lieutenant and Chief Secretary. He should be appointed by and quit office with his Party, unless re-appointed by their successors, a course to which witness sees no objection, 3687-87. He approves of the arrangement under which the Board and Council consist of representatives partly elected and partly nominated; there has never been any divergence of opinion between the two elements, 3670-4. The Department has always informed the Board as to the qualifications of candidates for the principal positions on the staff, but there is a general desire on the part of the Board that this practice should be extended to the appointment of other important officers, and some members claim that they should have the right of veto on such appointments, 3675-7. The Council of Agriculture has little power. It has given valuable information as to the actual needs and conditions of the country, and the time has now arrived for widening its functions and taking it more largely into the confidence of the Department and the Board. An extension of the policy of referring questions to the Council might, with advantage, be carried out, 3686-80. As to finance, the income of the Department is now expended to the extreme limit, and additional funds will be required in the near future, 3682-3, 3698. In the discussion of schemes by the Board, the details of expenditure are accessible to members, and are subjected to close criticism, 3694-7. He submits considerations which suggest to him that Ireland cannot successfully compete in the production of beef and mutton with other countries, and considers that the special attention of the Department should be directed towards the development of agriculture and dairying, 3678-83, 3699-110.

KELLY, M. (Summary of evidence.)—Member of the Clare County Council. Urges the development of the fisheries off the west-coast by the repair and extension of piers, the removal of rocks, the provision of instruction in net-making and fish-curing, and the erection of curing sheds, 5355-61. The County Committee has not recommended to the Department the inclusion, in the county scheme, of provision for instruction in net-making and fish-curing, 5364-7. He also recommends the erection of sheds and of a factory for hulk, 5361, 5366-72; and that the County Council should be represented on the "Fishery Board," 5368-3.

KENNEDY, P. J., J.R.—(Summary of evidence.)—A member of the Council of Agriculture and of the Meath County Committee, 3663.

Constitution of

(a) *The Department.* The office of Vice-President should be held by a permanent official, the Chief Secretary being answerable for the Department to Parliament, 3686-70, and patronage should be vested in the permanent staff, 3671-4.

KENNEDY, P. J., J.R.—continued.

(b.) The Council and Board of Agriculture. Disapproval of any alteration in the constitution, at present; the power of nomination tends to the addition to these Bodies of men of practical experience, 4000-4.

Relations of the Department to

(a.) Council and Board. The power of the Board in respect to policy and initiative should be made absolute and larger power in the nature of a veto conferred on the Council, 3974-91.

(b.) L.A.O.S. Opposition on the part of traders to the Department because of their support of the Society, 4016-5.

Witness does not consider that tangible benefits have resulted from the operations of the County Schemes. The type of premium bulls supplied is not suited to the requirements of farmers and the animals are too costly, 4019-30, 4037. It is also alleged that favouritism is shown by inspectors in their selection, 4025-7. He suggests selection at local centres, 4041-3, and the lowering of the standard and price, 4057-8. The poultry and butter-making Schemes have worked very well, 4050-6; the agricultural and horticultural Schemes have not been successful owing to the difficulty of retaining the instructors, 4064-8. The farm and cottage prize Scheme has worked satisfactorily except in so far as it has failed to attract the poorer classes who are most in need of improvement, 4068-76. The cookery classes held under the County Scheme in National Schools are not a success; the Scheme does not provide for the instruction of women in cottages and such an arrangement would be desirable, 4075-82. In rural districts he considers that technical instruction, as at present given, should be abandoned and that such instruction should be provided in primary schools, 4086. The multiplication of labourers' cottages with acre plots has resulted in decreased tillage, 4097-91.

KENNEDY, E.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Cattle Traders and Stock Owners' Association, 12854. Complaints of the inadequacy of the steps taken by the Department to foster the fat cattle trade. Cattle are systematically ill-treated at railway stations, insufficient feeding accommodation is provided by the Railway Companies, and beasts are injured by the shunting of wagons, 12856-61. Serious injury is also caused to cattle throughout the country by the ravages of the warble fly; action should be taken by the Department for the enforcement of measures to remedy the evil, 12933-40. The breed of cattle has deteriorated owing to overbreeding and the feeding of calves on separated milk. He agrees with the evidence of Mr. Huston as to the alarming prevalences of tubercular diseases amongst cattle, and proposes the compulsory inspection of dairy cows and sheds and the slaughter of all infected animals, 12942-13006. Witness cites a case in which the Department sold a stallion to a Meath farmer at a profit to themselves; the transaction has caused a bad feeling in the county, 13007-12.

KENNEDY, P.—(Summary of evidence).—Secretary of the Kilkenny Woollen Mills Company and Manager of the Kilkenny Wood-carving Industry, 11243. Gave an account of the linen industry, and urges the provision of assistance by the Department for the training of boys in the workshop, 11244-72. Testifies to the valuable results achieved by the Department in the matter of science teaching in secondary schools, and suggests that the work of industrial development should be entrusted to a separate branch of the Department, 11273.

LALOR, W. (Summary of evidence).—Corrects an alleged inaccuracy in the evidence of Mr. T. P. Gill respecting the proposed extension of the Curran and Leirra Railway, 6098-7001.

LANE, D. H.—(Summary of evidence).—Inspector of Fisheries, 14701. Relations with Congested Districts Board, 14704-7; functions and policy of Board and Inspectors, 14708-22; concentration of functions in a single authority, 14723-6. Constitution of Boards of Conservators in Ireland and Great Britain, 14832-53; representation of County Councils on Irish Boards, 14853-73.

Facilities for the transit of fish by steamer services on the west coast, 14913-32, and in Scotland, 14924-43. Adaptability of the coastal population to sea-fishing pursuits, 14861-95. Value of the salmon fisheries and numbers of persons employed, 14912-4; interest of the public and private proprietors therein, 14915-24. Drift-net fishing, 14926-31. Policy of Department in assisting inland fisheries, insufficiency of funds, 14973-8. Legal disability with respect to the construction of new works, 14737-40. Details of expenditure for fishery purposes, 14747-56, 14804-13, 14895-60. Observations relative to evidence given before the Committee concerning the development of the sea fisheries off West Clare, 14723-37, 14767-68; North-east Antrim, 14759-856; County Down, 14844; the suggestion made on behalf of the Mill Owners' Association in favour of an appeal from the decision of the Inspectors, 14924-53; and a Brand for cured fish, 14937-610.

LARK, W. J. (Summary of evidence).—Principal of the Lurgan Technical School and Secretary of the Technical Instruction Committee, 8637. The relations of the Committee with the Department have been most satisfactory, 8668. He enumerates the classes in operation in the technical school, 8690-6. The elementary education of students entering the technical school is deficient, but witness does not suggest that the system of primary education is wholly accountable for this state of things, 8706. There are no evening classes or schools in Lurgan working in connection with the National Board's regulations, 8706, 8709-15. He refers to the recognition by the Department of a second technical school in the town, 8712-23.

LARMINE, A. G., J.R. (Summary of evidence).—Agent to Lord Lucan; has had extensive experience in farming, 6348. The methods of the Department are, generally, on right lines, 6360. In the carrying out of schemes it is desirable that the Department should be in more frequent touch with local bodies, 6361, 6365. Instruction in the rudiments of agriculture should be given to children in primary schools from the age of twelve, 6362-5, accompanied by a certain amount of practical work, 6355-8. The number of itinerant instructors should be largely increased, 6351-5, and small demonstration farms should be provided throughout the county, worked on principles suitable to spade industry, 6366. The county is at present without an agricultural instructor, 6378. A vast improvement has taken place in the breed of cattle, 6382-3, and of pigs, 6386. Steps should be taken to prevent the use of unprofitable sire horses, 6386, 6389, 6391. There should be a larger number of local exhibitions, which have been most advantageous and successful, 6392. Witness considers it desirable to encourage local individual effort, 6392-7; he thinks, however, it would be a dangerous experiment for the State to afford assistance, 6398. The tinned industry, promoted by local effort has succeeded well, 6406-10; likewise the bottling industry, 6416. Lord Lucan has given a site for a technical school at Castlebar, and witness urges that a grant be made for buildings and equipment, 6486.

LATTA, R. A.—(Summary of evidence).—A Member of the Emisimbury District Conference Committee, 13332. Evidence in continuation of that given by Captain Bryn and Mr. Lott respecting the methods of co-operative organisation adopted by the Committee in County Wickford, 13333-64.

LEE, VERT EDDY, T., D.D. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Limerick County Committee of Agriculture, 5373. Recommends the establishment of agricultural loan banks, 5374, 5383-5, 5408, 5417-20; and the issue of loans to farmers for the purpose of a better breed of horses and for purposes of tillage, 5375-8. Small wind-mills should be fitted up by the Department, 5378-82. Instruction in cookery and domestic economy would be more satisfactory and effective if given to children in National schools, 5385-9; which should be equipped for the purpose, 5390. Railway rates are a serious obstacle to the prosperity of the country, 5396. Greater attention should be given by the Department to the wishes of the County Committee; a cattle scheme framed by the Committee in 1904 and set aside by the Department, was substantially adopted by the latter in 1905, 5399-407. Sufficient time is not allowed to the Committee for the consideration of schemes drafted by the Department, a period of six months for this purpose would be desirable, 5410-6, 5427-35.

LONG, E. J.—continued.

of a qualified man to instruct butchers in the proper methods of removing hides, 5545-63. The establishment of trades' classes is a condition precedent to the opening up of new industries, 5540.

LOUGH, A. S., J.R. (*Summary of evidence*).—Member of the Cavan Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and member of the Council and Board of Agriculture, 12204. He considers that the constitution of the Council is fairly satisfactory, but is not satisfied with the nominated element on the Board, in view of the relationship between the Department and the Irish Agricultural Organization Society, 12204. The nominations to the Board were made by the Department without consultation with the Chief Secretary, 12205; had they been made directly by the latter he would support them, 12224-4. He reviews the financial connection of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society with the Department, which, in his opinion, is objectionable, and should be terminated, and reads a letter on the subject from Mr. Dillon, M.P., who states that payments to the Society were made in violation of a pledge given by Mr. Gerald Balfour when the Act of 1899 was passing through the House of Commons. The form in which payments were made to the Society prior to 1905 was calculated to conceal the fact that they were in the nature of subsidies, and rendered more difficult than in other matters the exercise of the Board's control, 12205-3. Witness explains the character and scope of the information supplied to the Board by the Department in connection with payments out of their endowment, 12233-40. Referring to the Department's schemes of efficient instruction in the county, he states that good results are now manifest in districts where active local sub-committees are formed, and suggests that the Department should devote attention to this branch of county organization. The establishment of a station at Ballyhaize will be of great assistance in the carrying out of the schemes. The poultry, horticulture, and bookkeeping schemes are fairly satisfactory; the agricultural scheme has effected considerable improvements, 12240-2. He alludes to the extinction of industries in Cavan and to the necessity that exists for their revival, 12242-4.

LUNDON, M. (*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Kilmallock branch of the Creamery Managers' Association, 5506. States that the Department has neglected to give proper attention to the creamery movement, and suggests that they should arrange for the publication of official quotations of the prices of Irish butter, 5508.

LYBURN, E. St. J., F.R.S. (*Summary of evidence*).—Economic geologist to the Department, 12675; previous experience, 12677. Methods of collecting information and bringing it before the public, 12674, 12678. Reports upon the economic value of minerals examined and assistance rendered to these desires of prospecting, 12678, 12681-5. Diamond drilling, 12679-80. Expert advice to persons seeking information, 12688; marked increase of prospecting and development work in Ireland in recent years, 12689-90. Coal supplies, 12695-6. Industries awaiting development, 14006. Witness's relations with Geological Survey, 12693-5, 14044-5.

LYNCH, M. (*Summary of evidence*).—Vice-Chairman of the County Tyrone Technical Instruction Committee, 8055, and member of the Omagh Technical Committee, 8056. He desires to the views of Mr. Bradley as to the equipment of five laboratories and secondary schools in Omagh, 8067. The expense of administering the county scheme is considered excessive, and has led to friction between the Omagh and County Committee, 8086-8103. He endorses the evidence of Mr. Delap and Mr. Bradley on the subject of building, 8103. With respect to industries, he suggests the creation of an Industrial Stock, bearing

LE FLURY, E. M. (*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutes, 12658. Advocates the necessity of technical qualifications and teaching experience for inspectors of technological classes and their work, 12660-71, and refers to the insufficiency of the proposed one year's preparatory course in connection with technical schools, 12671-4.

LETT, E. A. (*Summary of evidence*).—A Member of the Ennisworthy District Conference Committee, 12327. The Committee take exception to the practice of the Department in purchasing so large a proportion of Scotch-bred bulls; the practice is discouraging to the breeders of Irish-bred pedigree stock, and bulls are acquired that are unsuitable for Irish requirements, 12329-33. It is also considered that to be eligible for premiums bulls must be in a condition which is detrimental to their serviceability, 12335. The Committee are further of opinion that the system of selecting thoroughbred horses is capable of improvement; sires should be selected in accordance with local requirements, and encouragement given by the Department to the Cleveland Bay breed, 12339-304. Witness refers to the operation of the Ennisworthy Co-operative Trading Society and of a local agricultural bank, 12309-21.

LOCKHART, E. W. (*Summary of evidence*).—A farmer residing in the County Antrim, 10218. He expresses approval of the work done in the county under the agricultural schemes, 10219-27. All premium bulls should, he considers, be tested for tuberculosis, 10223-32. The bears supplied are not considered suitable, 10230-45, and he recommends that premiums be given to the local breed, 10245.

LONG, E. J. (*Summary of evidence*).—High Sheriff of Limerick City, 5528, and a representative of the Borough Committee of Technical Instruction, 5528. The Committee aid five schools in Limerick, including the Municipal Institute, which is imperfectly equipped, 5531. A new institute with proper equipment is needed, 5533. The Department's scheme of technical instruction has been of very considerable value to the country, 5530; the benefits of such instruction would be more largely appreciated if the system of primary education were improved, 5535. The pupils who attend best for technical instruction are drawn from the better class, and not from the working class, 5545. The Department should aid in the establishment of industries, by way of loans for machinery and the provision of teachers for training labour. Witness mentions several industries that should be aided in this way in Limerick, 5536-8. He also refers to an unsuccessful application made by him to the Department for the services

LYNCH, M.—continued.

interest with a State guarantee, out of which to make advances for industrial purposes, 2504-29. He would not assist industries in competition with existing industries, of which the market was an Irish one, 8133-1; but he would do so where the output forms such a small section of the whole output in the country that it would not affect the price obtainable by non-subsidised enterprises, or the extent of their trade, 8133-3. He was formerly a member of the Committee of Agriculture, and believes the opinion is general that too much is spent on live-stock and too little on tillage; the greater part of the former expenditure goes, moreover, to the benefit of large farmers. He does not think it practicable for one Committee to attend properly to the wants of the entire country; local Committees should be formed, 8135-40. In 1804 the Committee suggested the establishment of a number of experimental farms for the benefit of small occupiers, but the Department failed to adopt the proposal, 8141. He recommends that the Department should be replaced by an elected body, representative of County and Urban District Councils, with a small paid executive Committee to manage the general business, 8142-56.

MACARDLE, T. C., J.R.—(Summary of evidence).—

Chairman of the County Louth Technical Instruction Committee, 13372. Expresses satisfaction at the relations between the Committee and the Department, 13373, but complains that the towns of Drogheda and Dundalk are not represented on the Board of Technical Instruction, 13374-5. The attendance by trades' apprentices at the Dundalk Technical classes are very satisfactory and it is suggested that such attendance should be made a condition of apprenticeship, 13375-8. He makes proposals in favour of the development, by State aid, of industries, 13381-813.

MACFARLANE, J. (Summary of evidence).—A

member of the Tyrone County Committee of Agriculture, 7417. He refers to the good results effected by the working of the scheme in the county, 7454-5, and especially to the improvements brought about by the poultry scheme in the poorer districts. There is much need, however, for facilities in the marketing of fowl and eggs, 7418-34. He also alludes to the increased cultivation of flax, and suggests that it would be an advantage if the Department took steps to bring about a supply of better seed, 7436-47.

MAGEE, P. J., J.R. (Summary of evidence).—

A member of the Belfast County Borough Technical Committee, 9428. He points out that the Act of 1899 differentiates between the powers of the Boards of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 9429. Neither Board possesses the power of initiative or administration, the result being that the Department is supreme. He suggests that the Board of Technical Instruction should be invested with administrative authority; that it should have the power of making appointments; and that officers, below the rank of Vice-President, should be responsible to the Board, 9429-30. He illustrates the necessity for this extension of functions by referring to the results of the action of the Committee in paying a capitation grant to Secondary schools, following the advice given by one of the Department's officers, 9491, 9536-41; and to a proposal to co-ordinate the Technical Institute with the Queen's College, 9493-6, 9527-34. The Department has shown a desire to work harmoniously with all parties, but in one or two respects exception has been taken to its action—e.g., the establishment by the Committee, and at the expense of their funds, of a trade preparatory school, 9495-9523.

MAGUIRE, J.—(Summary of evidence).—A

representative of the Irish Salmon and Trout Fisheries Association, 12113. Refers to the financial position of Boards of Conservators, the distribution

MAGUIRE, J.—continued.

of their funds, the relations between the Boards and the Department, and offers suggestions for a more economic and efficient government, 12121-64.

MALONE, L.—(Summary of evidence).—A

member of the Kildare County Council and Committee of Agriculture, 15417-8. He states that the cattle and horse-breeding schemes are working satisfactorily, 15423, 15440; recommends increased grants to Shows, 15423-4, and for prizes under the Cottage and Farm Prize Scheme, which has been very successful, 15423. He advocates the establishment of a county model farm, 15425, and of school gardens, 15439-62.

MARRON, EDW. J., O.C. (Summary of evidence).—

A representative of the Donegal County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 2299. Is of opinion that the energies of the Department, directed towards agriculture, are misplaced; the various schemes of agriculture presuppose an amount of labour and capital at the disposal of the farmer, which is practically non-existent. The only means of improving the condition of the people is to give them remunerative labour by encouragement of home industries. He complains of the attitude of the Department towards home industries, which have been transferred, with prejudice to their development, from the Agricultural Board to the Board of Technical Instruction. He also complains that there is no rule disqualifying from membership of a County Committee a person who derives pecuniary gain from his connection with the work of the Committee, 2291-309. Witness refers to five home industries promoted by himself at different centres in the county and worked on a co-operative basis, the profits being distributed among the workers, less 5 per cent. for expense of management, 2310-22. He hands in copy of a resolution recently passed by the County Council in favour of the removal by the Department to the practice that formerly prevailed of allowing district committees to provide and work their own schemes, 2330-3.

MASON, FRAS. V.S.—(Summary of evidence).—

Has been employed by the Department during the past five years in delivering lectures throughout Ireland on Veterinary Science, 12293a, 12310. He speaks of the widespread, heavy losses caused by diseases amongst live-stock, attributable largely to the imperfect knowledge of animals possessed by the people and ignorance of suitable methods of treating their ailments, 12293-6, 12313-4. The educational value of the work carried out by him and other lecturers has been considerable, and he believes that as a result of the lectures the losses from certain diseases have been much lessened, 12315. Very large areas are without the services of Veterinary Surgeons, 12298-300; and while there are difficulties in the way of the suggested establishment of Veterinary dispensaries, he considers that if a scheme could be devised which would ensure payment of adequate remuneration to Veterinarians, the profession would give its support, 12302-34.

M'ARTHUR, J., J.R. (Summary of evidence).—

A member of the Donegal County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 7774. He is of opinion that the Agricultural and Live-Stock Schemes have been productive of great benefit to the county, and considers it very unfortunate that owing to the dispute between the Committee and the Department there are no instructors in the county, 7775-86.

M'CANCE, J. S. F., J.R. (Summary of evidence).—

A representative of the Antrim County Council and of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, 8801-2. He quotes statistics showing the success of the home and cattle schemes, 8804; and refers to the establishment of an experimental poultry station at Cullytansey, which, in

M'CANCE, J. S. W., J.P.—continued.

his working, has been productive of very satisfactory results, 8604-8, 8609-32. In the Glens of Antrim the Committee, with the consent of the Department, have adopted a scheme for the improvement of the breed of ponies, 8616-20. Cattle and other shows in the county are subsidised by the Committee, and much interest is aroused by these shows among the small farmers, 8612. Agricultural classes were formed three years ago at Ballymena, and have been most successful. The Committee are now desirous of bringing about a further development of their work on this side, and hope the Department will assist them with funds in the establishment of an agricultural station in the county, 8622-6. Schemes in coonery and manual instruction have only recently been adopted, and encouraging reports have been received as to both, 8632. He approves of the existing constitution of the Department and Council of Agriculture, 8603.

M'CLURE, T. A., J.P. (Summary of evidence).—

A member of the Armagh County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 8556. He agrees, generally, with the views of Mr. Houston, but does not concur in his suggestion that members of the Committee should be prevented from holding bull premiums, 8566-7, 8568-4. He mentions a cattle disease which, he suggests, calls for investigation by the Department, 8567-70.

M'CLURE, J. (Summary of evidence).—A farmer residing in North Antrim, 10309. He states that the live-stock scheme has effected a very great improvement in the quality of cattle, 10310, but that the breed of horses has deteriorated, 10311. Horses should be brought within the reach of the poor farmer, 10313. He testifies to the good work done in his district by the I.A.O.S., 10309.

M'CONNELL, C. (Summary of evidence).—A

member of the Antrim County Council, 8834. He agrees with Mr. McCance as to the working of the county schemes, 8835; and as to the value of local shows, 8838. He suggests that an additional thoroughbred horse should be provided, 8839. Special steps for the encouragement of the fishery industry of the Antrim coast are desirable, 8835-8. He approves of the constitution of the Department and Council of Agriculture, 8851. (*Revised*.) He describes the work done under the flax, cattle and poultry schemes in the Glens of North Antrim, 8875-8902.

M'DERMOTT, T. (Summary of evidence).—Is manager of the Foyle and Bann Inland Fisheries, 7930. He furnishes statistics showing the importance of the fisheries, 7931-3, the productive capacity of which is injuriously affected by pollution, poaching, etc., 7936. Losses are also sustained by reason of the increased use of drift nets off the coast, 7903-5. With the limited means at their disposal the Board of Conservators have done their utmost to preserve and develop the fisheries, and the belief is entertained that their efforts are not sufficiently supported by the Department, 7935-8. He complains that the Department have exercised too freely the power of exempting millowners from erecting grailings, and that practically no assistance is given by the Department in the enforcement of various duties which are devolved upon the owners of the fisheries, 7943-63. Witness suggests the reconstitution of the central fishery authority by making it independent of the Department, with additional funds, 7953-69. He further complains that the Advisory Committee on Fisheries contains no representative of the inland fisheries, 7954-61. He has received no acknowledgment of a letter addressed by him to the Department in April last, 7959-61.

M'DONAGH, B. (Summary of evidence).—Member of the Sligo Urban Technical Instruction Committee, 7142. Agrees with the views expressed in the paper of Mr. Smith, Secretary to

M'DONAGH, B.—continued.

the Committee, 7145. A new technical school is much needed; the accommodation and ventilation in the existing building are very defective, 7145. He is of opinion that the Department should foster industries, and supervise them till success is assured; refers to the difficulties experienced in the establishment of the Sligo Shirt Factory, on a small capital, locally subscribed; no aid has been given by the Department, and had it not been for local assistance, the industry would have lapsed long since; if aid were given by the Department, the industry could be largely developed, and increased employment would follow, 7145-52.

M'DONNELL, W., J.P. (Summary of evidence).—

President of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce, 5758. Complains of the injury done to private enterprises by the I.A.O.S., 5786, whose agents induced competition by making unfounded representations to farmers, 5793. This action was condemned by Sir H. Plunkett, who promoted the I.A.O.S., and who, as Vice-President of the Department, has since paid over public moneys for the support of the movement. The effects of the co-operative system have been injurious to the Irish butter trade, in respect to its reputation, and financially, 5789. Witness hands in a resolution adopted by the Chamber of Commerce, which, *inter alia*, indicates a number of projects to which the Department should direct their attention, 5790. He expresses his views on the subject of the provision of funds by the State towards the establishment of industries, 5771-805. He is not aware that in conjunction with County Committees, the Department are giving instruction, elsewhere than in Limerick, in home butter-making; he is of opinion that the farmers of Limerick are better qualified to give such instruction than to receive it, 5806-10.

M'GRATH, H. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the County Down Committee of Agriculture, 9753. He does not fully agree with the evidence of the Committee's representatives. He considers that the Department should be subject to the control of the General Council of County Councils, 9754, and that Rural Councils should be represented on the Council of Agriculture, 9755. He complains of the insufficient expenditure for purposes of sea fisheries in the county, 9762; suggests that loans should be made to fishermen for the purchase of boats, without security, and that the Department should frame a fishery scheme for the county, 9767. He disapproves of the horse scheme, and approves of the cattle scheme, 9779, but objects to the method of selecting premium bulls, 9780. He is of opinion that aid should be given by the Department in the erection of the proposed agricultural College at Downpatrick, 9789-9.

M'INERNEY, J. (Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the Limerick Board of Guardians, 8694. The system of itinerant instruction in County Clare is valueless, 8686. Considers that the Board of Agriculture should be more representative. There is much dissatisfaction with the agricultural and live-stock schemes; practically no instruction is given in improved methods of agriculture; nothing has been done to improve the breeds of swine and sheep in Clare. Disapproves of the expenditure on agricultural colleges; the money might have been more usefully expended on demonstration farms. Is also opposed to the grant of money to the I.A.O.S. Advocates railway connection with Scariff, and works of arterial drainage in East Clare, 8697.

M'KENNA, Rev. E., J.P.—(Summary of evidence).—A member of the Monaghan County Committee of Agriculture, 9686. He asserts that the Department is arbitrary in its administrative methods, and refers to concrete cases in support

M'KENNA, Rev. E., F.R.—continued.
of his assertion, 9683-85. He considers it should be decisive in its constitution; that facilities should be provided for the teaching of agriculture in rural National schools, and for technical instruction in Urban schools, 9697; and that industries should be revived, 9706.

M'KEOWN, M.—(Summary of evidence).—A fruit grower and expert. He criticises the methods of the Department in connection with horticultural instruction and the Drogheda fruit industry, 34146-214.

M'CONNELL, J. B. (Summary of evidence).—Represents the Governors of the "Henry Trust," Downpatrick, 9189. He hands in a copy of the scheme approved by the Local Chancellor, and filed in June, 1899, for the administration and management of the Trust. Its objects are connected with agricultural purposes, and the Governors are anxious to obtain such assistance from the Department as would enable them to erect buildings on the lands acquired, and also to receive such aid as would enable them to maintain an agricultural and dairy school for the province of Ulster. The Governors have assisted the Down County Committee of Agriculture in the carrying out of their scheme since 1903. Inclusive of the payment of a sum of £350 for the year 1906, about to be made, they have contributed £1,400, in all, to the county funds for agricultural work. The income of the Trust property, amounting to £400 a year, is insufficient to enable the Governors to erect and maintain the proposed buildings, unless supplemented by the Department, 3190-205.

MCDONALD, W., F.R. (Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the Cork County Council, 4862, and member of the Council of Agriculture, 4864. Suggests earlier notice to members of the Council when meetings are convened, and also the service of similar notices on County Councils, 4865. He has no knowledge of the working of the two Boards, and considers that reports of the proceedings at their meetings should be communicated to the Council of Agriculture, 4871-8. Several members of the Council were unaware, until their last yearly meeting, that payment had been made by the Department to the I.A.O.S.; he is opposed to such payment, 4876-80. He approves of the present constitution of the Council, 4881. The Department refused to lodge to the credit of the County Committee the unexpended accumulated balances of technical instruction funds until the money was actually required; and they withhold full payment of their annual contributions on the same ground, 4881-5. The accommodation for technical classes in the county is unsuitable; funds for school buildings should be provided, 4885-6. The Committee complain that they have been deprived by the Department of a sum of £353 due in respect of the period 1st April to 1st August, 1903, 4886-96. Witness refers to a controversy between the Committee and the Department as to the scheme of technical instruction, which ultimately resulted in a settlement, 4896-7, and states that the scheme is working very well, 4898. The system of local organization of classes is, however, defective; there is difficulty at times in securing premises in which to hold the classes, 4907-13, and it is not practicable to form local committees of management, 4914. With the growth of interest in the work this difficulty will be surmounted, 4917. He considers that manual and domestic economy instruction should be taught in primary schools during school hours, 4917-22, and that practical instruction in horticulture should similarly be given, 4923-5. The domestic economy classes have been very successful, 4927-9. On the subject of live-stock he states that the Department, a couple of years ago, sanctioned the purchase of bulls by District Councils, but that they

MCDONALD, W., F.R.—continued.
have since refused to continue this desirable arrangement, 4930-41. He considers that all bulls should be tested for tuberculosis, 4948-4, and suggests that bulls and stallions should be bred at the Glasnevin farm for distribution among County Councils, 4953. Witness refers to the refusal of the Department to finance a Rottery industry in Bandon, and contrasts this refusal with their action in contributing to the I.A.O.S., which, he is informed, has promoted a co-operative creamery at Thurlis in competition with an existing proprietary creamery, 4953-66. The agricultural schemes in the county are working very well, but the cost of administration is excessive, 4967-75. The County Committee of Agriculture numbers 83; few members of the County Council attend its meetings, 4978-82.

MCDONNELL, J. C. (Summary of evidence).—Vice-Chairman of the Galway County Council; a representative of the City Technical Committee, and of the General Council of County Councils, 6295. Complains of the amount of the Department's contribution to the county as compared with other counties, 5295. The officials of the Department discouraged the appointment of a local instructor in his district; there are now two instructors there. He thinks there is undue interference on the part of the Department with local Committees, and that the former are slow in the encouragement of industries. They have refused to sanction an experiment in the making of straw envelopes in Connemara, 5297. The instruction in the City Technical School is too literary; funds for new buildings should be provided, as well as additional funds for technical instruction, 5298. The fisheries in the county have been neglected, 5299.

MCGLYNN, RICHY REV. MONSEN., F.R., V.C., (Summary of evidence).—A member of the Donegal County Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and of the Council of Agriculture, and Chairman of the Parish Committee of the Congested Districts Board, 7184. The County Committee of Agriculture recommended the substitution for the Department of an elected unpaid Board consisting of three representatives nominated by each province, with the Under Secretary as ex-officio member and the Chief Secretary as Chairman. They also refer to their strained relations with the Department; to the manner in which schemes are communicated to the Committee; to the failure of the Department in securing to the county the advantages expected from a body having at their command a large annual income of public money; to undue interference with the Committee on the part of the Department; to the rule of the Department prohibiting the appointment of natives of the county as agricultural instructors; to the unsuitability of the live-stock schemes to the county, especially to congested areas; to the system adopted by the Department of ear-marking the joint funds to certain schemes, thereby depriving the Committee of the opportunity of promoting special schemes suitable to certain districts; and to the inadequacy of the share of the funds allotted by the Department to the county. Witness gives evidence in support of these views of the County Committee, and also of the views of the Technical Instruction Committee, embodied in a separate statement, 7185-274.

McQUAID, P. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the Caran County Committee of Agriculture, 8594. Refers to a controversy with the Department in connection with their rejection of a Bull at Ootehill in 1903. He is of opinion that the practice of dictating bulls before sale enhances their price, 8695-606; and recommends that a representative of the County Committee should be associated with the Department's representative in the selection of bulls, some of which should be obtained in County Longford,

McQUAID, P.—*continued*.

9625-3, 9625-7. There is no premium bull, he thinks in the rural district of Enniskillen, 9625-2. The Committee have several times asked the Department to increase the number of nominations to assess, for the benefit of the poorer farmers, but they have declined to do so, 9625-4. The agricultural scheme has been a marked success, and farmers have benefited largely by the instruction derived from experimental plots and by the lectures on feeding stuffs. The poultry scheme has also been successful, and higher prices are obtained for eggs, but there is need for improved marketing facilities, 9625, and the same need exists with respect to butter, 9625.

MEEHAN, P. A., M.P.—(*Summary of evidence*)—Supports the application for a contribution out of unexpended money lying to the credit of the Department towards the drainage of the River Barrow, 12335-40.

MEEHAN, Revn. J., D.D. (*Summary of evidence*)—A representative of the Leitrim County Committee of Agriculture and Instruction. The Department's work in the county has been beneficial, and on the right lines, 7022a. He ascribes this result, in a measure, to the earlier working of the I.A.O.S. The main work of the Department has been educational, the effects of which cannot become apparent for some time. Witness speaks approvingly of the system of pioneer lectures adopted by the Department when it was formed. These lectures aroused the interest of the people, and prepared the way for an agricultural instruction. He complains, however, that an instructor has not been appointed, 7022-4; although several applications have been made for one, 7026-7. The Department's yearly contribution of £250 to the county agricultural scheme has not been expended since 1902, and the county has now established a claim to an agricultural school, to be provided out of this unexpended money. The soil and other conditions of the county are such that a school elsewhere would not be serviceable to Leitrim, 7027. He favours a school that would not take the pupils from their homes, 7050; to be established in centres throughout the county, 7051; and available for instruction during the winter months, 7052-4. The primary education of boys is not of a standard such as would enable them to take full advantage of a high-class agricultural education; he does not suggest the teaching of agriculture in National schools, but thinks the children should be interested in agriculture, 7056; and he advocates gardens in connection with such schools, 7064. A few model farms might be usefully established by the Department in Leitrim for purposes of instruction, and close to public roads, 7065-9; he would also approve of the provision of experimental plots, as in Sligo, 7070-1. Some of these matters could be attended to if the county had an instructor, 7072. Lectures on veterinary science have been delivered with much resulting benefit to the farmers, 7073. The poultry stations have benefited the people, 7027-8; there is need, however, for better marketing facilities, 7029; it is open to the people to ask the I.A.O.S. to aid them in this direction, 7032-5. The introduction by the Department of the Yorkshire pig was at first objected to by the people, but these objections no longer prevail, and higher prices are now got for pigs than previously, 7036. With regard to the cattle scheme, he considers that the class of bull introduced is quite unsuitable to Leitrim, which is a dairying district, 7037-9. The owners of premium bulls complain that the present system of certifying the animals, before purchase, enhances their price, 7045. Witness suggests that non-premium bulls should be licensed, 7046. The instruction given in bee-keeping is benefiting the people interested, 7047. He disagrees with the evidence of Mr. Colliery on the subject of creameries, 7048; but concurs in his suggestion that small cheques issued by creameries should be exempt from Stamp Duty, 7084, 7088. The interests of many shopkeepers clash with those of the creameries, hence the

MEEHAN, Revn. J., D.D.—*continued*.

opposition of the former to the latter and to the I.A.O.S., 7095; the creamery system has been of great benefit to the Leitrim farmers, 7081. The system of agricultural banks, organised by the I.A.O.S., has been very beneficial to small farmers, 7069; advances are only made to men of good character, 7050; the banks are managed by a Board, without paid officers, 7054-5; and interest on loans is charged at the rate of a penny a pound per month, 7060. The County Committee are too large; to be workable, they should be small, 7076; and the numbers limited, 7078.

MEGAW, W. J.—(*Summary of evidence*)—A representative of the Agricultural Instructors' Association, 12374. Held the position of Instructor for five years in County Down, 12383. He illustrates the necessity that was found to exist for instruction in respect to manures, seeds, and feeding stuffs, 12388-90, and describes the methods of instruction adopted by him, 12399-414. He quotes from letters received from merchants who deal in agricultural supplies, which go to prove that the instruction given has been fruitful of beneficial results, 12419-26, and hands in tables showing the increase that has taken place in recent years in the sale of potash and high-grade manures, 12428-44. The poorer parts of the County Down have been reached by demonstration plots and co-operative societies, 12445-7, 12459-63, and by the poultry scheme, 12485. No duties devolved upon him in connection with the live stock schemes, and he was never asked to make a report on the requirements of particular localities, although he could have given useful information, 12489-94. Witness points out that the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act affords little protection to farmers owing to the difficulty they experience in taking advantage of its provisions, 12505-8.

MELVIN, M. (*Summary of evidence*)—Member of the Mayo County Council and Committee of Agriculture, 6687. The services of an agricultural instructor are essential, 6688. Witness contrasts the agricultural conditions in Belgium and Ireland, 6688-9. He considers that the system adopted in Belgium could, in many cases, be adopted in Ireland, 6690. He cultivates flax, and states that, one year with another, it is a paying crop, 6693-4. The cattle scheme of the Department is working very well; the price of bulls is, however, too high, 6695. He approves of the horse-breeding scheme, but advocates the prohibition for stud purposes of unweaned mares, 6696-701. The retention of good, young mares in the country should be encouraged; he would place them in a special class, must on their going to the stud, and service should be free, 6715-24.

MEREDITH, Sir J. C.—(*Summary of evidence*)—A member of the Board of Visitors of the Dublin Museum. Refers to the functions of the Board, their relations with the Department, and certain matters affecting the administration of the Museum, 12779-810.

MESCALL, M. (*Summary of evidence*)—A representative of the Council of Agriculture, 5192. He has attended four meetings of the Council during the past three-and-a-half years; resolutions submitted by the Department for the consideration of the Council in that period were fully discussed, and were either amended, withdrawn, or adopted. The relations between the Council, the Board, and Department of Agriculture have been harmonious. At their meeting, in May, 1906, the Council criticised the action of the Department and Board in contributing towards the funds of the I.A.O.S. Witness considers that agriculture should be taught in rural National schools, and that itinerant instruction should be supplemented by the provision of demonstration plots on a large scale. Cattle and

MESCALL, M.—continued.

calves in Munster should be treated by the Department's veterinary inspectors against certain specified diseases. The cattle and horse-breeding schemes are working fairly well in Clare; but there is room for improvement in the breed of bulls introduced. Manual instruction and domestic economy classes in the county are well attended. The Department should take up and work farms containing poor land; and should also take greater interest in the deep-sea fishing off the west and south-west coasts. The work of the Department has resulted in some good, but the good accomplished is not commensurate with the expenditure, \$192-23.

MILLEN, J. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Londonderry County Committee of Agriculture. He complains of undue delay in the registration of stallions, 7905-30; refers to a proposal of his Committee in favour of a reduction in the premium for bulls, and an increase in the service fee, 7810-4; and objects to the practice of certifying bulls before purchase, 7814-19.

MOKRAN, A. E. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Irish Forestry Society. Offers suggestions respecting forest conditions in Ireland; the desirability of encouraging planting by tenant purchasers; and the necessity for affording expert advice in the selection of suitable varieties of trees, and their management when planted. He refers to the unsatisfactory condition of the Irish Nursery Garden trade, and criticises the statistics issued by the Department on the subject of forestry, 11923-76.

MOHAN, T., J.R. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Monaghan County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 9706. The work of the Department has effected some good, but the results have little benefited small farmers, and are inconmensurate with the expenditure incurred, 9706-7. The system of itinerant lecturing is ineffective and wasteful, 9715. He refers to an unsuccessful application made by his Committee to the Department to provide instruction in the manufacture of leather, 9719-38; and to the refusal of the Department to supply a diamond drill for the purpose of locating coal and minerals, 9740.

MONTEAGLE, Rt. Hon. LORD, K.P.—(*Summary of evidence*).—Is a member of the Limerick County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and also a member of Board and Council of Agriculture; he was not selected by those bodies to give evidence, 5587. Itinerant lectures are a necessary preparation for a more permanent system of instruction; in thinly populated districts it is difficult to devise a substitute. The lectures are useful and appreciated, 5572, 5579; but the courses have been too short, especially in the case of manual instruction; an increased local rate would provide a remedy for this, 5573-5; the demand for itinerants is greater than the supply, 5580. The Department suggested a scheme of Trades' Preparatory Schools as a substitute for itinerant manual instruction, but the scheme was considered unsuitable to rural districts, 5576-7. A modified system of itinerant instruction has been adopted at Newcastle West; he believes with encouraging results, 5577. It would be desirable for the Department and Board of National Education to arrange that boys and girls on leaving school should receive systematic instruction in needlework, cookery, laundry, and manual work. Horticultural instruction should be brought within the reach of National Schools, as well as gardening, 5595, and, if possible, the services of the horticultural instructor utilised for the purpose, 5587. He is unable to say whether the visits of school children to gardens, or demonstration plots, are contemplated by the existing regulations of the National Board,

MONTEAGLE, Rt. Hon. LORD, K.P.—continued.

5592-93. Witnesses supplement Lord Endy's evidence relative to the adoption by the Department of a five-stock scheme which they had previously rejected, 5590, 5593-14. He advocates the necessity for increased tillage and the development of winter dairying in the West. While County Committees, as a body, have not done their part in educating the farming community to the importance of these measures, the Department do not appear to have realised their necessity. The scheme for agricultural instruction needs considerable modification to suit the conditions in Limerick, 5599-5602. The appointment of an agricultural instructor will give an impetus to winter dairying and the encouragement of tillage in the county, 5602. In connection with the Dairy Herd Book Scheme, it is desirable that dairy farmers should be encouraged to keep records of the milking qualities of cows, 5602-4. He refers to the dispute between the County Committee and Department respecting the appointment of a poultry inspector, 5615. Facilities for the marketing of poultry can best be provided through the agency of co-operative poultry societies, 5615. *Re-examined*. He refers to the evidence given by Mr. N'Donnell and other witnesses in Limerick, 14611-8, and by Mr. Lough in Dublin, 14618-21, 14651-3, and expresses his views as to the relations of the Department with the I.A.O.S., 14623-54.

MONTGOMERY, H. de F., M.L. (*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Board of Agriculture, member of the Agricultural Council, and representative of the County Committee of Tyrone, 3312-4. He regards the constitution of the Board as satisfactory, and is of opinion that the existence of the nominated element is necessary, 3315; there is no cleavage at meetings of the Board between the elected and nominated members, 3316. The functions and powers of the Board are sufficient and, in practice, have been found to work admirably, 3318. The Vice-President has taken the Board very fully into his confidence, and full information is always given by the Department on any matters respecting which members desire information, 3320, 3466. The power of veto on expenditure vested in the Board has worked excellently. It is a real power and has been effectively exercised, 3321-6. It is open to individual members to make proposals to the Department; in his view, however, it is desirable that the initiation of schemes or proposals should, as a rule, be left to the Department, who have the advantage of the assistance and advice provided by their expert advisers, 3334-5. Questions as to the exercise of patronage by the Department have seldom arisen, and when they have, they have been decided in favour of the course adopted by the Department, 3336-7. It would be very unfortunate if such patronage were vested in the Board, 3341. As regards the position of the Vice-President, witness considers it would be better, on the whole, if the arrangement under which the present holder of the office is without a seat in Parliament were regularised, 3342. As to the work of the Department on the agricultural side, he testifies to the excellence of its programme of agricultural education which is in complete accord with Continental experience, 3346; and states that much progress has been made in agriculture in Ireland owing to the methods followed by the Department, 3348. In the County Tyrone it is felt that the time has now arrived for a further development of the programme by providing either an agricultural college or smaller agricultural schools, and to meet the claims of Tyrone and other counties in this respect he deprecates the withdrawal, for different objects, of any portion of the surplus funds of the endowment, 3352. Pending the provision of such an institution in Tyrone there is immediate necessity for a central station which should be placed under the constant supervision of the agricultural instructor, 3355-6. On the subject of afforestation he thinks that instruction in planting should be afforded by an expert teacher appointed by the Department. But to

MONTGOMERY, H. de F., D.L.—continued.
enable companies to borrow for purposes of planting additional powers are needed, as under the existing law the Board of Works are only authorised to make advances for the purpose of planting for "shelter" 3360, 3386. It would be desirable to encourage the planting of waste lands in this manner, particularly on a small scale, say from ten to twenty acres, 3368-4. County Councils are empowered to purchase waste lands for afforestation, but he does not consider it likely that they will exercise this power, 3368-74. He refers to the system of agricultural co-operative credit, of which he approves, and formulates statements as to the extent to which the co-operative movement is aided by Continental States, 3388-91. To secure the more successful and extended promotion of such a movement in Ireland it is essential that the system of registration of titles to land should be simplified, as in Germany, 3393-4. With respect to the relations between the Department and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society it would be preferable for the latter to be independent of the Department, sufficient control being reserved to the Department so long as it financially aids the Society, 3403-4. Witness hands in a copy of a resolution unanimously adopted by the Tyrone County Committee of Technical Instruction which alludes (a) to the necessity of providing funds for buildings; (b) to the expenditure by the Committee on the elementary instruction of students which should be properly met out of funds for primary education; (c) to the cordial relations between the Committee and the Department; (d) to the undesirability of any change in the constitution of the Department or Board of Technical Instruction; and (e) to the necessity for an authoritative statement as to how far public money may be used for aiding industrial development, either by instruction or by direct bonus, 3403. He also hands in a copy of a resolution of the County Committee of Agriculture protesting against any alteration in the constitution of the Department, urging the establishment of an agricultural college or schools; and recommending that larger powers be given to County Committees in connection with the preparation and adaptation of county schemes, 3403.

MOONEY, J., A.R.—(Summary of evidence).—Member of the Dublin County Council, 11515. They are of opinion that the Vice-President should be in Parliament, and that the nominated element on the two Boards and Council of Agriculture should be dispensed with, 11515-8. The fostering of local industries ought to be the object of the Department, whose existing powers in this respect are inadequate and should be extended. If this be not done the drain on the population by emigration will increase, 11519-38. In order to attract a better class of Irish students to the Glasnevin Model Farm the value of the Scholarships awarded should be raised, 11539-48. Witness complains of the methods of administration of the Veterinary Branch and ascribes to their alleged inaction the introduction of certain diseases among live stock and the failure to stamp out swine fever, 11548-58. He refers to the relations of the County Committee with the Department, and cites cases in support of his statement that dissatisfaction has been caused by a disregard of local wishes and an undue interference on the part of the latter, and by their omission to reply to letters from the Committee, 11570-5.

MOORE, F. W., M.R.I.A. (Summary of evidence).—Keeper of the Botanical Gardens, 14362. Assisted the Department in organising a scheme of training for county horticultural instructors; action taken, course of instruction and numbers trained, 14364-74. Survey of Ireland for fruit-growing districts; establishment of 30-acre plots at selected centres, managed by and at sole cost of the Department independently of County Authorities; provisions of scheme and whose operative, 14374-818. The expense of these plots a hindrance to their establishment by local Au-

MOORE, F. W.—continued.
thorities, 14403; their primary object and beneficial effect, 14408-10. Modification of scheme to meet the cases of small landholders who cannot afford to give an acre for fruit, 14394-64, 14411-5, 14422. Organisation by Department of displays of Irish-grown fruit at Cork and Dublin, 14427. Encouragement given to landed proprietors to plant orchards, 14427. County instructors, difficulty of procuring competent men, 14428-41.

MOORE, J. M., Dr. (Summary of evidence).—Vice-Chairman of the Lurgan Urban District Council, 8578. He directs attention to the defective education of children on leaving National Schools, 8579-84; and to the recognition by the Department of a second technical school in the urban district, 8585-6.

MORROW, A. J. (Summary of evidence).—Secretary of the County Down Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 9163a. The relations of his Committee with the Department have been very cordial, 9175. He refers to the agricultural class in Downpatrick, which is performing most useful work, 9179-80, and to the placing of bulls in the poorer district near Rostrevor, 9181-2.

MULLIGAN, J.—(Summary of evidence).—Late Chairman of the City of Dublin Technical Instruction Committee, 13490. He gives an account of the progress of the Technical Schools and of the steps taken to promote their efficiency prior to the advent of the Department, 13491-502. After the passing of the Act of 1899 the Inspectors of the Department visited the Schools, and, acting on their advice, the Committee consented to conduct the Schools on the monotechnic system. The details of the scheme—an expansion of this system—were subsequently adopted by the Committee and by the Department, but final approval of it was withheld owing to disagreement between these Bodies with respect to the question of appointment to the position of Principal of the Schools, 13505-7. The deadlock continued and, as a result, the City has been deprived of its annual share of the grant for technical instruction. Notwithstanding this condition of affairs the Department, with the consent of the Corporation, have paid out of the accumulated moneys, amounting to 247,050, a sum of 25,000 towards the equipment of laboratories in secondary schools and a further sum of 23,700 for equipment and other purposes in the City Technical Schools, 13508-45. The Committee sought to bring the matter before the Board of Technical Instruction, but it was held that it was not competent to the Board to consider the question. The Corporation have two representatives on this Board, 13537-41. The resources of the Committee are further depleted by the withdrawal of the City's share, amounting to 2800 a year, of the Equivalent Grant, 13545-50. Witness contends that the new regulations for Capitation Grants promise to still further cripple the work and curtail the resources of the Committee, 13564-15. He is in favour of the development by the State, subject to considerations which he indicates, of industrial enterprise, 13616-28.

MURPHY, VERY REV. A., A.M. (Summary of evidence).—Vice-Chairman of the Limerick County Borough Committee of Technical Instruction, 5626-7. He refers to the work of the Department on the technical instruction side, and while admitting that they have been actuated by a sincere desire to make the movement a success he questions the wisdom of the policy they have adopted, which has failed to arouse the interest of the working classes, 5628, 5642. The Committee have repeatedly urged the Department to establish a system of training scholarships for teachers in the staple trades, 5628, 5654. The Department sanctioned a proposal to open a class for instruction in tailoring, but a controversy ensued in respect to the source from which should be paid the cost of sending the teacher employed to

MURPHY, VERY REV. A., ANAT.—continued.

London for a finishing course, and ultimately a moiety of the expense had to be defrayed locally, 5628-33. The entire expense of training such teachers should be recouped by the Department, 5641. The Committee complain that it has been the practice of Inspectors of the Department to interview the Principal of the Technical Institute, and to suggest to him the carrying out of changes in matters affecting the general policy of the work of the Institute, instead of approaching the Committee directly, 5643-6, 5650-59. A couple of years ago the Department summoned the late Principal to a Congress in Dublin, without the knowledge of his Committee, and the latter was informed by him on his return that he could not disclose the nature of the business transacted, 5647-8. Witness directs attention to the financial position of the Committee, and to the correspondence that has taken place with the Department in the matter, especially to the claims of Kinnear upon the sum of £7,000, which replaced the old "Equivalent Grant," 5660-98. He also refers to the attitude of the Department towards the day schools for boys and girls, 5673, 5675, 5681, 5694. His Committee trust that the State will provide a fund for buildings, 5694.

MURPHY, R. R., J.R. (Summary of evidence).—A

representative of the Ayrshire County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 5537-8. He states that classes in agriculture are not held in districts which are in need of instruction, 5540; and he recommends that agriculture be taught in National Schools, to which garden plots should be attached, 5543. He concurs in the views of Mr. Huston on the subject of the horse and swine schemes, 5544-5, 5547. The cattle scheme is working well, but it does not affect backward districts where the occupiers are too poor to purchase a bull, and it would be desirable to provide a remedy for this, 5548. The Department, he suggests, should adopt means to encourage the burning of lime; the County Committee have submitted to them a proposal in the matter, 5549-52. He disagrees with Mr. Huston in respect to flax, and thinks that the sale of the standing crops would be detrimental to the small farmers, 5553-4. Instruction in the cultivation of flax is needed, there being no experimental plots in the county. Nor have the Department sent practical men abroad to study Continental methods, 5557-64.

NEARY, J. (Summary of evidence).—Member of

the Roscommon County Council and of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Committee, 6934. The rudiments of agriculture should be taught to boys in rural National schools, 6935; and a model farm established in each county, as an object lesson in the management of stock and cultivation of crops, 6936-7. The system of itinerant instruction is not a success, 6937. The lectures are not well attended, 6938. Domestic economy should also be taught in primary schools, 6939. The Committee hope soon to secure a horticultural instructor, 6939-40. Few members attend the meetings of the Committee, 6940. The Committee should be smaller in number, though this might not secure a better attendance, 6950. Better results, he thinks, could be obtained by dividing the county into five districts, with local Committees working in connection with the County Committee, 6941-9. The agricultural instructor, domestic economy and butter instructors are giving satisfaction; a third instructor in domestic economy is about to be appointed, 6954-6. The poultry scheme has been a success; the breed of poultry has improved, and better prices are got for eggs, 6957-8. The live stock scheme is working fairly well, and the premium bulls supplied are an acquisition to the county, 6959.

NIXON, SIR C., BART.—(Summary of evidence).—
President of the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland, 14018. He makes a statement affecting**NIXON, SIR C., BART.—continued.**

the relations of the Department to the College, with special reference to its financial position and claims upon the funds of the Department for an additional building and equipment grant of £30,000 and an annuity of £200 as compensation to the College for abandoning the right to fees from private practice, 14019-62.

NUGENT, SIR W., BART.—(Summary of evidence).—

Member of the Westmeath Agricultural and Technical Instruction Committee, 11432. Greater confidence would be felt in the Department if it were placed under popular control, 11434-5, 11446. There is much need for industrial development, aided by the Department, to stem the tide of emigration, 11436-7, 11449-52. The agricultural and cattle, 11438-43, the butter-making and poultry schemes are working successfully, 11453-6. Manual instruction and domestic economy classes are only fairly attractive, 11444, 11467-70. Districts remote from towns have been slow to take advantage of the benefits of the Act, but, with increased knowledge, are now becoming more interested, 11455-62.

O'CONNOR, J.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Cattle Traders' and Stockowners'

Association, 4185. He makes suggestions with a view to the elimination of inferior bulls by a system of licensing, and to an increase of the value of premiums, 4195-234; recommends that power be acquired by the Department for the compulsory adoption of measures to eradicate the warble fly in cattle, 4235-42; that strong representations be made to Government by the Department in favour of the supply of home-bred meat to the troops, and that a grant be given by the Department to the Dublin Winter Fat Stock Show, 4242-6.

O'DOHERTY, W., J.R. (Summary of evidence).—

Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Donegal County Council, 7310. He complains that in the operation of the live-stock scheme the small occupiers in poorer districts receive little or no benefit, 7311-3. This and the other county schemes should be initiated by local Committees, who are better fitted to adapt them to local needs, 7329-1, 7329-34. A cottage industry scheme was originated in Committee two years ago, and received the approval of the Department; but shortly afterwards it was cancelled, and another scheme, suggested to the district, was issued by the Department, 7322-4, 7327. Witness recommends the allocation to each parish, for the benefit of small landholders, of a sum of £100, 7335-41. He considers it would be a great advantage to the county if the flax and linen industry which formerly existed in Banranra, but which lapsed some years ago, could be revived, 7346-53.

O'DOHERTY, E. H. (Summary of evidence).—

Secretary of the Donegal County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 7510. A very great improvement has been effected in the breeds of horses and cattle since the inception of the live-stock schemes. These schemes should be made more accessible to the smaller occupiers, who are unable to purchase premium stock. In congested districts the fee for service should be assimilated to those paid in the case of premium bulls. The cottage and farm-prize schemes have been very successful. Agricultural and industrial shows are doing excellent work. The flax scheme has led to an increase in the area under cultivation, and the payment of prizes in seed is much appreciated, 7611. The taking of samples under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act should be carried out on lines similar to those under the Food and Drugs Act, and measures should be analysed by a Government analyst at a nominal fee. Witness recommends amending legislation to remedy this grievance, 7612-26. He refers to the insufficiency of funds for agricultural purposes,

O'DOHERTY, E. H.—continued.

and suggests that other considerations besides valuation should be taken into account in their allocation, 7637-38. He recommends re-afforestation; the mountains and moors of Demagel are mostly subject to commonage grazing rights, and the farmers might be induced to surrender these rights if guaranteed steady employment to reap them their loss of profits on the sale of stock, 7633-35. He thinks it would be possible to vest mountains in County Councils, as trustees, with power to re-affect portions of them, 7634-8. The expenditure on technical instruction has been more productive of good results than that on agricultural schemes; springing, croquet, and lawn industries have been established in several districts, 7639-50. Additional funds are needed, however, to avoid a curtailment of the development of instruction under existing schemes, 7651. He refers to the withdrawal of the Equivalent Grant, 7652-70. The Committee are of opinion that the Department should be empowered to assist in the establishment or development of industries, 7677-88.

O'HANLON, J. F. (Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Caran County Technical Instruction Committee, 10178. The Committee recommend the issue of loans, on easy terms, for the building of halls for technical classes in rural districts, 10180-9; technical instruction would be more generally availed of if suitable buildings were provided, 10190. Most of the money administered under the technical scheme is expended on lace instruction to girls; witness thinks too great a tendency is shown to adopt this form of instruction, and that the result may be injurious to the industry, 10192-3. Instruction in elementary science and manual training should be given, he considers, in the primary schools, 10194-7; and special measures should be devised by the Department for the benefit of the agricultural labourers, 10200-15. The technical scheme, on the whole, has worked satisfactorily in the county, 10213.

O'KANE, M., J.P., M.A. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the Lonsdownery County Borough Technical Committee. Expenses agreement with the evidence of Mr. Armstrong, and explains the circumstances under which Mr. Hamer severed his connection with the Art Department of the Technical School, 6339-90.

O'KELLY, E. P., J.P.—(Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the Wicklow County Council and member of the Agricultural Committee, 14258-9. He is of opinion that itinerant instruction in agriculture and butter-making should be discontinued. Such instruction has been useful in the past, but the time has now arrived when the instructors could be more usefully employed by giving personal advice to farmers on their holdings, and for the establishment of two county model farms, 14260-72. Greater facilities should also be provided for the rearing of stock; the people, generally, do not appear to be aware of the terms on which premium bulls are supplied, 14272-7. He does not approve of the poultry farm at Avondale, 14283, recommends afforestation, 14280, and the establishment of horticultural plots in the neighbourhood of rural schools, 14286.

O'LOGHLIN, D. (Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Clare County Council, 5462. Recommends the establishment of a school, one for each province, for instruction in net-making and fish-curing, or, failing a school, the employment of an itinerant instructor for the purpose, 5464-6. The fish caught off West Clare are very imperfectly cured, 5472. There is also need for railway transit to Ballyvaughan, whence fish have to be carried fourteen Irish miles to Ennistymon, 5475. He considers that the practice of overlying premium bulls before purchase enhances their price, 5476, 5495; and that the indiscriminate service of sows does not tend to improve the breed of cattle, 5477. Cows should

O'LOGHLIN, D.—continued.

be inspected, and preference given to owners who are small coopers; nominations should not be given to coopers rated over £50, 5478-80. He would encourage the retention in the country of better calves by the payment of small premiums, 5483-4. Witness urges the development of the quarry industries, and that steps be taken by the Department to induce public departments in Ireland and England to tender for Irish stone, 5495-5504.

O'NEILL, P. J., J.P. (Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the Dublin County Council, and representative of the Board of Agriculture, 3121-2. The most cordial relations have at all times existed between the Department and the Board, 3122. The existence of the nominated element on the latter and on the Council of Agriculture, of which he is also a member, is economically unsound. The nominative system has always inspired distrust in Ireland, and, holding the political opinions he does, he is unable to approve of the system. At the same time he finds no fault with the nominated representatives of either body, 3130, 3170-1. There have been differences of opinion between the Department and County Committees—inseparable from the application of new principles and methods with which the people were not familiar—but the want of elasticity in the administration of county schemes, of which he gives an illustration, contributed also to the friction between some Committees and the Department, 3122-5. Such cases of friction have not been numerous, 3127, and that the country at large has not been dissatisfied with the Department's administration is shown by the fact that there have been so few changes in the personnel of the Council of Agriculture since its formation, 3128, 3164. In his opinion, however, further power might now be devolved upon local Committees; for example, the selection of the breeds of sire horses should rest with these Committees, who are probably better judges in such a matter than any central authority could be. He does not concur in the opinion of the Bishop of Eves that it would be wiser to practise economy under the live-stock schemes, and would like indeed to see an extension of them in the direction he suggests, provided sufficient funds were forthcoming for the purpose, 3129-4, 3164-55. The domestic economy classes should prove highly advantageous to the country, and the special steps taken by the Department for the development of the cultivation of early potatoes promise to be productive of most satisfactory results, 3125-6. He refers to the work done by the I.A.O.S., of which he approves, and considers that the co-operative movement, to be successful, must be worked by the Department, 3127-9.

O'REILLY, Vicar Rev. E., J.P.—(Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the King's County Joint Technical Committee, 13134. The technical movement he regards as very beneficial, but to ensure success it is necessary that there should be greater harmony between the Department and County Committee; that the Vice-President should obtain in his writings from controversial topics, and that the policy of the Department should be made known to local Committees, 13138-45, 13160-2. It is also essential that the Boards of Agriculture and Technical Instruction should have wider statutory power than is at present vested in them; the power of the Vice-President and of the Department should be shared equally by the Boards, 13147-58. The conditions on which assistance is given by the Department in connection with the establishment of industrial undertakings ought to be promulgated for the information of the general public. Witness suggests that where a project, supported by funds locally found, is approved by an experienced Committee it should be the duty of the Department to help the project, and he would make it a condition that if the project were a failure the loss, if any, should not be borne by the Department, 13161-63. The classes in manual and domestic economy instruction have been well attended, and with beneficial results. Attendance at the latter classes would, however, be stimulated

O'REILLY, VARY REV. E., P.C.—continued.

if a system of classification were adopted, 13187-90; and more frequent inspection is also required, 13189. The classes are most successful where active local Committees are found, 13304. He recommends that small payments should be made to the Secretaries of these Committees, the money to be utilised in the giving of prizes, 13196-302.

O'RRIORDAN, VARY REV. CANON, D.D., P.C. (Summary of evidence).—A representative of the County Kerry Committee of Technical Instruction, 4383.

States that there is an overlapping of functions in congested districts in Kerry on the part of the Department and Congested Districts Board. The County Committee receive a contribution from the Department for technical work in non-congested areas only; yet they are required to expend that contribution over congested and non-congested districts without aid from the Congested Districts Board, 4383-439. He complains that a domestic economy school has been established by the Department in Killybeg without consultation with the Committee, and suggests that it is conducted at the expense of funds which properly belong to the county, 4430-40. He indicates a number of schools in which industries are carried on, to which the Department have refused to give aid, 4441-60. The Committee are of opinion that the Board of Technical Instruction should have full administrative powers, 4461-8, and that the nominated element on the Board should be dispensed with, 4469. He states that inconvenience is caused by the fact that the financial years associated with the Department's schemes, and with the business of the County Council, are not co-terminous, 4469-71. The work of technical instruction has progressed in the county, and has helped to make it more contented and peaceable, 4475-8; he attaches very much importance to the itinerant domestic economy instruction, 4476-7. As to the work on the agricultural side, the farmers are afforded opportunities of improving their stock without expense to themselves, and are utilising these opportunities to the fullest extent. The appointment of an agricultural instructor is desirable, 4480.

O'RYAN, DR. J. F.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the General Council of County Councils and of the Tipperary (S.E.) County Committee, 14313. Constitution of (a) the Department; initial mistake for the failure of the Department to enlist popular support due to the political complexion imported by requiring the Vice-President to have a seat in Parliament. The Department is sufficiently represented in Parliament by the Chief Secretary, 14314-21. (b) the Council and Board of Agriculture; there should be only one such body, wholly elected and vested with complete administrative control, 14327.

The methods of the Department are too rigid and pedantic, and insufficient freedom is allowed to County Committees, 14321. He refers to the difficulties that arose in connection with the acquisition of a central technical school in Tipperary, 14337, and states that inconvenience is also caused by the requirement that the accounts shall be prepared for audit in respect of periods ending on different dates, 14333-4.

O'SULLIVAN, DR., P.C.—(Summary of evidence).

—A member of the Waterford County Borough Committee of Technical Instruction, 10749. He refers to the insufficiency of funds for carrying on the work of technical instruction, 10750-3, and criticises the curriculum, which does not take sufficient cognisance of local industrial needs, 10754-68. The accommodation in the class room for physics and chemistry is quite inadequate, and there was an error of judgment on the part of the Department in approving of plans which provided each limited accommodation, 10755-66. He concurs in opinion with the Bishop of Waterford that the main object of technical education

O'SULLIVAN, DR., P.C.—continued.

should be to fit young people to earn wages, 10803, and considers that in some respects this object cannot be attained in the Waterford Technical School, 10804. He approves, as a tentative measure, of the suggestion that an apprenticeship fee should be paid for boys to enable them to acquire knowledge of a trade, instead of taking them into the school, 10805, 10813.

O'SULLIVAN, H. P.—(Summary of evidence).—

Holds a certificate in mining surveying, 14349. Urges the necessity of developing the coal resources of Ireland, 14355.

PATTERSON, R., P.C. (Summary of evidence).—

Chairman of the Holywood Technical Instruction Committee, 3903. He hands in a statement of the views of the Committee, who allude to the great advances made in the teaching of science in Secondary schools since the establishment of the Department; to the value of the work in technical schools; to the insufficiency of funds, and the basis of distribution of the annual grants; and to the alleged practice on the part of the Department of refusing aid to certain classes unless they are self-supporting, 3904. Witness refers to the action of the Department in the last mentioned matter, 3911-29. He also refers to the want of success of the French class, and states that the Department refused to recognise a teacher except in Commercial French, 3933-41.

PHILLIPS, G. F.—(Summary of evidence).—

Secretary to the Killybeg Joint Technical Instruction Committee, and Principal of the Technical School, 11404. He describes the progress of technical instruction in the city and county, and directs special attention to the insufficiency of accommodation for classes in the former, and the necessity for providing a grant for new buildings, 11404-5. Of the work done in the Trades' Preparatory School, which is self-supporting, he speaks in terms of high approval, 11405-31.

PLUNKETT, RT. HON. SIR H., K.C.V.O.—(Summary of evidence).—Vice-President of Department and chairman of the late Recess Committee, 104-5.

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(b) Department.

Association with, and devolution of powers upon representative Bodies, 138-69. Position of Vice-President. Witness's original appointment and continuance in office since 1900, when he lost his seat in Parliament, 106-110, 146-8, 155. Recess Committee in favour of direct responsibility of Vice-President to Parliament, 145, 151. Formerly he held the opinion that a seat in Parliament was essential, but he has since moderated his opinion, 148-50, 180. Any alteration in the position of Vice-President should preserve the influence and authority of Council and Boards over Department's Administration, 148-50. Views as to creating Vice-President a permanent head of the Department, 151-3. Retention of the confidence of Council and Boards of greater importance than a seat in Parliament, 155. Without such confidence the position would be untenable, 156-62, 183-5, 17423-4, and its necessity differentiates the position of Vice-President from that which would attach to an ordinary

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 permanent Secretary, 163-4. The existence of the Council and Board of members nominated by the Vice-President would not preclude these members from associating themselves in a vote of want of confidence, 169-91, 17436-7. Personal responsibility for administration, 111-2, 275-7, 17438-41. Relations with Chief Secretary, 270-93, 17429-41. Patronage; responsibility of Vice-President for exercise of, 142-3; President not consulted, 144. Assimilation of powers of Department and Congested Districts Board, 634-9.

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Revenues derived by City of London Companies from Ulster estates; their utilisation for augmentation of Department's funds, 17313-9.

Miscellaneous.

Recent Committee's Inquiry and Report, 118-26. Educational policy of Department for development of Agriculture, 17310-2. Agricultural Instructors; substitution of local resident instructors for itinerants, 17366-83. Borrow Drawings; expenditure out of Endowment Fund, 17384-7. Exhibitions; expenditure on, 17294-7. Munster Institute; position of the Department, 17254-61. Winter Dairying; promotion of, 17382-86. County Salaries; power of Department to alter conditions to, 17410. Appointments of Officers; authority for exercise of the power of veto, 17415. Section 15 (1) (g) of Act of 1899. Meaning of words "particular application," 17418-27. Reside at a profit of a size horse by Department, 17395-9.

POE, Lt.-Col. W. H., C.B.—(Summary of evidence)
 —A Member of the Queen's County Committee of Agriculture. 11274. Largely increased funds are urgently required for the purposes of agricultural and technical instruction; grants which were sufficient in the experimental stages of the Department's work are now altogether inadequate. The Department has devoted itself wholeheartedly and energetically to the working of the Act;

POE, Lt.-Col. W. H., c.n.—continued.

greater confidence would be felt if the Council and Boards were given a more effective voice in the administration, 11275-9. He describes the work done on the technical side in the county; the classes in manual training, wood-carving, and domestic economy are well attended, and much appreciated, 11280. The competition for boy scholarships, tenable at secondary schools, is not as keen as could be wished, and if funds were available, the establishment of a Trades' Preparatory School would be preferred. With respect to the agricultural work, he states that the classes in dairy instruction have been very successful. It is suggested that the introduction of a system of dairy registration is desirable on sanitary grounds, and that the positions of dairy and poultry instructors should be amalgamated, 11280-1. The duties of agricultural and horticultural instructor might also be discharged by the same person, 11282. Demonstration plots, as at present provided, are too small to be useful, and one-acre plots in the vicinity of show centres would be more attractive and beneficial, 11282. Witness advocates the establishment of an agricultural college at Donaghmore, and of veterinary dispensaries, 11285. On the subject of the live-stock schemes, he recommends that a representative of the County Council be associated with the Department's officer in the selection of sire horses, and that in selecting premium bulls a representative of the Board of Agriculture should also be associated with the Department's inspector. A relaxation of the regulations of the Department as to the condition of premium bulls is suggested, and, with a view to assisting small farmers, the progeny of registered dairy cows and of premium bulls should be eligible for a low premium, 11285-94. All bulls, whether premium or otherwise, should be registered, 11295.

PORTER, T.—(Summary of evidence).—Inspector of the Department; previously Superintendent of the Agricultural Branch of the Land Commission and was in charge of the Agricultural Schemes of the Congested Districts Board until this work was transferred to the Department, 16214-7. He describes the operation of those schemes in the period 1880 to 1905:—Horse, pony, and donkey schemes; number of stallions placed, service fees, 16220. Cattle scheme; number of bulls placed and system of payment for, 16220-3; loan to Board on bulls, 16224; special schemes for Cabercrevan and West Galway, 16224-7. Sheep scheme; number of rams and terms on which supplied; sheep dipping and results of, 16228-32. Swine scheme; hogs and sows supplied; loan to Board, 16232-3. Poultry and egg schemes; 16233-40. Bee-keeping, 16241. Agricultural instruction; number of instructors, when employed, their duties, 16242-4; qualifications and mode of appointment, 16250-4; potato spraying, 16254-71; supply of seed oats, seed potatoes, and manures, 16259; sale and hire of farming implements, 16271-3. Agricultural Shows; grants to, 16282. Horticultural instruction, 16285-6, 16271. Butter instruction, 16287-9. Forestry; operations at Knockree, 16273-8, 16282-9; shelter belts, 16279-81. Winter dairying; witness's views as to, 16294-7.

POWER, T.—(Summary of evidence).—A member of the Waterford County Council and of the Committee for Technical Instruction, 10943. The Department have afforded considerable assistance to the fishing industry in the steps taken for the suppression of illegal trawling, and by free grants towards the erection of piers, 10913-9. He endorses the evidence of Mr. Pringle as to the lack of accommodation for technical instruction classes in rural districts, and suggests that petty sessions courtrooms should be utilised to meet the difficulty, 10920-7. The cultivation of fruit has been largely taken up in the county, and the Committee desire the Department to increase the number of fruit plots provided. The horse-breeding scheme has been successful, and the people, generally, display greater interest in agricultural pursuits, 10926. He approves of the proposal to pay an apprenticeship fee for the sons of poor parents

POWER, T.—continued.

10930-6. Valuable assistance, by way of expert advice, was given to him by the Department in the establishment of a cider industry, 10934-7. He would object to a competing industry receiving financial aid from the State, 10940-3. Recalled.—This objection would not, however, apply should a similar industry be started in the North of Ireland 10973-85, though it would if he established a branch of his business there, 10980-8.

PRENTICE, D., M.C.S.—(Summary of evidence).—Superintending Travelling Inspector of the Veterinary Branch of the Department, 15509. Duties in connection with the transit of live stock by land and sea; powers of the Department, 15510-1. Action taken to effect improvements by friendly representations to railway companies, and how met, 15511. Treatment of cattle at railway stations; seizure of trucks by drovers; supervision by railway employees and police, 15513-4, 15520-5. Inspection and supervision of live stock at ports; improvements effected in steamships, 15514-6. Fittings on cattle-carrying steamers, 15525-9. Overcrowding in pens, 15530-42.

QUINN, Rev. E., c.n. (Summary of evidence).—A representative of the County Mayo Technical Instruction Committee, 5304. Approves, generally, of the various schemes of the Department, 5307, and especially of the work of the I.A.O.S., 5309. The people, however, are disappointed with the results of the working of the Department; technical instruction, per se, is the absence of industries, is calculated to foster emigration, and is harmful to the best interests of the country, 5311, 5316-21. The lace industry, when promoted by the Congested Districts Board, has done very well, 5322. Industries must be created by means of State aid, and on a large scale, 5334; it should be the object of the Department to bring earnings into the homes of the people, 5337; and to proceed in the same way as in the case of the lace schools, where wages and instruction went hand in hand, 5339-42. He would not confine this to congested districts, 5343. With regard to the agricultural side, the knowledge of the people is defective respecting the breeds of sheep, the qualities of the land, the uses of manures, and the cultivation of trees. There is no agricultural instructor in the county at present, 5312-15. The breed of cattle has been improved, but in the case of horses witness understands that the Department have not consulted local opinion in some districts, and have sent down unsuitable sires, 5307. He suggests that all unsound horses should be done away with, 5311.

READ, R. H., M.P. (Summary of evidence).—President of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce, 9235. Hands in a resolution passed by the Council of the Chamber respecting the constitution of the Council and Board of Agriculture, and the administration of the Department. The Council of the Chamber of Commerce refer to a resolution previously adopted by the General Council of County Councils in these matters, and express the opinion that under the auspices of the Department excellent and enduring work has already been accomplished in the development of agriculture and allied industries, as well as in the creation of machinery for the effective provision of sound technical instruction. The Council submit that the beneficial results traceable to the operations of the Department throughout the country vindicate their confidence that the maintenance of the existing composition and management of the Department, on lines non-political and non-sectarian, will be attended with still greater and more far-reaching results in the future. They further submit that the representative character of the Council of Agriculture is adequate, and are strongly of opinion that it is essential that the Department shall remain under

READE, R. H., *p.l.*—continued.

the immediate control of Parliament. The Council bear testimony to the value of the services rendered by Sir Horace Plunkett, as Vice-President, 9825. With respect to the question of Imperial subventions in aid of new industries, witness states that the Chamber of Commerce are of opinion that no policy would be more dangerous or more calculated to produce evil consequences. Personally, he would not draw too tight a line; State aid might, he thinks, be legitimate in a case, such as that of a special product, where private enterprise is not forthcoming to develop it, 9827, and where there was no danger of competition with an existing industry in the United Kingdom, 9829. Every such case would have to be considered on its merits, 9835; the Department would have the assistance of the elective element on the Board, who probably possess local knowledge, 9837, and the decision in the case would ultimately rest with the Department, 9838-9. He alludes to the grant made by the Department to the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, which has been of considerable assistance to the Society, and has enabled it to extend its operations, 9840-2. The acreage under flax cultivation largely decreased between 1894 and 1899, but since the latter year a great stimulus has been given to the growth of the crop by the operations of the Department, 9851. The decrease in the area under cultivation was due to the fact that the crop was not a profitable one, and this is attributed to the failure of small farmers to treat the crop skillfully and to scarcity of labour, 9852. The Flax Supply Association are conducting an experiment on behalf of the Department, who have made a grant for the purpose, with the object of testing new methods for the handling of flax, and the results so far attained are highly encouraging, 9855-61, 9856. He produces figures showing the very profitable nature of the crop, when properly cultivated, even under the present Irish system, 9861. Had the seed been utilised the profit would have been still larger, 9872-80.

REDINGTON, M. (*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Galway Urban Technical Committee, 5896. Speaks of the unsuitability of the existing school, and urges the provision of funds for a new building. He also recommends the co-optation of working men on the Committee, 6296. The education of children in primary schools should point in the direction of a subsequent training in technical schools, 6290, and scholarships should be provided for them at technical schools and factories, 6294. The Department hesitated for some time to sanction the appointment of a teacher in connection with the local woollen industry; they have refused to contribute towards the salary of a teacher in hosiery. More freedom should be given to the Committee in the preparation of its schemes, 6290.

REDMOND, J. (*Summary of paper in Appendix*).—He speaks of the interest aroused in County Armagh by the classes in agricultural instruction and of the desire of farmers to adopt the improved methods recommended by the instructor.

REEVES, A.—(*Summary of evidence*).—Held the position of Agricultural Instructor for County Cavan, and is now employed under the Department as travelling inspector, 13072-5. He alludes to the serious losses sustained in Cavan by reason of the disease known as "black leg" in cattle and to the preventive measures successfully adopted on the advice of Professor Mason, 13076-8. Co-operation is necessary for agricultural development, especially in a community of small landholders such as are found in Cavan. As instructor he freely recommended farmers to combine in this manner, and co-operative Banks and Societies have been organised with great success. Bacon-curing industries should be started on the same basis throughout the country, 13079-102.

REEVES, A.—continued.

He is of opinion that the Department should be empowered by a system of licensing to restrict the use of inferior sires, 13103-5. In the carrying out of his work in Cavan he relied largely on demonstration plots. His methods were adopted by farmers, generally, including those in the poorer districts, 13106-15. The live-stock scheme has resulted in an improvement in the price of calves, 13118. Referring to Mr. E. Kennedy's evidence, witness states that if he observed a drover ill-treating a beast he would place him under arrest, and that cases of undue delay in the removal of cattle by rail are notified to the Department. He has no power to prevent drovers from taking possession of wagons; such occurrences are due to insufficiency of railway staff, 13121-32.

RICE, R.—(*Summary of evidence*).—A farmer living near New Ross, 10436. The live-stock scheme is fully approved of in his district; the introduction of premium bulls and the giving of lectures on the rearing of young stock have conferred great benefits, but more of both are needed, 10437-41. A few veterinary lectures have also been delivered, and were much appreciated; more such lectures are also required, 10446. There is need for further facilities for co-operation amongst the farmers, especially in view of the opening of the new service between Roslone and Fishguard, 10448-50, 10513. This service has been of marked benefit to those locally engaged in the growing of barley, 10515. Much good has resulted from itinerant instruction in agriculture and butter-making, but greater good would follow if the lecturers could visit and impart instruction at the houses of the people, 10502-5. The cultivation of fruit trees has been taken up with satisfactory results, 10506. Experimental plots are too small to be of practical use, and the farmers favour the provision of an average sized farm, to be managed and worked by the Department, 10507-12.

RICHARDSON, H. (*Summary of evidence*).—Chairman of the Portlaoine Technical Instruction Committee, 8555. He speaks of the satisfactory relations between the Committee and the Department, and states that the Committee would consider it a disadvantage to the country if the present Vice-President were displaced. The work of the classes has been arranged, so far as possible, with special reference to local industries, 8557; and further developments in this connection are in contemplation, 8558-61. Apart from payments to a teacher for instruction to those who may engage in an industry, the Committee would strongly object to the subsidising of the industry from public funds, 8601-4.

ROBB, A., J.R. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the County Down Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 9125. Useful experiments have been carried out by the agricultural instructor respecting the value of artificial manures, as a result of which farmers now make their own, 9125-31. The flax scheme has not been successful; he disapproves of the system of giving prizes, and considers that the money would be better expended in providing instruction, 9132-4. Nor has the pig scheme been a success; breeders are prejudiced in favour of the local rather than the type supplied under the scheme; the Committee have been advised that commercially the latter type is the better, 9135-9. He hands in a statement of the views of the County Committee, who are opposed to any alteration in the constitution of the Department. They also consider that the time has now come when the Department should provide an agricultural farm and school in every county; that the revival of industries is of vital importance to stop the drain of emigration; and that greater power should be given to County Committees in the preparation of schemes, 9140-8.

ROBERTS, W., J.R. (*Summary of evidence*).—A representative of the Cork County Committee of Agriculture, 4482, and of the County Agricultural Society, 4503. The lectures given by the

ROBERTS, W., F.R.—*continued.*

interest instructors, of whom there are seven in the county, are now more attractive than formerly, 4484-85, 4547. To reach the young people it would be desirable to have horticultural plots in connection with the primary schools, 4486-902. The winter classes in agriculture have been well attended, and reach the class of boys for whom they were intended, 4503-07. The poultry scheme is extensively worked, 4503-5; the improvement in the breeds of fowl is noticeable, 4504; higher prices are obtained, 4506; the egg supply has greatly increased, 4507; and instruction is given in plucking and trussing, 4508. Turkeys have similarly improved, 4507. The number of premium bulls has increased from thirty to sixty-five, 4507; the County Committee desire to purchase additional bulls, and place them in districts where there are none at present, and where the farmers are too poor to purchase, 4509, 4510-9. They suggest the breeding of a milking strain of short-horns at the Munster Institute and the station at Clonsilla, 4510, and that steps should be taken to get rid of bad bulls and stallions, 4511. The latter object might be effected by registration, and by prohibiting the use of animals not registered, but it would be difficult to carry out, 4512. An effective step leading to the same result might be taken, however, by requiring that bulls and stallions shall not heretofore be brought into the county unless licensed, 4514-6. Witness believes that young cattle are not in as good condition as formerly, and this he attributes to the use of creamery milk, 4526; many farmers have returned to the old system of hard separators, 4527. He has had experience, however, of feeding his calves on separated milk and found that when supplied with fat they did very well, 4532-4. The horse scheme has been taken up well, and many mares are sent to the county shows for nominations, 4534; two-thirds of these mares go to thoroughbred sires, and the remainder to agricultural horses, 4536. There is also a swine scheme in the county, but the premiums for boars have not all been taken up, 4540. Samples of manure have been analysed, and prosecutions instituted in some cases; vendors are now selling better manures than formerly, 4541. The relations between the Committee and the Department are satisfactory, 4544. The Cork Agricultural Society has received a grant of £2,750 from the Department, and it has also received a grant of £280 from the Committee, with which it is associated in the working of the county scheme, 4545. The Committee give grants of £900 a year to five local shows in addition to the county show; the former include poultry, butter and dairy shows, 4545.

ROCHFORD, W., F.R.—*(Summary of evidence).*

A member of the Board of Conservators for the Waterford fishery district, 35600. The Board's funds have been supplemented by annual grants from the Department, which have been of the greatest benefit in the protection of the inland fisheries. A considerable proportion of the Department's income should be set aside for this purpose, generally. The Department have also afforded assistance to a local salmon hatchery. He suggests the importance of placing the management of salmon rivers, from their source to the sea, in the hands of a strong central authority, who would hold the balance fairly between the conflicting interests of netters and anglers, and ensure due protection, during the annual close season, of the breeding grounds in the upper reaches of main rivers and their tributaries. To this end he recommends the enlargement of the existing powers of the fishery branch of the Department, with additional funds at its disposal. He does not approve of the representation of County Councils on Conservancy Boards, unless the former contributed to the funds of these Boards, 35652-18.

RUDD, T. A.—*(Summary of evidence).*—Agricultural Instructor for the West Riding of Cork, 12598. Describes the working of the agricultural schemes in his district. The lectures have been

RUDD, T. A.—*continued.*

very well attended, largely so in the more remote places, and have been productive of a stimulating influence affecting agriculture, 12599-602. He has also visited the holdings of many farmers and given them, on the spot, the benefit of his advice, 12602. In backward, including congested districts, his work has been chiefly concerned with lecturing and demonstration plots, 12613-6, 12656-60, and the beneficial results attending the working of the plots in the Riding, generally, have been very marked, 12623. Only to a limited extent have the live-stock schemes been taken up in congested districts, 12615, 12623. Witness alludes to the frauds practised on farmers in the sale of seeds, which have been considerably checked by the Department's seed-testing stations, 12625-8; to the increased use of higher class manures, 12630-1, and of feeding stuffs, 12582. He indicates the great need for organisation and co-operation among farmers throughout the country with a view to the more effective development of agriculture and agricultural conditions, 12687-95.

RUSHE, D. G. *(Summary of evidence).*—Secretary of the Monaghan County Council, and a representative of the Council and County Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 10163. The Committee originally consisted of 100 members, at present its numbers fifty-four, and works well, 10161-3. In the operations of the county scheme special care is taken to endeavour to bring them within reach of the poorer farmers who are in the majority in the county, 10166. The necessity for the supply of lime is keenly felt; the Committee made a proposal to the Department in the matter, but it was rejected, 10167-8. The instruction in bee-keeping and horticulture is very popular, 10163. Witness speaks with approval of the work done by the I.A.O.S. in the county, 10168-9. He refers to the evidence given by the Rev. F. McKenna and Mr. Mahan, who are opposed to the working of the Department, 10170, and states that in his own opinion the work of the Department has resulted in much good, 10171. The lace industry in the county is prosperous, and is a source of considerable revenue to the small farmers; there are two lace manufactories, 10172-3. With a view to maintaining the standard quality of lace the Committee endeavour to obtain the best workers, 10171-3. The poultry scheme is successful, 10175-8.

RUSSELL, G. W.—*(Summary of evidence).*—Superintendent of Agricultural Credit Organisation, 14442. Reviews the economic conditions in Ireland which necessitate the establishment of co-operative credit institutions for the assistance of small farmers, and explains the working of agricultural banks formed with this object by the I.A.O.S. He furnishes statistics showing the growth of the system during the past ten years, with particulars as to the number of banks at work, the amount of loan capital, number and amounts of loans, etc., 14443-81.

SCOTT-KERR, J. *(Summary of evidence).*—Is Hon. Secretary of the Irish Forestry Society, 5507. Until very recently forestry has been neglected by the Department; they have formed a School of Forestry at Avondale; their action in so doing is condemned by the Society, who are of opinion, *inter alia*, that the School is premature, and that it is undesirable to take on, piecemeal, the subject of afforestation in the absence of proper organisation, and of the adoption of a well-considered policy. The primary need is the acquisition of suitable waste lands for the purpose of immediate or future planting. It is within the knowledge of the Society that at least 50,000 acres of such lands are at present available, in blocks of 1,000 acres upwards, in twenty different Irish counties. These lands could be acquired under existing statutory powers. Witness makes suggestions as to the sources from which the requisite funds may be obtained, and also proposes the establishment of a Bureau of

SCOTT-KERR, J.—continued.

Forestry, with specified duties, to carry out the policy decided upon. The Bureau would be under the control of a joint committee representative of the Department of Agriculture and the Woods and Forests Department, 9075-152.

SHARMAN-CRAWFORD, COLONEL R. G., M.P. (Summary of evidence.)—A representative of the Down County Council and of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, 9037. He endorses the views of Mr. Andrews, and states that all the schemes of the Department, affecting eleven branches, have been adopted in the county, 9037. The Committee have suggested alterations in the schemes with a view to adapt them to local requirements, and the Department have carried out the alterations, as far as possible. The cattle scheme, especially, has effected a great improvement in the quality of stock, 9038-90; the nominations for bulls and mares have been fully taken up, 9075; the benefits accruing to farmers from the poultry scheme are considerable, 9068-74. The swine scheme has been only partly taken up; he considers that the type of boar supplied under the scheme is suitable, 9076-8. Witnesses asks that assistance be given for the development of the sea fisheries, and towards the establishment of a factory for making nets, 9041-6. Net-making is not included among the subjects of technical instruction taught in the county; it has been suggested to the Department that instruction by an itinerant instructor should be afforded, but this has not yet been done, 9049-51. He recommends that the Department should co-operate with the Royal Ulster Society in the promulgation of small agricultural schemes, and suggests that if the Society were aided with a grant they would undertake to provide and work small experimental farms, 9062-64. He hopes that no portion of the funds for agriculture will be devoted to other purposes, 9064-5. The County Council appreciate the work of the Department. They are of opinion that the office of Vice-President should not be a political one, and that the Department should be answerable to Parliament through the Chief Secretary, 9083-4. He hands in a resolution on similar lines adopted by the Royal Ulster Society, 9085.

SHAW, T. J.—continued.

Vice-President should be in Parliament. Recommends the provision of direct aid in the promotion of industries, especially small home and cottage industries, and the creation of a bureau of industries. Loans for industrial purposes might be made from the Department's unexpended funds, and also, from the same source, for the teaching of practical agriculture to children in primary schools. The amount allocated to technical instruction in rural districts is entirely inadequate, and should be largely increased.

SHEEHAN, MESSRS. REV. DR.—(Summary of evidence.)—Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, and representative of the Waterford County Borough Technical Instruction Committee 10361-3. Refers to his connection with the technical instruction movement in Waterford and to the initial difficulties encountered, 10363. Good work has been done by the Department, particularly through the teaching of science in boys' schools and of domestic economy in girls' schools, and better work might have resulted if the Department's efforts had not been impeded by the unpopularity attaching to some of their appointments—for which, however, he sees no sufficient justification; by the insufficiency of funds, especially for scholarships, buildings, and central administration 10367-80; and by the unpreparedness of the country for technical education, 10381. The withdrawal of the Equivalent Grant has, moreover, indicated an injustice on the country, 10381, 10422-37. In England and Scotland grants were made in a large number of cases towards the erection of science and art schools between the years 1880 and 1899, 10385-4. These grants were also available in Ireland, but, except in a few places, the country was not in a position to utilize them, 10438-41. Witnesses refers to the bearing of the programme of primary education on the preparation of pupils for technical work, 10386, and to the multiplication of laboratories for science teaching, 10400-7. In his opinion there is an imperative and urgent need for the creation of industries, particularly small industries in both town and country, if the technical instruction movement is to be successful, 10388-95, 10405. He compares the expenditure on technical instruction in England and Wales with that in Ireland, 11046-50.

SIM, A. (Summary of evidence.)—Refers to a brick industry which was established by him in County Sligo; he has received very encouraging reports on the clay from English experts, 7178. He has not communicated with the Department in the matter, 7179; but suggests they should be empowered to finance new industries, and at lower rates than are obtainable from loans, 7182-3. Has been connected with the local co-operative creamery, which was organised by the I.A.O.S.; it does a large trade, and the farmers are well pleased, 7181.

SMALL, F. B. (Summary of evidence.)—A farmer residing in County Down, 10250. He refers to the marked improvement in cattle since the introduction of the live stock scheme, 10250-1, and is of opinion that a still greater improvement would manifest itself if inferior cows were excluded from service by premium bulls, 10252-5. The results of itinerant instruction in agriculture have been of considerable benefit to the farmers, more especially in the intelligent use of manures and cattle feeding stuffs, 10260-2. He considers, however, that small experimental plots are not sufficiently instructive, and that a large farm should be provided at a convenient centre with the object of showing how an ordinary holding may in actual practice be profitably worked, 10262-71. Such a farm would also serve the purpose of imparting much needed instruction to young men who engage as agricultural labourers, 10276-98. The instruction in home better-making is greatly appreciated, and its extension to districts in the vicinity of towns is desirable, 10271-3; the quality of butter has shown much improvement as a result of this instruction, and prices have increased, 10274. The poultry scheme has also been most successful, the

SHAW, A. W., M.P. (Summary of evidence.)—A member of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce, 5811. Complains of the attacks upon the Irish bacon curer by the officials of the I.A.O.S., and of the advance of public funds to that Society by the Department. The Society has ineffectually tried to start bacon factories in a number of districts which already served existing factories, but at Roscrea a co-operative factory has been opened to the injury of the proprietary business there, 5812. The delay in the adoption of the boar scheme in county Limerick, he attributes to the apathy of the Department, 5813-4, 5821-5. Little has been done by the Department in advising farmers on the question of pig-feeding, 5830. He objects to the payment of public moneys in aid of industries that compete with private industries, such as that at Roscrea, 5815-7; he would not object, however, to aid being given to bacon industries in other places which are outside the natural buying area, 5830; he is aware that the Congested Districts Board have assisted in starting industries, 5845-6.

SHAW, T. J. (Summary of paper in Appendix.)—Member of the Westmeath County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. Considers that four paid members should be associated with the Vice-President in the administrative work of the Department, two to be nominated by the Government and two by the Council of Agriculture. The Boards of Agriculture and Technical Instruction should also be vested with greater power of initiative. It is not essential that the

SMALL, F. B.—continued.

production of fuel and eggs having been largely developed, and marketing facilities for their disposal are good, 10236-8. Witness alludes to the excellence of the work done by the L.A.O.S.; he is of opinion that the co-operative movement is essential to the successful working of the Department, and that the Society should be absorbed by the latter, or worked under the direction of the Department, 10274. He considers that local boards are deserving of increased financial aid from the Department, 10303.

SMITH, G. H. (*Summary of paper handed in.*)—

Secretary to the Sligo Urban Technical Instruction Committee. His paper deals with the insufficiency of the annual income of the Committee; the necessity for aid in the provision of suitable accommodation for the technical school; the need for co-ordination by the Department to enable isolated technical schools to obtain teachers of special trade courses at a reasonable cost; the need for the better preparation of National school pupils, so as to enable them to derive greater advantage from attendance at technical classes; the need for fuller information as to the working of schemes in Ireland generally; and the need for greater organization and assistance from the Department to enable new industries to find a market, 6771.

STARKIE, DR. W. J. M.—(*Summary of evidence.*)—

Resident Commissioner of the Board of National Education, and Member of the Consultative Committee of Education, 3085-6. Adequacy of the elementary teaching in National Schools in relation to further technical training; the necessity for a higher primary system of education, 3047-51. Irregularity of attendance at National Schools, 3050-4. The teaching of cookery and laundry work in National and Convent Schools, 3050-64. Domestic economy teaching compulsory in mixed schools having a female teacher, 3053-70. Agricultural instruction in Primary Schools; provision in the Commissioners' programme for courses in the principles of agriculture and horticulture, 3071-3; instruction of a practical nature to children from rural schools by the County Instructor is contemplated by the Regulations, 3077-85. Breeding continuation classes; their suitability in urban and rural centres, 3077-8; the question of diminishing the number of meetings entailing teachers to grants, 3090-1; inspection of evening classes, 3092. Supplemental instruction of teachers in elementary sciences, drawing, cookery, etc., 3095, 3095-7; and their attendance at technical instruction classes, 3098. Building grants for Primary Schools in Ireland and England, 3093-5. The utilization of district model schools as technical schools, 3095-62.

Consultative Committee.—Its effectiveness, 3077. Suggestions with respect to the holding of meetings of, and enlargement of the representation on the Committee, of the Boards of National and Intermediate Education, 3078-87, 3090-2. The necessity for an Inspectorate on the staff of the Intermediate Board, 3086-912; working of the system of inspection of Secondary Schools by the Department, 3014-5.

STEEN, P. T., J.R.—(*Summary of evidence.*)—Member of the Meath County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 11075. The cattle scheme has not worked well; the premiums have not been fully taken up, 11623-90. He suggests that bulls should be obtained earlier in the season than is at present the practice, 11650-6. The poultry, agricultural instruction, and cottage prize schemes are working very satisfactorily, 11704-15, as are also the domestic economy and cookery classes, 11710.

STEWART, J., J.R. (*Summary of evidence.*)—

A member of the Tyrone Committee of Agriculture. He refers to the satisfactory working of the

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home and cattle schemes, 7480a-b, and of the poultry scheme, 7486-8. He disapproves of the flax scheme; it is not a profitable crop at present prices, 7486-94.

STEWART, J. W. (*Summary of evidence.*)—Is a flax souch-mill owner, of Coleraine, 7558. He complains of the constitution of the Advisory Flax Committee, which, with one exception, is composed of men having no practical experience of the cultivation of the crop, 7556, 7575-6. He asserts that, given good seed, Irish farmers are as proficient in the cultivation and handling of flax as foreigners, and that while the Department have endeavoured to effect improvements in scutching and retting they have neglected to adopt measures for the improvement of seed, 7550-45. He refers to an experiment conducted by himself with this object, 7546-61. Tests have been carried out by the Department with respect to the construction of mills, and he suggests that the results of these should be published; he also suggests that the results of experiments on demonstration plots should be published at an earlier date than heretofore, 7572-3; and that instruction should be provided by the Department with a view to improving the methods of scutching in inferior mills, 7583.

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THOMAS, Rev. Brother.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Waterford County Borough Committee of Technical Instruction, 10532. Concurs in the evidence given by the Bishop of Waterford, 10534, and emphasises the necessity for industrial development by State aid, 10535-8. He refers to the question of the suitability of the programme of instruction in elementary schools in relation to technical work, and to the withdrawal from such schools of grants for Hand and Eye work, 10540-5.

THOMPSON, R. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce, 9979. He proposed the resolution passed by the Chamber, which was handed in by Mr. Beade, 9979. In the case of a new industry he would not object to the Department assisting it by contributing, for a time, towards the salaries of the men who would be at once instructors for the Department and foremen for the managers, 10090-6. By a new industry he means one that had not existed in the neighbourhood—e.g., a flax mill in Cork, and he would support the expenditure of public money on such a project, 10095-8.

THOMPSON, Mrs., M.A.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Association of Head Mistresses, 16039, and member of Advisory Committee of Heads of Secondary Schools, 16040. She gives evidence concerning the teaching of Science and the systems of inspection and examination in secondary schools, 16043-75, 16116-42.

TILLIE, M. (Summary of evidence).—Partner in the firm of Tillie and Henderson, of Londonderry. He refers to the assistance reported to have been given to the shirt industry at Mullagh-bawn, Co. Armagh, and joins with Mr. Hogg in protesting, on behalf of the shirt trade, against the subsidising of the industry by the Department out of public funds, 7631A-4. They would offer no objection to assistance of the nature of payments for technical instruction, though he does not think it necessary to afford even such assistance in view of the ample supply of labour, 7635-40. The Trade object to the Department starting or helping industries that would compete with existing industries, 7641-3.

TOAL, T., J.P. (Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Monaghan County Council, 10663, of the County Committee of Agriculture, 10666, and of the Council of Agriculture, 10678. The County Committee are of opinion that the schemes of the Department are too rigid, and that they should be permitted to alter the schemes to meet local requirements, 10669. They also consider that an experimental farm should be provided in connection with the existing school of agriculture at Monaghan, 10699-77; and that arrangements should be made for the supply of lime to farmers, 10697-110. Premium bulls should be purchased locally, as far as possible, by an Inspector of the Department, 10115-9. The sire horses supplied under the horse scheme are not considered suitable, 10119-20. Publicity should be given to the proceedings at meetings of the two Boards,

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TODD, Miss B.—(Summary of evidence).—A representative of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutes, 13676. As a result of her experience in Irish schools she is impressed with the fact that domestic economy is not taught on scientific principles, and that inspectors in this branch of work are inexperienced. She suggests special classes for the training of domestic servants, 13678-82.

TURTLE, P. L., J.P. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the Antrim County Council, 8832. He hands in a statement of the observations of the Council respecting the working of the Act of 1899 in the county. In this statement the Council express the opinion that the various schemes in operation are worked admirably; that the assistance the Department is giving to the prosperity of the country, as a whole, is almost incalculable; that the constitution of the Department, and the methods adopted, have been admirably suited to the County Antrim, and that they see no necessity for any change of importance, 8853. Witness agrees, generally, with the views of Mr. McCance and Mr. McConnell, 8854.

VAUGHAN, P., J.P. (Summary of evidence).—Chairman of the Limerick County Council, 5702A. The Council and County Committees are utterly dissatisfied at the proceedings of the Department, and little interest is evinced by the general public in their work. Unless radical changes are made in the personnel and management, and attention given to local opinion, the county will withdraw from the schemes of the Department. He refers to their action in connection with the Live Stock Scheme for 1904, which, though set aside in that year, has since been substantially adopted. The home-breeding schemes require to be supplemented by measures which will ensure that the progeny shall be retained in the country for breeding purposes. The Committee disapprove of itinerant instruction, 5703; there are no instructors in the county for agriculture, poultry-keeping, or butter-making, 5707-9. There is a horticultural instructor, 5706. The Committee put forward a scheme of agricultural instruction by means of experimental farms, but the Department would not entertain it, 5703, 5708-32. Nor have they taken any practical steps to encourage winter dairying, which is not alone a matter of first importance to the butter industry, but would also lead to increased tillage. He is opposed to the grant in aid to the L.A.O.S.; the organisation should be worked by the Department in co-operation with local subsidiary bodies, 5708. He is of opinion that itinerant lectures on the technical side have conferred no benefits on the people, 5703.

WARD, F. (Summary of evidence).—A member of the Donegal County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 7767. He gives an account of the springing industry in the county. He complains that Mr. Garrett, the Inspector, reported favourably on classes in springing which, witness states, were non-existent, 7801; and of the practice of requiring teachers in the industry to proceed to Dublin for examination, 7803. (Vide evidence of Mr. H. Garrett, Inspector, 7614-23.)

WARNOCK, W. (*Summary of evidence*).—A flax scutch-mill owner, and member of the Londonderry County Committee of Agriculture, 7503-5. He speaks of the methods of handling flax adopted by him, and of the results obtained, before the establishment of the Co-operative Flax Mill at Coleraine, 7507-8, a moiety of the salary of the manager of which is paid by the Department, 7509; and he complains of the unfairness of subsidising mills worked by co-operative societies in competition with non-subsidised mills, 7522-8. He makes a suggestion, for the consideration of the Department, with a view to encourage a better supply of flax seed, 7530-3.

WATSON, A., V.S. (*Summary of evidence*).—Veterinary Inspector of the Corporation of Dublin, 12028. Compensation under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts should be paid wholly out of Imperial funds, 12033-43. Local authorities should be invested with full powers for the control and eradication of scheduled diseases, 12048-54. The regulation requiring the Executive Committee to obtain from the Department a licence for the removal of animals in venous, and should be annulled, 12053-7. The Army Veterinary Department should be required to notify to local authorities the existence of scheduled diseases, 12058-70. The Importation of Horses, Asses and Mules Order, 1906, is insufficient to enable these animals to be effectively dealt with, 12070-2. The administration of certain specified Acts and Orders in Council should be entrusted to the Executive Committee, 12072-91. Statutory powers should be obtained for the enforcement of the Malignant Test, and provision made for payment of compensation to owners out of the Cattle Disease Fund, 12092-7. Copies of reports made to the Department by their inspectors should be accessible to the Executive Committee in certain circumstances, 12097-8. The Department continue to slaughter pigs in a private slaughter-house, notwithstanding the recommendation of several Royal Commissions to the contrary, 12099-102. Pigs killed under the Swine Fever Order are passed or rejected for human food without the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health; this work should be transferred to the latter officer, 12103-7. Amended legislation is urged providing for payment to the Executive Committee of the full amount of fines imposed under various Orders in Council, 12107-9. The power of granting licences under the Dublin Public Sales and Lairs Order, 1906, should be transferred from the Department to the Executive Committee, 12107.

WEBB, W. H., J.R. (*Summary of evidence*).—Hon. Secretary of the Mill Owners' Defence Association, and a Director of the Old Bleach Linen Company, of Randalstown. He concurs generally with the evidence of Mr. Fraser, and adopts the suggestions put forward by him. He also refers to certain experiments made in passing fish through turbine wheels, 9806-16.

WEBER, T. W. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Irish Forestry Society. Has studied forestry on the Continent and was employed in the Indian Forests' Department. He endorses the evidence given by Mr. Dawson, and emphasises the necessity for afforestation in Ireland by a Bureau, aided by the State. The lands to be acquired for the purpose should be the property, not of the Crown, but of the nation. Woods ought to yield a profit in from 20 to 25 years. He speaks of the suitability of different varieties of trees, and recommends larch as the most profitable, commercially, 11911-9.

WEIR, A. (*Summary of evidence*).—Is a farmer living at L'ford, County Donegal, 8421. He considers that the Department should establish an Agricultural College to serve the Counties of Donegal, Londonderry, and Tyrone, 8422-33. The opinion is held that County Committees are not

helpful to the Department, and that the different schemes could not be worked in the absence of a controlling power on the part of the latter, 8434. Much good has resulted from the live-stock scheme in his part of Donegal, 8435; he disapproves of the proposal of Mr. Cassidy that local Committees should be allowed to purchase bulls, and that the Department should be obliged to register them, 8436-7. He is not in favour of the selection of bulls by the Judges of the Royal Dublin Society—he would not alter the existing method, 8438; nor is he in favour of half-bred bulls, 8441-3.

WEST, W. H. (*Summary of evidence*).—Secretary of the Fermanagh County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 8272. Confirms the evidence of Mr. Archdale and Mr. Hall. The various schemes—live-stock, agricultural, horticultural, poultry, and technical, have worked successfully, and the relations between the Committee, the Department and their officials have been satisfactory. The bull scheme has been of especial benefit to the small farmers. The Committee look forward to a closer co-ordination of educational systems for technical purposes, 8273-42.

WHELAN, P. (*Summary of paper in Appendix*).—A member of the Monaghan County Council and of the Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The adoption of technical and agricultural instruction has been a source of benefit to the people in the county. For the poorer districts, however, a supply of lime is most essential, and to provide the expenditure necessary for this purpose the itinerant lectures in agriculture might be dispensed with. The instruction in lacemaking has conferred substantial benefits on the workers; it is undesirable in the interests of the industry, that the teachers should be called away by the Department for their annual training at a time when the orders for lace are heavy. He advocates the establishment of industries by a system of State subsidies, and is of opinion that the chief officials on the agricultural and technical sides of the Department's work should be elected by the Irish people.

WHITE, W. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Lurgan Urban District Council, 8278. He supports, generally, the written observations of the District Council, but criticises the work carried out by the technical school, and suggests that it has not been attended with success, 8285-800.

WILLIS, Rev. J. R. (*Summary of evidence*).—A member of the Wicklow County Committee of Agriculture, 11977. He is of opinion that the Board of Agriculture should have co-equal powers with the Department in the formulation of schemes and the appointment of county officials, 11990-97; that facilities should be afforded for practical instruction in farming to the sons of farmers at one or two county centres, 11998; that a knowledge of agriculture should be imparted to pupils in National Schools, 11999; and that in the purchase of food for the Department's poultry station at Arundale care should be taken not to disturb the prices obtaining in local markets, to the detriment of local traders, 12004-25.

WILSON, PROF. G., M.A., D.Sc. (*Summary of evidence*).—Director of the Laboratory of the Ulster Fisheries and Biological Association. The Association has been in receipt of a small annual grant from the Department during the past three years. Witness draws attention to the importance of encouraging local investigations in marine zoology, which have a distinct and definite value in connection with Irish fisheries. It has been intimated that the grant will be withdrawn, and he asks the Inquiry Committee to recommend its continuance, 9017-24.

WOOLLATT, G. H., F.R.S. (*Summary of evidence*).
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YOUNG, W. S. (*Summary of evidence*).—Is a
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION,
IRELAND.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.—FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH, 1906.

At the Irish Office, Westminster, London.

Present:—

Sir KENKIL E. DIGBY, K.C., K.O.B., (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DYKES.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGBURN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MILES.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

(Chairman).—The Secretary will read the terms of the Reference.

The Secretary read:—"To inquire into and report whether the provisions of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, constituting the Department, and the methods which the Department has followed in carrying out those provisions, have been shown by experience to be well suited to the conditions of Ireland; whether

"any, and, if so, what changes are desirable in those provisions and methods; and to report also upon the relations of the Department to the Council of Agriculture to the Agricultural Board, and to the Board of Technical Instruction; upon its relations to local statutory bodies; upon its funds at its disposal, and the modes of employing them; and upon its position in regard to other Departments, especially those charged with educational functions."

RIGHT HON. GERALD BALFOUR examined.

Apr 27, 1906.

1. (Chairman).—You were Chief Secretary at the time when the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act was passed in 1899?—Yes, I became Chief Secretary in 1896, and I held office until the autumn of 1900. The Act was passed in 1899, but did not come into operation until April, 1900. The Committee will see, therefore, that I am not in a position to give any evidence as to the actual working of the Act, but I shall be happy to furnish any information I can with respect to the general objects at which it aimed, and the considerations which guided us in framing its provisions.

2. I think that is what the Committee specially desired to have from you as we can have it from no one else. Would you kindly tell us what led up to the passing of this Act—I believe a Bill was brought in two years before with the same object?—Yes, there was a Bill brought in in 1897, and I may say that even before that time the subject had occupied the attention of the Irish Government. No one who has at all studied the condition of Ireland can fail to see the great importance of so far as possible promoting the material prosperity of the country, and agriculture in particular has long been in a very backward condition, and so, of course, the principal industry of Ireland. We actually had a Bill drafted for creating a Department of Agriculture in the session of 1896, almost immediately after the Government of the day came into office, but it was proved impossible to proceed with it because time could not be found for the purpose. However, I don't think that that delay as a matter of fact was of any disadvantage, because during the year 1896 the Committee which is known as the Bessie Committee, and which was assembled under the chairmanship of Sir Horace Plunkett, issued an extremely interesting and valuable report, which was of very great use to the Government in drafting their measure introduced in the session of 1897.

3. The Bessie Committee, for the sake of those who are not familiar with its history, derives its name from the Parliamentary report—it derives its name from having been started during the Parliamentary recess, though I think it sat for a year before its report was issued. The 1897 Bill was introduced in the House of Commons, read a first time, and I think, read a second time, but of that I won't be quite

certain; it was ultimately withdrawn on the understanding of the Government to introduce, in the following year, a measure for the reform of the Irish Local Government, and it was felt that the question of establishing a Board of Agriculture could usefully wait until the reform of Irish Local Government had been carried into effect, and Irish local authorities could be utilised in connection with the Act creating a Board of Agriculture.

4. And in fact the Local Government Bill was introduced in 1898 and passed into law?—It was introduced in 1898 and passed into law, and the other Bill followed in 1899.

5. That appears to lead up to the differences between the Act of 1899 and the Bill of 1897?—Yes, there were some very important differences between the two; both Bills provided for the concentration under a single department of the various functions connected with agriculture which had been previously distributed among a number of different Government departments, and both Bills provided an endowment to be applied to the encouragement and development of rural industries in Ireland. But the Bill of 1897 was confined to agriculture and other rural industries, and did not extend, like the Bill of 1899, to technical instruction. Again, the endowment provided in the Bill of 1897 was very much smaller than that subsequently provided in the Bill of 1899. But most important of all, the machinery for administering the endowment was totally different in the two cases. With respect to that last point, the machinery for administering the endowment, perhaps I had better deal with it when I come to the 1899 Bill.

6. Perhaps you will tell us, shortly, the principal objects of the Act of 1899?—I think I have mentioned them incidentally in answer to the last question. There was first of all the organisation, under a single department, of functions hitherto scattered among a number of different departments, and there was the question of State aid for the encouragement and development of agriculture and other rural industries, and lastly, there was the promotion of technical education.

7. Now I will ask you a general question, Mr. Balfour, whether you can assist us by explaining or making any statement as to the intentions and motives of the framers of the Act in connection with any of

Right Hon.
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Balfour.

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the objects that you have just mentioned! I don't know that I can add very much to the statements made by me in speeches both in Parliament and out of Parliament at the time, and of course after an interval of six or seven years my memory as to the details of the Act is not quite as fresh as it was, but, however, I will endeavour to answer the question as well as I can. With regard to that part of the Act which deals with the transfer to the new Department of powers and duties previously discharged by other Government departments, I don't know that there is very much to be said. Consolidation of that kind obviously constitutes an improvement in organisation, and ought, therefore, to add both to efficiency and economy.

8. Previously these duties belonged to a great number of departments.—Quite half a dozen different departments, I should say. The list of duties transferred will be found in the last clause of the Act; they are very extensive. So far as this part of the Act was concerned the principle was really the same as that of the Act establishing a Board of Agriculture in England, though, of course, in the case of the English Act technical instruction was not included. It is perhaps worth while to notice in connection with these transferred functions that the councils of the powers and duties so transferred is altogether independent of any advisory board or council such as is set up in Part 2 of the Act; in other words, such functions, let us say, as were discharged up to that time by the Veterinary Department in Ireland would continue to be discharged by the new Department without the Council of Agriculture or the Board of Agriculture having any right to a say in the matter, and so with the other transferred duties. The chief interest of the Irish Act, so far as political novelty is concerned, centres in the arrangements made for the application of the funds placed at the disposal of the Department to what are defined in the Act as "the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries," and of "sea fisheries." If the Committee will turn to Clause 15, which contains an account of the monies placed at the disposal of the Department they will see that the endowment, as I may call it, amounts to a very considerable sum. The annual endowment, I think, approaches very nearly the sum of £375,000 a year, and in addition to that there was a capital sum of between £150,000 and £250,000 placed at the disposal of the Department. Of the annual income, which amounts to between £150,000 and £175,000, £55,000 was set apart in the Act to be applied for promoting technical instruction, and £10,000 was devoted to the purposes of sea fisheries. But, deducting these from the total annual income provided, the Committee will see that there remains a sum of something like £100,000, and this was at the free disposal of the Department, subject, of course, to the concurrence of the Board of Agriculture, as I shall presently explain, but otherwise it was at the free disposal of the Department to be applied to what the Act describes as "the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries" and also of "the purposes of sea fisheries." The definition of these expressions was deliberately made by the framers of the Act as wide as possible, and perhaps it may be worth the while of the Committee if they have got a copy of the Act to just turn to those definitions; they are contained in Clause 30.—

"The expression 'the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries' includes the sowing, improving and developing of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairying, the breeding of horses, cattle and other live stock and poultry, home and cottage industries, the cultivation and preparation of flax, inland fisheries and any industries immediately connected with and subservient to any of the said matters and any instruction relating thereto, and shall also include the aiding or facilitating of the carriage and distribution of produce." And "the expression 'the purposes of sea fisheries' includes the construction of piers and harbours, the supply of fishing boats and gear, investigation into the habits of fish and methods of fishing, instruction in fishing, the encouragement of any industries immediately connected with and subservient to fishing, the supervision and protection of fishing grounds, and the enforcement of bye-laws relating to fishing."

Thus, it will be seen that it would be almost impossible to draw definitions of these expressions more comprehensive than those which were actually inserted in the Act. A similar elasticity and freedom are

allowed as regards the methods which it is open to the Department to employ in the application of the endowment for these purposes. There is, indeed, one limitation to which we attached great importance, and which will be found, I think, in the 6th sub-section of Clause 36:—

"The Department shall not in the absence of special considerations, apply or approve of the application of money under this section (other than the capital sum in this section mentioned) to schemes in respect of which aid is not given out of money provided by local authorities or from other local sources."

The aim we set ourselves throughout was that State aid should not be a substitute for local enterprise or initiative, but should really be used in order to encourage and develop it, and we attached therefore very great importance to that sub-section.

9. That, I suppose, is one of the points on which the historical connection of this Act with the Act of the preceding year is of importance; it is not until you get the local authorities developed and organised you can apply this measure.—The fact that reform of local government had taken place enabled us to organise the machinery on lines quite different from the Bill of 1897.

10. That was the underlying difference between the Bill of 1897 and the Act of 1899?—To a very large extent it was.

11. You gave the local authority a very considerable amount of control?—Very considerable; I was just coming to that point. The administration of a normal income of between £160,000 and £275,000 a year within limits of restriction so wide as those which I have indicated, does raise a good many difficult problems. The two points that we had specially to consider in framing the Act were these: First, was the administration of the endowment to be subjected to effective Parliamentary criticism? And secondly, in what way was that administration to be brought into real and intimate touch with the special industrial needs of Ireland, and in particular with the needs and requirements of different localities? In dealing these points we had, so far as institutions within the United Kingdom are concerned, only one precedent to guide us. In Continental countries, of course, there had existed for some time past Departments with powers and duties similar to those that we were proposing to this new Department of Agriculture. In the United Kingdom the only precedent so far as I know was the Congested Districts Board for Ireland and the corresponding institution in Scotland. In expending the greater part of its endowment fund it was quite clear that the new Board would really be discharging for the rest of Ireland duties very similar to those which the Congested Districts Board had to discharge for the congested districts, and the question naturally arose whether in constituting the new authority we should or should not take the Congested Districts Board as our model. The Bill of 1897 actually did pursue this course, it did take the Congested Districts Board as the model for the authority to administer the endowment, and it drew a sharp distinction between the duties and powers transferred from existing Government departments and the work of administering the endowment fund. To the Department of Agriculture it assigned the former duties, and for the latter duties it created a Board consisting of the Chief Secretary as President, and the Vice-President, and members nominated by the Lord Lieutenant; in other words, it was really a body constructed almost entirely upon the lines of the Congested Districts Board. In 1899 we abandoned the plan, and I think for good reasons. It was most seriously considered by me at the time. The plan of 1897 would, in the first place, have involved a double administrative staff. There would have been the end of the Department, and there would have had also to be a separate staff for the Board, charged with the administration of the endowment fund. Such an arrangement as that was obviously objectionable on the ground of economy alone. But then, in addition to that, my experience as Chairman of the Congested Districts Board for five years led me to the conclusion that the administration of an unpaid Board meeting once a month or by no means free from inconvenience. Important questions would constantly arise in the interval between one meeting and another, and such questions then would either have to be decided by the Secretary upon his own responsibility, or a special Board would have to be called, which is very

inconvenient for members, or the question would have to wait perhaps two or three weeks until a meeting would be held in the ordinary course. Even in the administration of the Congested Districts Board this difficulty more than once proved seriously inconvenient, and I think it would be even more so with the extended duties assigned to any similar authority administering the endowment fund under this Act, inasmuch as its duties would have been somewhat wider and the area served very much larger and the work of administration a good deal more complicated. There were besides two other considerations which weighed even more strongly with me. In the first place there was a very strong public opinion, and I won't say the public opinion was not justified, in favour of making the administrative authority really responsible to Parliament, effectively responsible to Parliament. A Board of nominated members, even with a Minister as its chairman, cannot be made really responsible to Parliament, unless the decision of the Board can be overridden by the Minister; otherwise it is clear that he can always shelter himself behind the action of the Board, saying, and saying with perfect justice, that the decisions were not his decisions but the decisions of the Board. It appeared to me, therefore, that if we were to follow the precedent of the Congested Districts Board it would be impossible to make the body administering the fund really responsible to Parliament. Mr. Miles is better acquainted with the work of the Congested Districts Board than I am myself, but so far as the relevance of the Congested Districts Board to Parliament are concerned, I think I may say without fear of contradiction that the Congested Districts Board never has been, and is not now in any proper sense, responsible to Parliament. Then lastly, and this was in my judgment, the most important consideration of all, we had this question of the new bodies created by the Local Government Act of 1925. That Act entirely transformed and popularized Local Government in Ireland, and to have ignored that new feature in the situation would have been, in my judgment, altogether unstatesmanlike; in fact in constructing the Local Government Bill, and afterwards in constructing this Bill, I had throughout the intention that the two should work together as much as possible. I had the prospect of introducing a Bill creating a Board of Agriculture before my eyes when I was drafting the Irish Local Government Bill, and of course when drafting this Bill I had the provisions of the Local Government Bill before my eyes. It might have been possible to have worked in the co-operation of the local authorities with a Board concerned on the lines of the Congested Districts Board, but I feel no doubt whatever in my mind that it would have been very much more difficult to do so satisfactorily than when the authority administering the fund was a regular Government department. These considerations appeared to me to decide in favour of making the Department, with a Minister at its head, the sole administrative and executive authority for the application of the endowment provided by the Bill. There remained the problem of bringing the Department into close touch with the people for whose benefit the endowment was intended, and it is the machinery constructed for this purpose that probably constitutes the most novel part of the measure. It will hardly be necessary for me to describe the constitution of the Council of Agriculture or the two Boards connected with the Department as this is clearly set forth in the Act itself. The Council of Agriculture, two-thirds of whose members are appointed by the County Council, and one-third by the Department, has a two-fold function, it has to meet at least once a year for the purpose of general discussion, and it also has devolved upon it the appointment of eight members out of twelve of which the Agricultural Board consists, two representatives being nominated by each of the four provincial Committees into which the Council is divided. The other four members of the Agricultural Board are chosen by the Department, and in this way the proportion of one-third nominated members to two-thirds elected members is preserved. To the Board of Agriculture very important duties indeed are assigned under the Act. It has to act as an Advisory Board to the Department in all questions submitted to it by the Department in connection with agriculture and other rural industries. But over and above that, and in order to secure also that this position shall be something more than a mere matter of form, which I venture to think it might otherwise very easily become, the actual concurrence of the Board is

required for any expenditure out of the endowment fund which the Department may desire to make other than for that expenditure which is imposed upon it as a statutory obligation.

12. You don't speak at all as to the working of that provision?—No, I ceased to be Chief Secretary within a few months after the Act came into operation, and therefore I have no personal experience. Any evidence I could give would be merely a repetition of what I have heard.

13. Just before you leave that part of the subject—you spoke just now of the responsibility to Parliament being secured in one way by placing a Minister at the head of the Department; you are referring there, I suppose, to the Vice-President, are you?—I was referring to the Vice-President, but of course the Chief Secretary is also under the constitution a member of the Board.

14. It was part of the original scheme that the Vice-President should represent the Department to some extent in Parliament?—Yes, it was. If you would like me to go into that point I will go into it now.

15. It seems to me rather to follow on what you were saying just now?—It was, no doubt, the intention of the framers of the Act that the Vice-President should be a Minister with a seat in Parliament, and should go in and out with the Government of the day. I was present at the time this Act was being drafted to go further and to separate the Department of Agriculture altogether from the Irish Government generally, to make the officer who was under the actual provisions of the Act, Vice-President, President of the Department, and independent altogether either of the Lord Lieutenant or the Chief Secretary. Well, I strongly objected to that because I held that it was not wise to cut the Irish Government in half in that way, but it is interesting to notice that if that proposal had actually been adopted then the Vice-President of the Department must necessarily have had a seat in Parliament, otherwise there would have been nobody to represent the Department in Parliament.

16. He would have been more than a permanent Under Secretary?—Yes, as it is, although undoubtedly it was the intention that the Vice-President should always have a seat in Parliament, the wording of the Act does not make it obligatory, and the system can be worked with the Chief Secretary to represent the Department in Parliament, instead of the Vice-President, as was originally intended.

17. (Mr. Miles).—Was it proposed upon you that the Vice-President should be in the same relations with the Lord Lieutenant as the Chief Secretary—you did not intend to cut him off from the Lord Lieutenant surely?—The Lord Lieutenant and Chief Secretary must be taken in such matters as forming one. It was my intention, so far as the everyday work of the Department was concerned, that the Vice-President should bear the same relation to the Chief Secretary that the Chief Secretary bears to the Lord Lieutenant in practice. In practice of course, owing to the fact that the Chief Secretary sits in the House of Commons, the greater part of the work of the Irish Government must devolve upon him, even if he has not a seat in the Cabinet. It was never my intention that the greater part of the work of this Department should devolve on anybody but the Vice-President.

18. (Chairman).—He should, in fact, represent the Department in Parliament and be responsible for the estimates?—Yes, that was the general intention, but I always felt that questions might arise in connection with the administration of the Department which were of general interest, as having a bearing on the Government of Ireland at large, and therefore I was extremely unwilling, as I said, to cut the Government of Ireland in two. Moreover there was this to be considered, the position of the working head of the Department, as I may call him, must necessarily be a very important one, but it could not be such a position as to entitle him to a place in the Cabinet, and therefore unless he had been, theoretically, at all events, placed under the Chief Secretary and the Lord Lieutenant, there would have been no connection between the Cabinet and the Department, and that did not appear to me to be a desirable arrangement. But I mention that particular point in order to illustrate the position of the Vice-President, because had that proposal been carried into effect, the proposal to separate the Department from the rest of the Government of Ireland, then it would have been absolutely necessary to make the working head of the Department a Minister with a seat in Parliament.

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19. It would have been strictly analogous to our Departments here?—Yes, it could not be worked otherwise. There are one or two other observations I should like to make with regard to the scheme adopted in the Act. The effect of the scheme is that while the Board of Agriculture has no power itself to initiate proposals for expenditure it has a certain right of veto on such proposals when made by the Department. In framing the scheme we were of course perfectly aware of the objections which might be urged against it; evidently it would be in the power of the Board by refusing its concurrence to all proposals of expenditure by the Department to produce an absolute deadlock, and even short of such open antagonism there was plenty of opportunity for friction or trouble between the Department and the Board in the absence, either side, of a spirit of good will and a desire to make the machinery work smoothly. It was an experiment, possibly it may be regarded as a bold experiment, and as an experiment I quite admit it must be judged by its results. On the other hand the scheme, limited as it was to the application of money at the disposal of the Department, possessed in my opinion three great recommendations. It could not fail to bring the Department into close touch with public opinion in Ireland, and especially with local opinion; while giving a reasonable amount of control to representative bodies it carefully avoided carrying this principle so far as to destroy the executive and administrative responsibility of the central authority; and finally, if the system worked harmoniously, I regarded the Board as likely to be a source of strength rather than of weakness to the Department. It must be remembered that for the surplus moneys at the disposal of the Department, and not earmarked for any particular application, very great local competition might be expected; obviously all districts in Ireland would like to have as much of the fund spent in their locality as possible. Now in deciding how and where these moneys should be applied it was clear that the Department would have a very difficult and delicate task to discharge, and one that was quite certain to lay it open to the suspicion of partiality, especially in Ireland. The provision requiring contributions from local areas, as a general condition of assistance given to local schemes by the Department would, no doubt, act to a certain extent as a protection. But I thought in addition to that it was very desirable to provide the Department with some support and shield against suspicion and insinuation of unfairness, and this support and shield would, I hoped, be furnished by the statutory concurrence of a Board on which each province of Ireland would be equally represented. I do not think anything else occurs to me to say with respect to the agricultural side of the Act, but I might just call attention to Clause 14, which empowers the County and Urban District Councils to appoint committees for the purpose of the working of the Act. Such committees are regarded as a necessary element of the scheme if the object we had in view was to be secured, namely, effective co-operation between the central Government and local effort for promoting the industrial development of the country.

20. Then have you anything to say about the relations of the Board to the Council of Agriculture?—The function of the Council of Agriculture is to meet as a kind of Agricultural Parliament at least once a year. I don't know whether the meetings have, as a matter of fact, been held more frequently. Our idea was to give opportunity for general discussion, another method of bringing the Department into contact with public opinion.

21. Really these functions are advisory, are they not, principally?—They have no definite power?—No; except through the four provincial committees to elect the Board of Agriculture; the real power so far as concerns the relation between the Department and any external body or Council rests with the Board of Agriculture and not with the Council of Agriculture.

22. (Mr. Mr. Drayden).—How long does the Council last?—For three years, and one of their first duties on election is to appoint the Board.

23. And that also continues for three years?—Yes, for the same period.

24. (Chairman).—Now, Mr. Balfour, will you turn to the question of technical instruction?—A good deal of what I have already said about the agricultural side applies to the technical instruction side also. The Board of Technical Instruction is a good deal larger than the Agricultural Board. The Agricultural Board consists of twelve members, and the Board of Technical Instruction of over twenty, and it is also elected

in a different way. The constitution of the Board is dealt with in Clause 15. The Board is larger than I should have wished from the point of view of efficiency, but I did not see how to keep down the numbers consistently with giving due representation to the county boroughs in Ireland. I think the size of the Board would have been a serious inconvenience had the functions which it has to discharge been as important and varied as those of the Agricultural Board, but as a matter of fact that is not so, largely because a considerable portion of the fund devoted to the purpose of technical instruction is simply assigned to the county boroughs, not administered by the Department, with or without the concurrence of the Technical Instruction Board, but administered by the borough councils themselves. It is only in connection with such parts of the moneys devoted to technical instruction as are applied otherwise than in county boroughs that the Department is the administrative authority or that the Board of Technical Instruction has any power of veto upon the application of moneys. It will be seen therefore that the duties of this Board are considerably more restricted, or rather, I should say, the scope of their activity is considerably smaller.

25. That as all found in Section 16 (a) "The annual sum of £25,000"—The annual sum of £25,000 shall be divided into such portions as may be determined by the Department with the concurrence of the Board of Technical Instruction, and of these portions (1) one shall be distributed in proportion to their respective populations between the county boroughs, and shall be applied by the respective councils of those boroughs in aid of schemes approved by the Department for the purpose of technical instruction; (2) the other portions shall be applied, subject as regards any particular application to the concurrence of the Board of Technical Instruction, for the purposes of technical instruction, elsewhere than in the county boroughs. The Board of Technical Instruction and the Department together have to decide what sum shall be assigned to technical instruction outside the county boroughs, then that portion which is assigned to the county boroughs is distributed according to the population. There may be a re-arrangement every three years.

26. That really contains does it not, what are the powers of the Board of Technical Instruction as regards the Department. I don't think there is any other provision; Section 15 gives them power to advise, and Section 16 (c) gives them these powers as to the distribution of the money?—Another point which might be mentioned in that connection is that this endowment fund, so far as urban industries are concerned, can only be applied for the purposes of instruction, and therefore the ways in which the money can be used are very much more limited in the case of urban industries than they are in the case of agriculture or rural industries. There is practically no limit to the way in which the money can be used for the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries.

27. The words are "for the purposes of technical instruction"—I may give an illustration of the freedom with which the Department may use the funds at its disposal for agriculture and other rural industries. I believe it did, as a matter of fact, make a very considerable contribution to the Cork Exhibition for the purpose of promoting rural industries. That was not in my time, but I have heard that was done, and whether it was right or wrong it is an illustration of the freedom allowed the Department in the use of its funds subject to the concurrence of the Agricultural Board.

28. (Mr. Micks).—You mentioned that the technical side was more restricted—could you give an illustration?—It was restricted to instruction alone.

29. (Chairman).—By the words of the Act in both these clauses the words are "for the purpose of technical instruction"?—If you look at the definition clause, Mr. Micks, you will see that the first two paragraphs define the expression "purposes of agriculture and other rural industries," and "purpose of sea fisheries" respectively; these purposes may be served by means of instruction; or of course they are largely served by means of instruction, but they may be served in other ways as well, but in the case of urban industries—

30. (Mr. Micks).—What was the reason of the restriction?—I think the reason is pretty clear. If you gave a perfectly free hand in aiding ordinary town industries, you would really be enabling the State itself to set up such industries; it would be a violation of

the ordinary principles which have been hitherto observed respecting State aid, far beyond anything that would be done in connection with agriculture, and would be more dangerous and create more opposition in addition. I don't think we could have carried an Act which would have enabled a Government department to do what it pleased in connection with urban industries in the same way as this department was allowed to do in connection with agriculture and rural industries. I think Trades Unions and Employers would be up in arms.

21. In giving that power you would not be going beyond the power given to the Congested Districts Board.—Ah! the Congested Districts Board is an exception. I think there is no limit to be found of that kind in the powers of the Congested Districts Board, but we may broadly say there are no urban industries in the congested districts.

32. (Chairman).—You must take into consideration the definition of technical instruction in the definition clause, "Instruction in the principles of science and art applicable to industries and in the application of special branches of science and art to specific industries or employment. It shall not include instructions given in elementary schools or teaching the practice of any trade or industry or employment, but, save as aforesaid, shall include instruction in the branches of science and art with respect to which grants are for the time being made by the Department, and any other form of instruction (including modern languages and commercial subjects) which may for the time being be sanctioned by the Department by a minute laid before Parliament and made on the representation of a county or urban district council that such form of instruction is required by the circumstances of its district, and shall also include instruction in the use of tools and modelling in clay, wood or other material." That is very carefully limited.—The problem we had to consider did not arise in connection with the congested districts.

33. (Mr. Micks).—Take the industry of lace-making—would this subsection prohibit lace classes from being started by the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. "It shall not include the practice of any trade or industry."—But then you must remember that lace-making might possibly be held to come under "rural industries." I think there are certain industries which are on the border line between rural industries and urban industries, with regard to which some difficulty might possibly arise. What might, if carried on in a factory or workshop, be an urban industry, might become a rural industry if carried on in a cottage.

34. It is rather curious that expression "teaching any industry"—I don't quite remember where that definition comes from, but I think it comes from one of the English Acts.

35. (Chairman).—Might you not teach lace-making under that?—I think if lace-making was carried on in the country as in the congested districts it might.

36. (Mr. Micks).—While if carried on in the towns it would be illegal.—That might be the case, but you must not press me too hard on a legal point.

37. I should like to ask you a few more questions on this matter—you are aware that in the congested districts the making of carpets is looked after, and other such factory industries.—Yes.

38. These Congested Districts Board gave assistance to those industries and developed them, and now these concerns are standing on their own feet—would such action be impossible under the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes, I think that would be impossible; it would be impossible to do in other parts of Ireland what was done by the Congested Districts Board in Donegal. In Donegal they practically started a carpet factory.

39. They assisted?—They gave that assistance without which it could not have been started, and it was done while I was actually Chairman of the Congested Districts Board.

40. And there were other factories assisted also?—I am not quite sure that we did not feel a certain amount of doubt whether we were not exceeding our powers in assisting factories.

41. The powers of the Congested Districts Board are as simple as possible, "take such steps as they think proper"—Yes.

(Chairman).—What is the Act?

(Mr. Micks).—The Act of 1890.

Witness.—The powers of the Congested Districts Board are very indefinite indeed.

42. (Mr. Micks).—Very wide?—But it is quite clear that although it may be desirable to give the Congested

Districts Board power to set up a carpet industry in the congested districts, it would be a very grave question whether you should give the State power to set up a carpet factory in any other part of Ireland.

43. If you have the same conditions, great poverty and destitution in any district in Ireland, whether urban or rural, why should it not be assisted in the same way as in an urban as well as in a rural district?—The more convenient way of dealing with such conditions probably would be by scheduling the district as a congested district; if a district is to be treated specially in that way it had better fall under the category of districts that are congested; you might have to widen the definition.

44. Supposing we call all Ireland a congested district, which most of it practically is, for the purpose of development, do you see any objection to helping the industries of it?—It is a question of degree, I think. What the Congested Districts Board is allowed to do would, I think, be more than would be desirable to allow in Ireland generally.

45. Take a great many of the urban districts in Ireland that at every census are proved to be dropping and falling away in population and no employment given there whatever, do you think it would be improper to allow the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction to help?—If such districts were scheduled I don't know that there would be any serious objection.

46. Would you see any objection to scheduling all Ireland?—Yes, I would.

47. Where there is a necessity for assistance?—That implies that in some parts there is a necessity and in other parts there is not.

48. It would be difficult to draw the line, but the greater part of Ireland, *sine sensu*, would be in need of some help.—It is a question of opinion, but I don't think myself it would be desirable to give the Department free power to set up urban industries in any part of Ireland.

49. You would not, for instance, assist a mill like the Foxford mill?—You mean set up a mill like the Foxford mill in parts of Ireland which are not congested? I don't say that there are not some parts of Ireland that are so poor that they might not be scheduled with the congested districts and greater power allowed, but that would involve the problem of discrimination.

50. Would you leave that division to the discretion of the Department?—No, I think I should not.

(Chairman).—The comparison is between the provisions which you refer to in this Act and the 28th section of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, and there the powers are enormously wider (reads section). Most of the items actually mentioned there are also included in the definition clause of this Act, but the words which make the powers of the Congested Districts Board as wide as the words at the beginning "such steps as they may think proper."

51. (Mr. Micks).—As regards the opinion in the country about the powers of the Department, is the introduction of the Bill it was considered that "the object of the Government was to provide machinery and funds for carrying out in other parts of Ireland work analogous to that carried on in the congested districts by the Congested Districts Board." That is a quotation, and Lord Ashbourne, in the House of Lords, said pretty much the same thing?—Is that a quotation from a speech of mine?

52. Yes, on the first reading. Lord Ashbourne said the object was "to extend to all Ireland the principles and tasks that are set before themselves by the Congested Districts Board." Broadly speaking, I quite accept that.

53. Do you think that such language would be apt to create an impression in Ireland that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction could act everywhere in Ireland in the same way as the Congested Districts Board did in the congested districts?—It might create such an impression in anybody who did not examine the Act, but I don't think you must not interpret an Act by a phrase casually used in a speech by a Minister and treat it as superseding the clear statement of the Act itself. It was new in my mind in framing the Bill that urban industries should be placed on the same footing as agriculture and rural industries under the Act.

54. Take a factory that is not in an urban district, that is outside the limits of the town, do you think that the Department would have power to help that industry—a factory we will say?—I don't think it would.

55. Why, it would not be an urban industry?—I think it would.

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56. Even if it was not in an urban district—I think anything carried on in a factory could not be regarded as otherwise than an urban industry. These are legal points; I must not be expected to give authoritative replies to them.

57. You can see, perhaps, that the statements may have led or misled people to suppose they were getting more than they really did get—I quite see that that is possible; I may add, of course, that the borderline between urban industries and rural industries was felt by us to present very considerable difficulty at the time of the framing of the Bill; we were perfectly aware of these points.

58. Would you tell me what the considerations were in your mind?—There were two considerations; in the first place the framers of a Bill always have to take account of whatever will make a Bill difficult or easy to pass; now had we introduced into this Bill powers which would have enabled the Board to establish urban industries all over Ireland I think the greatest exception would have been taken to it in the House of Commons.

59. Even if you had followed the wording of the Act of 1892—I am quite certain there would. Besides that I think the objections that would have been felt by the House would have been legitimate; so wide a departure from the ordinary principle that the State is not to interfere in the field of private enterprise would have been a very serious matter.

60. Do you think Ireland has some special claims for consideration that would not be claimed in Great Britain?—Yes, I think Ireland has a special claim for consideration, and that consideration she has, in my opinion, received under the Congested Districts Board Act and this Act; to carry the matter further would, in my judgment, be dangerous.

61. Do you think Ireland could itself start and keep up industries that would give employment to the people?—Do you think she has got the means without some help at the start from a Department such as this?—I have not the least doubt of it in the principal urban centres like Dublin and Belfast.

62. Galway, would you say?—Galway I am not so sure of.

63. You think that there is capital that would be applied?—I think you might possibly secure co-operation of capital in isolated industries, and we were successful in doing that in the carpet industry in Donegal to some extent.

64. It was a Scotch merchant who provided the capital?—Yes.

65. (Chairman).—Mr. Balfour, I don't see, in looking through this Act any distinction drawn between the application of money for the purpose of technical instruction in rural and urban districts; of course you have the distinction as to the allocation between county boroughs and other places, but when you come to the definition of technical instruction these words seemed to me to be perfectly general and applied all over, both county and urban districts as well.—Quite so.

66. The words are "technical instruction means" so and so "which may for the time being be sanctioned by the Department, by a minute laid before Parliament, and made on the recommendation of a county or urban district council?"—That applies only to instruction.

67. (Mr. F. G. O'Grady).—Is it very considerably, in practice, modified by the existence alongside of it of powers for the purpose of agriculture? In technical instruction the Department may spend money in giving encouragement in towns to definite industries only in so far as those can be fostered through the giving of instruction in applications of special branches of science, but if industries in the country have to be fostered the Department may not merely apply their funds to give instruction in the science suitable, but they may also give assistance there for the actual manipulative processes?—Yes, so long as they come under the definition of agriculture and other rural industries.

68. Rural industries include cottages and home industries. That, I take it, was intended to include any work which could be done in the ordinary home as distinct from a specially-studied workshop, work which might have the effect either of saving expenditure of money for the purchase of things required for agriculture or for the home, or might take the form of making objects for sale so as to bring more money into the home; and it is under the latter category that lace-making would come as a home industry?—That would be the interpretation I should be inclined to put upon it; I should be inclined to say that in rural districts

lace-making might fairly be said to come under the head of a rural industry.

69. The Department might spend money in assisting, in paying for instruction in the manipulative processes of any of these home industries in the rural area, but they could not pay money for instruction in manipulative processes towards a trade or lucrative employment other than under the Agricultural Board? I think that is correct.

70. It is a similar distinction to that which holds in other parts of the kingdom?—That is the distinction that was intended to be drawn as far as my recollection carries me.

71. (Mr. S. Brown).—But the distinction would not be so much as to whether the industry was actually carried on in the town or country, but as to the character of the industry itself?—Quite so. By urban industry I mean industry of an urban character, manufactures and trades; it is very difficult to draw any precise definition, and I think there is a margin where doubt is possible.

72. (Mr. O'Grady).—Under technical instruction you cannot include instruction in manipulative processes of a trade character, but if the subject of instruction is one which is special to a rural district or is a home industry, then the Department have ample powers to assist even the manipulative processes—manipulative processes which are to earn an immediate return by the sale of objects produced—by bringing it under the agricultural side?—I think so; lace-making is a good instance, and it seems to me fairly clear that lace-making might be included under home and cottage industries.

73. (Mr. Brown).—Or carpet-making by hand?—Carpet making is more doubtful, and I should not like to express a definite opinion.

74. (Chairman).—Could you quite bring under home and cottage industries the practice of lace-making?—You see all the girls in the neighbourhood coming to a school or room where there is a mistress, and they are taught lace-making; I am speaking now of work under the Congested Districts Board, that is as far as I have seen it myself; the work is carried on in a commercial way and sent to big houses in Belfast or elsewhere, or you can even buy it on the spot?—You are really putting me a series of conundrums, every one of which would require very careful consideration before it could be definitely answered; I think perhaps these questions ought to be put to those who have had actually to deal with them rather than to me.

75. As far as you are concerned your intention was in carrying this Act through Parliament to draw the line between instruction in agriculture and instruction in the principles of industries, principles which are applicable to industries, and in the actual teaching of the practice of the industry itself?—I wanted, broadly speaking, to draw a line between rural industries and industries of an urban character; I don't think the line can be drawn with absolute accuracy, and difficult cases could arise under these definitions.

76. (Mr. Meade). My point was, might not the great poverty of a very large portion of Ireland make it reasonable to consider whether nearly all Ireland might not be scheduled?—I think that is a question which might be raised.

77. Was it raised at the time when the Bill was being drafted?—Well, it was considered to some extent. The classification of Ireland into congested districts and non-congested districts seemed to me at the time sufficient for the purpose; at all events to have gone beyond that would have raised difficult questions which I did not want to do.

78. Take a large number of populous places and towns where factories used to exist formerly and where with a little help they might be started again—were such conditions as these thought of?—Yes, they were thought of, but I think we rejected that idea because any facility of that kind would have had to have been general in character unless you were prepared to schedule certain districts and say within the scheduled districts certain things were permissible which were not permissible outside.

79. Supposing the line were drawn at populous places, which were becoming actually less populous, that would have been a line easily drawn in figures, where the population was dwindling and falling away? Is it a question of policy you are asking me now?

80. Quite so.—And, of course, a very difficult question, indeed. On the whole I am inclined to think the distinction we left in the Act between congested and non-congested districts was as good a one as could be drawn, but I am not prepared to say that you might not with advantage revise the definition of a congested district, and probably that could be done.

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61. With the object of including places that need help?—Yes, on the ground that there were some districts in Ireland not classed as congested districts, which, on aspects of poverty and other characteristics, were really indistinguishable from congested districts.

62. We could hardly hope to include towns in that definition, in any ratio between population and valuation?—No.

63. And yet it is in towns that the falling away in prosperity has been most marked in Ireland?—I don't know that I am quite prepared to say that; I think in small towns there has been perhaps a falling away, but of course this raises very large questions with regard to State aid and State intervention in industry, and it is impossible to ignore those questions.

64. I am rather anxious to face them?—The real fact is, I think, we went as far in this Act as it was possible to do without creating a great deal of opposition; whether it would have been advisable to go further or not is a matter open to consideration no doubt; I am rather disposed to think we drew the line in a reasonable manner.

65. (Chairman).—As a matter of fact, so far as I can judge from reading the report of the debate on the second reading, this Bill was at that time—or the principle of the Bill—accepted by all parties without much reservation, and apparently quite irrespective of any political or religious opinion?—I think Irish opinion was almost unanimous in favour of the general principle of the Bill; I have a vague recollection that in Grand Committee—the Bill was sent to a Grand Committee, and reports of proceedings of Grand Committees are not preserved—but my recollection is that in Grand Committee there were a certain number of English members that did attack the Bill on the ground that it went too far in the way of giving State aid, and I have very little doubt that that feeling might have raised serious difficulties in the way of passing the Bill had we given the same freedom of action in the case of urban industries as we did in the case of rural industries.

66. (Mr. McKel).—What would the objection of English members be founded on?—On the general principle that it is not the business of the State to interfere with private industry.

67. That is to encourage competition in Ireland against Englishmen?—Not necessarily; you might have competitive enterprises inside Ireland itself. There would be a very strong feeling amongst English and Scotch members, quite irrespective of any distinction between parts of the United Kingdom, against State subsidy of industries in which private individuals were engaged. You are asking me why I drew this distinction; what I would rather say is that in giving this freedom as regards the rural industries we were already making an exception to the general rule.

68. That, I think, is obvious—the question is whether it went as far as is necessary in the circumstances of Ireland?—I am not prepared to say that I think it would be desirable to go further.

69. (Mr. Brown).—May I ask you with reference to the prohibition as to instruction in elementary schools why that provision was contained in the Act?—We wished to avoid interference with the Commissioners of National Education.

70. It has been felt in the working of the Act that unless you can get at the young fellow in the elementary schools you are at a disadvantage?—That would interfere with the authority of the Commissioners of Education. I quite admit that the question of education in Ireland raises very difficult problems. There is at the present time a great want of harmony and co-ordination between the different branches of the educational system in Ireland, but it would have been very unwise to have attempted to raise that question in connection with this Bill. I may say I did what I could be creating a Consultative Committee; that was as far as I dared to go in dealing with a very thorny subject, but I did recognize that it would be extremely desirable to introduce more system and co-ordination into education in Ireland in its different aspects than has been hitherto done; I thought the Consultative Committee might lay a foundation for further steps in that direction, though I did not feel that I could go further as far as this particular measure was concerned.

71. You can see it would have been a very great advantage; in many counties they have instructors in horticulture, and agriculture, and if there could be plots attached to schools on which instruction could be

given either in or out of school hours it would be a decided advantage to the young people?—I can quite believe it would be an excellent arrangement; I suppose the Department could do it in co-operation with the Commissioners of Education.

72. It has never been done, although the local authorities have been most anxious to do it in many cases?—Have they approached the Commissioners of Education on the subject?

73. They have approached the Department, but it led to nothing?—The particular provision was inserted to make it clear that the Department had no authority to interfere with the Commissioners.

74. (Mr. McKel).—With regard to the funds I think £166,000 is the amount?—I know it was, between £166,000 and £170,000.

75. But in addition to that, the amounts previously voted are still being voted, so that so far?—Yes. Take for instance the Veterinary Department; the expenses of that would be quite independent of this £166,000.

76. Prior to the passing of the Act a sum of £100,000 used to be voted for various services that were transferred to the Department, Board of Works, £1,300 odd; Board of Agriculture, England, £18,500; Chief Secretary's Office, £37,000 odd; Registrar-General's Office, £2,600 odd; Land Commission, £3,000 odd; Science and Art Department, £39,000 odd; Public Education, Ireland, £5,500; Temporary Commissions (Congested Districts Board), £16,800; Miscellaneous expenses, £2,000. Those make up £100,000. What I want to know is whether, in addition to the £166,000 that went to the endowment fund, a further sum of £100,000, or whatever the annual amount may be from time to time, continues to be voted?—So far as I remember there was no diminution of the expenditure upon the services transferred to the Department in consequence of the Departmental endowment with one exception. Section 15, sub-section (7), says: "An annual sum of £5,000 to be paid out of money provided by Parliament, representing the amount of the expense heretofore paid out of such money in connection with instruction given in Ireland in agriculture, exclusive of any such instruction given in elementary National schools."

77. That is in addition to the income?—That sum was paid to the Commissioners of National Education before this Act was passed; it was merely transferred from them to the Department, therefore that part of the endowment did not constitute an increase in the money spent upon Ireland, but I think in all other cases the duties transferred from Government departments to the new Department continued to be provided for, in the ordinary way, out of public money.

78. That is to say that the cost of all these services does not to any extent, except that £5,000, come out of the £166,000?—No, so far as I am aware.

79. We may take it now that the Department has an income of about £256,000 a year, or £260,000 a year between endowment and voted money?—I think perhaps you better put that question to somebody representing the Department itself. In principle the answer I should give is the one you expect, namely, that in addition to the £166,000, which represents the endowment, large sums are spent which are voted annually by Parliament.

80. And no diminution was made in the vote except in the case of the £5,000?—None, so far as I am aware.

81. That, of course, was a vital question in the settlement of the finances of the Bill. The intention was that it should have the £166,000 plus and above the voted money?—Yes, with the exception of that £5,000.

82. Is £78,000 now voted for the Board of Education?—Yes, that was made good to the Board of Education; that was a clear addition to the money paid for Irish purposes; the Act merely states that the sum of money that had been paid to the Commissioners was now to be paid to the Board; but the £78,000 was made good to the Commissioners.

83. In consequence of the sum of £55,000 being appropriated to technical education, are you aware that the Treasury withdrew what was known as the "Equivalent Grant" and declined to make payments under the Technical Instruction Acts to Ireland as before?—I think that must have been subsequent to my time; I was not aware of it.

84. (Chairman).—Are there any other matters that come to you?—I think I have dealt with all the points on which it struck me I might give useful information to the Committee.

SECOND PUBLIC SITTING—MONDAY, APRIL 30TH, 1906

At the Irish Office, Westminster, London.

Present:—

Sir KENNEL E. DIBBY, K.C.B., K.C. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.
Mr. FRANCIS G. O'GILVIE.Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKEL.
Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.
Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Right Hon. Sir HOMER PATHERICK, K.C.V.O., examined.

April 30, 1906.
Right Hon.
Sir HOMER
PATHERICK,
K.C.V.O.

104. (Chairman).—You are the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes.

105. And I believe you took an active part in the movement which led up to the creation of that Department?—Yes. I had been studying Irish economic and social problems for some years, and I was the convener and acted as Chairman of the Reces Committee, whose recommendations undoubtedly led to the demand for the institution which is now being inaugurated. I might perhaps mention, as a matter of public interest, that the Reces Committee was the first of a series of round-table conferences upon matters of public importance in Ireland, which it was hoped could thus be removed from acute political controversy.

106. Presently, when you come to give us the history of the Department you will give us that in more detail. When were you appointed Vice-President?—I was appointed, before the Department actually commenced, under a provision of the Act which enabled the Vice-President to be appointed at any time after the passing of the Act. I think, if I remember right, I was appointed in October, 1899, and the Act came into operation on the 1st of April, 1900.

107. (Mr. Mickel).—You were appointed on the 27th of October, 1899?—Yes, that was the actual date.

108. (Chairman).—There was a re-appointment, was there not—you were re-appointed at a later date?—Yes, after the general election of 1900 I presume I was re-appointed.

109. You no longer had a seat in Parliament, and that made re-appointment necessary, was not that so?—I am not quite clear as to whether re-appointment was necessary, as on losing my seat I tendered my resignation, and perhaps in view of the fact that the Department was still in process of organization, and as I had taken rather an active part in the negotiations with the Government and with others in bringing the Department into being, an exception was made in my case.

110. Then you held it until the change of Government?—Yes, when I again resigned, but in view of circumstances which are fully set forth in the correspondence between the Chief Secretary and myself on the 20th of December last, which I propose to hand in, I was asked to continue to hold the office pending the decision of the Government as to its future.

111. Well, I think we need only get that in general terms at the present stage. Now, holding the office of Vice-President, you are responsible, are you not, for the whole administration of the Department?—Practically, I am the working head of the Department, and necessarily I am the person chiefly responsible. As the Committee will see by the Act I am only the Vice-President, and the Chief Secretary is President, but, as Mr. Gerald Balfour explained in his speech on introducing the measure in 1899, and also in the speech which he made after the passage of the Act, in Belfast on the 19th of January, 1900, the constitution of the office and the conditions of the work necessitated an unusually large responsibility being given to the working head as distinguished from the official chief of the Department.

112. Mr. Balfour explained that to some extent the other day here. I think you were present when he gave his evidence, and I suppose you accept what he said as being accurate?—Certainly.

113. Now, being responsible, as you say, for the general work of the Department, can you suggest any

system under which your evidence could be most usefully arranged. Of course you will understand that what we look for to you is a general sketch of the whole of the working of the Department; the more minute details we shall get, I suppose, at a later stage from the members of the staff, but I think we look to you at the present stage to give us a general account of the various branches and various departments in which the work of this office is carried on?—I had anticipated that that would be the wish of the Committee, and I have tried so to prepare my evidence that it would be comprehensive without being overburdened with details, which will be supplied by the staff of the Department and by other witnesses, and subject to your ruling I propose to submit my evidence under the following heads:—(1) Historical. I think it necessary to the full understanding of the Department's origin and constitution that some description should be given of the circumstances which led up to the introduction of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, 1899. (2) The constitution of the Department. Under this heading I do not propose to repeat what has already been explained by Mr. Gerald Balfour, but to make some comments upon certain aspects of the Department's constitution with a view to facilitating the policy and working of the Department. (3) The working relations between the Department on the one hand, and the Council of Agriculture, the Agricultural Board, the Board of Technical Instruction, and the local representative bodies on the other. (4) The internal organization and work of the Department as carried out in its various branches. (5) The Department's relations with other branches of Government. (6) The Department's general financial policy. (7) A statement of policy as to Industrial Development, rural and urban. (8) Some general considerations to be taken into account in judging the Department's work.

114. Well, I do not doubt that that would be a convenient way of arranging your evidence. You have prepared it, as I understand, in that form?—Yes.

115. Then let us begin with the historical account of the origin of this Department?—Perhaps the Committee will allow me in dealing with this head of my evidence to say a few words upon the conditions, social, political and economic, which had to be taken into account by those who formulated the demand for this new addition to the machinery of Irish Government. The creation of the Department in 1899 marks the second stage of the movement for developing the economic and social life of the country. The first stage, some slight knowledge of which is essential to the understanding of the second stage, was the introduction of agricultural co-operation into Ireland ten years previously, beginning with the dairying districts. After the stormy days of Mr. Arthur Balfour's Chief Secretaryship there was a comparative calm in our political life, and the agrarian situation, although being far from a satisfactory one, was much less acute than it had formerly been, the operation of rent-fixing was enormously improving the condition of the tenant farmers, and would have greatly relieved the economic stress but for the emergence of a new factor, with which it was beyond their power to deal.

116. What date are you speaking of now?—From 1899 onwards. Foreign competition had come and came to stay, rapid and cheap transportation and new processes for preserving perishable products in transit had opened the markets, which the Irish supply, to competing producers from all parts of the world.

April 23, 1906.

Right Hon.
Sir Thomas
Fisher,
Barnes.

This new adverse condition obviously could only be met by a radical reform both in the technical and commercial methods of the Irish farmers. Faced with an economic revolution, farmers of other European countries were revolutionizing their methods, and their Governments were generously aiding agricultural industry, chiefly and most effectively through education, information, practical demonstration and scientific research. All this was well-known in Ireland and gave rise to the demand for similar assistance to our farmers, but those who spoke publicly on the subject, if they did not take the prevailing view—I mean the view of the majority—that nothing could be done under existing political arrangements, usually advocated the creation in Ireland of a Board of Agriculture similar to the English Board of Agriculture. Those with whom I was chiefly associated fully recognised the gravity and urgency of the economic situation, but on the other hand we held that it was capable of immediate improvement. We also held that under no circumstances would or could any effective remedy be applied by Government until the people could be brought to see how much greater was their power to help themselves than the power of laws or institutions to help them in their existing difficulty. I mention this in order to emphasise the fact that a movement based upon self-help, the working principle of which was to render self-help effective by means of combination in the production and distribution of wealth, a movement involving an immense amount of organising work among a people who were intellectually very quick to grasp both its principles and its details, but ill prepared to put it into operation, was set on foot with a distinct practical end in view. The promoters never regarded it as being sufficient in itself, but only as a necessary preliminary to State assistance. It furnished the main argument for the concession which we ultimately obtained from Parliament, and prepared the people, our rural population, to appreciate and profit by the State assistance when it came. Of course the rough outline which I have given, briefly, of the principles and work of the movement for re-organising agriculture on a co-operative basis, needs to be filled up in detail in order to give a complete history of the inception of the Department, but the Committee can get all the information they want for themselves, and I must not take up any more of their time with it now. But I think it is relevant to point out that the experience which was gained in the teaching of the economic doctrines which had to be accepted before any business could be safely transacted by any combinations of farmers who had never before combined for purely business purposes, the suspicion and active hostility which was aroused on the one hand and the far more surprising support which was gained on the other, the various attitudes of the people towards this movement in different sections of the country, the relation between the kind of industry pursued in any locality and the response of the farmers to suggestions for efforts towards economic development, these and many similar experiences which were gained combined to throw a flood of light upon the problems which had to be considered when constructive economic legislation was being formulated, firstly by unassociated individuals and afterwards by the Recesse Committee. I think it may safely be said that the economic thought which was developed by the early struggles of this unpretentious movement mainly led to the practically unanimous demand in Ireland, not for a Board of Agriculture on the lines of the then existing English Board, but for a wholly different institution, involving a departure from all previous constitutional practice in the British Isles and an adaptation of Continental models to Irish conditions. It was to this economic thought in Ireland that the Recesse Committee appealed, and, as the event showed, appealed with success.

127. May I just ask you this—at the time of which you are now speaking were any steps taken to study the methods of any Continental countries, or did that come later?—Oh, certainly, but I was going to pass over the story of the Recesse Committee, because we have handed in the report of that Committee. Perhaps, at this stage, I might just mention one great difficulty that I found in preparing my evidence, and now find in presenting it. The subject is so vast that if the whole of it is to be presented even in the most outline I am afraid my evidence would occupy an enormous space on the minutes of the Committee.

128. We can rather at your mercy in this respect—

Of course we are anxious to keep it within such limits as is consistent with going fully into the matter?—I wanted to explain to the Committee the two points of view which I had in my mind when I was preparing my evidence, the point of view of information to the public and the point of view of information to the Committee. It may be thought expedient to say things to the Committee for their guidance which are contained in documents that have been handed in.

129. I do not think you must assume that too much; we can very often get a good deal from witnesses although the same thing is contained in other forms in documents. You must not assume our familiarity with the documents?—The matter arises at this moment in connection with this question that you are asking me as to the procedure and work of the Recesse Committee. In answer to the specific question that you have asked me, Sir Kenneth, the Committee sent two Commissioners, one, the present Secretary of the Department, Mr. T. P. Gill, and the other, the late Mr. Michael Mulhall, the statistician, to nine European countries. Their general instructions were to inquire into the methods in which the several Governments in those countries rendered assistance to agricultural industry and commerce, and, above all, to determine, as far as possible, the degree in which progress gained in those countries was due to State assistance, and how far it was to be attributed to the organised efforts of the people themselves. That was the general line of inquiry of the Recesse Committee, and it was undoubtedly upon the rather surprising results of that inquiry and the general acceptance of the opinions which the Committee formed upon the evidence that they had collected that the two Bills were introduced and the second one passed into law.

130. What was the date of this Committee?—The Recesse Committee was called together in the autumn of 1895 after the general election, and it sat, off and on, until August, 1896, when it presented its report.

131. Was this one of the first acts of the Recesse Committee to send these gentlemen to the Continent?—Yes, those were several preliminary meetings to discuss the scope of its inquiry and its procedure.

132. What countries did they go to?—Denmark, France, Holland, Belgium, Wurtemberg, Switzerland, Bavaria, Hungary and Austria.

133. Did they report on each of these countries?—Yes, and the reports are to be found in the appendixes of the Recesse Committee's Report.

134. Were any one of these reports specially made the foundation of action afterwards, the reports on Denmark or any other country?—I think Denmark was. And Mr. Townsend sent us a memorandum upon France that undoubtedly strengthened the case for the consolidation of functions which has taken place. But the experience of Denmark influenced the Committee in one important matter—that was the greater importance of self-help than of State assistance.

135. That was the characteristic of the Danish system?—Yes, and I am quite sure that that was the aspect of the report that most appealed to the British public, and was of the greatest assistance to Mr. Gerald Balfour in getting his measure passed.

136. What one would like to know is, in what particular industry these inquiries first took practical effect; was it in the dairying industry or what?—Well, I don't think the inquiries directly affected any special industry, but undoubtedly the relations between the Departments analogous to that which we wanted to have established in Ireland, and the different industries in those countries were a very important consideration in framing the general report of the Recesse Committee, which so largely moulded the form which the Act took. I have only one other point to refer to in this connection, and that is the chief difficulty that we had to meet in trying to connect our proposals to public opinion in Great Britain. Two mighty journals, the "Times" and the "Spectator," the "Times" in a leading article of the 5th of August, 1896, and the "Spectator" in an article dated 5th of August, 1896, both raised the same general objection. They doubted the relevance of the Continental experience in advocating the concession of State aid to agriculture in Ireland, where they thought the farmers were wholly unorganized. To meet that objection, which was, as a matter of fact, fully met in the Report of the Recesse Committee, I wrote on behalf of the Committee a letter to the "Times" which appeared in their issue of the 15th

April 1906,

Mr. T. Ross,
St. James,
Dublin,
E.C.W.O.

of August, 1905, in which I pointed out that the organization of Irish agriculture upon Continental lines had been proceeding for the last six years in a way that the public did not seem to be aware of, and I propose to hand in that letter, as I think it fully explains the attitude of the Recesse Committee upon this important question at the time that their proposals were first brought before Parliament.

Sir,—My colleagues on the Recesse Committee will have no reason to complain of your leading article of Wednesday last upon the first fruits of their labours. You generously appreciated the motives with which they approached their self-appointed task and the temper and spirit which enabled them to come to a common agreement upon their recommendations to the Government. Moreover, although you are forced to dissent from our conclusions, you do so in a way which shows that you would be glad if you could see, as we see, in our proposals, a remedy which, however slow in its operation, strikes at the roots of Irish poverty. I ask you therefore to allow me space to throw some light on what your valuable criticism has shown to be the dark places of our necessarily elaborate report.

You take exception to our "historical reminiscences" as tending "to obscure the fact that Ireland has shared in the fullest measure in the advantages of the more liberal policy followed by this country since the triumph of free trade ideas." Leaving aside the question whether the benefits which accrued to Ireland from the adoption of free trade were at all comparable with those secured to England, I may say that in recalling the past action of the State we had only two objects in view. We desired to establish a *prima facie* probability that "the traditions of commercial enterprise," which Lord Dufferin tells us "had perished through desuetude," may be revived; and by tracing the origin of the evil we wished, not to pass judgment on the policy of other days, but to justify our claim for remedial legislation. Without such retrospective, our own faith in the recuperative power and latent capacities of the Irish people would not avail against the more common belief in their "double dose of original sin."

Coming to our actual recommendations, the report seems to have created in your mind the impression that, notwithstanding our protestations, and against the weight of evidence we have collected from abroad, we have, after all, been forced to seek unanimity in "fading appeals for the assistance of the State." Are you not perhaps a little severe on our intelligence when you write:—"We (in England) should seriously think of entrusting a State department with the duty of teaching our farmers to produce eggs at a profit, and still less with the power to subsidize our producers out of the public purse?" Whatever interpretation may be put upon our report, nothing can be more certain than that we were absolutely free from any illusions as to the efficiency of State aid without local effort. We are quite aware that organized local effort has a far larger part to play in attaining the end we have in view than State aid, and must, generally speaking, precede it. The exception would be in the field of education; but even there, even in the primary schools, we have insisted that local initiative, local contribution, and local management must be combined with State supervision and must precede a State subvention.

But even if we can justify our principles we have still to meet your somewhat formidable objection to the details of our proposals. These you consider premature because a great deal remains to be done by local effort before the State can properly intervene. You characterize the machinery we propose to create as "cumbersome and expensive," and likely to produce no adequate results.

My reply would be that a great deal more has been done in Ireland in the way of preparation for State assistance than is generally known. Some members of our Committee have been for several years and are still actively engaged in organizing all over Ireland those self-same voluntary associations, in their various forms, which you rightly point out have proceeded and rendered effective State aid to agriculture abroad. The salutary economic doctrine of self-help through industrial combination is spreading among Irish farmers with a rapidity for which it is difficult to obtain credence in England,

and is taking the place of the long-cherished and fatal belief that the Government is the source of all past and present material ill, and the possible source of every material good. Even now the associated farmers of Ireland would furnish the central department with cattle as much material to work upon as the machinery we have asked for could be expected to do during the earlier and experimental stages of its existence.

And here it may be pointed out that, while, for reasons which could not be compressed into this letter, the Committee, after long and earnest deliberation, decided to ask the Government, already pledged to a Board of Agriculture, to give legislative effect to our more comprehensive scheme embracing industries, we never contemplated the immediate realization of all the "shining possibilities" mentioned in the report. The local effort which will be required to put the machinery into motion will necessarily be a slow development. There would of course be some initial expense in equipping the new department, and perhaps the employment of real experts would make a considerable demand upon the fund available for salaries. But the consolidation of existing departments would provide an ample clerical staff for the new body, and the function of government as regards the interests under review would be immensely simplified. Nor need there be any fear of the new department falling behind the existing machinery in the matter of efficiency. The present arrangements only escape universal ridicule by their inactivity and the absence of any public interest in their nature or purpose. Recently they created some amusement when half a dozen public bodies advised us how to spray our potatoes.

The only feature of our scheme which may be held to justify the appellation of "cumbersome" is the Consultative Council. This innovation we regard as absolutely necessary to bring and keep the Department, which, though necessarily centralized, must depend for its efficiency on local co-operation, into touch with popular opinion. This principle and an analogous arrangement was strongly recommended by every foreign authority we consulted. We see no other way of insulating that co-operation of the people with the State without which we have no hope of any material improvement.

I hope I have sufficiently met your criticism to justify me in asking you to withhold your final judgment on our scheme until the Irish people have digested our report. If they endorse it in the spirit in which this letter will show that it is issued, I hope you will be the first to urge the Government to seize this unique opportunity of governing with and through a living representative Irish public opinion. Such a departure would bring about a change in the relations between the two countries which this generation had hardly hoped to see—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

HORACE FLEMING

105, Mount-street, W., August 24th, 1906.

That is all I have to say on the historic head.

127. (Mr. Mickel).—Are you not going into the questions which were discussed when Mr. Bailew was here about what took place on the introduction and passing of the Bill?—I thought that he had sufficiently dealt with it.

128. You were absent at the time, and not in Parliament, so you could not speak from your own knowledge.—I was tied by the leg at the time, but I was in constant communication with members of Parliament who were looking after the interests of the measure.

129. (Chairman).—You did not yourself take any part in the discussion?—I was lying on my back with a broken thigh at the time.

130. (Mr. Mickel).—Perhaps it would come under No. 11.—I think so.

131. You mentioned that you were the working head of the Department. Does that mean that you would carry on ordinary work without any reference to the President?—Might I suggest that that will come in under the constitutional part; I shall deal with the Vice-President's position afterwards.

132. (Chairman).—Then we will go on to the second heading: the constitution.—There are just three aspects of the Department's constitution upon which

I should like to make some observations. The first is the one that I think is of great public interest, and will be relevant to the Committee's inquiry, because this consideration has dominated the whole administrative policy of the Department. The King's Speech at the opening of the present session of Parliament places in the forefront of the ministerial proposals the introduction into the system of government in Ireland of means for associating the people with the conduct of Irish affairs. This is understood to be the announcement of a policy of devolution, and this is the same policy, though no doubt it may now be carried a good deal further, which underlies the whole inception of the Department. The Reces Committee was not able to suggest the exact manner in which the popular element of the new institution—the representative element—should be constituted, because when they sat Irish Local Government was still under the old Grand Jury system, whose abolition was known to be imminent. It was left for Mr. Gerald Balfour, who democratised local government in Ireland, to link the new Department he had created with local representative bodies he had brought into being a year before. Those who were familiar with its difficulties regard this task as having been performed in a masterly way. The Department as he fashioned it affords, in my opinion at any rate, the most striking example of devolution of central government in these islands. I know of no precedent for the Council of Agriculture, the Agricultural Board, or the Board of Technical Education, which exercise a controlling influence over the most important part of the Department's administration. This appears to me to be devolution in the sense of the King's Speech.

133. I am not quite sure that I quite follow that—what exactly do you mean by devolution, what power is devolved, and from and to whom is it devolved?—To the Agricultural Board and the Board of Technical Education are devolved the powers of the purse in connection with the expenditure of the Department's endowment.

134. It struck me on reading the Act as rather a creation than a devolution, a new state of things. By devolution one generally understands that a power which already exists is devolved upon somebody else, but this is rather in the character of a new creation altogether.—Yes, but I take it that a policy of devolution might have a new creation in it; I may be "terminologically incorrect," to use the latest phrase. What I mean is that the administration of the central Department is largely influenced by the Council and controlled by the Boards. It will be seen later in what respect the Council exercises its influence.

135. In other words, a new power is given to the popular authority?—Yes, a power of limiting and controlling the central administration. It is perfectly true that neither of these Boards that control the funds have in theory administrative powers or power of initiation, but they have in fact. They are in a position whenever the Department brings any proposed expenditure before them to say, "We cannot approve your scheme, but if you modify it in this or that or the other way, we will approve your scheme"; in other words they can say to the Department, "if you don't want to have a deadlock you had better substitute our scheme for yours," so that although they have nominally a very small power, they have, in fact, a very large power. When you take evidence as to the Boards, especially the Agricultural Board, I think you will be satisfied that their power is very real indeed, and that they exercise it.

136. It is very strong on the face of the Act—they have an absolute power of veto. As I understand, you cannot have a stronger power than that.

(Mr. Micks).—But no power of initiative.
(Chairman).—No power of initiative?—As a matter of fact they have, and exercise very large powers of initiative; members of the Board exercising their advisory functions constantly bring up advice to the Department and very often the Department adopts them.

137. (Mr. Micks).—As the letter of the law stands they can only discuss matters that are brought before them by the Department?—That is perfectly true, but all this will be explained presently.

138. They go outside that?—Yes; I shall presently.

139. The members of the Board do not adhere to the strict letter of the law—they do bring matters up that are not referred to them by the Department?—Yes, spontaneously, and on the invitation of the Department.

140. That would be legal, of course, on the invitation of the Department, but where it has not been brought up on the invitation of the Department do they propose it?—I am not shirking that. Under my own head I deal with the working relations between the Department and all these bodies.

141. (Chairman).—We will come to that presently; I think I see what you mean by devolution?—The second aspect of the Department's constitution with which I wish to deal, as it affects the discharge of my own official duties, is the position of Vice-President.

142. We had better first, perhaps, get exactly what the Act says. Section 1 (2) provides as follows:—"Subject to the provisions of this Act any power or duty of the Department may be exercised or performed by the President or the Vice-President, or by any person appointed by the President to act on behalf of the Vice-President during the temporary absence of the Vice-President." And sub-section 3 provides that "The office of Vice-President of the Department shall not render the person holding the same incapable of being elected or of sitting or voting as a Member of Parliament, or void his election if returned, or render him liable to any penalty for sitting or voting in Parliament." Sub-section 4 provides that the Vice-President shall be ex-officio a member of the Congested Districts Board?—In speaking of the Vice-President's position now, I don't propose to say anything about his statutory position because that has been thoroughly explained by Mr. Gerald Balfour and is also on the face of the Act, but I have in my mind rather the actual position as part of the administrative machinery about which there seems to be a very great confusion. For instance, I am very often accused of a monstrous abuse of patronage, and yet the other day the Prime Minister stated in the House that I had no patronage whatever except that of my private Secretary, who certainly should not be considered a monstrous abuse. That illustrates the difference between the constitutional and the actual position of the Vice-President. It is perfectly true that the Chief Secretary if he chose might appoint every member of the staff, but no one administering a Department would expect its working head to work with a staff which he had not selected himself, so that in that sense I am responsible for the patronage—a matter upon which it is very important to be clear, because, no doubt, the Committee will have to inquire as to how I have administered this part of my functions.

143. Those of us who have been in a position analogous to yours know perfectly well that one of your duties is to give advice to the chief of your Department as regards the persons whom it is his business to appoint.

(Mr. Micks).—Is the actual appointment made by the President or Vice-President?—We say "by the Department," and that covers both.

144. Is the President, as a matter of fact, made aware of all appointments before they are made?—No.

145. So they are really made by the Vice-President?—Yes. With regard to the position that I now hold, it is, as Mr. Gerald Balfour has explained, distinctly anomalous, and it is merely a provisional arrangement; the correspondence to which I have already referred between the Chief Secretary and myself will show that I occupy it as the request of the Government, and that there is a perfectly clear understanding of the conditions, but as the office of Vice-President is one of the chief features of the whole new constitutional experiment, and as any large scheme of reform which the Irish Government may be contemplating must necessarily affect this office, I may refer to some of the considerations which were before those who pressed for the creation of this office, and how its duties and responsibilities have been regarded by its first and, so far, its only occupant. The reasons for creating a post different from that of an ordinary chief permanent officer of a branch of the Irish Government are set forth in the report of the Reces Committee, and other documents which have been or will be placed before the Committee of Inquiry. I may point out, however, that the important feature and the novel feature of the post is its dual responsibility. The Reces Committee were unanimous in their insistence upon direct Parliamentary responsibility. Mr. Gerald Balfour conceded this condition, making the office of Vice-President, like some other junior ministerial posts, legally tenable by any male adult, but one (by constitutional practice) usually only—namely when he is temporarily without a seat—by a member of Parliament. I was an Irish representative when I was

April 22, 1902.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Ponsonby,
Solicitor-Genl.

April 29, 1906.

Right Hon.
Sir Henry
Forbes,
Belfast.

appointed, but in the general election of 1900 I lost my seat mainly because I had married the new Department without regard to the claims of my own political party or any other.

146. (Chairman).—But you lost your seat before the Department had actually got into working order! That is so. It was at the 1900 election, the Department having started on the 1st of April the same year. Shortly after the election in which I lost my seat, and after I had resigned my post, a memorial was presented to me signed by a very large number of my countrymen, irrespective of party, asking me, although I had lost my seat, to hold on to my office, which I have done ever since. I think I ought to explain to the Committee why I, who am in honour bound to safeguard the interests of the Department and to safeguard its constitutional administration, have felt inclined to bring a party to the anomaly of holding office so long without a seat in Parliament and even after the Government which appointed me had ceased to exist.

147. It is important as bearing on the general question whether it is desirable that the practical head of the Department should be eligible to be a member of Parliament or not. The view taken, I suppose, by the Government of that day, after the election of 1900, was that there was nothing inconsistent in your continuing to act as head of the Department although you had no immediate prospect of a seat in Parliament. What they explained to me was that undoubtedly the intention of the Act had been that it would be held by a member of Parliament, but that in the early years of the Department it was inadvisable to make a change; in other words, that it was unwise to swap horses in the middle of a stream; I think that was the view they then took.

148. You continued on that footing during the continuance of the Government?—Yes. In the days of the Boscawen Committee I held as strongly as any member of that body the absolute necessity of freeing a Department, which was to introduce new principles into Irish administration, from the traditional influence of Irish Government. The simple fact is that without this condition the Department could not have been created at all, as public opinion would not have urged the creation of the Department on the Legislature. In my early addresses to the Council of Agriculture, while I was able to say truly that Parliamentary attendance would have proved in many respects a serious hindrance to the Vice-President in his Irish work, I still held to the principle of Parliamentary representation as one which must be strictly adhered to. I gave the strongest proof of my conviction on this point by offering myself as a candidate in the Galway election of 1901, where, as is generally known, I was unsuccessful, and indeed could not have very well expected to be successful. I did not know in the earlier years how the other side of the Vice-President's responsibility would develop, whether the Council would effectively criticise the Department's administration, whether the Boards would attend regularly and go into the mass of details with which they would have to be familiar before they could adequately discharge their difficult and important duties. Nor was it possible to foretell whether the relations between the central body and the County, County Borough and Urban District Councils would be satisfactory and fruitful. Upon these issues clearly depended the relative importance of the Vice-President's Parliamentary responsibility and his responsibility to public opinion in Ireland. Happily the event proved that all these questions were to be decided in a manner which, I think, does credit to the heart as well as to the head of those who are now interesting themselves in a practical way in Irish progress, and also to the tact, patience and industry of the much-abused permanent staff of the Department. This, of course, is merely an assertion on my part, but I think it will be proved in evidence; it is one of the important issues which the Committee will have to decide. But the chief point which I wish to place before the Committee is this, that my own official experience during the past six years has convinced me that the Vice-President's responsibility to public opinion in Ireland has year by year become more real, and that any attention which is contemplated in the position of the working head of the Department should preserve the influence and authority of the Council and the Boards over the Department's administration. So strongly do I feel this that I have over and over again told the Council and the Boards that the moment I lost their confidence and support I

should immediately vacate my post; that, I think, is all I have to say on the post of Vice-President.

149. (Mr. Misses).—I am not sure whether I gather from that that you have moderated your opinion as to the expediency of the Vice-President being in Parliament—I have moderated my opinion, and for this reason. It is quite clear that there must be, as Mr. Balfour said, a very real responsibility in such a post. In the early years of the Department the responsibility to the Council of Agriculture and to the Boards was not quite determined, because they were so new to their work; they did not know how to exercise the control which had been given to them and indeed precedents had to be made, one after another, as will be explained presently, to render that control really efficient. But now I see very grave difficulties that any Vice-President will have in discharging his full responsibility. In the first place the work in Ireland is colossal, and constant attendance in Parliament would be quite impossible. You would have to—

150. You would have to neglect your constituency?—(Chairman).—One or the other?—Yes, but then is another consideration. In my opinion, judging by the sense that a Vice-President has to decide in Ireland, it would be very difficult for him to escape the suspicion of partiality if he were a member of Parliament. One of the greatest difficulties that any Vice-President will have will arise when pressure is put upon the Government to which he belongs to do something for the constituents of some other member that would grant umbrage to the representative element of the Department in Ireland, and it is quite a problem as to what, in the light of these six years' experience, the exact position of the Vice-President ought to be in the future. Of one thing I am certain, that in no sense should the responsibility to Irish public opinion through this newly-created representative machinery be weakened; I think that would be putting the clock back. Of course they have been very difficult years, an immense amount of new work has been initiated during them, and it is hard to decide these questions finally yet. A great deal of light will undoubtedly be thrown on them in future years, but I have tried to make clear my opinion, and expect the lines on which this new constitutional experiment can be best worked out.

151. (Chairman).—I suppose the latter part we shall deal with presently, the relations between the Council and the Department. What I want to make clear in my mind is your view as to the position of the Vice-President, or, as Mr. Gerald Balfour called him, the working head of the Department; and I am right in supposing that the tendency of your mind now is somewhat different from that which it was when the Department was first started, and that you are now more impressed with the absolute importance of having a permanent head of the Department similar to what we are familiar with in England—namely, a working head not in Parliament, incapable of sitting in Parliament, but responsible for the conduct of the Department and devoting himself wholly to that work, separated from politics altogether?—That is my view, with two qualifications. The difficulty of placing a Vice-President in such a position as you have just indicated is that he has to administer large sums of annually voted money, which apparently must be annually voted because their amount varies. This seems to make it impossible to relieve the Department of the responsibility to Parliament. Then comes the question whether that responsibility can be discharged by the Chief Secretary. I feel myself in some difficulty in giving any opinion upon this for the reason that there was a compact between the members of the Boscawen Committee who represented all parties that, as the expression was in those days, "a new Castle Board should not be created," and it was held that a separate Minister directly responsible to Parliament was the main factor in keeping the Department free from what they called Castle control.

152. That is, perhaps, to some extent a different question—what we are now immediately concerned with is whether the Department of Agriculture have attained such importance, and are now discharging responsibilities so great, that it is necessary to have a permanent head who is incapable of sitting in Parliament, as we have in England. It may be another question whether the Parliamentary business, which is necessarily connected with it, should be discharged by the Chief Secretary, or whether there should be some other Parliamentary representative; but, at all events, as I gather from your evidence, you do think that the actual working head of the Department has quite

enough to do, and could do it better and with greater efficiency if he were more in the position of the working head of one of our own departments, the Home Office, for example?—Yes. But let me explain my second qualification, which relates to the Vice-President's discharge of his non-Parliamentary responsibility. It is a condition of his efficiency that in the administration of the endowment fund, in respect of which he is directly responsible to Irish public opinion, he should be in a sense free of Parliamentary control. The reason for this is that I have found that my relations with the Boards have been satisfactory because I am able to be absolutely frank with them, and when I come and make a proposal to them they know it is my proposal and nobody else's proposal, but if they thought that I was merely bringing before them a proposal suggested by some other department or the Government generally they would very much resent it; at any rate they would be much less likely to fall in with it.

153. It would come to this, that the fact that you are not a member of Parliament rather strengthens your position with the Agricultural Council and the Agricultural Board?—Oh, yes. It does not seem to moderate the criticism of my administration by outsiders, but it makes the working of the representative machinery much more smooth; that is the exact position.

154. (Mr. Mickel).—Then do you think it would be better that the Vice-President should or should not be a Parliamentary representative?—I would put it this way: if his present relations with the representative element in the Department were preserved, I don't myself think that Parliamentary representation is necessary; but you will probably find that the representative element in the Department will consider that Parliamentary representation is necessary in order to give them their full power and authority over the Vice-President.

155. I don't know that I follow you quite; you think that instead of having the Vice-President going in and out with the Government he ought to go in or out according to whether he retains the confidence of the two Boards?—I think it is far more important for his administration in Ireland that he should have the confidence of the Council and the two Boards than that he should be in Parliament.

156. Would you rather leave the question of the retention of office to the Boards or Council than to the Government?—Well, I have done so myself. I have made it perfectly clear to the Boards and to the Council that they could have my services of course while the last Government was in power—they could have my services as long as they liked, but not a moment longer; that I was ready to vacate the office at any time; I have made that clear to them all through, but then I recognise that I was in rather an anomalous position; I don't say that any other Vice-President, who had been put into the post just as an ordinary Parliamentary Under-Secretary, would be under any such obligation as I feel myself to be, to place himself very largely at the disposal of the Council and the Boards; I don't want to make any bad precedent in that way.

157. Would you suggest, as a possible arrangement, that the Vice-President should vacate his office if a vote of want of confidence were passed by the Boards and Council?—It is a constitutional point that one hesitates to give an opinion upon. The only objection that I can see to that is that if it happened, we will say, that the majority in Ireland and the Irish Government were at loggerheads, they might go on objecting to every Vice-President whom the English Government would consent to appoint, and then you might have no Vice-President at all; but otherwise I have shown my own opinion pretty clearly.

158. (Chairman).—Would you put it as high as this, that in your opinion the position of Vice-President of the Department should be practically, I don't say legally, untenable unless he retained the confidence of these two bodies?—Certainly, he could not administer the large endowment if these bodies did not vote him the money.

159. They could make his position untenable?—Certainly, and not only that, but the very moment that the Vice-President got into difficulties with the representative element attached to the Department he would fall foul of all the local statutory committees throughout the country.—Mr. Mickel will know that—but I think we work with over sixty statutory com-

mittees—including the committees of thirty-three counties.

160. (Mr. Mickel).—Are those the committees referred to in Section 163?—Yes.

161. (Chairman).—This seems to me to be a very important matter. Really, according to your evidence it comes to this, that the working of the Department depends, to a certain extent, on the retention of the confidence of these bodies?—Certainly.

162. Who are very largely elected?—Yes.

(Mr. Mickel).—Would this be the time to go into the question about the bodies being partly elected?

163. (Mr. Gyselle).—There is a point I want to ask about before you go into that. This practical necessity of retaining the confidence of the Boards is the one thing that differentiates the position—I don't say the legal position—of the Vice-President from that which would attach to a permanent secretary?—Yes; because the Boards have legal powers to vote payments and create a deadlock.

164. That is the point which makes it necessary to have someone other than a permanent secretary, who is the ordinary working head of the Department?—Yes.

165. Someone who has authority over the Secretary of the Department. As the Secretary of the Department takes the functions that fall in other Government Departments, say in England, to the permanent working head, it is necessary to have someone over that head who should be amenable to the discipline of Parliament and also affected by the action of those Boards?—Yes, I think you must have someone whose head can be dropped off.

166. Easily. More easily than a permanent secretary?—I think so.

167. (Chairman).—If that is the true view of the limits of the power of the permanent secretary in reference to these bodies, is it possible to have him also a Parliamentary representative appointed by the party in power with his office tenable only during the continuance of the party that appoints him, going in and out with the Government; must he not be rather in the nature of a permanent official, independent of party; the two things seem to me, at present, to be a little inconsistent?—The reason of the apparent inconsistency is that this is a new constitutional experiment.

168. You have a constitutional experiment with two sides which are rather incompatible?—There is undoubtedly an incompatibility, but then when you propose to change it, you may be taking away what has been given. Popular control has been conceded over public expenditure, and it has been the policy of the Department ever since its start, as I shall explain in another connection presently, to try to interest the country, not only in the endowment over which the Boards have a veto, but also in all the other cognate work which is financed by voted monies. I think myself, although I would not like often to go much further into this, it is quite possible that some of the functions now financed out of voted monies might be transferred to the endowment, that they might be financed out of the endowment. For instance the administration of the veterinary laws. But even there a difficulty arises in two ways. Firstly, that the amount of money required changes according to the course of animal sanitation; and, secondly, that some matter may arise in which the entire United Kingdom is interested in the administration of Irish veterinary laws. So that that makes a difficulty. Again the Science and Art vote depend upon the capacity of certain schools to earn them, and I myself think that it would be quite possible to transfer that part of the Department's technical instruction work to the endowment side and to amalgamate the old South Kensington money with the £55,000 a year that is paid for technical instruction. This, however, is not a matter that I ought to have an opinion about, I suppose, because it is really a matter for the Treasury. If they made a large enough provision, I should not at all myself object to having a fixed annual sum handed over in this way, but of course it would have to be large enough to allow for the anticipated developments in Irish education. If these transfers could be made they would give the Boards more power.

169. (Mr. Mickel).—Such a change could not be carried out without Parliamentary sanction?—No, I fancy not.

170. I mean could it be done between the Treasury and the Department?—I think not, because the monies are provided; only so much money is provided in the Act.

171. I am speaking about the Science and Art monies that are now on the vote; could they be transferred

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from the vote to the endowment fund if an addition were made to your permanent income?—An addition could not be made to our permanent income without Parliamentary sanction.

172. Are you sure?—I am not sure, but think I am right.

173. Were not two notable exceptions to that made in the transfer of monies from the Congested Districts Board and the Royal Dublin Society?—They were both done by Act of Parliament.

174. (Chairman).—Speaking from recollection it seems to me that the endowment is specifically limited by this Act, I mean limited in figures?—Yes, a large portion of it is terminable.

175. Then so long as you have any part of the income at the disposal of the Department depending upon votes so long must you have Parliamentary representation in some form or other?—Yes.

176. If not the Vice-President it must be the Chief Secretary or a new minister of some kind; that is the long and the short of it?—Yes.

177. If the Vice-President is not in Parliament, or is incapable of sitting in Parliament, the duty of presenting estimates must devolve upon the Chief Secretary as things are now, unless some new minister is created?—Certainly.

178. (Mr. O'Donnell).—Practically the relation to the Boards is the one thing that would prevent the arrangement being made that the Vice-President should take a smaller share in the actual daily and permanent work of the Department with a view to exercising a general supervision on matters of policy, and so on, an arrangement which would increase the work falling upon the principal secretary. If that were the arrangement the difficulty that would arise, I understand you to mean, is that there might arise a situation in which the Boards were not working in harmony with the policy of the Vice-President?—Yes, that is so; and I think it relevant to add that by far the most important matters of policy arise in connection with the administration of the endowment and not in connection with the administration of the voted monies. It would be very well worth the while of the Committee, in deciding this question, to examine and analyse carefully the criticism of the Department in Parliament and the criticism at the meetings of the Council of Agriculture. It will there be seen that by far the most important matters are dealt with by the Council of Agriculture, and that the criticism in Parliament does not deal with large questions of policy but chiefly with questions, I think they will find, of patronage.

179. (Hon. Mr. Dwyer).—That might not always be the case. It might be that public opinion in Ireland would demand certain measures through their representatives in Parliament, when the attitude would be seriously changed?—Yes.

180. (Chairman).—Sir Horace is speaking of the actual state of things—I am dealing rather with my experience of the past six years. One of the reasons that I always used to give for adhering to Parliamentary representation was that I looked forward to the day when Irish Members of Parliament would initiate economic legislation in furtherance of the work of the Department, but the opportunities for that do not seem to be quite as large as I had anticipated.

181. (Mr. Brown).—Your own experience has convinced you that the whole time of the Vice-President is really required for administrative work?—It may be owing to my own lack of official experience, but I certainly find that the work of the Department in Ireland gives me all that I can do to keep up with it, and I am generally, I must admit, very much in arrears, though I don't give very much attention to anything but the work of the Department.

182. But if you had been obliged to attend in Parliament throughout the Session we may assume you would not have been able to do as much administrative work?—I think I should have perhaps taken better care of my own reputation, but certainly not of the Department's work, if I had attended in Parliament.

183. And if the Vice-President continues to be appointed by the Government of the day his head may be cut off either from above or below; he goes out with the Government of the day and he is liable at any moment practically to be forced to resign by the action of his own Board or Council?—I think his own Government would probably have to remove him if he did not get on with the representative bodies.

184. It would practically amount to this, that if a deadlock came between the Vice-President and a Board the work of the Department could not proceed, and it would be necessary for him to resign or

be removed?—That is the view I hold, but it is not the constitutional view.

185. Even if it were not so according to the letter of the law it would be really in fact what would happen?—Yes, that is my view.

186. (Chairman).—Have you anything to add to this second head?—Only that I thought that possibly the Committee might wish to discuss the question as to how far the representative element of the Department was really representative.

187. If you please?—I see it constantly asserted that the Council is a dummy Council, and that the Boards have no real power, but that is a matter upon which I need not give any opinion, because, in the course of their inquiry, the Committee will be very well able to ascertain from the other persons concerned exactly what the true state of facts is. With regard to the representative character of these bodies, taking first the Council of Agriculture, it is quite true that although two-thirds are directly representative of the County Councils one-third are nominated by the Department; but I should like the Committee to examine very carefully the one-third that the Department has nominated and for whose nomination I am quite ready to take the whole responsibility, and to see how far they may be called representative.

188. (Mr. Michel).—The fact that the Department nominates one-third would of course make it impossible that that body should have the power of terminating the official life of the Vice-President?—They could get a two-thirds majority.

189. But still if the Department had the power of nominating one-third his continuance in office could hardly depend on the whole Board; I mean if the person whose conduct was to be questioned should nominate a third of the judges that would not be constitutional?—It may be presumed that the nominees of the Department might look favourably upon any action of the person that nominated them, I see that. But I don't believe myself for a moment that the mere fact of my having nominated the class of men that I have nominated would make them hesitate for a moment to advise me to retire from my duties if they thought that I was not discharging them efficiently. As a matter of fact I may tell the Committee that it is a great advantage to me to occupy this post, and it would be a happy release for me in many ways if I could give up the duty. I am immensely interested in it, and as long as the men that have worked with me throughout want me to hold it I could not refuse.

190. We are merely talking about the constitutional aspect of the question?—I understand that, but I cannot help looking at it from the point of view of the actual situation and of my experience during these six years. I think I can give you one illustration of the kind of men that are put by the Department upon the Council of Agriculture.

191. Would it not be rather a pity to go into that; no one questions their capacity, or that they were properly selected, but merely on the general question of the Vice-President's ceasing to hold office by vote of a body, one-third of whom he nominates himself, that would not be a correct position, would it?—I think it would, because if the Vice-President were to send thirty-four members to the Council who were not representative men, who had not the confidence of the people, and who had not the confidence of the other two-thirds, that would constitute a grave offence to the two-thirds, and probably they would, at an early date, find some reason for voting him out of office or making it very clear to his Government that he had better be removed.

(Chairman).—In the constitution of a Board like the Council of Agriculture you have to consider the general efficiency of the Board, to get as efficient a Board as you can, and if you get that by two-thirds elected and one-third nominated, still, if the Vice-President forfeits their confidence there is a majority of two-thirds that are perfectly free.

(Mr. Brown).—The funds that are being administered are joint funds, provided by the Department and by the public bodies; it would be an extraordinary state of things if the Department had no say in the appointment of any of the members who practically control these funds.

(Mr. Michel).—I was looking at it, not at all from the administrative point of view, or as to the propriety of its constitution, as an advising or voting body, but merely, if that body were to decide whether the Vice-President should remain in office, whether it would be properly constituted of fact.

(Mr. Brown).—It was pointed out as an example of the powers they possess that on the question of money,

if they were persistently opposed to the Vice-President it would mean necessarily that the office could not continue to be held by the Vice-President.

192. (Mr. O'Connell).—I think we should have from Sir Horace a general indication of the manner in which the Department exercised their power of nominating so large a proportion as one-third.—Our desire is to strengthen the Council of Agriculture in every way, we try to get men that have knowledge of the matters that ought to be discussed and are discussed by the Council and men who have a high public standing in the country in order that the public may have confidence in the Council. I think a good illustration of the class of men that the Department puts into the Council is the following fact. At the last election of the Boards the Council who have to place upon the Boards twelve members, that is eight members of the Agricultural Board and four members of the Board of Technical Instruction, put on three members who were not members of the Council at all, they happened to be three Bishops, and for that reason probably had not been able to give the time, at any rate they were not members of the Council. But of the other nine four of the members had been nominated by the Department and were not elected by the County Councils. That, I think, is a very good proof that the class of representatives that the Department nominates are men in whom the public have confidence.

193. (Mr. M'Nichol).—I should be very sorry if it were thought I questioned that. I quite understand your point, but my point is that the difficulty that you anticipate has not so far arisen, and I hardly think it is likely to, for the simple reason that if the Department were to nominate persons in whom the other two-thirds had not confidence, it would go badly with the Department.

194. I rather gather that you suggest that instead of a minister going in and out with the Government it would be better if the working head went in and out as the Board suggest?—I did not quite go so far as that, but I pointed to the fact that perhaps was not sufficiently considered in the drafting of the Bill, that the Vice-President could not continue in office if either the Boards of the Council were to fall foul of him and stop supplies.

195. (Hon. Mr. Drayton).—You must work sympathetically.—Certainly.

196. (Chairman).—I should just like to have your views—take the Council of Agriculture first. On the whole how has this provision, this mode of election to the Council, worked, has it worked well?—Very well, as I shall show when we come to the next head of inquiry, which is the actual working of these bodies. As the Committee are aware of the mode of appointing the two Boards it is clear that the question of whether they are representative or not is a question that can be determined simply by looking at the Act. I have nothing to say about it.

(On resuming after the adjournment.)

197. (Chairman).—Is there anything else to be said on the second head, or may we go to the working relations of the Department?—I think we have finished the second head.

198. Then will you take the third head, Sir Horace, the working relations of the Department to the representative elements?—There are three representative bodies attached to the Department, the Council and the two Boards; I had better take them in turn. As regards the relations between the Department and the Council, so far as they are determined by the Department, they are affected in five ways. Firstly, as I have already said, the Department is responsible for the creation of one-third of the Council, I think nothing more need be said under that head. Secondly, the Vice-President is given, by statute, power to make regulations for the conduct of the Council's proceedings. Now, so far, I have made no regulations for the conduct of the debates, I have only made formal regulations for the discharge of the Council's electoral functions which are explained in the Act, and need not, I presume, be further referred to. It is significant that the action which might have been taken in the matter of regulating the debates has not been taken so far. I find it quite sufficient to rely upon the ordinary privileges of a chairman, and so long as the relations are harmonious I don't think it will be necessary to make any further regulations. But, of course, the Committee will have to learn from the members of the

Council whether the relations between the Department and the Council have been as satisfactory to the Council as they have been to the Department. Thirdly, the Vice-President has to use his discretion as to the frequency of the meetings. He is bound by statute to call the Council together at least once a year. So far eight meetings have been held in six years—that is at the rate of one meeting every nine months. At the last meeting of the Council a motion was brought forward in favour of holding meetings quarterly, and then a debate arose upon the whole question which was duly reported in the proceedings.

199. Are there minutes kept of the proceedings of the Council of Agriculture?—Yes, and they can be submitted to the Committee.

200. I think it would be rather useful to see some of these minutes?—They will be handed in.

201. (Mr. M'Nichol).—Of the two Boards?—That I will come to afterwards; the minutes are kept, but they are confidential; that we can discuss when we come to the Boards.

202. Are they confidential in any other sense than the minutes of the Congested Districts Board are?—No, just in the same sense. I was saying that a motion was before the last meeting of the Council in favour of quarterly meetings; I pointed out to the Council that such meeting cost about £300, and that I had always been ready to call the Council together if any section of the Council had asked me to do so, but as they had not I assumed a meeting every nine months was sufficient, and met the views of the members of the Council. After a thorough debate the members of the Council passed a resolution in favour of having the meetings every six months, and my own opinion is that the interest of the Council and of the Boards in the work is growing so rapidly that meetings will have to be more frequent, and further, that six months as a very happy mean between the statutory meeting every twelve months and the suggestion for quarterly meetings.

203. (Chairman).—Has that taken effect yet?—Here the six-monthly meetings have been held yet?—No, because the resolution was only passed at the last meeting of the Second Council. The Third Council has only just been constituted; it was only four days ago that the Co. Cork nominated their members for the Council, which completed its constitution.

204. Will there be a meeting next November, say, in six months?—Yes; as at present advised I think the meetings will be held every six months from the next meeting, which is on the 15th of May.

205. (Mr. M'Nichol).—This question rests absolutely with the Department?—Yes, but the Department will naturally convene the meetings of the Council according to the requirements of the work.

206. (Chairman).—What is the section about the meetings?—Section 11.

207. Yes, I see, meetings once a year. At these meetings they meet for the purpose of discussing matters of public interest?—Yes; I am coming to that matter now. It is in the discretion of the Department to submit to the Council such questions of Departmental policy as in its opinion ought to be discussed by the Council. Section 11 defines the purpose of the Council of Agriculture as that of "discussing matters of public interest in connection with any of the purposes of this Act," which, it is hardly necessary to say, is a very wide reference, but the procedure which seems to have met with the approval of the Council so far has been this: The proceedings are opened with an address from the Vice-President, giving an account of the Department's work, and its general ideas as to the future development, and explaining also matters which the Department proposes to submit to the Council. Then the first things that are discussed are matters submitted by the Department because they are matters urgently affecting the working of the Department. After that are taken any motions that may have been sent in by members, which are generally arranged more or less in order of their public interest and importance. We always try to induce the members of the Council to deal, as far as possible, with general as distinct from local matters at the Council meetings, and to have the local matters dealt with by the local authority, and so brought before the Department or submitted, as the local authority may desire, to the particular Board concerned. Then the last function of the Vice-President, who discharges the responsibility of the Department, is to preside over the meetings and exercise the duties of chairman in such a manner as will tend to make the deliberations of the Council useful to the public; but as to how that function has been

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discharged, I, of course, can express no opinion. I hope that in judging of the utility of the institution and of its working during the six years, the Committee will study carefully the proceedings of the eight meetings, and I think they will find that the interest of the Council in the work of the Department has become increasingly helpful as their experience has grown.

208. (Mr. Micks).—Are the minutes of the proceedings circulated to members of the Council and the two Boards?—Yes.

209. Are the members of the Board furnished with the minutes?—Yes, they are furnished with the minutes, but I am coming now to the procedure of the Board.

210. Do you think there would be any objection to furnish us with a copy of the minutes from the start?—That I will discuss with the Committee presently.

211. (Chairman).—Before you leave the Council of Agriculture, the statutory purpose of the meetings is the discussion of matters of public interest, do these discussions produce any practical effect, and if so in what way; what sort of questions have been discussed, and what practical results have followed?—Perhaps I might give some examples. I have not the report of the last meeting with me, but I have one of the last meeting but one, held on the 9th of February, of last year.

If you would give one or two illustrations it would I think be useful.

212. (Mr. Micks).—Is this a Council meeting or a Board meeting?—A Council meeting. At this meeting there was a prolonged debate upon the importation of Canadian sheep stock that occupied a great deal of space.

213. (Chairman).—A very good illustration?—And finally the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That this Council most strongly urge the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland to take every measure in their power to prevent any alteration in the existing law regarding the importation of live cattle into the United Kingdom."

214. That is a resolution that the Department of Agriculture should take certain steps?—Yes; of course they could take no action, this being a matter of legislation, except to represent the views of the Council and its own views to the Government of the day.

215. That is a case in which the Council of Agriculture acted as a mouthpiece of the people of Ireland?—Yes, and I don't suppose it would be possible to consider a body better fitted to discuss that particular matter. The next matter discussed was the question of having a Herd Book for Irish Shorthorn Dairy Cattle. That was an immensely important question, affecting one great branch of Irish industry, and it is a matter, of course, that I shall not be expected to discuss in detail now, but no doubt you will hear something about the whole policy of the Department towards the Irish dairy industry. Then the next question was a resolution dealing with the recent partial failure of the potato crop, and the steps which the Department ought to take in order to prevent the recurrence of such a calamity.

216. What resolution was passed there?—A certain resolution was introduced, and after a good deal of discussion and a great deal of difference of opinion, the mover of the resolution adopted an amended resolution, which was as follows: "In view of the almost total failure of the potato crop in the West of Ireland last season and the consequent existing distress impending in famine in many instances, we recommend the Department to provide out of the Reserve Fund at its disposal a sufficient supply of sound seed to be distributed during the ensuing season. . . . The Department should bear part of the cost and also supervise the distribution and see that the seed is of good quality." These are matters of large policy with which Mr. Micks is familiar, and it did not finally pass in that form; there was a prolonged debate upon it, and it would take me some time to refresh my memory, but it gives an indication of the kind of questions discussed.

217. (Mr. Micks).—What action was taken by the Department on the recommendation of the Council about the Canadian cattle?—We placed our views before the Government.

218. (Chairman).—That is all you could do in the case?—In the potato case the procedure would have to be this, the Department could have done nothing without first getting the sanction of the Agricultural Board; it would have had to provide money, and I am quite

certain they would not provide money for free distribution of seed in any large way, because it is not their function to deal with temporary distress.

219. Have there been many cases in which resolutions have been passed by the Council recommending a certain course of action to the Department which the Department for one reason or another have declined to act on?—There is no doubt about it that resolutions do sometimes get through, especially towards the close of a very long day's discussion when very few people are there, very often calling upon the Department to do things that the Department has no power to do.

220. But supposing a case where the Department had power to do it, though it differed from the Council in point of policy; would the Department, in such a case, consider the recommendation of the Council so authoritative that it would feel bound to take some step to carry it out, although it might be contrary to its own views?—All that I can say is that the matter would have to be brought before the Agricultural Board.

221. That is the first step, but the Department might decline to do that, because the Department set the Agricultural Board in motion. What I want to get at is what the relations are, in practice, between the Council of Agriculture and the Board, whether the Department do consider the resolutions passed by the Council of Agriculture morally binding upon them or still events being very authoritative, and whether they feel bound to take the next step, which is to bring the proposal before the Board?—They certainly consider any resolution of the Council as being one which they must thoroughly discuss, and if they see no strong reason against adopting the recommendation, must bring it before the proper Board, which may reject it because the Board don't know, and what the Council does not necessarily know, is the financial number of other claims upon the Department funds which have to be considered in relation to any particular matter.

222. I quite understand the Board are free altogether, but my question is directed towards the Department—how far the Department consider themselves free to act in opposition to, or at all events, not in accordance with the recommendations of the Council?—Each question clearly must be dealt with on its merits.

223. However, you will go as far as this, the Department attach very great weight to these resolutions, and carry them out unless there is some reason to the contrary. Has there been much friction between the Department and the Council?—I am not aware of any; all I know is that it is very constantly stated in the newspapers that the Council passed resolutions and that the Department treats them with contempt. I don't think you will find any evidence in support of that statement, but that is a matter you will inquire into. The next matter was the question of arterial drainage, and this subject was introduced in a statement from Mr. Stephen Brown; it also resulted in a long debate, and finally, in a unanimous adoption of Mr. Brown's resolution, which read: "The time has now come when the power of taking over the business of existing Drainage Boards and of maintaining existing drainage districts should be increased, and County Councils should be enabled to initiate schemes of drainage." In connection with this resolution I may say that here again it was a matter over which the Department has no authority, and their simple duty in the matter is to forward this resolution to the Government.

224. I think those resolutions give one an idea of how the matter works?—The next resolution was one dealing with a time limit for speeches, and the Committee may be interested to know that at a recent meeting the Council has decided that speeches introducing a motion should be limited to ten minutes, and all subsequent speeches to five minutes; sometimes I don't absolutely enforce the rule when I find the feeling of the Council is against it.

(Chairman).—Now I think we may go on to the Agricultural Board.

225. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—May I just ask upon the question of the Council? I should like to be clear as to how the business is made up. The position is that the Council is to discuss matters of public interest in connection with any of the purposes of the Act, and the bills of business are accordingly made up of questions that have been brought

under the Department's notice for this purpose by members of the Council?—Well, partly of matters which the Department submits to the Council and partly of matters of action sent by members before the prescribed date.

(Mr. Brown).—A fortnight or ten days before the meeting.

225. (Mr. O'Grady).—Then the Department naturally puts in the billet of business all notices of motion it receives, so that it is open to any member of the Council to initiate for discussion any matter that he considers of importance under any part of the Act?—Yes.

227. And therefore to the extent of treating matters that they consider urgent or necessary, the members of the Council have a full power of initiation of business?—Yes.

228. And the Council in adopting resolutions is favour of any particular policy or action or method of carrying on business already before the country, and under the Department's attention at the time, can give an effective direction to the Department?—Yes.

229. I don't mean that they can give an order but they can give effective direction to the Department's energies?—Yes, that I should say is quite so.

230. I notice that the terms of the clause are "matters of public interest in connection with any of the purposes of this Act" that includes educational purposes?—Yes.

231. Apart, therefore, from any indirect initiative that may be within the power of the Board of Technical Instruction it follows that the Council of Agriculture, which is representative of the public bodies throughout Ireland has a power of initiative even in educational matters?—That is so.

232. Has it ever exercised that power in any way?—Yes, but very rarely has what I would call the Technical Instruction side of the Department's work come before the Council, because owing to the mode of the Council's election and appointment it obviously deals either with rural than urban questions.

233. (Mr. Micks).—Cottagers' industries might be discussed?—Oh, certainly, but the great majority of the Council are more interested in questions of live stock and tillage and fishery laws and so forth, what I might call the out-of-doors part of the Department's work.

234. By initiation is merely meant suggestion, it does not mean the beginning of the work?—No.

235. (Mr. O'Grady).—But still it remains that should there be any desire in the country or in any part of the country to have some section of educational work taken up by the Department there is a constitutional means through the Department of Agriculture of putting that matter forward?—Certainly; and at the next meeting, if the business permits, I intend to initiate a discussion on behalf of the Department upon this issue "What ought the Department to do besides what it is already doing for the development of the industries of Ireland" because I think it most important that that question, which was initiated by Mr. Micks the other day in cross-examining Mr. Gerald Balcer, should, at this stage in Irish development, concentrate all the available educational and industrial thought in the country, and I am in great hopes of having a very full discussion on the subject; but it is true that so far, owing to the constitution of the Council, the great majority of questions that have been discussed have been of a non-industrial character and non-educational character, except perhaps in regard to agricultural education and itinerant instruction in agriculture. There has been a great deal of discussion, if I remember right, on domestic economy subjects.

236. I am rather anxious to be quite clear as to this point, we will come presently to the Board of Technical Instruction and their function and constitution; but upon matters in which technical instruction bears more or less directly upon the very large industry of agriculture and the correlated possibility for education for the agricultural population, with regard to all that work of the Department there is a clear and direct lead given to the Council of Agriculture to raise any question that is in their opinion pertinent?—Certainly.

237. Has any question of that sort been raised and discussed by the Department and found to be one that it was not desirable to work?—I did not know that these questions would be asked, but I can get this information for the Committee, because it is merely a matter of looking up the report of the proceedings of

the eight meetings, and I should not like to answer now.

238. We can see for ourselves?—If you put that question to the head of the Technical Instruction Branch who will be before you, he will be able to supply the information, but in this mass of multifarious detail it has escaped me for the moment.

239. I only wanted to be quite clear that although this Council is called the Council of Agriculture its functions are not necessarily restricted to the agricultural work of the Department?—Not at all. I could give you a very good illustration of the Department's views on this subject if the Committee would like. At my last address to the Council they will see that I had before the Council and hung upon the walls diagrams showing the progress of the Technical Instruction work, in the day secondary schools and the work done in training teachers in the summer course, and work done by Technical Instruction Committees other than Borough Committees, scholarships held by the Royal College of Science and Masters of detail of that kind. The Council were very much interested in the subject and I think they were impressed, as far as I could gather, by the amount of work that had been done by the Technical Instruction Branch; but technical instruction as a subject that does not lend itself to a detailed deliberation in a mass or less popular assembly, and it is quite true that, so far, that side of things has been somewhat neglected in the Council's deliberations. I am in great hopes that in future years the proper balance between the technical instruction work and the agricultural work will be maintained.

240. It is quite plain then that we have got in the Council of Agriculture a regular and constitutional means of considering the application of the educational work and of so bringing the Department face to face with representatives of the country areas at any rate on this work?—That is, I think, the most important aspect of the Council's functions as regards technical instruction, because under our organisation the relations between the County Boroughs and the Urban authorities and the Department are such that it is hardly necessary for any matters in which they are concerned to be brought before the Council at all, but it is quite different with technical instruction in counties which of course is intimately related with agricultural development.

241. My questions really arise because of the special constitution of the Board of Technical Instruction?—Yes, I quite see.

242. (Chairman).—Can you go now to the Agricultural Board?—Here again I must ask the Committee to learn from the Boards themselves the relations which exist between them and the Department; but I think it will be of interest to the Committee if I give them a sketch of the procedure at the Boards, and the means by which the Department try to carry on the work smoothly and harmoniously through this part of the representative machinery. It is obvious that the Act is so framed that unless harmony prevails between the Department and the Boards either can thwart the wishes of the other; in fact that a deadlock can be produced. Nor would it be possible to carry out literally that provision of the Act which makes every particular application of the moneys placed at the disposal of the Department, under the head of endowment, subject to the concurrence of one or other of the Boards. It is obvious that the Boards cannot meet daily, but that the administration must be daily; there must be a good deal of give and take; on the one hand the Boards must give a good deal of latitude to the administrative authority, and on the other hand the administrative authority must be absolutely frank with the Boards. Now, at the first meeting of both Boards I explained to them the situation as I saw it, and I made them substantially this proposal. I asked from them these concessions. I proposed that at each meeting the Department should furnish a rough estimate of its probable requirements until the next meeting, with such details as could be given in advance of each particular proposal for the expenditure of the endowment. Then I asked the Board to express their views upon the general policy, and then to give covering votes to each particular proposal. On behalf of the Department I gave an undertaking that at each succeeding meeting a full account should be given of the manner in which the money had been expended when the final approval of the Board would be asked for. This, I re-

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Right Hon.
Sir Horace
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C.B., &c.

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Right Hon.
Sir Henry
Peacock,
K.C.V.O.

convinced, would be a concession on their part, and I proposed to make a corresponding concession to them. I told them I realised that although the Act laid down very definitely the matters in respect of which the Department was responsible to them, and the matters in which it was either responsible to Parliament, or, perhaps, only had a very nominal responsibility to anybody, as in the case of Sea Fishery administration, they were interested in every part of the Department's work, and I said that not only should I discuss matters with them for which I wanted them to provide money, but I would bring before the Board any matters in which they were interested. Where important questions of policy arose I would ask their advice and guidance. For six years that system has prevailed. It has worked perfectly smoothly. At every meeting the Boards freely criticised the administration of the Department, if they find their criticism is effective and their wishes are given heed to then they are perfectly satisfied, and they provide all the money that the Department needs necessary for the carrying out of its work. I only give this rough sketch of the method of what I would call give and take, by which the business has been smoothly carried on, and I invite the Committee to give special attention to this part of the evidence when it comes from the Boards themselves.

242. You say there has been no friction?—There have been differences of opinion, but nothing you could call friction, and no undue delay in finding the money necessary for the immediate wants of the Department.

243. It is a very large power the Board have of vetoing the expenditure?—I think I am safe in saying that in no case has any public interest been sacrificed by the action of the Board, and I know many cases where on the ground of some public urgency the Board have allowed the Department to make an expenditure which they themselves would have liked to have dismissed a little more fully before they made up their minds.

244. How often do the Boards meet?—I should say about once every six weeks.

245. Does what you have been saying apply to both Boards?—Yes. I might say in distinguishing between the two Boards I think the Committee will find that the functions of the Board of Technical Instruction, which consists of twenty-one members, are very much less varied, and although by no means less important, they are, in a sense, less exacting. They require far less attention and study than the functions of the Agricultural Board, which are very multifarious, and in which there is so immense a variety of choice.

246. (Mr. Nichol).—Great personal interest on the part of the members? Of course, I don't mean that the members are personally interested except in the very best sense.

247. (Chairman).—I suppose you really have to get in some cases a series of acts of indemnity from the Boards?—It does happen occasionally, but I have never feared to put myself in that position.

248. It does not interfere with the carrying on with the business?—No.

249. Have you said what you have to say about these two Boards?—Yes; I think so.

250. (Mr. Nichol).—You think the Boards have exercised a good and useful influence on the Department?—Certainly.

251. Do you think the time has arrived when greater power might be put in their hands or in the hands of some representative body associated with the Department?—I would rather not go outside. Oh! associated with the Department.

252. Yes?—Do you mean—

253. I mean sharing their executive and administrative functions?—Well, personally, I hold very strongly that unpaid administrative boards are a constitutional mistake.

254. Even if they are elected?—I think that makes it rather worse.

255. Would you knock on the head all County Councils and Boards of Guardians?—No; but I am talking now not of local administration but of central administration of the functions of the central Government, and it seems to me that it is a sound principle of administration that you must always have some one person responsible. I am entirely in favour of responsibility to public opinion, but I am not a believer in having executive functions discharged—I mean daily routine work done by popularly elected bodies, because in the first place you cannot get them to meet when the requirements of the work want it.

256. Would not that all apply against the work of County Councils and Corporations?—No; I don't think it does. A Corporation, for instance, has much the same relations to the permanent staff that the House of Parliament has to the Government. What I am talking of is the actual discharge of administrative duties.

257. That is what I mean, too—not merely advising but taking decisions and giving directions, which, in conjunction with the Department, would be obeyed by the staff?—I think it is better to take a definite instance. Take the case of the appointment or dismissal of some officer. I hold very strongly that it is most inadvisable to put such work in the hands—

258. Are you talking of the local officers?—I am talking of officers attached to the Department.

259. They would be Civil servants?—They may be or not be; they may be temporary officers. As you are aware, there are a great many temporary officers which are practically permanent, but have no Civil Service tenure.

260. You would be opposed to any scheme for bringing these Boards or somebody in lieu of the Boards into close touch with the Department, and giving them purely executive power?—I should want to know what the executive power was.

261. Well, say as fully as you like, the full working of the Department?—I don't believe in divided authority. I think as a principle of administration it is far better to have one man responsible at the head of any administrative work in a department of central Government.

262. That would of course approve any possible suggestion in the form of representative responsible administration? Of central functions.

263. Of the Departmental functions which are exercised locally all over Ireland?—I am all in favour of making the chief executive officer as responsible as possible to popularly represented public opinion; but I don't believe in divided control in actual administration as a general principle of central Government.

264. You don't believe in a Board; you believe in individual management?—Yes; I think so.

265. Therefore, you would disapprove of any suggestion towards giving local bodies power to send forward representatives to share in the administration?—To share in the routine administration, yes.

266. (Chairman).—Every-day things would have to be done?—Yes; I don't think it is practical.

267. (Mr. O'Donnell).—At the same time you quite believe that the function that has in practice devolved on the Boards is a very useful and valuable function?—Very.

268. And you attach importance to the fact that you put before these Boards not merely matters of expenditure that you are bound to put before them, but questions of general policy and questions of administration that may affect the Parliamentary expenditure and other things?—Certainly.

269. So that really all general principles of administration are at the present moment submitted to these Boards? Not all questions, but any question in which I think they would be interested. If every question of administration in the Department was brought before the Boards they really would have to sit nearly every day.

270. I mean general questions?—On questions of general policy which affect matters over which they have control, I always make a point of consulting them, that is, if I have any reason to believe that I might otherwise be taking a course of which they would disapprove. I know that the proper discharge of my official functions does not call upon me to do so, but I am only telling the Committee how I do my best to make every branch of the Department subserve the interests for which it was created.

271. It would appear to be your wisest course in the discharge of your duty to consult them then on such questions of general policy; for I can conceive nothing upon which if you had knowingly taken a policy that would not have found the concurrence of the Boards had the matter been before them, they would not very easily have an opportunity of handing you up by stopping the supplies upon something cognate?—Yes; they could take such action if they thought fit.

272. My view is that as a matter of practical policy you could not very well get on if you had not brought before them anything in which you had a doubt as to their concurrence?—That seems to me common-sense.

274. It comes to this that in your ordinary administrative work you have every reason to believe that the methods of policy you are going upon have the concurrence of the Board, and if you think there is anything of general application that has not that concurrence, you might almost say that in self-defence you would take an early opportunity of putting it before them?—Yes.

275. (Mr. Micks).—You think the Vice-President should be responsible, and it would not do to introduce a representative body to share that responsibility with you?—If you mean responsibility for administration, I think it would be an unwise step from the point of view of administrative efficiency.

276. Is the Vice-President the person responsible at present?—Yes.

277. But he is not really responsible, is he, unless he is a minister going in and out with the Government?—He can be made in a Parliamentary sense responsible through the Chief Secretary, because it is quite clear that if the Chief Secretary could not defend his action then the Government would get rid of him, and I have already explained that on the other side of the responsibility, as far as I am concerned.—

278. I see that, but I am only going into the dry theory of it. The Chief Secretary cannot be kept informed of all that takes place. He cannot be made personally responsible?—Certainly not.

279. Is he kept informed generally of what goes on?—Yes, he is not troubled with details, but when any matter which is likely to give rise to Parliamentary discussion is before the Department then the Chief Secretary is informed.

280. (Chairman).—In his capacity as President?—Yes, and still more in his capacity as Parliamentary representative of the Department. Of course, if the Vice-President were in Parliament, as he was for the first three or four months of the Department's existence, then the Vice-President answered his own questions, and would have defended his own estimates if they had been brought up. As a matter of fact, the estimates of the Department have only been brought up once since the Department started.

281. (Mr. Micks).—Were they discussed or not reached?—I suppose they were not reached, but if the Irish members had wished they could have put them in the forefront of the matters to be discussed on the Irish days.

282. (Chairman).—As things are now the Chief Secretary is really responsible to Parliament for the action of the Vice-President, which he has no power of controlling.

(Mr. Micks).—And he does not know what is being done except in such matters as are put before him?—Well, of course, unless he is there himself he cannot.

283. Is he furnished with a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the Board?—No.

284. (Chairman).—There is no practice in your office, as there is in the great offices here, the Home Office, with which I am most familiar, of submitting the most important cases, after the Vice-President or the Permanent Under-Secretary, as he would be in the Home Office, has put his own recommendation on the paper, submitting it to the Chief Secretary for his sanction?—No.

285. The minutes do not go forward to the Chief Secretary?—No.

286. (Mr. Micks).—Has there been any controversy between the Chief Secretary and the Department on that subject?—Yes, from time to time there has in this way. In fact, I may say that each new Chief Secretary has found as part of the machinery of Irish Government—that is, the last three Chief Secretaries—a new institution, which was unlike any other institution, and of course he wanted to know exactly what the position of this institution was, and very often there have been a good deal of discussions between the Department and the Chief Secretary as to what exactly the relations between the Chief Secretary and the Vice-President ought to be. After a certain amount of discussion what has generally happened has been this—that while theoretically and constitutionally it might be hard to defend the arrangement that each Chief Secretary found in operation it was shown that these arrangements were based upon practical experience, and were those which were found to be in the best interest of the public service, that is, that they were conceived with the idea of getting work done as efficiently as possible. The result has been that an understanding has been generally arrived at.

287. (Chairman).—Well, I suppose these are the elements of friction there. As to the Chief Secretary, I really do not know enough about the constitution of the Irish Office and the Chief Secretary's office; is there an independent staff; would the questions that come from the Agricultural Department to the Chief Secretary be committed upon by a separate staff belonging to the Chief Secretary's office?—All that was decided in the first year of the Department. I think I have said enough of the origin of the Department to show that that was not the idea.

288. (Mr. Micks).—Would not that make the matter clear. Was there a distinction drawn in practice between the Minister as Chief Secretary and as President of the Department; do you communicate with him as President or as Chief Secretary?—As Chief Secretary; of course the relations have never been so defined, but it is as Chief Secretary, as the Parliamentary representative of the Department, that I have communicated with him.

289. Is not that as President?—That may be so in dealing with matters of Departmental interest and concerns, but any matter which affects the Irish Government generally then, as a matter of course, we refer it to the Chief Secretary as virtual head of the Irish Government. As I said just now, if we were going to do anything that was likely to give rise to discussion in Parliament, then we should refer to the Chief Secretary.

290. (Chairman).—That would be rather one office referring to another; you don't refer to him as President but as Chief Secretary to the Irish Government, representing what is generally called "the Castle"?—Yes.

291. Therefore you have one department referring to another, just as we constantly find in our own departments questions arising which affect the Home Office and Foreign Office; but one department has no authority over the other as being branches of the same Government?—I think, if I might read a passage in the speech that Mr. Gerald Balfour delivered shortly after the Act was passed, it would make the matter a little clearer.

292. (Mr. Micks).—Where was it made?—In Belfast on the 10th of January, 1900. He said "The nominal head of the Department is to be the Chief Secretary, but the real working head of the Department is to be the Vice-President of the Department, and the Act is so framed, the machinery of the Act is so contrived, that as a matter of fact it would be impossible for anyone but the Vice-President of the Department to be its working head. It will be the duty of the Vice-President to answer questions in Parliament on behalf of the Department when he is present in the House of Commons. It will be his duty of course to answer for his own estimates; above all it will be his duty, in conjunction with the Agricultural Department to which I shall refer in a moment, to carry out the administration of the Department in this country, so that the total result of this will be that although the Vice-President of the Department will be a minister he will have to spend, as far as I am able to judge, a good deal more of his time in Ireland than it would be possible for the Chief Secretary to do. If any of my friends are apprehensive that the Chief Secretary is likely to exert more power than it would be wise for him to possess this fact will, I think, prove it would be impossible for him to do so."

293. That seems to imply that the Chief Secretary has power to take into his hands the administration of the Department, but it is not likely that he will do so?—Exactly.

294. (Chairman).—I think we might go on now to the statutory committees created by Section 14?—I mentioned at the earlier stage that the Department always regarded itself as a step in devolution. It has been our policy throughout to decentralise our work as rapidly as we could. We were very anxious to do as much of the local work through the local committees as we could. There was a provision of the Act, Section 16 (5), which practically directed that the Department should demand a contribution from the rates; it did not say so in so many words, but that is the obvious meaning of the Act. A power to raise rates was given in Section 18 (1). The policy of the Department may, I think, be fairly described as an attempt to combine the utmost amount of democratic control which is consistent with administrative efficiency—the central body providing nearly always the greater part of the fund for any local expenditure, of course had to maintain its authority.

April 30, 1906.
Night Room,
St. James's
Park, W.
S.W. 1.

April 26, 1906.

Right Hon.
Sir James
Frost, K.C.V.O.

city and supervision, moreover, the central body being necessarily equipped with experts in every branch, it retained to itself the right to approve of the qualifications of persons appointed to carry out the joint schemes by the local authority. Such difficulties as have arisen with local authorities in the past have been due to several causes, but especially to the newness of the work; it was new to the central authority in a great many instances as well as to the local authority, and a great many of the local authorities had not been very long constituted, and were only just getting into the ordinary work of Local Government, when all these new functions were thrown upon them. Then it was only natural that the antipathies as to what the Department might do to develop the agriculture and industries of the country should fall very short of realization. And broadly too, I think, it may be said that the most popular parts of the Department's work are probably in the opinion of the Department often the least sound; that is to say, new schemes of practical instruction, to which we attach paramount importance, are often not nearly so popular with the local authority as more direct aids to agriculture and industry. Of course the relations between these bodies will be fully inquired into by the Committee. Speaking on behalf of the Department, I can say with confidence, that the relations which were very difficult in the first year in some parts of the country have become far more satisfactory, indeed they are constantly improving, and I think now the cases in which there is any serious disagreement between the central and the local authority are really hardly worth considering compared with the number of cases in which the relations are perfectly satisfactory, but, as I say, all that is a matter of verification after the taking of evidence in Ireland.

295. Then may we go on to the fourth head—the organisation of the Department?—A good deal about the internal organisation has already been said. I think the Committee has now very clearly in their minds of what the Department consists; how it was built up by the consolidation into it of a large number of separate functions of Government which were scattered throughout a number of departments, how whole departments and parts of departments were taken over, how the Science and Art grants were transferred to the Department from South Kensington, and at the same time, that was a year after the Department was started, how five institutions were handed over to the administration of the new authority, that is the Royal College of Science, the National Museum, the Metropolitan School of Art, the National Library, and the Botanic Gardens. Now as regards this process of consolidation, the internal organisation of the several staffs, old and new, in the office had to be carefully considered, and the adjustment of the internal and external staffs had also to be effected. Then again working relations had to be established between the Department and various local authorities throughout the country. The history of this work will be given to the Committee by the different officers concerned in it, and they will be able to judge for themselves of the manner in which it has been carried out in the time. But I would ask the Committee to remember this, that while it might have been easier, and in some ways have produced better results if the central administration had initiated all the schemes which the Committee will find in operation throughout the country, and if we had exercised a rigid control over local administration we might, perhaps, have in some ways been more advanced in our work than we are. We did not do so, because it was our policy to develop local initiative and local administration as rapidly as we possibly could. I believe that this policy, even if it has not produced the best results now, will greatly accelerate the rate of our progress in the near future. But already as the result of this policy the work is growing in the country far more quickly than the most sanguine of us anticipated at the beginning, and it has entailed a very severe strain on the staffs of our branches, which, I think, the Committee will find, in some cases, are rather seriously undermanned.

296. Would this be a convenient time to examine the staffs and salaries?—
(Mr. Micks).—There is a Parliamentary return of that.

Witness.—Yes; I can hand it in.

297. (Chairman).—Very well, we will have it in that form. When I say that some of the branches are undermanned I speak with some feeling, because we have suffered terribly of late by important officers

being laid up from overwork. But coming to the actual work and organization of the Department:—

298. May we take the Parliamentary return of 1904, as accurately representing the present state of things?—
—Oh, yes; there are some changes of course; we can write it up to date for the Committee.

299. (Mr. Micks).—Are there any new officials?—
The Geological Survey has been taken over; that is the only change. Coming to the actual work of the Department it will be convenient to take it as it comes under the branches—the Agricultural Branch, the Technical Instruction Branch, the Statistic and Intelligence Branch, the Transit and Veterinary Branch, and the Fishery Branch, and in ascertaining the work of the branches in this way, of course the Committee will bear in mind that we regard all the branches as an organic whole, and the chief officers of the Department keep constantly in view the essential unity of the entire scheme of work, and the necessity of maintaining mutually helpful relations between the different branches. We have frequent conferences of branches whenever matters of policy arise.

300. (Chairman).—Are all these branches under the one roof, in the one central office?—Yes; not all under the one roof, but close together.

301. (Mr. Micks).—Four houses adjacent?—Yes; except the Fisheries Branch. Taking first the work of the Agricultural Branch, the Committee will not expect me to go into details, because they will examine Professor Campbell and members of his staff, and read the official documents, and besides, personally inspect the typical examples of the work. In ascertaining the results of six years' work some ideas of the conditions existing at the commencement of the Department, and of the difficulties incidental to the introduction of new methods, in what is in every country the most conservative of industries, should of course be taken into account. All this will be brought up in evidence, but there is just one important condition that I should like to say something about in advance. I suppose this Committee will agree that of all the methods of improving agricultural conditions that none is comparable in its permanent effects and utility with a sound system of agricultural education. The obvious difficulty of establishing such a system in a country where the general education of the country is in the condition it is in Ireland will be apparent to the Committee. It is a matter of common knowledge that there is no system of higher education which produces any large effect upon the life of the majority of the people, and the secondary and primary systems are universally acknowledged not to be in an altogether satisfactory condition, although they are undoubtedly improving. But there was one particular difficulty which confronted us of which I am sure the Committee will bear a great deal in the course of their inquiry. It will hardly be believed that at the commencement of the Department, in a country dependent almost entirely upon agriculture for its prosperity, there were no facilities for higher agricultural education at all. Professor Carroll, who was nearing the time of his compulsory retirement from official work, had for many years been manfully struggling with the impossible task of superintending all the agricultural education which was provided by the Government. With this one exception there were no Irishmen who had received a training necessary to qualify them for organising agricultural education under the Department. We were only able to discover two Irishmen who had graduated at centres of agricultural education elsewhere, both of whom were brought back to Ireland, and have rendered excellent service to the Department ever since.

302. (Mr. Micks).—They are in the Department now?—Yes, Mr. Gordon and Mr. Houston; for the rest the higher technical posts of this important work had to be filled by non-Irish agriculturalists; it was inevitable that great dissatisfaction should be caused by this.

303. Qualification in Cirencester and places like that?—I would not like to differentiate; we had to see our judgment.

304. It would be important to know what qualification you think is necessary?—Yes; that will be brought out; it is a very important detail which can be brought out in evidence; I don't carry in my mind what the qualifications were, and what particular diplomas were recognised, but it is by no means only a question of papers and diplomas.

305. I thought that was the defect in Ireland!—There are two questions—the personal qualification for doing work in Ireland and the scientific qualifications; I cannot say offhand what the minimum scientific qualification was, but at any rate it was not discoverable in Ireland. The only two men we could get for high expert posts in agriculture were men who had got high scientific education elsewhere, and were doing work in similar posts abroad, and were glad to come back and work in Ireland. I mention these matters because unquestionably the necessity of going outside the country to get men for these higher technical posts had a great deal to do with the difficulties of the Department and the actual hostility that it aroused in its early years. But this it is right to say, that the question was discussed on many occasions by the Board and by the Council of Agriculture, and never has the suggestion been seriously made that this salutary practice of getting the best men for the work should be departed from. Since our educational staff has been at work they have trained a large number of young Irishmen and women who are now employed on schemes of agriculture and technical instruction throughout the country. These facts, however, have not served to mitigate the criticism of the "anti-Irish" Department, or to allay what is known in Ireland as the "alien grievance" and it is a curious thing that the fact that most of these aliens are appointed by local representative bodies, the Department merely passing on their qualifications, does not seem to lessen the shade of the central body for their importation. I am particularly anxious that this whole question should be thoroughly sifted by the Committee. The case that we submit for the Department, and which its chief officers will be prepared to prove is briefly this: that in the appointments of these officers, who had to discharge the most important functions in the fulfilment of the main purpose for which the Department is created, we had to choose between men who knew Ireland and did not know their job and men who knew their job and did not know Ireland, and we came to the conclusion that we might teach men their Ireland but we could not teach them their job, and so we had to get in aliens to start with. In the near future I think our difficulties will be of a wholly different nature, because I foresee the time when the difficulty will be not to find Irishmen qualified to do the technical work in Ireland, but to find posts in Ireland for Irishmen where the aliens have trained. The Committee will, of course, have every opportunity of examining into our method of training Irishmen for expert work in Ireland.

306. (Mr. O'Brien).—You will be presently throwing out the aliens, as the Japanese have done. Like throwing out a sucked lemon!—We don't mean to do that, because I think that whatever may be said by some of our critics the Irish people will not let these aliens go; but otherwise our policy has been very much that of the Japanese in recent years. I don't think it is necessary for me to go into details of the Board's work, because it would be impossible to make a useful selection now, and I don't think it would help the Committee at all. If I were to do so fully it would take me a couple of days.

307. (Mr. Michel).—We will have you later on, at the close of the evidence!—I may say with regard to any evidence I may give now I am sure there are many matters of policy and principle on which the Committee may wish to hear from me after they have examined the work.

308. (Chairman).—Then you do not propose to say anything specific about those other branches mentioned, here?—Yes, on each of those there are just a few points. Next in importance, I think, comes the Technical Instruction Branch. It is of lesser importance only in respect of the well-known predominance of agriculture in our national economy, but it is of equal importance as viewed in relation to the undoubted truth that continued reliance on a single industry would be fatal to our national prosperity. The educational situation six years ago was extremely un-

favourable to the reforms which have since been carried out within the sphere of the Department's operations. The Board of Intermediate Education had, it is true, a syllabus in Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Botany, Drawing, and Domestic Economy, but not more than half-a-dozen secondary schools were provided with any laboratories. Science and Art grants administered from South Kensington in accordance with its annual Directory were positively available, but owing to the unavailability of the regulations to the conditions of Irish education the amount earned was insignificant. It may be said that outside Belfast, Dublin, and Cork there was hardly any teaching of practical science or technology in Ireland, and, what was worse, the primary and secondary education did not provide what has always been considered the necessary foundation of the work of technical education.

309. (Mr. Michel).—Would the teaching in Galway be altogether confined to students of the Queen's College?—I am aware that they had technical classes at Galway; it was one of the few places in which they had some technical training. I think Father Lally had some technical instruction classes, but it was on a very modest scale. It has been considerably increased since. The Department's endowment was not, by the definition of technical instruction in the Act, available for instruction given in elementary schools, but was available for suitable subjects in secondary schools. The Department, as the Committee knows, had a sum of £25,000 a year for the purpose of technical instruction, and it was also handed over the administration of the Science and Art grant. The policy we adopted was to proceed vigorously with the introduction of practical science, drawing, and manual instruction wherever possible into secondary schools, not only on general educational grounds, but also as a necessary preliminary to the system of technical instruction which was to be introduced. Coming to the work done in the last five years, I may say we did not take over the Science and Art work until the 1st of April, 1901. The Department's programme has become practically universal in Irish secondary schools, nearly all of which are now provided with laboratories for teaching it. I think we have 255 of these laboratories.

310. (Chairman).—Are those rural and urban schools?—Yes. Part of the credit for this result must be given to the Intermediate Board, who allowed the Department's programme in these subjects to replace their own syllabus, and accepted the Department's inspection and examination for the payment of its grants. The provision of these necessary auxiliaries for practical education was aided by the local committee, upon the suggestion of the Department, out of the funds placed at their disposal by the Department.

311. What is the Intermediate Education Board?—It is the Secondary Education Board of Ireland. Consistently with this important development of the sphere of secondary education, the Department set itself to organise a system of technical instruction in close accord with what is considered to be the industrial needs of the country. I need not describe how this was done, because, of course, it was a very elaborate process; but I would ask the Committee to go carefully into the facts as to the provision that was made for the training of existing teachers to enable them to teach practically what they had before taught theoretically, as to the way in which the standard of qualification for teachers was raised gradually in proportion as they were afforded facilities for qualifying themselves, and as to the manner in which local authorities generally have responded to the Department's efforts to take early advantage of the new system. I hope the Committee will take steps to inform themselves from typical school authorities about the relations between the central authority and the numerous institutions which have been necessarily somewhat haphazardly driven to enable them to conform with the new regulations of the Department. I think that is all I need say about the work of technical instruction proper, as I shall return to the industrial side later on.

The Committee adjourned.

April 23, 1906.
—
Right Hon.
Sir Herbert
Plunkett,
B.C.S.

THIRD PUBLIC SITTING.—TUESDAY, MAY 1st, 1906.

At the Irish Office, Westminster, London.

Present:—

Sir KENNETH E. DIGBY, K.C., M.C. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. FRANCIS G. O'NEIL.

Mr. WILLIAM L. MICKS.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.R., Secretary.

Sir HORACE PROBERT, further examined.

May 1, 1906.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Probert,
K.C.V.O.

312. (Chairman).—When we left off yesterday I think you had finished what you had to say with regard to the Technical Instruction Branch?—Yes, that is so.

313. (Mr. Mick).—Would this be the best time for us to go into the question raised by Mr. Gerald Balfour, under this heading of Technical Instruction?—Do you mean the question of rural and urban industries?—No; I was suggesting a heading of the Department's policy as to industries under which it would come; I thought it sufficiently important to put it under a heading by itself.

(Mr. Mick).—Oh, yes.

(Mr. Brown).—It is No. 7.

(Witness).—It will all come under that.

314. (Mr. Mick).—I have something to ask you about technical instruction, pure and simple. Mr. Balfour explained on Friday that a phrase in the 20th section of the Act of 1889 in the 3rd sub-section of the section "It shall not be lawful to give instruction in elementary schools, or teaching the practice of any trade or industry or employment" was taken from the English Act; is that right?—I believe so.

315. Has the English Act been changed since then?—I don't think the law has been changed, but my impression is that the interpretation of it is a little altered.

316. I was only aware of this matter since Mr. Balfour was here or I would have raised the question then, but I have learned that the English law has been changed. Were you aware that the English law used to prohibit the teaching of the practice of any trade or industry or employment, and those provisions were put into the Irish Act of 1889?—Do you mean that the law has been changed since the Act of 1889 was passed?

317. Quite so, by statute. Were you aware that it had been changed in England?—I knew that the practice had not been changed. I have not heard exactly what was done, but I don't recollect at the moment the exact change that was made in the Act.

318. You have not had that before you yet?—All I can say is that I have not had it very clearly in my mind.

319. Are you aware that the restriction which still exists in Ireland about teaching the practice of any trade or industry has been abolished in England?—I don't think that in practice that has been abolished; the information that I have on the subject rather goes to show that that restriction was originally put in at the instance of the Trades Unions.

320. In the English Act?—Yes, who were afraid that the rules governing apprenticeship might be invaded; in other words that accuracy for apprenticeship might be waived in the case of young men who had attended a technical school; I think that was the general idea.

321. Are you aware now that in England instruction in manipulation is now permissible, and in London, under the Acts of 1902 and 1903, the Act of 1903 as regards England and the Act of 1903 as regards London?—For my own part I am quite unable to differentiate between manipulation and instruction in the use of tools which we are allowed to teach.

322. Is it not a fact that now they have teaching schools throughout all England which are practically factories with the most modern machinery, where pupils are instructed in the use of machinery and the processes of trade?—Yes, and we have them to some extent in Ireland as well.

323. Where?—In Belfast and in Kinn-street.

324. I mean real factories with full machinery?—Oh, no; they are not called factories; they are called training schools or something of that sort; they are called technical institutions.

325. Have you fully going modern machinery in any of these institutions?—In the Royal College of Science in Dublin we have a modern engineering section.

326. That is where the theory is taught?—And the practice too.

327. Have you looms working there?—No.

328. Have you engines working there?—Yes.

329. Are there looms and engines?—I think the best course for the Committee will probably be to go and see the actual plant; I should not like to make an inventory of the equipment from memory.

330. They could not be described, could they, as factories?—Certainly not.

331. Nor anything on a scale that would have the appearance of practical instruction in a trade?—I should say the teaching of applied science, with the kind of machinery and tools that we have in the College of Science, and that they have in Kinn-street, Dublin, and that the Technical Instruction Committee are working in Belfast, was practical instruction preparatory to trade.

332. Who are the pupils at the College of Science; what kind of pupils have you there; are they of the working class?—The majority are not.

333. In Kinn-street; what kind are they?—They are of the working class—chiefly artisans.

334. Are they people who are being taught factory operations with a view of becoming factory hands themselves?—They are people who are being trained for practically every industry that is existing in Dublin. I ought to tell the Committee that it is very difficult to produce a full and accurate description of this nature, which is necessarily intensely detailed. I could get, by telegraph, for the Committee, if they wished to have it to-day, a complete inventory of the equipment of every institution that we have got, and I don't like to describe these things from memory, when they can be described accurately from documents, and are to be seen.

335. The point here, Sir Horace, is the question whether the prohibition or restriction that was in the Act of 1889 for Ireland did then exist in England as far as you are aware of?—I take it from you.

336. (Chairman).—They are substantially the same words in the Act of 1889 and the English Act?—Precisely so; Mr. Gerald Balfour told me that his Act was drawn on the English Acts.

337. (Mr. Mick).—That restriction was swept away by subsequent Acts in England, but the restriction remains still in Ireland.

(Chairman).—I beg your pardon; would you mind giving me the reference to the Act which swept it away?

Witness.—I should like to see the wording of the Act too.

(Mr. O'Neil).—The Education Act, 1902, section 2, sub-section 1.

(Chairman).—The wording is "The Local Education authority shall consider the educational needs of their area and take such steps as seem to them desirable after consultation with the Board of Education to supply, or aid to supply, education other than elementary, and to promote the general re-education of all forms of education, and for that purpose shall apply all or so much as shall be deemed necessary, &c."

Witness.—Is that what you are examining me upon?

(Chairman).—There is no reference there to the provisions of the earlier Act and it confines it to education.

338. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The provision laid down here is that the local education authority is now at liberty to expend money—the residue under Section 1 of the Local Taxation, Customs and Excise Act, and certain other funds—in supplying, or aiding in supplying, education other than elementary, that is, after consultation with the Board of Education.

(Chairman).—There is nothing about aiding industries.

339. (Mr. Michel).—I was coming to that; are you aware that the English local authorities in some instances have obtained advice on that which is to the effect that under the word "education," that is the teaching of anything useful to anybody they may practically have a free hand, and that under the new Act a number of these teaching institutions are in existence?—I take it from you; I would not commit myself to the definite assertion that the English local authorities have the right to interpret "education" as meaning practically the teaching of any trade, the carrying on of any manufacture, even on a commercial scale.

340. I don't say commercial. It is not commercial certainly, but it is a place where they teach the young people so that they can pass on to actual employment.

(Mr. Brown).—Without apprenticeship?

(Mr. Michel).—Without apprenticeship. If that be the law in England do you think it would be highly desirable to extend it to Ireland?—Generally speaking I can see no reason why the same powers should not be given to our Department that are given to departments in England. There can be no reason as far as I am aware.

341. Would it be most useful that such powers should exist in Ireland. If you will just bear in mind some of the existing efforts for starting industries in Ireland. Would it be of great use to you to have that English power in Ireland?—I am not aware.

342. Have you some newly started industries in Ireland?—Yes.

343. What are they?—We have a few small industries so far; for instance, we have a hat-making industry in Wexford. Are you referring to industries that have been started in connection with the Department or industries that have been started by private enterprise?

344. Industries that have started in any place with the assistance of the Department since the Act passed?—I think I can give a list of a very large number of lace and crochet-making industries in different parts of the country.

345. I am speaking of places where plant and expensive machinery is required?—Would you include the fruit drying and preserving and cider-making industries that have been started at Drogheda, Freetown, and Waterford.

346. I believe they have an expensive plant?—Yes.

347. These are agricultural industries?—We give them very fine assistance on the ground that we treat them as agricultural.

348. (Chairman).—You have a freer hand as regards agriculture than other industries?—Oh, yes; they are mostly small industries.

349. (Mr. Michel).—Well, the hat-making at Wexford, what about it?—The only assistance that we gave there was by paying instructors.

350. How many hands are employed there?—It is impossible to carry these details; may I ask the Committee whether it would not be wiser to defer these questions?—I don't like to give inaccurate information; a man cannot carry in his head details of this kind.

351. What I meant was, was it a very small concern or a middle-sized one?—It is starting in a small way, but we hope it will grow.

352. It is getting no help except the training of instructors?—Not the training of instructors, but paying instructors to teach the workers.

353. Is there any other factory or mill that has been started?

354. (Mr. Brown).—You mentioned the carpet?—Exactly; there is the Nane carpet industry. The factory industries we have helped are mostly textile. The most important perhaps is the Killybegs Woollen Mill, which was opened by the Chief Secretary on Easter Monday last. These local capital is to the extent of from £15,000 to £17,000 was subscribed, and the Department's action in the matter was

confined in the first instance to giving technical advice upon the whole question of the feasibility of reviving the woollen industry in Killybegs with the existing facilities.

355. (Chairman).—May I ask you this—I am not familiar with these matters—were these industries that you are now speaking of started primarily for commercial purposes or for the purpose of instructing workers?—Purely for commercial purposes.

356. Then the Department comes in and aids in the instruction, providing instruction for those who were to carry on these industries?—The programme is generally something like this—private enterprise is prepared to start an industry or perhaps to revive a defunct industry, and the promoters come to the Department, and ask what assistance can be given. The Department's assistance is generally limited to two main things—one is giving technical advice, that is, getting the best technical experts we can to advise generally upon the scheme; and the second is to give technical instruction that will overcome the initial difficulty of starting an industry where the labour supply has not been practically trained. In the case of the Killybegs industry we gave what may be called Industrial Scholarships to a number of workers to enable them to go and learn their industry under the trained instructors working in existing mills at Kilmacshamus and Galway.

357. (Mr. Michel).—That was before the woollen factory opened?—Yes; and we are also continuing the training of those hands after it opened.

358. At their own mill or elsewhere?—Elsewhere.

359. Why should it be elsewhere—in there any reason in principle?—I am not quite certain up to what point it was given elsewhere; I fancy that the reason was that the processes were more complete in other mills.

360. That the mill at home was not finished, in fact completed?—Yes.

361. Now it has been opened by Mr. Byrne on Easter Monday, could these learners, or would-be learners, be taught in their own mill now by means of industrial scholarships, such as you refer to?—Yes, certainly; some of them probably not; but it is a question of the amount which could be given. I see myself no reason in principle why some expert in the mill should not give technical training to learners, but I am very doubtful whether under our powers these scholarships, as we call them, could be confined to the actual workers in the mill. I may mention a request has come from the mill that we are discussing now for the Department to pay the following expenses of the mill. Here is a list that has been sent in. We are asked to pay the expenses of the manager, £320 initial salary.

362. Are these as technical teachers?—Yes; on the general ground that you are yielding to me now that it is legitimate for the Department, by way of technical instruction, to pay the working staff; to treat the working staff of the factory as teachers, and to pay their salaries, on the ground that they are doing educational work.

363. As technical instructors?—As technical instructors.

364. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The factory being one which is conducted for commercial purposes, for profit?—The factory being one which is conducted for commercial purposes and for private profit. What I am going to point out is the obvious limitations that would have to be imposed upon that kind of housing of industry, because it is really nothing else.

365. (Mr. Michel).—Do you think it is anything less than housing?—No, but obviously it might become so.

366. Would it not simply be training people who are not fit for the work of the mill now? To train them for that work, and, as soon as they are trained, the assistance would drop, of course?—Assuming you could make it cease at the proper time.

367. How could it go any farther if you taught the people—that would be an end of it.

(Mr. Brown).—There would always be new people coming in.

(Mr. Michel).—Then they would be taught in the ordinary manner. How many looms have they got there—supposing it is fifty, as soon as you had the fifty looms started and manned, or rather manned, the instruction would then be complete?

368. (Mr. Brown).—Perhaps it would be wiser if we knew what the expenses were that were asked for?—This will very well illustrate to the Committee the

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difficulty which we are now discussing. I need not say that as far as the Department is concerned it is most desirous to do everything in its power to foster the promoting of these enterprises. That is a general proposition on which all Irishmen are agreed; but now we come into close contact with the problem, and I want to show some of the difficulties which the Department meets at the very threshold of these operations. Here is a request that has come in to the Department to make the following payments under the head of Technical Instruction in the Kilkenny Woolen Mills:—The manager £380, the wool-serfer £117, these are initial salaries; designer £130, scribbling over-looker—

359. (Mr. Micks).—Is there anything to lead you to believe that they are not the final salaries?—That is the expression here. I make no point on that. It is a letter from Canon Doyle.

370. (Chairman).—Is this his whole salary as manager you are paying for him, not only as a teacher, but as head of the commercial side also?

371. (Mr. Micks).—There is no commercial side in this building at present. It is merely running machinery without any workpeople?—Oh, no, that is not quite so.

372. Are you quite sure of that?—Oh, quite.

373. How many trained workers are there in that mill?—If I had been given notice I could have told you. It is perfectly true that I have here in a particular file all the particulars, but if the Committee like to give me time to get at the exact facts I am quite ready to do it.

374. The question that I have asked you is not one that I think requires going into files. Do you know, as a matter of fact, if you don't, there is nothing except to say so. Do you know whether there is a staff of workpeople ready to work the machinery that is in that mill?—All I know is that the mills have been opened, and I believe them to be in actual operation.

375. I think you will find that to be incorrect—that there is not a single loom running?—About that I may be misinformed. If that is so, then that answers your other question as to why the workers have been trained elsewhere. For some little time past they have been sent to other places, and arrangements are being made to send more, and you may be quite correct in that.

376. That the machinery is not going owing to want of hands to work the machinery?—That may be so.

377. (Mr. O'Grady).—May we have the rest of the list?—Scribbling over-looker, £117; spinner, £66; tower, £117; miler and scower, £91; dyer, £117; finisher, £91; and warehouseman £65—in all £1,301, and we are asked—I think I better read the letter—

“In order to enable the company to begin trading on terms of equality with long-established mills, it is suggested that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction should provide the salaries of the following officials.” (Then follows the list.)—All these officials during the initial stage are really technical instructors, at least until the profit-sharing period is reached. It is further suggested that the Department should pay six shillings per week to every boy and girl trained in the mill during their period of training.”

378. (Chairman).—Do you take this as a typical instance—have you a great many applications of this kind?—We have several applications to proceed on these lines, but there are peculiar features about this particular industry, and I may say that the Department regard this enterprise as one of the most encouraging that has been launched in Ireland since the Department started, and mainly for this reason the local capital was subscribed.

379. How much?—About £15,000, but I am not quite certain. I believe that since that figure was given to me some more money was subscribed. I am inclined to think it is now £27,000. I think a similar request was made at an earlier stage in the negotiations with the Department, but the other hopeful feature about it was that after long preliminary negotiations between the Department and the local promoters it was agreed that the Department should limit its assistance to giving technical advice generally upon the scheme, and to training a certain number of workers by means of these scholarships.

380. In that way, I suppose, you endeavour to distinguish between the technical instruction, which you consider to be the proper sphere of the Department, and the matters of commercial enterprise?—Certainly. The difficulty that confronts the Department is mainly

this—If we were to do, for instance, what is asked in this letter the funds of the Department would be swept away—all the accumulated funds would immediately be swept away by claims which could not be refused if these were granted. I don't want to say a word against the promoters of the Kilkenny industry, because I think they have shown the very best possible spirit of enterprise, and have shown to us entirely sound views, in my opinion, as to what the proper relations between the Department and themselves were, and I think that this revision to the kind of request that was made at an early date was made under the influence of some nervous apprehension as to the outcome of the industry which I hope is not justified. I am reading from a letter that was not addressed to me personally, but to the Chief Secretary; but I think I am breaching no confidence. It is not a letter that is marked “private.” I think it really is an official letter, and with the permission of the Chief Secretary I shall be very glad to put it in, but I think I ought to get his permission. What happened was this—Canon Doyle came up to the Department, and discussed the whole matter with me about a fortnight ago. He placed the same request before me, and I was unable to meet it, and I think I persuaded him that it was impossible for the Department to meet it with the existing powers and funds. Then he repeated the request officially to the Chief Secretary, who has interested himself in it.

381. What is the date of the letter?—26th of April.

(Chairman).—We have got this as an instance illustrating a very difficult question of what is the proper distinction to be drawn between assistance to technical instruction and assistance to a commercial enterprise. I think we have the facts sufficiently.

382. (Mr. Micks).—You considered that you had power to pay these industrial scholarships for instruction in Galway and Kilmacshane?—Yes.

383. Why would you not have power to pay it to some way at home for this instruction?—I don't say that you would not have power to do it, but I understood you to make the point just now that while in England they had unlimited powers—

384. I won't say unlimited, but very much larger powers than we have in Ireland?

(Chairman).—I am not prepared to take that view at present—the old Act seems to me to stand.

(Witness).—I take it from Mr. Micks that he has been altered.

(Chairman).—I am not convinced that he has been altered at all.

385. (Mr. Micks).—At all events we have not the same advantages, whatever they may be called, as were given in England in 1869 and 1902, that is clear?—All I can deal with is the actual power with the Department possesses at present under the statute, and I presume it is on these powers that you are examining me.

(Mr. Micks).—Yes, but also mentioning other powers, and asking whether you as head of the Department don't think it desirable that such powers should extend to Ireland?

386. (Mr. O'Grady).—Before Sir Horace answers that question perhaps he will allow me to ask him a few questions?

(Chairman).—It seems to me that Sir Horace has already answered that question, because he has said that he should be in favour of extending to Ireland powers that existed in England. It would be a distinct grievance if we had not the same powers as in England.

387. (Mr. O'Grady).—Before we get any criticism regarding the power in England we must ask some one who has been working in connection with it. At the same time I would ask you from your experience of the working of a Department similar to that in England whether there are not some very effective limitations to the powers of local authorities in England. In the first place the local authorities are not to apply for the purpose of education other than elementary certain funds. It is quite obvious that the cost of assistance they give to any particular school of education will depend upon two things—first, the amount of money at their disposal, and, second, the relative importance attached to the kind of the locality to the different sections of education?—That is true.

388. There is a further thing that this application of funds is to be after consultation with the Board of Education, so that there are certain defined limits.

As a matter of fact it is pretty well known that many of the English local authorities complain that they are unable to meet the demands of secondary schools and the training of teachers apart from anything else with the funds at their disposal. You may have heard that I—I have heard it.

389. At the same time we have in England a number of cases where there is very effective work being done in the matter of giving technical training directly applicable to trades and industries. I should like to ask you one or two questions to see how far the sort of education we know finds a parallel in Ireland. For instance, I think Mr. Micks, from his reference to spinning and weaving workshops of a large character, had in his mind probably something like the spinning and weaving instruction given in the Manchester Technical Schools. Have you seen the Manchester Municipal Technical School?—No; I have not.

390. Well, will you take it from me that it is a very large institution, which has a great number of shops and a great variety of spinning machinery, and in, as a matter of fact, capable of turning out a large variety of textile goods. Now that machinery, as a matter of fact, is used for the instruction of young men, who are of two classes, the larger part those who have spent their time up to, say, to 18 or 19 years of age in actual workshops, who have shown ability in the workshops in working, spinning, or weaving machinery, and who come to the institution to obtain higher instruction, wider instruction, instruction in departments other than those which have been their ordinary work in the mills that they have had an opportunity of working in, to widen their experience as distinct from making these workmen in the first instance; that is, the school has to give them instruction in the principles of the manufacture rather than to make them sufficiently expert in manipulation to earn their living as manipulators. Is there anything in Ireland corresponding to instruction of that kind?—Certainly we have not in the textile industries anything that can be at all compared with the Manchester school that you have just referred to. At one time the Corporation of Belfast did consider the application of some portion of the funds that they have got under their Act to a school of the kind, a mono-technic institution, I think you call it, but it was decided to deal with Technical Instruction in a more general way, and they are building a large technical institute which, with equipment, will cost about £150,000; but they have decided not to specialise with the funds in a single institute of that kind, and I don't think we have in Ireland many institutions of a mono-technic type that I know of.

391. The idea in England is that institutions of this type should be comparatively few, and a very small number indeed should afford those great facilities in any special branch. For instance, it is quite unlikely that any other institution would be developed in England to the same extent in regard to cotton manufacture; Belfast is the only Irish town that might be considered likely to develop a similar institution of that type, and I rather think that they had contemplated at Belfast having a certain amount of machinery for the illustration of textile industries, and in order to afford full facilities for the supply of instruction in the principles underlying the industry—I believe they do.

392. That illustrates the distinction between your teaching on a large scale the practice of an industry for commercial purposes and your providing instruction in the principles of science and art applicable to industry, and in the application of special branches of science and art to specific industries and employments. Any practice in England which would go no further than that is obviously quite within the powers of the Irish Department?—Yes.

393. You are not in a position to say whether there are any particular applications of public funds in England to the actual training of workers to the execution of apprenticeships?—You would know a great deal more about that than I would.

394. It is not, at any rate, a matter of so common an occurrence as to have come under your notice?—No.

395. The actual training of apprentices, such as is proposed in this Kilkenny mill, in an institution considered for private profit entirely at the public cost, is not within your knowledge a matter of practice in England, even under the authority of the 1902 Act?—No; I am not aware of any cases.

396. If they had been numerous I presume it would have been brought under your notice?—I am sure it would.

397. Let us take a very special case—Take a town which depends mainly for its welfare upon a single industry like boot and shoe making. In that town the subject that would be of greatest advantage to the artisan population would be the treatment of leather, the manufacture of boots, questions of fitting, the normal anatomy of the foot, average proportions, and so on—these are all questions which are capable of treatment if you had such a town. You could treat that under your present Act, I suppose?—Certainly, in every case where in conjunction with the local committee we organise and set to work a scheme of technical instruction the very first question we go into is the industrial needs and possibilities of the particular locality, and we try as far as possible in the way that you indicate to make our instruction in what we call the underlying principles of the particular industry subserve the purposes of that industry.

398. Let us take that one, which is a fairly good one, for this purpose. Suppose it were found that the great majority of the workers in that industry were concerned, say in boot-making and other operations which are essentially of a manipulative character, obviously their instruction as principles would have to depend upon the manipulative processes, and if you were advised that it was impracticable to give them the instruction in principle necessary, unless that instruction was given alongside a certain amount of instruction in manipulation of a trade kind, I suppose you would be prepared to give grants?—Yes.

399. And you would regard any provision for instruction in boot-making, for instance, as a proper expenditure of money from the Department's endowment?—Yes; I and we have classes in practical plumbing, for instance, which, I suppose, would be analogous.

400. The point being that you cannot teach the essential points in the principles of plumbing that the average apprentice plumber requires unless you have facilities in a school for showing him how a joint should be wiped, how lead ought to be set up and economically used, and how it ought to be heated up, all these operations he must carry out in a school if the teacher is to teach him the principles properly?—That is quite our understanding of technical instruction within our powers.

401. Where you would draw the line would be if someone said—"I am going to make a lot of good plumbers in this town. I propose to keep them working all day at plumbing work. I am going to run a business as a plumber, and take what profit I can out of it; but instead of employing people who have learned the business somewhere else I am going to take the raw material provided in the town, and educate them, make them plumbers. I will get the best appliances, and perhaps the youths I employ will not require so much education in the processes as is required in the adjoining town for people who start the other way." You would object to paying the salary of his foreman under the name of an instructor, where the class was restricted to pupils who were the actual employees of a commercial firm?—Certainly; I don't think that we should make technical instruction profitable to a man engaged in a competing industry. It would obviously be an injustice to the other plumbers in the particular locality who were unable to compete with the harnessed plumber because he could do the work more cheaply on account of the assistance that he got out of public money.

402. (Chairman).—Your primary object is to train a class of plumbers, not to assist any particular plumber?—Certainly. It does often happen that the instruction can be given more practically and more cheaply to the Department by giving it more or less in connection with work that is actually going on, and then there is a public advantage without any unfair action towards private enterprise.

403. (Mr. O'Brien).—Quite so; but you would be surprised to learn that any public local authority in England had devoted its funds in such a way?—I don't know of a case.

404. Neither do I, and I should be very much surprised, but I don't think it is possible under the existing conditions of local management. Just one point more—take another case, which happens to be a real one. In England the regulations under the Act are similar for rural and urban areas; there is no distinction between the possibilities and powers of the local authority in urban areas and rural; therefore, the case I am going to put is equally ap-

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pliable whether it is urban or rural. I want to ask whether you consider that under the existing powers of the Act you can do this, which seems to be the maximum limit of the English powers. The local authority think that it is desirable to give special encouragement to the training of men for a particular business—say, farriery, practical attention to the hoofs of horses, including horse-shoeing. They regard it as in their power to give a bursary to a boy under such conditions as this—"You are to work as an apprentice with a farrier or blacksmith in town or country, of whose we approve. He is to give you practical instruction, with which he will instil into you the principles underlying that particular business. We are to give you a bursary, so much a year while you are engaged in that way, and we are to give him so much a year in consideration of the instruction that he gives you, if we find that satisfactory." Is that that is a dropping of funds to a strengthening of the apprenticeship system. Do you consider you have power to do that?—Certainly; in that particular case no question would arise, because we consider farriery a rural industry under our definition.

405. Supposing it was an urban industry could you?—I would like to take a definite case of an urban industry, and then consider it in connection with the definition.

406. May I put it in this case we have been considering—this Killybegs Woollen Mill—could you say—"Well, we are quite prepared, if you constitute yourselves a school of instruction in woollen manufacture, we are quite prepared to give bursaries to young people, who are to learn the principles underlying that practice and the application of the same to that particular branch of industry, we are prepared to give a certain number of those who appear to us likely to benefit by the instruction, we are prepared to give them £5 a year towards their maintenance while they are learning, and if your arrangements for giving them instruction—you are going to instruct fifty children—if your arrangements for giving them instruction are satisfactory to us, we will give you in respect of each pupil so instructed a sum of so much, satisfying us that you are not, for any other than legitimate reasons, excluding anybody from the possibility of this instruction." You might, in short, give a scholarship of £5 to each pupil, and you might give in respect of the instruction giving it a couple of pounds to the institution giving it, so long as that instruction were such as you could approve—is that within your powers?—I am very doubtful whether we could give a bursary in that form to local persons working in a local industry of the kind you mention. When we sent the Killybegs workers to learn their business at other mills we did give them a subsistence allowance to enable them to travel and live away from home.

We considered that was legitimate, and as they were not going to take permanent employment in those particular mills, I think we could fairly say that they were really learning the principles underlying the industry in order that they might be more or less trained hands for employment afterwards in the home manufactory. I think that our powers would allow us to give something to experts working in the mills to teach the raw hands wholly new processes. I doubt very much whether we should be justified in making it a condition that these hands should continue working in that particular mill.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—No; certainly not.

407. (Chairman).—But if as a matter of fact they were working in the mill—would the mere fact that you are indirectly assisting the commercial side of the enterprise by providing that mill with good pupils and good workers, and pay something for their teaching, would that fact alone take it out of the powers given you by the Act in regard to an urban industry. There must be cases very near the line?—Of course there are, and it is extremely difficult to say exactly what our powers are, and where the line must be drawn.

408. Between teaching the pupil and subsidizing the industry?—Yes; we try to go as far as we can towards helping private enterprise to develop the resources of the country without on the other hand discouraging private enterprise that is prepared to come into the country and stand on its own legs. The chief danger that we have to fear is giving a kind of assistance to private enterprises that will prevent other private enterprises, and perhaps a more desirable kind of private enterprise, coming into the country to develop our resources, because you cannot get men of great organising capacity, men of wide experience

and of commercial ability, to come into the country, and start industries alongside of other industries that get assistance out of public funds. That is the other side of the question that we always have to bear in mind.

409. (Mr. Brown).—They never have come—men of that class hardly ever have come to Ireland to start industries, even in the past, when there was no opposition of this kind to fear?—No; what we want to do is to make the conditions favourable to industry, so that we shall get outside capital sometimes, but what is still more important, that we shall get captains of industry to come in to develop Irish resources, and employ and train Irish labour.

410. (Mr. Micks).—Do not Mr. Ogilvie's questions and remarks refer to England, where industries are going concerns and successful concerns?—I think you better ask Mr. Ogilvie that.

(Mr. Micks).—We all know they do, of course.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—Excuse me; my remarks were questions to Mr. Horace Plunkett, asking him whether he had or had not, or believed he had or had not under his existing Act power to do certain things which were quoted as being done in England.

(Mr. Micks).—It appears that only higher instruction was provided in England, higher instruction distinct from making them workers in the initial method; that that is the English method.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—No, but that is the character of the instruction given by the institutions quoted in the North of England as large spinning mills, the point is that they were not conducted on trade methods or for trade purposes, and that they were not for the instruction of pupils in the preliminary methods of manual instruction.

411. (Mr. Micks).—That is it exactly; but in Ireland, except in a very few places, such as Belfast, and one or two other places, is it not a fact that we have hardly any industries at all of a factory nature? If your point is that we are under a great disadvantage in Ireland in promoting industries, in that we have not got what is the best substitute of all for a technical school, a lot of existing industries, then I am absolutely in agreement with you.

412. Therefore, we cannot, except in Belfast and a couple of other places, give the higher instruction which is given in England?—That is so.

413. And the higher instruction is the kind of instruction they need in England—the kind of instruction we need in Ireland in the lower instruction?—Yes.

414. England wants the higher instruction, and we want the lower. Is there any reason why we should be pushed to the higher instruction, which we cannot take?—There is no reason that we should not be given every facility for training the lower grades of artisans, if I may so put it; but I am not prepared to admit that the method that you suggest for training them might not do more harm to the promotion of industry than it would do good. I feel myself that we shall have to think out a compromise between the present system and the wider powers that no doubt are favoured by a very large body of popular opinion in Ireland. I am sure that the question has not been thought out, that we are very largely thinking in the air, because at present we are dealing with possibilities, and not with actual facts. Already the Department has had, as you will see when you proceed further with the inquiry, a great deal of experience, which has greatly modified the views previously entertained by many of its officers as to what is possible in Ireland, and what is economically sound, and what is likely to develop the resources of the country, and I don't want hastily to give an opinion on one of the most difficult matters that you could bring before the Department at this stage of the inquiry, when none of the facts are before the Committee. If the Committee are going very deeply into this subject, as I hope they will, they may do an immense amount of good; they may get together a body of evidence that will be invaluable to the Department, and invaluable to the country; but it is not wise, I submit, at this stage to press any witness before these facts are before the Committee to make any declaration of general policy and of general principles.

415. It is not of general policy in the future, but of practice in the past I am speaking of?—I am quite ready to answer that.

416. There is only one other small question—pupils were mentioned and tradesmen. Those are industries that I was not referring to?—I understand that.

417. I quite admit all that was said about plumbers as perfectly correct—I understood you to be referring to new industries, and especially the woollen industry.

418. (Mr. O'Leary).—There is need for higher work in some cases in Ireland, say agriculture, as well as in some cases in England. I suppose you find in Ireland a necessity for a technical instruction of all grades?—Certainly.

419. (Chairman).—Can we not go on to the Transit and Veterinary Branch?—I don't wish to go into details.

420. I think it would be enough at this stage of the case if you gave it quite generally. We shall ask you to come back if we want more information which we cannot get from other witnesses in the Department?—Broadly speaking, the functions of this branch are to administer the Diseases of Animals Act, sec. 2 (1), a, b, d.

421. Diseases of Animals Act, 1899 and 1906?—Also there are some other minor Acts that are administered in this branch for instance, the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act.

422. The Acts mentioned in the 2nd section of the Act of 1899?—The only point I wish to mention about the administration of the Diseases of Animals Act, which of course is of immense importance to a country situated as Ireland is. I think it has a rather important constitutional bearing in connection with the subject we were discussing yesterday. It is one of those cases where very prompt action has to be taken, and where, in my opinion, the single responsibility is very important. We do an immense amount of work through the local authorities, and I think I may say that on the whole the co-operation between the local authorities and the Central Department is altogether satisfactory. Every now and then difficult matters arise, such as the appearance of a new disease, when the central authority is put in a very difficult position, owing to the fact that as a matter of policy it is inadvisable to pay the full value of animals which have to be slaughtered in the public interest, because you would not get the assistance of the community in suppressing dangerous diseases if you did so. Two or three years ago a new disease, epizootic lymphangitis, broke out in Ireland, and was probably introduced from South Africa in connection with army horses, and a good many animals had to be slaughtered. Some rather oppressive restrictions had to be placed upon the movements of horses in certain districts, and of course it caused a great deal of friction at the time. However, I don't think it has seriously disturbed the relations between the central and the local bodies. We had another case the other day, which gave us a great deal of trouble. A County Council having to appoint a veterinary officer appointed a lady, and this was a new experience, as it was a case for which there seemed to be no precedent at all. It involved us in a good deal of difficulty, and the matter is not finally settled yet. The lady in question had not the full diploma, but she was unquestionably competent to discharge the duties. She would have had the diploma only the Veterinary College would not allow her to sit for examination on the ground of her sex. The Committee will see what controversy might arise out of the settlement of a question of this kind. However, generally speaking, all this part of the Department's work, which of course must be examined in Ireland, works smoothly enough, and I think it has gained greatly of late, owing to the fact that since the Department was started the officers discharging these various duties have been associated with other branches of the Department who were concerned for other work, and for whose work they were themselves concerned. The consolidation into one Department of the different functions now discharged by this particular branch has, I have no doubt, been of assistance in the general development of agriculture.

423. How is it worked—are there local inspectors?—There has to be an immense staff of inspectors. First of all, the general work of the local authorities has to be more or less supervised, and kept in touch with the work of the Central Department.

424. How you a certain number of peripatetic inspectors?—A large staff of them, and then we have a large staff of portal inspectors for watching animals going in and out of the country.

425. I suppose that is a very expensive branch?—Yes.

426. (Mr. Brown).—Each local authority has its own inspectors?—All this machinery will be detailed when

you come to it. Associated with this veterinary work is the work in connection with transit and markets. The veterinary inspectors, who have to attend to the transit of animals, don't regard it alone in the veterinary but also in the economic way, and give a great deal of help in dealing with railways in such matters as the transit of perishable produce.

427. (Chairman).—That is under the broad powers you have as regards agriculture?—Yes; we have special inspectors called Transit Inspectors, who deal not only with the transit of live stock, but the transit of produce as well.

428. Are there any County Council Inspectors of this class?—The County Councils don't deal with transit, but only with the administration of the veterinary laws in their own area.

429. Those are all officers of the Central Department?—Yes; those that I am speaking of now. In the definition of the "purposes of agriculture and other rural industries" occur the words: "the aiding or facilitating of the carriage and the distribution of produce." It is natural that this should have given rise to expectations as to what the Department would be able to do towards cheapening the transit of produce far beyond anything it was possible to realise. On one occasion, at a meeting of the Council of Agriculture some years ago, when the Department had a much larger accumulation for work of this kind than it has now, we tried to ascertain whether we could make arrangements with some railway company to carry certain produce over its line at a reduced rate with the special intention of developing a certain industry, which was alleged to be handicapped by the high freights. The Department was quite ready at that time, and it was known they were, if anyone came to them and said—"I would start such and such an industry, but I am too much handicapped by the freights," to go to the railway company, and ask them to reduce the freights in this particular district on the articles concerned in the manufacture, and to give the railway the difference between their ordinary freights and the reduced freights, in the expectation that the increase of the traffic later on would enable the railway company to reduce the freights to its own advantage. Nothing came of the proposal. I merely mention it to show the Department was willing to do its utmost to put these powers into effect.

430. (Mr. O'Leary).—What was the reason that nothing came of it?—Because no one applied.

431. The railway companies were prepared to do it?—They would have been very glad, I believe, but we never came to the railway companies, because no one took up the Department's offer.

432. (Chairman).—You say you do a good deal of business under this head of Transit and Veterinary?—Yes; the details will be given to you. We watch all goods in transit, and whenever a complaint comes to us of goods being delayed, or rates being excessive, we try, by negotiations with the railway company, to get the transit improved or the rates reduced.

433. You have got no powers, have you?—Under Section 17 (1) the Department has powers for appearing as complainant on behalf of any persons aggrieved in reference to any matter, and so on.

434. Have you exercised that power?—Yes, on one occasion; we appeared on behalf of a great many private persons, and also local authorities, to resist a proposal of the Great Southern and Western Railway to increase its freights very materially over its entire system upon certain goods very important to the agricultural community, and after the hearing of the case we succeeded in getting the Commissioners to rule that no sufficient ground existed for the projected increase. We have not had to appear since then. We have had about 120 complaints so far respecting alleged excessive charges, want of through rates, and other matters; those have all been inquired into, and the results of those cases were all published in our annual reports. I may say that in the great majority of cases we find that the railway companies have not exceeded their powers, in fact I may say they hardly ever exceed their powers, but in some cases we have persuaded them that the exercise of their powers seems to press unduly hard on the persons complaining, and they have made concessions.

435. This section really enables you to act as if you yourselves were the aggrieved persons?—Essentially. The idea of the sections, I take it is that an aggrieved person often cannot afford to fight with a powerful corporation, and the Department can.

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436. There is no power analogous to that in England—I think not.

437. (Mr. Brown).—Having regard to the almost universal complaints in Ireland that railway rates are too high, and that they prevent the development of agricultural industries and all industries, would you think it advisable that the Department should be given some further powers, not merely to see that railway companies did not exceed their authorized rates, but to endeavour to bring pressure to bear on them to reduce their rates generally?—It seems to me that that is a large question of general policy; it is a question rather for Parliament than the Department. I could hardly speak in my capacity as Vice-President of the Department, but only in my capacity as a private citizen; I would say this much, that if any such powers were given I think the Department would be the proper body to exercise them, but it seems to me such a very large matter of policy is involved in putting forward restrictions on railway rates that I don't like to give an opinion.

438. You do not hold the view that the lowering of their rates to a certain point would tend to increase the revenue of the company?—I think so, myself, but it is only my private opinion, and I know men, who have studied the matter more deeply than I have, and have more access to the facts, who take the contrary view. I have never had time to go into it thoroughly myself, and the Committee are aware of the extremely difficult question it is. There is no doubt about it that there are some local conditions that make it extremely hard for some of the railways to carry produce at a low rate.

439. (Chairman).—It is a very wide power that you have got already?—The power that we have, unless we, out of our enthusiasm, give a rebate upon freights is only to save the aggrieved persons the cost of litigation. We do more good by negotiation.

440. (Mr. Brown).—The only guarantee on which you could practically appear for them is a case in which the railway company was exceeding their powers, or exceeding their authorized rates; you have no power to bring before the railway company the mere question of the rates being too high?—If it was alleged that the rate was too high I think we certainly have power.

441. (Mr. Mickel).—Even when it is not a new rate?—I think in the case of new rates we should certainly have a power.

442. Would you have it for an old-established rate?—An old-established rate would nearly always be within the legal powers of the railway to charge.

443. (Chairman).—I see here in the Appendix to the Report for 1904-05, amongst other things, this complaint, "That the rate 35s. per ton for the conveyance of woolen goods from Exford to London was excessive." And again that the rates for the conveyance of ice by passenger train to various dairies throughout the country were excessive.

(Mr. Brown).—Those were complaints received by the Department; what power would the Department have?

(Chairman).—In the next column the action of the Department is described—"After correspondence the company intimated that a reduced rate of 82s. per ton from Exford to London . . . had been arranged." In the ice case complaints were asked to furnish the Department with particulars as to the location of the dairies, &c.; the information was not supplied.

(Mr. Brown).—The Department do, as a matter of fact, negotiate with the railway companies when complaints are made of excessive charges. Excessive charges may mean either of two things, one that they are in excess of the authorized rates, and another that they bear unduly on the consignee or consignee, as the case may be, in the one case they have the power of appearing before the Railway and Canal Commissioners; in the other case all they can do is to make representations.

444. (Chairman).—But still whatever powers there are under the general Act, which applies to England as well as Ireland, whatever powers there are for proceeding against a railway before the Railway and Canal Commissioners those powers can be exercised by the Department on behalf of any person who complains?—There are other matters than rates which are of importance to the public which do come within the jurisdiction of the Commissioners. For instance, there is undue preference, facilities for moving, forwarding and delivery of traffic, a very important matter in the case of dairy produce, obligations arising under special Acts, conveyance of traffic at through rates, publication of rates, terminal charges, legality of charges, increased rates, agreements be-

tween railway companies and canal companies, and so forth.

445. (Mr. Brown).—The object of my question was to know whether in the course of his experience Sir Horace Plunkett had come to a conclusion whether there were additional powers which might with advantage be conferred upon the Department. At a later stage I would like to go a little more into details as to what, if any, powers—

(Chairman).—I think that is a matter that should be very carefully considered, and put before the Committee at a later stage.

446. (Mr. Mickel).—Have the Boards or Council considered the question of the purchase of Irish railways?—The Council has. I think I have a resolution on the subject. I need hardly say that that is a matter in which the Department has no—

447. No policy?—I don't say that—no concern.

448. (Chairman).—It is more a question of State policy?—I think we have had a resolution in favour of State purchase before the Council, and I think it has been passed and handed on to the Government, but of course it is not one that concerns our administration.

449. (Mr. Mickel).—Except getting possibly cheaper rates?—I mean to say we have no authority in the matter.

450. (Chairman).—It would not be a question of the amendment of this Act; it hardly comes within our competence. Now let us go on to the Fisheries?—The work of the Fisheries branch consists of the administration of the Fishery laws, the development of sea fisheries, for which a sum of £10,500 a year is definitely allocated under section 25 (14), and of inland fisheries, which is one of the "purposes of agriculture and other rural industries" defined in section 51, the money in this latter case being derived from part of the Department endowment fund, which is distributed by the Agricultural Board. The expenditure upon sea fisheries has been mainly in the direction of protection, marine work, and scientific work, because for the portions of the coast that private enterprise had neglected to develop the only resource lay almost entirely in the sphere of the Congested Districts Board's administration. On the other hand, in the case of Inland Fisheries the branch has broken a good deal of new ground. No Government money had previously been spent in developing this national asset. We have united Boards of Conservators in the protection of rivers in their districts, and utilized the branch's engineering staff in providing means for the free passage of fish up and down rivers. On our initiative, and mainly with funds under our control, we have striven to repair past neglect by the establishment of hatcheries, which are amongst the largest in Europe.

451. As a matter of curiosity, are you satisfied with the results of your hatcheries?—It is a little early to say, but I hope that the Committee will have before them the Department's Scientific Adviser as well as the administrative officers. I myself think that the research work that is going on, although it does not interest the public so much, will be found by the Committee important, and we shall offer him in evidence.

452. (Mr. Mickel).—You are keeping step with other countries on that matter?—I think we are.

453. You are considering the operations in other countries, and utilizing their results?—Certainly; and if you can spend a day with our Scientific Adviser I think you will find it very interesting.

454. (Chairman).—You say that the greater part of the sea fisheries are under the Congested Districts Board?—I suppose that is along the west and north-west coast of Ireland?—Yes. For instance, there is very little to speak of the Arklow fisheries; they are as silent as the Scotchman. I think. But, as Mr. Mickel knows, when the Congested Districts Board commenced its operations there were great stretches of the west coast where, partly owing to the lack of railway facilities and partly to the terrible natural conditions that had to be dealt with, and the lack of training and the lack of capital, and the general low economic standing of the people—

455. (Mr. Mickel).—And want of markets?—Very little had been done. The Congested Districts Board did some splendid work there that they really left very little to be done. In fact, in a great deal of the Congested Districts Board's area the time has come when the State can retire and leave things to private enterprise.

456. (Chairman).—In the Congested Districts Board's area you do not interfere?—Yes, we do, in the administration of the Fishery laws. As we are the

Fishery Authority for the whole of Ireland we of course have to infer to some extent.

457. (Mr. Micks).—The development is left with the Board, and the administration of the law with the Department I—Yes.

458. (Chairman).—You carry on prosecutions and that sort of thing.

(Mr. Micks).—Mr. Green will explain all that.

(Witness).—He will explain that. There is a good deal of co-ordination between the work of the two Departments. It probably will be under the one authority as a later stage.

459. (Chairman).—Now let us go on to your Statistics and Intelligence Branch I.—The Act provided for the collection of certain statistics by the Department; under section 2 (c) of the Act the powers of the Registrar-General for Ireland, and of the Irish Land Commission with reference to the collection and publication of statistics relating to agriculture, and returns of average prices of agricultural produce, came over to the Department, and also the Betting and Railway and the Migratory Labour statistics. The Treasury allowed us to construct a Branch of Statistics and Intelligence, as it is called, and to commit to it these transferred functions, the general function of collecting information, making inquiries subservient to the work of the Department, all Press editing, and the issuing and distributing of the publications of the Department, such as the Journal, returns, bulletins, &c. I believe foreign Departments of Agriculture apply as one test of the progress of their work the demand for this class of literature by the public in general, and it is growing very rapidly in our case, so I hope the test is a valid one. The work of the branch has developed considerably since the beginning of the Department, but still there is much room for useful extension. I might mention that this branch has been peculiarly unfortunate in certain circumstances. The first recipient of the post—one of the most brilliant Irishmen of his day, the late Dr. Coyne, fell ill at an early stage in his work, and died in the beginning of 1904, and we had then a year's interregnum in filling the post. Another Irishman, who was a very distinguished man, was appointed to the post, but a family affliction prevented his taking up the duties, and finally the present occupant was appointed, and he had not been very long at work when he was struck down with typhoid, so that this branch had a good deal of difficulty to contend with.

460. It is a large branch, I see I.—It is a large branch, and immensely important from the point of view of those who regard the growth of economic thought in the country as one of the main factors in the development of the country's resources.

461. I suppose the results of the work of the branch appear in the appendix to the report I.—Yes. What the branch tries to do, and I think is doing successfully, is to keep in touch with the work of all the other branches, and to assist whenever called upon with information. I may mention that the branch is constantly resorted to by statesmen wishing to make speeches upon Ireland, and who wish to get the latest data upon Irish economic progress.

462. Is this the branch to which any County Council or local authority wanting information on a subject would apply I.—They would apply to the Department, and the Department would apply to the Intelligence Branch.

463. Are they in communication at all with foreign countries I.—Yes, constantly in communication with foreign Departments, and I may say with foreign Governments. Of course there is an interchange of publications with all cognate departments, and we are constantly resorted to. We have most useful relations with the Department of Agriculture at Washington, and I am very glad of the opportunity to express to the Committee the deep debt that we owe to Mr. Secretary Wilson and his staff in Washington for always furnishing us with any information we require. They have even assisted us in procuring in America certain experts for tobacco-growing operations in Ireland. This comes in connection with the relations with other similar Departments elsewhere, which are carried on largely through our Statistics and Intelligence Branch. I think we sometimes are able to give them some useful information, and we certainly get a great deal from them.

464. You attach great importance to this branch I—

I think it is vital to the success of the Department, because never does a question come up involving any economic principle that we don't go to that branch for the views of the statisticians, who have to be a man trained in economics and capable of giving as ready assistance from the masses of information that he has access to.

465. Now shall we go on to your fifth head—relations with other Departments. As we get on we find, I think, that we have incidentally touched on a good many of these questions before I—I have put this down as a head of evidence, because I saw that it was in the reference to the Committee. The Committee will understand that I speak with a certain amount of reserve upon the relations with other Departments, because things I said might possibly appear to be a reflection upon the work of other Departments, which is the last thing I should think of.

466. It seems to me rather a question which is better treated in detail than as a question of principle, because we may possibly in the course of our inquiry come across particular cases of relationship between this Department and others, which may be important, unless you have anything very much to say about it I—I think if I briefly mention the Departments of Government with which we have relations it might be useful. Firstly, there is the National Education Board. The Committee are aware that we cannot touch any National Schools, but in connection with the training of teachers we have some working relations, and also in certain cases of county scholarships, but this is all very detailed work, and I think it probably would be better to leave it over until you go to Dublin. Of course, with the Intermediate Board we have the most intimate relations, as I have already explained, in connection with Technical Instruction. We have taken over all their examination and inspection in science, drawing, and domestic economy, and we do an immense amount of work in secondary schools. I think in this connection I ought to mention that the Consultative Committee for co-ordinating educational administration, which is part of our own constitution, is used to assist in establishing relations between other educational authorities and ourselves, but here again I think before this matter is dealt with the facts should be before the Committee. With the Local Government Board we have relations generally in regard to the audit of accounts of local authorities with whom we work, and also we frequently have to consult them as to the interpretation of the law of Local Government.

467. Is there any difference in Ireland between the system of audit of County Councils and of Borough authorities. Are the auditors in the one case appointed by the Central authority, and in the other by the Boroughs themselves?

(Mr. Micks).—In Ireland the audit is a State audit all through.

(Witness).—The Department with which we have the most intimate relations perhaps is the Congested Districts Board in the West of Ireland, and there the relations are very complicated and require a large number of conferences and constant consultation between the staffs of the two Departments.

468. (Chairman).—Where you are really operating in the same area I—Yes; generally speaking, the Congested Districts Board has handed over that portion of its work that is entirely analogous to the work the Department is doing in adjoining districts. Every year the co-ordination of the work between these two authorities is improving. Full details will, of course, be given upon this work. I think it may have been a great assistance that I happened to belong to both bodies, and when these matters between the two came up I have naturally been able, more or less, to get the view of the other body before whichever body I was addressing.

469. It is obvious that some close connection was intended between them, because there is statutory provision that the Vice-President should be ex-officio a member of the Congested Districts Board I—Yes; I was a member before.

470. (Mr. Micks).—The House Committee was in favour of the absorption of the Congested Districts Board's functions by the Department I—I would call it consolidation.

471. Bringing the work and income of the Congested Districts Board to the Department and abolishing the

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Board altogether and putting the work and the funds into the Department instead?—Yes.

472. Has that been at all recommended by the Department since the Act passed?—No, I don't think it has.

473. I mean has there been any discussion on it between the Government and the Department?—The Department's view throughout has been that it ought to have nothing to do with the purchase and re-sale of estates.

474. But I mean the functions of the Congested Districts Board so far as industries and fisheries are concerned. Have you ever recommended to the Government that the Board's functions in this respect should be transferred to the Department?—No; the Department have never done so.

475. The question has been raised, has it not?—It never has been officially raised; it was discussed.

476. What was your opinion on those discussions?—My opinion is that some day, for obvious reasons, all organic functions of the kind to which you now refer ought to be under a single authority, because very absurd anomalies sometimes arise where adjoining districts are merely technically different; it is simply a question of scheduling. What made consolidation urgent in the case of agriculture was the fact that the Department and the Board work on wholly different principles. The Department delegates all its local work to the local authority, and the Congested Districts Board administers it centrally. Consequently very awkward situations arise when schemes are being discussed by county committees. Until our Act was amended by the Land Act of 1903, the Department was not able to extend its schemes to congested areas unless the Congested Districts Board provided all the funds. And the Committee can easily see the difficulties that would arise in a county committee where a scheme which was of interest to all the members was held not to be applicable to a certain district.

477. (Chairman).—We ought to get the exact amendment of the Act; I think it is embodied by Section 35 of the Land Act of 1903:—"Section 18 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, which makes provision with respect to Congested Districts Committee is hereby repealed." That enabled you to operate in the congested districts?—Yes.

478. (Mr. Mitchell).—I wanted to ask whether you personally recommended the absorption of the Board's functions by the Department or do you recommend it?—No; not at present. I consider that on general administrative grounds it is distinctly desirable that they should be under one authority, but there are large personal considerations which have to be taken into account, especially the fact that the Congested Districts Board have done splendid work in connection with fisheries, in which they take a great personal interest, and I think it would be a mistake to hamper the day, which, inevitably must come, when these things will have been developed, as much as the Board can do it, on the principle that they are now applying, and a single authority will have to do all the work.

479. Can you point out any contingency which may arise to make a union between the two bodies desirable?—Do you mean a union of all the functions?

480. So far as fisheries and industries are concerned?—I should say it was desirable any day that the members of the Congested Districts Board agreed to it, but I have such a respect for the work that the members of the Congested Districts Board have done that I would not press for the absorption of their functions as long as they liked to go on with them.

481. Subject to the statutory consent of the Congested Districts Board, you would be in favour of an amalgamation and the transfer of the work and income to the Department?—I can at least say that if they wish it I should meet them very gladly if I were concerned with the other Department.

482. Do you see any objection as regards industries in such an absorption?—No; with one exception that is obvious, that they have unrestricted powers to promote industries, both rural and urban.

483. That, of course, is what I referred to. Do you think that it would not be very unfair and prejudicial to the population of the congested districts that the Board should be absorbed by your Department until your Department gets as large power as the Board possesses?—I think that the Department should certainly have the same discretion to deal exceptionally with the exceptional conditions of certain parts of the Congested Districts area.

484. The same power as the Congested Districts Board now possesses in the congested districts?—Yes.

485. That would be a condition in your mind that the transfer ought to be made reserving the rights of the population of the congested districts?—Yes. The next department that we have relations with is the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries in England. We have, I think, one working relation and one consultative, that is, the administration of the Diseases of Animals Act brings us constantly into working relations in connection with the transit of animals between the two countries, and also the administration of the Food and Drugs Act in both countries. It often happens that the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries in England may be concerned with a prosecution which has arisen for the sale of an Irish product in England, and it is very important that both departments should be in close communication with each other on these matters. The Committee will bear a good deal probably about the steps which have been taken for the co-ordination of their work recently. The Statistics and Intelligence branch of both departments are likewise in touch with each other. Then there comes the Board of Education in England, where we have certain privileges in England under the South Kensington regulations, for which Irish students are eligible. I have a statement of the privileges from the Board of Education in England report, but I take the Committee won't wish me to read them; they are very lengthy. Of course we have relations with the Treasury, with which I am sure they are satisfied.

486. Are they satisfactory to you?—All I can say is that I am sure they are satisfactory to the Treasury, because they take good care to make them so.

487. But are they satisfactory to you?—I wouldn't like to give an unqualified answer. What I would say is that sometimes they are satisfactory, sometimes they are not—whether that is my fault or the fault of the Treasury. I don't think I need do more than mention the other departments with which we have relations.

488. I suppose some of your schemes over here is considered by the Treasury—some of your development or improvement schemes—nothing except what comes out of the vote?—No, that is true, except in one matter.

489. Your endowment fund expenditure is not revised by the Treasury?—It is not revised by the Treasury, but by the Auditor-General, who sometimes is very like the Treasury.

490. He is absolutely independent of the Treasury?—I believe he is, but in this way the Treasury have a good deal of influence over the endowment fund; the administration of the endowment fund by the Department is carried out by officers who are on the Vote, and very often it has happened that the Treasury has not allowed the staff to be made adequate for the work, with the result that we have had actually to go to the Board and ask them to allow money to be paid for temporary clerical work for reinforcing the voted money.

491. (Chairman).—You are speaking now of the Agricultural Board?—Yes.

492. (Mr. Mitchell).—That is to say the Treasury raised a question as to paying the whole of your staff expenses—official expenses?—Yes.

493. (Chairman).—Now let us go to the other departments—the Board of Works and Valuation Office?—Well, really I only mentioned them as we have relations with them, but I have nothing to say on them.

494. (Mr. Mitchell).—Nothing turns up about the Museum and Library here. Is it proposed we should hear any evidence about the National Library and Museum?—That is entirely at the Committee's discretion, at any rate in as far as these institutions are working in with the general scheme of the Department. I am sure they will.

495. Do you think it will be desirable for us to receive evidence about them?

(Mr. O'Donnell).—There are some things about the Museum that it is necessary we should hear.

(Mr. O'Donnell).—Certainly, and about the College of Science and National Library, but how far the Committee will go into such local matters as the governance of the staff?

(Mr. Mitchell).—Inadequacy of the supply of funds for the purchase of articles.

(Mr. O'Donnell).—The steps taken to connect the Museum with the country, and that sort of thing.

496. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say about

the City and Guilds of London Institute?—We have relations with them. I put it down in my price; it is not exactly a department of the Government, but we avail ourselves of their examinations and we use their certificates of qualification; I think that is the only way in which they come into relations with the Department at all.

457. (Mr. O'Connell).—In what form are the accounts of the endowment fund expenditure published?—They are published in the annual report.

458. So that between the published accounts of the annual vote, and the accounts published in your own reports annually, complete accounts are available of the expenditure?—Yes.

459. The Auditor-General audits these accounts which are published in your annual report as well as the accounts ultimately published in the Parliamentary returns?—Yes.

500. (Chairman).—Now can we go to the sixth head—The Department's General Financial Policy?—Upon that I only wish to make one general remark. Mr. Baileur has told the Committee that a sum of £250,000 was handed over to the Department at its commencement—a capital sum.

501. (Mr. Miles).—Was not that a payment on account; have you got the balance yet?—I think we have got all that is owing to us; I am sure we have got everything we are going to get.

502. Is it a curious thing that you should get a round sum when you were getting the routine of a fund?—I will ascertain for the Committee how that stands.

503. That is Section 15, Sub-Section G. There was a payment on account. All I wanted to know was whether the final payment had been made?—I can ascertain that. In the early years of the Department it was impossible to put all its miscellaneous schemes into operation—in fact a great deal of work had to be done before we started the machine going at all, and as a result a very large surplus accumulated. The Department had to adopt a financial policy, and it was, generally speaking, this, that as much as possible of the accumulated surplus should be reserved for the capital expenditure that would be required for educational institutions of various kinds, especially agricultural stations and institutes.

504. Buildings?—Yes; the building and equipment of various institutions. We were debarred by the Act from giving any of this surplus beyond the surplus of the £55,000 for the year, to the Technical Instruction side, consequently we could not build technical schools, but the country very badly needed a kind of agricultural college or institute, the exact nature of which it was impossible, in the early years, to define, because it depended on a great many things that had to be ascertained, and it had to be fitted in with the general educational systems of the country, and also with the Department's scheme of agricultural education. Another reason for postponing the building of these institutions was that if they had been built at an earlier stage they would have had to be entirely manned by non-Irish teachers. So during the first four years this surplus was rapidly accumulating, and now it is being rapidly expended. We now know pretty well what is needed in the way of such institutions, and when the Committee comes over to Ireland they will find a considerable number of them already, some of them built and equipped and starting operations, of course in a small and tentative way. I hope the Committee will become impressed with what, to me, is a very significant fact, public opinion in Ireland might have been expected to clamour pretty loudly for the expenditure of this surplus.

505. (Chairman).—What did the surplus amount to?—At one time it was close upon £400,000. But the policy of the Department was explained to the Council and both the Boards, and I think public opinion generally supported the Department in holding up this surplus until the time came for applying it to the only part of starting agricultural education—that is the building and equipping premises, acquiring land and putting suitable buildings and equipment upon them.

506. You were allowed, from the outset, to carry over any surplus from year to year, contrary to the general practice?—Yes.

507. Was that exceptional in your case?—We were not allowed to do so with any voted money, but the

endowment itself was wholly exceptional, an annual endowment not subject to Parliamentary control.

508. It is out of that that the surplus has come?—Yes; it is only out of that that the surplus accumulated.

509. (Mr. Miles).—What are your accumulated funds at present. What securities did you hold on the 31st March, 1905?—They consist of, Local Loan Stock, £250,000; Exchequer Bonds, £70,000; Guaranteed Land Stock, £68,390 4s. 9d.

510. That is a total of £388,390 accumulated surplus?—Yes.

511. (Mr. Brown).—Are these sums invested in those securities?

(Mr. Miles).—That is stock.
(Witness).—That is the face value, and in addition, we have a large number of other securities.

512. (Mr. Miles).—Those are reproductive loans that we need not go into?—When the Committee goes more particularly into the Department's finances they will find that a great deal of this money is already hypothecated.

513. How much was that amount reduced by since 31st March, 1905, you have not yet spent any of it?—Yes, we have.

514. Have you not withdrawn it from the securities and placed it on deposit, ready for spending?—That was up to the 31st of March, but since that we have spent a good deal of money.

515. Have you spent since December, 1905; you had, in December last year, practically the same amount, taking securities and money on deposit receipt added together?—I take it that the account we are dealing with here is to the 31st of March, 1905; by the 31st of December I am sure we had spent some of this money.

516. What securities did you sell?—That I could not say, off-hand.

517. I think you will find you have sold Exchequer Bonds of £70,000, and that you had £50,000 on deposit?—Where have you got those figures, I mean relating to the financial transactions since the 31st March, 1905?

518. From the Audit Department?—Well, I have not got those figures with me.

519. (Chairman).—Generally speaking, are you expending this money, which has accumulated in this way, in buildings?—Purchase of land and buildings.

520. (Mr. Miles).—The land you purchased was paid for out of your ordinary endowment fund and not out of your securities?—We have a station at Ballyhaise; we are purchasing one at Loughry, Co. Tyrone, and we have one at Clonsilla.

521. That was handed over to you free?—That is true; there was only the building and equipment there. Arrears is paid for.

522. I wanted to find out whether this sum of £388,390 is in the coffers still?—I cannot say how much of it has been withdrawn from the investment, but a considerable amount of it is hypothecated.

523. For what purpose?—In connection with these institutions.

524. Have plans of these buildings been approved of, and are you ready to start building?—Yes; at Ballyhaise we have practically finished the conversion of the old house into an agricultural institute; at Athlery the plans are not finally approved of; they will have to come before the Agricultural Board, which has approved of a very large expenditure there, I think something like £20,000.

525. (Chairman).—Is that an agricultural college?—Yes. We call it an agricultural station because the idea is to decentralise all our work for the province and county. It is very important in the working of all these county schemes that both the members of the local Agricultural and Technical Committee, and the persons mostly concerned in these schemes, should be put in touch with the central authority, and obtain expert advice and assistance, and get to know all about the schemes for improving stock. When a man wants to buy a bull, we will say, to work in connection with a scheme under the Galway County Council, it will be far more easy for him to go and see a bull at Athlery than to come up and see it at the Department's establishment, near Dublin, where we have a similar institution at Glasnevin, or the place at Chantry, where these breeding animals are kept sometimes for the use of the farmers.

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E.C.T.C.

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525. (Mr. Micks).—I asked Mr. Balfour on Friday whether there was any diminution in the voted monies since the Department was established?—I think there is some increase, a considerable increase. There is a considerable increase, for instance, in the Science and Arts grants.

527. The head of account is dropped from the vote, I mean, has been thrown on to the endowment fund of the Department?—I don't think that has happened. I don't think anything that was formerly on the vote has now been thrown on the endowment fund, but there is still an unsettled controversy over the business of the Equivalent Grant.

528. That is the £25,000 for Technical Instruction, owing to that being earmarked for Technical Instruction in Ireland, the Treasury has refused to pay the Equivalent Grant that used to be paid for Technical Instruction?—That is the view the Department take of it, though I believe the Treasury say that, and say the £25,000 was intended to replace, and a great deal more than replace that grant.

529. It is not so expressed anywhere, in legislation?—No; my own strong belief is that it was never thought of at the time. Although when the Bill was going through I was sick, I took a great interest, naturally, in the finances of the Bill before it actually came before Parliament, and I never heard the question as to how the Equivalent Grant would be affected by the £25,000 discussed, and I am inclined to think it was overlooked on both sides, and it was natural that it should be, because of the Equivalent Grant the Irish local authorities availed themselves to a very small amount, about £3,500.

530. That was then, but it would be much larger under the new arrangements. Did not the Department advise local bodies that they could get 2d. for every 1d. subscribed?—At the beginning of the Department we had no reason to believe that the local authorities could not draw to an unlimited amount provided they could fulfil the educational conditions; that would have been very difficult in the past. The reason Scotland got so much more was that it had assistance in other ways. This is a matter I would like the Committee to go into with the Technical Instruction experts in Ireland, but I am giving you the general view of the Department.

531. Did they advise local bodies that they could get 2d. for every 1d.?—I don't at the moment remember whether we actually so stated, but I have very little doubt we did; I cannot say whether it appeared in an official document or not, but that was our opinion, so it probably did.

532. There is also a sum raised by rate by the County Councils in Ireland?—Yes. It is under Section 16, which says the Department shall not, in the absence of special considerations, apply or approve of the application of money under this section other than the capital sums in this section mentioned to schemes in respect of which aid is not given out of money provided by local authorities, or from other sources. And Clause 10 deals with the contributions of local authorities.

533. (Chairman).—Is the limit of 1d. in that?—Yes.

(Mr. Devlin).—There was a prior Act, that of 1880, under which a penny could also be raised.

534. (Mr. Micks).—In the urban district you co-operate with the Urban Council in technical instruction?—Yes, and in two different ways. Perhaps I had better mention at this stage the nature of our financial arrangements with the different urban authorities. Every three years, at its first meeting, the newly-elected Board of Technical Instruction has to agree with the Department as to the proportions in which the sum of £25,000 shall be divided between the six county boroughs on the one hand, and the rest of the country, both urban and rural, on the other. Now with regard to the monies handed over to the six county boroughs that has to be divided between them in proportion to their populations, we have absolutely no discretion as to how much one or the other is to get; the only discretion that we have is that we have to propose, and the Technical Instruction Board has to approve, or disapprove, of the division of the £25,000 into money for what we call the inside area and the outside area, the inside area being the six county boroughs.

535. Where an urban district, owing to its small valuation, can only raise a very small sum by means of 1d. in the £ rate, you are not limited merely to the equivalent contribution, you may give as much as is necessary for carrying out the whole scheme?—Yes,

and when they go further into details the Committee will have fully explained to them the very complicated scheme that we worked out with the Board of Technical Instruction for dividing the money between localities in such a way as to have regard to the lesser power of the smaller localities to contribute.

536. (Chairman).—That, I suppose, was for the purpose of giving effect to the words in Sub-Section 5 of Section 15:—"The Department shall not, in the absence of special considerations," and you worked out a scheme as to whether those special considerations applied or not?—Yes; we interpreted that to mean, that not only in certain cases may the Department's endowment be given, of course with the consent of one or other Board, without any local contribution, but that the contribution need not be uniform throughout the country. But the Committee will see, with a large Board like the Technical Instruction Board being bound to look after the interests of the entire country, it is almost necessary to arrive at some scheme under which the allocation of the money shall be made. In the earlier years of the Department, as might have been expected, some districts came into the work very much sooner than others, and consequently we had to be guided very largely in the giving of money by how much each local authority was prepared to give, and how much it was prepared to do in order to get the scheme started. At the beginning of the annual triennial term we came to the agreement which will be fully explained later; we came to an agreement on a scheme which was very elaborate and complicated, but I think equitably adjusted matters between the different urban and rural districts having a scheme of technical instruction.

537. (Mr. Micks).—The variation in the amount that can be produced by 1d. in the £ is very striking. A penny in the £ in Belfast produces 26,163 10s. 11d., whereas, in the smallest case, the urban district of Trim, the amount there produced by a penny in the £ is 28 8s. 11d. There are a great many that are close enough to Trim. When you come to deal with a case like that, a contribution of 28 8s. 11d. of course would go no way. Would you consider that if they voted that 28 8s. 11d. they had done as much as they could, and would you supply the balance as far as your proportionate means went?—Yes; but I would like to explain two things. In the case of Belfast there is no analogy, because they would be treated on a wholly different system. In the six county boroughs we have no discretion as to the amount that they have to get. With regard to Trim, which is a very good case—

538. Rathfriland is an urban district, 8,699?—Yes, but in the case of a smaller one; there is no provision in the Act which enables a lot of local authorities to join together and have a joint scheme, and probably in the case of Trim it would be treated as a rural district.

539. It is urban?—I know it is, but the Co. Meath has a technical instruction scheme; they have one committee, a committee of agriculture and technical instruction, and Trim would, no doubt, be looked after by the Committee of the County Council.

540. The maximum contribution that they could give being so small you would not let that affect you in providing so much funds as were necessary to complete the balance for providing technical instruction in that district?—No, but what would affect the position of Trim would be that it would be absolutely necessary for Trim to work with some other urban centre.

541. You could not give it a scheme of its own?—You could not give it a separate staff of teachers.

542. You would have to run it in with Navan or Kells or Drogheda?—Yes, or you would have itinerant instructors, who would go two evenings in the week to Trim, two evenings to Athlone, and two to Navan.

543. When the local body strikes a penny rate they ascertain how far the Department is prepared to go?—They have a very good idea, I think. That question would not arise until they had agreed with the Department for a scheme. In explaining the procedure with the Boards I explained that any scheme, whether rural or urban, first had to be agreed between the officers of the Department and the committee of the locality, and then it has to come before the particular Board.

544. As soon as the amount is decided upon by the Department and the Boards what is done with the Department's money; is the contribution sent to the local body to act as paymaster, or is the payment made by

the Department to the officials and other persons concerned?—The payment is made by the local body, but subject, of course, to the consent of the Department. You see that the Department is putting part of its endowment into these schemes, and being responsible to the Board, which votes the money, and, of course, being responsible to the Auditor-General, has to see that the money is applied in accordance with the scheme.

545. What steps do they take to ensure the due application of the money?—Inspection, for one thing.

546. Inspection of accounts?—Well, they send up copies of the accounts to the Department.

547. Before or after the payments are made?—These are details that are rather bewildering to deal with at the moment. I am not prepared to say at what stage exactly the payment is made, but generally speaking the scheme is out and dry on paper, and it is printed before it is put in operation; a copy of it is before the Local Government Auditor who audits the accounts, both for the Department and the County Council, and if the payments are not in strict accordance with the scheme, the Local Government Board would surcharge the local authority.

548. (Mr. Brown).—The scheme is made sometime before the commencement of the financial year?—Yes.

549. (Mr. Meek).—How could the local authority be surcharged if they have only power to raise 1d. in the £1?—I was very heavily surcharged by the Auditor-General once, and I don't think he ever considers that.

550. (Chairman).—In this particular case there is a joint committee for technical instruction.

(Mr. Brown).—I suppose they get money from the County Committee as well as from the Department; the County Committee furnishes considerably more, I should say, than the £8 that would be the produce of the rate in Trim?—I cannot say, offhand, what the operations in Trim are, but if they are doing anything in Trim you may be quite certain the £8 does not defray the cost of it.

551. (Mr. Meek).—In looking through the published accounts, it is rather difficult to make as a clear statement for the six years that are now closed of the Department's administration; it is difficult to find out how much money they received. I have drawn up a little table, perhaps you could kindly get your Accountant to fill it up for us, giving, under each year, the amount received by the Department for the six years, and then a total showing the gross sum received?—I think this can very easily be made up.

552. It will be a little more difficult to give a corresponding return as regards payments and expenditure, for instance, you get £2,000 a year from the Congested Districts Board, and £5,000 from the Dublin Society, these moneys are not earmarked for any particular expenditure, are kept separately in your accounts?—Oh, no; they go into the pot.

553. Would your Accountant make out a schedule of payments, following that as nearly as he can; it cannot be followed precisely?—I will go into the matter with him. The best plan would be, when you are in Dublin, to tell him exactly what you want.

554. And then a further statement, showing the state of your security at the present time?—Yes.

555. (Mr. Gifford).—I am not quite sure what you understand by a statement of expenditure, following, as far as possible, these lines, because these are lines of income under certain heads.

(Mr. Meek).—Your accounts show clearly to the penny the manner in which every penny of voted money was appropriated, therefore you will have no difficulty in giving me, as against the voted money, the exact sum you spend; I don't think you will be able to go much beyond giving me a bulk sum for the endowment money, and another return for the Sea and Coast Fisheries, which are so small as to be immaterial?—As regards the endowment fund, it will only take a little time to make a convenient summary.

556. I think your books will show it?—Every single expenditure out of the endowment has, first of all, to be approved by one or the other Board, and after that the Auditor won't pass it unless they give a further sanction after the expenditure has been made, so that at every meeting of the Boards lists of their expenditure come up.

557. The £55,000: you must show that you exhaust that every year?—We did not the first year, but we do now.

558. Do you think it desirable that that general surplus you have got—between a quarter and half a million—do you think it desirable that that should be drawn on alike by industrial authorities as well as for agricultural and other rural industries?—The only objection we should have to that would be that we should not like to deplete one of our funds in order to replenish another.

559. You are not, at present, exhausting the agricultural fund, you have a large surplus there?—This year our expenditure will be quite up to our income.

560. Do you mean to say that this year you are going to exhaust the whole of the £58,000?—Oh, no; you are asking me whether portion of the accumulated surplus should be transferred from the agricultural branch to the Technical Instruction.

561. So that either branch of your Department should be entitled to draw upon that according to arrangements that might be made between the Department and the two Boards?—My feeling on the ground of general policy is this: If a portion of our work is neglected, if it is under-drawn, I would much rather ask the Treasury to give us more money than to suggest that we should take it out of our other fund.

562. Have you applied for more money for the technical instruction which has been short now for some time?—Indeed we have.

563. And you cannot get it?—We could not get it, I take it, without an Act of Parliament.

564. Have representations been made by the Department to the Treasury that the sum of £55,000 mentioned in the Act is quite inadequate for providing technical instruction in Ireland?—I am not certain whether they have been made directly to the Treasury, but they have been made to the Irish Government. There is one very important matter that funds are urgently required for, that is for building technical schools in some of the smaller urban centres. Take the case of Waterford. Waterford has got a very active committee, and Dr. Sheehan, the Bishop of Waterford, takes an immense interest in the work there, but he has pointed out to us that when the Technical school is built, the annual instalments that they will have to pay, capital and interest on the loan, will make it necessary for them rather to lessen the instruction given than to increase it.

565. (Mr. Gifford).—Is it the case that the expenses of technical instruction in any particular place fall only in part on this £55,000, and in part upon the annual grant; the annual grant in respect of the instruction given is, to a certain extent, elastic?—That is true of the old Science and Art grants.

566. You have recently taken steps to make the conditions under which that grant is given to schools, and the rates given more appropriate to the circumstances of the schools?—Yes.

567. And in that way there is the possibility, in the future, of having an increased contribution from the central funds for just such work as you mention in Waterford?—In the administration of Evening Science grants there will, undoubtedly, be a larger sum earned in the future than there has been in the past, but I may point out that for years we have been struggling on under an old South Kensington syllabus which has been abolished in England and Scotland, and is utterly unsuitable to Ireland, and as a result of that not only has Ireland earned less than she otherwise might from this particular source, but it puts back all our other work as well, and in any case, nothing that we earned under the Science and Art grants would overcome the difficulty as we are so miserably equipped with buildings. It would rather increase the difficulty, because, as this important educational development progresses, the demand for money to administer the schemes would become more urgent—I mean that the repayment of the instalments on these necessary buildings would press all the more heavily on us.

568. The repayment of the instalments would necessarily use up certain moneys, but as far as these buildings afforded facilities for an increased number of classes, or for improved classes, they would lead to the power of securing an increased grant for the purpose of carrying on the classes; that increased grant would be obtainable through revised regulations, and through the increase of the amount that would be derivable under any regulations, because the work was improving. My point is that you have a direct access to increased money from the National funds through that

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grant, which you have not, without an Act of Parliament, through the £25,000, that you have the power of applying annually to the Treasury for increased grants on the vote?—This might be true in a few cases, but I am convinced, when you go more deeply into the matter, you will find, that in a great majority of cases in which make-shift buildings and temporary classrooms are put up, these authorities are complying with all the conditions that will enable them to earn the maximum amounts from these grants. I should not at all like to admit that improved buildings will necessarily enable these authorities to earn more grants, of course it will enable them to develop their evening technical classes, which are the larger part of technical instruction proper as distinct from the teaching of Science and Art in secondary schools.

559. These grants, available from the Treasury, would, in a great many cases, at any rate, meet about three-fourths of the entire annual expenses?—Well, I don't think they would; they certainly would not meet anything like that in the technical schools.

570. Not in a big technical school, but in the detached ones?—Now we are talking of another class of schools. I am talking of technical schools under local authorities.

571. Urban?—Yes; that is the case at Watford.

572. The point I want to get at just now is simply this. That one source of revenue for the maintenance of these places is this annual grant, and that that annual grant is a grant for which there is, every year, a regular method of application to the Treasury, and that if the grants are insufficient in rate, or unsatisfactory in method of application, there is annually an opportunity at least of representing that case, you have not to wait for an Act of Parliament?—Oh, no, we represent the case.

573. (Mr. Michie).—Nothing comes of it?—Not as much as we would like.

574. (Mr. Gifford).—Have you yet had the regulations which were in force in 1902 revised?—We have now, but it is only within the last few months, after very long negotiations, that we have got our new regulations approved by the Treasury.

575. I quite recognise that working under the 1901 regulations you would not be getting very considerable grants?—No; and in Ireland, I think I am right in saying, that the 1901 regulations were kept in force until these regulations were sanctioned at the end of 1905. Until now we have had to do with regulations, under which, you say quite rightly, you could not get anything.

576. But now that you have got the new regulations, it is to be expected that for such schools at Watford you will get from the Treasury grant, as distinct from the endowment, assistance more properly proportioned to the necessities of the case?—It will certainly improve matters, but the long delay in getting the money and the time that it takes to change programmes and syllabuses and the general system in order to take full advantage of the change, have put us at a very great disadvantage, and, as a matter of fact, you will find, when you inquire into the circumstances of these local committees, that we are very badly handicapped in our technical instruction work by lack of funds.

577. To what do you attribute the long delay in the revision of the system?—We could not get the Treasury to see things in the same light that we did; that is all I can say.

578. (Mr. Michie).—You mentioned the great difficulties about the buildings; some of the local bodies have built technical schools?—Yes.

579. How has the cost of building been financed?—Out of a loan on the security of the local rates, but the local authorities are able to add, in offering security, the amount they are going to get from the Department. In calculating the amount they probably rather underestimate it than over-estimate it; it adds to their security that they will have a contribution from the central authority to add to the rates.

580. The loan is got from the Board of Works?—Yes.

581. Is the repayment of that loan often about sufficient to eat up the whole of the penny in the £1?—I could not answer that.

582. Have the Department found, in practice, that it is necessary for them, although they cannot build schools, to make the repayment of the instalments?—Yes.

583. It has power to pay the building instalments although it has not power to provide the funds?—It does not do it directly, but the Department sanctions the repayment being a charge upon the joint fund.

584. But the greater part of it is provided by the Department?—Yes, because we contribute most of that fund.

585. It does not fall so hardly upon the local people?—No, it only falls hardly on the local people in this way, that the money that otherwise would be available for technical instruction has gone into building.

586. It does not mean that you increase your contribution to the extent of the building instalment?—No.

587. Would it not come to that if you wanted to keep the thing going?—We cannot do that.

588. The £25,000 won't stretch?—It won't stretch if you are to have any system of equitable distribution throughout the country.

589. Then the provision of buildings is really a serious matter?—It is not everywhere, but it is in many of the urban districts.

590. Is there any way of getting over that difficulty?—More money; not without more money.

591. Do you think the industrial interest is the interest to be specially fostered?—Not more than the agricultural.

592. Don't you think it ought to get a special help, as there are too many people trying to extract an income out of land?—What I feel is this, that if the most was made out of the agricultural resources, and the most made out of the industrial resources of Ireland, Ireland would gain enormously more by the agricultural than by the industrial development, but I quite admit the absolute necessity of pressing forward with both developments.

On resuming after the adjournment.

593. (Chairman).—Now I think we get to the seventh head, and a good deal of this has been anticipated in the examination that took place earlier in the day; Sir Horace, will you bear in mind that we have gone over this to some extent. Your first point is an examination of the Department's powers. I think we have dealt with that—I think it would be helpful to the Committee if we first read the Sections of the Act which define the Department's powers; we might put them on the notes and take them as read?—The ones I would like to discuss are Sections 5, 15 (1) (c) and (1) (g) and Section 30, that is the definition of the purposes of agricultural and other rural industries, and the definition of technical instruction.

594. Section 5 gives the Department power to make or aid in making experiments, inquiries, and research, to collect, and aid in collecting, such information as they may think important for the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries. Section 15 deals with the application of monies, which we have read several times?—Section 15 (1) (c) and Section 15 (1) (g), that is about the surplus, those two give power to expend money, one upon rural industries and the other upon technical instruction, and then comes, of course, the definition clause, and upon the interpretation of that I should like to say a few words. One of our difficulties in coming to an understanding with the public as to our policy towards industries subsidiary to agriculture is that an industry, which is obviously a rural industry, such, for instance, as a granite quarry or a peat manufactory, is not a rural industry within the meaning of the definition clause in the Act. Apparently, the Act as interpreted by lawyers, does prohibit the promotion of such an industry as the manufacture of peat products.

595. Because I suppose it is not *ejusdem generis* with any of those mentioned in Section 30, Sub-section 1?—Yes; I believe it is held that the specific inclusion of such matters as the preparation of flax has an exclusive power over things apparently cognate, which are not mentioned in the Section.

596. (Mr. Michie).—You had two experiments in peat work by the Department?—Exactly; I was just going to mention them as an illustration of our interpretation of the Act.

597. (Chairman).—There has been no legal definition on the subject I suppose?—No. The words are, "The expression purposes of agriculture and other rural industries includes aiding, improving," and so on; "includes" is a familiar word, and it does not mean confine it to these, that is the plain English, but unfortunately, in draftsmen's language, it is held where specific things are included you cannot include other things unless they are very plainly *ejusdem generis*.

593. You say that is the authoritative interpretation of it?—Yes.

594. And such things as quarrying are excluded?—Yes; but now, as to the case Mr. Micks asked me about. The case of peat is a very good illustration; perhaps it is rather fortunate for the Department that we have not powers to take part in the numerous schemes for utilizing peat, and, I fancy, it is one of those instances where wider powers would be very inconvenient to us. It so happens that an immense amount of money, especially in Germany, has been put into peat experiments, and various peat works, and most of the money I believe has been lost, certainly most of the money in Ireland has, so far, been lost. But at Inny Junction, County Longford, and at Castlebar, County Limerick, we have tried experiments in drying peat. The view I take is that we are justified in taking action, which will win for the agricultural population their natural fuel in such a way as to conserve their labour for other agricultural purposes. It is just an instance of the ingenuity that one has to employ in interpreting a definition of this kind in order to bring it into practical relation with economic requirements.

595. You bring it under an industry immediately connected with, or subservient to, agriculture?—I look upon it, that enabling an agricultural population, whose fuel is peat, and who ordinarily have to employ to obtain it an enormous amount of their time, and just at a period when their services are required for agriculture—enabling them to save that time and devote it to agriculture is distinctly subservient to agriculture, horticulture, and other purposes.

596. Has the financial question ever arisen whether you are entitled to apply any of your finances to this subject?—That is the form in which it would arise. I mentioned, earlier in the day, that upon one occasion I was, myself, surcharged, and it arose in this way: The Handloom Hosiery had long been debilitated; the Government had put in a very considerable equipment, and they were building up a highly organised mechanical engineering establishment for repairing their ships there. This, in our judgment, was of immense value to our work of technical instruction in that part of Ireland. We thought it was a material factor in assisting us to direct our technical instruction in that part of Ireland, especially in connection with mechanical engineering. The Admiralty found that their operations were greatly hampered by the difficulty of getting housing accommodation for their artisans, and there was a general fear that the works, instead of being developed, would be reduced. I organised with some friends of mine, an Artisans Dwelling Company, part of the money being borrowed from the Board of Works. When the Board of Works valued the property they were not able to give within £2,500 of the money required to make up the capital. So I asked the Agricultural Board to sanction the investment of £2,000 out of the surplus in this security, to be posterior to the Board of Works loan of course. The security was held to be perfectly good; it was held to be in the interest of industrial development in the country, and they sanctioned it. I did not give sufficient thought to the matter, and when the auditor came to look into it he called upon us for an exact statement of the powers under which the investment was made, and he surcharged the amount, and I had to take over the investment myself, which was not a very convenient one for me to hold.

597. (Mr. Micks).—I never heard of an official being surcharged?—The Department was surcharged.

598. It would not be a surcharge, it would have been an objection, which would come before the Committee of Public Accounts?—The Treasury would not sanction it.

599. You did not consult them at all?—Not before it was made.

600. Did the auditor call upon you to replace the funds?—He said he could not sanction it.

601. That would mean that he would report you to the Committee on Public Accounts?—That may have been, but that, probably, would have been bad for the Department.

602. Most departments have been before the Committee?—I did not think it advisable that the issue should be raised, however, that was the result. I want to make it clear to the Committee that if we take, what to some members of the Committee may appear to be a narrow view of our powers, we have to consider the auditor.

603. (Chairman).—The ordinary course in a Department, if there is a question about which you are at all doubtful, is to get the Treasury sanction beforehand?

(Mr. Micks).—They have not to get Treasury sanction for expenditures from the endowment fund.

(Witness).—If I may proceed with the interpretation and application of our powers. The very first difficulty that faced us was, of course, the question as to what is and what is not a rural industry, or an industry subservient to agriculture, and I think already the Committee have come to the conclusion that it is an extremely difficult matter to define. For instance take the case of the shirtmaking factory at Loughinderry. I believe a great deal of their work is done in the homes of the people, and sent into the factory at a certain stage of the process. Now would the work that is done outside be a home or cottage industry? Personally I should treat it as such if it were done in the home of the person.

604. (Mr. Micks).—Is not that an industry that does not need any help from you at all?—I am not discussing that, but the interpretation of the Act.

605. (Chairman).—The question would be whether an industry carried on in that way was a home and cottage industry, or whether the workers were outworkers of a factory?—Yes.

606. (Mr. Micks).—Is there any other class of worker that is in the same position in Ireland?—I rather think that there is a great deal of drawn linen-work sent out by the big factories.

607. That is a cottage industry of course?—I take that view of it, but it is a matter that ought to be decided.

608. That does not want assistance either; that is a good commercial industry?—That does not follow because it has been successfully conducted in certain districts.

609. You could hardly start a competition to an Irish industry that is going on well?—I think the extension of Irish industry is a good thing.

610. Would it not pull down the price in that industry; did your operations in lace wheels pull down the price of lace over the congested districts for instance?—I am not aware that it did; in some class of lace it may have done; my impression is that in crested the demand has increased so rapidly that the price has been kept up. But if Killybegs Woollen Mills were assisted, there is no doubt it might affect the sale of Forford goods for instance.

611. Are you aware that one of the ideas of the owners of the Killybegs industry is that it shall not compete with any established factory, or produce materials similar to any established factory in any other part of Ireland?—Yes, I have heard that said, but it is quite certain that when they have all that money embarked in the industry they will have to follow their market.

612. Is not the machinery for an entirely different class of goods?—It may be, but if you were to adopt the principle that every new industry that was to be assisted must be, not the development of an existing industry, but the starting of some entirely new industry, or some industry with some new distinctive features, you would very soon come to the end of your possibilities. Whatever our powers are for developing industries it is quite certain that there is one great limitation imposed upon us by our financial resources. The demands for the most important of the Department's agricultural schemes, especially those of an educational kind, are increasing so rapidly that it is quite certain that we shall not have any very large sum to devote to industrial purposes.

613. It does seem quite clear that it would be improper and unjust to make that a common fund for both; it ought to be reserved for agricultural?—Yes.

614. Then you want an additional grant for technical instruction?—If we are to have power to aid industries in some way other than those which we are now employing, of course we should require fresh funds for it, because our funds at present are fully used up.

615. (Chairman).—When you use the phrase "aid industries otherwise than you are now employing" do you aim at aiding industries by subsidies, or starting new industries, or reviving old ones otherwise than by educational methods?—I think that the limits of direct promotion of manufacturing industries by any Government are very narrow, but I think it is quite possible, in certain ways, that the definition of education may be broadened. My own impression is that in the ultra-

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mate result the line of development which we are following will lead to a very much sounder establishment of industries in Ireland than the more popular and more direct promotion.

621. Is it your idea to improve the appliances, and so on, and spend more money upon educational processes, including in that the setting up actual machinery, where it is necessary, for educational purposes?—Yes; but the point at which I think it is possible that educational work in Ireland might deviate a little from the educational principles that are proper to a highly-developed country like England, is in the training of skilled workers by highly skilled teachers, who would probably have to be imported into the country for educational purposes, and in having a close connection between the work of technical instruction proper and manufacturing concerns. Of course there is a very large question involved, but the time has hardly come to say much about the question of apprenticeship; in any case, whatever is done in this way, I am quite convinced that there will have to be a very thorough agreement between the labour organisations and those in charge of technical instruction.

622. (Mr. Michel).—As a member of the Congested Districts Board are you aware whether, as a result of giving financial assistance to some industrial undertakings at the start, these undertakings are now self-supporting and solvent to the great advantage of the locality?—What class of undertaking?

623. Foxford, and concerns like it. Are you aware assistance was given at the start, and then withdrawn, and that now the undertakings are established on a satisfactory basis—Foxford, Killybegs, and Croilly, and other undertakings?—Foxford and Killybegs are two very different undertakings. Foxford was very exceptional in certain ways. In the first place at the head of it there was a lady who, in my judgment was little short of a genius; her life was devoted to religion, but she combined with her religious mission an extraordinary commercial instinct or aptitude. This factory was started, not, of course, for commercial reasons at all, it was started simply with the object of trying to improve the condition of one of the most impoverished portions of the whole island, and the devotion of this lady, the Rev. Mrs. Bernard, and the whole of that branch of the community, to the work of this factory was an important factor in the commercial success attained. Then, without saying anything to minimise the extraordinary achievements of this community, it must be remembered that a great deal of incidental help was given in many ways; for instance, everybody knows that the cost of getting new products into the market is one of the ordinary items in the cost of production, but the sympathy that everybody felt for this community led to a very wide publicity being given to this remarkable undertaking, and the goods were very largely favoured among a class of the community which commands a very profitable trade, but rather a limited one. My point is this, that Foxford must not be taken as an example of what can be done in similar districts.

624. (Chairman).—What is the nature of the industry?—Woollen.

625. (Mr. Michel).—Foxford at all events has succeeded?—I am sure it has, but exactly to what extent commercially I don't know.

626. Is it not paying back all its debts punctually; are they not nearly paid off, and a great number of people in the locality getting employment?—Certainly.

627. It has conferred a great benefit so far on the locality; is it not now standing alone and getting no assistance?—Yes.

628. Certain objections are raised, even to Foxford. Have you known any case in which manufactures in Ireland have been objected to owing to what may be called trade jealousy?—I have heard the application, although only by way of loan, of public money at Foxford criticised on the ground that it was unfair competition with unaided manufactures in other parts of Ireland. I have always explained to people that the circumstances of Foxford were so exceptional that there were other considerations to be taken into account.

629. Are you aware that objections have been raised to any one industry in Ireland being helped by the Department?—Certainly they have.

630. Objections from England or Scotland?—Yes. I can give you an instance, and this was a case where the Department was strictly within its legal rights,

but it was found advisable to abandon the particular work.

631. Owing to the objection?—I will explain exactly what happened. I refer to the Portadown and Drogheda, cider-making fruit and vegetable and jam-making, and so forth, industries. The enterprise we started as being immediately connected with, and subservient to, horticulture, and, I think, on good grounds, because there was a large fruit production, both in Armagh and part of County Monaghan, and a large part of the product was practically marketable. We started this industry to try whether this product could be utilised, and we found it necessary, in order to command the investment in private enterprise, not only to experiment in a small way but to carry on the industry on a commercial scale, with the result that a very excellent and very pure article of common consumption appeared on the London market.

632. Jam?—Yes, and similar products appeared on the London market, and I was informed that it was likely to give rise to Parliamentary trouble.

633. Was it by the President of the Department that you were informed?—Yes. I consulted with my colleagues in the Department, and I came to the conclusion that it was not in the interest of Irish industrial development, that a controversy should be raised over these matters, and as we saw our way to part with the industry and place it in the hands of private enterprise, we immediately sold out of the enterprise. We should have done it in any case; the only loss incurred by us so doing was, that we had spent a great deal of money at the experimental stage; we would have liked to have carried it on a little longer to have recouped ourselves. We have started four or six industries since.

634. Having regard to this trade jealousy, is it not possible that the content of the Department by a Minister responsible to the Parliament of the United Kingdom would not be considered an advantage by those in Ireland who are desirous of the energetic development of the resources of Ireland?—I have pointed out that occasions might arise when the representative element in the Department would be dragging its working head in one direction, and his party in Parliament might be dragging him in another, and this seems to be rather an illustration of the contingency.

635. Instead of a Minister responsible to Parliament, might not Irish opinion approve of the establishment of a representative Irish body, with powers like the Congested Districts Board in Ireland, representative members of a central body, acting in an independent way, as the Congested Districts Board does?—I cannot, myself, see why the existing machinery of the Department should not be sufficiently representative of Irish public opinion.

636. Can you not see an advantage in getting clear of the pressure that trade jealousy might put on your President?—Certainly, I can also quite conceive a case where it would be an advantage to the Irish Minister in Parliament to be able to say that he was not responsible for the doings of the Vice-President of the Department, who was responsible, not directly to him, but to Irish public opinion; but on the other hand, it is clear that the Government of the day might take a very strong objection to having an irresponsible authority in Ireland.

637. An elected body?—I mean a body in Ireland irresponsible to Parliament, and doing things, which, as a hypothesis, were injurious to the interests of the United Kingdom.

638. Do you think that it may not be possible that there may be a great deal too many duties placed on the Department, and that it might be better, perhaps, to separate industries and fisheries and put them under a separate body, leaving the Department agriculture, and putting industries including fisheries, under a separate department?—I think there is far greater value in having all these economic functions of Government under a single department, because I think that it is economically of value to have the administration of these various functions worked in co-ordination with each other.

639. Do you not think they are quite distinct and separate, and would be better looked after by separate bodies?—No; as it is they are looked after by separate branches. Inside the Department all these matters are administered without difficulty.

640. By different clerks?—If in clerks you include all executive officers, yes; but I would rather say staffs; they are worked by separate staffs, and furthermore the representative bodies which provide the

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money for these various functions can always have the advice of expert committees, that are specially called in by the Department to advise it. For instance, we have a Committee of Fisheries, and a Committee of Flax-growing, a Committee of Horse-breeding, a Committee of Cattle-breeding, and so forth; all these matters would be put before the Committee when they came to go into details.

641. All under one head and one secretary?—Yes. If there was no Vice-President they would be all under one Chief Secretary and one Under-Secretary.

642. (Chairman).—Is there not a distinct advantage in something like uniformity of policy; if you have one Board adopting one set of principles and another Board another, does not that produce confusion?—I hold the view that was pressed upon the Recesse Committee by Mr. Timmerand; it was the teaching of several foreign countries. We are dealing with a country where the economic interests of the people had not been considered to be the concern of the Government. I can quite understand that it would appear to the Committee, especially after examining a witness like myself, on such a multiplicity of functions, that there must necessarily be a good deal of confusion, and possibly overlapping of functions, but I think they will find that there has been no more of such trouble than is incidental to the early stages of a department of this kind.

643. But still it is an evil in itself to have two separate bodies acting, to some extent, on different principles; take the question we have been discussing so much, that of subsidised industries; if you have one body setting on the principle of subsidising industries, encouraging them, from a commercial point of view, and another body limiting its action to more educational purposes, and not devoting its money to subsidising industries itself, except in as far as it does so indirectly by improving technical education, you have two distinct principles at work, and, to some extent, conflicting?—Certainly.

644. (Mr. Miché).—Are there not two bodies in England, one discharging the duties of the Department of Agriculture, and the other of Technical Education?—Yes, there are.

645. There is no reason why there should not be two separate departments in Ireland?

(Chairman).—I did not suggest that there should not be two separate departments, but I am assuming that they acted on different principles.

(Witness).—I may point out that there is no analogy between the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries in England and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland; their constitution is wholly different in every respect.

646. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Their functions also?—Their functions and their system of finance are different; their relations to Local Government are wholly different, and I don't see that any argument can be drawn from that.

647. (Mr. Miché).—I would not rely much on it, but, merely taking the fact that there are different departments in England, don't you think it would be well to have three different departments in Ireland; that is all?—I think it is quite unnecessary, and it would be a good mistake to pull this Department up by the roots now and start developing agriculture and industry on some wholly different lines.

648. Or divide the functions of the Department into two?—It would be quite wrong to divide it into two, more than it is divided at present. We have been trying, for the past six years, to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the problem, how far these things ought to work separately, and how far they ought to be worked together, and the experience of six years has been that the close and intimate relation of branches in the Department's work is a fundamental principle that ought to be developed and not abandoned.

649. The position of Ireland about industrial development is, as Mr. Balfour said on Friday, quite different to that of other portions of the United Kingdom—Ireland is trying to revive industries that have been abolished?—Yes.

650. You pointed that out in the Recesse Committee's report yourself?—Yes, I have drawn the distinction.

651. The answer to that is that it is ancient history?—I can only say I never made that answer, though I have been accused of doing so.

652. Oh, no, I don't mean you, because I take you as a champion of the other side, but you have heard the

objection that it is bringing up matters of ancient history?—I have heard that view taken.

653. Do you think there is anything in the statement?—Highly stated there is a good deal in it, but I have often heard it stated in the wrong way. When our past disabilities and distresses and past misgovernment are brought up as an excuse for not making the best of things as they are then I think it is a vicious doctrine, but when it is brought up as a reason for putting forth greater efforts, and also for claiming greater facilities for educating ourselves to make up for lost time, then I think the argument is altogether sound, and the more it is used the better.

654. That would be a claim for virtually a sort of restitution for what the State has already done. The State killed the industries, and now we are asking, with a great deal of equity, for State aid to revive the industries; do you take that view?—I have always argued, in my own small way, upon those lines, although I have not taken the extreme view that some of the champions take. I don't think I have taken a very popular line in the matter, but I have always felt that Ireland is distinctly entitled to very exceptional treatment on the line of education than on any other line, and it is on that line we get the least.

(Mr. Miché).—The interference with the Irish trade was at the beginning of the 18th century; this (produced), is the original edition of a book which was written at that time to protest against the legislation that was about to be passed. That is the book of William Molyneux in 1763. It does not look like very ancient history. What I mean is that from the way people talk about ancient history you might suppose that the Irish claim was founded on the deciphering of Ughart writings; but here is a book published then, that is fresh and in good condition at the present day. Do you know, as a matter of fact, what happened that book and a book written in the same style subsequently by Hely Hutchinson, the Provost. I may tell you that it was ordered by the House of Commons in Westminster, and also Hely Hutchinson's, to be burned by the common hangman, and the sentence was carried out, and it is a rather rare book in consequence.

655. (Mr. Dryden).—I noticed you said that you sold out that particular industry relating to horticulture and jame; you said in connection with that that you had started forty-six new industries?—No; four or six.

656. What kind of industries were they; did they grow out of these?—Yes; we sold out our machinery to private firms that were in a similar business, to take over these new processes, which we had introduced.

657. In addition to that the others followed?—Yes.

658. (Chairman).—You have covered the ground pretty well now; I don't know whether there are any other observations you wish to make before we rise. The headings before me seem to have been dealt with very fully?—I have an immense amount of further material on this subject, but I am quite sure that it would not be for the convenience of the Committee that it should be gone into now; it will all come out in detail, and one thing I think I might ask the Committee is that after they have gone fully into the facts which have been briefly referred to, and further discussed the questions, which have only been introduced at this meeting, I might have an opportunity of being recalled and dealing with the particular point of the Department's educational and industrial policy.

(Chairman).—I am quite sure the Committee will be desirous to have anything you may have to say in future, it will come very much better when we have got more facts and some experience in particular cases in our minds. It does not seem to me now that we can carry this stage much further.

659. (Mr. Bruce).—There is one question I would like to ask; there has been a good deal of criticism of the appointments on the staff; have they given you satisfaction in their work?—Well, I am very glad to have been asked that question, because, while personally I am not very sensitive to criticism, for the simple reason that I know I have provoked it by always saying in public very much what I thought; I do feel very deeply the criticism upon the staff of the Department, which is partly I know, directed at myself, and I dare say, more or less justifiably. I greatly resent the attacks on the officers; it is very hard on these men, especially the men, who for reasons I have explained fully, had to be asked to

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come to Ireland from other countries. Now, in no single case, was one of these men known to me personally. I am glad to say that they are my friends now, but they were utterly unknown to me; I only knew them by their educational record and their record for work. During a fairly busy life I have been associated with a large amount of work, both public and private, and I have never worked with a body of men who have given such whole-hearted devotion to their work, and to helping each other, as these men have given. I wanted an opportunity to say that. I don't want to say more now, because the Committee will have an opportunity of having these men—as many as they like—before them. They will be able to judge of their capacity by examining them, and they will be able to visit and inspect their work for themselves, and I hope that, in the report of this Committee, they will give their opinion definitely as to how these men, who have done the first, and probably the hardest work for the Department, have discharged their duties. I am glad to have had an opportunity of saying so much. In conclusion I would like to say to this Committee one thing I said to the Council of Agriculture at their last meeting about the nature

of the work that we are doing now, and the way that it ought to be judged. The last time that the Council met I had to deal with some rather vigorous criticisms which had come under my notice as to the large expenditure of our Department and poverty of results. After giving the Council facts and figures, which gave them, probably, a better idea than they ever had before, of the work which actually had been achieved, I used words which I think I may fairly repeat to this Committee. I said: "It is foundation-laying it is true, but the foundations are being well and truly laid. I have heard it said by those who employ a metaphor more appropriate to our work—'You ask to be known by your fruits; we see no fruits.' Well, we have some fruits to show. But now, and for some years to come, our work must be known chiefly by its roots, and, alas! in these feverish days no one seems to care about roots except those whose impatience fills them with a desire to pull them up and see how our young plants are growing." We hope that this Committee will go thoroughly into the whole work of the Department, and will see whether, and if so, in what way we can increase the rate of our progress.

The Committee adjourned.

FOURTH PUBLIC SITTING.—TUESDAY, MAY 29TH, 1906.

At the Office of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Dublin.

PRESENT:—

SIR KENELM DIBBY, K.C.B., K.C. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DETLEN.

Mr. FRANCIS G. OSLIVIE.

Mr. WILLIAM L. MICKS.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR C.B., *Secretary*.Mr. THOMAS P. GILL, *examined*.

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660. (Chairman).—You are the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes.

661. And I believe you have prepared the heads of the evidence which you wish to give; I think I cannot do better than leave you to follow your own course?—Before proceeding I ask the leave of the Committee to make a brief personal explanation. I do so in order that the Committee may understand certain exceptional circumstances of my position which enable me to deal more freely with some matters than I might otherwise be prepared to do; and that they may moreover kindly grant me some indulgence in my endeavour to explain the Department's organization and work. I was one of those who shared in founding or bringing the Department into being. As a member of the Recesse Committee, and the member who acted as its honorary secretary, I took a considerable part in devising the policy and the constitution for the proposed Department which the Recesse Committee adopted, and which is described in their Report. I also had the honour of preparing that report. I took part in all the efforts which followed to get the country and the Government to adopt the policy, in the negotiations between the Committee and the Government with regard to the framing of measures intended to give effect to it, and in the actual promotion through the House of the Bill which finally became law. When, after the passing of the Bill, I was asked to take office in the new Department I declined at first. I felt I could help the work better in a position of greater freedom, from the outside, or, if connected with the institution at all, only in such a capacity as that of unpaid member of one of the Boards. I had other objections to which I need not refer. Afterwards it was put to me strongly from various quarters and by the Vice-President that, in the circumstances, it was my duty to take this position; that having taken such responsibility in connection with bringing this novel scheme into being, I was bound to take some part in connexion with getting it to work; that in order to fulfil the undertaking as to the non-party character of the scheme on the strength of which the Bill had been accepted by the different parties, and because the scheme had to so great an extent to be voluntarily worked through the new popularly-elected local bodies, it was important that one of the two chief posts should be held by a man belonging to the popular party; that as the Department would have so much to do with education it was necessary that one of the two chief posts should be held by a Catholic; and that I had special knowledge with regard to the work to be done. These considerations at length decided me to be willing to accept the post. In informing the Government of this decision I thought it right to remind them before they made the appointment that my political views were unchanged though I was out of politics, and of course in any case would not allow my political views to interfere with the impartial discharge of whatever public duties I might undertake. Fully understanding this point, Mr. Gerald Balfour, on his own behalf and on that of Mr. Horace Plunkett, the Vice-President, on February 1, 1900, formally offered me the post, and I accepted. Subsequently, when my appointment was attacked by the Unionist party, and Mr. Plunkett's seat in South Dublin was endangered on that account, I offered my resignation to Mr. Gerald Balfour; but

he insisted that I should remain. Having joined the Department under these circumstances, I entered upon the work which I am now about to explain as if upon the work of my life—I mention this that you may understand and perhaps kindly allow for the spirit in which I come before you—giving up to it all my leisure and even at the cost of my health, so that for five years I did not take a regular vacation, and then only when my health had broken down. For these more than six years I have been working loyally and unitedly with Sir Horace Plunkett, taking my share in organizing the Department, in shaping its policy, co-ordinating and unifying its various activities, guiding the work of colleagues, some of whom being strangers were at first necessarily under disadvantages when adapting their work to the condition of the country, and in endeavouring to make the work and the institution understood by and acceptable to representative men and bodies of all types and creeds. When, therefore, that work comes to be brought up before this Committee for consideration, you will, I am sure, realize the sense of responsibility I feel in appearing as one of its exponents and defenders, and perhaps will allow me, if I need it, a certain freedom in the way in which, in the exercise of that responsibility, I may think it right to present our case. May I also say that as the work of the Department, the magnitude of which you will better appreciate at a later stage, has to be carried on and cannot even be relaxed pending this inquiry, I have not had so good an opportunity of preparing myself to meet you as I could have wished. Perhaps you will kindly give me your indulgence on this score also. I come before you gladly, and my most earnest hope, and that of my colleagues, now that this inquiry has begun, is that it will be as thorough and as searching as you can make it. One word more. A public inquiry, to do precisely what you are to do, so far as I am aware, unprecedented. The circumstances are unprecedented, and in some ways your procedure will probably have to be so too. Though not of that mind at first, I am glad it has been decided to admit the press and the public. It means that there is added to you as a jury the nation at large. It is a proper jury to consider this question. For you are examining into one of the governing authorities of the nation, a Department of State representative of the Crown, of Parliament, and of the local authorities of the country, which has been constructed by the will of the Irish people of all parties, and is the first representative institution of the kind in their possession. It is furthermore, only in the early years of its existence. Such an institution is a national asset; and whatever be its imperfections and mistakes—and like all human institutions it is of course imperfect—whatever the failings of those who have been working it, or the extraneous considerations affecting it at the moment—all these being matters for amendment, which can be considered separately and apart—I wish to say respectfully to that larger jury, if I may, that we cannot as a people, at so early a stage, consider the question of subverting the actual structure of the institution which we have thus created, without incurring the charge of national selfishness and inconsistency of resolution. From the beginning it was foreseen and pointed out that a period of difficulty, of impatience for results, would have to be lived through, as was the case with other Departments of the same kind, whose best fruit was bound to be slow in appearing.

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I respectfully submit that apart from such amendments or corrections as it may be thought necessary to suggest in the matters I have indicated, the only changes that should be seriously taken account of at this stage are those which may be necessitated by any contemplated change in the general government of Ireland in order to bring this, as well as other Irish Departments, under the control of a new authority, and such changes as may be needed to extend its powers in any useful direction in which they have been shown to be too restricted. I propose now to divide my evidence into two main parts, one descriptive of the organization of the Department and the other of its work.

662. Very well, then we will deal with organization!—I will now proceed to describe the organization of the Department. As to the Council of Agriculture and Boards, you have already learned a good deal on this branch of the subject, and I will not go over the ground which has been covered by the Vice-President's evidence. I will confine myself in this connection to certain points as to which ambiguity exists. The chief of these points are—(1) the nominative element in the constitution of these bodies; (2) the question of altering the nature of their powers; (3) the constitutional position of the Department in relation to them. Before dealing with these points, however, I think it will be best if I first try to give you a brief account of the organization of the Department itself. This will help to a clearer understanding of the relations of the Department to these representative bodies, to which we can then return. Let me premise that the Department, as defined in our First Annual Report, is "so constituted as to be representative at once of the Crown, of the recently created local government bodies of the country, and those classes of the people with whom its work is closely connected," and that its function is to "aid, improve, and develop the agriculture, fisheries, and other industries of Ireland in so far as may be proper to such a Department, and in such a manner as to stimulate and strengthen the self-reliance of the people." In the words of the same report the organization of the Department has been carried out so far as it has gone "in careful observance of the fact that there is an essential unity of purpose behind its various functions, whether these directly concern the development of agriculture and industry, the promotion of technical instruction, the collection and publication of information, or the administration of laws to prevent the spread of contagious disease amongst cattle and other live stock, and fraud in the sale of agricultural requirements and produce." How this essential unity underlies and controls the various functions of the Department and constitutes an intimate relation between them will, I hope, plainly appear as this examination proceeds. This unity is, in fact, the leading principle of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, and the organization of the Department has been devised with a view to giving effect to it. The office of Vice-President, as explained to you by Mr. Gerald Balfour and by Sir Horace Plunkett, was intended by Parliament to be Ministerial in its character. However the special circumstances of the last six years may have affected the question; this is the theory on which the Department was organized and on which its administration has been carried out since it was established. Sir Kenelm Digby will understand at once the nature of the office of Secretary and its relations with that of the Ministerial head of the Department when I say that it is analogous to that of the Secretary of an English Department which is that of chief permanent official.

663. The Secretary representing the permanent head of an English Department?—Yes; the Department was constituted expressly on the lines of the great English public departments, and as the only department in the Irish service so constituted. This fact is very important to bear in mind all through, especially in connection with the question of the relations of the Department with the Agricultural Council and Boards.

664. Do you mean this—that all the minutes of every branch of the Department would come before you as Secretary?—Yes.

665. Everyone?—All those that needed the sanction either of the Secretary or of the Vice-President.

666. I suppose every head of a branch would have a certain amount of discretion whether the final order

in the matter before him went further or not, was put before you or not, and in the same way you would have discretion whether you sent it on to the Vice-President or not?—Exactly.

667. That of course is the practice followed in the English Departments; there is a certain amount of discretion at every stage whether the thing goes further or not?—Mr. Gerald Balfour explained this constitution to Parliament in his speech on the Bill, the chief precedents he had in mind being those of the Board of Trade and the English Local Government Board. In a Departmental minute dated 21st November, 1903, he wrote:—"The Secretary and Assistant Secretaries of the new Department are not comparable to the officers of similar title attached to the Irish Local Government Board, but rather to the Secretary and Assistant Secretaries of the English Local Government Board and to the Vice-President and Commissioners of the Irish. This was thoroughly understood between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and myself:—these are Mr. Gerald Balfour's words:—"at the time that the Bill was in preparation." Though the Act created new machinery and new powers, a large portion of its intention was to bring order and simplicity where correlated action was not properly provided for before. Many functions which were kindred to each other, and which all bore in some manner upon State aid for agricultural or industrial development, had been previously scattered amongst different Departments, such as the Land Commission, the Registrar-General's Department, the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council, the Inspector of Irish Fisheries, the Board of National Education and the Board of Education, South Kensington. These functions were transferred to the new Department, and part of its task was to group them systematically in connection with the new powers and work of the Department, and to reduce the whole to administrative order. Let me say, in passing, that economy and efficiency were thus secured by the amalgamation of the analogous functions which had previously been divided amongst other Departments; and that these amalgamated functions, which involved the transference of staffs and expenditure, should always be borne in mind in estimating the cost and work of the Department as a whole. The statutory aim of the Department—to see a broad generalization, which includes in a wide sense the aim of its educational work—may be said to be to promote the industrial development of the country. To that purpose all its various powers and functions entrusted to it, whether transferred or new, were capable of being applied and should be applied; and it is my opinion, confirmed after six years' experience, that it would be impossible to exercise any of them, or practically any of them, at the present stage—at any rate, thoroughly—in the general interest, unless they were all included, as they are here, under a common direction. In organizing the Department according to this conception of its purpose, we allotted the different sections of its work to a number of separate branches, each of which is headed by a specially qualified staff, and has at its head an Assistant Secretary or head of branch, who is a highly trained expert or administrative officer. Each branch is thus in a position to concentrate its entire strength and expert skill upon its special task, while at the same time its work is brought into harmony with the general purpose of the Act, and goes forward having behind it the resources of the whole Department. The machinery for general direction and co-ordination of the work of these branches is provided in the office of the Vice-President and the Secretary. The branches or groups under which the Department has so far divided its work are the following:—(a) Secretariat, (b) Agricultural Branch, (c) Technical Instruction Branch, (d) Fisheries Branch, (e) Statistics and Intelligence Branch, (f) Veterinary Branch, (g) Transit and Markets, (h) Account Branch, (i) Science and Art Institutions: i. Royal College of Science, ii. Metropolitan School of Art, iii. Museum, iv. Botanic Gardens, v. National Library, vi. Geological Survey. The Secretariat is a staff rather than a branch, and its purpose is to facilitate the Secretary and, through him, the Vice-President in dealing with the branches as a whole. I will refer more particularly to its functions presently. Agricultural Branch.—At the head of the Agricultural Branch is the Assistant Secretary in respect of Agriculture, one of the two Assistant Secretaries mentioned in the Act. This branch deals with all that comes broadly and ordinarily under the head of agri-

colours, including forestry, horticulture, dairying, the breeding of horses, live stock, poultry, and so forth, and agricultural education. The functions which were transferred from the Commissioners of National Education in connection with the Albert College and the Munster Institute are exercised by the Department through this branch, and these two institutions have been adapted and developed so as to take their place in the new and general system of agricultural education which the Department have organised. The branch has also a special relation with the following other transferred institutions:—The Royal College of Science, the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, and the Museum of Science and Art. The present Assistant Secretary in respect of Agriculture is Professor James H. Campbell, M.Sc., who was formerly Professor of Agriculture in the University of Leeds and Director of Agriculture for the County of York. This is not the proper place or occasion to speak in testimony of Professor Campbell or the other officers like him who have collaborated with the Vice-President and myself in this work. But I can only endorse what Sir Horace Plunkett has said of these colleagues one and all. The Department has been singularly fortunate in inducing such men to help them.

665. What is Professor Campbell's title?—Assistant Secretary in respect of Agriculture.

* 666 (Mr. Michs).—Does he still retain his Professorship?—No, no.

670. (Chairman).—Is that a new office—I have got before me the estimates for 1906; I don't see that title there?—It is mentioned in the Act. Professor Campbell is assisted in his branch by a staff of agricultural inspectors and other expert officers, and by administrative assistants with a clerical staff under them. How the extensive and varied work of his branch is organised amongst this staff he will explain to you himself when he comes before you. I, too, shall be glad to go into any particulars on the subject at a later stage if the Committee desire it. The work the Department does through this branch involves an immense scheme of organisation of State aid to agriculture in all its more modern forms, through the statutory committees of the local authorities of the country, and directly by the Department itself. This system includes a scheme of agricultural education, beginning with itinerant instruction in the counties on the lines so well known in Continental and American administration, and developing through winter schools of agriculture, agricultural stations at which farm apprentices are taught, a forestry school, and the Albert Agricultural College at Glasnevin, which represents a grade of agricultural education intermediate between the local schools and the Royal College of Science, at which is provided higher agricultural education of the highest type for the training of agricultural experts. The educational scheme includes also a corresponding provision for the education of girls of the rural districts, beginning with itinerant instruction in domestic economy, poultry-keeping, butter-making, and going through rural schools of domestic economy up to a grade at which those likely to prove farmers in these subjects are taught at the Munster Institute.

671. You don't distinguish at first between those who are trained to become teachers and those trained for more practical purposes?—Not at that stage; those who are likely to become teachers are selected at the Munster Institute. Besides education, the schemes, as administered through this branch, include schemes worked through the local authorities and financed, partly from their rates and partly from the Endowment Fund of the Department, for encouraging improvement in tillage, live-stock, horses, poultry-keeping, butter-making, horticulture, bee-keeping, flax-growing.

672. Up to this point I think it has been purely educational?—Purely education; now it is direct. The Branch deals through the central staff, with various investigations and special work undertaken in the interests of agriculture and agricultural industries. To this I will refer further on in the second part of my evidence, and you will hear of them in far greater detail from the direct head of the branch.

673. I suppose what you are now giving us is a general outline, and you will leave the details of the particular branches to the witnesses who come afterwards?—Yes; I am giving the general idea. All this is new work, which had never before been carried out

in Ireland. Highly technical, educational, and varied as it is, most of it is carried out and locally administered through the county committees of the local authorities which have been formed under the Act. I will refer presently to the offices which I think this system has had in training and developing the administrative capacities of the local bodies who have been engaged in it. The Agricultural Branch, though its staff, like that of all the other branches, is on the Civil Service establishment, and paid from the Parliamentary vote, deals exclusively with the administration of the Endowment Fund in charge of the Agricultural Board.

674. (Mr. Michs).—The whole staff?—Practically the whole staff.

675. Some of it is paid out of the Endowment Fund?—The whole central staff is paid out of the Vote, with the exception of one or two officers by whom the Agricultural Board has voted the salaries. I will explain about these officers later on. From time to time pressure of work has necessitated the addition of an officer to the agricultural staff, and, pending the negotiation with the Treasury for getting him placed on the establishment, the Agricultural Board has agreed to pay his salary.

676. Was it re-imbursed by the Vote afterwards?—Sometimes, not always.

677. (Chairman).—That you regard?—Naturally. We would like to keep all that off the Endowment Fund. I now come to the Technical Instruction Branch. At the head of this Branch is the other Assistant Secretary, Mr. George Fletcher, M.Sc. Besides the new work of organising a system of technical instruction, this branch deals with, and brings into co-ordination with the new work, the administration of the grant for Science and Art in Ireland, and the administration of the grant in aid of technical instruction as defined by the Technical Instruction Act of 1889, duties which were transferred from the Board of Education, South Kensington. The Branch is concerned also with two of the transferred institutions—the Metropolitan School of Art and the Royal College of Science. The staff of this Branch includes a number of science, technical, industrial and art inspectors, as well as a complement of administrative and clerical officers. One of its first duties was to organise, in connection with the local authorities in practically every city, town, and county in Ireland, a scheme of technical instruction, which was related, wherever possible, to existing industries, and devised with a view to developing the industrial efficiency of those who received it. Through this Branch the Department carry out the most important educational reform of organising, under a revised programme of science and art grants, a system of instruction in experimental science, drawing, manual instruction, and domestic economy in day secondary schools; a system which must lie at the root of a sound scheme of technical education as well as play its part in the general education of a progressive country. This work was co-ordinated with the work of the Board of Intermediate Education in a manner which will be referred to more fully later. Provision is made through this Branch, also, for the training of teachers intended to give instruction in the various subjects included in the scope of these schemes. The system of training includes provision at central institutions like the Royal College of Science, Metropolitan School of Art, and Irish Training School of Domestic Economy, scholarships held abroad, courses for manual instructors, and special summer courses for completing the training in science of teachers in secondary schools. A close relation of the work of the Branch, with the stimulation of industries, is maintained. I have given you here the mere catch-headings. I will allude to this subject generally again, and you will hear it in detail from Mr. Fletcher. This Branch, too, has particularly close relations with the local authorities. The Technical Instruction Branch, like the Agricultural Branch, deals with the Endowment Fund, which is administered with the concurrence of the Board of Technical Instruction. But it deals also with the administration of important grants coming from the Parliamentary Vote, the Science and Art grants for the Department's revised programme for day secondary schools, and the similar grants on the Department's revised programme for evening schools. These are the analogues of the Science and Art grants of the English system.

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The head of the Fisheries Branch is Mr. W. Spencewood Green, one of the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries, whose functions were transferred to the Department. Mr. Green's staff includes another inspector (Mr. Lane), who exercises with him the judicial functions which are part of the duties cast upon them in the administration of the Fishery Acts; a scientific adviser, Mr. Holt; a principal clerical officer, Mr. Dowling; an engineer, Mr. Oliver; an expert and clerical staff. The Inspectors of Irish Fisheries had no funds at their disposal for fishery development except the loan funds, out of which loans were made to fishermen for the purchase of boats and gear.

678. What was the origin of the loan fund?—A Parliamentary grant coming through the Board of Works, which represents the Treasury in Ireland.

(Mr. McKel.)—Originally it was the surplus of some famine funds handed over to the Government about 1837—a reproductive loan fund.

(Mr. McKel.)—These loans continue under the present system, and there have been added to the Fisheries, from the funds of the Department, a special sum of £10,000 for Sea Fisheries and votes which the Agricultural Board makes from time to time for the development of inland fisheries and for scientific research.

679. (Chairman.)—That £10,000 is annual?—It is annual and is named in the Act. The new duties which the Department assumes in connection with fisheries include the policing of the fishery grounds, a duty which had at one time been discharged by the Admiralty but had for some time before the establishment of the Department been discontinued by them.

680. Have you no assistance from the Admiralty?—Not in this work.

681. In Scotland there is an Admiralty vessel?—The Admiralty give assistance in connection with breaches of the law by trawlers belonging to foreign countries. These very rarely come in as depredators into our three mile limit. Within the three mile limit the work is altogether done by the Department. For this purpose the Department maintain a cruiser, the "Hedge," which is sometimes assisted by the co-operation of the Congested Districts Board's steamer, the "Greenan." By this means the protection of the fishery grounds has been efficiently carried out.

682. Are they manned by officials of the Department?—Some of the ordinary police force?—No. The Hedge was bought by the Department and is entirely maintained out of that £10,000 for sea fisheries. By this means the protection of the fishery grounds has been efficiently carried out and the illegal depredations of steam trawlers within the three mile limit have been practically stopped. The other new duties were: aiding in connection with fishery piers and harbours; the development of a system of telegraphic intelligence, as to markets, for the benefit of fishermen during the season; the improvement of oyster fisheries; subsidizing the establishment of hatcheries for the artificial propagation of salmon, as well as aid to Boards of Conservators for the better protection of the public fishing rights under their charge.

683. Was the work of the inland fishery now or was it handed over by statute?—Dealing with inland fisheries was a duty formerly exercised by the fishery inspectors. They administered the fishery laws and acted in a judicial capacity in regard to inquiries and bylaws with regard to close times. They still exercise those functions, but formerly there was no fund for the development of the inland fisheries. Since they have come over to the Department grants have been made by the Agricultural Board with a view of helping the fisheries in the ways I have named. Here again there is a large subject to be inquired into, and I shall be prepared to go into it further later on if necessary, and Mr. Green will be able to answer in minute detail for the work of his branch. The funds of the Fisheries Branch, with the exception of the reproductive loan funds, come altogether from the Department's Endowment.

The Statistics and Intelligence Branch is one of the most important in the Department, and it has close relations with all the other branches. Its first chief—my much lamented colleague, Dr. William Coyne—has been succeeded by Mr. W. G. S. Adams, M.A. His principal colleague is Mr. Butler, and he is assisted by a staff, which he will describe to you. The work of the Branch includes all the agricultural statistics previously dealt with by the Registrar-General, the Land Commission, the Veterinary Department of the Privy

Council, and a great amount of new statistical information; the publication of a number of reports, and the editing of the Journal of the Department. The Intelligence work includes a series of most valuable inquiries affecting agricultural, industrial, and educational developments at home and abroad. I need not dwell now upon the nature of the work of the Branch. The efficient development of such work is of the first importance to the country, which, without it, is heavily handicapped through being unable to take a true account of the economic situation. The work is being developed in certain ways, some of which will be referred to later; and I can only say of it—what in fact is true of practically all the other branches of the Department—that there are many developments which the Department contemplates for it that are only held back because of the limitations of the staff.

684. (Mr. O'Donnell.)—Limitations in the number? (Chairman.)—I see it is a large staff.

(Mr. O'Donnell.)—You mean limitations in the number of the staff, not of their ability?—Quite so.

685. (Chairman.)—The size of the staff is augmented for by the variety of the matters taken over?—Yes; a certain proportion of the staff came over from those other departments with the transferred functions.

686. (Mr. McKel.)—You are speaking of the staff in the building, not the science and art staff that went the other way?—Yes, I am speaking now of the Statistical and Intelligence Branch.

687. (Chairman.)—Would the staff that is enumerated here in the return for 1903 be closely located in Dublin or do they comprise clerks elsewhere?—That staff is all here in the office.

688. (Mr. McKel.)—Your remark about the limitation of the staff did not apply merely to the Statistical and Intelligence Branch?—It refers to the Agricultural Branch even more so.

689. (Mr. O'Donnell.)—But in applying it to the Agricultural Branch do you mean that more work for that branch would be done by the Statistical Branch or by the members of the Agricultural Branch?—No, what I said was that the fact that was true practically of all the other branches of the Department is true of this, namely, that there are a good many other developments which it could undertake but is deterred simply by the limitation in the number of the staff.

690. (Chairman.)—What struck me at first sight was that the staff was a very large one?—When you hear of the work that that staff is doing, and the nature of it, and the developments of it which can be undertaken, and have been contemplated by the staff, you will realise the point of what I have said. With this branch the Endowment Fund is not concerned; it is altogether financed from the Parliamentary Vote. The Veterinary Branch, as the former Veterinary Department of the Privy Council practically was it was, with new duties, which the Department have added to it since they took it over. It is organised on the same lines as the similar branch in the British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. The virtual administrative head is Mr. Cantrell, Chief Clerk of the Department, who exercises in regard to this branch functions analogous to those of Mr. Anstruther, one of the four assistant secretaries of the British Department. In official charge of the professional side of the work is Mr. Hedley, Chief Veterinary Inspector, under whom is an outdoor and indoor staff. The principal function of this branch is with the administration of the Diseases of Animals Acts—a function which, in an agricultural country like Ireland, it is needless to say is of vital importance. So effectively has this duty been discharged by the officers of the former Veterinary Department, administrative and professional, who are virtually the same as those of the present Veterinary Branch, that Irish cattle have on the whole, I think, the cleanest bill of health of any in the world. Through this means has been entirely stamped out the terrible pest of foot-and-mouth disease; and swine fever, which was at one time a veritable plague, has been reduced to comparative insignificance. The machinery of the Branch involves the imposition of the imports and exports of cattle at the ports, the making of orders and regulations with regard to the various diseases of cattle, horses, and other live stock, and the authorisation of local authorities to make orders of a similar kind. The funds it deals with include a grant-in-aid from Parliament (which is divided between our Department and the British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries), for the suppression of swine

fever and other diseases, and the General Cattle Diseases Fund, which is levied periodically from the rates of the country by the sanction of the Local Government Board. None of the monies dealt with in this Branch come from the Endowment Fund. Through this Branch the Department works in the closest co-operation with the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries of Great Britain, with a view to securing, as far as practicable, uniformity in administration in these matters throughout the United Kingdom.

As an annex of this Branch, administered also through Mr. Cantrell, are matters coming under the general head of Transit and Markets, which relate to the transit of animals, the carriage and distribution of produce, railway rates, enforcement of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts as regards such articles as butter, margarine, and milk, the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Acts, and the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts. For supervising the transit of animals under the Diseases of Animals Acts there is a small staff of Transit Inspectors. As these men are constantly travelling over the railways of the country, the Department added to their duties the inspection of all classes of agricultural and industrial produce in transit, and added to their number an inspector specially charged with duties in connection with railway rates. Through this Transit and Markets section is done the work which is entailed by the powers conferred on the Department by Section 17 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act. All this work has a most important bearing on agricultural and industrial produce, and it will be described more fully in due course.

There is a group of central institutions, some of which have already been alluded to, which being connected with the work of more than one branch, are administered through the Secretariat. These are the Royal College of Science, the Museum of Science and Art, the Royal Botanic Gardens, the National Library, and the Geological Survey. The Metropolitan School of Art belongs to this group of Science and Art Institutions, but it is administered through the Technical Instruction Branch. All these, save the School of Art, have undergone reorganisation by the Department since they were taken over from South Kensington, and the School of Art would have been fully reorganised as this but for the untimely death of the late head-master, Mr. Wilkie, who was specially appointed by the Department in view of such reorganisation. Although the reorganisation of the School of Art has thus been interrupted, the Department have nevertheless introduced certain new features, aiming especially at the development of industrial art and the training of teachers. The Royal College of Science was first taken in hand with the object of better adapting it to the needs of the country and the educational schemes of the Department. A Departmental Committee—consisting of the following:—Sir William Abney, K.C.S.I.; the Secretary of the Department; the Assistant Secretary for Technical Instruction; the Commissioner of Valuation, Mr. Spring Rice, of the Treasury; Mr. W. Harrington, of Cork; and Sir James Macgavin, of Belfast—was appointed by minute of the Vice-President to deal specially with this reorganisation.

682. When was that?—1900; it was one of the first things done, but the reorganisation of the College did not take place for some time after that.

Amongst other reforms which have thus been made in the College, a strong faculty of agriculture has been introduced, and its work co-ordinated with that of the farm at Glasnevin; the facilities of Engineering and Applied Chemistry have been likewise strengthened, the position of the professors improved, the staff increased, and new agricultural and technical scholarships added. New buildings also are being provided for this College.

The Museum, which is under the direction of Colonel Pitt-Rivers, C.B., and which, like the Botanic Gardens, has the advantage of a Board of Visitors, whose advice the Department have always valued, has likewise had its staff strengthened since it came under the Department. A new branch of work, that of circulating exhibits, has been added to its functions with a view to making the Museum of more direct use and interest to agricultural, technical, and other schools throughout the country, and to local industrial exhibitions and fairs. The Department has other developments in view for the Museum by which it is

hoped its practical utilities to agriculturists and industrialists will be greatly increased and its purely scientific functions effectively maintained.

The Royal Botanic Gardens, the Superintendent of which is Mr. Moore, are of the greatest value to the agricultural and science teaching of the Royal College of Science and the Glasnevin College, and its Superintendent has greatly aided the Department in its new work of promoting practical horticulture and fruit-growing in the country. The staff of the Botanic Gardens has been increased, but it is still inadequate.

The Department, with the aid of a small Departmental Committee, consisting of Sir Robert Holmes, Professor Dewden (Chairman of the Council of Trustees of the Library), and myself took in hand the reorganisation of the staff of the National Library, and eventually obtained the consent of the Treasury to a scheme which largely increased the staff and improved the position of Mr. Lyser, the Librarian, and his assistants. Practically all the recommendations of the Trustees have now been given effect to and the staff is, I believe, adequate.

In April, 1906, the Geological Survey of Ireland, which had been previously administered by the English Board of Education, was transferred to the Department. It has been placed, in accordance with the recommendation of the Departmental Committee on the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom, and of the Committee on the Royal College of Science, in charge of the Professor of Geology at the Royal College of Science, and its work is now co-ordinated with that of the Agriculture Faculty of the College, and with the care of the geological collections of the Museum.

None of these institutions are maintained out of the Endowment Fund of the Department. The expense is borne by the Parliamentary Vote.

692. That applies to all these?—All these institutions I have just described. The Vote amounts to a total of £44,000. There are, besides, the Accounts Branch and the Registry. The Accounts Branch is under the charge of Mr. Walsh, the clerk in charge of the Accounts, who is Treasurer of the Department. The Registry is under the charge of Mr. Dalton, and its function is the usual function of a Registry as a Department of the kind.

693. Keeping the registry of every paper?—Exactly.

I return to the Secretariat to explain that it consists of a staff including the Chief Clerk and the Senior Staff Officer, Mr. Daly, whose duty it is to deal with all files and correspondence coming through the various branches, which have to receive the sanction of the Secretary or Vice-President. This is its principal duty; but a very important part of the work of the Secretariat which is done through the Senior Staff Officer is the making of all arrangements in connection with the Boards, Council, and Consultative Committees. Through it, besides, are dealt with certain matters which it has not yet been found practicable to allot to any particular branch, or in which more than one branch may be directly concerned; such, for example, as the administration of the central institutions just referred to. Amongst these matters is the direction of the work of investigation and advice as to minerals and raw materials, all of which is carried out by Mr. E. Lyham. This is a very important branch of the Department's work, to which further reference will be made later.

One of the most important and, if I may so, characteristic features of the Department's work is the system of advice and consultation with the classes whom its work concerns, which it carries on all through its operations at every fitting stage. This system is provided for in various ways. Amongst such ways are advisory expert committees, conferences (local and at the central office), and constant meetings of the Department's officers with the committees and representative men who are concerned in the work. For example, connected with the work of the Agricultural Branch are Advisory Committees on Horse Breeding, on the Improvement of Linn Stock, on Flax Cultivation, Tobacco Cultivation, and Forestry. For the work done through the Technical Instruction Branch there are a Headmasters' Committee, a Committee of Consultation with the Intermediate Board, and constant conferences of teachers.

694. (Mr. Dryden).—These Advisory Committees are appointed by the Department?—Yes; they consist of experts in the particular industry or persons

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specially connected with it, people who, in the opinion of the Department are most competent to advise on the particular matter. The Fisheries Branch has an Advisory Committee on Fisheries. Of the Statutory Committee for co-ordinating educational administration, which is representative of the Intermediate Board, the National Board, and the Department, I will speak in another connection. What I wish to make clear here is the amount of careful consideration of the suggestions and views of the people of the country that are most concerned by particular schemes of the Department receive before it is put into force. Take, let us say, one of the live stock schemes. When the time of the year comes for dealing with these schemes the views and suggestions of the County Committees arising from their experience of the past season's schemes are invited. These views are then put before the Advisory Committee on Live Stock, and with the aid of that Committee a scheme for the coming year is worked out, that scheme permitting of various modifications in detail to suit local circumstances by the local committees. When the scheme is ready it is brought before the Agricultural Board, and by them again considered. Then it is sent to the county committees and a conference of secretaries of these committees is called by the Department.

695. That committee is approved by the County Council?—Yes; it is the Statutory Committee of the local authority. This conference is held with a view to explaining the new features of the scheme and to making arrangements for meetings of the committees which inspectors of the Department will attend, in order to thrash out locally any problems that it may be necessary to make for the special local administration of the scheme. Practically, similar processes are carried out by the Technical Instruction Branch with regard to the schemes of technical instruction; and even in such matters as the Department's programme for administering the Science and Art grants in Secondary Schools, the representatives of these schools are consulted before it is finally formulated. In short, I do not hesitate to say that, even apart from the functions of the Council and Boards, there is not a Department in the world which consults with and takes into account the opinion of the people concerned in its work and the suitability of its work to the circumstances of the country to the extent that is done by this Department. The Statutory Committee for co-ordinating educational administration has a function of great importance to fulfil for the education of the country, and its utility is broad each year to increase as the opportunities for co-ordinating the work of the different educational authorities increases with the development of that work itself. The Committee, of which the Vice-President is ex-officio Chairman, consists of representatives of the three educational authorities—the National Board, the Intermediate Board, and this Department. Its recommendations have already borne excellent fruit. The function of the Committee is so peculiar and valuable that I will refer to it more particularly again in the second part of my evidence. It will be noticed in the list of branches which I have described that only three of these—the Agricultural, Technical Instruction, and Fisheries—derive their funds from the endowment of the Department, though amongst them all—this, I trust, has been remarked by the more conversant—there is a close kinship of function and helpful co-operation. That comprises the survey of the branches and advisory and advisory committees.

696. (Chairman).—There are one or two things I wish to understand. Is the clerical staff organised in a way analogous to what it is in an English office; have you higher division and second division clerks, and so on, with salaries on a particular scale?—Yes, quite in the same way as other offices, only that ours is not a first division office.

697. Have they the same system of increments and so forth?—Precisely the same.

698. These figures here in this return against the names of the different members of the staff, I suppose they show their salary at that time?—Yes.

699. (Mr. O'Brien).—The increments are all shown in the official estimates?—Yes.

700. (Chairman).—What class of clerks have you; could you tell me that?—That is set out in the estimates here in full. The office in its clerical staff

is mainly a Second Division office; of course there are staff officers, and a special hierarchy of the kind, just the same as in all such offices.

701. I suppose that was to a certain extent complicated by taking the clerical staff over from other offices at their existing salaries?—Yes, they were all in the same category; they belonged to the Civil Service, and were in the main, so far as the clerical officers were concerned, belonging to the second division.

702. Then below the second division what is your staff?—There are assistant clerks; the hierarchy of the clerical staff would be like this—there are assistant clerks, second division clerks, assistant clerks, otherwise abstractors, and there are boy clerks.

703. What is the salary of an assistant clerk?—25, rising to £150.

704. And the second division?—It begins at £20, rising to £350.

705. By what increments?—£5 first and then £2 10s., and then by £30.

706. Then below assistant clerks, what clerks?—By clerks and a certain number of temporary clerks. I was proposing to complete this account of the organization by referring to the constitution of the Council and the Boards. I will now return to the Agricultural Board and the two Boards, whose place is in general scheme you will perhaps the better realize after this review of the organization of the Department. The Council is an advisory body and an elected college. The two points which the Committee are most anxious to consider with respect to these bodies are (1) whether there ought to be a nominative element, and (2) whether they should have larger or— I think it will be more correct to put it—different powers.

707. (Mr. O'Brien).—What committee?—This committee I gather from the questions that have been asked.

708. (Chairman).—They are very important points. As to the first of these points, let me say first if it is a question of having confidence in the nominative element, I, for one—and I think in this I speak in all of us in the Department without exception—think so highly of the character and capacity of the men, speaking of them as a whole, returned to our Council and Boards by the elective process that I consider them fit to be trusted with any power. My experience of six years' working at the actual task of administration and co-operation with these and the representative bodies in Ireland has been to me—as I speak as one who believed in them before—a revelation of the capacity of our people for assuming the responsibilities of self-government. I was prepared for all sorts of drawbacks and imperfections, the result of various circumstances; and drawbacks and imperfections there are; but, with all these reservations the actual experience has surpassed my most sanguine hopes. Therefore on the point of making any independent self-governing bodies as representative as possible, and entrusting them with full powers for the management of their business I have no doubts. But now the question comes: when you are constructing institutions for a country, how—by what method—are you to make a body as representative of the people as possible, and how are you to distribute the different powers and duties amongst the different bodies? Which are to go to which? I think a little confusion has arisen because these questions, thus differentiated, have not been made clear. If you ask me whether the nominative element should be done away with on our Council and Boards my answer is that if the person or body exercising the power of nomination is himself or itself representative, if he or it is appointed by an executive representative of the country, for example by a responsible Dublin City Council in that case I think the nominative element should be retained. In that case the process of nomination is what it is intended to be, merely a device or contrivance, like proportional representation, for making your body still more representative of the country as a whole than it can be by the process of election by simple majorities alone—the object being the same as sought after in the most highly developed democracies. In countries like Switzerland and Austria they strive to gain this end of wider representation—the inclusion of representatives of classes and interests, in the absence of whom no body could be considered as truly representative of the nation—for strive to gain this end by proportional representation.

In Ireland, in the absence of proportional representation, this object must be secured by the system of nominating a certain proportion of the representative body. Of course if a government uses the power of nomination in an anti-democratic sense, if, having particular party views, or having a distrust of the elective element, it nominates men merely with a view to counterbalancing the influence of the elective element or making weight against a particular party, that is a different view of the nominative system, and on that plan I do not think the system would be sound. Neither would it be sound if, without these considerations, the government did not select men genuinely representative of the interests it was sought to include; that is to say the men, or type of men, whom those interests would themselves select. We all know bodies—I won't say where—on which men have been nominated as supposed to represent particular interests whom those interests would repudiate as being in any sense typical or representative. If the power of nomination is employed in a genuinely pro-representative sense, then it is an enhancement and strengthening and not a restriction of the essential spirit of representative government. The use of such a system is all the more necessary and it is all the easier and safer to exercise in connection with bodies such as the Council of Agriculture and the Agricultural Board, whose object is strictly economic, and into which political considerations have no right to enter. It is in this general spirit that the power of nomination has been exercised by Sir Horace Plunkett and the Department. The result is that the Council of Agriculture is the most representative statutory body ever got together in Ireland. And I do not fear to say that if the matter were put to the elective two-thirds of the Council they would themselves vote to retain the nominative element under the conditions I have described, conditions which have been observed by the Department in this particular since the outset. With regard to the other question which has been raised, that of giving extended powers to these bodies

of which is due in fact to the Council; has not the Council a real influence though not a technical one?—Most decidedly, and I would go so far as to say that apart from its advisory and deliberative function and its power of election, its unwritten or implied power is very real.

711. One or two cases struck me the other day when listening to the discussions at the Council meeting, where there were distinct resolutions passed, advocating a certain course of action; have those resolutions a practical effect?—They have indeed. We have had a list prepared of these resolutions and the action which the Department has taken with regard to them, with which I will be prepared to deal presently. I would say, as is so often the case in constitutions, this undefined power or influence is more important than the written power. That influence affects the Board, and is constantly before the mind of the Department. I entirely agree with Sir Horace Plunkett when he said that the position of a Vice-President who did not enjoy the confidence of the Council would be untenable. With respect to the power of the Agricultural Board in reference to the field of its work, I consider that power as complete as it could be consistently with efficiency in the more routine of executive work; and I shall be much mistaken if the members whom the Board have chosen to give evidence do not in effect tell you this too. The power of initiative is not outside their statutory power but inherent in it, inseparable from any practical working scheme of it. If there had been any doubt of this at the beginning—and there was some—the precedents which have now been established remove all doubt. There is a perfect understanding on all this subject between the Department and the Board, and, I think, a perfect identity of sentiment between them. Probably no man—I must be allowed to say this—who did not possess the rare tact and power of working with mixed bodies of men possessed by Sir Horace Plunkett could have established these relations so successfully. But they are now so established, and the position of the Vice-President who was unable to maintain these would simply be impossible.

712. Have there been many cases in which, as a matter of fact, the Board has refused to sanction expenses which the Department proposed?—I don't think there has been a single case in which the Department, having discussed the matter with the Board, desired to press it, that the Board refused to agree. But there have been several cases in which the Department brought up matters for discussion at the Board which in a general way they thought it would be well to go on with and in which the Board after a discussion did not agree with that view; the result was that the Department agreed with the Board about that, and was greatly assisted by the discussion which took place. The Board consists, as you will learn when you meet them, of men of very remarkable ability and representativeness. If you run through the list you will see men like Dr. Kelly, for example, the Bishop of Ross, who is one of the soundest practical economists in the country, men like Mr. Montgomery, who has made a very special study of all forms of State aid, especially in connection with agricultural systems, men like Mr. Dowdes, Chairman of the Westmeath County Council, who is a practical farmer and a most shrewd and capable man, men like Mr. P. J. O'Neill, Chairman of the Dublin County Council, the Archbishop of Tuam, and so on. They constitute a body extremely representative of the men whom you would select to deal with this sort of affairs in any country. The result is that the Department find there a most important guide to them in all their work.

713. Hitherto I take it from you there has been no real friction?—None whatever.

714. I want to understand from you how it actually works in practice; in theory the Board must assent to every item of expenditure from the Endowment Fund?—Yes.

715. I suppose there must be constantly small items of expenditure which, owing to the fact that the Board has not met, you cannot actually get it to consent to before the expense is actually incurred?—Yes.

716. Do these items come before the Board at a later stage?—We have a general covering authority from the Board. We bring forward a scheme, discuss it fully with the Board, and its cost, and get a vote from the Board covering the general scheme.

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709. By giving extended powers you mean, I suppose, giving more practical power to the Council of Agriculture beyond the mere power of electing the Board of Agriculture?—That is the point. I think that problem will be more clearly and more fully understood if we realise that it is a question rather of giving different functions to these bodies from those now allotted to them. There are three institutions: there is the Council, there are the two Boards, and there is the Department. To each of these certain powers and functions have been allotted. The first advises, criticises, and checks; the second advises, holds the purse, and through the purse controls administration; the third is an executive body. Now, is the Council, as some have suggested, to curtail the functions of the Board? If so, the Boards have no reason for existence. Are the Boards to do the work of the Department? If so, you must abolish the Department. All this is applied in the suggestion of a change, or extension of powers, or a disturbance of the balance of these bodies, in the constitution of which they form jointly a part. If I may say so, a great confusion of ideas appears to have arisen over this matter, and that is inevitable in this country whenever the question of democratic functions in connection with any sort of Government business comes up. Because there is a feeling in the country that Government is not responsible to the people that feeling manifests itself in the desire to extend the control of any species of democratic body over administration without regard to the special character or function of that body. This Council of Agriculture is an advisory body for a technical department and not a council or parliament of the country. If you could imagine for a moment a parliament or national council controlling all departments of government these questions about extending the power of this Agricultural Council would never arise. The Agricultural Council, or rather those who want to get it different functions—for I do not think the Council itself wants this—would then be perfectly content with the most important and valuable function which it now exercises. For one does not think the position of the Council in this respect ought to be changed.

710. As a matter of fact have you had a number of instances in which the Council, although it has technically no power at all, yet has passed resolutions which have been acted on by the Department, the initiative

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717. The Board leaves to the Department the duty of administering or executing that scheme and gives it a discretion with regard to the different types of expense?—That is in practice what takes place, and that enables, as I imagine, efficient administration to be carried out. The Board having full control and cognizance of the scheme and its cost, and dealing with the policy of the scheme, gives its assistance in the very best form. The Department and its staff employ their time in working out the details.

718. How often do the Boards meet?—About every month or every six weeks.

719. (Mr. Dryden).—They meet on call?—There is no regular time for meeting except that there are certain dates, such as the date before the arrangements for the Live Stock schemes for the year.

720. (Chairman).—Hitherto you say you have had no friction?—No.

721. Do you apprehend, under less favourable circumstances, change of men, and so on; do you think there is a danger of friction in the relations between the two. In a department controlled by a Board of that sort a deadlock might possibly occur?—I think a great deal would depend on the character of the man who was Vice-President, and I think, when a new system of that sort was launched, and new men, who had never met each other before, or had practically not met each other before, came together to work that system, that it was a very delicate and difficult experiment, and, as I have said, and I think it is a thing that ought always to be recognized, there are very few men that I have met who had the gift that would have enabled that system to have got into shape in the beginning so smoothly as Sir Horace Plunkett has done. But it has now been working six years, precedents and traditions have been established, and while that, as all other business of the kind must largely depend for its success on the character of the men who are called upon to work it, yet I think the dangers of difficulty and friction arising are far less now than they would have been at an earlier stage.

722. Has the Board practically acted as a check upon expenditure, or the other way?—Well, I don't think that that question has arisen because our tendency in the beginning of our work, the tendency of the Department itself, was to resist schemes that had been suggested in the country for expenditure in various directions. We were constantly attacked for hoarding our surplus and making a reserve fund; we did that deliberately, because we did not consider the time had come for spending that capital sum upon the institutions and other undertakings that we ultimately looked forward to. There was a natural desire in the country to see that money expended, and the Department set itself against too readily meeting that desire. The Board supported the Department entirely in that policy, and were a great strength to the Department in doing so.

723. On that point—that of creating a Reserve Fund—which would raise the question strongly and in a marked form you say you got the support of the Board?—Entirely. The decision of the Board, I think, in every instance up to this has been unanimous. I don't remember any instance of putting questions to the vote. If the Department has ever brought forward anything through its not having as fully considered it as it might perhaps have desired, anything which the Board manifested a reluctance to accept, we have always refrained from going on with it; the feeling of the Board being manifested we have always thought it right not to go on with that suggestion. Sometimes the Board did not all at once grasp the scheme as proposed; then what took place was a discussion on its merits, and an ultimate agreement.

724. You say it has worked well hitherto?—Decidedly.

725. (Mr. Michs).—The Department has been at work for six years?—Yes.

726. And you have had thirty-one meetings—five a year?—I suppose so. In the earlier years the meetings were fewer than they have been in later years; we had about ten last year.

727. I am not sure that I follow the precise arrangement about these votes; first the Department initiates everything, I mean so far as an actual scheme goes?—Yes, but sometimes schemes have been brought forward by members of the Board.

728. Suggested?—Suggested or actual proposals.

729. Would that be taken up by the Department?—It would.

730. That is what I mean, come to the stage where it would be taken up by the Department, in what way then would the Department bring before the Board that scheme that they proposed to carry out?—The Vice-President would explain it.

731. Verbally or by information in some statement?—It would depend on the nature of the scheme. Sometimes in both ways. Sometimes a scheme needed only a verbal explanation; sometimes documents and particulars would be circulated beforehand. Again a scheme would be discussed in a preliminary stage at one meeting of the Board with a view to its being further considered and decided on at a later meeting, and in the interval particulars and details would be put before the members of the Board.

732. (Mr. Dryden).—It is not necessary that a scheme should originate with the Department, is it?—No.

733. Some member of the Board could make a suggestion and it could be considered then?—Of course; in practice no other plan would work.

734. (Mr. Michs).—Perhaps Mr. Dryden refers to the stipulation in the Act that the bodies should only consider such questions as were put before them by the Department?—It does not say "only consider," I think. "The Agricultural Board shall advise the Department with respect to all matters and questions submitted to them by the Department in connection with the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries."

735. (Mr. Dryden).—That does not exclude their bringing forward questions?—No; and moreover, if you turn to Section 16 (1g), it says "The surplus remaining of the aforesaid money shall be applied, subject as regards any particular application to the concurrence of the Agricultural Board."

736. (Mr. Michs).—I wanted to find out how it works in practice. There is a general indication of the scheme given by the Department that certain action would be desirable in their opinion, and a scheme is laid on the table before the Board and an estimate is then given of the sum of money that would be necessary?—Yes.

737. Always a round sum?—Generally a round sum—a covering sum.

738. You vote, say, £1,000 for such a purpose?—Yes.

739. You would not exceed the £1,000 without coming to them again?—No.

740. As soon as the Department gets authority does it make such arrangements and payments as it likes, provided the rough estimate is not exceeded?—Practically it does.

741. So that all the Board bears of the thing is the original permission to spend up to a certain amount on the scheme as laid before them in a general way?—That would not be a correct description of the case; very full particulars are before the Board. Take for example the Live Stock scheme, you have got a copy of the minutes before you. Take the last Live Stock scheme for 1905, page 197, you will find there an idea of the sort of particulars given before the scheme is debated, and you will see they are fairly full.

742. Yes, that is given in great detail?—And in the appendix the schemes in full are published; these schemes, moreover, have been circulated to the Board before they come up.

743. Now turn to page 52 of the same volume; there are there a couple of instances of votes on that page. There is first the fruit and vegetable drying at Portadown. Professor Campbell said that the output of the factory last year though small was of good quality; he goes on to say that the Department had arranged with the War Office and the Admiralty to be allowed to tender for dried fruit and vegetables. It would be necessary, however, to provide an additional sum of £1,000 for working capital. The Board concurred, and allocated a further sum of £1,000 for the purposes named. Was that all that would have been before the Board when they voted the £1,000?—These minutes are a summary of what takes place; that would have been explained more fully by Professor Campbell.

744. In writing?—Partly in writing and partly *éloc* *voce*, but the minute there might have represented half an hour's discussion on the subject.

742. There is another lower down about calf mortality in Westford; the Board concurred and voted £500 in connection with the investigation. Is it usual that these representations should be made in writing?—No.

743. Is it more usual that they should be made in writing or verbally?—Verbally. But that would all depend on the nature of the scheme. If it was one in which it was necessary to go into particulars of accounts and so forth, that information would be supplied partly in writing and partly verbally.

744. At all events frequently representations are made in writing?—Yes.

745. Could you give us copies of some of these representations—foundations for schemes?—I think we could; take for example the Live Stock scheme.

746. That, of course, is hardly the kind of scheme I mean; I mean a scheme where the general direction of the Department would be exercised?—We can certainly put in some of those particulars. May I say, on this point, that some of these matters as to which we will put in all the information in our power may be of such a nature that it would not be desirable to publish all the particulars.

747. Certainly, but merely for the private information of the Committee?—What I would venture to suggest is, if the Committee could arrange some hour or day in which to meet the officers of the Department and go minutely into these matters—go into the accounts and files.

(Chairman).—We will see whether it is necessary to do that.

748. (Mr. Miles).—As soon as that vote is made for the £1,500 we will say, how the Department full discretion to make payments under that as they please?—Decidedly, they have full discretion.

749. In what way then does their expenditure come before the Board afterwards?—It always comes up afterwards for confirmation.

750. I just want to see in what shape exactly; turn to page 261 of the minutes, is that an instance of an account given?—Yes. I should say that at our Board meetings there is a report of progress made by the Department and full particulars are then given with regard to the schemes as they are being administered.

751. (Chairman).—On that page they have every farthing of expenditure for the two months?—The first item on the agenda, usually after the reading of the minutes, is a report of progress.

752. (Mr. Miles).—By your accountant?—It would be put before the Agricultural Board by Professor Campbell, but it would depend on the matter; sometimes the Vice-President, and sometimes I would explain the matter.

753. Would the report be explained by the Accountant?—The Accountant always attends the meetings of the Board.

754. And the financial information given, is it in the form of an account?—It is; we can give you copies of these.

755. (Chairman).—We may take this as typical on page 261, that is the ordinary course of procedure, may we say, at every meeting of the Board?—No, this does not take place at every meeting.

756. Whether it is at every meeting or not, would there be accounts covering the whole period of the year submitted in this form?—Certainly.

757. (Mr. Miles).—Then the payments in detail, are they submitted to the Board at any stage?—No; I don't think the payments in detail are; they are explained to the Board, but they are not put forward in a formal account.

758. Is it the fact then that the Board's approval to the general scheme suggested is in accordance with a particular estimate?—Yes.

759. And then they are told afterwards how much it cost?—Yes.

760. But do they get, at any time, full detailed information of the working of the scheme?—They do, certainly.

761. How much was paid under every head. While we are on the question, could you get us any report that would be made at one of the Board meetings showing what information is given to the Board?—I don't think we could actually turn up one now; these are not formal statements, they are explanations made by the Department at each meeting of the Board with

regard to what is done under the scheme, then finally the matter is brought up before the Board in this form.

762. The wording of the Act in both subsections, the one for technical instruction and the one for agriculture is peculiar, it does not say anywhere in that that the concurrence or sanction of the Board is necessary for payments?—To any particular application.

763. The wording is "The other portion shall be applied, subject as regards any particular application, to the concurrence of the Board of Technical Instruction"; have you ever had a legal opinion on that?—I forget whether we had. Yes; I remember the Auditor went into all that; the Auditor's view was entirely in accordance with our practice.

764. Was there any change in practice owing to his question?—No. When you ask for particular items of expenditure you would not bring up before the Board such a matter, for example, as the amount of car-hire a particular inspector incurred in going to visit a calf mortality investigation in Westford.

765. No, but you would bring up the question of a particular bacteriologist who would be engaged to make the investigation?—We might.

766. After it was done or before?—That would depend; if the nature of the man to be employed had an important bearing on the scheme, that would be mentioned at the Board at the beginning; if it was a matter of comparative indifference, we should not trouble the Board with that, nor would the Board want to be troubled with it.

767. What is taken to be the meaning of the phrase "as regards any particular application"?—The general scheme on foot for a particular purpose. Not, for example, the cost of such an item as car-hire; any other interpretation would bring you into minute detail.

768. It would be quite impossible to have every item?—Of course it would.

769. (Mr. Glynne).—But every item is included in the accounts which are put on the table, every item is included in this total, and if a member of the Board wishes to cross-examine you or the accountant, or anyone else on any particular account the account can be sent for, and, I suppose, examined at the table?—Of course.

770. (Mr. Miles).—Is that frequently done?—It is not frequently done.

771. (Mr. Brown).—But if a member of the Board required any such information he would obtain it, and be entitled to obtain it?—Most decidedly, and it has been known and then.

772. (Mr. Glynne).—In fact it appears to me the practice, as you describe it, is indistinguishable from what would happen if the Board were a body of Governors or trustees, who were directly responsible for the expenditure. It appears to me that the procedure is exactly the same; you have put yourselves, not in the position to which you are entitled under the Act, as being the responsible parties, subject to the concurrence of the Board, but practically in the position of being officers of the Board for all the expenditure. I should say, with an ordinary covering vote, reference to the details of the kind we have just been discussing would be made only where there was some special reason for it, and it would be very infrequent?—Exactly; you have chosen a very happy illustration when you mention a Board of Trustees.

773. (Mr. Miles).—Don't you think a trustee would want to know intimately the working in a matter for which he was trustee?—The Board knows intimately the working of the matter.

774. (Chairman).—You give a detail going into every sixpence, and the Board has ample power for calling for further investigation?—Decidedly.

775. (Mr. Brown).—Has there been any complaint on the part of the Board of withholding any information?—No.

776. (Mr. Miles).—I am referring to one line of figures without any details whatever?—But the details are at the command of the Board at every meeting.

(Chairman).—You would have the details there if they were required; it would be impossible to carry on business if every detail was given.

777. (Mr. Miles).—In the House of Commons what is the usual practice?—Something similar; the relations between the Department and the Board are something similar to those of, let us say, the Government of the day and the House of Commons.

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781. (Mr. Micks).—In the estimates is not everything given in detail.

(Chairman).—Not more detailed than that.

(Mr. Micks).—These are only the totals.

782. (Mr. Brown).—Have the Board themselves ever complained that the information placed before them is insufficient?—Now, there would be no occasion for it; it is always at the command of the Board and they know it; you will find that from the Board themselves when you come to examine their representatives. I think you will find, when you come to examine the Board, that you may dismiss altogether from your minds the notion that the Board are at any disadvantage whatever with regard to any information, even the most minute.

783. (Mr. Micks).—Of course I was not considering that at all; what I was considering was what are their powers, and what do they do; it seems here, from what you say, that they give a general sanction for a sum to be expended—a rough amount—and that can be expended as the Department pleases?—Subject to the concurrence of the Board.

784. They give their concurrence in saying "We will allow you to spend £1,000 on such a thing."

(Mr. O'Connell).—On lines described?—On lines described.

(Mr. Micks).—Certainly; on general lines described. (Mr. O'Connell).—They don't prescribe that you are to employ Mr. A., a carman, instead of Mr. B., but that you are to pay the normal rates. If you employ a veterinary inspector or a professional man, you employ him at professional rates, and they don't go into that; if they found you had been exceeding those rates they would ask you to produce evidence with regard to the matter?—Yes.

785. And if they did ask you you would produce it?—Certainly.

787. (Mr. Micks).—How would they know it?—If the Board, at any moment, had lost confidence in the Department such a scheme would fall to the ground—the thing would not work. They have confidence enough in us to trust us to carry out a scheme of which they have approved, and with regard to which they are in command of the fullest information.

788. That is what I want, the information on which the vote is made in some few cases, I don't mean a Cattle Breeding scheme, but some Development case?—Yes.

789. (Mr. Brown).—In the case of any information brought before the Board preliminary to their being asked to agree to a scheme it is open to any member of the Board to ask for further details or information?—Of course it is.

790. And if they are not satisfied with the information presumably they won't pass the vote?—Decidedly; that is so. Now I have finished the first part of my evidence, and the second part I was hoping I should not go on with until you had fully examined me with regard to this part.

791. (Mr. O'Connell).—I observe that we are not likely to have any other officer before us who will deal particularly with the Museum or the Geological Survey, and I should like to ask one or two questions on that. With regard to the Museum, would you kindly tell us the functions of the Visitors. I understand the Museum is directly under the Director of the Museum, but between the Department and the Director, and available for reference by the Department there is a Board of Visitors?—Yes.

792. I should like to know their functions?—They visit the Museum from time to time and make representations or reports to the Department, and the Department considers their recommendations, and prints their reports in the annual general report.

793. Do the Visitors meet or visit the Museum at any prescribed dates?—No, they arrange that themselves.

794. Their action in the way of criticism or initiative is quite independent of any reference by the Department?—It is.

795. Are the Visitors selected by the Department?—No, the Visitors had existence as a body before the Department was created, and the appointment of the Visitors remains as it was then; they are selected by the Crown, in this instance, acting through the Irish Government. There are a certain number nominated by the Royal Dublin Society, and a certain number by the Royal Irish Academy, collections from these two bodies having been handed over at one time

to the charge of the Science and Art Department and placed in the Museum.

796. The Board of Visitors may be expected to consist of people who are selected, so many by a body representative of the interests of science and by another body representative of interest in art and by the Crown, which presumably would be advised as to the directions in which it was important that Museum work should be represented; the Board may therefore be taken to be more or less a Board of experts qualified to criticise or suggest upon matters relating to the policy of the work of the Museum?—I don't know whether they would describe themselves as a Board of experts. They are a Board of gentlemen who are mostly highly educated men, some of whom have direct knowledge, applicable to the Museum, scientific and other knowledge; they are not all experts.

797. I did not mean experts devoting their professional time to particular subjects, but men who had a special knowledge of the departments?—Yes; that would be the intention with which the Board would be constituted.

798. As a matter of fact do the Board of Visitors make suggestions to the Department for the Development of the Museum or does the Department consult them in any way in reference to possible developments?—They make reports periodically to the Department embodying recommendations of various kinds, some of which the Department find it impossible to carry out; for example, sometimes recommending increases of the staff, and, as you are aware, the Treasury has to be considered in connection with such recommendations, and it is not always found possible to act upon them.

799. But as to the development of one section or another, do you find they are a body who are of value as referees?—We have not felt it necessary to make special reference to them on these points so far. The Museum is administered by, on the whole, a very competent staff, consisting of the Director, and a certain number of inspectors, who are in touch with the Board of Visitors as well as with the Department. We refer reports to them for observations from time to time, and communicate with them with reference to any recommendations that they may have made.

800. That is to say if they have made a recommendation which necessitated an application to the Treasury for a further staff and the Treasury had made certain replies you might refer it to the Board of Visitors and say, "What have you got to say to this?"—Yes.

801. Then on the Geological Survey, you say in accordance with the recommendations of the Departmental Committee, the Survey had been placed under the Professor of Geology at the Royal College of Science?—Yes, the Professor of Geology, on the recommendation of the Committee, I think it was called the Wharton Committee. They made certain recommendations with regard to the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom, and it was stated there that if at any time the Irish branch of the Survey were transferred to the Department of Agriculture here it should be placed under the charge of the Professor of Geology at the Royal College of Science. The Committee which sat on the Royal College of Science, and was presided over by Sir William Abney, made a similar recommendation—Sir William Abney was connected with both Committees.

802. Do you find that that arrangement works well?—It has been in operation only twelve months, so I would not like to say. It has not been sufficiently long working to enable me to form an opinion. I regard the matter of our policy with regard to the Survey as something we do not like yet finally to determine.

803. You mentioned another officer, Mr. Lyburn; what office does he hold?—He is an economic geologist and a mining expert; his work I will describe more fully later on.

804. I don't find his position on the estimates?—No; he is one of these officers paid for from the Endowment Fund.

On resuming after lunch.

Witness.—I think it would be well if I explained a little further the arrangements as between the Department and the Boards with regard to our expenditure.

805. (Mr. Micks).—Have you got the form I asked for?—I don't think they would have them by this.

805. It is hardly worth me going on without the forms—Excuse me. I think if I made an explanation.

807. (Chairman).—When would you be able to get those forms?—I think the best thing for Mr. Micks would be to allow him to see the files of the Department with regard to any of these matters.

808. Have you got those at hand ready?—You can have the files from the Registry, but I don't think it would be practicable to examine the files now; I think the best course would be for Mr. Micks and the Committee to have a full opportunity of examining them.

809. Yes, I think, very likely, it would be important for us to see the books themselves, and that we should better see them in the office here rather than by way of evidence?—What it is very important to understand is that a large proportion, and by far the most important proportion of our work is done through the county committees of the country, and that the series of schemes which are passed upon by the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Boards are administered through these local bodies, and these local bodies have a very large share in the arrangements in connection with them. As I say, probably the most important part of the Agricultural Board's work takes the form of schemes for the development of agriculture, horticulture, live stock, agricultural education, and so on; these are the main subjects of the Department's work through that Board. Now these schemes are administered through county committees and the county committee has to say to the expenditure and the arrangement of the terms of that expenditure upon these schemes as well as the Department and the Board.

810. (Mr. Dryden).—They pay a certain proportion?—They themselves contribute a certain proportion from the rates to the scheme, and the Department, with the concurrence of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Boards, votes a contribution to the aid of the scheme.

811. (Chairman).—Are these the committees referred to in Section 14 of the Act? "The Council of any county or of any urban district may appoint a committee for the purposes of this part of this Act, consisting partly of members of their own body and partly of other persons"—Yes, those are the committees. A joint fund is thus formed, consisting of the Department's contribution and of a contribution from the rates. The matter comes up before the Agricultural Board under all these various headings—Mineral instruction, live stock, horticulture, poultry-rearing, and so forth. A series of schemes applicable to the whole country are prepared by the Department in the manner which I have indicated in the earlier part of my evidence. These are schemes which are to be worked in each county; they are framed on general lines so as to be applicable in their general principles to the whole country, but these general lines permit of modifications to suit the particular counties according to the desire of the local committees, with the approval of the Department.

812. Could you give us a concrete instance; I should follow you, speaking for myself, very much better, if I saw how it was worked out in a particular case?—A scheme for instruction in Agriculture, let us say.

813. What are you referring to, now?—Here I have the scheme for all Ireland (produced).

814. (Mr. Brown).—You also have a copy of the scheme of some local authority—any local authority founded upon the general scheme?

(Chairman).—What I want is to see how it works out. This, that you have put into my hand, is a general scheme for instruction in agriculture for 1905-1906?—Yes, that scheme is drawn up by the Department and the Agricultural Board.

815. Very well; just let us go through the process. First of all, of course, this originates in the Department?—Yes.

816. The draft of this scheme is prepared in the Department?—Yes.

817. And I suppose, after being settled in the Department, and approved by the Department, it then comes before the Board?—Yes.

818. Now take for instance the 3rd Section, "The remuneration of the instructor shall not, except in special cases, exceed £200 per annum," which raises the financial question; before that can take effect it must be approved by the Board?—This scheme is approved by the Board, including that item, and also including the travelling expenses.

819. Then upon that, after getting the approval of the Board, you are in a position to appoint an instructor?—Yes.

820. (Mr. Brown).—The instructor I think is appointed by the local committee?—With regard to the agricultural instructor; this is an exceptional item; the Department pays the salary of the agricultural instructor itself.

821. Out of its Endowment Fund?—Yes. All other instructors under the county schemes are paid for by the local committee.

822. Out of the Joint Fund?—Out of the Joint Fund of the local rates and the Department's grant, but the local committee itself appoints all these instructors, and even appoints the instructor for agriculture, whom the Department pays. The Department restricts itself to approving of the qualifications of these various instructors.

823. (Chairman).—We are now on the financial part of it; the Board approve of the scheme; the instructor is appointed by the local authority itself, the Board fixes the salary?—Yes; the salary is determined and fixed by the Board.

824. We will take it, for instance, that the Department proposes a salary not to exceed £200 a year; it cannot go beyond £200, because the Agricultural Board has only sanctioned £200 a year?—That is sanctioned in the scheme and cannot be exceeded.

825. Though it, as a matter of fact, appoints an inspector for £150, that, I suppose, comes specifically before the Board for approval? No; that detail does not need to come up before the Board; it is covered by the general approval. This scheme and similar schemes for the other modes of developing agriculture, a series of them are applicable, as I say, in general principles, to the country as a whole. Now we present the Board with this scheme when it is prepared and, when they have discussed it, with an estimate of the cost of it for the whole country, a general covering estimate. For example, take this scheme of instruction in agriculture, we present that with an estimate of the salaries of inspectors that will be necessary for that scheme; you will see it on page 162 of the minutes of the Board, salaries of inspectors, £7,500, travelling expenses of inspectors, £2,000, field experiments, £1,000.

826. That is the form of the original estimate presented to the Board?—Yes, the total under that head is £10,500. Then if you turn to page 253 you will see the scheme for encouraging improvement in the poultry-keeping industry. There are similar items there; so on through all the schemes that arrangements take effect. Now when these schemes are adopted in that way by the Board with these covering votes, the Department proceeds to arrange with county committees for their adoption in the counties, and for the allotment of the proportion of the Department's contribution which is to go to each county, in respect of its local scheme and in respect of its local contribution.

827. Now, have the Board any control whatever over the allotments to the particular county; supposing you are within this general maximum, are you free to allot what sum you think proper to the particular county?—Yes; up till now that has been our practice. The matter was considered more than once with a view to the Board's fixing the allotments to each county. We have found that it would be impracticable to do so, at any rate at this stage of our proceedings for various reasons. One county may not be allowed to carry out so many of the schemes nor to such an extent as another county. For example, the scheme of agricultural instruction implies the employment of a trained agricultural expert to act as instructor for the county. Now it was some time before we could get a supply of those trained instructors available. We have a fair supply of them now, Irishmen trained by ourselves in our own College of Science and Glenties. But before these were available many counties, though willing to take up the scheme of agricultural instruction, were unable to do so. Therefore you could not make an allotment to such a county in respect of agricultural instruction. Again, a county might prefer to go in more for the development of live stock schemes than for agricultural instruction, or to allot more to poultry-keeping than to some other item. For these reasons it would not be possible at this stage to make a fairly firm estimate of the proportion that ought to go to each particular county.

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428. (New follow me a little more in detail. You have got here from the Board an authority to spend \$2500 in salaries of instructors. It is open to you to say each and each a county. County A, is in such a backward condition, or for other reasons, that an instructor would be useless there—or perhaps that might be a reason for giving an instructor there.

(Chairman).—Well, for some reason or other the county does not require one. This covering authority enables you to say that each a county shall have no instructor at all, and therefore there will be no expenditure on that; County B, which is in a different condition, shall have one, and to that extent the Board would have no control.—My answer to that must be qualified in this way: in the first place, the decision of the Department as to whether a county should get an allotment for a particular scheme is governed very largely by the decision of the county itself; the county itself contributes money towards the scheme, and we consult the county in a manner which I will endeavour to explain in a moment.

429. I am not thinking of any inference whatever to be drawn from that. I am trying to get the fact, but the Agricultural Board would, as a matter of fact, not have any voice in a question of that kind.—The Agricultural Board does not ask to have any voice in deciding whether a particular instructor should be appointed.

430. So long as it is within the general covering authority you say the particular application of that lump sum is not a matter for the Agricultural Board to deal with.—That is so. But I don't want to give an answer that would be misleading; it is a complicated subject, the action of three authorities is concerned in it—the action of the Department, the action of the Board, and the action of the County Committee, and what I am endeavouring to point out, and what will be manifested through these schemes, is that the control of each of these three authorities is in some form or other exercised over this expenditure.

431. (Mr. Dryden).—As a matter of fact it is not the County Committee who fix these salaries; they employ the instructor.—They employ the instructor, and they do fix the salaries with the approval of the Department. For instance, they cannot fix an excessive salary, and if they were offering a salary which was insufficient in our judgment to attract experts of the right qualification we would point that out to them.

432. (Chairman).—Yes, but then it comes to this, that you fix the salary, though in fixing the salary you consult the Committee of the county.—Yes, if you like to put it that way.

433. The ultimate decision as to what the salary is to be rests with the Department.—Yes, within certain limits.

434. (Mr. Brown).—Considering the case of the agricultural instructor alone, that is the case in which the Department pays the whole salary, and in that case your proposition would be perfectly right, but in the case of other instructors, where the County Committee pay a proportion, they themselves have a say in the question of salary.—The Agricultural Instructor, as I pointed out, forms an exception, inasmuch as we pay the salary direct from the office.

435. (Chairman).—Where the County Committee pay a salary that is a voluntary act on their part, and they would not pay it unless they came to terms with the Board.—Yes. Now with regard to these schemes, the Department under them proceeds to settle with each county how much it is to get for each of the schemes that it adopts. That process consists in the Department's actually going down in the person of its inspectors and sitting with the County Committee and going through the whole affair in detail, and practically settling with them these and then how the expenditure is to be regulated.

436. You are now speaking of expenditure to which the county contributes.—Yes. The Agricultural Board desires the Department to do that work; in fact it could not be done otherwise. But they and we have always looked forward to the time, in fact it is one of the matters that has already been under the consideration of the Board, a time when the scheme in each county would be so developed, and the local committee so well accustomed to the whole management of the scheme, that it would be

possible to name a fixed proportion to be applied to each county. If we could reach that state of affairs it would be a great relief to the Department and to the Agricultural Board. But I must point out that the effect would be rather to increase the responsibility of the local committee for the funds, and in a sense to decrease the control of these funds by the Department and by the Board. We should hope to be able to say after a certain period:—"Now so much has been spent year by year in all the counties on these schemes; that makes a total sum which we are prepared to divide amongst the counties in such and such proportions," and then to leave each county to carry out the schemes with somewhat more discretion than they now exercise. Might I go to the further stage, namely, the supervision of the actual expenditure of that money by the local authority. The settling of each local scheme between the Department and the County Committee involves the fixing of the sum that is to go to each item of the scheme. So much for the salary of the poultry-keeping instructor, so much for the live stock scheme, so much for grants to the local agricultural shows, and so on. That is settled there and then. The County Committee, as it applies the money from time to time, sends up to the Department copies of its minutes, one being a copy of its financial statement. They send their accounts to the Department; the Department checks these accounts and approves the payment, and it is then, and only then, that the Department forwards to the County Committee their share of the money voted by the Board. I may add that this expenditure is further audited by Mr. Mies's Department, the Local Government Board.

(Mr. Mies).—Not by the Department, but by an official auditor who is independent of the Department.

Witness.—Well, by the auditor of the Local Government Board. That explains the method of that most important branch of the Board's work which is carried on through the local authorities of the country. The Board has to take into account the discretion of the local authority as well as the discretion of the Department, and there is a fair balance amongst the three forms of control.

437. (Chairman).—The control of the County Committee arises from their being contributors; they have no statutory control over the expenditure, but they have a practical control because they contribute towards the expenses.—Certainly. Mr. Brown asked just now for a copy of a local scheme in which these general schemes are adopted. Here (produces) is one for example that it may interest you to glance over.

438. This is a local scheme for the County Wexford.—The schemes administered through the local authorities for technical instruction are dealt with in the same way by the Technical Instruction Board, but here it is possible for the Board itself to settle more details of the expenditure of the schemes than it is in the case of agricultural schemes. In a town our technical instruction branch is able to settle with the local committee the full details of the scheme, and these details after they have been thrashed out and settled with the local committee are brought before the Technical Instruction Board for approval. These details include practically the whole expenditure under the scheme. For example, let us take a technical instruction scheme. If you turn to the minutes of the Technical Instruction Board you will here see these details given at page 236, vol. 3; you will see Athlone, Bray, Armagh, and so on. You will see that that scheme contains a statement of the local contributions from the rates and fees received, the Department's contribution from the endowment, the contribution from the County Committee, which it makes to such an urban scheme, rent of premises, sale of books and class materials; then it gives also the provision for wood-working and furniture-making, the salary of the domestic economy instructors, the grant towards the salary of the teacher of lace-making, the fire and light for lace classes and so on. All these details are given with reference to that scheme.

439. Is this a scheme for the expenditure of the Board upon technical instruction for Athlone?—It is for the expenditure of the joint fund consisting of the contribution from the Board and the contribution from the local rates. The local contribution from the rates is £50, and the Department's contribution

from the endowment is £400. Thus you will perceive that all these items come up in the schemes and are submitted to the Technical Instruction Board for their approval, and, as I mentioned, it is possible to provide these particulars in dealing with these technical instruction schemes in a way that it is not possible with regard to agricultural schemes. The agricultural schemes shift constantly, and grants have to be made for such an item as the number of nominations to farms, contributions to local shows and so on; they have to be settled after the Board has given its general approval.

343. (Mr. Gifford).—On the scheme you quoted—at page 290 of the minutes, there is an estimate for Athlone which differs from that on page 289; does that on page 290 refer to the year before?—That was an amended scheme, the second is amended. Schemes are often changed. Besides these schemes administered through the local authorities there are schemes dealt with directly by the central authority itself. For example there are schemes of agricultural education, purchase of lands for agricultural stations and experiments and investigations.

344. (Chairman).—May I see whether I understand your point—you say that the details of the schemes of technical education of which you gave an instance in the schemes relating to Athlone, can be brought up before the Board of Technical Education because they don't run so much into detail or are more fixed?

(Mr. Micks).—They are compared with fixed salaries!—With fixed salaries and fairly defined limits.

345. (Chairman).—And you say it would not be practicable to treat agricultural schemes in the same way?—No, the nature of the subject is so different.

346. (Mr. Gifford).—There is a further consideration that for the technical instruction schemes the Department's contribution is very much greater in proportion than the local one!—That does not always happen, and would not be a consideration. That depends upon the amount which the rate in the given area furnishes. Some districts are very poor and the rate yields but a small sum; we do not reduce the proportion of our grant on that account provided that the locality has raised a rate to the best of its ability. No, the chief reason is that the schemes of technical education in a town can be fairly defined; its objects are fairly defined and bend themselves to being included in the way, whereas the work of agricultural instruction and development in the country does not. The particulars are fully available afterwards as you will see in the local scheme that is before you, and they are all sent up to the Department by the local committee, and every item is tested and checked before the Department's contribution is paid.

347. (Chairman).—Is it that in Athlone, for instance, the local contribution from rates is £80 and the Department's contribution is £200, eight times as much. If you go to Armagh we find the local contribution from rates is £85, and from the Department's endowment £250, which is much less in proportion. Is there any check at all upon the Department—does it entirely rest with the Department to fix the proportion which the grant from the endowment bears to the local contribution from rates?—In the case of technical instruction the thing is absolutely fixed. That is, we have to adapt, with the concurrence of the Board, a plan for distributing the money throughout the country in proportion to population and to other items in a rather complicated calculation which is aimed at providing a fair distribution of that fund.

348. As regards the branch of technical instruction, you say it goes on the basis of carrying out a general scheme which fixes the proportion?—Yes, to begin with it is a fixed sum of £55,000 per annum which has to be distributed on fixed lines; that is not the case with the endowment of the Agricultural Board.

349. (Mr. Micks).—Is it £52,000 or £55,000?—£55,000, and the £7,000 from the Development Grant, which is a separate sum not included in the sum dealt with in the Act. It is administered by the Board. If you turn to page 125, vol. 1, of the Technical Instruction Board Minutes you will see the plan on which this technical instruction endowment is allotted.

350. (Chairman).—Was that settled in 1903?—That was settled in 1903, and it has been confirmed by the new Board. This was a revised scheme developed from a different scheme we had in operation previously. The scheme now adopted and shown on

the tabular statement, of which copies are on the table, aims at increasing the urban funds by withdrawing to a certain extent some funds from the rural districts and by replacing the amounts drawn from these districts by an allocation of the funds administered with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, who have voted £7,000 for the purpose. The Agricultural Board have voted this sum for technical instruction in rural districts—rural instruction and domestic economy teaching—which it allows to be administered by the Department with the concurrence of the Technical Instruction Board. On a careful examination of the rate-raising capacity of the urban districts it was found that that capacity ranged from £6 to almost £23 per thousand inhabitants. The Department had fixed £20 per thousand inhabitants as the standard. There were about 520,000 inhabitants in urban centres, and if the rate yielded £20 per thousand inhabitants it would amount to £10,400. As the rate only amounted to £5,500, about £4,900 would be necessary in order to raise the amount to the required level. It was accordingly proposed to set aside a sum of £5,000 from the moneys withdrawn from rural districts for this purpose.

351. (Mr. Micks).—Is the distribution of that £5,000 automatic?—It is practically automatic. There is an exception to that statement; some districts, for example, have not taken up the scheme or raised a rate for technical instruction; the money that would go to them is kept in the Department and is used to supplement items of good schemes in other districts. In that way it is possible to distribute a little more with some discretion.

352. The difficulty is that in some places where instruction is most needed they would get a relatively small sum!—That is what we have tried to counter-

act!—How much money would you have to counteract it—how much a year?—That plan of taking into account both the rates and the population gives a fair distribution.

353. Is not the real question the extent to which the people are under-educated in the centres of population?—You will find under-educated people in every centre of population.

354. In some places people are very backward!—Backward districts of the type you have in mind would be rather rural as compared with urban.

355. Take Dublin as compared with a manufacturing country?—Dublin is a county borough and gets a fixed sum. What I am alluding to accepts county boroughs.

356. I suppose they can get some of the £7,000 from the Development Grant?—Yes, and this is taken into account by the Department. Take a rural district which would be the backward sort of district you have in mind.

357. I was thinking of urban districts!—A backward urban district? If it were so backward and had not got an Urban Council it would be worked in connection with the county scheme of agriculture and technical instruction and would get a contribution.

358. A place like Kilkenny?—It is an urban district and gets its automatic proportion.

359. No more?—No more, except what would be available from the £7,000 and that sort of savings.

360. What would the savings come to on an average for the last few years?—About £4,000; they are decreasing; that item is bound, I hope, to disappear.

361. Then you will have nothing to equalise?—No. We want a great deal more money for technical instruction, there is no doubt whatever about that, and, practically speaking, we have command of no money at all which enables us to deal effectively with buildings for technical schools. Speaking generally of the towns of the country there has been the greatest tendency to make use of technical instruction, and they have nearly all begun in old buildings that they have taken, or buildings that they have adapted. The only way in which we have been able to assist them to build has been by allowing them to set aside portion of the annual grant for technical instruction towards paying off a loan, and that has gone but a very slight way to meet the very great need there is for buildings for technical schools.

362. (Chairman).—You have no separate fund for buildings?—No.

363. What does it come out of—out of the £55,000?—Yes.

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552. (Mr. Micks).—If the Act of 1899 had not passed, and if technical instruction went on brickly, would the penny in the pound give a much larger income than is allotted. At present you get £55,000 on the equivalent grant scale—you would get £55,000, is that so?—I am not quite sure; the idea of the equivalent grant was, not that it should be equivalent to a penny rate, but to the portion of a penny rate actually spent on a particular scheme.

553. (Mr. O'Connell).—I would like to be quite clear as to what you have been describing as the automatic scheme—that is a scheme that takes account of the rate-raising capacity, the population and valuation, and so on; the only thing that it does not take account of is the present state of education in the country?—Yes.

554. And it is with a view of taking cognizance of that that you consider the allocation at present of the surplus?—Yes, these savings.

555. (Mr. Micks).—And you want more money for buildings and districts that are not considered on their special circumstances?—Dreadfully. I may mention in connection with the buildings that at their last meeting the newly-elected Technical Instruction Board, as the previous one had done, passed a strong resolution to this effect which was published and therefore I may quote it: "That the Board of Technical Instruction desire to place on record its conviction that further funds are urgently needed to enable local authorities to erect suitable buildings for technical schools, that the work of technical instruction throughout the country is seriously hampered owing to the difficulty of providing suitable accommodation, and that the Department should take such steps as may be practicable to press on the Irish Government the immediate necessity of dealing with this question."

556. (Chairman).—It is important that this evidence should not be duplicated; I gather that when Mr. Fletcher comes he will go over the ground a good deal?—Yes, and also when Professor Campbell comes. From these heads of branches you can get full details with regard to technical instruction and agriculture. We are on the subject now, I assume, because I was endeavouring to explain the manner in which the Boards and the Department exercise their powers with regard to the expenditure.

557. All this has arisen out of a most important and vital question, that is to say, the reality of the control over the Department of these two Boards and whether the system is as good a system as could be devised, or could there be any improvement?—I have explained about the schemes that have to be worked through the local authorities. There are certain other schemes which have to be managed through the central authority itself. For example, the management of agricultural stations and of agricultural colleges and schools. We have a certain number of agricultural stations; there is one at Athlery, one at Clonsilla with a school, and one at Ballylaine, County Cavan, and there is a large agricultural college at Glasnevin. Now the Board for these institutions votes a general sum on an estimate that the Department puts before them. It is the Department which really expends that sum; the Department exercises its authority in that respect with the full confidence and concurrence of the Board; that was the object with which the Department was placed in the special position it has been given by the Act. When the Board has settled how much it is to go to, let us say, the college at Glasnevin, the expenditure that is to be made on the instruction or staff, all of which is fully explained to them, then the actual expenditure of that sum is done by the Department. The Secretary of the Department is the accounting officer of the Department, and a discretion is allowed to the officers of the Department carrying out its work. One part of the duties of management at Glasnevin, for example, consists in the management of the farm. The stock have to be purchased, the seeds have to be purchased and the stock has to be sold.

558. Supposing you want to give a fancy price for a shorthorn bull you are well within your general powers, but do you go to the Board to sanction the price?—No, certainly not; that is in the discretion of the Department, and the Board would not wish to exercise any discretion over that.

559. Would the fact that you had given a very large price for a shorthorn bull come before the Board

in any shape?—If we did something very exceptional we should think it right to mention it to the Board; something that was out of the lines of the general management of the place on the principles that had been settled.

560. You get a large and extensive covering authority?—Yes.

561. (Mr. Micks).—You would have your Advisory Committee for Stock to advise you on that? Not in the management of a particular school.

562. But the selection of a particular bull?—No, not at all.

563. On the selection of the particular breed of bull and the locality to which they would be sent?—I am not on that subject now, but if you speak of live stock schemes, the Advisory Committee on Live Stock discusses these schemes as well as the Board and the local committees. But on the question of managing a farm attached to the school the agriculturalist of that farm is subject to the control of Professor Campbell. The head of the agricultural branch deals with the matter. If Professor Campbell wished to go into any item outside the routine of such management he would come to me before deciding on it, but the Board allows the Department a free hand.

564. (Chairman).—Then it comes to this, that the real control of the Board is over the estimate and not over the actual expenditure?—Practically that is so. With regard to the question whether the Board in any case in which it desired is placed in command of fully-detailed information, I may mention, as an illustration of that point, one subject that has been the topic of a good deal of controversy. It is perhaps the only subject on which the Board at any time expressed some uneasiness, and that uneasiness, I may mention, was shared by the Department itself, and was mentioned to the Board by the Department. That was the case of the payments made to a body known as the Irish Agricultural Organization Society with respect to certain matters.

565. That was referred to the other day?—Yes, that is why I mention it. In the first instance what the Board did in that case was this—they gave a covering grant to pay salaries and expenses of certain experts and others who had been engaged in work of technical instruction connected with agriculture and agricultural organization previous to the existence of the Department. This was one of the first transactions of the Department and of the Board, and it was undertaken at a time before our mutual relations or our methods were very well fixed. The Agricultural Organization Society before the Department came into existence had, in addition to promoting co-operative organization been doing a good deal of the sort of work which the Department was appointed to do; it had been carrying out some expert agricultural instruction, instruction in dairying, appraising, poultry-keeping, and so forth. It had conducted a certain number of experimental plots, and had been covering a certain proportion of the ground that the Department was intended to cover. When the Department came into being the necessity for such a body to do that work ceased, and it became the Department's duty to take up such work. It was at the stage before we had any expert instructors of our own or any trained men coming up through our system, and it was resolved by the Department and the Board immediately to take over this work and pay these men. The county schemes at that time had not been developed, and what the Department did was to allow these experts to be employed as before, and directed through the Irish Agricultural Organization Society, but under the supervision of the Department. That was what was settled. In the meantime the Department went on developing its county scheme of agriculture and technical instruction, and this system went on side by side. The arrangement was not proving altogether satisfactory; there was manifest a certain friction between these experts of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society and some of the other instructors employed by the Department and the County Committees, and the Department itself felt that it ought to alter the method by which this arrangement was carried out. It mentioned that matter to the Board, and at a later stage it was resolved by the Board to carry out a new arrangement altogether. On that occasion the Vice-President circulated to the Board, before the meeting at which the matter was decided, a memo-

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audium which you will see in the minutes of the Board, giving full particulars and a statement of every item of the expenditure.

370. Where was that?—Page 263 of vol. 2. What I wish to illustrate is the fashion in which the fullest particulars are at the command of the Board in reference to any matter when the necessity arises. All that thing was fully considered by the Board, and a new scheme settled with them which is more satisfactory to the Board, and, I trust, to the work of organization.

371. The Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, what was the nature of it, was it a voluntary society?—It was a voluntary propagandist body established some years ago to explain to the people the methods of agricultural organization.

372. How did it get its funds?—By private subscriptions. The society was founded by Sir Horace Plunkett, and it was maintained almost entirely by subscriptions of public men like himself and others for some years.

373. I observe that in 1900 the proposal was made "That the agricultural instruction now carried out by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society be taken over by the Department, and the experts engaged in such instruction be employed by them on such conditions as the Department may approve," and that has gone on since?—That went on for some time, and we have revised the whole method of dealing with that subject with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board.

374. (Mr. Brown).—What was the date of the revision?—The last revision took place on the 25th of March, 1906.

375. (Chairman).—What is the relation at present between the Department and this society?—It is stated concisely in one of our minutes, page 256 of vol. 2. You will see there the discussion that took place on the subject, and the resolution that was finally adopted.

376. The Department decided to continue their support to the Society for the period named, as a provisional measure, but they desired before considering any further contributions for this purpose to have the opinion of the Council of Agriculture on the subject of the best method of aiding such an organization, and the Council requested the Department to place this subject on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council?—That was done, and the Council decided to let the matter remain in abeyance for six months.

377. (Mr. O'Connell).—You mean to continue the present arrangement for six months?—Yes. Here is an instance of the influence of the Agricultural Council on the Board, the intervention of these two bodies. The Board noted the opinion of the Council with regard to this matter. They also asked it with regard to the question of contributing to the International Exhibition. The Board on these questions wished to be guided by that reflection of public opinion which they would get from the Council at large.

378. (Mr. Micks).—Was their first suggestion that the Board should pass an opinion and send it to the Council?—In regard to the International Exhibition?

379. Or the Agricultural Organization?—No, what the Board did was to pass a vote for the current year, but they decided to continue their support for the period named as a provisional measure.

380. (Chairman).—And it voted £3,700?—Yes. Understand that you will see the scheme on which it is applied.

381. I see here you have the conditions of the joint scheme of work between the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. There is this large sum authorized, and then comes that, "With a view to preventing overlapping and unnecessary expenditure, the Department's representative shall attend at the office of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society at least weekly for the purpose of assisting in co-ordinating the work of the Society and of the Department." As a matter of fact are you working in parallel lines?—Yes.

382. (Mr. Micks).—Is there any friction between the representatives of the Department and of the Organization?—Not under this scheme.

383. It is only just started?—The scheme was practically in operation earlier than this date—this was

the final revision. An executive committee upon which the Department is represented was appointed to go into all the details; that committee closely scrutinizes the expenditure.

384. (Chairman).—Do the operations of the Department cover the field of operations of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—The Irish Agricultural Organisation Society deals with the promotion of all forms of agricultural organization, forming of co-operative dairy societies, agricultural societies, home industry societies, and flax-growing.

385. I suppose the establishment of a dairy is to a great extent the work of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—Yes, of the co-operative dairies. That work began before the Department came into existence, and of course it has continued and grown.

386. Has that continued under their supervision and control?—Yes, and it is because the Department believe, and the Board and Council were unanimous in believing that agricultural organization of that sort is an absolutely necessary instrument of agricultural development that it has been decided to promote such organization. The only point in question is whether the best method of promoting that organization is by employing the organizers of this society who were engaged in the work to do it or doing it directly through the Department itself.

387. To that extent you have a certain amount of duplication, two societies each with a separate staff carrying on practically the same work?—Oh, no; be quite clear about that; their work now only deals with organizing. The first heading of that joint scheme is "The officials of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society shall confine their work to organization and auditing only." They give up all the technical work they have been doing.

388. (Mr. Brown).—The Department itself does not promote co-operation or organization?—Except in this way.

389. Does it not do it directly?—No.

390. (Chairman).—That has been the division of labour; they confine themselves to organization, and you take over their other work?—Yes.

391. (Mr. O'Connell).—You said an executive committee has been appointed to look into the details—a committee of whom?—The committee consists of representatives of the committee or managing body of the Organization Society and representatives of the Department.

392. Officers of the Department?—Officers of the Department.

393. (Mr. Micks).—How many are on the committee altogether?—Usually about five or six are the working members.

394. You have two out of seven?—Yes.

395. (Mr. Brown).—I would like to have the date when the relations between the Organization and the Department were first altered after the minute of 1900 when they were practically separated as they have been since March last?—It was the previous year, February 8th, 1905.

396. (Chairman).—I do not think we had the date of the formation of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?

(Mr. Micks).—1894, April. This vote of £3,700 on page 256, vol. 2, that is for one year?—Yes.

397. There is no other payment to be made except that payment—that is inclusive of everything?—Yes.

398. Then turn to page 8 of vol. 2—that is an arrangement that certain experts are to do work for the Department; how long did that remain in existence—did that remain in existence up to February, 1905, or March, 1906?—To February, 1906.

399. How much was paid under that resolution of 11th of July, 1900?—I will get that.

400. It was a considerable sum—was that going on yearly until February, 1905. Do these payments come before the Agricultural Board?—No, they do not. Those were payments that were carried on on foot of this scheme which permitted of the Department making them subject to such conditions as they may approve. The first year it was £2,454, that is for the nine months; for the next, £3,517, for the next £4,548; next £4,773; and up to the 28th of February, 1906, it was £3,565.

401. That expenditure did not come before the Board?—Not in that form, but the matter was mentioned to the Board frequently. We settled originally the amount that was to be paid, the officials that were

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to be taken over, and, as I mentioned, the Department several times brought the matter before the Board, and the Board and the Department considered whether we could arrange a better mode of dealing with the question. Bear this in mind: this was one of the very first things that the Board and the Department dealt with. It was before a single county scheme was established. The first two years were spent establishing county schemes and this work was going on. Then when the county scheme work began to be developed with this work beside it we began to see difficulties, and neither Board or Department was satisfied. It was with some difficulty we worked out the arrangements we have done and got it into a more manageable shape. It was not satisfactory, but it is the only instance in the whole business of the Board that there was any difficulty of the kind about. Otherwise the Board and the Department had been practically at one.

906. (Mr. Micks).—Would the Board have any objection to the inclusion among the staff of the Department of the staff of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—To take over the whole society and make it a branch of the Department; do you mean at the first stage of the business?

909. At any stage?—I think if we felt in a position to recommend such a course they would discuss it with a fairly open mind, but we have never done that.

910. (Mr. O'Grady).—Would not taking over a staff in that way have given greater permanence to this mode of action than the method you did employ?—Probably it would, but the whole subject was very difficult, and surrounded by controversial considerations. Public opinion was not so ripe as it is now on the subject of co-operative organisation. The other day, at the meeting of the Council, you saw that the Council passed a unanimous resolution in favour of the Department promoting co-operative organisation, and were so fixed in their minds about it that they did not even want the matter discussed. Six years ago that Council would not have done such a thing. Our difficulties in carrying out a working arrangement for dealing with this question have arisen from the fact that public opinion has been developed on the subject, and is now more developed than it was then.

911. (Chairman).—Do you say then that these large sums which you said you give, in answer to Mr. Micks, were a large part of the expenditure in the earlier years of the work of the Department in developing the work which was being done by this Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and which really now is largely superseded by the new methods that have come in?—Yes.

912. (Mr. Micks).—Is it not considered that organisation is still essential and necessary?—Oh, yes, but realise in the beginning we did not pay for organisation; we paid for certain technical instruction in connection with agriculture, creameries, egg-packing, &c.

913. (Chairman).—And you have been gradually taking over that part of the work of the society, leaving the organisation to themselves?—Yes, they do none of that technical work now; it is altogether taken away from them.

914. (Mr. O'Grady).—Was it of set intention that you made arrangements in that preliminary period for doing this work through an organisation that did not commit the Department definitely to a particular line of action, and left you more free to change your policy than if you had begun with definitely entering into contracts with all this staff?—In the first place we did not contribute directly or indirectly to organisation; but the instruction was being given by the Society, and we found it better to pay for it in this way because it was going on and working as a system, and because at that time we did not have any of our county schemes organised.

915. (Chairman).—You practically took over a going concern while you were building up your own?—Exactly. It did not prove in the technical part of the work a satisfactory going concern, but we took it over as it was.

916. (Mr. O'Grady).—If it had proved a satisfactorily going concern you would not perhaps have had much reason for the existence of the Department?—No, except that it was limited to a very narrow sphere.

917. (Mr. Micks).—Could you state how much has been spent by the Department in the past six years

on exhibitions and shows, beginning with Glasgow and Cork?—Do you include grants to agricultural shows?

918. Take Glasgow, Cork, and these others—can you tell me roughly how much was spent?—Yes, we can tell you that.

919. Cork was \$25,000?—Yes.

920. How much was Glasgow?—We had better get the exact figure.

921. Would you have in an accessible form in your accounts all payments for cattle shows?—Yes, the total grant of the Department made in respect of them.

922. (Mr. Brown).—Would you include the local contributions?

(Mr. Micks).—Not the local.

(Mr. Brown).—But these contributions to local shows are usually made through the county committees out of the joint fund of the Department and the county committees.

(Mr. Micks).—I am speaking of the amount paid from here.

(Mr. O'Grady).—Are these amounts earmarked, or are they simply portions of the larger amounts?

(Mr. Micks).—I was just going to ask that Board was that vote for Glasgow managed?—The Board made a special vote for that.

923. (Mr. Micks).—First there was a vote of \$2,000 made; there does not seem any other vote except a small gratuity to a couple of officials?—I cannot charge my memory. Mr. Walsh, of the accounts' branch, will make that out for you.

924. But at all events the expenditure was very large—the exhibitions would come to \$40,000 anyway?

(Chairman).—We have \$25,000 for Cork.

(Mr. Micks).—And I think there was \$11,000 for the American exhibitions.

(Chairman).—The other day the Agricultural Council rather took the line against any further contributions.

Witness.—That was to the Dublin International Exhibition.

925. (Mr. Micks).—There would be a payment then of \$25,000 or \$40,000 in respect of exhibitions—how far did the Board become aware of the detailed steps taken by the Department?—Let us take Cork for example, the Board was down at Cork itself; the two Boards were down there and held a meeting.

926. That was after the exhibition was opened?—Yes.

927. I mean in the earlier stages when the expenditure was being incurred—did they know what steps were being taken by the Department to organise the exhibitions and arrangements?—Speaking generally, they did.

928. And the cost involved?—We did not go into all the items. They were in the same position with regard to this as they were with regard to all our other schemes precisely.

929. What is that position?—I have endeavoured to explain it—the Board votes a general credit on the scheme which was fully described and elaborated to them, then the Department administers that. The Board trusts them. It is like an ordinary good working business arrangement.

930. A business firm, if they were going to exhibit at an exhibition, would look closely to the expenditure that was being incurred?—I presume the Board satisfied themselves that that expenditure was being properly undertaken.

(Chairman).—I suppose we can see what took place at the Board.

931. (Mr. Micks).—Is there anything more than appears in the minutes?—I know what is in the minutes.—The minutes, as I explained, are but a very condensed record, but you will see what was before the Board—a minute of three lines might represent half an hour's discussion.

932. (Mr. Dryden).—That is what I was going to say, I suppose the Board discusses the whole details?—You will find that when you examine the representations of the Board themselves.

933. (Mr. Micks).—Could we see the files for these expenses, because that will show us?—You can see any files you desire. With regard to an examination of the files and all matters like these confidential

minutes of the Board, I would suggest to the Committee as I have done before, that these might be examined by the Committee confidentially in the Department.

934. (Chairman).—I think you know that this is a matter of public interest; I don't quite see how there can be anything strictly confidential as a vote of £25,000!—Oh, no, don't mistake me, what I referred to is the day, and refer to now again, is the going into details of this in administration here.

935. You may be sure that where the public interest would not be served by publicity, we shall exercise our discretion, but at present I don't think we have reached that point.

(Mr. O'Donnell).—You have dealt very fully with all the elements and committees outside the Department with which you are brought in contact; I don't know whether you are prepared to leave the Consultative Committee until to-morrow?—If you like I will explain it now.

936. In the Act you will see it is described in Section 33 as a committee for the purpose of co-ordinating educational administration. The object of that committee is to enable the different educational authorities of the country to arrange with each other so as to prevent overlapping in their work, and to effect close co-operation wherever possible. Since it has been appointed it has been instrumental in producing what never was possible in Irish administration before, a very large degree of co-ordination.

937. As a matter of fact are the persons appointed by these several contributing bodies members of the bodies or officials?—Some members, and some officials; Dr. Stokoe is an official, he is representative of the Education Board. I have been chosen as the representative of the Agricultural Board, and I am an official, but the other members are not officials.

938. The Technical Instruction Board?—Mr. Molloy is the representative. As a result of the work of that Committee co-ordination has been presented in the following matters, and I think this list is well worth studying: Arrangements between the Intermediate Board and the Department for co-ordinating the courses in science and drawing of these two bodies; the training at summer courses by the Department of secondary school teachers, for giving instruction in experimental science, drawing, domestic economy, and manual instruction in intermediate schools. The Department in administering the Science and Art grants drew up a programme of experimental science and drawing, and manual instruction, and for girls, domestic economy, which has been accepted for all the secondary schools of the country by the Intermediate Board and is disseminated into the scheme of the Intermediate Board. In order to enable the schools to have a staff of teachers qualified to teach these new subjects the Department arranged a system of summer courses for the training of these teachers. That is co-ordination of work between this Department and the secondary schools under the Intermediate Board. A further piece of co-ordination is that of the National Education Board's code for evening schools with the Department's code for evening science and art schools. And further co-ordination has been done regarding the arrangements for the teaching of cookery, laundry-work, domestic economy, and manual work in wood and metal for pupils of the higher standards in national schools; and regarding the recognition of domestic economy as a special subject on which grants are payable in secondary schools for girls. Amongst the subjects which have also been considered by the Consultative Committee are the granting of scholarships and exhibitions available for pupils of primary or secondary schools, whether through the Intermediate programme or that of the Department. Furthermore, at the instance of the Committee a sub-committee, representative of the Intermediate Education Board and the Department, was appointed with a view of working out in detail the subjects for co-ordination between the two Departments recommended by the Consultative Committee. This sub-committee has been meeting regularly since its appointment in 1903, the last meeting having taken place on 22nd of March, 1905. In pursuance of this process of co-ordination, which is steadily advancing, a committee of heads of secondary schools has been appointed by the Depart-

ment to confer with them regarding the programme of experimental science, drawing, and manual teaching in secondary schools. This is a system of co-ordinating administration between these existing departments dealing with education in Ireland, which was not provided for until this Committee came into existence. I look upon the foundation of this Committee in that respect as likely to prove one of the most fruitful in the development of educational administration in this country generally. In fact, apart from the question of an increased expenditure, necessary for all branches of education at the present time, and leaving aside the question of higher education, in the secondary and primary grades, we should be able, in the course of some years to arrive at a well-developed and well-co-ordinated system for the country as a whole. The chief obstacle now in the lack of further funds, but if this were overcome, with the existing machinery for primary education, for general secondary education through the Intermediate Board, and for science and technical, including agricultural education, in this Department, aided by this co-ordinating committee, we would have a very effective system.

939. Do you find that in practice this committee is really not merely very effective but sufficiently effective?—I think it is. The nature of its function is such that at one meeting it is able to cut out work enough for the three departments to keep them occupied for a year or two at least. The three departments, each knowing its own work thoroughly, and knowing some of the work of the others, are represented by this committee. They come together in this committee and agree upon certain recommendations to their several departments, and these recommendations involve a whole scheme of co-ordination, which it takes a long time to carry out.

940. The most important and valuable point, then, in the constitution of the committee is that as a matter of fact a subject requires to be little more than mentioned if it is one that appeals readily to the Executive Department concerned. It, therefore, becomes rather important to see how far subjects that do require attention, I mean generally, not specially in Ireland, have been discussed. Take one typical one; the work of the elementary schools is very valuable in several aspects, one of which is of special importance to us here, that of its being the groundwork for further technical training. Has the Committee taken any steps to satisfy itself, or to be satisfied, as to the sufficiency of elementary education as given in Ireland in that respect?—There are a great many educational defects in Ireland, and the Committee has set, up to this, taken note of all of them. The manner in which the Committee has gone to work in this. In the three different authorities, or in two of the three, an opportunity for co-ordination has arisen. The Committee has, therefore, met and discussed the subject, and recommended a plan of co-ordination. There is a lot of work still before it, but the question of the state of science instruction in the elementary schools is one of those which has been considered by the Committee. For example, the teaching of certain special subjects like domestic economy and manual instruction in wood and metal for the pupils of the higher standards of National schools was considered, and one of the recommendations of the Committee was that that subject should be dealt with by the special instructors provided under the Department's Technical Instruction scheme.

941. I had not so much in my mind special subjects, or subjects at the top of the elementary schools, because you would imagine that many of those had been adequate, and also because that is a quick return group, but the general attitude of elementary education is like a "forest" group, it takes a long time before it becomes remunerative and therefore it is desirable to have it started early; do you know whether sufficient attention, from the technical education point of view, is devoted to the attitude of such subjects as run through the whole course of elementary schools, say arithmetic or composition whether the supply of prepared pupils is satisfactory or not. The supply of elementary schools is insufficient all over Britain, and, I suppose, it is so in Ireland; but has attention been directed through this Committee to this particular point?—That point is one of those with which, as you indicate, we are brought most painfully in contact all over our system; that is, the state of preparation at which pupils, who have

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left the primary schools, come into our technical and agricultural schools. But that question has not as yet been specially considered by the Committee, though it has been considered by them in a general way. It was before their minds in dealing with the evening code of the National Board and of the Department. I look upon that as one of the pieces of work that has before the Committee. Our system is already beginning to have a strong effect on the character of the instruction in the primary schools in the way that Mr. Ogilvie has indicated. All of our technical schools throughout the country are complaining, and complaining to us that the pupils come into them unfit to receive technical instruction and that the school has to spend its technical instruction funds on doing work which ought to have been done in the primary schools. That very complaint, that discontent of the committee, I look upon as about to prove a most powerful lever in affecting instruction in primary schools. I dare say, as you meet the technical instruction committee, you will hear complaints taking the form of suggestion of a lack of co-ordination between the Department and the primary schools in this respect. It is not that the lack of co-ordination is there, but it is, as you indicate, that the change of the system of general instruction in the schools means a first group and a quick return crop, and it will be a long time before the people coming from the primary schools in Ireland will be up to the standard that the technical system requires.

942. It would have been very important that something had been done in that particular matter at the very earliest possible opportunity, that is why I asked if you thought that that Board was sufficiently effective, because I should have thought that this was a matter of attitude of the instruction in elementary schools, and therefore necessarily the character of the training of teachers who have to work in elementary schools, and if that requires modification in any way it is really more pressing because the effect is so very long in being produced—I agree with you.

943. It has not been formally before this Committee?

—No.

944. But apart from consideration by the Committee it is possible that the rubbing shoulders and bringing one man into contact with the reports of another department may have had an unofficial effect upon the programme of the other departments, as it has had in the elementary school's programme?—Undoubtedly, one of the matters pressed on the attention of the Committee by the representatives of the National Board has been the improvement of the national school system in a particular line. It may not be the line that you have in mind, but still it indicates the strong desire of the Board to bring about improvement. I allude to higher primary schools.

945. (Chairman).—Let me ask this; have you considered the constitution without specific powers of this Consultative Committee. I don't think any specific powers have been given to them by the Act?—No, and I don't think there could be.

946. Nor could there be probably. Do you think the mere constitution of this Committee by Act of Parliament has had a considerable effect in enabling them to negotiate with the Commissioners of National Education; can they enter into relations with them and exercise a certain amount of moral influence in the direction of improving the primary system of education?—Decidedly. I think the moral influence of a recommendation from the Committee would be very great indeed.

947. Even on a body with which they have no direct connection?—It has direct connection through its representatives on the Committee with all the education authorities, and as a matter of fact all of the recommendations that have been made by the Committee have been accepted by the respective departments so far.

948. (Mr. Ogilvie).—There is just one corresponding point in the matter of the Intermediate education that we might get the facts about. The work on science and drawing is obviously of the greatest possible value as the direct step probably to further technical instruction or to preparing a pupil or student of a secondary school for benefiting as far as possible by practical training in trade or commerce or whatever it may be, but while that is direct, probably you would agree that more important still, is the general training, the general education, including literary work as well as science and drawing?—Yes.

949. Has the Committee drawn attention in any way, or considered in any way the effect of the method of distribution of the grants by the Intermediate Board upon education as a whole in secondary schools?—I don't know if I precisely follow the point of your question. The Committee has considered the place of our science programme in the curriculum of the secondary schools as financed through the grants of the Intermediate Board, and to that extent it has taken the matter into consideration, but it has made no specific recommendations to the Intermediate Board with regard to the Intermediate curriculum as a whole.

950. No discussion in the Committee has had its effect of drawing attention to the great advantage that would accrue if it were a specific arm of the secondary school organization to give a general education?—No specific discussion on that subject has taken place at the Committee but I hope to hear a discussion on its subject. The minutes of that Committee have, I think, been furnished, and I would recommend Mr. Ogilvie to look over them and perhaps he might like to ask something about it later on.

951. Have you had sufficient contact yet with higher educational places, such as technical colleges, whether agricultural or industrial, to be able to form an opinion as to how far the secondary education of the people who come up, is such as to make them good material for higher work?—Yes; we have, so far as our own higher institutions are concerned. The Royal College of Science, for example, has to receive students who come from secondary schools. Well, I think the general experience is that the training at our secondary schools is not yet up to the standard that it ought to be in order to furnish men with the right degree of training at the stage at which they would enter a higher college.

952. That is to say there is a little tendency to absence of balance about it?—There is; that will have to be graded up. And, of course, stiffening, a probably will be done in time, the entrance examination to that college, and its first year's course of science, will have an effect in grading up the secondary schools.

953. Stiffening an examination may certainly help in one way as a test, but that does not quite cover the fact I was trying to get at; it is that if a boy is going to be a student in an institution for higher learning after he leaves school, the probability is that the bulk of his education and the general character of his training is of more importance than specific attainments in one or a few subjects?—I quite agree.

954. That is a matter that can hardly be decided by merely stiffening the science examination on entrance?—May I mention that that aspect of the question of education has been kept in mind by the Department specifically a connection with its programme of science instruction for secondary schools. If you will look at that part of our first annual report, headed "Educational Policy" you will see that explained. You will see, if I may venture to mention it, that subject and aspect fully dealt with in a paper which I read once at the British Association. I don't know whether you have got a copy of it, but I shall be glad to give it to you. You will see that that idea is that a broad general culture is to be regarded as the necessary basis of a proper secondary education whether the aim of the pupil is to go in the direction of science or the humane subjects.

955. That being so I suppose you agree that that is just one of the subjects that it is very important such a body as this Consultative Committee should give its attention to early?—As to early I don't know.

956. I don't mean early in the past; I mean only in the future?—Yes, perhaps, but it should be borne in mind that in this matter you have to proceed slowly. You can only do one thing at a time, and to recommend the Intermediate Board, or this Department, or the National Board to completely reorganize its curriculum would not be a practical thing. What is happening is that gradually, almost every year, the curriculum is being developed, and I think these objects are being kept in view by the different systems.

957. I would not suggest for a moment that it was the function of the Consultative Committee to recommend a turn over of the system of any Board, but I should think it was the function of a Committee of this kind to say, "Well, Board A represents to us this people who come to it from Board B have had rather an insufficient training in a certain direction" and leave it to Board B to consider what steps ought to be

taken, if any, to set that right?—That would be decidedly a proper function for the Consultative Committee, and it is one I hope to see them exercise at an early occasion. I quite agree with you there.

928. (Mr. Meade).—What institutions did you refer to now in your answer to Mr. Ogilvie, what teaching institutions, was it altogether to the College of Science?—Yes, it was, practically.

929. Are there any of the artisan class educated there?—None, except a man originally of the artisan class who may have graduated up to a higher stage of education.

930. It does not give an education for that class?—No; that is provided in other types of schools.

931. Kevin-street?—Kevin-street and such places.

932. And you have started a place on the north side?

—It is the Dublin Corporation that are doing that.

933. (Mr. Ogilvie).—But you do have, in the Royal College of Science, pupils who not only belong to the artisan class but have, themselves, been artisans, have done well in evening classes and been drafted by

scholarships to the College of Science?—Yes; there are scholarships available.

934. (Mr. Meade).—Have they yet taken them?—I could not say offhand whether there are many such pupils. There are some, but the idea is to provide a ladder by which promising pupils from the lower types of schools can move on to the higher class.

935. (Chairman).—There are a good many at Glasnevin?—That is altogether an agricultural school, and we endeavour to draw all the pupils from the agricultural class. May I say one word to make clear a reference of mine just now (but it should be understood) to confidential matters. I had in view, in the first place, the confidential minutes of the Board, and also a certain type of transactions in which business men and commercial men are concerned in which payments take place which it would not be right to give to the public. I wish to make it quite clear that that is what I meant, and I meant in no sense the withholding from the public of any sort of information that it would be proper to bring before them.

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The Committee adjourned.

FIFTH PUBLIC SITTING.—WEDNESDAY, MAY 30TH, 1906.

At the Office of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KENELM E. DIGBY, K.C., K.C.B., (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MILES.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.R., Secretary.

Mr. THOMAS P. GILL, further examined.

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869. (Mr. Brown).—I wish to ask you a question in reference to the Consultative Committee that we were dealing with last evening; how it comes to the knowledge of the Department that there is a desire on the part of some of the County Committees, at all events, that school gardens or demonstration plots should be in the neighbourhood of the National schools, and that instruction should be given in them by the horticultural instructors; has any request of that kind been made to the Department?—A strong desire in that direction has been shown by many of the County Committees as our horticultural schemes have developed.

870. Has the question ever been formally dealt with by the Consultative Committee?—I fancy the matter was referred to; you are aware of course that we are deterred from dealing with education intended for pupils of National schools.

871. Yes, but would it not be possible by arrangement with the Board of National Education that such instruction should be given?—I see the question of school gardens was mentioned; if you allow me to run through the minutes and refresh my memory—the subject was not formally discussed, but it was brought before the Committee in the shape of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Green, of Leigish Bridge, inquiring whether grants in aid of purchasing and equipping school gardens in connection with National schools would be admissible under County Council schemes. “Dr. Stannis explained the regulations of the National Board with reference to school gardens, and pointed out that it was proposed to continue them in connection with the Board and to use them for the teaching of elementary science.” That was at a stage of our work when these horticultural instructions were not so available as they have since become. The question is in a more practical form to-day.

872. Is the restriction to which you refer under the definition of technical instruction?—It shall not include instruction given in elementary schools “i.e.”

873. But that does not apply to the “purpose of agriculture”; there is no such restriction when dealing with the purpose of agriculture, and would not such instruction come under the head of purposes of agriculture?—Instruction in connection with a school garden would. We have a great number of school gardens being carried out in certain parts of the country in connection with elementary schools which are not under the National Board—Christian Brothers’ and similar schools. There is really no insuperable difficulty in a school garden being so placed by a County Committee that it would be available for the pupils of the National school when in the neighbourhood of a National school; the chief difficulty there would be—how far the time of the County Horticultural Instructor would be available for superintending instruction in a considerable number of such school gardens while doing the other work in the county.

874. In the County Kilbarn, with which I am familiar, the County Committee feel, at all events, that time could be given, because the plots which would be used as school gardens would answer all the purposes of the demonstration plots which are at present in other places!—That is largely a matter for the County Committee to arrange; the Depart-

ment I don’t think would offer any objection to a demonstration garden of that kind being placed near a National school.

875. But the co-operation of the National Board of Education would also be necessary to make it workable, because unless the scholars would be engaged during the school hours and as part of the school curriculum, it would be very difficult to have them come there after hours; would it be practicable to carry out any scheme of that kind?—I think that would be essentially a point that we might get the Consultative Committee to consider.

876. (Mr. Ogilvie).—In view of Mr. Brown’s questions I am just a little afraid that the point of my inquiries on this subject may be missed. I quite agree with Mr. Brown and yourself as to the great importance of such definite definite teaching in agricultural and horticultural subjects. The point I was wishing to direct attention to was a slightly wider one. Taking the case of rural schools as one special case I was referring to elementary school work generally, but in the case of rural schools the point I wish to make is that from the interests of technical instruction and the development of industrial and agricultural progress in any country, it is very important that in rural schools the line of the instruction throughout the curriculum should be rural; that is, that the whole curriculum should be pervaded by the idea that the majority of the pupils of these schools are to be engaged in rural occupations; that the teaching of all the subjects, whether geography, arithmetic, or anything else, should keep that in view if the best is to be made of the elementary education. Now it seems to me that that is one aspect of the subject which your Department may come in close contact with, and might properly refer, to such a body as the Consultative Committee, and I should like to know whether the reference which you have made there in that report covers that?—What you have said about the bias of a school in a rural district being in the direction of agriculture and of rural life is something in which the Department is in entire agreement. That idea was brought before the Committee, and if you will turn to page 9 you will see one of the considerations upon which it was brought up by myself under the heading of “Grading of Schools.” It arose in connection with scholarships, and I pointed out that this difficulty had been experienced in connection with arrangements for scholarships in county schools.—“It was most desirable that schools whose forming their type of education should keep steadily in view the career for which their pupils were intended, and the Department take every opportunity open to them to insist on this important principle. Accordingly it is not their wish to encourage a boy from a rural district to attend a secondary school where the trend of the instruction was rather in the direction of clerical or professional pursuits than of agricultural, manual or practical work. In his opinion the present regulations of the Intermediate Board did not tend to the establishment of the type of secondary schools that would be suitable for the boys from rural districts.” If the Committee could suggest any method of inducing schools to devote themselves to education of a type specially suited to the needs of the class of pupils with which they deal it would be a matter of great advantage to education.

877. (Chairman).—Is there not something bearing on the same point on the last page of these notes—

"Dr. Starkie said he would be glad if the Department would send, for the consideration of the National Education Board, a syllabus for a course for teachers in this subject."

(Mr. O'Leary).—But all these references are with regard to secondary schools.

(Mr. O'Leary).—What I am pointing out in answer to Mr. O'Leary's very important questions is that the idea of in various ways shaping the instruction in the primary and secondary and in all the schools so as to take into account the career in life for which the pupil is intended has always been before our minds and that of the Consultative Committee.

992. (Mr. O'Leary).—I need hardly say that I quite recognise that that must have been the case; I merely wanted to get at the facts as to how far this matter had been before the Committee. Now I find from these minutes that it has been more or less before the Committee in 1900 and again in 1904; you have long references in 1904; we are now in 1906, and what I want to ascertain is how far the Consultative Committee provided a sufficiently effective means of getting action in the grades of schools not under this Department, but where work is done which had a definite and important relation to technical and joint industrial work—in a general sense, primary and secondary?

993. Yes, how far has the existence of the Consultative Committee been effective in securing action in the other grades of schools in this direction, which we all agree, and generally the Commissioners and Boards of these schools do agree also, is very important?—The influence of the Committee is determined by the power of the particular educational Department to carry out its recommendations. The recommendations, for example, with regard to the National Board in these matters are met with a good many difficulties. For example, the Board has to apply to the Treasury for sanction for any change in its rules or schemes before it can alter them; for a good many of its schemes it may require funds, and again it has to apply to the Treasury for that purpose; obstacles of that kind interfere to a great extent in the carrying out of the ideas recommended by the Committee, and of which the National Board and the other educational authorities are themselves in favour. I do not think that the Committee, which is a consultative body representing these three educational authorities, could exercise of itself more power than that of recommending a course of co-ordination, but in order to enable its recommendations to be effective other authorities should have a great deal more freedom. I think, then they now possess. In consequence of the recommendations of the Committee the National Board have established 7th and 8th standards in the National Schools, and managers are at liberty to draw up programmes for these standards which would be suited to the special circumstances of these schools. In the case of a National school it must be borne in mind that the local manager has to be taken into account, and if he is prepared to devise a programme which would include, say, a school garden and school other features, he is at liberty to do so now, and I think the County Committee under our system would be at liberty to facilitate him in that programme.

994. (Chairman).—I observe, glancing through these minutes, that the question has been raised from time to time, specially raised in 1903 on the minutes at page 3, that is to say, the assistance which might be given to this class of education in rural districts by schools under the National Board; that question has been raised before the Consultative Committee from time to time, but apparently not very much has been actually done?—What particular question are you referring to now?

995. I mean the organisation of the National schools in connection with this question of rural education. For instance, I see Captain Silver stated that many of the industrial departments in connection with National schools had applied to be included in the technical instruction schemes of the local authorities, and it was important that an arrangement should be made between the National Education Board and the Department; that shows that the question regarding these schools was then alive?—That particular reference is to the technical instruction schemes of the local authorities, and a good deal has been done in that direction. Mr. Fletcher, when he came before you, will explain a very important feature. I will indicate what it is: a central technical school in a town has been utilised by the National schools of the town, both in connection with the training of teachers

and the training of pupils. Technical subjects like domestic economy, for girls and manual instruction for boys as well as drawing and science subjects, are dealt with in that way, and under that head a good deal has been done.

996. (Mr. O'Leary).—From any point of view this is only an illustration to get at the position as to whether or not the Consultative Committee, by bringing together heads of Departments, provides a sufficiently powerful engine to give assistance in getting reforms carried through against whatever obstacles may arise. Some of the obstacles are local, no doubt; some are in Ireland, and others are with the Treasury in London. What I want to get at is whether or not this Consultative Committee, which is the mechanism provided by the Act for getting over these difficulties is essentially a strong enough machine for the purpose?—I think the machine, having regard to its character—the consultative body representing the three authorities—is about as strong as it probably ought to be, and that the machinery for facilitating the carrying out of its recommendations should be provided in other directions. I may point out that if you increase its power you supersede the authority of the other educational authorities, and that is a point in regard to which the greatest difficulty and jealousy exist in the country. In fact this Committee had its origin somewhat on that account. I may mention the incident to the Committee; there was a crisis in the Bill as it was passing through the House over this very point. At first there was a clause in the Bill which made the Vice-President of this Department ex-officio a member of the National Board, the object being that there might be greater harmony between the two Departments, and that the Vice-President might directly answer for both in Parliament. This provision was opposed by many members of the National Board, and a very important member, the Archbishop of Dublin, practically declared that he would resign his position in the National Board if it were carried out. The Bill was in the greatest danger on that account; Mr. Gerald Balfour explained the matter to me; I was in London at the time helping the Bill as well as I could through the House, and having discussed with him alternatives I came over to see the Archbishop one Friday night, and had an interview with him. As a result of that interview the Archbishop himself practically blocked out the clause establishing the Consultative Committee that now stands in the Bill, and he said he would accept that as an alternative. I brought it back, and it was embodied in the Bill. The incident illustrates the great difficulty there is in any suggestion of interfering with the powers of existing educational authorities.

997. (Chairman).—I quite see that. I suppose we shall hear more of the details about the relations between these bodies from a later witness. I think we may go on, and let you take your own line as to the evidence?—The Committee does not want to ask me any more questions about the relations between the Boards and the Departments?

998. No, we mean to avoid repetition as far as possible. We are very anxious to ascertain all the facts of the case and what the work of the Department really is?—I will deal only in a very general way with the work.

999. Bearing in mind that you have several members of the Department coming after you?—Precisely, and if I refer more particularly to any point it will be because nobody else will be available to deal with that particular matter. With regard to the development of agricultural industries and education in the country, the Department may be said generally to be endeavouring to carry out the policy described in the Bureau Committee's report. It has been hindered from dealing with that policy in full in all its particulars by certain limitations of its powers as the Acts and limitations of funds, and by the fact that certain legislation, which the Committee considered necessary for the full development of that policy, has not yet been undertaken. I refer to such legislative affecting the development of agriculture and industries, for example, as transit, dealing with railways and canals, which the Committee considered a very necessary element in the economic development of the country. We began by devoting our attention to the agricultural industry in the belief that that being the principal industry of the country was one that was most readily responsive to development. The schemes of the Department in different directions are constantly being criticised, but the fact that agriculture constitutes our chief national wealth is the best justification

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May 20, 1906. for the Department emphasizing that as the industry of the country that we want to give most attention to. You will find, therefore, when you go through the County Committee and country, and hear from Professor Campbell that what we have been doing there is supplying the various most approved forms of State aid to agriculture, and doing that in a manner which, I submit, you will find to be generally accepted by the local people.

990. Well, we will have the local people, who can speak for themselves!—And singularly well-circumstanced to the needs of the country.

991. Will you bear in mind in connection with this that anything in the nature of new matter, whether criticism or suggestion, or suggestion of further legislation or otherwise, which may be brought before us, we shall certainly give the members of the Department an opportunity of expressing themselves upon it before the inquiry closes. What we want to get now is a statement of what you are working in, and what you consider to be the real needs of the Department—reserving as far as possible anything in the nature of answers to anticipated criticism until a later stage!—Well, I was simply indicating that it is a cardinal feature of our policy that agriculture, if developed, apart from other industries, offers a chief opportunity for the development of our national wealth. We have had in view the particular examples of agricultural countries which, without the development of industries at all, have greatly increased their agricultural wealth by the methods we have adopted—Denmark, for instance, whose agricultural output and population have increased enormously during recent years.

992. I see in the appendix to the Recess Committee's report a number of papers upon the systems of agriculture in various countries; you, I think, are responsible for Denmark and France?—Yes.

993. Therefore I put this question to you. I suppose we may take it that what you have stated here in the Recess Committee's report is generally accurate, and was accurate at that time?—Yes.

994. And I suppose that attention ought to be directed to any changes that may have since taken place, and that evidence of such changes will probably be given in the course of this inquiry?—Yes.

995. You adhere to what you have said in these two interesting papers?—Yes.

996. Then, that puts them before us as matters to which we can refer!—Denmark since then has continued progressing at the same rate, and I may say this too that that development of Denmark from a very backward condition indeed was not effected in five years nor in twenty-five. The forms in which the Department are carrying out this system in connection with agriculture includes efforts to promote the extension of tillage, the intensification of agriculture in various ways, the development of horticulture, county schemes for farm prices for best tilled farms, improvement of live stock, the development of co-operation and of co-operative credit applied to agriculture. That subject of co-operative credit is one before which there is great room for development, and which we hope to see much further carried out; that is one of the points in connection with which perhaps the Committee would like to consider reforms or amendments in the law.

997. Who will deal with that?—I will refer to that point now. I only wish to say this, that agricultural credit, whether in the form of real or personal credit, is an absolute necessity for the proper development of agriculture here. At present there is a system of land improvement loans carried out under the Board of Works that affords the nucleus of a scheme for agricultural credit that might be considerably developed. Money is lent by the Board of Works for drainage and reclamation and for tree planting. In the case of tree planting they are limited from lending except for the purpose of shelter; that blocks the development of forestry as one form of agricultural development, and it is a direction in which the powers of the Land Improvement Acts ought to be extended. I just indicate that, that legislation in reference to the land improvement loans of the Board of Works is a means by which considerable assistance might be provided for agricultural development in the most important particular of agricultural credit.

998. You will bear in mind of course that what we have got to consider is the extension of powers of the Department?—These are powers which should be considered as distinctly analogous to those of the Department.

999. You cannot go into the general question of land reform?—Excuse me; I may perhaps make myself a little clearer. In our system we have a scheme of agricultural direction and itinerant instruction; that scheme provides advice to the farmer in the development of his farms; that advice cannot be carried out in the fullest way unless the farmer is provided with agricultural credit. Now I say either these powers of land improvement loans ought to be taken over by this Department, and carried out in a close connection with the system of our agricultural experts through the country, who ought to be the proper advisers of the farmer on the one hand and of the leading department on the other, or else the powers of the Board of Works in regard to these loans ought to be amended so as to promote a very close co-ordination of that system with ours. That is the relevance of that point to the Committee's reference, and I may say so, I think it is one of the most important points in connection with which suggestions for amendment might be considered.

1000. Don't understand me to differ from that at all. I was trying to point out that what we are really concerned with is any legislative extension, which you think is desirable of your powers and not of any other Department except in connection with yours?—If I am to consider it from that point of view I should like to have those powers in the Department, and a great deal of economy and efficiency could be effected if that were the case.

1001. (Mr. Miles).—In the last line of that page of the report the Recess Committee recommends that these powers should be transferred to the Department!—It is one of the recommendations of the Recess Committee; it is a matter I shall be prepared to go into very largely. Mr. Miles understands that question fully and so does Mr. Brown. In connection with agricultural credit of a co-operative kind it is probable that a further development of the Department's work will take place, but this will depend largely upon the extent of our funds available for financing a proper scheme of agricultural credit. We do devote it to a certain limited extent at present; we lend money to rural co-operative societies of the Raiffeisen type; that is done to but a limited extent, and to carry out that system more fully we should be in possession, in my opinion, of a larger sum of money than we now deal with. Besides these general points of State aid to agriculture there is the system of rural industries directly connected with agriculture.

1002. Before you leave the question of credit, have the local societies been organized on the principle of limited liability up to this?—No, these local credit societies are on the principle of unlimited liability, Raiffeisen banks.

1003. No, but in this country?—In this country, yes; they are co-operative societies.

1004. The ordinary ordinary and other societies, are they organized on a system of limited liability?—Yes; a man takes shares to the extent of the number of cows he possesses, usually £1 a cow.

1005. Are similar societies abroad financed on the basis of unlimited liability?—Some are and some are not.

1006. Which do you consider the better system?—One system suits one type and district better than the other. For example, unlimited liability suits the poorer rural districts and districts like the congested districts better than the limited world; in a district of a more complex character, such as the County of Wexford, the mixed type or the strictly limited type would suit better.

1007. At the time the report was issued by the Recess Committee were not all the societies in Denmark and Germany practically unlimited, all the co-operative societies?—Do you mean the banking societies?

1008. No, I mean the others?—No, I don't think they were. In the co-operative world there is a series of different types, each has its own advocates. There are the Raiffeisen, the Schulze, Delich, and the Lomath type; all different forms of co-operative credit. You will have before you one of the best authorities in the kingdom on that very subject in Mr. Montgomery, of the Agricultural Board, if you desire to go into that subject in detail.

1009. I was more on this question; did not the law in those two countries of Denmark and Germany make them unlimited?—Oh, yes, I see your point; under the law up to a certain date it was impossible to have any other form of society.

1906. They could not have anything but unlimited; was that partly the cause why they were so successful? I don't think so; if you look at my report on France you will see an account of the development of the law as regards co-operative societies.

1907. Is the question of limited or unlimited liability disagreed there?—No, that exact point is not.

1908. It was altogether from that point of view I was looking at it, whether the question of having unlimited liability did not make a man very much more energetic and anxious to push the matter?—It all depends; unlimited liability works splendidly in these Rafflesian Banks where you have a small or village community in which it is possible for every member of the committee and of the society to be aware of the circumstances of his neighbors.

1909. It was not a bank which I was thinking of; I was altogether on the co-operatives and such like institutions?—Oh, no; the form of the Co-operative society is now practically the same all over the co-operative world; it is fixed, and considered the best system, limited to the number of shares.

1910. Would it have been the best system at the start in those countries where it succeeded?—That I could not say.

1911. Do you think the co-operative system as regards dairying has been successful?—In Ireland it has been successful in rescuing the Irish butter trade from a state of ruin. I don't say that the development of the co-operative system has been always attended with the best indirect results to the farmer's industry; when butter was made in the home, for example, there was a system of domestic economy suited to that state of things with which the co-operative has interfered.

1912. (Chairman).—What you are on now is agricultural credit, not its application to the particular matter?—I have said what I wish to say on that point. In connection with industries we have proceeded on certain broad lines, and you will have some details of the work from other members of the Department, but some of the principles of our action. I am prepared to discuss now if necessary as soon as I have indicated them broadly. Technical instruction of course is the main aid to the development of industries which is employed, and we believe it will be proved to be most fruitful in the long run, as it has in every country in the world. The development of the industrial spirit in a country is the first condition of industrial development, and until you have an industrially educated people you will not have that spirit in its full force. Pending the full effect of the technical instruction system, we have given expert advice, the teaching of trades in connection with certain industries, and we have endeavored to bring the resources of the country before the notice of those who might be likely to take in hand their exploitation. We have done that through a system of exhibitions and we have carried out a scheme of giving advice and bringing the minerals of the country before the notice of the public in the same way.

1913. Does that bring you in contact with the Mines Inspectors?—I believe the Mines Inspector of the Home Office who deals with Ireland lives in Manchester; No. 6 district is his. No, we have no connection with the Mines Inspectors, though I think most useful results might follow if we had.

1914. You never had any connection at all?—No, never; but we have in our service a mineral expert who deals with this subject, and I will give you an account of his work now, because his work does not come under that of any special branch, and is directed by the secretariat. It is a very important piece of work, and illustrates some of the most fruitful ways in which the industrial side of the Department's work is carried out. We employed this expert, Mr. Lyburn, in 1902; he is an economic geologist, and a geodesist who has had experience in practical mining in South Africa and other countries. We sent him through the country to survey in a practical manner our mineral resources. He took samples of various deposits in situ, and made a collection of our minerals and building stones, which were exhibited at the Cork International Exhibition in 1902; that included building stones and pottery clay, and all forms of our mineral resources. The effect of this mineral display was to promote a great many inquiries with regard to these resources, and for the first time Irish building stones began to be specified in building contracts as a result of that display.

1915. (Mr. Micks).—Are you aware of Wilkinson's look on geology?—Yes, but I confess I have never read it.

1916. He goes very fully into all that?—This is the most modern estimate of our deposits. We brought that collection from Cork to the Imperial Institute in London, and afterwards brought it to the Building Trades' Exhibition in London. The effect of all that has been very marked indeed. We sent the same collection to the St. Louis Exhibition; we exhibited it in the British section at the expense of the Royal Commission, and we put a duplicate of it in our own section at St. Louis. I might mention that it got at St. Louis the grand prize, or the highest possible award by the international jury, who were all mineral experts, who found the nonopportunity of the specimens to be correct, a rather striking testimony to the manner in which the work was done.

1917. (Chairman).—Was it a collection of ordinary road stone, coal, and so on?—Yes, and pottery clay.

1918. (Mr. Micks).—Commercial minerals?—Yes, commercial minerals. It is not always easy to point to intermediate results from such efforts as that, but even now we can point to certain definite things that have followed from these efforts, for example, the opening up on an extensive scale of the Mountcharles manganese deposits, and the development of the Shanallagh Quarries in the County Galway. Several Irish marble-producing firms have obtained orders through these exhibitions, and have told us so.

1919. Both Mountcharles and Shanallagh were open and going concerns?—Yes, but they have been greatly developed. The method we have adopted in investigating these and the mineral resources, I think, is eminently safe as well as effective. We first carry out inspection to ascertain if the evidence justifies prospecting. That is work to which a Department of State may confine itself; the actual prospecting must be taken up by private enterprise. That first part of the work is very valuable to private enterprise, and our action has enabled some mining districts, such as the Bannahan Mines, County Waterford, to be taken up by prospecting companies. In Bannahan on the strength of our estimate that the district was worth prospecting they have formed a prospecting syndicate, and are now at work upon the mines.

1920. That is the question of the re-opening of an old mine?—That happened to be an old mine that was closed. The results of our inspection in a negative way, of course, are very important, because they prevent the loss of money on useless prospecting and development. We carried out inspections of that nature in connection with coal and supposed coal in twenty-three districts, in iron in fourteen districts, in pyrites and sulphur ore—

1921. What has been done about coal?—As I told you we have inspected and furnished information, and are prepared to furnish information.

1922. Have you tested the ordinary fields of Killybeggy, Tupperary, Tyrone and Armagh?—Yes, here is a list. In connection with the coal at Ballinacree—

1923. That was already in existence?—It was, but I will tell you about that presently. A number of places in Cavan, Cork, Leitrim, Kerry—

1924. In Limerick?—No, I don't think we carried out any coal inquiry in Limerick; we only do so at the request of the people in the locality who own what they suppose to be mining deposits.

1925. (Chairman).—They apply to you to send out an expert?—Yes.

1926. Does that apply to all these cases?—It does.

1927. (Mr. Micks).—You don't give them such a certificate as a mineral procurator could neither?—No, we take great care not to do that.

1928. (Chairman).—You don't go into the commercial question, but as to the expense?—Yes, our expert is prepared to advise any person as to whether it is worth while spending money on prospecting or looking for it. Then for lead we investigated fourteen districts.

1929. (Mr. Micks).—Perhaps it would be under the question of transit you will discuss the bringing of the Cashmore coal to a good market?—Yes.

1930. (Chairman).—As I understand, you don't do it except indirectly for commercial purposes. Your expert would go and tell the people the nature of the minerals there were that he discovered, and the approximate amount of them?—Yes.

1931. The question whether it was workable at a profit would be for the people themselves?—Yes, it would be for the prospectors, but those who intend prospecting have come to us for this information.

May 30, 1906. 1032. In fact they ask you to make a certain geological survey for them?—Yes, only it is more practical.

1033. (Mr. O'Grady).—It is in fact what follows a geological survey—the geological survey work is a necessary preliminary, and is the basis on which this economic geological work proceeds?—Yes.

1034. In other parts of the country it is left entirely to private enterprise—you give in Ireland a certain assistance in ascertaining the economic value which is not afforded elsewhere?—Yes.

1035. (Chairman).—It is not in the interests of pure science, but directly of applied science?—Yes, decidedly; we look in that direction, and we hope that the geological survey, now that it has come into our hands, may be made somewhat more useful to the economic side of geology than it has been.

1036. (Mr. O'Grady).—I should like to know exactly what you mean by that?—Perhaps that would take me a little off the track, but I will discuss it with you, if I may, after we have got through this.

1037. The point is that the service of the Geological Survey is a national service, and the charge of the Geological Survey work on the estimate is a charge for definite purposes which are at present understood to cover certain sections of work, in addition to the already-arranged and recognised objects of the Geological Survey, you carry out other objects by means of an officer who is not upon the Geological Survey's strength; I want to know whether you indicate in what you said in your last answer an intention to extend the work of the Geological Survey, and therefore the work done, as against a certain specific charge in the estimate beyond the purpose for which that charge is at present allowed?—No, that is not precisely what I mean. The Geological Survey, I mean, can, like all branches of science and education, be made to have some utility for economic developments. In fact economic inquiries on geology and this mineral question have at all times been put to the Geological Survey. The desire of the public to get that information had not been very great until we took up this more practical application of the science. But the survey can be co-ordinated, and is being co-ordinated with our agricultural work through the agricultural faculty at the College of Science in connection with which geology plays a very important part; that question as to whether it is entered in the estimates under a particular head, and that this development would bring it outside that head or not.

1038. (Chairman).—I think one sees the rough distinction—supposing there was a bluish mineral found at Achill Head, you would not send down your expert there to see what this mineral was unless the owner of Achill Head or someone else who was interested in it said, "I have got a substance here that looks to me uncommonly like lead, and I should like to know whether it is or not." Then, I suppose, you send down the expert?—Yes, but the owner usually sends up the sample first. We examined fourteen districts for lead, one for gypsum, ten for copper, one for skelite, one for graphite, four for barytes, four for lime and supposed lime, five for cement, nine for granite, four for slates, six for marble deposits, seven for clays and six for sands—that is white sand for the manufacture of glass—in all about 500 samples of Irish mineral material have been dealt with in this way. In the manufacture of cement we have gone a little further, and where the deposits seemed worthy of it we have had a cement expert to come and accompany our mineral expert, and we have even had samples manufactured in the district. In this connection we believe there is a very good opening indeed for Irish cement. The knowledge of that fact and the fact that we are prepared, as it were, to vouch for it is a very important industrial circumstance that offers to those who wish to go into the cement business a fair guarantee that there is an opening in that line in the country. Pottery clays have formed a very important feature in these investigations, and the result of our advice has led to some developments and improvements in some of the existing industries. For example, one firm—you must excuse me for not mentioning names—asked for advice with regard to the manufacture of their bricks to ascertain if they could make a better article. The matter was taken up, an inspection was made, and the advice was given; that advice has been put into operation, and the firm has written to us to say that

they have acted on our suggestion, and have materially improved the make of the bricks. At the same time they asked for further advice on the other possibilities of using this clay, and as a result of this further advice they are now experimenting in the manufacture of roof tiles in addition to bricks. They inform us the improvement of their bricks has enabled them to enter into severe competition with the imported articles. That I indicate as a fruitful means in which this form of advice produces good results. In another district we expect to see within the next month or so a new factory started with the manufacture for the first time in Ireland of sandstone bricks as a result of our advice as to the methods of manufacture; our expert advised with the people, and even with regard to the selection of machinery for the manufacture. The capital was subscribed locally, and the industry is on its way to succeed.

1039. Is the expert whom you have referred to, exclusively in your employment?—He is.

1040. Gives you his whole time?—Yes, and the demand for his services is far greater than his time permits him to give to it. The development of the important granite quarries at Galway is a direct result of this work; we demonstrated to the owner of the property that there was a demand for his granite as proven by the inquiries sent to him as a result of the different exhibitions that were held.

1041. Was it not worked at all?—In a very small way indeed. We proved to him that there existed a large quantity of granite on his estate, and that the quality of the stones was splendid; he obtained advice as to how to deal with the matter. That promise to be a very important industry indeed, and it is being developed in constant consultation with our report. The entire capital for it has been collected locally, and in addition to the granite, the green and black marbles of Connemara, I think, will also be worked.

1042. (Mr. O'Grady).—Is the demand for granite practically all in Ireland?—Oh, no; I hope it will be all round in the building trade.

1043. That is to say they are able to bring it out and put it in competition on the market with the other granite?—That remains to be decided by the result of the commercial side of the working—they are starting their industry now.

1044. How long has the industry been going on on a large scale?—Within a year it has been in process of organisation, but for the last two months it has been actually going. We provide in addition to that, and are prepared to provide in connection with other industries which may get into the same state, technical instruction for the workers of the industry. In Galway we have authorised the local Technical Instruction Committee to include in their scheme, which is aided from our funds, and from those of the local authority, instruction for the workers in that granite quarry. That is a very important element of assistance to the industry too, and it is within our technical instruction powers.

1045. (Mr. Nichols).—Is that within your power?—Yes, it is.

1046. (Mr. O'Grady).—All this work, I apprehend, is being done under section 16 (1) (a) (ii)?—The technical instruction part is done under that.

1047. And the economic inquiries under it. With regard to that question of instruction for such a thing as granite quarries—I don't ask you to answer this question with special reference to granite quarries, but, things of that kind—obviously if an industry is a comparatively new one, at any rate on a large scale in the district, the possibility of its being able to enter into commercial competition with old-established works of the same character in other countries depends very largely upon the economic management and judicious development of the quarry, or whatever it may be; that depends upon properly-trained overseen and foremen as much as anything; what is your practice, if any, in affording assistance to the development of the training of such men—do you prefer to take your likely men in a district and send him to spend a sufficient time in commercial undertakings of the same character in other countries, or do you engage for a limited period a practical foreman for such instruction, or see that the company does so?—The latter is the more practical alternative in present circumstances. If a new industry is to be undertaken, the first requisite is somebody who thoroughly understands that industry, and if a company desires to develop such an industry they must employ a manager or foreman, or perhaps

two or three of such persons who are already fully trained. One or two of these men would have to give a good deal of his time to the training of the hands, and we have permitted the training of such a man as a technical instructor.

1048. (Chairman).—How do you get over the words of section 30 (1) "It shall not include instruction given in elementary schools or teaching the practice of any trade or industry or employment"?—Those words have been practically got over not only in the Irish educational system, but in the English.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—Oh, no.

1049. (Chairman).—I want you to confine yourself to the Irish Act!—In order to teach the science and art underlying any trade you have to teach a certain amount of manipulation. Provided you give the instruction in the theory of the science or art underlying the manipulation that follows is fully justified under that definition.

1050. You are not teaching a man science in this way—you are teaching him to work granite!—We are teaching him science in connection with that.

1051. The substance of what you are doing is to teach him to work granite—is not that the practice of the industry?—It is, but it is impossible to separate the one from the other, provided you give the adequate theoretical instruction as well.

1052. You don't quite follow me there—you want to teach a man to work granite, that is your primary object; you don't care very much about his intellectual development, and the Act says it is not to include instruction given in the practice of an industry?—You say that we don't care about the intellectual development; I say we do.

1053. I am putting it rather coarsely!

(Mr. Micks).—It is not the immediate object!—Yes, but the actual intelligent practice of an industry, especially one that will have an effect on his economic position, is in itself a very good intellectual experience for a worker, and is the object of all technical instruction. While the theories for carrying it out include all these considerations, the real object is to improve the condition of the man as a worker in his particular calling whatever it may be, whether it be agriculture or commerce, or the practice of his industry or trade.

1054. (Chairman).—I don't want to argue the legal question!—That question arises in connection with every technical school in the country where we have technical instruction applied in connection with particular trades.

1055. I understood you to say that the answer to that question is that if the Act does not include it, it ought!—Indeed it ought; and in the science and art grants under our new revised programme, which follows the experience of England, we may be allowed to say, provide for instruction pure and complete in connection, for example, with the following list—building industries, metal industries, textile industries, printing and process industries, furniture industries, leather, wood-working, carriage building, electrical, chemical, and agricultural industry, instruction in tanning, and all sorts of things in connection with it. You will see that it would be difficult to conceive of more practical branches of instruction.

1056. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It is rather important that we should not mix up funds which are subject to different conditions, and in referring to England you are referring to schemes which are borne in part by funds derived from local rates, as to the application of which there is no particular limit in this direction except the unwillingness of the ratepayers to pay. That is quite a different state of freedom from that which is applicable either to grants corresponding to those of the old science and arts grants, or to the expenditure under this clause of your Act. Should I be right in taking your view to be that the extent to which it is necessary to include practical work in giving instruction in principles is so very great that practically this condition of the Act does not apply at all. You found the expenditure of money under the Act in giving instruction of a trade character upon the necessity for including a certain amount of practical instruction in order to rub in and illustrate fully the instruction which you are justified, and required, in fact, to give in the principles underlying industry. If the extent to which it is necessary to include such practical work is great enough to cover all practical instruction in trades, then that interpreta-

tion of principles practically abrogates this clause!—That is rather a legal question.

1057. No, I am asking whether the practice of the Department in interpreting it has been such as would be founded upon that interpretation?—It would undoubtedly; you have correctly stated the view of the Department as to its interpretation. We believe that that interpretation fits with the definition. It is what the lawyers would call a liberal interpretation of the definition, and it would be impossible to carry out instruction in the theory plus the necessary manipulation without infringing that definition if the interpretation was liberal. But as Sir Kenneth Digby has said, if the strictly legal interpretation is any different from that, then it ought to be changed.

(Chairman).—I did not say so; I said I exposed you would say so.

1058. (Mr. Micks).—But you say definitely I—I say definitely it ought to be altered if it does not bear that interpretation, but I think it does in practice.

1059. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You think, as a matter of fact, under the present Act you have adequate powers to set up a school for the practical training of clerks or of tailors?—Yes, provided due provision is made for teaching the theory.

1060. If due provision is made for teaching the theory you consider you would be perfectly justified in establishing a school which would correspond in every way to the apprenticeship school in France?—I do.

1061. Therefore this particular clause in the Act does not tie you up at all?—I don't think it does.

1062. And it is quite immaterial whether that remains in the Act or not?—Possibly so; I would like to know how you would consider that it does deter us from doing that.

1063. I am not expressing any view on the matter; verbally, it is pretty strong; it bars the teaching the practice of any trade!—What I say is that if you adopt the narrow view of those words it would be impossible to carry out any real technical instruction at all.

(Chairman).—It did strike me at the moment that your illustration of the instruction given at the granite quarry is a very good illustration of the matter.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—I think it is a very important point.

(Chairman).—I think it is one of the most important.

1064. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Suppose we take quarrying—I ask you what you think theoretically, you may do!—I don't ask your practice; I suppose you consider that there is power to expend money under this in starting a class for granite working; and the teacher of that class is not under any necessity of distinguishing two grades of instruction, which I will presently indicate. As to the first grade, that which I will now describe, there is obviously no difficulty whatever in expenditure here, namely, the explaining to the class the characters of the materials, the differences of methods of working it in one way or in another. Supposing we are dealing just now with the dressing of the granite after it is taken out of the quarry, and it is the duty of the teacher to point out the sort of tools to be used for the dressing of this kind and of that, and under this condition and under that condition; he ought to explain and show the methods of work in reference to blocks of such shapes on which people might very properly be trained in the particular kind of work that has to be done for dressing?—Now you are coming to the point of manipulation.

1065. I am approaching it, but I have not got to it yet. It would be quite proper that we might have a shed for this purpose, and blocks of granite all round it, with a man working upon each block, and carrying on the chipping necessary to dress it up in the particular form which is indicated upon the drawings, or by the model put before him. The preparation of the drawing, the preparation of the model, the using of the different instruments for checking the form and so on, all that is necessarily a part of the instruction; you get the pupil up to that stage, and you get him to be able to make a granite block of a particular shape specially satisfactory, but probably taking a week to do the work which an expert man would do in half a day; he knows exactly what is required; you have taught him the principles that are underlying the work; you have shown him how these principles are applied in the actual practice, and you have

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got him to be able to do this work, slowly but satisfactorily. Up to that point it is quite clear, I think, that you are within your powers—would you go beyond that?—The only question there is whether he is to be free to get his granite block and work at it as at the quarry, or is to be confined in a particular apartment and kept separate from the industry. I think you have shown there that a very great deal is in the training of a granite worker can be done even within the strict line of the definition. When you come to the point of saying—Now in the use of manipulation of the material such and such restrictions must be imposed, I say that that is not a very practical thing, and it is in a sense, if I may say so—I don't say that this is your view, but, speaking of it generally—if it is pedantry.

1066. It is not my view, so it does not matter. You have not taken my point. I conceive that it is absolutely right that this instruction should be given at the quarry. I don't say that there is anything there to prevent that. What I ask you is would you go further in this direction—would you consider that if a pupil has already acquired a knowledge of the practical methods as well as the principles underlying the working of his granite block up to the particular shape required, would you consider it was justifiable to continue it under the Act by giving him manipulative dexterity?—I would decidedly. I think you have no business to consider that you have finished his technical education when you have enabled him to make a block in a week that a skilled man would do in half a day, and you ought to carry on his training until he is a skilled man.

1067. Don't mind the difference between the week and the half day. You consider that the actual training in manipulative dexterity in the practice of a trade is a proper work to aid under this Act, notwithstanding the statement that it is not to include the teaching of the practice of any trade?—You have shown that under this definition you can carry out the training in manipulative dexterity up to a certain point. The question you now put is are you entitled under that definition to carry it further. I say yes, provided you continue the theoretical instruction as well, and I say further that when the manipulative side is accompanied by theoretical instruction you can carry on the training in manipulative dexterity almost without limit.

1068. Although the training in manipulative dexterity is in no sense necessary for the further appreciation of the principles that you are entitled to teach?—That is, of course, as I say, a very refined way of looking at the matter; if you propose to say of a particular individual pupil in a technical school that he now does not need any further intellectual results from his manipulative training, and therefore you must stop, I think that is a very difficult thing to be able to say about anybody, and to require one to consider such a point is not a practical thing. If the definition did require that to be done, I don't think it could be worked, because while in the case of one pupil you could say that pupil now can dispense with any further training in manipulation. Of course I am sure nobody will be more emphatic than you in the belief that manipulative training can have an intellectual effect on a pupil.

(Chairman).—I think we have now got the point of view of the Department.

1069. (Mr. Michl).—I should like to come to what has been the practice of the Department—what did you actually do in Galway?—They are only starting that at present.

1070. You said, I think, that you have made some payments there?—We have authorised the local Committee of Technical Instruction to arrange under the Galway scheme of technical instruction for teaching at the quarry.

1071. For teaching people at the works how to do the work, while the people, of course, are under wages?—That is the company's affair; yes.

1072. Do they get any fees from you—the people who are actually learning?—No, they don't get fees from me; they are getting employment from the industry in consequence of being trained.

1073. You pay the teachers at the works?—Yes, the grant we would make would go to the payment of the teacher; the form in which it would be applied might either be the direct payment of the salary of such teacher or a bonus per head of the pupils trained in the form of a scholarship.

1074. Has it been settled which form it is to take in Galway?—I don't think the committee have yet settled; that is under discussion.

1075. But you are prepared either to make a payment towards or to pay the full wages, or, I should say, contribute partly to the payment?—Yes; it will be from the joint fund.

1076. You are willing to let your funds be used for that purpose—for paying a teacher or giving a scholarship to the pupils?—Yes.

1077. Is not that the application that was made to you at Kilkenny?—Yes, and we have done the same at Kilkenny.

1078. What have you done at Kilkenny?—I would prefer you would ask the details from Mr. Fletcher.

1079. I would like the principle from you?—The principle is precisely the same, only this is a woollen industry and the other is granite.

1080. What did you do at Kilkenny?—We authorised the payment of certain scholarships.

1081. No payment for teachers there?—That is a detail. When you give a sum per head it comes to the payment of somebody who teaches the pupils.

1082. In this case you have not paid the teacher; it is the local committee has paid the instructor?—It is the joint fund; that includes our contribution as well.

1083. You are quite sure that the payment was made out of that joint fund in the Kilkenny case?—I am not quite sure about that. We made in the case of Kilkenny an additional grant from the Technical Instruction Fund.

1084. That is, from the funds of the Department, not that was applied towards instructing the pupils?

1085. You did not pay a teacher there?—We made a supplementary grant for technical teaching in Kilkenny. It went to the payment of the teacher, not a scholarship.

1086. That is, the teaching was not done at the premises in Kilkenny; it was done elsewhere?—The premises, in the first place, did not exist.

1087. And, therefore, you paid a kind of teaching scholarship to the pupils for learning the art of working?—Yes.

1088. And that has ceased, that payment?—The contribution to the Kilkenny scheme has not ceased, but the payment in the form of scholarships for other places has ceased.

1089. You received, Sir Horace Plunkett told us in London, an application for further grants from Kilkenny?—We did.

1090. Has that been dealt with since Sir Horace Plunkett was in London giving evidence?—Sir Horace referred to an application for a general payment of managers, and that goes beyond what we have in view.

1091. At all events, it did include partly such payments as you make in Galway?—It did, but it contemplated a great deal more.

1092. Did you say then to the Kilkenny people: "We will grant part of your application, but cannot grant the rest"?—We have actually done a part of the thing already in the manner I have described; beyond that we cannot go.

1093. Are you going to do anything for them in their own mill?—We will continue the same aid in their own mill that we have given up to this in the way just described, with a view to the training of workers.

1094. Will you go as far as you have gone in Galway, and pay the teachers?—It will come to that.

1095. Do you think the Department would definitely do it in that way?—You are examining me now on the details of a particular scheme.

1096. No, it is a matter of principle, with an illustration?—Principle.

(Chairman).—We shall get what you actually do from Mr. Fletcher.

1097. (Mr. Michl).—Yes, but this is a question of principle, and I should be glad to get it from Mr. Gilh.—On the question of principle the object of the payment—the primary object of the payment—is to assist in the training of the workers. Whether we pay directly the teacher who trains these workers or pay as such per head, which is applied to providing that training by the local people, the principle is the same.

1098. Will you give the payments at Kilkenny to teachers, as they have done at Galway?—What we will definitely do at Kilkenny in a particular instance I would prefer not to answer now.

1099. I think it is most important for the question of developing industries to know under which we shall ask me not about Kilkenny, but ask me about X.

(Mr. Miles).—Very well.

(Chairman).—I fear, if the matter is under discussion, we can hardly ask the Department to say what they will do.

(Witness).—That is what I mean.

1100. (Mr. Miles).—You have done it at Galway, and in any other case would there be any objection to your paying teachers of an industry, as you have done at Galway?

(Chairman).—I don't think that question ought to be put to this gentleman.

(Mr. Miles).—I am afraid I must ask that question.

(Chairman).—Well, I shall rule it out of order.

1101. (Mr. Miles).—I should like that question on the notes. Are you prepared generally to pay the teachers elsewhere, as you have done in Galway?

(Chairman).—I shall rule that out of order, as I think it is a question which must be considered by the Department on their own responsibility when it arises, and we ought not to ask a question which may lead to a certain course of action on their part.

(Mr. Miles).—I should like an opportunity of discussing that.

(Witness).—I am prepared to answer the question now.

(Chairman).—Clear the room.

On the proceedings being resumed,

(Chairman).—The Committee are agreed upon the question that Mr. Miles will ask.

1102. (Mr. Miles).—Is it your view that the Department has power to devote its funds to the payment, or part payment, of teachers giving instruction in the practice of any trade, industry, or employment? Subject to the condition that the teaching of the theory of the trade or of the sciences and arts underlying the trade is given as well, if it is.

1103. Do you think it would be desirable that the law should make this more clear?—I think if the law imposed any difficulty on our interpretation it would.

1104. I mean, do you think that the definition words are in your way?—Well, I don't think in practice we have found them in our way, so far. If they were in our way I should like them to be removed; but we have not found them in our way, and we have always kept in mind the importance of the theoretical training as well as of the practical training. We consider that has a great educational effect, and there might be a temptation to overlook that aspect if you removed all limitations. I, for one, would see no objection to removing that limitation, because I think we would set on precisely the same principles anyhow.

1105. You don't think you would give more assistance to the development of industries if that restriction was taken out of it?—In that particular form of teaching I don't think that we should adopt any different methods from those open to us now. I only point out that even the Treasury has sanctioned a scheme for the administration of our evening grants for science and art which permits of the training of apprentices in their own workshops. I don't think, in practice, you can go much further than that, so far as the teaching goes. The necessity for removing it in practice does not seem to have arisen.

1106. Have you received any legal advice on the construction of this 50th section?—We have followed the precedents that have been adopted, and we have not, I think, taken any particular legal advice on it.

1107. You have not substituted a case for advice?—We have not. We have kept within what we considered precedents in this Department, that have been followed in the interpretation of the clause.

1108. How would these be any precedents for your Department?—That definition is taken word for word from the Technical Instruction Act of 1889, which applies to the Three Kingdoms. Precedents were formed in that way which were a guide to us.

1109. You have taken precedents from England and Scotland and Wales?—Yes; and the Auditor-General has considered the point in passing our payments, and has approved of our interpretation.

1110. This restriction is not in existence at present in England?—It shall not (make instruction given in elementary schools or teaching the practice of any trade or industry or employment)?—I believe the Education Acts have been changed in some particulars, but I could not say.

(Chairman).—I could not make out the other day, when that question was raised, that there had been any change whatever.

(Witness).—Has it been removed?

(Mr. Miles).—Yes.

(Mr. Miles).—The Act of 1889 has been removed altogether. May 30, 1906.

1111. (Mr. Miles).—If you know any precedents I shall be glad to have them put in later—any precedents for expenditures, such as we have been discussing under the English Acts down to the 1902 Act?—If you look at the technical instruction scheme of any English county, let us say, such as Yorkshire, you will see, I think, that they even apply money to training farmers in horse-shoeing.

1112. The Act which corresponds to yours is not the Act which is now in operation in England. The 1902 Act extended the field over which expenditure by the local authorities could be made. At the same time, however, it was careful to make that expenditure an expenditure of rates, and, therefore, the people who had to pay were the people who had in the end the decision as to the field to be covered. My point is that any precedents since 1889 do not apply in this case.

(Mr. Miles).—Quite so.

(Witness).—Mr. Miles' suggestion practically is, that these extensions might be applied to Ireland; I, naturally, see no objection.

1113. (Mr. Miles).—But there is a limitation here against you which does not exist in England?—I would be very glad to see any such limitation removed.

1114. (Mr. Miles).—Even though the funds are not funds subscribed locally, but from Imperial sources?—They are only removed as regards local rates in England.

1115. Yes?—I think, probably, that is a useful distinction to draw.

1116. (Chairman).—What is the next matter to which you wish to draw attention?—I was explaining how the system of expert advice and teaching, such as this, has been operating in the development of industries in Ireland; I could mention several more cases besides those I have named, but I don't think I will take up the time of the Committee by doing so; I just mention that there are some, and I can go into them if asked.

Mr. Miles asked a question about Ballycastle. A rather interesting point arose in the course of our investigation with regard to Ballycastle. A recent Royal Commission upon Coal Supplies approached the Department with the view of obtaining the help of our mineral expert to estimate the available coal in Ireland, taking as a basis the coal area as indicated in the maps of the Geological Survey. The expert advised the Department that it would be necessary to revise these plans, as he had reason to doubt their accuracy, but the Commissioner appointed for Ireland disapproved of this suggestion, and stated it would be a waste of public funds to do so. We adhered to the opinion of our expert, in whose judgment we had every confidence. The Commission issued their report, and stated, amongst other things, that in the first instance the Ballycastle district was exhausted. It was one of the places in which our expert had advised that it was worthy of prospecting still for coal. Well, now, subsequent to that report, prospectors have put down bore holes, and have found the coal, and our estimate has been borne out. Similarly with regard to the Killybegs district, estimates were given in the same way, and our re-survey has demonstrated that there is a very much larger area of coal there than the Royal Commission seemed to believe.

1117. (Mr. Miles).—Workable coal?—Workable coal.

1118. (Chairman).—Have any steps been taken on either of these reports, any further steps?—Ballycastle is being developed. The Killybegs coal district, of course, is very much affected by that question of transport.

1119. (Mr. Miles).—Is there a re-survey about to be made then in consequence of your opinion being right?—We have been making this sort of survey ourselves that I have indicated.

1120. Under section 51?—But whether the Royal Commission intended to carry out this re-survey we suggested I don't know.

1121. (Mr. Miles).—But it is no part of the function of a Royal Commission on Coal Supply to carry out a re-survey?—I suppose it is not; but they asked for our opinion on the subject, and we gave it that a re-survey was necessary.

1122. Does it not rest with your Department to order a re-survey by the Geological Survey of Ireland, which is now under your control, if you consider it necessary?—At the time that this matter was before us we had not the Survey in our hands. The Survey has only come over to us since April, last year.

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1123. Yes, but the question now of whether a re-survey is made or not rests with your Department—I would not like to express offhand an opinion on that.

1124. Don't misunderstand me; I am not asking you whether you are going to order a re-survey, but I am asking you whether it is not for your Department alone to say whether the Geological Survey should not undertake it?—Oh, yes.

1125. There is no one else to consult in the matter necessarily?—No.

1126. (Mr. Micks).—You would have to get a Treasury approval for the re-survey?—No; it is only directing the survey in a different way from the way in which they are working now.

1127. It would not mean greater expense?—No; it would be merely using them in a different direction. I may mention that since we took them over this is one of the ways in which we have been directing their attention rather to the more practical objects of geology. They have re-surveyed the Killybeg coal district, and the result of their re-survey has been to show that there were much larger deposits there also than the Royal Commission believed.

1128. (Chairman).—Who have re-surveyed?—Our Geological Survey.

1129. Do you want to refer to any other cases?—I don't think so. I could mention, perhaps, as Mr. Lyburn has pointed out to me, another case that is interesting in its way. I was talking the other day to a gentleman at Limerick who has started quarries in that county, where he has now fifty hands employed. That is an industry directly resulting from our advice.

1130. State quarries?—Fawcett's. His attention was first directed to the subject by the exhibit at Cork, and I remember his speaking to me at the time, and I pointed out to him that he could not rely on financial aid from the Department. I beg pardon; it is not this gentleman, but the man who owned the quarry at the time that spoke to me, but we since gave him all the help of our expert in classifying his stone, and advice as to how to dispose of it; and he declared to me—he was a merchant on Limerick, engaged in another line of business altogether, and is the type of man of industrial enterprise from whom industrial development in a country really comes—he declared to me that the sort of advice and help we gave him was precisely what he wanted, and all he wanted. There is now an industry going on with fifty hands employed as a result of his enterprise and the help we have given him. I will now deal with the question of transit.

1131. (Mr. Gillies).—Before you leave industries, to correct a possible misunderstanding of the previous answer, because the matter was not followed up to the second stage, you explained that in the case of such an industry as quarrying it was the most satisfactory method of work to bring into Ireland, for a limited period, experienced foremen from other places?

1132a. (Mr. Micks).—Was it stated that they were from other places?—No, I did not say that. I said that in the case of any such industry of the kind it is essential to get as teachers men thoroughly versed in the industry as distinguished from the alternative suggestions which you made, of sending workers abroad to learn the industry.

1132. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Away from the place. What I want to ask now is merely am I right in supposing that in cases where the training required for a firmness, or one who is to organize the industry, is such as can be obtained without a life-long experience; that you would by preference take a likely young man or woman, as the case might be, and send him or her to some place in Ireland, England, or abroad, to get the requisite training, with a view to their coming back within twelve months, say, to start in work?—We would do that, and we have done that sort of thing in connection with a type of industrial scholarships that are approved by the Technical Instruction Board. We have picked out a young man engaged in the woollen industry, for example, and sent him to such a place as the Yorkshire College, where there is a great textile installation for the teaching of the woollen trade; and we have sent a young man connected with the leather industry similarly.

1133. (Mr. Micks).—Did they get employment there or did they come back?—One of the woollen men was the son of a local miller, who has come back, and developed his father's mill. At Ennis, at the present time, they are considering the starting of a woollen industry, and that question arises in a very interesting way, illustrating this method. There are two local men, curiously

enough, who, not through the agency of the Department, but through their own enterprise, some years ago went to England, and got fully trained in a technical school in Yorkshire. These men are now coming back, and are developing, one a mill, that he and his brother have been working near Ennis, and both together in partnership are promoting a scheme for a woollen mill in Ennis. They are fully trained. We also have had commercial scholarships for the training of teachers in commercial subjects in the country, and are sending such men to places like the London School of Economics.

1134. Have you ever heard that the people who are trained in this country in technical schools go abroad, and are not available for industries here, when they are started?—Unfortunately, they are going abroad whether trained or not. I don't think the training makes them more anxious to go abroad than they were before.

1135. Have you heard that those who have been trained here have gone abroad?—I don't think many of those who have been trained have gone abroad. On the other hand, under our system, we have now employed throughout the country a large number of people who have been trained by us. Under our agricultural scheme we have a number of agricultural instructors and horticultural instructors and instructors in poultry-keeping, dairying, and domestic economy, all of which have been trained by us, and are now finding employment in the country. Similarly, under our Technical Instruction Scheme a number of pupils have been trained. Of course, when a young man receives a training he will look to do the best for himself in life, and if he does not find the opportunity at home he will look for it abroad. You cannot clip his wings.

1136. (Chairman).—Will it be possible to give us a list of those who have been trained, and where they have gone?—We can, with regard to those who have been trained, and are in our employment. We try to follow the careers of those who have been trained in the local schools, but the latter set of people it is more difficult to follow.

1137. If you could get some list of that sort it would be useful?—We can give you some information on that point, but generally a large proportion of those who have received what might be called the higher training, technical and agricultural, are finding employment under our own scheme.

1137a. (Mr. Micks).—Where do you employ them?—Through the County Committees and in the technical schools in the country—domestic economy instructors and so on.

1138. The great desire in the country is that employment should be provided?—Generally.

1139. That was the recommendation made in the Recesse Committee's Report, but that was not adopted by the Government, that part of the report?—Providing employment?

1140. The Recesse Committee recommended that a Board of Agriculture and Industries should be formed for developing industries on the lines that have been done in foreign countries. The Government, instead of doing that, gave you power to develop agriculture fully, but then they only gave power for technical instruction as regards industries?—And a certain amount of investigation and research.

1141. That is under section 5, but that would be on a very small scale?—I have indicated some of the ways in which we have been using those powers, but if you are on the question of getting an extension of our powers in this direction, may I ask you what particular ways you have in your mind as desirable?

1142. I mean developing and aiding undertakings that would lead to the payment of wages to the poor people?—All of these methods, such as those I have referred to, in connection with minerals and granite and woollens and so on, do lead to the employment of the poor people.

1143. Indirectly?—Directly; that is to say, if the industry is started. Here is the man I have just mentioned, who has got fifty hands employed at Limerick; and all of these industries that are indirectly aided by us in this way lead to employment. On the question of what other methods might be adopted perhaps you will ask me a specific question as to the particular method.

1144. You did issue or draft a form for industrial loans that you were obliged to drop?—Yes.

1145. Why did you drop it?—Because of the limits imposed by the definition with regard to rural industries. The law officers said we had no authority to lend to other than rural industries.

1140. What was the precise point?—That an industry which was not a rural industry could not receive this form of aid from us.

1141. Look at Vol. I., page 125, of the Agricultural Board's minutes.—That was a scheme that merely came up for consideration, and had to be dropped before it was discussed.

1142. The reason why it had to be dropped is what I want to know.—Because of the interpretation of the meaning of a rural industry in the definition clause of section 30, sub-section 1.

1143. It was held that certain industries that you contemplated assisting were not rural industries.—Yes; and, therefore, we were kept within a narrow sphere for the application of other methods than those I have described.

1144. Do you think it of vital importance that the law should be changed so that you would have power to lend in accordance with the terms of the memorandum that was suggested to the Board?—I think it would be important and desirable that that restriction as regards rural industries should be removed, so that the powers we do possess might be extended a little; to all industries, in fact. Indeed, we did put before the Government at one time a suggestion for an amendment to that effect.

1145. That was in the form of a memorandum or report?—A letter, I think.

1146. You could let us have a copy of that?—I will see if we have a copy of that. The suggestion was made that the words might be amended in that particular. If you ask me whether we should like those powers with a view to being able to lend, my answer must be a qualified one. I am not sure that it would be a good thing. I am not satisfied in my mind.—I am giving you my personal opinion, because the matter has not been fully considered by the Department, owing to its being dropped at an early stage—but I am not satisfied in my mind that it would be a good thing for the State to aid industries generally in the form of lending money to them. We only considered it in a tentative way there, and brought it up for discussion at our Board, and it was dropped. In the case of an absolutely new industry, which never existed before, or which was not in the country, and not in competition with any other industry, the case is fairly clear. I think the State is fully entitled to do what it please there to introduce the industry. It might even establish the industry itself; and in our rural industries, such as that Portadown French Bottling, we have acted with that sort of freedom.

1147. That was clearly rural?—That was clearly rural. But it was a new industry which did not exist before in Ireland, and, therefore, did not come into competition with any existing industry; and I think it is fairly clear that even if the industry was not a rural industry but was a new industry, the State might be fully entitled to do the same thing we did at Portadown.

1148. Prior to this memorandum about the power to issue loans, you did agree to advance a considerable sum of money to a certain undertaking, and you sent your papers to have the local arrangements carried out, and there you found the point arose, and it was impossible?—Yes.

1149. But you did think as well of the principle that that you resolved to lend a very large sum of money with a view to developing that industry?—That was a special case, for this reason.—It was brought out of the general category to which a scheme for lending would apply.

1150. I happen to know the place and the circumstances very well.—Let me emphasize what we did in that case. It was an industry which had been established in a locality in Ireland; it began to give very large employment in the neighbourhood, some 200 people being engaged in the work; it had greatly raised the economic condition of the district, and it was represented to us that it was in grave danger of having to stop, not from any inherent unsoundness, but more capital being necessary. The view we took in considering that special case was this. To allow such an undertaking to fall through at such a stage would be a calamity to the district; secondly, it would be a general industrial calamity, because English and other capital having been embarked in an Irish industry at that way, and meeting with such a fate, it would have given a set-back to the idea of the further introduction of such capital into the country, and that might have had far-reaching results. That was the particular reason that weighed with us.

1151. That case would not be a bit more special than any other case of an ordinary industry?—It would, because, as I say, the industry had been newly introduced with capital from England.

1152. Is it not one of the oldest industries in the country?—The particular scheme was not.

1153. This particular financial arrangement, but the employment there was a very old one?—Yes, but not its existence as a developed industry, giving such employment as was being given and is now being given; it was a reconstruction. But I speak of the lending of money as being a questionable matter, on account of the very great difficulties surrounding the action of the State in regard to it. If you lend to a particular industry, let us say, a small woollen industry—there are many good examples of the kind: we had the whole of the woollen mills inquired into in Ireland, and have ascertained this to be a circumstance of their condition—that a mill will, say, be in want of capital to get new machinery, which would enable it to double its output: there is at the present time a large demand for woollens in the country, and many of the mills could double their sales if they had capital to introduce new machinery: I think that would be a most desirable thing;—but if you lend to a particular mill to enable it to do that, if you give it capital at 3 per cent., you must be prepared to do the same thing for other mills in the existing industry whose case may not be quite so successful. A man may come to you from a mill in the North of Ireland, and say, I am paying 4 per cent. on my capital, and I would be glad to pay only 3 per cent., will you lend to me? Again, if you offer loans in that way by the State you may meet with a considerable number of enterprises that will fail. As you know, a large proportion of all promoted industries fail. The difficulty the State would be in having invested capital in such an enterprise in the form of loan would be very great indeed. The State ought not to lend its money except on fairly good security. If the enterprise fails, and all the ordinary shareholders lose their money, and the State comes in and holds the machinery, and releases the debtors, it is in an awkward position; in fact, that aspect of the development of industry is a very difficult one indeed.

1154. There would be a great deal of difficulty in administering it?—Very great. And then, again, the position of the banks themselves in the country, that has to be considered. The banks may say they are prepared to lend capital if an industry gets to a point that would justify the State in doing so, and they would be the natural agency to do it. All these things render that particular form of aid to industries, in my opinion, a doubtful one.

1155. A difficult one?—Very difficult indeed.

1156. What form, do you think, would be better for aiding and developing industries than lending money?—There are various forms. Do you mean in lending money?

1157. No; you have pointed out the difficulty in lending money. Such forms as are mentioned in the report of the Recesse Committee—I will tell you another form, though it would not be for a State department to adopt; the Legislature might provide it. In European countries, and up to a certain date, in the American States, a good deal is done by municipalities having power to exempt an industry in their particular district from rates for a certain period, or to provide a free site to induce an industry to start there; that, I think, would be a very useful provision here in Ireland.

1158. That was already done in the case of mines under the early Valuation Acts. You think that might be extended?—I think that would be a very useful provision to have—to allow the local authorities to permit a new industry that came in to work free of rates for a given period.

1159. (Mr. Dring.) They sometimes take stock in them?—The municipalities do.

1160. And sometimes give it a bonus?—Yes.

1161. (Mr. Michel.)—In starting an industry, the first few years is always the critical time, while they are learners there, and until they get their machinery in good running order. Have you thought of any way in which industrial enterprises could be assisted legitimately in the first few years of their existence?—I have explained some. May I ask if you have any particular way in view?

1162. That proposal that was laid before you—I don't want anything but your personal opinion—that proposal laid before you at Kilkenny seemed to me a feasible one—that you should pay for the necessary

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May 24, 1891. instruction, and so save the company from having to pay teachers at a time when they were not earning money?—When you go beyond the training of teachers you then get into the region of giving a bonus to an industry.

1168. Well, a bonus is a good thing, is it not?—That is, either a grant or a loan. If you ask me whether I think it would be a good thing that the Department should give a grant—I have answered you about the loan—

1170. Not in the form of a lump sum, but in paying the teachers of pupils, who are at present only spending material?—As far as the technical instruction goes, we do that; if it goes beyond that, and you go in for becoming the industry, I am not so sure about that. Take the case of a woolen mill going to be started—I won't say Kilkenny or anywhere else—that comes to you for a bonus over and above this technical work, what answer are you to give to all the other woolen mills in the country who would say—"We should like a bonus, too?"

1171. I suppose you would have the report of your inspectors as to what assistance could be legitimately given?—Yes; but if you give assistance to a particular place—say, £200 a year for three years to a particular mill—what about all the other mills in the country?

1172. How are these cases dealt with abroad in those cases mentioned in the Recess Committee?—They don't give a bonus there.

1173. They take, in some cases, the direct running of the industries?—As I said a while ago, if it was the case of a completely new industry, that did not exist before, or did not come into competition with other industries in the country, I, for one, should be no objection to the State doing that, and we have done it ourselves where our definition did not obstruct us, as in the case of the Fruit Drying and Order Making; but when it is the case of an industry that will come into competition with other industries existing, there you have to consider the position of these other men who have created an industry with their own capital and enterprise. You have to be prepared in adopting a principle to see that it is such a thing as will be applicable all round.

1174. And that it does not injure the people who are already in the trade?—Quite so. That, of course, is the difficulty. The promotion of the industrial development of the country is a very slow and complicated process, and in no country has it been done rapidly.

1175. Surely it was done rapidly in Wurttemberg?—Not rapidly.

1176. I think in fifty years the whole country was different?—Fifty years is a long time. I hope in fifty years' time, if any of us are alive, and examine the results—indeed I am perfectly confident—that it will be declared that they are as good results as those of Wurttemberg. I have not the faintest doubt about it.

1177. Do you think it would be desirable that you should go on the same lines as Wurttemberg?—Yes; on the whole, I am prepared to say that.

1178. Even in cases where they undertake to direct the running of industries?—Yes, with the modifications I have described.

1179. You are not allowed to do it under your existing Act?—Not except in connection with rural industries.

1180. Do you think it would be desirable that the Act should be amended, and give you the power?—I have said that I am in favour of removing the restrictions that the definition imposes in that respect.

1181. (Chairman).—You would include urban industries in the powers given by section 16 (g)?—I would, because it is very hard to draw the line, especially in this country, where a small country town is as much a rural district as the country. I would leave out the word "rural."

1182. (Mr. Meade).—I was asking you whether you would think that the State in this country ought to have similar powers to those that were exercised in Wurttemberg?—On the whole, I should be prepared, without going into minute particulars, to say yes; and one of our ideas in the Recess Committee was that we should have power of that nature.

1183. You think it would be desirable that Parliament should give you three powers?—We have those powers up to a certain point.

1184. Would you like them the whole way?—I have said that I would like to remove the distinction of "rural" in the case of these industries; but then, when you ask the manner in which we would apply those powers, that is a matter for very careful consideration at every step, and I have indicated some of the difficulties.

1185. I see that that is a question of discretion after you get the legislative power?—It is also a question of general economic principles, that we will have to keep in mind. Before passing from Wurttemberg, you will see that the results there were not very rapid. I want to quote what "the apostle," as he was called, of Wurttemberg's regeneration said in that connection. Remember we are only six years in existence. Von Steubner was almost driven to despair by the apathy of the people, and by the apparent hopelessness of a successful outcome of his labour. "After ten years' exertions," he wrote, "I was often tempted to doubt that any practical result would ensue." I think those are words that ought to be a great warning and guide to us in all these matters. We are only after six years' experience, and if we had any inclination to despair, and I don't feel the slightest, that ought to warn us we should not lose courage.

1186. Do you look for development more through education than by State money assistance?—Broadly speaking, I think education as applied to agriculture and all round is the most sure and lasting and fruitful of all the means of developing our industries.

1187. And education in workshops?—In all its forms. I will be prepared to say one or two things about methods of education as applied to these objects.

On running after the adjustment,

1188. (Chairman).—Now what is your next point?—The next point I was going to refer to was transit. The Department have been given certain powers and duties under section 17 of the Act. The Department has the power of appealing before the Railway and Canal Commissioners in certain cases, and it is also given a general power to aid in facilitating the carriage and distribution of produce; that is in the definition, section 30, sub-section 1. The Department have taken a variety of actions under these powers in negotiations with the railway companies with a view to induce them to improve the facilities under which agricultural and industrial produce of all kind is carried on the railways. Details on that point you will get from Mr. Cantwell, who is in charge of that section of our work. I won't, therefore, go into these details. I only wish to point out generally with regard to the question of transit, which is so often pressed upon us in various shapes, that the Department have not interpreted their powers in such a way as to justify them in building a line of railway, for example. It is quite probable that you could read section 30, "aiding or facilitating the carriage and distribution of produce," in such a way as to include that power. I may say that you could do practically anything in connection with transit under these heads.

1189. I doubt that, because your powers are limited to aiding or facilitating the carriage; it is not undertaking the carriage?—Your legal judgment is very much better than mine on that point.

1190. The powers are very wide, no doubt?—I think the powers are very wide, but we have not interpreted them to go as far as that, for our funds would not permit. If they were to link up two lines, for example, they might do it, but our funds would not permit us. Mr. Meade was referring to a very interesting case, which is typical of the suggestions which are made to us for the exercise of that power, and I think it is desirable that the Committee should be clear about it: it is one of the most important of all the branches of the development of the agricultural industries of the country. We are convinced, as, of course, every person who considers the question must be, that the promotion of transit in this country is at present very important, and that still a fundamental reform in that matter is intended the industrial and agricultural development of the country will not have a proper chance; let that be a subject which can only be dealt with by legislation—legislation for the promotion of some scheme, whatever it may be, either for the State purchase of Irish railways or guaranteeing railway companies in case of a reduction of rates, or some other method of the kind. We regard action with that object in view as beyond our powers, but we are strongly of opinion that action of some sort dealing with that problem is desirable.

1191. (Mr. Dryden).—It is being dealt with in Canada now by a Commission. There is a report of a second Commission for the province of Ontario to deal with this question, and there is a general scheme for Canada which fixes rates in case they are too high. It is one of the most vital of all the forms of modern development.

1192. (Chairman).—In connection with section 17, which gives you the power of appearing before the Railway and Canal Commissioners, it rather looks as if the intention of the Legislature was that you should assist them in making use of the existing means of transport.—That is the view we have taken. Our efforts have been very numerous and constant, and have been all aimed at utilizing the existing provision for transport, and developing it as far as it is possible, in co-operation with the carrying companies. Thus, I may say, generally, that we have always found in our negotiations with them that the carrying companies were very ready to receive suggestions, and to carry them out, where we have produced a good case. They have reduced rates and increased facilities where we thought it right to combine the sort of pressure that the law enables us to do.

1193. You have really effected beneficial changes?—Undoubtedly. They have completely changed on most of the lines their methods for carrying dairy produce. For example, they have put on refrigerator cars, and they have altered the methods of handling butter by their porters, both on the line and at the delivery end in England; they have done similarly with regard to eggs, and they have offered special trains during the fruit season for the carrying of fruit, and made special rates.

1194. Here, again, your position is that of a sort of authoritative negotiator; you have the authority of the Act of Parliament behind you to negotiate with the railway companies?—Decidedly; and it has been a useful power. Within the limits of the present railway system, their maxima and minima of rates and their powers, it is in practice an all-sufficient power for such a Department to possess; but, of course, it only goes a small way in dealing with transit problems as a whole in the country. That is a large problem, requiring legislation on a large scale.

1195. That lies beyond your province?—It lies beyond our province, though not beyond the ambit of our function as a Department for developing the resources of the country. The case Mr. Miles alluded to—perhaps he would like to ask me a question on it—that was brought before us, the Castlecomer coal mining district; and we had a precisely similar case with regard to Arigna.

1196. (Mr. Miles).—Was any application brought before you from Castlecomer?—Yes; an application to the effect that we should practically build a line of railway, or assist in building a short line of railway, to connect the colliery with the existing rail-head at Athy or Kilkenny. About six miles of railway was required.

1197. (Chairman).—What was done then?—We were unable to take it up. At the time it first came up there was a scheme before the country approved of by Mr. Wyndham—that of Mr. Pirrie and Lord Iveagh, two capitalists of industry who resolved to improve transit by means of motor cars. Lord Iveagh and Mr. Pirrie put up the money with a view of buying this, and we referred this case to that project, but the whole of that project, after a year or two, fell to the ground, and was withdrawn from the scene.

1198. (Mr. Miles).—Nothing was done under the motor scheme?—No.

1199. (Chairman).—You did not think yourselves justified in entertaining the project of building a branch line?—Certainly not.

1200. On general grounds or the ground of finance?—Finance, mainly, because if we write in for that sort of work our finances would not permit of it. Possibly, under our general definition, there may be some doubts as to whether we had the power.

1201. You did not get as far as considering if you had the means whether you had the power?—Certainly not.

1202. (Mr. Miles).—Did you get so far as recommending the Treasury to do it?—The Irish Government was asked to furnish funds out of the Irish Development Grant.

1203. (Chairman).—By whom?—The colliery people, and we referred them to the Irish Government, and sent on their case, but they did not accompany it with any special recommendations.

1204. (Mr. Brown).—Coal hardly comes under the description of agricultural produce, to which the expression in this definition would apply.

(Chairman).—Do you consider coal a rural industry?—I don't know. Coal mining would hardly be, in one point of view; but since the thing is carried on in an

agricultural district, and very often these colliers work as agriculturists as well, in another point of view it might be so considered.

1205. However you did not have it on that?—We did not base it on that, but generally on the ground that the power is beyond our scope. A similar case was that of the Arigna Mines. It is only six miles of railway that is required to connect the Kilkenny colliery with the general railway system, and the development of the mines is blocked on that account; the same is true of the Arigna Mines—only three miles of railway is required there. But Mr. Long, when he was here, arranged to give a sum of £25,000 for the construction of a small line, provided the district affected guaranteed a certain proportion of the rates. The County Council, I believe, did agree to do so, but one day quite recently they rescinded their resolution, and, I understand, the originating cause of that was the discontent of the carters who now carry the coal from the mines, who opposed the scheme.

1206. As far as you are concerned, you did not feel justified in taking that up?—No; but generally the Department gave an important moral support to the scheme, which included that district—a large rural scheme, linking up the light railways of that part of the country from Newry on to Keady. By moral support, I mean we used, for example, our mineral experts and our economic officers at the time in preparing a report upon the industrial possibilities of the district, which we demonstrated to be very rich and open, and available for development by means of transit; and the Vice-President took a great interest in negotiations with the Treasury and the Irish Government with a view of inducing them to advance money to the scheme. These negotiations were successful. In a general way the action of the Department on these lines has had an effect upon transit. These are all within the limits I refer to.

1207. In connection with the fisheries, probably the development of transit facilities is one of the most important means, additional to those now undertaken, which could be applied to the fisheries?—Transit, to some extent, has been applied to the development of the fisheries, both within the region of the Congested Districts Board and the regions outside it. You will have, of course, Mr. Green on our fisheries work generally, and Mr. Miles, who knows all about the Congested Districts work, in connection with which, I think, the country recognizes he has done a very considerable service, will, I am sure, bring out the question of transit in that particular. I don't propose to go into the subject of our action in regard to fisheries further than I have already done, in order to spare the time of the Committee, but I would remind the Committee, when Mr. Green comes before them, what possibly Mr. Green may not bring forward himself, that he has had a good deal to do in the work of developing fisheries in the congested districts of the country, and under the Congested Districts Board as well as through this Department. While he is head of our Fisheries Branch, and the Chief Inspector of Fisheries for Ireland, he acts as a member of the Congested Districts Board, and practically directs the fishery work of the Department.

1208. Then we will leave the question of transit?—There are many matters connected with our work in developing agriculture and industry that I should be prepared to answer questions on, but I do not like to burden the Committee with.

1209. Anything that you think we have not heard already, and that you think you ought to call our attention to, we shall be glad to hear from you?—I think I will leave the subjects generally to be dealt with by our different officers when they come forward; if necessary, I can be examined again on any point. There was a subject on which I expected to have been questioned this morning—that was, a further continuation of the relations between the Department and the Agricultural Board. I am not sure whether that had been made perfectly clear, and I expected further questions. I would like to make it clear as a general principle that the action of the Board with regard to any scheme or policy is to settle that scheme and policy, and to submit the execution of it to the Department.

1210. I think we got that clearly yesterday—that was my impression?—I speak now of schemes other than those worked through the County Committees, and in regard to which I endeavored to show there is a lot of other control besides that of the Department and the Board. But in special central schemes, such, for example, as the Portadown and Drogheda fruit-drying experiments which we carried out, and

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which have been alluded to—when the Board has concurred with the Department that such a scheme should be undertaken and carried out, and discussed its main particulars, it entrusts to the Department the execution of the scheme, and the officers of the Department carry out that work. You will probably, when you go into details of the working of our agricultural and other schemes, get more closely into touch with that machinery than you are now, but that is the general position, and that is regarded as the function of the Department, each body, the Council, the Board, and the Department, having its special functions, which are carefully differentiated. I think, if I may offer an opinion, that the balance of functions and powers between these different bodies works admirably, and gives an admirable constitution indeed, and as the constitutional aspect of all this matter is one of the things that are constantly being discussed in public, I think it is very desirable that the committee should clear it up very thoroughly. The Department, I might point out, also administers considerably more than the Endowment Fund which comes under the Board. There are the Science and Arts Grants, the Cattle Disease Funds, the grants for the maintenance of central institutions like the College of Science, the Botanic Gardens, and the School of Art. Parliament entrusts the Department with the administration of that sum, and the Board entrusts it with the administration of the other, although the Board takes direct and close cognisance of every particular application.

1211. (Mr. Dryden).—The Board would have something to say as to the amount expended?—Certainly, every scheme comes before the Board, but I am indicating that our reference extends to the administration of other funds.

1212. You never in practice exceed the amount the Board sanctions?—No.

1213. Nor would it be legal to do so?—Of course it would not be legal.

1214. (Mr. Micks).—You might in trifling matters spend a little extra money, and mention it to the Board, and get their ratification?—Of course.

1215. (Chairman).—I am very anxious that you should state anything that you really think we ought to know, which we have not got already, though you will have an opportunity hereafter of filling up any gaps that you may leave. If our procedure on that point is not quite clear in every particular, I should like to answer any questions that may be asked. I made a note here of what takes place with a particular scheme that is agreed upon between the Board and the Department. The procedure followed is that the application is usually initiated—say for a particular experimental scheme like that of Drogheda or Portadown—the application is usually initiated by the Department from information supplied through county institutions, County Committees or otherwise, or by the Board itself, or by some resolution of the Consultative Committee: for example, the investigations connected with calf mortality and other things have been carried out on the suggestion of the Council of Agriculture. It is the duty then, say, if it is the Agricultural Board, of the Assistant Secretary, who is charged with these agricultural investigations, to make up the case and to submit it to the Department and work it out with them. Then if the Department approve it is placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board, when the Assistant Secretary goes into full details of the matter with the Board.

1216. (Mr. Dryden).—That means then that any individual member of the Board could originate a scheme or part of a scheme?—Certainly, and make suggestions on the scheme that is put before them. Very often that takes place, a member making a suggestion for an amendment or change. Then, if the Board approve, they give a covering estimate.

1217. (Mr. Micks).—Are they given that power in the Act, or is it that merely no objection is raised to that course of action?—I think that the power of suggestion and initiative is inherent in the Board; I don't think it could work otherwise.

1218. (Chairman).—There is nothing in the Act against it; they have to give their approval.

(Mr. Dryden).—There is no use in the Board if they cannot give some advice.

Witness.—It is inherent, and you could not work otherwise with a body of men.

1219. (Mr. Micks).—The provision about taking action on such matters as are brought before them by

the Department—that is not strictly adhered to. That is the usual procedure, but there is nothing in the Act to prevent a member of the Board proposing a scheme for himself and having it considered. Very often if a member of the Board is particularly keen on some scheme—and this has happened—he will have talked it over several times with the officers of the Department, and got their advice and shrouded it out with them, and in that sort of way it becomes a scheme that the Department proposed; they had initiated it with him.

1220. (Chairman).—The Act imposes on them the duty of dealing with anything that the Department bring before them, but that does not exclude an individual member of the Board from making suggestions to the Department?—Certainly not.

1221. (Mr. Dryden).—Or the Board submit?—No, if the Board approve they give a covering estimate, which at that stage can only be an estimate, as it is impossible to say what expenditure may have to be undertaken under an investigation, especially if it happens to be a scientific one. After the meeting of the Board it is the duty of the Assistant Secretary for Agriculture to prepare a minute embodying his recommendations which is submitted to the Secretary, his recommendations as to the carrying out of the experiments in question, and the appointment of an expert or whoever it may be to take charge of it; and he seeks authority for a detailed scheme of expenditure which he lays before the Secretary, and which is within the estimate that the Board has agreed to. Usually someone, say the expert charged with the experiment, is made a sub-accounting officer.

1222. (Mr. Micks).—Do you mean a vote of money is placed at his disposal to pay?—He is made a sub-accounting officer. Look at three forms (produced); he submits on that form particulars of his requirements, and if they are within the original proposed requirement is initiated by the Assistant Secretary, who authorises the person in charge to make his purchase.

1223. (Mr. Micks).—This is only for petty cash?—That is for the sub-accounting officer.

1224. Petty cash, postcards, etc.?—No, for all requirements; that is a single more minute than the approval of the detailed scheme submitted by the Assistant Secretary to the Secretary.

1225. (Mr. Micks).—How are these paid?—He sends that requisition to the Assistant Secretary for Agriculture; the Assistant Secretary for Agriculture, if he approves and is satisfied that it is within the detailed scheme settled by the Secretary, authorises the sub-accounting officer to make these purchases—he initials these.

1226. Who has the imprint?—The accounts are paid from these officers by the accountant.

1227. The accountant is the officer who has the imprint?—The imprint is with the sub-accounting officer—a small imprint.

1228. Who is he?—Whoever may have been put in charge.

1229. Is it not the accountant for all?—No, but the accounts are paid to him by the accountant, who sees that it is within the estimate.

1230. Have you as many sub-accounts as you have branches in the office?—No, some branches have no sub-accounts; there are a certain number of sub-accounts in each branch, and this would be one sub-account for a particular experiment.

1231. (Chairman).—I understand you that you appoint a sub-accounting officer for a particular matter?—Yes; for example, each of our farms has a sub-account of its own.

1232. (Mr. Micks).—A discretion in the hands of a sub-accountant to expend money in accordance with the direction of the Assistant Secretary?—Yes, on a detailed scheme, which has been approved by the Secretary.

1233. (Mr. Dryden).—It has to be on one of these forms?—It has to be on one of these forms, and is initiated by him, and is further checked by the clerk in charge of the accounts of the Department, who pays the imprint.

1234-5. (Chairman).—The blank after "approved" on the right hand of the paper is for the signature?—Of the Assistant Secretary for Agriculture.

1236. (Mr. Dryden).—Is that signed before the order is handed to the tradesman or afterwards?—Oh, before; he submits estimates on all these matters.

(Mr. Micks).—We can go into this with the assistant.

1237. (Chairman).—I want to ask you one or two questions about the organisation—we know the head of the office is the Chief Secretary?—Yes.

1238. Then the Chief Secretary, as I understand, does not as a matter of fact take any part in the ordinary administration of the office, that is to say, matters are not referred to him for approval, signature or authority?—No.

1239. Therefore, the practical working head of the office is the Vice-President?—Yes.

1240. And after the Vice-President you come?—Yes.

1241. And you either do or do not send the matters which come before you for your decision to the Vice-President?—Yes.

1242. I suppose in accordance with the importance of the matter, and whether in your opinion it ought to go to the Vice-President or not?—Yes.

1243. And, therefore, you compare this to the permanent head of the office in one of our offices in London?—Permanent Secretary.

1244. Next to you there is an Assistant Secretary for Agriculture and an Assistant Secretary for Technical Instruction?—Yes.

1245. They are the heads of those two branches?—Yes.

1246. And in the same way, I suppose, they exercise their judgment as to whether the matter on which they are giving directions is sufficiently important or not to come forward to you?—Precisely.

1247. That would depend upon the importance of it and so forth?—Yes.

1248. That affects the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and then we come to the Fisheries; there there is a slight difference. The head of the Department is a Chief Inspector, not Assistant Secretary—does that make any difference in practice?—No; each of these is the head of his branch, and the Inspector of Irish Fisheries is a title that is in the Act of Parliament, whose powers are included in our Act; he exercises judicial functions under that title.

1249. He has statutory powers?—He has statutory powers, which are retained in his office.

1250. Which consequently give him an independent authority?—That is true in regard to his judicial functions, but in regard to those only.

1251. As an officer of the Department he would be practically in the same position as the Assistant Secretary of the Agricultural Branch, or of the Technical Instruction Branch?—Yes; if he were called Assistant Secretary in respect of Fisheries it would be precisely the same.

1252. (Mr. O'Donnell).—Is he a signing officer—does he sign for the Department?—All the letters for the Department are signed by the Secretary; they are signed in the secretariat; they are signed with the Secretary's name, which is one of the measures for co-ordinating and keeping full command of the work of the Department; there is a certain proportion of these letters, of course, which are of a routine character and follow settled lines, and the two officers of the secretariat, the chief clerk and chief staff officer have authority to affix the secretary's name to such letters as that. They bring before the Secretary for his own signature letters that they consider necessary.

1253. (Chairman).—Have you any figure that would give an idea of the amount of work that goes through the Department—the number of letters signed?—I think Mr. Cantrell will give you that.

1254. (Mr. O'Donnell).—Do the Assistant Secretaries for the agricultural branch and the technical instruction branch not sign their letters?—They initial the letters coming from their branch, and they are signed by the Secretary.

1255. All?—All official letters are signed by the Secretary.

1256. Or for the Secretary by officers in the secretariat?—That is the Secretary's name is put to them by the officers of the secretariat.

1257. (Chairman).—You keep a stamp?—They actually sign.

1258. (Mr. O'Donnell).—The officers of the secretariat take the responsibility—Two officers are specially assigned that responsibility—the chief clerk and the chief staff officer.

1259. Are they bound to sign everything that comes

to them initiated by the Assistant Secretary?—If they have any doubt at all about it, it is brought before me.

1260. If the Assistant Secretary thinks it is a matter upon which his judgment is sufficiently in accord with yours, does the matter come up for revision again by one of the officers of the secretariat?—That is not the way to put it. All letters come down from the different branches initiated by the head of that branch for signature; they are to be signed by or on behalf of the Secretary, as it would be physically impossible for the Secretary to sign all these letters; he arranges that his signature is fixed to them by two specially authorised officers; they do that with regard to a class of routine or ordinary correspondence about which no question or doubt arises.

(Chairman).—That is quite familiar to me; my private secretary constantly stamped my name to letters merely routine; you must trust your private secretary not to abuse that power.

1261. (Mr. O'Donnell).—That was not quite my point. My point is that apparently the assistant secretaries are less trusted in this matter than the secretariat?—That is not so.

(Mr. O'Donnell).—It appears so on the routine.

1262. (Chairman).—I am thinking of the analogy of the office with which I am most familiar. The heads of the departments in that office would not be called assistant secretaries, but principal secretaries' clerks. The principal clerks had not, as a general rule, the power of signing letters. The letters were signed by an Assistant Secretary of State, or a Secretary of State. Therefore the letters would come on to me, and some of them might be the merest routine, and would be signed by the private secretary for me! That is so.

1263. (Mr. Micks).—Supposing one of the officers of the secretariat sent a letter that he thought he would not like to sign your name to, what would he do?—He would bring that before me.

1264. Do you think that is the wisest and best way of doing it?—I don't see any other more practical way.

1265. Don't you think it would be a better way if it were the duty of the officer in the secretariat to send that letter back to the Assistant Secretary and say, "Kindly bring that letter before the Secretary?"—No, because in theory those letters come to me; it is merely a matter of convenience that a certain number of them are signed by proxy; they come to me anyhow.

1266. Here is a case in which an expert special officer, holding a high appointment in the Department, initiates a letter as being one that, in his opinion, might be signed in the ordinary way. Then it comes before a gentleman who is not an expert, and he thus, in bringing that to you will say, "I did not like to sign your name to that."—Those letters would not be on merely expert questions; they would be letters in which administrative policy was concerned, but the way to look at it is to look at it the other way about. If the letters come actually at first into my hands, and I went through them, and handed over a certain number and said, "You may affix my signature to them."

1267. I was not proposing that at all. I was only proposing that instead of the secretariat officer bringing the letter to you himself, it might be more convenient to the Assistant Secretary if it went back to him in order that he personally might bring it before you and get your opinion on it.—That is really what takes place. The question hardly ever arises in the case of an important letter that is initiated by the Assistant Secretary as head of a branch. Such letters do always come before me. The merely routine letters which are initiated by a staff officer of the branch come down to the secretariat.

1268. (Mr. Dwyer).—These clerks are your officers, and, therefore, what they do, you do?—Yes; of course I would consult the Assistant Secretary if there was any question.

1269. (Chairman).—In a great Department there are a number of letters every day that merely consist of sending things on, and there, instead of giving Mr. Gill the trouble of signing these letters, the officers put a stamp on them, but, as a rule, letters come to you, or if they don't come to you they come to someone who acts for you?—Yes.

1270. (Mr. Micks).—I suppose the Assistant Secretary, if he had any doubt about the letter being one that would be signed formally, would come to

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you?—He would come to me before the letter was written at all if there was any doubt about it, or he would send down a draft and say, "I am thinking of writing in this way," and get it settled by me.

1271. (Mr. Ogilvie).—In other words if a letter went to the secretariat initiated by an assistant secretary the affixing of your signature would be done without further question?—Practically I cannot conceive a case that would arise in which that would not occur.

(Mr. Misha).—It would be difficult to imagine such things happening.

1272. (Chairman).—I suppose cases arise in which a letter comes to you which you have not seen before, and you say, "I think this should be considered a little more," and you go and see the assistant secretary who had initiated the letter, and propose some alteration?—Of course.

1273. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Is this mechanism the plan for that consideration to come in would evidently be before the letter comes to the secretariat?—It is before the letter is written out at all; that is the last stage, almost a mechanical stage.

1274. (Chairman).—If you have a point of substance that occurs to you on reading a letter you say you think this ought to be considered a little more?—Certainly; something may have occurred to you which you had forgotten.

1275. The head of the Statistical and Intelligence branch is a superintendent?—Yes.

1276. Is that an independent branch?—That is an independent branch.

1277. Mr. Adams is the head of that office?—Yes; these officers correspond to the assistant secretaries in the English office, although there are only two of our officers called assistant secretaries; the functions of the other heads of branches are analogous.

1278. (Chairman).—What do you say as to the amount of work in this office; is it really too much to come before a single head, or do you think a further subdivision is required owing to the importance of the work?—No, I think that the amount of the work that is referred to the Department is thoroughly within its capacity, and that the nature of all the different branches of the work is such that at the present time they could not be administered efficiently except in combination. Perhaps fifteen or twenty years from now it may be a desirable thing to make a change, to separate one branch in one direction and another in another, but at this stage I think anything of the kind would be quite unwise. A strain comes upon the different branches sometimes from work, in that way; not that there is an excessive variety of work, but that the quantity of work called for in a particular branch is greater than the staff of the branch is equal to. That is a matter only calling for a strengthening of the staff. Take, for example, our agricultural branch. The Council of Agriculture calls for certain work to be undertaken by the Department which is done through that branch; it suggests, for example, that a register for half-bred stallions should be established, and that a system of inspection with regard to these stallions, and for the development of the breed of Irish horses of that type, should be carried out; the Council expects that to be done when it asks for it to be done. It would be no trouble to Professor Campbell at the head of that branch or his chief officers, to arrange for the carrying out of such a scheme, but in order to carry it out he would want a staff of additional inspectors and clerks. He does not get that staff—I am sorry to say we have to apply to the Treasury for it, and the Treasury does not always see eye to eye with us in the matter—and we have either to come before the Council of Agriculture and say, "We should have been very glad to have carried out what you asked us to do, but we have not got staff enough," or else to attempt to do the work with the staff we have got. The course we have adopted up to this has been, as a rule, to attempt to do everything the Council and the Board have asked of us, and that has been done, if I may say so, with the life blood of the officers of the Department. Professor Campbell has sacrificed his health; his health has broken down in the most serious way in consequence of this extra strain of work; and his staff in the main have worked in the same way. The same is true of Mr. Fletcher's branch and other branches of the Department. But what I wish to make clear is that that is not a case of the functions of the Department being too great to be assembled and controlled by a single and human director; it is a case of particular pieces of work being asked for which the numerical staff is not adequate to deal with.

1279. You would not be in favour of any such proposal as to separate agriculture and fisheries (technical education)?—I not only would not be in favour of such a course, but I think that would have been impossible. One thing which I did desire to bring forward was the intimate and vital connection that exists between the work, say, of these two branches of technical instruction and agriculture. As I said today we look upon the educational work we do as the most important of all. In the scheme for technical instruction in the counties the work of the two branches is constantly interlocked. You will go to a school, let us say, for rural domestic economy teaching at Darnleyway, Co. Cork, that is intended to train girls in all the arts of housekeeping and rural life. The scheme is under the County Committee for Technical Instruction for Cork, and they provide certain branches of the domestic economy teaching, the needlework, the house industrial work; but these girls are also taught dairymaking, calf-rearing, gardening, and other branches of rural education, and these branches are provided by the funds of our agricultural branch, as they are inspected by our agricultural and dairymaking inspectors; that I mention as an instance of the fact. Then again, take rural industries like the industries arising from fruit-growing, bottling, and drying fruit and vegetables, and cider making, technical instruction work is concerned with these industries at a point where it is almost impossible to distinguish the agricultural. I could go on for an hour explaining that.

1280. You have given quite enough instances towards your point clear?—And the same is true with regard to the Fisheries branch. And then all I have to do with regard to what we do in the matter of railway rates, transit, and so forth, affects all the work. It has been suggested, for example, that our work of administering the Science and Art grants in the Secondary Schools should be detached from this Department. We administer these Science and Art grants for evening schools and day schools. For the evening schools we have co-ordinated our programme absolutely with the technical instruction programme. In the day schools we have co-ordinated it with the work of the Intermediate Board, and one of our aims has been to make that teaching the basis of the higher technical instruction given in institutions like the Royal College of Science. Our staff of inspectors who inspect the work of our technical schools are available in the discharge of those duties for the inspection of the same work in secondary schools also. An inspector goes down to a town to inspect the technical school in the evening, and he has his day available for inspecting the science work in the secondary school in that town in the day time; that is an illustration of another piece of work that I have seen it suggested from time to time should be detached from the Department.

1281. You cannot point to any particular branch of the Department which you think could be neatly detached and set up under an independent department or attached to some other Department?—No; by saying that I mean this, that some years hence when this science work is developed and our educational systems are more developed and co-ordinated it may be a matter of perfection to make the Education Department dealing with all these matters, except technical and agricultural instruction; but perhaps there might be no objection to it, but it would be quite needless to disturb any of it now.

1282. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You mentioned also the staff of the Agricultural Department being insufficient to carry out effectively and without undue pressure special pieces of work that turn up occasionally. I should like your opinion as to how far the normal work, the essential work of the agricultural branch of the Department is met by the present staff; if it is so, it would be better in place of increasing the staff to increase the allowance for technical and occasional assistance, because the kind of work you require may be one year of one character and the next year of another? That is rather a detail, that might be true in the case of some things and not of others. For example, keeping up a Bird Book, that is a thing for which you would constantly require to have the services of a particular proportion of clerks and inspectors. A particular experiment on calf mortality investigation is a particular distinct—that would be only temporary, and for that temporary assistance should suffice. For the other you require permanent assistance; but all these are determined by the circumstances of the case.

1283. Suppose adequate provision were made at necessity arose for such temporary and passing requirements of a special kind as you have just referred to?

the staff as at present provided in the estimates adequate for the standing work.—Very nearly so, and I must say on that point generally—I should not like that any other impression would be given—that on the whole, and making all allowances, the Department have found the Treasury tolerably fair in its dealings with them about the staff. Of course they are not here on the spot and they don't take our view about every particular proposed we place before them, and they may take a disproportionately favourable view of our particular proposal and an unfavourable view of another, but making all allowances, the dealings of the Department with the Treasury in the matter of staff have been fairly satisfactory on the whole, and better than I would have been prepared to anticipate from the reputation I have heard given to the Treasury.

1284. In fact the difficulties you have hitherto met with and which may be expected to recur would be provided for most satisfactorily by a liberal amount of elasticity about technical and occasional necessities?—If there was a sufficiently liberal allowance in that respect. The pressure that has arisen has arisen very largely through the backwardness of the country as represented by the technical committees and agricultural committees through the country crying out for more and more work. We might not be so glad if their zeal was more moderate, if we had apathy to deal with instead of earnestness, but still the backwardness is sometimes a little inconvenient.

1292. (Chairman).—You are Assistant Secretary in respect of Agriculture?—I am.

1293. I believe you have prepared certain observations; we will leave it to you to put them before us in the way you think best—I have prepared a good deal of evidence, which I intend to read mostly if I may be allowed. My position in the Department, as you have said, is that of Assistant Secretary in respect of Agriculture. I am required to advise the Department on questions relating to agriculture; to superintend the administration of a large number of county and other schemes; and to undertake the direction of investigations having as their object the aiding, improving, and developing of agriculture in accordance with the powers and responsibilities given to the Department by the Act creating it. In my evidence I propose to describe the steps that have been taken to give effect to the provisions of the Act so far as they relate to agriculture, the nature of the work, its development, and present position. I shall also have to refer to some incidental difficulties that have had to be overcome. On joining the staff in August, 1903, the first duty discharged by myself and the present Chief Inspector was that of attending meetings of County Councils, explaining to them the provisions of the Act, the steps to be taken to put it into operation, hearing suggestions both in private and in public as to what the Department should do for aiding and improving agriculture, making acquaintance with the people whom the Act was intended to benefit, and judging the state of agriculture, the peculiarities of different localities. The condition of agriculture in Ireland is so peculiar, and in some respects and places so backward, that I venture to express the belief that in order to appreciate the position of the Department's agricultural officers after their initial local investigations it will be necessary for this Committee to make a tour of Ireland, and study the conditions of agriculture on the spot. They would thus have an opportunity of seeing the size of the holdings, the farm buildings, the tillage of the land, the crops grown, the class of stock raised, the condition of dairying, horticulture and poultry-keeping, as well as the social position of the farmer himself. An excellent opportunity for meeting the farming classes in connection with one important side of their business as a country fair, and I am particularly anxious that those members of the Committee who do not know the rural conditions of Ireland should attend one or two of these fairs. Such a visit would supplement the information regarding the position of the farmer, his business methods, capital, general and technical education, as well as his aspirations, which may be supplied in evidence. The conclusions arrived at after this preliminary study of the conditions under which the Department had to work may be summarised as follows:—(1) That the

1285. (Mr. Michs).—Is there any minute defining the duties of any of the officials of the Department?—No.

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1286. It was not necessary to have any formal document?—No; when there is a special officer appointed sometimes a minute of instructions is issued.

1287. Nothing to make it clear what business you should bring before the Vice-President on what business should be brought by the Assistant Secretaries?—Yes; No; Mr. Bodour made a minute which I read yesterday declaring that the position of Secretary was on the lines of the English departments, but that was about all; it has been left to the Vice-President of the Department to settle its work originally.

1288. There is no minute of the Vice-President on this subject?—No general minute at all on that subject.

1289. Or in any individual case?—There are certain individual officers who have been given minute of instructions with regard to special duties, but no minute for general guidance defining the functions. I work of course in the closest co-operation with the Vice-President of the Department with regard to all the matters that we deal with, and we settle any matters that require to be defined in that way.

1290. (Chairman).—Is there anything else you wish to add?—I cannot recall anything at the moment.

1291. (Mr. Michs).—As regards the "Equivalent Grant," I suppose we shall get that from the Assistant Secretary for Technical Instruction?—Yes.

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most important work which the Department has to perform, that is the Agricultural Branch of the Department, was that of laying the foundation of a permanent system of agricultural education. The immediate introduction of a system of agricultural education such as exists in other countries was soon to be impracticable, as in the first instance the conditions of agriculture in Ireland and the circumstances of the farmers differed from those of most other countries (e.g., size of farms, inability of the farmer to pay fees, desire of young men to leave the land, the necessity for creating a desire for agricultural education, village a lost art in some districts); and in the second place, no provision had been made in Ireland for the training of teachers. (2) That in the application of the Department's endeavour to aid in the development of agriculture it was desirable, as far as practicable, to work through the local authorities. It was further considered desirable to commence with a subject in which everybody could take part and which everybody understood, namely, the improvement of live stock. (3) That a large number of the proposed projects on which the country desired the Department to embark would in the first instance have to be undertaken by the Department's officers themselves, afterwards gradually transferring the work and funds necessary for carrying it on to the local authorities (fairs, pioneer lectures converted into county lectures, winter schools). Later I shall refer to cases where the Department have transferred the work and the funds after the initial work. The work of the Agricultural Branch may be divided into (a) that which is administered by the local authorities and the Department, and (b) that which is administered by the Department direct from the central office. I have prepared a diagram which will enable you to see at a glance how that has been done and how the staff of the Department has been allocated (proposed). You will see that the Assistant Secretary in respect of Agriculture derives power immediately from the Secretary, and that in an application of funds it is necessary to obtain his authority for the expenditure. At the outset, of course, in 1900 I had no clerks at all; I think the first year I was allowed one clerk; at that time of course I had to do all the work myself. Since, however, we have gradually got a staff my endeavour has been to organise sections of the work and place it under responsible clerks, and you will see to the left hand side of the diagram that a considerable amount of work is done through a staff office, with whom is associated four inspectors, and they in turn operate mainly on the funds that are supplied to County authorities. You will see, for example, the scheme of thirty-three local authorities, the correspondence and various work in connection therewith. Then I give a list of schemes there which will enable you to see as I go on on what part of the work I am. Then we have in

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addition a certain amount of central live stock schemes. Then the local authority work of thirty-three local authorities has been fairly well organized, also the central work in connection therewith. I set out a list of different heads. Then there is, I shall refer to it later, a vast amount of inquiries that come to the Department for technical advice from farmers. Any farmer who has any doubt simply writes up to the Department. The county inspectors answer a considerable number of these queries, but there are always some very important ones that have to be dealt with by the Department, and that also now has been fairly well organized, and as you will see by the diagram is supervised by the inspectors; they have to do a certain amount of office work. In the same way with regard to a certain amount of central schemes, inspectors of creameries, and so on, that has been pretty well organized and placed under responsible clerks. On the right hand side of the diagram there is a quantity of work not yet fully organized that we are gradually getting into shape, and in that I operate myself directly, but of course all the correspondence in connection with this is to some extent regulated by the staff officer. I have put the staff below that operates on these different schemes, and you will see there are more than four inspectors. Take the Estates and Buildings section, there is an inspector attached to that entirely, and he does not operate in any way upon the organized work of the county authorities. Similarly with regard to new work and special investigations, an inspector is there as well as a technical assistant; that is work that cannot very easily be done by ordinary clerks; it requires a certain amount of expert knowledge to deal with it, so there is only these practically one temporary clerk, who is indeed my personal clerk, so that I do all that correspondence myself. Generally speaking when the work is such that the county can be made the unit for the purposes of administration, and particularly where each district can benefit proportionately to its contribution as much as possible of the schemes are delegated to the local authority, such, for example, as schemes for encouraging improvement in live stock, and schemes for itinerant instruction in various branches of agriculture. On the other hand, work for which the county cannot be conveniently made the unit, and which does not apply equally to the whole county, as underlain direct from the Department's office, such, for example, as the investigation of special outbreaks of diseases of stock, encouraging of improvement in the management of creameries, and a variety of other work and investigations, to which reference will be made subsequently. I shall now turn to the relations with the local authorities. The local authorities are the County Councils, of whom there are thirty-three. Each Council, however, for the purposes of the Department's work, appoints a Committee of Agriculture partly from its own members and partly by co-opting outside members. To this Committee the Council usually delegates full powers, subject to the approval of the Department, for the administration of the funds placed at its disposal. The County Council alone can raise a rate for the purposes of the Act. In some cases this rate is 1d., in others 4d. in the pound. The smallest amount raised by a county last year was £375 (1d. rate in County Leitrim), and the highest, £2,116 (1d. in the County Cork). That amount, however, represents 4d. rate for agricultural purposes. The total amount raised over Ireland was £26,638, of which £32,000, or an average of £1,000 per county, has been set aside for the purposes of agriculture. The amount raised by the county rate is usually transferred by the County Council to the County Committee to be applied by them, subject to the approval of the Department, partly to schemes of agriculture and partly to schemes of technical instruction. In a few cases the amount to be spent on agriculture and on technical instruction respectively is specified by the County Council; in the majority of cases, however, it is left to the County Committee to decide the proportions. In the first year thirty-one out of thirty-three County Councils raised a rate and appointed committees for the purposes of the Act. Every year since everyone of the thirty-three Councils has done so. The relations between the Department and these committees are very satisfactory indeed. In the first years, when the procedure was not well understood, there were administrative difficulties and delays, to which I shall afterwards refer, but all these have been largely, if not altogether, overcome, and an excellent understanding

has for some years existed between the leading members of the committees and the officers of the Department, who are constantly in conference, either at the local meetings in the county or at the offices of the Department, to discuss the details of and the arrangements for carrying out the work. Individuals have been aggrieved owing to the action of the Committee itself, or of the Department, in reducing applications for subsidies under the schemes. Such grievances must always exist where public funds are being distributed among farmers to encourage the improvement of their business. Into the details of particular grievances it is not my intention to enter. If they are made before this Committee you have stated that an opportunity will be given us to answer them. So far as is in their power the Department have tried to meet the wishes of the committees, who have an opportunity of expressing grievances through the Council of Agriculture, a body appointed specially for this purpose, and to whom the Department must answer if it ignores public opinion. But there are other cases by which the County Committees can bring their wishes before the Department. Not only are they in constant communication with the central office, in each County Committee is invited annually by the Department to submit its views on the working of the schemes before the commencement of each agricultural year. As I shall show presently, the suggestions made by the committees have not only been considered, but in the great majority of cases have been adopted. The amount of work done and money expended by the County Committees has each year steadily increased; and the quality of the work has also improved, and is improving. With the exception of the first year, when thirty-one out of thirty-three Councils took steps to put the Act into operation, every County Council has annually raised a rate and appointed the committee, who have carried on successfully one or more of the schemes. These schemes up to the present include improvement in the breeds of cattle, horses, sheep, and swine; itinerant instruction in agricultural subjects; prizes for cottages and farms; prizes for live stock at local shows; field experiments and demonstrations with manures and seeds; systematic instruction in winter schools of agriculture; instruction in poultry keeping, including improvement in the breeds of fowl, and the fattening and marketing of poultry; instruction in horticulture, including the wholesale purchase and distribution of trees at cost price; instruction in bee-keeping; and instruction in home butter-making. Copies of these schemes for 1906 have already been supplied to the Committee. I can best give the Committee an idea of the relations between the Department and the County Committees by describing the work of a County Committee of Agriculture for two months. The agricultural year commences in autumn, before, it must be explained, the County Council consider the question of raising a rate for the purposes of the Act in their estimates, which are made up in the following January or February. These committees, in arranging to commence its agricultural operations in October has to anticipate the approval of the County Council, but as this has never yet been withheld no inconvenience has been caused on this account. Early in summer—in June usually—the Department circulate all the County Committees, inviting their views on the work of the previous year. The views of the Department's inspectors who have been in touch with the leading members and with the officers of the committee are also obtained. These suggestions are then considered by the Department, and where there are any national interests to safeguard and where expert advice is helpful Advisory Committees are called in to assist the Department in their deliberations. The Advisory Committees are those dealing with horses, cattle and swine, fowl, bees, and forestry. These will meet next month to consider the schemes for next year, and to consider the views that have been sent in by the County Committees which I think must reach the Department to-day, and last week we had our meeting of the Advisory Committee on sheep-growing in the North of Ireland, at which one of the members of the Committee was present. The views of the County Committees, as well as of the Department, are laid before these expert committees, and an outline programme is then prepared. Unless in very special cases all details are left for each local committee to settle as it sees fit. The Department and its expert committees merely set out the broad outline of the scheme and the manner in which the Department is prepared to expend the funds. We

begin in May or June, next month we will consider these schemes. Every year we get a little earlier, perhaps it will be July this year, but usually in August these outline schemes are laid before the Agricultural Board, and explained to them in detail with a statement of the amount of money which it is estimated will be required from the Department's funds (1) to meet the cost of central administration, and (2) to meet the Department's contribution to the funds of the local committees. When the necessary funds have been voted by the Agricultural Board a conference at the Department's offices of secretaries of County Committees has usually been held to discuss any new provision in the schemes, and to arrange dates for meetings of the local committees, at which one of the Department's inspectors attends for the purpose of arranging details of the programme and finances for the ensuing agricultural year. As soon as each County Committee has decided what schemes they will put into operation, the secretary notifies the Department, who then intimate their approval, as well as the maximum of their contribution for the year. Where the secretary and County Committee are alive to the interests of the county the work is usually in full swing in October, except of course such sections of it as depend on the seasons. County Committees of Agriculture meet as a rule once a month. As already stated, a representative of the Department always attended the first meetings and subsequent ones as often as possible. Two sets of minutes of proceedings at these meetings are forwarded to the Department; one general and one financial. Take the County Antrim, the rate is a halfpenny in the £, estimated to produce £1,255, there is an unexpended balance from last year of £760, that is a total available for the year of £2,015; then the amount from the rate set aside for live stock in agricultural schemes is £1,403, that is to say, of the £2,015 they set aside £1,403 for agricultural purposes. Then they proceed to set out the agricultural instructions, the salary of the instructor, his expenses on experiments, then they have agricultural classes showing the towns at which these are to be held, and the total amount set aside for that purpose. The same way with poultry instruction, the salary of the instructor, his expenses, egg stations, premiums for stock birds, contributions towards poultry houses, contributions towards the purchase of birds, rent of farms, and so on. Butter-making, that is a scheme they don't have, is struck out. They have a certain amount of pioneer lectures, cottages and farm prizes, fax, a grant for administering the Fertilisers and Food Stuffs Act, and a special scheme for a small breed of horses in their own county, and so on, each two pages of that book is a county, and the whole thirty-three are there.

1894. What period does that cover?—The agricultural year, which will end in September next; it is the current year. We have a little difficulty in our finances; we cannot make them up to the 31st March, because we are in the middle of our work then, and we always go by the agricultural year. That is an average county; we have better counties to work with and worse. The general minutes deal with correspondence with the Department, the work of the committee for the past and the ensuing month, and resolutions involving changes in or fresh expenditure under the schemes for which the approval of the Department is sought. The financial minutes contain a statement of payments ordered to be made, and are accompanied by the actual accounts. When the Department have examined and satisfied themselves as to the correctness of these accounts they signify this fact to the secretary of the committee, and forward their proportion of the cost to the local treasurer. In the early years the Department paid one-half the cost of each piece of work, except in the case of a number of the poorer counties, where their proportion was increased to five-ninths of the cost. At present, and for the last two years, the Department's contribution has been three-fifths of the actual cost of each scheme undertaken in the poorer counties, and five-ninths in all others. That is to say for every 20s. the poorer counties pay the Department pays 30s., and in the better off counties for every 20s. the county pays the Department pays 25s. It should be borne in mind that these payments do not represent the whole of the Department's contribution to the work done in connection with county schemes. For example, in connection with the live stock schemes, which I shall discuss later, the Department's Department is prepared to expend the funds. We

veterinary surgeons who act at the local mace shows, of which there are about 150 held annually, as well as the fees and expenses of the judges in connection with the award of prizes for good farming and well-kept cottages. The Department also pay the whole salary of itinerant instructors on agriculture, the cost of pioneer lectures, and of special local investigations and inquiries. The question of adjusting expenditure of the Department's endowment as these each county will receive its fair proportion is one which has received a great deal of consideration. The necessity for limiting the amount of the Department's contribution, and the funds of County Committees is only now beginning to be felt, some owing to the simultaneous action of the thirty-three counties, it has not been possible for any one Committee to advantageously spend much more than what might be regarded as its normal income from the rates and from the Department. For example, nearly every county has been ready to employ the services of an agricultural instructor, but owing to the sudden demand for such officers, and the fact that they have not been available up to the present, several committees have been unable to undertake expenditure under this head. Any unexpended balance of the rate has remained in the hands of the committees, while the unexpended balance of the Department's endowment has been retained and invested for the purposes of erecting and equipping agricultural institutions. I may here explain how the Board's votes for the County Committees are distributed and dealt with. For example, in the Live Stock Schemes, the only schemes which all the committees are spending funds upon, and in connection with which several committees are spending their maximum. The vote for live stock improvement is made annually in August and amounts to the sum which the Department estimate may be usefully spent on this form of agricultural improvement. The sum voted is a round figure, and is usually about £15,000 per annum. The division is made by the Department on the basis of the valuation of the county as well as the basis of the number of live stock in the county. The mean of these two is taken, and with this division in their hands the inspectors of the Department meet the County Committees in September, when they make up their finances for the agricultural year. The inspector is instructed to keep each committee as near as possible to their share of the vote, but he is also instructed that he is not to jeopardise the scheme by leaving on the committee accepting their exact proportion. The Department know well that the sum voted is more than can actually be spent by the committees owing to the collective demand of so many bodies on the available number of high-class sires. Nevertheless, several County Committees, desiring to get as much out of the Department as possible, insist upon having a larger share set aside than they are entitled to. If this excess is not unreasonable, the Department sanction the allocation, and it has only been in recent years that some of the counties were able to spend it all. As soon as the Department are satisfied as to the fulfilment of the conditions of each scheme they notify secretaries of committees that payments may be made. A return of all payments made by the County Committee is submitted to the Department immediately after each meeting. The amount of the Department's contribution is then determined and forwarded to the treasurer of the committee. Suppose £1,000 is set aside, the Department does not necessarily give £1,000; it gives five-ninths of the total expenditure, and the Department makes no distinction between the rates and the endowment. The County Committee will say, "If you won't allow us to spend the endowment allow us to spend the rates." The Department consider the rates and the endowment as the property of the County Committee, and do not insist too strictly on that point. It will be seen then that the expenditure of the greater part of the Department's endowment is in the hands of local authorities. I will submit here a synopsis (pre-drawn). It is an extract from the forms that I have sent round showing the amount set aside by each county. You will see the name of the scheme at the head, and you will see where certain counties have omitted to include the scheme for the year, and from this you will see that the total sum set aside for this year by these local authorities for agricultural purposes was £21,467. Of the £21,567, the amount which the Department have promised to repay the authorities is £19,000, just £25,000. If the County

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Committees had adopted all the schemes the amount would have been just \$35,000. That is the sum which you may take it has now, to some extent, passed out of the control of the Agricultural Board. The Agricultural Board is bound to vote that annually in future, and no Council, Board or Department could keep it from the Committees, so that accounts for a very large slice of the Department's endowment which is administered by the people themselves, and over which the Department have certainly some control, but which it would be impossible for the Agricultural Board to have anything to do. All the Agricultural Board can do would be to vote the total sum; they may insist upon the absolute allocation by counties, but once it pays into the hands of the County Committees this \$50,000, it is altogether beyond the control of the Board, and although it is not beyond the control of the Department, the Department does not, and do not, insist upon any very stringent regulations.

1295. Supposing the Board thought some county was mismanaging the fund, they could withhold it?—They could, but public opinion and the Council of Agriculture would never tolerate such a thing; I am perfectly certain that that \$35,000 has now gone to the local authorities and can never be recalled, and must be paid annually.

1296. What I meant was that although the total probably would have to be spent in some way or other on local authorities, could they not in a particular case, if they disapproved of the application of the money by the local authority, could they not withhold the whole or portion of the grant?—Certainly they could; they have the power.

1297. But you think it would be difficult to exercise it?—It would.

1298. (Mr. Michs).—Has not the money gone to them?—No.

1299. (Mr. Brown).—But the money is only paid on approved schemes?—And work actually done.

1300. (Mr. Michs).—It is refunded on vouchers?—Yes, the vouchers they send up.

1301. (Chairman).—Supposing there was a serious difference of opinion between the Department and a particular county, and that the Department thought the county was mismanaging its funds, would the Department be helpless?—Simply the Agricultural Board would not vote the rest of the money.

1302. Is there a substantial check upon county expenditure?—Oh, yes.

1303. (Mr. Brown).—Even our own rates are subject to the control of the Department?—The Department exercises a very, very close scrutiny over the accounts of the local authority. Every penny of every scheme has to come before us, and is examined in our office. The accounts themselves have to be sent up, and of course the Department have often to find fault with a county for extravagant expenditure. One of the most common forms of expenditure is giving enormous sums of money to the local press for advertisements. Naturally in a country like Ireland it is very useful and desirable to have the local press favourable, and sometimes what in any other country would only be put in in an inch or two, they will publish the whole scheme, half a column or more, which, of course, sometimes is very extravagant. I can show you cases on advertisements. There, of course, the Department will exercise a check, and those are just the cases where friction sometimes arise.

1304. (Chairman).—I suppose it would take the form of saying, "Unless this is changed you won't get your money again."—The Department has the power of refusing payment, and then the Local Government auditor will surcharge the Committee. We have had a few cases of surcharge that way, so that in that way there is a very effective check. What

I wanted to make clear is that while the Department has a check on the money, the Agricultural Board could not possibly have it unless they attended meetings of the County Committees, or attended at the office and examined the accounts.

1305. (Mr. Dryden).—Your representative is frequently at the County Committees?—He is very infrequently at the meetings, and is always there if there is any trouble, and always at the first meeting of the year.

1306. (Mr. Michs).—That is when the financial scheme is adopted?—Yes, always; the County Committee would hardly know how to proceed as the first year.

1307. (Mr. Brown).—They would ask for him to be sent down if he did not come?—The County Committee are always asking us to come down to their meetings for special cases; we are in very close personal relations with these men; they are all known personally to us. The last force I sent round shows the allocations. The point which will concern the Agricultural Board is the allocation of the sum annually voted among the counties. The detailed expenditure, I believe, they cannot go into, as the supervision of this must be left to the Department, who, if they see their control unreasonably, will very soon be brought to task either by the Board, who are themselves members of County Committees, and to whom the local representatives would complain if they were being improperly treated as regards funds, or by the County Committee themselves. It is just there where the Agricultural Board is a very effective check upon the operations of the Department. If we were to arbitrarily do things that were wrong there would be a resolution before the Council of Agriculture for censure. In the case of the improvement of live stock, on which every County Committee has spent money, it was foreseen from the outset that it would be impossible for the Committees to obtain a sufficient number of high-class sires for their purposes until the scheme had had the effect of increasing the number of breeders of the class of stock required. The amount spent by County Committees has steadily increased in every section of the work, and we have now arrived at a stage when, owing to the rapid depletion of the Department's savings, a limit will have to be put to the expansion of certain schemes, particularly in those counties where most progress has been made. The Agricultural Board, recognising the difficulties which confronted the Department in dividing their funds among counties, have not hitherto insisted on a very exact division of moneys among counties proportionately to valuation or on any other basis. They have been satisfied so long as the estimates were not exceeded, and so long as no County Committee received funds greatly in excess of their share of the vote. The Board have already gone into the question of expenditure by provinces, and at their next meeting the question of expenditure by counties will be considered. They have, as a matter of fact, for the last year been intending to go more closely into that question, and last year I intended to have had a scheme prepared last August, but at that time, owing to illness, I could not have the necessary documents prepared. During the year I have prepared them, and I am now in a position to place before the Agricultural Board the exact sum that has been spent by each County Committee in the first and a half year, and it will then be for the Agricultural Board in my view for in future it will be necessary to give a little more to those who have not been able to spend it, and perhaps a little less to those who have spent a great deal; that will be a matter entirely for the Agricultural Board to determine. In the Department's office is kept, of course, a statement of the amount of the cheques sent to each County Committee, but these sums do not represent, as I have already pointed out, the whole contribution of the Department to the county. The exact sums for the current year are before me, and can be put on as evidence.

The Committee adjourned.

SIXTH PUBLIC SITTING.—THURSDAY, MAY 31ST, 1906.

At the Office of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KENELM DIGBY, B.C., K.C.B. (Chairman)

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Professor J. R. CAMERON, further examined.

1903. (Chairman).—Let us go on from where you stopped last night—I had gone over the question of the nature, at all events, of the final procedure, the division of the work, and the relations with local authorities. Then I wish to go on to speak of the question of agricultural education. Of all the agricultural problems which the Department have had to solve, that of gradually leading Irish farmers to appreciate an education for their sons, who are to succeed them, has been the most difficult and has received the most attention. It did not require a prolonged study of the conditions of agriculture in Ireland to show that there are good reasons why it would be impracticable to, at once, introduce methods which have proved successful in other countries. I must refer here to some of those reasons. It is not my intention to describe the provision made in Ireland for agricultural education before the creation of the Department. Suffice it to say that up to that time such education was provided by the Commissioners of National Education.

1909. In primary schools.—In primary and other schools. At one time agricultural education was given at a large number of public institutions, and at national schools. At the time of the formation of the Department, for one reason or another, all these institutions had been abandoned, with the exception of the Albert Training Institute, Glasnevin, and the Munster Institute, Cork. Instruction had also been given up to that time in thirty-eight national schools by national teachers who had been trained at the Albert Institution, and who usually worked a farm in connection with the school. The Albert Institution and the Munster Institute were handed over to the Department, who were, however, precluded from giving agricultural instruction in national schools. The Commissioners had ceased to teach agriculture in these schools, when the Department took over the work.

1920. Do you mean that the taking over of the work by the Department had the effect of checking whatever agricultural education there was in the country?—That was prior to my coming to Ireland. I am not sure what the feeling was but instruction was given—

1921. And ceased to be given?—Then it ceased, and the only thing that remained were these two institutions.

1922. (Mr. Brown).—Tell us, in a general way, where the thirty-eight schools were?—They were scattered over the country. I have a copy of the National Board's Report on the subject.

1923. How many were there in each province?—I am really not able to give you that; it is in the report of the National Commissioners; it was a subject in which I was not interested.

1924. (Mr. Mick).—It is in the last report of the National Board?—Yes; the last report.

1925. (Chairman).—Mr. Gill refers us to the Bureau Committee's Report in its new edition, page 7.

Witness.—At the two institutions, I am now going to deal with, which were handed over by the Commissioners of National Education to the Department, there were at each two courses in the year, one for female and one for male students; hence the equipment was designed for teaching alternate courses of practical agriculture to young men and domestic economy to girls. The scientific instruction at Glasnevin took the form of a number of lectures on Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, and Veterinary Science by specialists from the city who were not, however, agri-

culturalists. There were no laboratories, and therefore no practical instruction in the sciences underlying agriculture. The course extended over a period of about six months. I direct attention to these facts as it will enable the Committee to understand the difficulty to which the Secretary of the Department has already referred, viz., the want of trained Irishmen to enable the Department to immediately establish and staff agricultural institutions. Another factor which has to be taken into consideration in devising a system of agricultural education is the fact that in Ireland there is an extraordinary desire on the part of the young men of the country to escape from farm life. Their early education is almost always directed towards fitting them for occupations of a wholly different character, and the brightest of the family receives an education, often at the expense of the son who is to succeed the father. The occupier of the land, himself, is not always a man of education, nor can he be expected to appreciate its advantages except as a means of his son's obtaining employment elsewhere. To induce the farmer, therefore, to make some sacrifice to give the son, who is to succeed him as the holding, a technical education suitable to his calling it is necessary first of all to convince him of its advantages. It is impracticable to bring the farmer himself to school, and therefore the only way he can be brought into contact with the application of science to agriculture is by sending round instructors to give lectures in the evenings; to visit holdings during the day and discuss privately with the occupier the various problems which confront him in his practice. Such an officer, if he is armed with a thorough knowledge of his business, both scientific and practical, rarely fails to convince a farmer of the fact that he would have been more successful had he received an agricultural education, and that it is to his son's advantage that he should be given one. Such work I need not point out is, however, slow, and even in the most progressive countries requires patience and determined perseverance. It is a universal experience that the more highly educated, capable, and progressive the farmer, the more he appreciates technical education, and desires it. With the agriculture of Ireland in a backward condition, where the smallest sons forsake the land, where the holdings are often too small to be economically managed, where the farmers' financial resources are very limited, where a system of agricultural credit, often of the worst possible description, exists, and where the people have been taught that improvement of their land may mean an increase in rent, the Committee will, I think, realise that the Department has very real difficulties to face.

In this connection I may instance one further aspect of the case. There are, in Ireland, 500,000 holdings, of which 250,000 may be taken as under twenty statute acres in extent. I believe about three-fifths of all the farmers of Ireland are crowded on to a fourth of the land. The owners of such holdings are, of course, quite unable to pay anything like the cost of a special education; all that can be expected of them is that they contribute a small fraction of it. With these considerations before them the policy of the Department has therefore been:—

(1.) To provide as one central institution the highest form of technical education for the training of men who are to become teachers and specialists in agriculture. This has been done at the Royal College of Science in connection with the farm and College at Glasnevin;

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(2.) To provide at least one high-class agricultural college which would form a stepping-stone to men desirous of entering the Royal College of Science, as well as men, the sons of well-to-do farmers, who wish for an education to enable them to manage their own farms, and men who desire to become veterinary managers, or who wish to have a special training to fit them as horticultural or poultry experts, stewards, land agents, or other occupations in connection with Agriculture. This has been provided at the Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin.

(3.) To provide provincial institutions at which young men who can be spared from the farm for one year can be taken in as apprentices and taught agriculture, both practical and technical, at a fee proportionate to their means. This work, which had to be delayed until teachers were trained, is now in progress at three such institutions, and the provision of others is in contemplation.

1316. (Mr. Dryden).—Where are these institutions?—One is in Co. Cork, one is in Ulster, at Rathfriland, and the other is at Athlone, in the West.

1317. (Mr. Brown).—Is it at Clonsilla in Cork?—Clonsilla.

(4.) To provide winter schools of agriculture where the sons of farmers could obtain technical training at small expense during the winter months, when they can be spared from farm work. Twenty-three such schools were started last winter in eleven counties, where progress had already been made with itinerant instruction.

1318. (Mr. O'Donoghue).—What is the normal length of courses in the winter schools?—I am going to state each of these just briefly.

(5.) To provide one central higher institution for the training of women in the domestic economy of the farmhouse, and of work which falls to the lot of women to perform in connection with the farmyard, as, for example, dairying and poultry-keeping. This provision has been made at the Munster Institute, Cork.

(6.) To provide agricultural education for girls at residential and day schools of domestic economy. This has been done at a number of institutions, while the equipment of others is under consideration.

(7.) To provide in each county instruction and advice for the existing farmers and their wives, sons, and daughters, who cannot avail themselves of other means of acquiring information, by a system of itinerant instruction in agriculture, horticulture, dairying, poultry-keeping, and bee-keeping.

Thus the Department have laid the basis of a graded system of agricultural education by means of which the youth who is inspired with the work of the itinerant instructor may be able to obtain education in the local winter school of agriculture, from which he may graduate to the provincial agricultural school, thence to the Albert Agricultural College, or the Royal College of Science, according to his circumstances and his education, and equip himself for the highest office in connection with agriculture which the country has to bestow.

One important aspect of the question should be mentioned in this connection, viz., that the education of the agricultural student must be accelerated when the influence of the teaching of practical science in the secondary schools provided under the Technical Instruction Scheme ceases to be more and more felt. It may, I think, be taken for granted that the boy who has had a training in practical science in the secondary school will benefit more by his attendance at the lectures and demonstrations of the Agricultural Instructor, at the classes in the winter schools, and at the provincial institutions, than the boy who goes to these without this preliminary training.

Yesterday Mr. Gill, in his evidence, referred to the importance of the technical instruction to the agricultural branch; that some point where, of course, the agricultural branch relies on the technical instruction branch preparing these students who are afterwards to attend these institutions. Now, I shall briefly touch upon each of these institutions. As I have already indicated, my first duty on joining the Department in August, 1905, was to study the state of agriculture in Ireland. My first official recommendation to the Department was that a Faculty of Agriculture should be established in the Royal College of Science.

1319. (Chairman).—Were you a stranger to Ireland at that time?—I was.

1320. And you came from?—I came from the Yorkshire College, Leeds. The Committee has already heard a good deal about the Royal College of Science from the Secretary and from the Vice-President. I also recommended that scholarships should be provided to encourage young Irishmen to study there, and so fit them for work in connection with the Department's scheme. My recommendations to the Department under this head coincided with the views of the Vice-President and the Secretary. No time was lost in establishing the Faculty. In October, 1905, nine young men, all well acquainted with the practice of agriculture, were enrolled. Every year since then a fresh number of scholarships have been offered to the same class of student. Twenty-one men have been so trained, and are now employed on the Department's programme, and thirty-five holders of agricultural scholarships are at present in the College, all of whom, I hope, with others to be trained in subsequent years, do useful service to the country as the cause of agricultural education.

1321. (Mr. Miles).—You employ all that are trained?—Every one of the twenty-one.

1322. (Mr. O'Donoghue).—Are there at present thirty-five, distributed over how many years?—Three years.

1323. (Chairman).—Is the natural result of the training that they become themselves teachers or go back to practical life?—At the present time everyone of them is picked up by county committees. They are appointments waiting for double the number than are employed. I may say all these men are there with scholarships; there are also a few paying students.

1324. (Mr. O'Donoghue).—And all have had practical experience of agriculture before coming there?—They are all selected for their knowledge of practical agriculture. Of these thirty-five scholarships, fifteen are provided by the Treasury out of the annual vote to the Royal College of Science, and the remainder are provided by the Agricultural Board.

1325. (Mr. Brown).—How many are offered each year?—We have always been able to give as many scholarships as we could get really good men to take them up. In the minutes of the Board specific names have been mentioned, but as a rule the Agricultural Board have been so anxious and willing to see the Department doing all they could to train these men that they have been very free with their grants for the purpose.

1326. (Chairman).—What are the scholarships worth?—Free education and £1 is a week during residence, unless in the case of a few who are maintained now at Glasnevin. The health of the students broke down, and we rather feared they were not quite looking after themselves properly in the city, and we have since made provision at the Albert Agricultural College, where we can house some of them ourselves, but they look after them. In these cases we give them free maintenance and a sum of money to buy books, and don't get the guinea a week. All those who live in the city get £1 a week. It is on exactly the same lines as the system adopted by the Royal College of Science in London—South Kensington.

1327. How many have you actually residing at Glasnevin?—Ten out of thirty-five. The application for them has not been all that could be desired. It has taken a few years for the youth of the country to realise their opportunities and the opening which the Department has created for teachers of Agriculture. At first applications were received from clerks, unsuccessful candidates for the Civil Service, students who failed to pass various professional examinations e.g. Church, Law, Medicine, and such like. As, however, the programme of the Department is becoming better understood, and the influence of the winter and provincial schools of agriculture is being felt, it may be fairly anticipated that a better class of candidate will come forward year by year.

1328. Is there any limit of age?—Eighteen to thirty. The course at the Royal College extends over three years—the session lasting from October to June. In the first year the subjects studied are chemistry, physics, mathematics, drawing; second year, botany, zoology, geology, with their application to agriculture, surveying, and veterinary hygiene; third year, agriculture, agricultural chemistry, agricultural bacteriology, and engineering. Owing to the lack of proper accommodation, and pending the completion of the new buildings now in course of erection, part of the course is given at the Albert Agricultural

College, Glasnevin. These who are studying agricultural chemistry have to go out there regularly every day and take their course in the laboratory there until these laboratories are built, there being no provision in the Royal College of Science.

The Department do not consider a three years' course sufficient training for the purposes of higher agricultural education, and it is contemplated to extend it to four years. Those who have already been trained have received additional instruction by special courses from time to time, and some of them have been sent to the continent to study the conditions of agriculture and agricultural education prevailing there. It will thus be seen that the Department place a high estimate on the importance of a thorough training. They have not, so far, accepted any qualifications as sufficient except their own, without a special examination, or a record of work done.

1229. (Mr. Ogilvie).—An examination for a diploma in the College?—No; if a man gets the associate pass at our examination at the Royal College we accept that as sufficient, but if a man applies from England, it does not matter what degree or diploma he has, he has to undergo an examination.

1230. (Mr. Micks).—Who examines him?—I, myself may be, usually, the Chief Inspector.

1231. (Chairman).—Examination for that, if he applies for a particular post?—Yes.

1232. Not a general examination, but an examination for that particular post?—Yes.

1233. (Mr. Micks).—It is not competitive?—No.

1234. (Chairman).—Do many when you turn out in this way go abroad or leave Ireland?—Not yet.

1235. You get appointments for them here?—Immediately; we pay them rather well, otherwise they would leave us; there is a big demand elsewhere for such men.

1236. I dare say a demand has arisen in England?—There is a big demand there, but a bigger demand, as I shall show you presently, in other countries. The Albert Agricultural College. At the time this institution was taken over, two courses of instruction were given by arrangement—one for women in domestic economy and dairymaking, and one in agriculture for men. The drawbacks to such an arrangement are obvious. The staff and equipment had to be duplicated, and a six months' course in agriculture is obviously too short for a high class college. The Department, recognising the need for at least one institution at which young men could receive a less expensive and less exhaustive course than that given at the Royal College of Science, decided to equip the Glasnevin institution, partly as a preparatory school for the Royal College, and partly to meet the demands of those who are prepared to pay a fair proportion of the cost of their education, and who desire to fit themselves for an agricultural career.

The buildings, erected about the year 1884, were almost worn out, and were not equipped in accordance with modern ideas. A scheme for their reconstruction and reorganisation, on the lines indicated, was submitted to the Agricultural Board, who voted funds to make the following alterations: the old lecture-room has been converted into a laboratory, well equipped for the teaching of agricultural chemistry, the dining-room into a study, and the study into a common room; while the accommodation has been increased by the addition of the Principal's residence for the use of the students and staff—the Principal having been accommodated with a new house erected in the grounds. A new biological laboratory, dining room, dormitories, and lavatories have also been added. A water supply has been provided to take the place of the old arrangement whereby the water had to be carried from the city; and the establishment has been lighted by electricity. The new outside educational facilities include workshops for the teaching of wood and iron work, new orchards and gardens, and a poultry department, &c. I mention these because objection has been taken to the expenditure in money, on this institution. When it was handed over to the Department it might have seemed a great gift, but the out-buildings were put up in 1884. We found the walls had been put up hurriedly, I believe, because the Prince Consort was coming to Ireland at that time. Some of these walls were without mortar inside, and we were unable to build on them, but had to take them down to the very foundations.

The farm consists of 170 acres, 112 acres of which are cropped on a eight course rotation with

crops suitable to Ireland. The remainder is in pasture on which are kept a herd of dairy cows and a flock of sheep. The farm is famous for its breed of large Yorkshire pigs, and there has recently been added a small valuable herd of purebred shorthorn cattle. The produce of both classes of stock are sold, or given out on loan to breeders of pedigree stock.

The students' course now extends throughout the year, during which they are taught English, mathematics, surveying, agricultural chemistry, agricultural botany, agriculture both in the field and in the class room, horticulture, buttermaking, poultry-keeping, bee-keeping, and manual instruction in wood work. The students devote half their time to indoor and half to outdoor studies. A resident staff, who give instruction in well-equipped laboratories, now takes the place of the former system of lectures by visiting masters.

Twenty-five free scholarships admitting the holder to maintenance and education, are offered per annum. Farmers' sons pay £25, and others £50 per annum.

1237. (Mr. Micks).—How many paying students have you?—Eight pay £25, and two pay £50, and then there are ten of the Royal College men.

1238. (Chairman).—The free places or scholarships cover all this?—They cover everything. I think that is very liberal, and I don't quite agree with the system of giving these free places, because a student must come, he says "Why should I come, I will wait until next year for a free place." I have, again and again, advised the Department not to adhere to that system; it is an old system.

1239. You mean there ought to be some payment?—There ought to be some payment, as I will show you in an instance where we take a fee from them in proportion to their means or valuation, but as long as there are twenty-five free places available each year that a boy can get by examination why should he pay £25; he will wait until next year.

1240. (Mr. Micks).—Are there not a great many sons of small farmers who never could pay anything?—Never could pay anything.

1241. Therefore the free scholarships would suit them?—Yes. When we get our system properly organised I should like to see these sent on from the local schools.

1242. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose the twenty-five do not necessarily consist of small farmers' sons?—Not necessarily. I think if he is the son of an Irish farmer, whether he is poor or rich, he may get a free place.

1243. (Chairman).—And free places are got by anyone between the ages of eighteen and thirty?—No; they must be seventeen; we have not put a limit the other way.

1244. It would be a limit the other way to some extent?—Yes.

1245. (Mr. Micks).—Is it not, in any case a free place; it is a scholarship; it is a distinction to get in?—To my mind it is not, he does very little for it.

1246. How does he get it?—We advertise it; of course there is an examination, but it is not a serious examination; it ought not to be called a scholarship.

1247. (Mr. Ogilvie).—But the award is by competition?—Yes.

1248. (Chairman).—When you advertise the examination, do you have more candidates than there are places?—Yes; we have about sixty candidates for twenty-five places.

1249. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It is a one year's course?—Yes; and then, of course, the remainder of the sixty will wait until next year.

1250. (Chairman).—Until they become superannuated, only there is no limit for superannuation?—Quite so. As I stated, I think my argument will be sufficient to convince the Department that, in future, it will be better to adopt another system if we want the institution to do really good work. And, of course, I think, when we do get our local institutions all in working order—we only began last year—we shall make them really scholarships, and get them from those local schools.

1251. You would get the selection done for you before they come up for examination?—Yes, and it would be a scholarship.

1252. You don't wish to make the poor farmer pay anything that he does not pay now, but you want to be quite certain you will get the right people?—Quite so.

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1353. (Mr. O'Leary).—There are ten Royal College of Science students in residence at Glasnevin; if these students were not there would you have any difficulty in accommodating ten more of the Glasnevin type?—No; fifty could easily be put up at Glasnevin, I mean with very little expenditure, it would suit sixty.

1354. In view of the number of competitors—sixty for twenty-five places just now, the only difficulty in the way apparently would be what is caused by having to accommodate in the Glasnevin dormitories ten of the College of Science students?—The difficulty is that they won't pay the fee; sixty applied, but there were only twenty-five free places.

1355. And the whole money that is available, otherwise than supplied by the £25 or £50 fee, is used by the number that you have at present in residence?—Oh, yes, there is an annual grant for the maintenance of the establishment.

1356. On the Parliamentary estimates?—The Treasury handed over a sum of \$8,000 for the upkeep of these two institutions, and that goes to increase our endowment.

1357. (Mr. Bruce).—And the expenses are paid out of the endowment?—Yes; that has now passed into the control of the Agricultural Board.

1358. (Mr. O'Leary).—And there is no further elasticity; you would have to get other funds before you can admit a larger number of pupils on a free basis?—We would; of course the Agricultural Board would give more if we thought it wise, but I think it is very unlikely.

1359. (Mr. Micks).—Do you know how the \$8,000 was arrived at?—I think it was the cost of the institutions before the Department took them over.

1360. When they were not effective—not doing much?—They always did a good deal at those places, but it was a short course for men in summer and schools for girls in winter—six weeks' course. I have said that the farm and institution serve purposes other than those already mentioned. In the gardens are trained young men, the best of whom eventually become itinerant instructors in horticulture under the local authorities. They are admitted as apprentices, and are selected on the result of an examination, due regard being had to their previous knowledge of practical gardening; they do the work of the gardens and orchards, and receive free instruction in the College. They are paid at the rate from 18s. to 25s. per week, and reside outside. They work as gardeners but have facilities for carrying on their studies in the College.

1361. (Chairman).—Paid as gardeners?—Yes, and do the work of the gardens instead of labourers and special gardeners; there are, at present, ten such students or apprentices.

1362. In other respects they would be students?—Yes, but they live outside; they get from 18s. to 25s. every six months they get an increase.

1363. (Mr. O'Leary).—How long are they there?—They go on until they are qualified, or we find we cannot educate them. In some cases we keep them there two years. In some cases we get a really good gardener, who knows his business, and we let him off to county work at the end of six months.

1364. (Chairman).—Have they hitherto all gone to vacant posts in this country?—Everyone of them.

1365. (Mr. Micks).—There are a couple of minutes here—on the 29th August, 1901, at a meeting of the Agricultural Board, Vol. 1, page 60. "Col. Nolan asked that a return should be prepared showing the subsequent careers of pupils who had passed through the Albert Institution, Glasnevin. He had heard it mentioned that about two-thirds of the men educated there had taken positions outside Ireland. The Vice-President said he would try to procure the returns suggested." On November 15th, 1903, Vol. 2, page 385. "Col. Nolan said that he had heard that many of the students educated at Glasnevin did not remain in Ireland; he suggested that a return should be prepared giving some indication of the number of students that left the country. Col. Nolan's suggestion was noted. Was such a return made?—We have tried; no person who was well trained by the Department has left; not one, but what has become of a few of the men who were there before we took up the place I have been unable to ascertain.

1366. Of all the pupils you took in hand since the Act started in 1900, none of them have left the country?—Not one; they could not get such good posts

out of Ireland as they get in it. There are, at present, ten horticultural students in training. The poultry department serves as a centre for the breeding and distribution of pure bred fowl in connection with the local authorities' schemes, and is being utilized for the grading up of egg laying strains by keeping a register of eggs of individual birds. It is a very ambitious scheme we have there, and one into which, if you visit the place, I should like you to inquire.

1367. (Chairman).—What charge do you make for the eggs?—We charge 6s. a dozen for them; but we don't particularly care to sell them because we would be competing with other people. What we do do, we are trying to breed up from particular good laying birds.

1368. I see some reference to the charge being so onerous; you do it purposely to avoid competition?—Oh, yes; since we have started, the poultry industry has become of great interest, and the people here started all round and put money into the concern, we are selling at 5s. and 6s.; we dare not compete with these people; it would be unfair.

1369. You put your price at 1s. and 2s. or so on their price?—Yes. Our object is to encourage other people to do these things, and they are doing it very rapidly, and, of course, they would not, and would have a grievance if we attempted to underbid them.

1370. Still, I suppose, you can hardly get on without selling, to some extent?—We could not; it is a public institution, and there would be a grievance if we did not, so that one has to do the best one can. The limitations to these buildings have not all been completed; we will require to do something to the farm buildings; those of you who visit the place will see that some of them are very old.

1371. Are the farm buildings at some distance?—No, just beside. When these have been completed, I think I may safely assert that the equipment and the staff and programme there will compare favourably with anything that is in Europe—certainly anything I have seen in Europe.

1372. (Mr. Micks).—Up to Leeds at all events—Leeds is comparable to the Royal College of Science.

1373. Then it is not a practical institution?—Well, yes; at Leeds we had a farm as well, but the farm was run by the County Council, and the College was under a different authority.

1374. (Mr. O'Leary).—It is not a school in which half the time of the pupils is given to farm work as at Glasnevin?—No. This is really of a type that is known all over the Continent as the Agricultural College, as distinct from a technical high-class college where there is no farm, where it is all laboratory work. Here you have a fair share of attention given to both. Neither is it a winter school where it is all technical work, or an apprentice school. There are several of these colleges in Ireland.

1375. (Chairman).—It is designed not so much for the purpose of training an actual farmer or gardener as for the purpose of training the teacher?—It is for both. It is between the Royal College of Science and the class of institution I am coming to deal with now where the pupils are really apprentices, and, of course, it is meant as a sort of sub-station to enable young men to come up from the country and get into the Royal College, and it is also meant as an institution where men who want training of that kind will get it in Ireland, and not have to go to an agricultural college in England. Formerly a man would have to go to an English college—several Irishmen did. Now it won't be necessary, because we have provided an institution of that type, but only one on the ground that the Department believe that one is sufficient for the purpose of that kind. There will be a demand for exactly similar class of institution at various parts of Ireland, but the Department do not believe that it is necessary in Ireland to provide such education at more than one centre. I will now turn to the agricultural stations, we usually call them stations rather than schools at which apprentices are trained. Of these there is one at Ballyhaise, County Carrick, one at Athlery, County Galway, and one at Glenties, County Donegal. While I have said we do not believe there is room for more than one college in Ireland of the Glasnevin type, there is room in Ireland for a type of agricultural institution where instruction is technical and more practical can be given. This need the Department have recognized by the establishment of these three agricultural stations. These were started at practically the beginning of this year. As soon as

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may have to keep a special staff there just to look after these animals, and it is a little difficult to arrive at it, but I should say I think the figure that is in my mind for a place like Clonsilla is about £5,000 per annum.

1367. (Mr. Micks).—There you have not to take in rent?—We have to pay rent, there.

1368. (Mr. Brown).—That is the net figure after any returns from the sale of produce?—Yes, that is running the institution; we will assume the farm will run itself.

1369. (Mr. Micks).—What you are thinking of there is not the question of a small profit or a small loss—it is the question of improving the condition of the country?—Yes. For example, we will have to keep teams of horses to learn these young men to plough. In Ireland tillage is a lost art in many districts, and a boy coming from some parts of Ireland would know as little of ploughing as a man in the city of Dublin, and has to be taught these things practically. We may have to keep teams of horses, and he may plough the sands all day, long practicing until he is allowed to go and plough a piece of ordinary land. In the same way there are various operations he would have to practice before he is allowed to do the proper work of the farm. We will conduct our tillage operations in a somewhat different style to what we would if we were farming for a profit. For example, we will have to do by a number of apprentices. Athlery would be an excellent place for a steam plough, but I need not tell you we will not have a steam plough or a motor plough; we will have to do it in the ordinary way.

1370. It would not be a judicious investment for Conemara?—It would not.

1371. What you said about a lost art, you mean in some parts of the country, the grading parts?—Oh, yes; for example, there are parts of the County Limerick where the art of tillage is lost.

1372. And East Galway itself?—Yes, and parts of Roscommon—I mean the most elementary notions of tillage is lost.

1373. (Cholmondeley).—You don't mean that the land does not produce something?—It is all in grass.

1374. (Mr. Micks).—You see yourself in going through the country the marks of the old tillage before the Famine times?—Oh, yes. In parts of Ireland the art of tillage is well understood, in Tyrone, and Wexford, and parts of the Midland Counties, the barley-growing counties.

1375. (Mr. Brown).—South Kildare, for instance?—Yes, the art of tillage is very well known there, and I have often heard it highly spoken of.

1376. And Lenth is a good tillage county?—Yes. Now I turn to classes of education where we take the boy in for the winter months only, and these are our local winter schools of agriculture. Many farmers object that they cannot spare their sons from the work on the land during the summer, these who are going in for tillage, and there is a good deal of truth in that. But in the winter months he can very often spare him to attend lectures. These lectures are being organized mainly in counties which have already had the services of an itinerant instructor in agriculture for two or more years. At first the Department organized these winter schools themselves. I have several times referred to the fact that the Department first did the work themselves until the County Committees had an idea of the sort of thing they intended to establish, and then the funds and the work was transferred to the local authorities themselves, and that has been the case with the winter schools. With the first winter schools the local authorities had nothing to say until they had been established a couple of years. There is now a printed scheme handed round to the County Committees, and they run them, and the Department give them funds for doing it. Of course the work is of a nature that the local authority officers are not always capable of dealing with, and so the Department officers will take a great share in the administration and organization of these local classes far more than we hope will be necessary by and by. In winter the whole time of one inspector is practically given to these local authorities to advise them and help them in organizing these schools. I shall briefly describe one of these winter schools; they differ somewhat according to locality, but the following is a description of the most common type. A classroom at some rural centre, convenient to a village or railway junction is secured; provision

is made to have it warmed and lighted; it is equipped with plain deal benches or tables, and a supply of agricultural specimens, such as seeds and manure, feeding stuffs, grasses, and such like. When the County Itinerant Instructor in Agriculture is not available to teach the classes the Department provide a special teacher for the course. The County Committee advertise the school, and sometimes pay the travelling expenses of young men who attend the school regularly. In some cases the student is supplied with a mid-day meal gratis. Where a special teacher is employed, he may hold classes three days at one centre, and three at a second each week during the course, which usually extend over twenty weeks, opening in October and closing in March. The number of pupils in a class is limited to twenty-five, that being as much as one man can teach properly, because we do not permit of more lectures. They have to examine the work, seeds, manure, grasses, and so on; they have to examine them, and it is largely done by tutorial work as a matter of fact. The subjects taught are agriculture, soils, tillage, cropping, manures (natural and artificial), seeds, grasses, weed, treatment of pastures, management of live stock, including winter dairying, valuation of manures and feeding stuffs, simple farm account keeping, nomenclature, elementary chain surveying, and elementary science explanatory of the principles underlying ordinary farm practice. This instruction is given by the resident teacher, while lectures and demonstrations are given on horticulture and poultry keeping by county instructors, and on veterinary science by visiting teachers. In two centres where the classes are held for five hours on five days per week during twelve weeks a more extended course is given, and laboratory equipment, which is considered unnecessary for the shorter courses already referred to, is provided. In these two cases a maintenance allowance of from 10s. to 15s. per week is made to pupils, who, being unable to travel daily to and from their homes, find it necessary to reside at the class centres.

The following tables show the classes held since 1902, and the number of students enrolled—

Year	No. of Centres	No. of Pupils enrolled
1902-3	2	48
1903-4	7	161
1904-5	18	337
1905-6	24	404

Nothing but the want of properly-qualified teachers prevents this class of instruction growing to such magnitude as the funds available will permit. In most cases I have prepared little diagrams to show how this work is progressing, we are anxious it should not go on too rapidly because we could not supply the teachers.

1377. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I see in the regulations you say the classes will be confined to young men over sixteen years of age, who are actually engaged in following the work in the county—what is your experience as to the prevailing ages of pupils who attend these classes?—Twenty to twenty-one; we get them rather older than I anticipated, largely owing to the influence of the itinerant instructor. Young men attend the itinerant classes, and there they naturally get stimulated, and have a desire for more systematic study. For example, nothing has been of greater use to the farmer than explaining the peculiarities of artificial manures. They are difficult, and it requires some education to understand them, but yet they can be demonstrated pretty well in a lecture by an instructor, and the farmer, who is at the mercy of the salesman, is very keen that his son should be able to understand this, and so explain to him how to proceed in his purchase, and to see that he is getting the proper material. In the same way with the seeds he is very anxious that his son—he himself cannot hope to bother about his grasses—he is very anxious that his son should be able to take a handful of seed and by a local shopkeeper and make a rough analysis of it and show him what stuff he is getting, and so we have not attending these classes men older than I expected.

1378. (Mr. Brown).—At present, I suppose, there is no particular examination or test to which these boys are subjected?—There is, but it is not a serious thing.

1379. It is absolutely necessary to be sure they would be capable of deriving the benefit of such instruction—that there should be a certain examination?—We are usually careful to see that he knows a little arithmetic; if he understands decimal fractions and vulgar fractions you can go on all right.

1401. (Chairman).—You advise yourself of a bona fide intention to make use of that instruction afterwards?—If there is in these classes someone who is being put forward by a member of a County Committee, and the County Committee insist he should attend, it would be very hard for the Department to prevent them doing so, that is where a little friction may arise. For one reason or another a young man may want to go to Glanerin or get to these, and we know he is not going there for the purpose for which the class is intended; we could hardly bring pressure to bear on the County Committee; we have the power, but we would not think of exercising it; we think it much better to take the members of the Committee into our confidence and arrange that we shall in future all try to keep out that class of students.

1402. Could you add to this diagram a note showing where the different schools are situated?—If I may suggest, I will put up a map showing the places where these schools are. (Appendix I.)

1403. We should like to know in what part of Ireland they are?—You will find there are a great many in the North of Ireland, and you will also find that they follow the itinerant instruction.

1404. (Mr. O'Leary).—These schools are actually run by the county authorities?—They are, and we provide the funds out of the joint fund, but the Department pay the salaries of the teachers.

1405. But you delegate the responsibility for the management of the classes to the local authority?—To the local authority, but they never move without our instructor; they send for him always.

1406. You are, as well, in touch with the Committee?—Yes; we are not in touch with them by official correspondence; we are in touch with them by the instructor himself, who is in touch with them by private correspondence; it is such detailed work that the instructor has authority himself to go to the County Committee or the County Secretary, and practically help him in buying materials and arranging for the mid-day meals, and so on.

1407. What means have you of knowing how the work has progressed at the close of the session?—We examine them, the instructor examines them, and we examine them periodically as well.

1408. Then can you tell me whether there is any difficulty found in maintaining the course for so long a period as twenty weeks in the winter?—We aim at twenty weeks; we have not always got it, and the reason is that many a County Committee which starts it first is rather slow in getting about its work; it has not got out its advertisements quick enough, and though we aim at twenty weeks, some are not so long.

1409. Supposing they get under weigh in October—when do you find the season sets in—when there is a difficulty in getting the men to continue their attendance?—In spring, when the seasonal operations are coming on, and getting ready for the seed time.

1410. That would be what month?—The end of February or March; there is a difficulty then; we actually have at these schools married men and farmers, young farmers themselves.

1411. (Chairman).—Is there any difficulty as to buildings or places where you hold the schools?—We have very great difficulty in getting a good centre.

1412. (Mr. O'Leary).—You would have no difficulty in getting a practically continuous attendance for seventeen or eighteen weeks?—I don't think so; of course there will always be some falling off, but the attendance has been remarkably well maintained.

1413. (Chairman).—Where are they generally held, the National School?—No, not National schools; the Cornucopia or in any room you can get.

1414. (Mr. O'Leary).—I suppose in a considerable number of these centres there must be rooms that have been provided specially for technical classes in the evening that would be available for these in the day time?—We use those rooms in two or three cases, but those are mostly in the large centres, in towns. We seek to make as possible to get into the rural districts. We have some of these schools in the most out of the way places imaginable, places where you would wonder where you were being taken to if driven there on a car.

1415. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you find the attendance better in country places than in towns?—Much better; we are always anxious to get away from the towns.

1416. (Mr. O'Leary).—Even the market towns?—May 31, 1906. Even the market towns; it has always been considered that a market town was a good place for providing education for a farmer; that is quite a mistake; he is much too excited in the afternoon to have anything to do with agricultural education.

1417. (Mr. Doyle).—I entirely agree with that, it is the same thing in Canada. I myself have lectured to them in such a town, and I had experience of it.

1418. (Mr. Micks).—Which is the most out of the way school you have?—Tydavnet, in Monaghan, seven miles from a railway station.

1419. (Chairman).—The zeal of the countryside is so great that they come long distances to attend these schools?—They do, indeed; I have long thought that some system of public conveyance could be organized; we tried it in the County Galway, and it has not been so successful as I anticipated, but we cannot judge of it by one experiment.

1420. (Mr. O'Leary).—Do you think there is any possibility of the usefulness of such winter schools being limited as tillage methods increase; it is a pretty long period, twenty weeks in winter; one does not find in a country which is largely tillage that it is possible to get the young men away from the farms for so long a time?—That is true; if tillage was more widely taken up the difficulties would be increased. But I think we would get a younger class then.

1421. That is the age would work down—at present you are above the age you anticipated, and you probably will maintain the numbers but get the age reduced?—I am quite sure that is what will happen; at present we are working with young fellows who would have attended such a school if it had been in existence.

1422. But men who are now able-bodied enough to be holding a plough?—Yes. I was rather surprised at the age of the men who attended. I thought it would be for the boy who would otherwise be wasting his time in the winter months, when the work of the farm was not so pressing. Now I go to agricultural instruction for girls. What I have been dealing with is central institutions, and in talking of these schools I was bound naturally to get on to winter schools, which were originally in the Department's own hands, and have now been transferred. I will have to come back to that, and deal with joint action afterwards. Reference has already been made to the fact that when the Albert Agricultural College, Glanerin, and the Munster Institute, Cork, were handed over to the Department in 1900 by the Commissioners of National Education, alternate courses of instruction were being held at both these institutions for males and females. I have already described how the Albert College has been reorganized, enlarged, equipped and staffed for male students. The Munster Institute, Cork, has been similarly treated with a view to training girls. A sum of £10,000 was earmarked in the Act for the purpose of equipping and extending these buildings. The demand for admission to the school from residents in all parts of Ireland soon increased, and it was found necessary to enlarge the premises, and at the same time the institute was very fully equipped, so that a complete course of training could be given to young women who were anxious to qualify for employment under the Department and under the local authorities on schemes of instruction which will be described later on. Additional teachers have been appointed, and accommodation is now provided for fifty pupils. Some idea of the demand for admission may be gained from the fact that from fifteen to eighteen months must elapse between the time that an intending pupil makes her application for admission and the time when her turn for admission comes round. Though the school is not advertised, there are at present on the Department's books awaiting admission no fewer than 250. The Committee may be interested to know what is taught at a school of this kind, as it is not usual to have a school for agricultural education for girls.

1423. (Mr. O'Leary).—The length of the course?—The aim and object of the course is to train young girls that when they return to their homes they may make better and more economic use of the materials they have to handle. An extended course, however, is given to the best pupils in order that they may qualify themselves as teachers. Four institutes do hold annually, each of about eleven weeks' duration. The fee for one session is three guineas, which is all

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the pupils pay for education, board and lodging, and medical attendance. Here again is an institution where a system of allowing no one in without paying something is in vogue, and you see the great difference in the demand for admission to such a school and to Glasnevin. An examination is held at the end of each session. All students who attain the necessary standard at the end of the first session may remain over for a second on payment of a fee. Some of them may then get free places. It is considered that the six months' course of training thus obtained is sufficient for the great majority of girls who, as I have mentioned before, desire to return to their homes, or for those who, as happens in several cases, desire to obtain situations in private houses as dairy maids, laundry maids, and so on, and they can get very good situations of that kind in connection with public institutions and even in private establishments as well. The examination held at the end of the second session is therefore so designed as to enable the examiners to pick out those students who are likely to become capable teachers in connection with the county instruction schemes. An examination of a similar character is held at the end of the third session, and no student is given a certificate qualifying her to act as a teacher unless she has been in residence in the school for at least four sessions, and in most cases the course is extended to a fifth, or even a sixth, session. The course of training includes:—(1.) The practice of dairy work; (2.) The working of a dairy farm, including the feeding and management of cows and pigs, the cropping of small gardens, and the management of bees; (3.) Poultry keeping; (4.) Household work, including plain cookery, needlework and laundry work.

1433. (Mr. Micks).—Is used to be managed for half a year as a boys' school?—Yes, summer for the boys and winter for the girls. It necessitated a double equipment. What the Department did at once was to equip these places as a training college for teachers, and make the equipment at one place altogether for boys, and at the other altogether for girls. By this means we were always able to get not only a good staff and good equipment, but have them always in employment. With the equipment at the Albert College, the teachers of the male students were idle half the year.

1434. (Mr. Brown).—In view of the very great demand for this institution, does the Department contemplate extending the building?—I did not advise the Department to make such provision, because I thought perhaps the demand was due to girls hoping to get situations under County Committees, but I am now perfectly satisfied that is not the case; the demand goes on increasing without any prospect of getting such situations, and it is undoubtedly a genuine demand for instruction of this kind. Certainly the private situations that these girls often get is also an inducement, but at any rate the Department are now satisfied that this is due to the excellence, if I may be allowed to say so, of the instruction we provide there. I hope the Committee will see this place for themselves, and see the admirable way in which it is managed by our superintendents and staff, some of whom we get over from the Commissioners of National Education. We have, of course, increased the staff very much and put on specialists in different subjects.

1435. (Mr. Micks).—Is there a local Advisory Committee there now as there used to be?—Not now.

1436. When was that change made?—Two or three years ago.

1437. How did it happen?—The Governors were displaced at the Department coming in and training teachers, and they resigned. I have no doubt the Committee will hear more of the subject when you are down there.

1438. (Mr. O'Leary).—The institution is one maintained for the benefit of whole of Ireland?—Yes.

1439. There is no special regulation as to the field of its operations being confined to the South of Ireland?—Oh, no; it draws pupils from the extreme North of Ireland.

1440. And therefore the training provided is one which must necessarily be adapted for the average purposes of the whole country?—Yes, and it is also a training which must be under the Department's control, as they are training their teachers there.

1441. For a particular class of teacher this is the sole provision that is made under the Department?—Yes.

1432. (Chairman).—When does this session end?—Next week, and starts again on the 2nd July. I think I was referring to the fact that so convinced was the Department of the need for further provision, and so alive to the difficulties that girls have of getting from the North of Ireland, that we have within the last few days purchased a small estate in the County Tyrone, where we intend to build and equip an establishment of a similar character for the North of Ireland.

1433. (Mr. Micks).—What is the nearest town to that?—It is close to Cookstown, the Loughry estate.

1434. (Mr. Brown).—Is it in contemplation to enlarge the Munster Institute?—It has been enlarged, the accommodation was for thirty pupils; it has now been enlarged for fifty.

1435. Is it contemplated to enlarge it beyond that?—Not at present.

1436. (Chairman).—You are doing it in this way, you are going to establish another institution in the North of Ireland?—Yes, we have actually purchased a site there within the last few days.

1437. (Chairman).—Does the Munster Institute draw any pupils from the North of Ireland?—No, but the distance is so great that it naturally has the effect of preventing them; I think more would go from the North if it were not so far.

1438. Is the Loughry estate site intended to serve the same purpose as Ballyhaunis?—The same purpose as Cork; it is for girls.

1439. Are you going to have another for male in the North-West?—That has been spoken of. I ought to have said that although it is only within the last few days we acquired this site for a second Munster Institute and Girls' School in the North of Ireland, we have been for the last three years looking for a site; the Chief Inspector and myself on two occasions made two extended tours privately to see what we could find proper place. Personally I have wished to wait before embarking on another, to make quite sure that this demand was a genuine demand, and one that would increase, and there is no doubt about it now.

1440. (Chairman).—It was not due to some temporary cause?—I have no hesitation in saying it is due to the excellent training we give the girls there now; we have specialists in the different departments, and have spared no pains to get some of the very best teachers of these subjects, and they are attracting these girls I am quite sure.

1441. (Mr. O'Leary).—And your former pupils as your advertisement?—Our former pupils are our advertisement.

1442. (Mr. Brown).—Are the applications difficult in the order in which they are received?—They are. Very severe pressure is brought to bear on us sometimes; I am not sure that some have not come from your own county. Then I forget to mention that the Munster Institute is associated with the School of Domestic Economy, of which Mr. Fisher will speak, the Kildare-street Training College for Girls under the Technical Instruction Branch. These girls often go out under County Committees, and in order that they may have knowledge of rural life, last week we sent down a considerable number of them to have a special course, to be trained there as teachers. In the July session we open with a class of girls from Kildare-street under the Technical Instruction Branch; that is a case where the two branches work together; one supplies part of the instruction and the other the agricultural part. I may say, however, that these girls from the Kildare-street School will have precedence over applicants from the country, because the school must first of all provide for teachers; that is its function, and to some extent the girls who have applied will be aggrieved at having to wait until this special class is over, but the demands of the County Committees for themselves as instructors is so great, and the school is equipped for the purpose, that that class of teacher must have precedence.

1443. (Mr. Micks).—Where will the Kildare-street girls reside?—In the Institute.

1444. (Chairman).—What is this Kildare-street School?—It is a school for training teachers under the Technical Instruction Branch, domestic economy without special reference to agriculture, but they often teach in rural districts, therefore it is desirable that they should have some knowledge of rural life, though they don't necessarily teach it.

1448. (Mr. Brown).—Does any course at the Munster Institute suffice for these?—Yes, the eleven weeks course. In addition to this provision for teaching girls we have a number of small rural schools of domestic economy—one at Portumna (Galway), Westport (Mayo), Longhlynn (Roscommon), and Dunmanway (Cork).

1449. (Mr. Micks).—What building have you got at Longhlynn?—Lord Dillon's dwelling-house, the old house. In these places we usually go to the Convent, where we have a building near a Convent, and where the Nuns will run the schools for us, and as far as possible we try to get the girls to come in and to reside there. There is a danger of the girls becoming disaffected with their homes if they are taken to a place like the Munster Institute, and treated much better than they are in their homes, and for that reason we desire to gradually build up a system of local schools of this kind, and we find, in the West of Ireland, at any rate, the most convenient way is to utilise the Convent schools, and particularly a Convent to which there is a farm attached, and where the farm is worked to some extent under our direction; at Longhlynn, for example, we managed the Convent farm for a time.

1447. Have you bought Longhlynn?—No, but we have put up suitable educational buildings outside the Convent itself.

1448. The mansion house has been bought by the Nuns?—The Nuns have the mansion house. There was a second house outside, and that has been gutted and fitted up for domestic economy work and small rural industries as well. The girls bring in the milk and separate it and churn it, and there is a danger of the place becoming a creamery, because the Nuns sell their butter for them. A horticultural instructor goes out and gets girls to grow vegetables at their own homes; they bring these vegetables in and cook them at the Convent; they also learn cheese-making, and look after poultry and so on. We also encourage them to bring their cloth and make their clothes under the direction of the Nuns, mend their clothes, and do up their linen, and so on.

1449. Is the Department the owner of any of these smaller schools, such as Longhlynn and Westport?—No.

1450. (Chairman).—Do you take them on lease?—As a matter of fact we give the school a grant to enable them to carry it on.

1451. (Mr. Micks).—It is really the property of the communities?—The property of the communities, the Department making provision for certain facilities for education, and we have an agreement of course that the Department can use that for a number of years, ten or twenty in some places, failing which the community have to pay the Department the cost of erecting these buildings.

1452. The communities have ordinary schools of their own, and carry on this technical instruction under you?—Yes, but this has nothing to do with the National schools attached to the Convents.

1453. They have these nearly always?—Yes, and a few of these have this other work, and if these are successful I should like to see a large number of them started.

1454. (Chairman).—In connection with the Convents?—In connection with the Convents, particularly in the West of Ireland; it is an admirable way of getting the girls of the very poor farmers to come in. You take such a girl to the Munster Institute; we get girls there who were never up or down a stair; it is not good to keep that girl for six weeks or more and send her back to a small cottage, and expect she is going to live there; it is much better to educate her while she is living at home and coming to the school daily.

1455. Then where does she live?—She lives at home. At Portumna there is accommodation for fifteen pupils, but then we have a day school as well. At Westport it is a condition of the scheme that they are not allowed to bring in resident pupils; they bring in five at a time to show them how to manage the house.

1456. A school like Westport only serves the immediate district?—Oh, yes, it is not to be compared with the Munster Institute at all.

1457. Therefore if they are to have a very large influence they must be largely spread over the country?—Certainly, at Longhlynn, for example, they come in on donkey carts.

1458. As I understand you take existing institutions and add this element to them?—Quite so, where there are facilities for agricultural work.

1459. (Mr. Micks).—In the North, Antrim and Down, what do you do?—We have not touched this problem; this Longhlynn school is the first attempt.

1460. (Mr. O'Brien).—How are these smaller local schools of domestic economy financed?—Directly by the Department; we pay the teachers and put up the building and equipment; I should not say put up the buildings; actually there are buildings there; we convert them.

1461. Supposing the teachers are members of a community?—We get over the difficulty; as a rule they are lay teachers, but we do have one; they get a little grant, a small sum for administrative expenses; they have to pay the rates of this building we put up, and in other ways these buildings put them to expense, and we give them a covering sum in our agreements.

1462. (Mr. Micks).—Do you paint and repair them?—We undertake to keep them in repair, but we have not got to that stage yet.

1463. (Chairman).—Does this system apply mainly to the West of Ireland?—It is in the West of Ireland we have tried it, but it is so satisfactory to my mind that we are beginning to encourage it to a small extent in other districts. We have applications from other districts, and if I had time to get away from routine work I would very soon probably have more of them, but I have been unable from the pressure of work to make the kind of progress I would like. I have to visit these places, interview the community, and see that the facilities exist.

1464. You consider it a promising part of your system?—It is a part that wants developing badly.

1465. (Mr. O'Brien).—There is no money difficulty; you have adequate funds to develop this?—We have adequate funds so far; when I come to deal with the question of the funds of the Department I will be able to show that we will not be able to do a great deal at this work unless we take it from something else.

1466. (Mr. Brown).—Have you enumerated all the places at which you have these institutions?—Yes; Portumna, Westport, Longhlynn, and Dunmanway. Dunmanway is practically speaking still under the Technical Instruction Branch, but we supply the agricultural instruction.

1467. Strikingly is not one of the centres?—It is not; we have often considered the desirability of doing some agricultural work at some of these Convents where at the present time they are not doing agricultural work. The great tendency at these Convents is to go in for lace and artistic work of that kind; in fact at Longhlynn in order to get a girl to make cheese she has to get the promise of making artificial flowers for a day; that is the thing we have to contend with, the spirit that is there; they desire to get to other employment.

1468. (Mr. Micks).—You see the reason for that feeling?—Yes, that they hope to be able to make something by it.

1469. And they are very poor?—They are very poor.

1470. (Chairman).—Do you know what becomes of these girls; do they marry and settle in the country, or go to America?—They try very hard to get situations somewhere, and you cannot blame them; in a place like Longhlynn they are extremely poor, and where they can make lace or artificial flowers, weave carpets or hearthrugs, and can make a little money by it, it is proper they should do so, but it is not the business of the Agricultural Branch of the Department to foster these industries, that is for the Technical Instruction side; our business is concerned with farmyard lore and homestead work.

1471. You say that work of this nature means ultimately the improvement of the country itself?—Oh, yes; that class of work is wanted. We want to go into it on a far larger scale I think than we have done yet; that work is not being done by the local authorities, but the central; all we want is more staff. There are applications in my office from several Convents who are anxious to discuss this with us, and offer pretty fair facilities for doing the work, but it is impossible for me to get to see them and organize them, and a lot of organization has to be done; we have to draw the plans of the buildings and get specifications and see that they are erected and pay for them, and it takes an immense amount of detailed work, which is thrown upon our inspectors; sometimes we have to plan out their farms for them, and lay out their gardens for

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them. We get at that work whenever we can get a minute, but I have got no systematic branch for dealing with it, and can only do it in my spare time.

1472. You would like to see it largely developed?—Yes, I should like to give my whole attention to this for a few years; that is the sort of school we are aiming at. This is a scheme we call the *Bean-an-Tighe* classes; that is Irish, which means "The woman of the house."

1. In certain districts, chiefly where there exists a large population of small farmers and cottagers, the Department are prepared to supplement itinerant instruction in agriculture, dairying, poultry-keeping, horticulture, bee-keeping, rural domestic economy, and cottage industries, by assisting in the formation of rural centres, where girls and young women may receive instruction and helpful guidance in their home work.

2. A rural centre, for the purposes of this scheme may be the home of a religious community or of a private individual, provided there be at least one woman in charge to act as superintendent, who is prepared to devote herself to developing improvement in the home life of the neighbourhood. She must possess a practical acquaintance with the needs of small farmers and cottagers, be likely to secure their confidence, and to be welcomed among them.

3. The energies of the superintendent and her staff should be concentrated upon bettering the material condition of the people, upon adding to the comfort and happiness of the home, upon increasing the love and respect of the people for their home and for their country-side, and generally upon raising economic efficiency and, in the case of rural holdings, upon counteracting the tendency to disperse farm-work and life.

4. It must be no part of the work of the centre to train girls as domestic servants or to fit them for the factory or shop, nor will the Department give financial assistance where the girls do not return daily to their home.

5. It will be the duty of the superintendent and her colleagues to encourage girls and young women to meet at the centre, and to interest themselves in the objects mentioned below. All should be welcomed, even those who only occasionally seek information in difficulties of home management.

I may mention that in one case we supply them with a pony and trap to drive them round to their homes.

6. Every phase of the activity of the centre will be practical. The cream or milk required in the dairy for producing butter and cheese-making, the poultry to be killed and dressed, the materials for the dishes to be cooked, the material for new garments, and the clothes to be mended, washed and ironed, should be brought by the girls themselves—each taking home the product of her labour.

7. The duty of the superintendent and her colleagues should not end with the work at the centre itself. It should be supplemented by systematic visits to the homes wherever welcomed.

8. When success attends the efforts of a superintendent and staff, the work should be stimulated by holding an annual show of the produce of the dairy, poultry runs, garden, and of articles of food and clothing prepared in the household.

The remainder deals with the size of the farm, the accommodation that must be provided, the equipment in dairying, poultry-rearing, washing, ironing, and cooking, sick nursing, and home industries. (Appendix II.) Finally, I may say with regard to the education of girls, the Department have made liberal provisions under the local authorities for itinerant instruction. That brings me to the next head:—Joint action by the Department and the local authorities for encouraging improvement in various branches of agriculture. So far it has been central education that I have been dealing with, or, at least, education managed, from the central office.

The education which is provided by local authorities was intended immediately and directly to help the occupiers of the land as well as cottagers, and to arouse in them a desire for a better education for their sons and daughters, without which it would be impossible for any system of agricultural education to prove successful. Reference has been made repeatedly to the county schemes. These provide for instruction by itinerant instructors—a form of education which, I

need hardly remind the Committee, has played an important part in the development of agriculture in many countries. The work is now under the immediate direction of the county committees of agriculture. The schemes are revised annually at the beginning of the agricultural year, so as to give the local authority an opportunity of making suggestions for an improvement in the method of procedure suggested by the experience gained during the year, or for the total rejection of the scheme if they are dissatisfied with it. At first when the number of instructors available was very limited, and when the Committee and the public had no experience of such work, the Department themselves provided directly for work of this kind by sending round pioneer instructors. Each year, however, has seen a greater demand for instruction of the character, and as the demand increased, and instructors became available, the direction of the work was gradually delegated to the Committee themselves. They appoint the instructors, arrange their work, check and pay their expenses, and the salaries of all except those of the agricultural instructors, who are paid directly by the Department. The cost of the scheme is paid out of the joint fund, that is, the amount of the 1d. or 4d. rate provided by the County Council, and the Department's contribution, which is provided annually by the Agricultural Board after the schemes for the year have been placed before them and approved.

The question as to how long schemes of this nature should remain in operation is one which has not yet arisen, and which will be left to the County Committees themselves to decide. As I shall show, however, their popularity has been so great, and the demand for such work is so steadily increasing, that there is every prospect of their being retained in their present form for a much longer time than the Department originally anticipated. In Ireland the schemes differ from those of a similar character provided in other countries, in this, that very considerable sums of money are spent by each committee, not merely in education, but in directly encouraging the various branches of industry which the schemes are intended to supply. In poultry-keeping there is the improvement of the produce of poultry; in horticulture there is the buying and resale of trees; in bee-keeping, the destruction of foul brood, and so on. In other countries itinerant instruction is mainly and purely educational. In Ireland we spend large sums, not in housing the farmer, but in giving him encouragement by private and other forms of encouragement, which I shall describe directly.

1473. (Mr. Miles).—You assist in the marketing of honey; are you attending to that?—No; what was in my mind was the giving premiums for the distribution of eggs and selling fruit trees at cost price, prizes for well-farmed cottages, and for a variety of agricultural operations.

1474. We shall have evidence, shall we, about bee-keeping?—Oh, yes. I shall, as briefly as possible, describe the first of these schemes; you will hear me describe them often as county schemes, by which I mean schemes under the county committees, there are instruction in agriculture, poultry-keeping, dairying, horticulture, bee-keeping, and, in some counties, a flax. The scheme provides for the appointment of at least one itinerant instructor in agriculture in each county.

"It will be the duty of the instructor to deliver courses of lectures on agricultural subjects, such as soils, manures, seeds, pastures, crops and their cultivation, breeding, feeding, and management of live stock; to visit farms; to conduct such experiments and demonstrations in spring and summer as may be approved by the Department; to select suitable land for this purpose; to supervise the sowing of the seeds and manures and the keeping of the plots free from weeds; to weigh the produce, tabulate the figures, and prepare a report on the results; to assist, if required, in the teaching at Agricultural Classes established with the approval of the Department; to reply to letters from farmers seeking information; to advise farmers how they may avail themselves of the Department's Live Stock schemes and of the Department's Seed-Testing Station; to make known the provisions of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act; to advise farmers how they can best avail themselves of all schemes which may be adopted by the County Committee and by the Department, and how they may take advantage of

agricultural organisation; to report to the Department and to the County Committee regarding the progress of his work, either weekly or otherwise, as may be required; and generally to give his whole time to the work and do all in his power to further the interests of agriculture in the county.

The instructor may also be required to act as judge in connection with the scheme of prizes for cottages and small farms in a county other than that in which he acts as instructor.

That will give the Committee a pretty good idea of the duties of an itinerant instructor; they are very numerous, and in some counties one section is better discharged than another, depending very largely on the wishes of the county committee.

The Department make it a condition that this officer must have a first class training in technical and practical agriculture, but that he is required or allowed to give highly technical or scientific lectures or advice, but in order that there may be some guarantee that the practical advice which he renders is based upon a sound scientific study of the problem which he has to solve. A great deal of harm has been done to agricultural education by what would correspond, to the medical profession to the quasi, empiric information. I, myself, am firmly convinced that no agricultural education will ever succeed if you don't have your teachers properly trained, for better trained than he hopes ever to train his pupils. He wants to have a reserve of knowledge, which he does not at all parade to the public, as so many of the older schools of agricultural authorities did, and it is for that reason the Department have not made rapid progress with their scheme of agricultural education, because I urged the Department, as strongly as I could, to set their faces against anything of the old system, anything like putting in as teachers men who did not have a reserve of scientific knowledge on which they could rely to guide them in the advice they give, and not to rely on repeating formulas out of books or from the lectures of other professors. Last year there were twenty-three instructors at work under the directions of the county committees. These officers attended 1,169 meetings of farmers, at which they delivered lectures and assisted in the subsequent discussions. The average attendance at these meetings was fifty-six. The number of field experiments and demonstrations on the use of manures and varieties of crops are not yet available for the current year, but last year these instructors arranged and carried out 1,664 field demonstrations and 461 field experiments. I would like to call the attention of the Committee to the difference between a demonstration and a field experiment. A demonstration simply consists of one plot of land. You go to the farmer and say, "Give me half that field and I will measure it for you or see it with a certain kind of seed for you and the whole country shall see the results." They stick up a placard "This field is sown by so and so." There is no special attempt made to estimate the produce at all; the farmer wears a plot and he says, "This was treated with basic slag." He sees the part beside it "that was not," and on the same way, "This is the latest variety of oats," and so on. And he sees for himself whether this is a good variety of oats or not, and if it is good he rapidly will invest his money in it another year, and if it is bad, he sees the result.

1475. (Chairman).—In this case you are cultivating the land for the farmer?—Just a small piece; that is a demonstration; the farmer does the labour; we supply the expert advice and the seed.

1476. He is cultivating it under your advice?—Yes, and we give him the manures and seed; it is not a big thing.

1477. Have you any difficulty in getting farmers to acquiesce in the arrangement?—No, he is quite willing if he gets the seed and the manure; sometimes the farmer finds it is no profit to have that, for if a new variety of oats is introduced, as they are being introduced every year, very rapidly, we may sow upon his land something that will yield him very little, but whether it is a good or a bad variety of seed it is equally valuable as a piece of information to the neighbourhood.

1478. (Mr. Miles).—Does he ever claim compensation?—Not under the demonstration plot, but he does under the others; the Department refuse it; they only do it in the case of barley experiments, of which Messrs. Guinness pay part of the work, and they agree

to compensate the farmer, but the Department themselves don't do so; it would be very bad if we did so; we would cease to be an educational as we want to make it. Now, in the case of the experiment at Rothamsted, this consists of a piece of land which is let out in several plots, and in which the crops are carefully weighed and the land carefully measured and the results are collected and published, and are then circulated for the information of the country generally. It may be comparing different kinds of manures or seeds, but that is our distinction between a demonstration and a field experiment. The cost of the two is very different; a demonstration is cheap; an experiment is very costly, so we use these two terms; it is a deduction of my own and answers the purpose perfectly well.

These diagrams show the progress made with our agricultural instruction schemes. (Appendix III.) If a farmer wants technical information within this area, he has only to write to the itinerant instructor in each county and he is bound to give it; you will see, at the beginning our progress was very slow. Killybeg had an instructor, but has not one now. I may say that the instructor is very much in demand for private advice; many a farmer will ask you for private advice then he won't ask it in public at a meeting, and I have had the courtesy, as this inquiry was coming off, to have the letter-books with which we supply these instructors examined and I find they deal with no less than 25,000 private inquiries from farmers about their business.

1479. (Chairman).—Would these be 25,000 different persons?—It might not be. He is going to buy some manure, and has heard the lecturer at work; his suspicions are sufficiently aroused, and he writes to the itinerant instructor for information; in many cases information is applied for that the itinerant instructor cannot supply, and they apply directly to the Department.

1480. (Mr. Miles).—Really he is committed much more often?—Yes.

1481. (Mr. Gifford).—That is over an average of 100?—Yes. When a farmer in Ireland sits down to write a letter it means that he is interested; he means business when he writes a letter.

1482. (Chairman).—That is in one year?—That is the last twelve months. The lack of qualified teachers has been the only bar to the rapid progress of this class of work. I have shown that the Department had no time in setting to work to train these men, and I have shown you also that every man, as he comes out, is in demand, for example, next year, at June, there will be a fresh batch of ten men, who will have gone through the three years' course at the Royal College of Science, and presuming that they are all employed, there will be ten more men available, and for all of them, of course, there is immediate employment.

1483. What salaries do they get?—They commence at £200 a year. It is only fair, however, to say of that office, that we give him no maintenance allowance, but we give him the expense of locomotion. He gets a bicycle very often. He has to travel round, and often put up at hotels, though they do as little of that as possible, but it is hardly fair to take that £200 as net salary, and the Department have often been accused of having given them that. In other branches of service men are getting 25s. and 35s. a night.

1484. (Mr. Miles).—If it were a pensionable office he would not be pensioned on the full £200?—He would not. Considering the status of the Royal College of Science the salary is not excessive for a man of his qualifications; the instruction is much of the same standard as that given in the Royal College in London. Of course for agriculture you have to pay higher salaries owing to the great demand for persons who have a technical knowledge of that subject, particularly if they combine it with practical knowledge.

1485. They begin at £200; how far does it rise?—I think there are three men at £250—that is the highest they have gone yet.

1486. There is no fixed scale?—No, of course all that is for the future. In our schemes we say £200, except in special cases. It is out of the question, when we have got a large number of men trained, that they will all continue to get the same. The county committee will be given greater authority over them, and will have to decide whether they will pay £300 for a first class man.

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1487. (Mr. Micks).—Was it the County Committee that fixed the salary at £250?—Always. In a good many cases, where they have a good man, they are asking us to increase his salary, and in some cases there has been a difference of opinion with the Department because they have not increased his salary; the Department don't think it is wise just at present to increase his salary.

1490. (Chairman).—The counties contribute nothing towards his salary?—No. You may wonder why that is so; this man is, to some extent, our eyes and ears in the country; we don't interfere with him in any way, but if you want to know the state of the crops, the state of live stock, the state of the class of manures and seeds coming into the country we reserve the right to correspond with him and get that information; then we also move him to another county in summer to judge these prices.

1488. (Mr. Micks).—Does he go back to his other county?—He goes back again.

1490. Can you move him from one county to another?—Not without the County Committee's authority.

1491. If it became undesirable to have a man in a particular county?—Yes, we have done it.

1492. (Mr. O'Connell).—That would be with the concurrence of the Committee?—With the concurrence of the Committee.

1493. (Chairman).—Has this system worked smoothly so far?—Admirably; if the Committee say, "This is a good man," as they have done in two cases, we say "Certainly."

1494. It is rather a delicate relation?—No, if there was any delicacy about it we would hand him over to the County Committee altogether. I and the Chief Inspector of the Department are in constant touch with the members of the County Committee; it is not like an English or Scotch county, where the official individual never sees the local committee, but our door is open to them; they come into my room as if it were their own room, and we discuss these things; it is totally different from the state of things that exist there, distributing grants for agricultural purposes under the Board of Agriculture in England, where they may never know the persons who are administering the scheme. Our instructor also acts in the administration and in every detail. I say ten men will come out next year, and all these will be available if the County Committee are desirous of appointing them. With commendable patience many Committees have consented to wait until they could secure the services of a trained Irishman, but others have advertised in the press of Great Britain and Ireland. In Great Britain, however, the scarcity is nearly as great as in this country, owing to the somewhat stroller schemes in vogue there, and also to the great demand which now exists for trained agricultural instructors in India, South Africa, Egypt, Australia, and New Zealand. So that many of our men here, if we did not pay them pretty well and give them good prospects, would undoubtedly go there. Closely associated with the work of the itinerant instructor is that of a scheme for awarding prizes given by County Committees to cottagers and owners of small farms for cleanliness and tidiness in their premises, for the cultivation of their gardens, and the general management of their farms in accordance with the recommendations of the agricultural or other instructors. (Appendix IV.) The figures for this scheme for the present year are, of course, not yet available, but last year there were 3,145 competitors for these prizes. This work was commenced in 1903 by two committees, and last year twenty-seven made provision for it, and this year funds have been set aside in thirty-one counties; £4,000 has been set aside by County Committees for this purpose, of which it is estimated £4,200 will be actually spent. The details of these prizes are drawn up by each County Committee for itself in consultation with the Department's officers, except in the case of Cork, where the local authority has delegated the work to another body since 1905. In the current year the total sum offered in prizes under this scheme amounts to £5,558. Except in Cork the Department inspect the farms and supply the local authority with a report and a list of persons who are recommended for prizes. For this purpose the Department utilizes part of the time during the summer months of each of the agricultural instructors, but of course no instructor is allowed to adjudicate in the county to which he is attached. The Department therefore, it will be seen, pay the whole cost of the judging.

Closely allied to the work of the itinerant instructor is that undertaken by the County Committee in promoting out of the joint fund ploughing matches and competitions in the performance of various agricultural operations.

On resuming after luncheon.

1495. (Chairman).—What is your next subject?—I was dealing with the joint action between the Department and the County Committee. I dealt with itinerant instruction in agriculture and with the question of farm prices. The next scheme I want to touch on as briefly as possible is that of the poultry-keeping industry. As the Committee will understand, a very considerable part of the income of farmers, particularly of small farmers, cottagers and labourers is derived from the sale of eggs and fowl. Poultry keeping is an industry which is capable of great development in a country like Ireland, where the holdings are small. During the first years of the Department's work repeated demands were made for investigation into the cause of a heavy mortality among poultry. As soon as the presence of other work permitted, the condition of the industry was carefully studied, and it was found that much of the mortality was due to the fact that the fowl were often improperly housed and fed, and that the effects of in-breeding and want of fresh blood were the main causes of the inferiority of the birds themselves, as well as the abnormal death-rate.

1496. (Mr. Micks).—What was the disease?—A form of cholera.

1497. Enteritis?—Yes, and of course there is a great deal of tuberculosis amongst birds in Ireland; they have got so weakly and indured that they seem unable to resist disease, and they are badly housed.

1498. Have you seen the report by Tegetmeier on the subject?—I am not sure that I have.

1499. Fowl cholera or enteritis?—Yes, in Ireland. At the outset it was decided to give a number of pioneer lectures on the subject in order mainly to illustrate the kind of instruction that has been given in other countries, and to recommend all local authorities to take the matter up. The result was that four counties appointed instructors in poultry-keeping, and each year there has been a gradual increase in the number of Committees taking up this work. During the current year there are thirty counties at work on this scheme. The duty of the instructor in poultry-keeping, who is usually a lady—after having been found impossible to get young men in Ireland to give attention to this industry—comprises the following:—To deliver courses of lectures on poultry-keeping, including the selection of breeds, the hatching and rearing of chickens, the feeding and housing of poultry, and the marketing of the produce; to give demonstrations and lessons on the treatment of common diseases, such as gapes, &c., on the cramping of fowls and on the plucking, trimming, and preparation of poultry for market, and on the grading and packing of eggs; to visit poultry runs, and give such practical advice as may be desired by poultry-keepers, to inspect the egg distribution and turkey stations referred to in clauses 32 and 33, to report to the Department and to the County Committee regarding the progress of his or her work either weekly or otherwise as may be required, and generally to give his or her whole time towards promoting improvement in poultry-keeping in the county.

During the year 1904-5 2,568 meetings were held, the average attendance thereat being sixty. With a view to securing an improvement in the class of birds the scheme provides that each Committee may give out of the joint fund a premium of £5 to selected persons, who distribute during the season seventy settings of eggs of an approved pure breed of fowl from a farm where no other fowl are kept. These fowl and a horse were supplied at less than cost price. Similar regulations exist with regard to turkeys and ducks. Even geese have not escaped the notice of the Department and the Committee. During the current year there are no fewer than 866 farms distributing set tags of eggs in the manner described (hen and duck eggs, 184; hen eggs only, 322). (Appendix V.)

1500. (Mr. Dryden).—You call these egg stations?—Yes.

1501. (Chairman).—Are these farms for the distribution of setting eggs?—Yes.

1502. (Mr. Dryden).—I am afraid there is a distinction between these egg stations and poultry farms; I saw a farm the other day which was a real poultry farm?—Yes, I had almost over-

indeed that fact; I shall refer to that immediately. Last year close on 50,000 dozen of eggs were so distributed. The object, of course, of this is to get some fresh blood in, and we believe and know now that the effect of this is to largely reduce the death-rate as well as to improve the fowl themselves. Turkey stations have also been established in thirty counties, and the number of premiums offered to male birds this year is 425. I need not weary the Committee with the details of how this work is carried out by the County Committees. It being sufficient to refer there to the scheme itself, which will show the amount of attention that has been given to this important subject. One county adopted a quite different scheme; instead of having these stations, there are a number distributed over the county; they went in for a farm of their own, where they bred birds and distributed eggs from one centre; that is in the County Antrim; that is what I think Mr. Dryden visited the other day; that is the only one of its kind in Ireland; and we are quite convinced that the other is much better, for poultry-keeping will only pay as an adjunct to a farm. Disease will break out if you try to crowd poultry on land, and we believe the other system of distributing it among the people, let everybody do something, is far better. You must not keep them in too large quantities in one place.

1503. I think the farm I saw will have to be moved?—I think so.

1504. (Chairman).—What is the scale of that farm?—Seventeen acres covered with birds.

1505. Without any opportunity of moving them on to fresh grounds?—Unless you get new land.

1506. (Mr. Micks).—They pen them in different parts of the field and shift the pens about?—Yes, they have an enormous number, about 700 birds; of course they will have to shift or they will die, but that is not a good system; it is the only county that has adopted it, and the Department did not wish to interfere with their recommendations, but all the others have adopted a different programme.

1507. (Mr. Brown).—Under the other system the eggs are distributed over a much larger area?—Yes, and people can go to the station for the eggs.

1508. (Mr. Micks).—Have the numbers of turkeys increased much in the country?—I should imagine so, but I have nothing to show it.

1509. Mr. Adams might have it?—He might, but our object is not to increase the number; it is to get a better price for them.

1510. You improve the breed by giving out the eggs?—Yes.

1511. Have you cocks at the various stations?—Yes, turkey cocks. The eggs are sold at one shilling a dozen.

1512. And you present the cocks?—We give them at a reduced price. With such an enormous number, 50,000 dozen being sold and hatched, you can get a fresh strain of blood almost anywhere. This diagram (produced) shows the progress we have been making in the poultry industry; that represents the number of egg stations.

1513. It does not represent the results in the way of trade, but your operations?—It represents our operations, it shows the number of egg-distributing stations, and as they began to gain in popularity they increased; the number of settings despatched are in red at the bottom. It is not easy, of course, collecting at this stage definite evidence of improvement; the very fact that these people want them is the best evidence that they are useful to them. In the case of turkeys for the London market we have very definite information.

1514. What evidence?—The evidence of the large dealers who buy.

1515. Where are those turkeys chiefly?—Kilbenny?—All over; every county has some, Portadown and Armagh, that is the district wherein turkeys are making the best efforts, and for fowl also the same districts, but Wicklow is making rapid progress.

1516. Wicklow always was very good?—All that Wicklow wanted was to fatten them themselves without sending them to England to be fattened.

1517. You have nothing about Kilkenny specially?—Yes, in both poultry and turkeys they have done rather well, and have started a society for fattening them at Ballyragget. Not the least of our difficulties in this has been the providing of persons who were qualified as instructors; in other countries young men

are attracted to this industry, but in Ireland for some reason or other they do not consider it to be work for them.

1518. *Infra dig.* rather?—Yes, there is a certain pride in Ireland that you do not find in other countries.

1519. They think it is feminine?—Yes, it is a great pity, for there is a great opportunity for poultry development.

1520. There is another reason, is there not, that in a great many counties the poultry sales are a perquisite of the farmer's wife and the husband gets none of the profits?—Yes.

1521. (Chairman).—Is the male sex taking it up?—Yes, in some places; I don't think we have a single native Irishman an instructor; in Antrim they got an Englishman.

1522. (Mr. Dryden).—It is almost impossible for a woman on a farm to carry on the poultry raising as it is taught there, for instance, the moving about of the pens?—In Cullybacky, yes, but we don't do that in other places.

1523. That probably is the best way of raising the best poultry, and that means the aid of the man of the household?—Yes.

1524. (Mr. Dryden).—There is then some positive advantage that a man would have in carrying on this work that a woman cannot have; it is not in its nature an industry that a woman can carry on as fully as a man?—Women can look after the birds, but they cannot the fattening and the moving about. The difficulty I was referring to was the difficulty of getting teachers. In the first year or two the Department sent a few Irishwomen to be trained in England, but since the re-organization of the Munster Institute as a training school County Committees got their teachers from there. But, as the Committee will readily understand, it is not sufficient to give instruction in the most profitable methods in the feeding and management of poultry, or in the improvement of the breed. It is also necessary to do something to secure an improvement in the marketing arrangements. Until some improvement had been effected through the agency of the County Committees, and until the Department were in a position to guarantee the quality of Irish eggs and fowl they were not in a position to take up the question of marketing. The direction of the improvement of the industry has now been well organized, and the Department have recently turned their attention to the question of markets. A great deal has undoubtedly been done by the instructors, as well as by co-operative societies in effecting an improvement in the methods by which eggs are placed upon the market. Much also has been done to improve the class of bird intended for the table, but a great deal still remains to be done to place this commodity on the market in a manner which will secure the greatest return to the person who rears the fowl. Enormous quantities of birds are shipped alive to Great Britain from Ireland, unfattened and unfit for the table. Many of these are fattened in establishments in Great Britain. They are sold as Surrey chickens, I am quite sure, in the London markets, and thus the main profits are lost to the Irish cottager. The Department have, however, induced a number of private individuals as well as one or two co-operative societies to take up the question of fattening birds in this country, and to send them to the English markets ready for the kitchen. As in every other branch of our work, a difficulty has been experienced in procuring properly-trained workers.

1525. (Mr. Micks).—Chairman?—Quite so, and to meet this the Department have established a school in which the fattening and fattening of fowl for market are properly taught. This school is in County Wicklow, at Avondale, in connection with the forestry station. At this school, where our school is in full working order, we have from one to two thousand birds being constantly fattened and sent to the London market. These birds are the produce mostly of eggs which we send out from the station itself. We have rooms among the trees for this work, and we utilize that for distributing the eggs. In this case we have gone in largely for the Surrey fowl, the fowl that has such a reputation in the London market. The produce then comes into our station, and we fatten them and send them to London.

1526. How long has that been in operation?—This is the second year.

May 21, 1904.

President J. R. Campbell.

May 22, 1906.

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1527. Have you the profit and loss account on the first?—We have not; we can let you have an account of the whole thing; we can give you the figures; our principal capital has been spent in paying the wages of apprentices. We have to pay them fairly liberally, 15s. a week to pluck and clean, and so on, and some of these men have killed more birds than they have fattened, but these are difficulties we must get over; we have trained a few men and have recently advertised for a fresh batch of young fellows to take up this work.

1528. Is the financial liability altogether on the Department?—Yes. We can show the prices we have actually got for birds; I am not prepared to show a trading profit and loss account, because the education and the trade is mixed up together, but we can show you what it is possible to do.

1529. Did you buy all your stock?—Yes.

1530. Then you show what you bought your stock for and sold them for?—We can do that.

1531. Do you think there was any loss?—The Department itself has lost considerably.

1532. But I mean on the trading—what would you give for your "store fowl"?—I will get some figures for you; I should like to give them, because it will show you what we are doing; the enormous loss to Ireland in sending these unfattened birds to England.

1533. What I wanted to get at was whether your trading would show, because I was afraid you paid more for your "store" birds than the net sale price would amount to after deducting the carriage and transit expenses?—Oh, no, there is no doubt about that, that we have made a substantial profit.

1534. I mean net profit after deducting railway freight and commission?—The bird might cost 1s. 6d. or 2s., and you might sell it for 3s. 6d. or 4s., or more than that.

1535. I suppose you have often had a loss—it has not arrived in marketable condition?—Oh, yes, if we don't take their bad birds—

1536. Not only that, but they arrive in unmarketable condition?—We got over an experienced Surrey fatterer, Mr. Russell, who had been with the Computed Districts Board; he has been in charge of the fattening station; I think he sends his stuff to the market in pretty good condition.

1537. To the Middlesex chiefly?—No, to London; he happened to have a good connection with the London markets, and I think he kept his own connection. Where a society or an individual puts up sufficient capital and building to warrant the hope that a successful poultry-fattening industry might be started in the district, the Department supply, so far as they can, a qualified manager free of charge for twelve months. It has not been considered desirable to subsidise industries of this kind in any other way than the giving of technical advice.

1538. How many cases have you had?—We have one in Nenagh, one in Ballyragget, and one in Tipperary, and we are just starting another at Taggart, County Wexford; there will be no difficulty in inducing people to start these.

1539. Are they co-operative?—Only one, Ballyragget.

1540. (Chairman).—For what period do you supply the manager?—Twelve months free discharge.

1541. (Mr. Micks).—I suppose you would give him longer if necessary?—Yes, that is our promise; we are usually a little better than our promise; there would be no difficulty in getting any number of people to start this industry, but I am a little reluctant to allow them to get into it. Many a parish priest who is enthusiastic will get it up, never realising the difficulty in his way of people sending in bad birds, and then if they have got to take them, sending these over to London, and they are absolutely uneatable.

1542. Would not the Taggart and Portadown people be in a position to get better prices than the Ballyragget or Avondale?—There was an industry of this kind established about the time the Department was started. It is in the County Kerry, and we have been helping it, and if you have been breeding at the Shubbourne you would probably get a Kerry fowl.

1543. That was started by the Chairman of the Kerry County Council, Mr. Mortuary?—Yes, he is carrying on a very good trade. That is a case where you are a long way from the market, and if you can do it in Kerry it ought to be done very well at Bally-

ragget and Wexford. Private capital has been attracted to the business now; an Englishman has come over to Wexford and put up the capital, and is trying to start a trade.

1544. You have none in the neighbourhood of Waterford?—No, but we hope when the new railway is opened we will be able not only to encourage this industry but others in the district. To assist persons or societies in the marketing of their agricultural produce, particularly in the marketing of poultry, the Department have had an officer for a considerable time past in Great Britain collecting information with regard to the firms who deal with the various commodities, the kind of packages required, the class of goods which suit each market, &c. A great amount of information of this kind has been amassed in the office, of which good use will be made as opportunity offers, and as the work develops. We have not made as good use of it perhaps as I should like, but it is a very dangerous thing to begin and recommend firms in England to a new society in Ireland. You must find that one of the parties might not quite fulfil their obligations, and accordingly we are doing that work with very great caution.

1545. Do they go to the salesman or the purchaser?—Go to the individual merchant town by town; we have an immense amount of reports on that which we have not yet supplied to the fatterers, but we shall do so as time goes on, and as we feel confident of the work on this side, and of the merchants we recommend on the other. I pass now to home dairying. The income to Ireland from the sale of butter in Great Britain is very considerable, amounting to some millions sterling per annum, a sum which could be substantially increased by improvement in the price of butter even if the quantity exported remained permanent. Having given special attention to dairying, both in the United Kingdom and abroad, it is my belief that, owing to her natural conditions, no other country in the world could compete with Ireland in butter-making if the actual conditions under which the butter is manufactured were improved, as they can be by education. A great change has been effected in butter-making in Ireland in recent years by the establishment of creameries, of which there are many hundreds now in existence in which the farmer's milk is separated, and the cream churned into butter for exportation.

1546. In 1891 it was estimated that the value of the butter production of Ireland was £4,084,000? (Mr. O'Connell).—Where estimate is that?—

(Mr. Micks).—An officer who is now under Professor Campbell, Mr. Porter.

(Mr. Porter).—Of course it is only an estimate.

1547. (Mr. Micks).—But the estimate is allowing 100 lbs. of butter for each cow, which is a low estimate, and taking the milk cows from the actual census?—That is not exported butter.

1548. No, it is the total value?—In Ireland we only look to how much money comes in from Great Britain. I don't think there is quite as much as that.

(Mr. Micks).—I thought it would be more now.

1549. (Chairman).—There are no statistics available?—We are now trying to collect them.

1550. (Mr. Micks).—It had to be a rough estimate and the price very low, 7s. a pound?—Oh, the price is very much better now. I am now going to touch on what we have done for creamery management, because that is a thing done entirely from the central office, not delegated to County Committees, but there is a great deal still of home-dairying that has been delegated to the County Committees. There are very few districts where home butter-making is not practised, and where the butter is either consumed by the family, or sold for consumption in the locality or for exportation. The improvement, therefore, of home dairying is a subject which County Committees can deal with effectually, and accordingly this work has been delegated to those bodies. The form of instruction provided is that of classes in practical butter-making extending for a period of two to four weeks. Each County Committee appoints an instructor, supplying her with an equipment for the daily instruction of twelve pupils. The cost, as in other schemes carried on by the Committees, is paid out of the joint fund. These teachers have been trained by the Department at the Minister Institute, Cork, to which I have already referred.

1551. The creameries have such full possession of Limerick and Tipperary that you don't get in

there?—That is so; it is left entirely to the county committee to decide whether it is a form of instruction for them to take up or not; of course there is another reason about Limerick; we don't consider Limerick a progressive county.

1532. Now, why?—Because the land is far too rich and too good; there is some magnificent land down there, and it appears to have bred a class of people that don't go in for home dairying, or for much home industry of any kind. The opening and shutting of gates and the carrying of milk to the creamery is the main industry of the county.

1533. You are aware that there is a very large population there of persons who are not land-holders—agricultural labourers?—Quite so; and it is very hard to know why they should be there when there is no labour for them; these cottagers ought to be where the tillage is.

1534. Are your cottage industry schemes or poultry schemes designed for people who have these one-acre plots?—Very much.

1535. Are the agricultural labourers taking advantage of your schemes in places like Limerick, Tipperary and North Cork?—Yes, in Cork particularly; they are doing very well in Cork. This diagram will show the progress already made in the butter-making instructions. (Appendix VI.)

1536. That does not show results?—None of these show results, but simply the operations undertaken; there are twenty-four of the counties engaged in this work; the reason I produce these diagrams is to show—it is the dominant note of all the work—that we have not yet arrived at the maximum of our work. It is being understood, and the object of showing the diagrams is to show that it is going up, but has not reached its maximum.

1537. (Mr. O'Connell).—How far in the dairy business are women employed in milking on the farms?—Very largely.

1538. Is that continuing?—In Ireland, I think it is.

1539. (Mr. Micks). The main dairying portions of the country would be Limerick, Tipperary, and North Cork?—And in Ulster too.

1540. Those districts get hundreds of girls up every year from Kerry to act as dairymaids?—Yes.

(Mr. Micks).—They come up on St. Patrick's Day and go back on Christmas Eve.

1541. (Mr. Brown).—In the Midland counties, whatever the reason of it is, the milking is now mainly done by men; I don't know whether that came under your observation?—No; it did not; I had no particular data before me; I was rather thinking of what I saw myself.

1542. (Mr. O'Connell).—Is it part of the business of the instructors in dairy work to see that the people understand milking properly?—No; you cannot do that; the class is held in a village in a hall; it is really intended for farmers' daughters who are making butter at home, and they come there and spend from two to four weeks in daily making the butter—making it themselves.

1543. (Mr. Brown).—Has the question of instruction in milking ever been considered?—No; I don't think so.

1544. It is a very important question?—It is, of course, we teach it to our girls at the Munster Institute; they must all milk and feed cows.

1545. (Mr. O'Connell).—Then do I understand that most of the instruction given by the dairy instructors is given not at farmhouses?—Not at farmhouses.

1546. Nothing like the practice in many English counties where an instructor goes for a fortnight to a farm, collecting six or eight girls from neighboring farms?—You see in Ireland the houses are not big enough; if we had some of those big English farmhouses we would have our classes there. I did not read the duties of the instructor, but it is part of her duty to visit home dairies. In Wexford they do a good deal of it, but the main value of this dairy teaching is the practical instruction given to the twelve girls who attend there and take part in the making of butter daily for a certain time.

1547. (Mr. Brown).—Of course, as regards results, the first result you would expect would be an improvement in the quality of the butter made?—Yes. That is a difficult thing to give in figures, because there is no record of the quality over the country except people's memories of what they might have got in some cases.

1548. (Mr. Dryden).—An increased quality would naturally mean an increased price, if you were selling it?—There is always a difficulty about a home dairy; as a creamery increase in quality means an immediate increase in price, but in the case of small home dairies there has always been a difficulty in getting an improvement in price for an improvement in quality.

1549. (Mr. Micks).—They have very old customers, and they continue the old prices?—That is so, and that is the difficulty in all countries where you have taken up the dairy instruction; although you have improved the quality of the butter the market takes it to the shopkeeper and exchanges it for goods, and it is always the same price.

(Mr. Dryden).—I think there will be a change in the end; when once the customer gets the taste of the better butter he never goes back to the old class.

1550. (Mr. Micks).—Does the Department ever go into that question of butter?—No.

1551. (Mr. O'Connell).—In the matters that we have now been dealing with, poultry-keeping and butter-making, there is, in these days, always the possibility of the producer coming by post directly in contact with the consumer without any middleman; where that happens you do get a benefit for the producer following on a better quality; you get an increased demand or the producer may be able to raise the price without frightening off his customer. Is there any information available of a general kind as to how far that is growing, and whether it is being encouraged in any way?—I know that it exists, but I am unable to say whether it is increasing; I have got no statistics; we ourselves carry it on from our Cork farms; I think we send butter to London by parcel post, and I know several other people who do it, but I am not able to say distinctly that it is increasing.

1552. (Mr. Micks).—Is there any export of cream?—There is an export of cream, but it is fresh cream; you will always get a lot of it at Limerick Junction going away.

1553. Does it go to England?—It goes to England, and I think there is a lot of it sold in little jars afterwards, perhaps sold as Devonshire cream.

1554. (Mr. O'Connell).—I happen to know several people who do get their poultry and eggs entirely from Ireland by parcel post?—I know several people who do that regularly. Was there not a recent change in the rates of parcel post; that will tend, I think, to cause a further improvement.

1555. On that you mentioned that you have an agent in Great Britain who sees to the question of packages; is it part of the business of instructors to indicate the methods of transport and packages, and that sort of things that would suit?—It is, and I am bound to say, that, with an improved parcel post, there is room for the Department to do more work in that direction, and we shall do so. I have said with regard to the creameries that we do a great deal through the central offices, and I have only been dealing with what the local authorities are doing. In the same way, with horticulture, the Department do a great deal themselves directly, but it is one of their county schemes that it would be instructors, it may be pointed out, give instruction in the subject under the local authorities, each county committee may appoint one qualified instructor under the scheme.

"It will be the duty of the instructor to give demonstrations and to deliver lectures on horticultural subjects, such as soils, manures, vegetable, fruit and flower cultivation, plant diseases, and insect pests; to visit gardens and orchards, and give practical demonstrations on spraying, planting, pruning and grafting of fruit trees; to conduct such experiments and other demonstrations in the spring and summer as may be approved by the Department; to select suitable land for this purpose; to supervise the sowing of the seeds and manure, and the keeping of the plots from the weeds; to weigh the produce, tabulate the figures, and prepare a report on the results; to give instruction in the principles and practice of modern bee-keeping; to deal with diseases of bees; to reply to letters from those seeking his advice on horticultural and bee-keeping subjects; to report to the Department and to the County Committee on the progress of his work either weekly or otherwise, as may be required; and generally to give his whole time to the work and to do all in his power to further the interests of horticulture and bee-keeping in the county."

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At present twenty-one counties have an instructor at work, while five others have allomote funds, but have failed to secure a properly qualified man.

1576. (Mr. Evans).—The horticultural instructor does both bee-keeping and horticulture?—Yes. That diagram shows you the number of counties at work, and shows it is gradually growing (Appendix VII.); a large number of counties would take up this work if they could get a qualified instructor; we have lost training at the Albert College for horticulture at present.

1577. Have the cases in which horticulture alone is being taught without bee-keeping arisen from the fact that the instructor is not qualified for bee-keeping?—That is so, but sometimes a county committee does not see fit to expend money on it.

1578. The man gets more if he is qualified both ways?—He does not.

1579. Why would it entail more expenditure; take King's County; if they had bee-keeping as well as horticulture?—Of course there is the food brood compensation question has to be paid in those cases, and it often means that a man has to make several visits to attend to bees alone.

1580. (Chadman).—Is the instructor in this case paid by the Department?—By the County Committee; all this is joint action; the agricultural instructor is the only one paid by the Department for one or two reasons I mentioned. These are appointed and paid and dispersed offhand by the county committees; they are wholly at their service.

1581. (Mr. Micks).—Can they disburse?—They can; and they can disburse the agricultural instructor as well, though we pay him. Under this scheme the county committees are authorized to purchase trees in bulk at wholesale prices and re-sell them to farmers, cottagers, and others at cost price, plus carriage. We do not give the trees free; they pay the wholesale price and carriage; we contract with a large nurseryman, who will give them at a great reduction compared with what a farmer would pay himself.

1582. (Mr. O'Dwyer).—The cost of the trees comes out of the joint fund?—Yes, but being recouped by the farmer, the joint fund of course bears part of the expense, but not much. Last year about 600 meetings were held, at which lectures were delivered, followed by discussions, the average attendance thereat being sixty. The instructors gave technical advice and assistance in over 12,000 gardens, and about a quarter of a million fruit and other trees were distributed. This work is proceeding quite as rapidly as is desirable, as time is required for nurserymen to prepare a stock of trees for sale, and any undue haste in putting the scheme in operation is only likely to result in the sale of inferior and diseased trees.

1583. (Mr. Micks).—Are you able to get many young trees in Ireland?—The nurserymen are extending their operations largely.

1584. Have you been able to get many fruit trees up to this?—We have not been able to get as many good ones as we think we want; there have been a considerable number of inferior trees and diseased trees, and, worse than all, there has been introduced into Ireland a great quantity of diseased young trees; they are sent to a place like Portland and auctioned off at a very small price; the auctioneer won't disclose the name of the consignor, but we have traced them from England, where they are unsalable, and that has given us a great deal of trouble, for if we allow these to get in they will do more harm than good.

1585. I am speaking of the trees distributed by the Department?—That is another scheme altogether.

1586. Why do the County Council get their trees?—They buy them from nurserymen themselves; they advertise and get tenders, then the Department reserves the right to inspect the trees in the nursery before the county committees can buy them.

1587. Can you get many of those trees in Ireland?—Now they are beginning; there has been a considerable number in the North, in the Armagh district. But, for example, at Arundale there has been a very great extension in the nursery there, and the nurserymen there have also started one down at Wexford. In conversation with nurserymen they now tell us there is a great demand for their stock.

1588. (Mr. O'Dwyer).—Many of the purchases have been hitherto from English nurseries?—The county

committees have not bought from English nurseries; they confine themselves to Irish nurseries naturally, and that is why I say it is undesirable to press the just at present. It takes about three years to advance the stock, but not only that, but a nurseryman is reluctant to lay out a big area in apple trees until he is certain to have a sale for them.

1589. (Mr. Micks).—Do you recommend the kind?—Yes, and not only that, but last year we took one to get specimens of the kind of trees we want, and the shape, and we presented each nurseryman with a sample, and some of the nurserymen have said certainly, and set about doing what we want; I could show you a great number of trees we put down at Arundale from a nurseryman from our specimens.

1590. There is another scheme where you give trees from the Department?—I will deal with that afterwards; that is central work. I don't say we have managed to keep out diseased trees, but we have put up about 1,800 placards warning people about them, and we have issued literature and illustrated leaflets showing the nature of the disease, and inviting them to send up specimens if they have any doubt about it. The disease we dread most of all is the black currant mite, which is not in Ireland to a great extent, but is very much in England. And now, with regard to bee-keeping; the relative greater cost of providing instruction in bee-keeping is a drawback to the work of county committees in encouraging this industry. Itinerant instruction in Ireland is costly, not only owing to the higher relative salary and the lack of teachers but to the fact that travelling and maintenance expenses are heavy, the accommodation for officers being often inferior and necessitating long carriages drives. County committees have therefore been somewhat reluctant to encourage an instructor whose sole duty is to attend to the bee-keeping industry. Up to this there has been a separate scheme for bee-keeping under which each county committee might appoint an instructor whose duty is to give instruction in modern bee-keeping mainly by means of demonstrations at centres at which application is made by the county committee for his services to deal with diseases of bees; to reply by letter to those seeking his advice and to report generally as in the case of other instructors. With regard, however, to food brood, I want to read what the county authority may do.

6. "The instructor shall report to the county committee on all cases of foul brood which may come under his notice. He may, subject to the consent of the owner of the bees being previously obtained by him, destroy infected stocks by burning them, and shall take all due precautions against the spread of the disease. He must advise in writing the county committee of each case in which stocks are so destroyed, and the county committee may, if they think fit, pay to the owners of such stocks a sum not exceeding 5s. for each stock destroyed, provided that the amount set aside in the county scheme for compensation under this clause shall not be exceeded."

Then as to the further details of this scheme I need go no further unless the Committee have any questions to ask.

1591. Marketing of honey?—The Department is nothing with regard to the marketing of honey.

1592. Do you know anything about the result of bee-keeping as far as money coming in for honey?—The enthusiasts would lead us to believe that it is immense. I myself know of cases where farmers and small cottagers can make a good deal by their honey in a good year; there are some parts of Donegal and Kerry where the honey is excellent, heather honey, and not to be compared to the common honey at all, and undoubtedly they make a good deal of it, and it ought to be encouraged, and we keep a special instructor of our own for these districts. Mr. Turlough O'Brien, and there has been an attempt made under the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society to form bee-keeping societies for the co-operative sale of their honey, but the Department themselves have not attempted to do anything in the shape of collecting honey and selling it again.

1593. Shall we have evidence from that society?—Not unless you ask it; it is not coming from the Department. Then, in addition to that work, the Department have been accustomed to send round a demonstrator with a bee tent to all the shows to show people how to manipulate bees. One other scheme is

under the County Committee, namely, flax-growing. There again we do a great deal of central work. It is a crop that is grown mainly in the North of Ireland. County Committees have not appointed itinerant instructors, because it is not sufficiently widely grown. The Department themselves have sent round pioneer lectures and instructions to do all that has been considered as far necessary.

1594. Do the experts of flax think there is a good knowledge as far as concerns the growing and preparation of flax?—There is a good knowledge, but perhaps the farmers think they have a better knowledge than they have; we have sent them to the Continent in batches every year, to Belgium and Holland.

1595. Are the highest prices got there?—The highest price is got at Courtrai, but I think the finest quality of flax is grown in Ireland for very fine work, but the farmers complain it is rough and coarsely marketed. It is only necessary to compare beautiful flax of flax at Courtrai with the rough and tumbled Irish flax. The spinners naturally want the material that goes into their carding machines nicely, and with which there is very little waste. But there has been a great improvement in the flax-growing industry, mainly in the introduction of good seed, all the seed is imported; it is unlike oats, barley, and wheat; you don't grow the seed in Ireland.

1596. The old method was to grow the seed in Ireland and give a bounty for it?—We have tried the growing of flax seed with fairly good results, but it is found to injure the fibre to some extent, and labour is the difficulty.

1597. Courtrai would not be a seed-sowing district?—Some of it is; I myself have seen them breaking the seed out there, but I think Holland and Russia are the two great places for the seed. The Department's contribution for flax happens to be 50 per cent, one-half, not three-fifths or five-sixths, because the Department themselves are doing itinerant work directly from the office, and in that way we may make up for the extra contribution the County Committee might expect.

1598. We will get plenty of evidence at Belfast about the flax question—it will be necessary to go into it here?—Unnecessary, unless you can do so.

1599. (Mr. Brown).—Is there any extension of the flax-growing area?—There was some increase, but not a great one; it is not going down; it has been arrested, but labour is the great difficulty.

1600. (Mr. Micks).—Have any changes been brought in in the process?—We have taken a great deal of trouble to try and change it; we have had our flax mills for breaking scutches and experiments of different systems of retting, and we have sent these gentlemen across to Belgium and Holland every year to see how it is done.

1601. (Mr. Brown).—Is it instructors who have been sent?—No, farmers and scutcher-mill owners.

1602. (Mr. Micks).—Is the machinery very bad and antiquated in a great many cases?—It is.

1603. Do you give loans for new machinery?—Not that machinery; that is machinery that cannot be insured, and we cannot give loans for it. We have set up a mill of our own.

1604. Could you not lend on personal security?—We could, but we usually make them insure the thing and take a mortgage on the plant; we have set up a mill in the North of Ireland at a school; we brought over the Belgian system; the farmers who were sent over there said this could not be done in Ireland, and there again have said this ought to be done in Ireland. At our flax school we brought over one of these mills, and fitted it up and set up our school in conjunction with an existing flax mill, and we have carried on comparative tests for several years.

1605. What power have they in the Belgian mills?—Is it water?—This scutcher mill owner had steam power. We have brought immense quantities of flax and made comparative tests, and shown that the Belgian machinery, which is very light and delicate machinery, is superior to the Irish material, but we have also shown that a modification, something not so clumsy as the Irish, and not so light as the Belgian, is the best, and we have succeeded in effecting an improvement in the scutching. Formerly it used to be in a sieve for the scutching of the flax, and now the great bulk of them have improved their method and increased the cost to the farmer by 3d., but I think the farmers are well satisfied, for they are getting a

better price for their flax. If you wish evidence on flax you can easily have it in Belfast. Now, I have dwelt on this question of itinerant instruction at some length, and all through it has been the one story, there would have been greater developments if there had been greater experts, and I want before closing to deal with a question of some interest to the public, that is the question of the employment of native teachers. I showed you with regard to the Allied Agricultural College the provision that had been made for the training of teachers in Ireland, and how defective that had been, and we had to set about doing it ourselves. The County Committee, therefore, had either to wait until the Department trained Irishmen and Irishwomen as teachers and instructors, or they had to obtain them from Great Britain. A great deal has been written and said on the subject, and on the introduction from Great Britain of aliens and foreigners—I may say that I am an alien and a foreigner—as this is the one serious allegation which has been made against the agricultural side of the Department, and as it has been repeated again and again, and as I have never personally contradicted public statements, I now desire, for the first time, and, I hope, the last time, to state the actual facts of the case. In the first place, you will observe that the appointment of the instructor came with the County Committee, not with the Department, the Committee advertise the vacancy, receive the applications; all the Department does in the matter is to examine the candidates, and submit to the County Committee a list of those who are qualified from which the Committee are free to make their own selection. Now, I never did it before, but I took the trouble to go into the actual figures; I have before me a list of all those candidates, and I shall give you an analysis of the list. The chief accusation, of course, has been that the Department has sought to impose aliens on the County Committee; that you will see must be impossible from the nature of the scheme, because they themselves advertise and appoint them, but the Department has been saddled with the responsibility of the action of these County Committees. Perhaps it is proper that the Department should be saddled with it and relieve the County Committee.

We have in the Department, of course, a number of men paid out of the vote each year; in the branch with which I am connected we have eight such men, including myself; four of these were imported by the Department, two of them from England, and two of them from Scotland. Coming now to the Endowment Fund, the Department pay altogether twenty-seven experts; of these twenty-seven, five were imported by the Department. I think I should say, however, that among the five we have an expert in tobacco-growing from America, an expert in fruit-preserving, which was an industry unknown here before, we have one in early potato-growing, which I shall deal with later, which was practically unknown, at least unknown in its present form. We have one in poultry-raising, the Surrey poultry fattener, and we have one in cheese-making. All these were industries which were quite unknown in Ireland.

1606. (Chairman).—Where did these experts come from?—The tobacco-grower came from Kentucky, the fruit preserver came from the South of England, the early potato-grower came from Scotland, and the poultry-raiser from Surrey.

1607. (Mr. Micks).—They don't grow early potatoes in Scotland?—Oh, they do.

1608. I thought you were too far north for that?—We are, but we have to contend with it.

1609. Under glass?—No, outside; it is a very good thing that our climate is bad; it is to our advantage, because we have to be very careful what we do there. The cheese-maker came from Scotland. That is five men who were brought over; of course they are all special industries; if we did start them we had, of course, to get a person who knew something about them.

1610. Most of the twenty-two would be men trained by yourselves?—Mostly trained by ourselves, not always, but a good many of them. Then I come to the itinerant instructors. There were the men that we were blamed for imposing on the County Committee. We have 102 of these instructors at work; of these ninety-six are Irish, and almost all trained by ourselves, and six have been imported, and every one of the six have been imported by County Committee themselves. The Department are not responsible for a single itinerant instructor.

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1611. Your sanction is necessary?—Our sanction is necessary.

1612. And you revise the preliminary list of applicants and strike out those who are not eligible?—To that extent we do.

1613. Of those six cases, how many were on the list originally?—I am going to tell you directly the result of our examination. Now, at our different institutions, such as Ballyhaise, Glenties, and so on, we have got thirty-seven principal officers, I mean teachers.

1614. Do you include Glenties, and the Munster Institute?—Yes, we have thirty-seven, and of the thirty-seven, six were reported by the Department, including an agricultural chemist; in fact they are mostly teachers of the application of science to agriculture. These are facts; the first time I ever analysed them myself I thought they were worse than they are. Considering the amount I have read about it, I got it into my head they must all be foreigners.

1615. (Mr. Dryden).—When they can make you believe it, you must not wonder at others?—The next charge was that the Department acted unfairly, that they would not pass Irishmen, but would pass Englishmen, or, as a matter of fact, Scotchmen. Taking the applications for these itinerant instructorships, twenty-nine Irishmen have applied for posts in itinerant instruction in agriculture. The Department examined them, and I find they only rejected one out of the whole lot; all the twenty-eight they passed as eligible. I find that sixty persons replied to County Committee advertisements from England and Scotland, and the Department rejected forty-five of them, although all of them had college diplomas and university degrees; forty-five were rejected, mainly, I think, because while they had splendid scientific qualifications, the Department was not satisfied with their practical qualifications. These figures will show you that there is absolutely no foundation whatever for these sweeping allegations.

1616. You really believe that yourself now?—I have changed my mind. As a matter of fact the officers of the Department have again and again brought their influences to bear on the County Committees, as well as individual members to wait until Irishmen and women were trained. I have a personal interest in that, because if we don't get employment for our pupils when trained, the schools will not be a success. The truth is that these members of the County Committees who are interested in the success of the work do not care what the nationality of the instructor is as long as they get a good one.

1617. (Mr. Mickel).—After the rejection you had twenty-eight Irishmen and fifteen from abroad—how did the ultimate selection go—did they elect the whole fifteen, for instance?—Oh, no, they did not elect them at all; we only passed them, and said to the County Committee, "You may elect them if you wish."

1618. (Mr. Brown).—Six were elected out of the fifteen?—That is right.

1619. (Mr. O'Leary).—Were all these six agricultural?—Yes, they were all agricultural.

1620. So that the six are six of the fifteen passed out the sixty that applied?—That is so.

(Chairman).—The Department only gave them the fifteen to choose from.

1621. (Mr. O'Leary).—So that every Irishman that was qualified was appointed, and, with a single exception, every Irishman that applied, was found to be qualified, and was appointed?—Yes, at least everyone who came forward to the examination; of course there were some people who put in, as a telegraph clerk would, perhaps, see a post advertised, and would put in an application, and when he was asked to come up for examination he would not come.

1622. (Chairman).—You are speaking of those who went in for the examination?—Who came forward.

1623. (Mr. Brown).—Then it would appear that on the occasions on which the foreigners were appointed it was only a question as between several foreigners, as all of the twenty-eight appear to have been appointed?—Oh, yes.

1624. (Mr. Mickel).—What counties were those six appointed in?

1625. (Mr. O'Leary).—All the Irish candidates who have got qualifications from the College of Science don't require to be examined?—They have hitherto

The counties that appointed the six are—there is one in Carlow, one in Antrim, one in Armagh, one in Queen's County, one in Monaghan, and one in Kildare.

1626. (Mr. Brown).—He was already in Ireland ten years?—And, taking those 102 instructors, there are some horticultural instructors amongst them, whose names might indicate that they came from other countries, but they are in Ireland, and born in Ireland perhaps. You cannot always tell, because some young fellows are so altered if known to be foreigners, that they will conceal the fact. All we know is that they have been in Ireland for a long time; it may have been that a gardener who had come to Ireland would have a family, and the boy would grow up in Ireland and be trained as a gardener; he would conceal the fact, naturally. If he could, because he knows he would be subjected to abuse and hardship if it was discovered he was a foreigner.

1627. (Mr. O'Leary).—He cannot have been very foreign if he could successfully conceal it?—All my rats they do conceal it in my experience.

1628. (Mr. Brown).—In the case of Kildare the gentleman whom we appointed had been resident in Ireland, and held a somewhat similar appointment a long time previous under a trust in Limerick, and I think there was only one other Irish candidate out of quite a number—I don't think he passed the examination on that occasion?—The truth is the County Committee really don't care. What they want, I have perfectly well in so far as good men, and those who understand our work know we are training Irishmen very rapidly for them. There are at most of the county meetings one or two members of the committee who, desiring publicity, enlarge on this question, and, of course, this is the only part of the proceedings that is reported in the daily press, and in consequence the public are very much misled. I have now, however, given you the figures, so that you may be able to judge for yourselves, and in the course of evidence you may come across the subject again. This agitation assumed an extreme form in one county, namely, in County Donegal, where exception was taken to the appointment of any person who was not a native of the county itself, and I may say that that is the only serious friction that now exists between the Department and the local authorities; it has not quite the form of friction; as a matter of fact the County Committee has not gone forward with its work.

1629. (Mr. Mickel).—Did they strike a rule?—Yes, they have gone on with other schemes; they gave simply left out one or two schemes that they might otherwise have taken up. At first the Department did not object to the appointment of persons in their own counties provided they had the necessary qualifications. Experience, however, showed that there were great drawbacks to this system; in the first place, natives of the county are too well known to their neighbours to be effective teachers; secondly, the whole success of the scheme depends upon having an officer who is constantly moving about, and visiting farmers as well as giving lectures at the evening, in some cases where the instructor had his or her home in the county there was a tendency to remain at home all day and merely act as lecturer and do no itinerant work. The fact that the salary under this scheme covers the cost of maintenance here, of course, a strong tendency to induce an instructor who is a native of the county to be always at his or her home. Naturally there is no expense there, but by far the greatest objection to the employment of instructors in their own counties is the fact that these officers have a considerable amount of patronage to bestow. Under the agricultural scheme the officer has often to select the person on whose farm the demonstrations and experiments are to be carried out, and as there are considerable sums spent on seeds and manures, it is a consideration to a small country to get this draft out of public funds. Under the poultry scheme premiums of 25 are given to persons, usually selected by the instructor, who distribute eggs from a flock of birds who have to be approved of by the instructor, and under the horticultural scheme there are demonstration plots for which trees and seeds are supplied out of public funds. That an instructor should exercise this patronage without being subjected to undue pressure from his friends, relatives and supporters who desire these premiums, manures, seeds and prizes is more than could be expected. Accordingly the Department made it a rule that these instructors should not be natives of or resident in the counties in which

they work. Whatever may be said in speeches which are intended for the press, there are few people who do not realise the necessity for such a rule.

1632. Take the large County of Donegal—would an itinerant instructor receive his appointment for the entire county, or for a district?—At the present time it would be for the entire county, because there is such a limited number of instructors, and the funds are so limited.

1631. You would not have one man doing the whole of that county?—At present that is so.

1633. He could not possibly do it?—He must simply do as much as he can.

1635. One little division of it is larger than some of the Irish counties, Enniskillen for example?—Yes.

1634. (Mr. Brown).—A great deal is taken up by mountains?—I think Tyrone is as large nearly as Donegal. Take County Cork, which is a very large county, one-fourth of all Ireland, there they divide East and West, and, of course, we have no objection whatever to a person working in the East being appointed from the West; we have no objection to that at all.

1635. (Mr. Micks).—There are some districts in Donegal which are practically different counties as far as intercourse goes, natural boundaries interfere?—Unfortunately the valuation of Donegal is very large, and its funds are not sufficient to enable them to support adequate schemes; the time may come when we may be able to give them more funds for the purpose.

1636. (Mr. O'Connell).—I suppose, as a matter of fact, the point is that you must have a rule?—You must have a rule of some kind, as would naturally like to oblige Donegal. After all why should we for the sake of Donegal create any friction, but what would the other counties say who had complied with our rule. We would not take up a proper stand on the question at all. We must either concede the right all round or adhere to the rule.

1637. (Mr. Micks).—The reason you made that rule was because it would be undesirable to have instructors moving among people they knew?—That and the other; the fact is that they stay at home, they won't work, they sit at home; usually simply get on a car at the public expense and drive off to a place and drive home again at night, but that is an inadequate instructor, the itinerant goes round.

1638. Have they not to furnish diaries?—They have to the County Committee.

1639. (Mr. Brown).—Would there not be the further difficulty that natives of the county would very likely have friends on the County Committee, which would make it difficult to deal with them?—Many members of the County Committees have asked us not, on any consideration, to relax the rule, but if we did they had friends in the county who would be embarrassing them for appointments. In other words, members of the County Committee are thankful that this pressure is not brought to bear on them, but of course all those who know Ireland know that when a county wants to take up a stand and have a fight with a public Department it is not afraid to do so.

1640. (Mr. O'Connell).—Have any other counties taken up this attitude?—It has occurred to me that there has been a little difficulty in Limerick on the same question, but in all the others as far as I know the rule is enforced. I deal with that subject here because I had finished the question of joint action so far as education and the appointment by local authorities is concerned. I have now to go on to the question of the improvement of live stock. As the Irish farmer's income is derived mainly from live stock, the improvement of this industry was one of the chief projects which the Department were at the outset asked to take up. Various methods were suggested by which this might be done, and as there were questions of national importance to be safeguarded, the Department thought it wise to appoint two expert Committees to advise them in the matter, one for horse-breeding and the other for cattle and swine. Previously a sum of £5,000 of public money had been administered by the Royal Dublin Society for the improvement of live stock, and I strongly urged on the Committee and on

the Department to follow as closely as possible the lines of the Royal Dublin Society's schemes on the ground that they were already understood. This course was adopted, and schemes on these lines were prepared and submitted to the Agricultural Board who approved of them, and at the same time voted funds to put them in force. In the first year all the County Committees, with the exception of two, took up this work. Every year since all have done so. The volume of work done and the funds expended in this direction by each Committee have grown annually, and the Department are now faced with the problem as to how far it is desirable to allow expenditure to increase under this head. The schemes are revised each year; each County Committee is asked for its suggestions on the working of the previous year's scheme. These recommendations are carefully considered by the Advisory Committee, and the recommendations which have been made by the County Committees have nearly all been embodied. Whenever practicable the conditions have been framed so that each Committee may arrange the details of the scheme to suit the requirements of its particular county. Each year the schemes, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, are laid before the Agricultural Board, together with an estimate of the expenditure which is likely to be incurred. When approved of by the Board the schemes are submitted to the County Committees who meet, and with the help of an inspector of the Department allocate the necessary funds for the purpose and proceed to put the work in operation in the manner which I have already described. I beg to submit herewith, as evidence, copies of the schemes for 1906, and I need not weary the Committee with the details of each. It will be sufficient to briefly state the main provisions.

The objects of the Horse-breeding Scheme are to encourage the improvement of horse-breeding by inducing stallion owners to keep sound and suitable sires of a high degree of confidence, and by inducing farmers to retain their best young males for breeding purposes. The work of the scheme is divided between the Department and the County Committees. The Department annually invites applications from owners of high class stallions, to have their animals inspected for suitability and soundness. The breeders submitted have hitherto been Thoroughbreds, Clydesdales and Shires. In the first year every stallion offered was inspected and the work entailed was exceedingly heavy. Of a total of 410 animals offered in that year for inspection only 128 were considered suitable. A great deal of disappointment was undoubtedly caused by the rejection of sires for unsoundness, or for want of merit, and the Department came in for a good deal of criticism by the owners of their animals and their friends. Notwithstanding the unpopularity of the Department's action in setting up a high standard, I am convinced that in this part of the scheme lies its chief value to Irish horse breeders, and that the country now realises the advantages that have accrued from the Department's high standard. The result has not only been that a large number of good sound sires have been imported into Ireland, but a very large number of unsound or worthless animals, which would otherwise have been imported, have been excluded. For breeders realise the advantage which the inclusion of their sires on the Department's register confers, and make their purchases subject to the approval of the Department's Inspectors, who are sent to any part of the United Kingdom free of cost to the intending purchaser to examine such animals. Indeed, anyone now desirous of purchasing or importing a stallion for mating with farmers' mares almost invariably look to the Department to find a sire for them, and the demand has become so great, that in recent years the Department have found it necessary to purchase themselves, good animals, as they became available, and have kept them at their Stud Farm, County Dublin, where intending purchasers can have an opportunity of seeing them and making their own selection, instead of as formerly going to England.

The Department also give loans for the purchase of high-class sires and subsidies in the form of premiums varying from £50 to £100 to approved applicants, who are prepared to purchase suitable sires and locate them in districts where registered stallions are not already available. The loan amounts to two-thirds of the purchase price, and is repaid in five annual instalments, with 2½ per cent interest on the

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outstanding balance. The animal remains the property of the Department for five years—a wise provision, as it often prevents the sale of animals for which other countries are willing to pay much more than they cost the Department. We have had animals bought at £900 by the Department and sold at £3,000 to other countries by the farmer again. Under our system now no farmer can get one of our stallions unless he takes a loan; we won't allow him to pay for the animal; he is only allowed to pay down one-third and pay the rest in five annual instalments; so neither how wealthy he may be he must do that, because that gives us a right to claim the horse for five years; after five years the animal is not so young and there is not the same temptation to sell him, nor is there the same demand for him.

1641. (Chairman).—Whose property is the horse in the manure?—It is the property of the Department legally, but virtually he is the property of the farmer; we inspect him to see he is properly cared for and insured, of course the farmer looks on him as his property, but he dare not sell him without the Department's consent.

1642. (Mr. Brown).—You have a mortgage on him? We have a mortgage on him. The diagram (Appendix VIII.) will show the development in the registration of sires—the number has gone up year after year. You will observe a stoppage in the increase of the agricultural horses; that was owing to the action of our Advisory Committee, who pointed out that we were going to ruin the breed of Irish hunters by introducing these heavy horses, and acting on the advice of the Advisory Committee, with the approval of the Agricultural Board, we put a restriction on the introduction of these agricultural horses except in Ulster, near Dublin, where heavy cart-horses are kept. Co. Louth, a tillage country, and part of Cork. One of these agricultural horses costs about less than half of one of these thoroughbreds. They were beginning to come in too fast, and I think that is an instance where our Advisory Committee has done great good to the country in stopping the introduction of these animals. That map shows you the sires as they are distributed. Some few agricultural horses got into the Midlands at first, when there were no such restrictions.

1643. (Mr. Mick).—Did the Advisory Committee know they were coming in?—They fully intended they should come in, but they increased so much in the first two or three years that the Committee became alarmed and cut them off.

1644. (Chairman).—What is the Advisory Committee?—In the case of horses there are a number of horse-breeder, people who are recognised authorities on the subject; this was a case in which there was a national interest to safeguard.

1645. (Mr. Dwyer).—The Advisory Committee does not take the ground that so heavy horses should be used?—No; but that the Department should not subsidise heavy horses in hunter-breeding districts.

1646. (Mr. O'Brien).—They have an objection to the Department subsidising heavy horses in districts which are not breeding another class of horses?—Quite so; we let them in in Ulster, Louth, Dublin, and parts of Cork.

1647. (Mr. Brown).—You don't prohibit them anywhere, but you don't subsidise them?—Yes. One of these horses may easily earn £100 a year, and a man is anxious to get his horse on this list for mating with farmers' horses. These are simply persons who offer their horses to the Department.

1648. (Chairman).—Really the number of thoroughbreds you introduce is larger than the Clydesdales?—Yes, because you see the thoroughbred horse is the one that is usually employed for grilling hunters with the ordinary mares of the country; if they can get a good strong one, with plenty of bone, that is the horse they want.

1649. The mares that are served by these thoroughbred horses become the property of the farmers?—Yes. I mentioned at the outset that there were two objects of the scheme, one to encourage the introduction of good horses, and the other to encourage the farmers to keep mares suitable for breeding hunters. Quite so.

1650. (Mr. Brown).—And to encourage them to make these mares with a proper class of horses?—Yes. The Department has given fifty-three loans for these stallions, which practically means they have imported about fifty-three. The Department have never, themselves, imported heavy horses; a few breeders have in the North; the Department buy thoroughbreds only at present, and keep them at their stud farms, and a few stallions through Dublin. Only in some of the very poor districts in the West of Ireland do the Department themselves locate stallions, having usually succeeded in inducing a sufficient number of persons to buy animals for other districts.

In the case of the blanks on the map we try to get hold of a person who will keep a horse, and give him from £50 to £100 of the price, which we call a premium, and in that way we have managed to fill up most of the blanks. In the West of Ireland, however, we do place stallions; these were horses that were handed over to the Department by the Congested Districts Board, a transfer to which I shall refer later, and in that district we happen to have a few hackneys, but there has been a great controversy in Ireland as to whether hackneys should be used, and they are almost universally condemned, except in one or two places in the North of Ireland, and the reason we still use these animals in the West is simply this, that the Congested Districts Board had them there; we did not want to sell them for nothing, but we never sent an animal there of the hackney breed unless the people of the locality asked for it.

1651. (Mr. Mick).—If the people of Armagh want to ask for hackney breeds would you send them?—No, we have refused that; we brought that before the Council of Agriculture, and they were unanimous that we would not be doing good to horse-breeding.

1652. You would be injuring the national blood?—Quite so. With regard to the other parts of the scheme, namely, inducing farmers to keep their best mares for breeding purposes, this work is mainly in the hands of the county committee, who hold, annually in the spring exhibitions of young mares, to which the Department send a judge and V.S. to select a limited number of the youngest and best, to the extent of which the county committee issue what is called a nomination ticket. This ticket entitles the owner of the mare to select any stallion registered by the Department to mate with his mare. The ticket is given to the stallion-owner in lieu of fee at the time of service, and the stallion-owner collects the money from the county committee at the end of the season. The fees varies from £2 to £5 per ticket, as is decided by the county committee, and it is paid out of the sum allocated from the joint funds for the purposes of the Horse-Breeding Scheme. Last year £14 such exhibitions were held, and 3,503 nomination tickets were issued from their office. (Appendix VIII.)

As I have said, a great deal of discussion has taken place with reference to the subsidising of other kinds of sires, viz., hackneys and half-breeds. Through the Council of Agriculture the country has expressed its general belief that the hackney stallion should be excluded, but that the half-bred should be included. Accordingly, during the last two years, in addition to the work already described, there has been a special scheme for encouraging farmers to keep good, stout, half-bred stallions. A copy of this scheme I shall submit as evidence. (Appendix IX.) Some 30 animals of this class have been inspected, but only about a score of these had been considered to have sufficient merit to warrant their being subsidised out of public funds. Owing to the small number the Department are now considering how best they can give effect to a resolution passed by the Council of Agriculture last month, to the effect that the Department should apply portions of its funds for horse-breeding in encouraging this class of sires. The matter, as I have said, is, at present, engaging the serious consideration of the Department, and, following the procedure of previous years, the resolution is question will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on horse-breeding at their annual meeting next month, when it is hoped a scheme will be decided upon which will be laid before the Agricultural Board at their meeting in August, and if the Agricultural Board agree, motions will be voted, and the scheme, when adopted, will be put into execution.

1653. I do not understand what you did with £100?—By holding these shows farmers are induced to bring

their mare to a centre; the Department sends a veterinary surgeon and a judge, and he picks out a certain number; together they picked out 3,503 of them last year, good ones, young ones, and have them mated with these mares. Once they prove in foal they won't be bought for the army.

1554. Do you mark them?—We don't mark them. Some of the county committees asked should they mark them and we said "Certainly;" but I, myself, don't think it is desirable. After all you may brand a mare, but you cannot prevent a farmer selling it, and I think by far the best thing is to leave it.

1555. Do they get any money prize?—No money; they get their service.

1556. Have you considered that?—We did; we tried in the first year.

1557. Do you find the fillies are going off or staying in the country?—One man will tell you

they are all going, and another man will tell you they are all right; I think it is just like everything else; at times there is a heavy draft made on them.

1558. You could not keep them in the country if the War Department were buying?—You cannot do it.

1559. (Mr. O'Connell).—Was the number 3,503 an increase on the previous year?—Yes; it is shown on this diagram.

1560. That diagram would indicate that they are remaining and increasing in number?—It does not quite mean that. In Ireland you want a few years before farmers understand a scheme, and although we advertised this in every way we could, I am certain that at the end of the second year I could find a score of farmers in a district that never heard of it, but they gradually get to hear what their neighbours did; it is slow work in Ireland; you must have been struck with these diagrams, how they go up. Part of it is due to the want of an instructor, but part also to the slowness of the farmers in grasping the scheme.

May 21, 1906.

Professor J.
M. Campbell.

The Committee adjourned.

SEVENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—FRIDAY, JUNE 1st, 1906.

At the Office of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Dublin.

Present:—

Sir KENNEL E. DUFFY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGELVIE.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKER.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Professor CAMPBELL further examined.

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1560a. Last evening, sir, I got as far as the end of the horse-breeding schemes. I commence this morning with cattle-breeding. The Irish farmer's income is so much dependent upon cattle and its products that it is not surprising to find great interest in this scheme among farmers and County Committees. Nearly three-quarters of a million head of cattle are shipped annually to Great Britain, a great proportion of which are bought by farmers in the East of Great Britain to be fattened. The best customers, however, will take none but animals which mature early and which are capable of being speedily turned out fitted for the best and most markets. Irish breeders, knowing well the ready demand there is for well-bred animals, are eager to obtain the use of high-class bulls, and the scheme for encouraging improvement in Irish cattle has, therefore, taken the form of subsidising the sire. Briefly the scheme is as follows:—The County Committee annually offer a number of subsidies in the form of premiums of £15 each to the owners of high-class bulls of certain specified breeds on condition that small farmers of a certain valuation which is specified by the County Committee can have the use of such bulls for their cows at a nominal fee of 1s. per cow. The County Committee, having made a selection of persons from among the applicants for these premiums, refer them to the Department, whose inspectors examine such bulls as are already in the country, and attend shows and sales of bulls for the purpose of selecting new ones and assisting the nominees of the County Committee to purchase. I may say that Mr. Dryden attended the Belfast show last week, and I was glad he was able to do so, because although it was the last show of the season, and practically all the allocation of sires is over, there was just sufficient to show how the whole thing is worked. We apply the system of getting doctors over the bulls' stalls, so that a purchaser may know whether the animal is passed for a premium or not, and he saw the system at work. We have an office in the grounds for the purpose of accommodating farmers.

1561. (Mr. Micker).—Who is your judge?—Our Chief Inspector and Mr. Crawford, from the North of Ireland. The animals are tied in their stalls, they come round one by one and mark whether it is good enough for a premium, and they put a ticket, "Provisionally selected for a premium." Up come the farmers with tickets from the County Committee, and say, "Here I am; I am selected by so and so to buy a bull, will you help me?" The Inspector says, "All these animals are passed, and you can buy anyone you please." And the Inspector then helps them.

1562. (Chairman).—He buys one of the selected lot?—Yes.

1563. (Mr. Micker).—Is there any difference of opinion as regards the arrangements about premium bulls—about the selection of them?—You mean any difficulty as to our standard?

1564. With your Consulting Advisory Committee?—Oh, no, it is their system; there was a small sum spent by the Royal Dublin Society in previous years, but I myself urged our Department to adopt that scheme in the main, because farmers had got to understand it somehow, but of course there is a very great difference between our scheme and that of the Royal Dublin Society, for they had no one to consult, and gave the premiums to whom they liked; we leave the selection to the local authorities.

1565. You must first pass them as suitable. That we insist upon, and of course you can understand how friction would arise and complaints with County Committees in that way.

1566. I mean more about your Advisory Committee.—They have always been thoroughly at one with me all we have done.

1567. (Chairman).—We had a letter about the show at Ballymore—was that the same sort of thing?—No, the bull shows are over; they began in February and end practically in April. The one last week used to be held earlier to accommodate the Department and County Committees; it was too early to have the usual show in March, and instead of that they have a sale in March and put their show further into the summer, and accordingly I would not take that show as a sample of the shows at which we give premiums, it was too late, but there was sufficient there to enable Mr. Dryden to see the system we followed. As in the case of the stallions, the Department give loans to enable small farmers to buy these high-class bulls; the loan is two-thirds of the purchase price, and repayable in two annual instalments, with 2½ per cent interest on the outstanding balance. As the interest of this class of stock in public companies is very high (from 6 to 7 per cent.) the Department themselves insure the animals bought under their loan scheme, which they charge only 2½ per cent. per annum. We don't insure with any other company; we take the risk ourselves at 2½ per cent.

1568. Then what you say is not quite accurate—your do insure them?—Yes, but perhaps the Committee have got the idea that we re-insure with another company; we pay 2½ per cent. to the fund, and although we have paid claims for death, I think on the whole the 2½ per cent. has covered it, if there is not a small balance in our favour.

1569. Do you give any time for the loan?—Two years, two annual instalments.

1570. (Mr. Micker).—If you went to a company what would they charge you?—Six per cent. That has been going on now for four or five years.

1571. (Chairman).—And you get your money paid back?—Oh, yes; we always get our money; there's no doubt about it.

1572. (Mr. Micker).—They would be a superior set of men?—No, the County Committees at first selected poor men under the mistaken idea that they were giving that man a favour.

1573. He could not feed them?—No, formerly the Royal Dublin Society gave these bulls to good men, and the County Committees would very often give it to the very poor men who did not know how to feed the animal, had nothing to feed him with.

1574. (Chairman).—It would be the larger class of farmers would buy a bull?—No, some very small farmers buy a bull and keep the bull for the use of the neighbourhood; they get £15 at the end of the year, and with that they repay the loan. We have always got our money.

1575. (Mr. Micker).—You take care to have them with a sufficiently thriving man?—No, we cannot do that, the County Committee does that; we have to say as to the men who have it beyond that we advise them, and the County Committees are beginning to do in many cases that they ought always to get a good man.

1678. (Chairman).—The purchaser of the bull is recommended by the County Committee?—He is selected by the County Committee.

1677. Therefore, you don't inquire into his ancestry or anything else?—Well, we do, but I think it is not a very severe examination we make; at first we did rather carefully; now we begin to find we always get our money back, and are not so particular; I think by and by we will be able almost to dispense with it. Once you get a system started in Ireland they go on, and you can depend on them.

1678. (Mr. O'Grady).—The 2½ per cent. is not interest on the capital that the Department has involved in this business if it is all required for making good losses—practically for the insurance risk?—The insurance is in addition to that.

1679. What is its rate?—Two and a half also; as a matter of fact it is 5 per cent.; the farmer actually pays 2½ for the loan of the money, and 2½ for the insurance.

1680. Then the 2½ per cent. insurance is lower by three or four per cent. than the usual insurance rate?—It is.

1681. And I suppose the justification for your keeping it at that is that, having the recommendation of the County Committee and the certainty that the animal itself is healthy to start with—the county's recommendation of the farmer, and your own officers' recommendation of the animal—you deal only with selected cases?—Yes, and our justification, of course, for it is that if a poor man bought that bull depending on paying us back through the premium, and the bull died, we would be in rather a difficulty to compel him to pay when he had not got the money, and by means of this fund we are always able to get our money back, even with the poorest man, if a bull died.

1682. I mean to say you have got a gilt-edged risk—not like an ordinary live stock company?—Our expenses are not so great.

1683. The 2½ per cent. is quite a sound rate for an insurance under the conditions?—It has turned out to be so. At first when we proposed it we did not know that we were not entering into a very bad bargain. For example, supposing an outbreak of some disease was to take place and animals died wholesale we would lose very heavily, but 2½ per cent. is ample for the ordinary death-rate.

1684. Is justification for such a risk you would consider that if there is going to be a calamity in Ireland the Department should take their share of it?—Quite so.

1685. (Chairman).—You object is not a commercial one, but to improve the breed of cattle in Ireland?—Yes, there is another reason behind it; we have always had an idea of a system of live stock insurance in Ireland, and we wanted to try a little experiment to see how it would work. This year provision has been made for 900 premium bulls at an estimated cost of £12,000 out of the joint fund. It will not be possible, however, to get perhaps more than 800 premium bulls. This diagram shows the development of this scheme year after year; the first year we had 360 bulls, then 424, 618, 734, 800, 830; these are the actual figures that they have achieved; there may be a few alterations yet. (Appendix X.)

1686. (Mr. Micks).—The average price is low, but I suppose that is because you buy a great many ordinary live stock at country fairs?—It is not low.

1687. What is your average price?—£40; we were very much abused at first for keeping a high standard, but we have insisted on it, and it has been to the advantage of the industry. It was a hardship at the time, a hardship on the County Committee of farmers—they could not get the bulls—and a hardship on the breeders that they could not get their animals sold, but the result is a very large number of farmers are now taking up the breeding of high-class bulls, and not only are they selling to Ireland, but to the Argentine and other countries, and getting very large prices, £200 for a bull.

(Mr. Dryden).—£200.

(Witness).—To give you some idea of the cost of these animals, at the spring sale last year the highest price calf made £1,500, and £800, £500 and £400 are quite common figures. But the farmer does not buy the tops, he buys something just under that for breeding purposes, and below that there is a great number that the Department won't recognise at all, and these sell for a small price.

1688. (Mr. O'Grady).—£15,000 is the value of the 1688 premiums paid at the end of the year?—Yes.

1689. And has nothing to do with the loans?—No, the loans are a central scheme, this is a joint fund; if you refer to the diagram of the staff and allocation of the work that I sent in you will see that under the live stock scheme we have local authority and central administration. We have a considerable amount of central administration even with the local authority, a lot of work that the County Committee leave to the Department. I have prepared a map to show the distribution of the bulls; I need not go into greater details than to say this is the scheme that has attracted by far the most attention because they find a direct return from it much more direct than they do from education. Education influences the income of the farmer much more slowly than such a thing as the purchase of a first-class bull.

1690. (Mr. Dryden).—What will the Department have to pay for these 900 bulls—you don't buy them?—No, the individual buys them; it is £15 each, £15,000; half these are premiums.

1691. (Mr. Micks).—I thought first you were buying bulls for £25?—No, the farmer buys.

1692. (Chairman).—You first of all examine the bull and give a premium to the bull that you think is a bull the farmer would properly buy?—We give it provisionally.

1693. You say "We are prepared to give a premium on this bull of £15"?—Yes, and that is paid at the end of the season, £15 each year.

1694. (Mr. O'Grady).—For two years?—It can go on for any number of years. At first we insisted on yearlings, next year on yearlings and two year olds, and then on yearlings, two year olds and three year olds; each year we added a year; we wanted to compel the farmer to go in for young ones at the first. The County Committee out of the joint fund pay the farmer £15 when he has satisfied the County Committee that he has carried out the scheme.

1695. (Mr. Micks).—Does the farmer out of his own resources pay the £40?—The Department give him a loan of two-thirds.

1696. (Mr. Brown).—If the bull is £45 he gets down £15, and he gets £30 from the Department, which he pays back with two premiums.

(Mr. Dryden).—He gets the £15 for the reason that he undertakes to give the service of the bull for a definite number of cows at 1s. each, and on that understanding he gets £15.

(Chairman).—When he gives proper evidence that the conditions are fulfilled?—He must sign a statutory declaration to that effect and produce his book; he gets the premium even after the loan is repaid if the animal continues fruitful.

1697. (Mr. Dryden).—The whole process has to be gone over every year?—Yes.

1698. (Mr. Micks).—Your contract is as long as the bull remains in the man's custody?—Yes.

1699. (Chairman).—Then the purchaser is recommended by the County Committee?—Quite so.

1700. (Mr. O'Grady).—At the end of the first year the farmer becomes entitled to his premium of £15. That is paid out of the joint fund to the farmer, and the farmer at the same time has to pay back month about the same amount to the loan fund of the Department?—Quite so. At first we made the County Committee pay the farmer, now we give it to the farmer direct, we can trust him. This is working exceedingly well, there has not been a complaint of any kind now for a long time; there were complaints at first, people did not understand it. I have no doubt people will come before you and say that by putting this ticket over the bull it increases his price by £15.

1701. (Mr. Brown).—The alternative to that would be that the farmer would have to buy a bull which might afterwards be condemned?—He would not buy at all unless he gets this ticket.

1702. (Mr. O'Grady).—The ticket is practically a guarantee that this particular animal is a sound animal, and a satisfactory one to buy, and you are giving the breeder whatever benefit of price accrues to the guarantee of effectiveness of his animal?—There is no doubt it works out in that way. This ticket is a guarantee to the farmer that if he buys that animal there will be no fear of his premium. If that was not over the animal he would simply go into the Department's office in the yard and ask the Department's

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Inspector, "Is that number approved?" and it would work out in the same way. No farmer would buy unless he knows that.

1703. (Mr. Micks).—Would there be any plan of awarding premiums otherwise than provisionally?—We tried once in Cork to do it to meet the wishes of the people.

1704. It would have the same effect if you declared the premiums straight away?—It is only provisional. Supposing there are no competitors he gets no premium.

1705. Would there be any plan of preventing the raising of the price?—That would be very desirable.

1706. Have you any suggestion on that ground?—We have had suggestions from County Committees, and we have tried a system of doing without these, but it makes no difference; a man would come into the office, and we should tell him.

1707. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you think it really adds to the price?—I have no doubt it does, and I am glad it does, because it is very costly breeding these high-class animals. When you start breeding high-class animals everything is not a prize. There are a great many blanks in breeding, and in order to buy a high stock sire a breeder will have to give hundreds of pounds, and unless he can get a good price for his young calves he will not breed them. I hope these tickets do have that effect, although some members of County Committees say that is the way the Department does its work. They are encouraging breeders, not farmers, but I don't care, you must encourage breeders.

1708. (Mr. Micks).—The farmer would not have to pay £15 more?—Oh, no, and then you must remember that that bull could earn £60.

1709. (Mr. Dryden).—I think the £15 is given to the purchaser for the service of forty cows; the farmer is only used as a medium to do good to the general public who cannot afford to buy.

(Mr. O'Leary).—Is there any evidence to show that the prices, with the advantage of these provisionally-selected tickets—is there any evidence to show that the prices so obtained are higher than are necessary to encourage breeders to produce animals of this type and class?—No.

1710. There is no reason to believe that the breeders are making fortunes at an exceptional rate?—No, there is not.

1711. (Chairman).—Does this system prevail all over the country?—We start in Ireland with the Dublin sale in February, then the Belfast sale in March, Cork Show in April, Dublin Show in April, and we finished up with Belfast last week, and Londonbury is in March as well. In England we also attend; a large number of men go to the English and Scotch sales to get premium bulls, and they go mainly to Perth, and Birmingham and Aberdeen.

1712. Do you use these cards at Perth?—No, we know the Irishmen who are there, and we usually take a private room in the hotel. The show is one day and the sale the next. All the Irish breeders are invited privately into this room, and our inspector reads off the numbers of the animals that have been passed. You may ask why could we not do that in Ireland. Because the owners all know each other in Ireland, and would simply give the information to each other, and there are such an immense number of people coming to the Dublin shows we could hardly tell them all.

1713. They all know the system, and where to come for information?—Yes.

1714. It would not be practicable, I suppose, to use cards outside Ireland?—To start with we would have to get the permission of the associations, and we don't want the breeders to know about it.

1715. (Mr. O'Leary).—You don't want to benefit the breeders there?—No, and of course the breeders are unknown to the Irish buyers.

1716. (Chairman).—If you put up cards you would be benefiting the English buyers, giving advice to the aliens.

(Mr. Brown).—Do you intend to say anything as to the effect on the stock of the country as a result of this system?—The best evidence that can be got is from the large salesmen in England and Scotland. In no other way could you get good evidence, and they will tell you that there has been an immense improvement effected in the store cattle of Ireland. I have spoken to many of the dealers, and of course it was bound

to be with all these good animals about, but unfortunately the Irish farmer often sells the heifer, the female cattle as well. If he could only be induced to keep them to breed, the improvement in Irish stock would go on at double the rate, but he unfortunately will sell a good heifer.

1717. (Mr. Micks).—That is owing to the necessity for raising money for his ordinary outgoings?—Very often.

1718. Have you devised any method for preventing that?—No, we have not.

1719. (Mr. Brown).—Are not the prices given at local shows very largely directed to that point?—Yes, I ought to say that we have done something.

1720. (Mr. Micks).—Especially for beefsteak?—Yes, but I am bound to say I do not consider that is a very substantial.

1721. What would it come to per head—the prize in keeping a heifer for a year?—The prize is given to the best heifer. At the outset we tried to insist on the committees having a certain prize schedule, but County Committees and county show Committees and the Department was inclining to them, so we have practically said to the County Committees "You, yourselves, must draw up your own schedules of prizes and deal with it yourself; the amount of money you will get from us in so and so, you must do it yourself," and it is more satisfactory; the thing gives rise to a great deal of friction; it would have been perhaps better spent money if the Department insisted that these prizes were given to particular classes of animals, but we cannot be splitting County Committees on these small points.

1722. Can you give us a collection of the condition of prizes at different shows?—Yes.

1723. (Mr. Dryden).—When these heifers are sold by the farmers do they go out of the country?—Yes, a great lot of very fine heifers that ought to be kept in this country.

1724. (Mr. Brown).—The only effective means would be to provide the farmers with more capital; I suppose the co-operative banks would do that?—They deal with a very small part of the country.

1725. I am speaking of the spreading of that system?—I have my own schemes for dealing with these things, which must not for a moment be taken as departmental, but I should like very much to have in my own hands a large sum of money for giving farmers in the shape of loans for various things, one loan to pay his rent (if need be, and with all the financial instructions about they can tell me, "The man is all right"; he is in difficulties, but we cannot help him money to buy other class of animals besides bulls or implements, or seed.

1726. (Mr. Micks).—The position of the majority of the small farmers is that they have one cow to give milk for the family, and if that cow has a heifer calf they will have to sell it to meet their requirements. Would you wish to be empowered to give them a loan so that they might keep a heifer calf until it had a calf in turn—then they would sell the old cow and repay you?—Many people have three or four cows.

1727. It would not be a recurring transaction in the case of the one-cow farmers, they would keep the good heifer and sell the old cow; it would not want to be done often in the case of that one individual?—No, but he might want a loan for putting up a milking.

1728. They can get that from the Board of Works?—Yes, but these are small things.

1729. (Mr. Brown).—The remedy is loans at a cheap rate wherever they come from?—Yes.

1730. (Chairman).—And is it your belief, I am asking your own opinion now, that a system of that sort might be established with reasonable safety, and you could select people who might be trusted with loans of that kind?—I am quite sure of it.

1731. And that there would be reasonable security for it?—I am quite sure.

1732. (Mr. O'Leary).—On much the same plan of evidence by which you have proved the satisfaction of the insurance business—that you have special means of knowledge partly through your own people, and partly through the County Committees—you are put in a much more favorable condition?—Yes.

1733. (Mr. Micks).—All the Departments who have been lending money in Ireland have the best of characters to give of the people who borrowed for the last fifty years?—Yes, but what the farmer wants is some means of getting it easily, he cannot go through the dreadful formality. If he could go to an insurance

instructor or come to this office and sign something, and put a stamp on it, but if he has to go through a formal and investigations and has to employ a lawyer.

1735. (Mr. Micks).—There are no unreasonable proceedings in the Congested Districts Board or Board of Works?—With the Board of Works loans they do seem to have some difficulty.

1736. I am afraid it is a little exaggerated?—They don't understand it, perhaps. They often come to the Department, and I say we have no power, and recommend them to the Board of Works, but they seem to have some difficulty.

1737. (Mr. Brown).—They have to repay at a rate which usually means at the least 5 per cent., including principal and interest?—I mean a temporary loan to get over temporary embarrassment.

1738. (Chairman).—You mean a loan on business principles?—Yes.

1739. (Mr. O'Leary).—Of course it is in your personal view an essential feature that these loans are in the main for things that give the whole return in a very limited number of years, in fact in two or three years, it is not like buildings?—I don't suppose you could get loans from the Board of Works except for works—I meant something that would bring in a return in a year or two.

1740. (Mr. Brown).—The Board of Works have in every case to mortgage the holding, which means an investigation of title?—I know there are rules to go through.

1741. Do you contemplate personal security?—Two neighbours should go security.

1742. Your present machinery would enable you to do these things?—We are gradually getting machinery in the country for dealing with cases of that kind that never existed before.

1743. (Mr. Micks).—Do you know that loans for the purpose of buying cattle and other purposes are made by the Congested Districts Board?—They were, I don't know whether they are now.

1744. Your powers are wide enough to do the same?—Oh, yes.

1745. (Mr. O'Leary).—Have you money to do them?—I have long had my eye on part of the surplus for that.

1746. (Mr. Micks).—You have over £200,000 in surplus?—Not now, half of that, I am afraid, is hypothecated; £150,000 is all that remains.

1747. (Mr. Brown).—Do you intend in that the £200,000?—Certainly.

1748. (Mr. Micks).—You got £2,100,000 since the Act started, and out of that there is unexpended about £900,000?—Yes, the half of that is hypothecated for other purposes. I am going to speak briefly with regard to the funds of the Department by and by, but I am not the accountant. Broadly speaking, I keep in my mind how we are getting on, and I know there is £150,000 still left.

1749. I see prices here for yearling bullocks—is that approved by the Department?—That was our own, we insisted on that at first.

1750. Do you give them still?—We leave it to the County Committee.

1751. If you were to give it all for the holders?—Yes, but we wanted to encourage the others as well.

1752. Why should you give it for the holders?—Simply to encourage them to breed good ones.

1753. (Mr. Dryden).—These farmers must sell a certain portion of their stock?—No, but I would like them to keep the good ones.

1754. (Mr. O'Leary).—Just as in forestry, you want to cut down the bad and keep the good?—Yes. My remarks so far have dealt with the improvement of cattle by means of bulls. Complaints have been made that too much attention is being paid to the bad quality of our animals, and it is quite possible that may be so. The Council of Agriculture has passed a resolution recommending us to do something for improving the milking qualities of the cattle as well, and we have recently gone into that question with our Advisory Committee, which has drafted a new scheme, and we propose starting a herd book of animals possessing good milking qualities. It was originally contemplated that each County Committee should keep such a book, but as much confusion would arise had these been thirty-three standards, the Department, after consulting with the Advisory Committee on

Cattle-breeding, and after having obtained the concurrence of the Agricultural Board for the expenditure of the necessary funds, have decided themselves to start such a book. The scheme has only just been issued, and at the present moment some of our staff are inspecting the animals entered.

1755. (Mr. Dryden).—These will be mostly graded shorthorns?—Yes.

1756. Because if you bring in dairy breeds you would spoil your stores?—We would; our object is to balance the beef production side a little with the other scheme; it will entail a great deal of organisation; we will have to keep a record of all these cows and their milk yield, but I have no doubt we can accomplish it. The encouragement of pig-breeding is carried on on much the same lines as for cattle—premiums are given in every county for high-class sires, they may be adopted by every county. Every county has the cattle scheme and every county has the pig scheme but Antrim, and there we are making some experiments with regard to a local breed.

1757. (Mr. Micks).—I wanted to know whether the voluntary efforts of bacon merchants, which used to exist some time ago for breeding boars, have passed?—They have ceased to a great extent, for thirty-three local authorities have begun to be competitors in the purchase of these animals; they examined the animals at Glenties; they were sold to the Pig Breeders' Association and were sent to certain spots in Ireland. Now the County Committees say they have a claim on them and must get them, and the great bulk are going to the West of Ireland.

1758. Where there is railway connection with Limerick?—Yes.

1759. (Mr. O'Leary).—Do you find any difficulty in the distribution being general all over Ireland, in view of the shows being at places far distant from a great many parts. There is a considerable part of Ireland not within easy reach of Dublin, Belfast or Cork, and a farmer might not have funds to go there to buy?—What we actually do is this—many of these farmers who are selected are very poor men, some of whom were never in Dublin before, and what they do is they ask our inspectors to buy for them, and our inspectors very often go to other sales and buy up a large number and house them at Chancery, or send them to the agricultural stations. We have put our pigs up at Athlery, and these farmers would come to Athlery when they would not come to Dublin.

1760. (Mr. Micks).—There the purchase is a purchase by the Inspector for the Department, and the Department take the risk, if any, on the resale?—They do.

1761. It is not a personal purchase by the Inspector?—Oh, no, of course he has to account for every animal to the accountant of the Department; he gets an imprint for the purpose. To return to the swine scheme, I stated the method of improving the breed was much the same as in the case of cattle. The premium for high-class sires is £3, payable over two years, £5 the first, and £3 the second year. As, however, the persons who keep boars are usually of limited means, and as difficulty was experienced in previous years in obtaining suitable boars, provision was made under the 1904-5 scheme whereby the Department purchased the boars and sold them through County Committees to selected applicants, who each deposited £2 with the County Committee, the balance of the price of the animal being deducted from the amount of the premium at the end of the season. The result of the arrangement has been that the scheme is now working much more satisfactorily than in previous years. By this diagram (Appendix XI.) you will observe that in one case it actually began to fail, in fact the scheme was not going to work, as owing to the fact that there were so many competing for the produce of a limited number of breeders they could not all get supplied, the price was being raised, and owing to swine fever restrictions we could not import, but a great number of breeders have now sprung up, and we have again started on a fresh career. I anticipate that in a short time we will be able to show as good results under this as under the cattle scheme.

1762. (Mr. O'Leary).—How far do you think you have gone towards reaching a number that would be sufficient for the normal requirements?

(Mr. Brown).—The number asked for might be compared with the number actually supplied?—I have not by me the number asked for. This money is given to

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the County Committee; they can appertain it themselves among horses, cattle or swine; in some cases the members of the Committee always go for cattle, and the swine are left to take care of themselves.

1763. (Mr. Micks).—Have you reached your maximum expenditure on your cattle scheme?—I think so.

1764. Is that owing to shortness of money or the state of the country?—Owing to shortness of money.

1765. If you had money available would you not reach your maximum expenditure, and a period come for reducing it when you had made your impression on the stock?—Yes.

1766. And then introduce fresh blood occasionally?—I do anticipate that a time will be reached when we may be able to turn our attention to other methods of improving animals, but I may say that the probabilities of that are remote, because County Committees are very keen indeed on this question of the breeding of cattle. If, of course, the price of beef falls, as it has been falling, and as it is likely to fall with the amount of stuff that is coming in from the Argentine, it may be that the store breeding of cattle and bullock fattening would become unremunerative, and then the farmers would turn their attention to something else; but as long as there is a chance at all to live by store stock the farmers will try and live by it and go in for cattle schemes rather than swine schemes.

1767. Would the importation of foreign or colonial store stock have the effect of turning the farmer to dairying?—That would be the first thing undoubtedly, the country is admirably suited to dairying. The farmer in Ireland is very fond of dealing in cattle, and as long as he can make a living by that he will do so; it is a very easy and pleasant occupation, and that is one of the reasons why the County Committees are putting a large share of their money into their cattle schemes, that is one of the reasons why swine breeding has not been so well endowed by them as cattle rearing.

1768. (Mr. Brown).—Is it not impossible to get borne up to the number of allocated premiums?—That is so.

1769. I think the amount of the premiums actually awarded is only about half the amount set aside?—About half the money will be taken up.

1770. And that is due to the difficulty of procuring beasts?—It is now. At the time the fall was there I think it was due to the fact that the premium was smaller, and the fact that the farmers would not buy a boar outright at first; it is only since we adopted the new system of buying the animal for him and he pays a little deposit, and the County Committee decides the price of the animal of the premium. I propose to discuss the question of the Congested Districts and the special provision made by the Department for them.

1771. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Have you anything to say about sheep?—Yes, originally we had a sheep scheme, but sheep-breeding does not lend itself to this system, and the difficulty of putting out small flocks of ewes together with rams, is that there is the danger of sheep robs, and, as a matter of fact, that scheme died after the first year—the Department did not encourage it.

1772. (Mr. Micks).—Is not the principal difficulty that the local bad roads run through mountainous or commonage pastures?—Yes, but in the County Wicklow they are working it, and in these congested districts, in addition to what the County Committee give in the shape of premiums for those animals, the Department themselves do a great deal of work. For example, take the bull scheme, the County Committee altogether give sixty-three premiums to bulls under their scheme, but that is not enough for such a very poor district, that is simply under the local county work, but in addition the Department step in and fill up the blanks, and altogether we have seventy-six bulls placed directly in this district by the Department itself. That is a total of 136 altogether, and similarly the Department place a large number of stallions there.

1773. (Mr. Neeson).—What breed are the bulls chiefly?—A large proportion of shorthorns, a considerable number of polled Angus, and in the Connemara district Galloway bulls. In Kerry we have Kerry cattle—nine.

1774. Any dexters?—No dexters.

1775. It seems rather a small proportion of Kerrys?—Kerry is only a small portion of the congested districts, a small part of it is congested. The breeders of Kerry cattle cannot be induced themselves to take care of their breed, they think they have a small gold

mine there. If they cared for their animals properly they are an ideal cottager's cow, and large prices can be got in England for one of these little animals that give such fine milk and plenty of it; but they are so anxious to get something that will answer the purpose of a store beast that they will cross those with shorthorns and others. The Congested Districts Board have spoken to us on the subject, and we have tried at their instigation to get these Kerry bulls placed and have assisted, but in a great many cases they don't want them, they want another type of animal which would more destroy the Kerry breed. We have offered the Kerry County Council special funds if they will try themselves and protect these excellent little animals, but they won't do anything.

1776. (Mr. Micks).—I suppose they want the heavy animal because it fetches more?—Yes, they don't thrive. Then I may say also there has been considerable discontent among cattle owners by the introduction of Galloway bulls. The Cattle Traders' Association have repeatedly called upon the Department not to bring in Galloways, the Congested Districts Board brought them in before this Department started. I have been round these districts, and I think the work of the Congested Districts Board is the whole was very good. I think it would be quite impossible now to replace our steps and go back to another breed. The Connemara mountains are covered with cattle of the Galloway type, and nothing will improve these properly even but pure-bred Galloway bulls, so notwithstanding the complaints the Department have placed a few in these districts, but kept the number as few as possible.

1777. I suppose you saw some specimens of the old breed before the Galloway was introduced?—Yes, they were worthless; there is no doubt the Galloway cow is not a first-class one either, but you have only to go to the land and see the mountains, they lie out all the winter, you will see that anything else is impossible. There is no doubt that these Galloways get into the English markets, and English buyers will sometimes purchase them in the belief that they are younger than they are, and that they are the produce of an Aberdeen Angus, and after they have got them into their yards and feed them, and find there is no progress, they wonder what is the matter.

1778. Would not a good judge of cattle tell at once by the hair of the animal whether it was Galloway or Angus?—The Scotch feeder would, but an English buyer would not. I myself have followed these cattle into York market, and I have been round with the farmers whom I know. I know the Galloway well, because I was brought up amongst them; but they thought the Galloway cross these was the cross of the Aberdeen Angus. Then there has been the practice of taking the horns off Kerries and selling them as polled Angus, and that has perhaps to some extent given the Galloways a bad name.

1779. (Chairman).—The Kerry is the smaller animal?—Yes. It is a very small operation; it is permitted in Ireland but not in England; each year they will get these animals in, fix them in a vice, and chop the horns off as you would a piece of wood; it is a most cruel operation that I would like very much to do away with.

1780. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I suppose in the selection of the breed of bull in a difficult case you would put the matter before the Advisory Committee?—Oh, yes, and before the Agricultural Board as well. The Agricultural Board being largely composed of gentlemen who understand agriculture, this is a matter on which they can easily advise.

1781. (Chairman).—How about the polled Angus?—It does admirably for crossing with the Irish shorthorn.

1782. (Mr. Micks).—In Erris and West Donegal they would be Galloways?—Yes, but the most of them would be in Connemara.

1783. (Chairman).—You say these animals in the congested districts are placed out on different terms?—The terms are much the same as those of the County Committee; if we made different terms there would be a conflict between the two bodies, and I am bound to say that I myself think we are a little too liberal with money in the congested districts, because many times they may not purchase quite as high a class animal as in other parts.

1784. Just tell us what the terms are?—The last system is just the same—the farmer pays one-third down, and the rest in two annual instalments, and he gets £15 a year if the bull is properly kept, just the

same terms. If we gave better terms the local authority and people getting bulls under them would be aggrieved, but we are contemplating an attempt to reduce the value of the premiums in very poor districts, particularly in districts where bulls cannot be well kept, I mean on the island and poor places. This year we have got a few Galloway bulls out on £10 premiums. I have mentioned the special horses in the congested districts, I have now mentioned the special bulls, and there are twenty-five bays placed out in the same way, that is, placed by the Department itself in these districts; that is in addition, of course, to what the County Committees are giving.

1793. (Mr. Mickel).—Of course you go far beyond the £2,000—Oh, yes. The Congested Districts Board earned on that work previously. At the time that they handed over those horses that you heard were placed in the congested districts they gave us £2,000. I don't know what they spent themselves on this work. (Mr. Mickel).—£8,000 or £9,000 for agricultural and cattle breeding operations.

1793. (Chairman).—That was utilized, and far more, in supplying bulls and bays and so on, under the scheme that you are describing, or are they supplied gratuitously?—First of all money is given to the County Committees for these schemes, and then we place these animals separately ourselves.

1797. On what terms do you supply the bulls? On the same terms, the only difference is this, that the farmer deals with the Department and not with the local authority.

1793. (Mr. Brown).—Have a large proportion of the persons selected by the County Committees purchased bulls?—Oh, yes; I should like to have given you figures to show the effect of that station at Athlery. In the first year those poor districts did not come forward under a county scheme at all, then we got a station at Athlery for the purpose, and placed an inspector there who has charge of all that district, and now there has been an enormous increase in recent years.

1789. At first, of course, the people were familiar with the other system, the congested districts system?—Quite so; I should have liked to have given you these figures showing how under the local authority scheme the number of bulls taken up has increased enormously since we put that station there. The Congested Districts Board were spending £8,000 or £9,000 in this very work for which they only gave the Department £2,000, and originally the Department's enforcement was not intended to go into the congested districts at all, but the Agricultural Board have not refused to allow money to go into the congested districts with the uncongested districts. We treat the County Galway as if it were an uncongested district, and then we treat it specially with our own funds.

1790. (Chairman).—Your system is different from the Congested Districts Board system?—It is a little different, and we are obliged to do so in order to harmonize with the local authority's scheme; we are working on uniform lines. I believe the Congested Districts Board's schemes were as good as ours, they were very good schemes, particularly the calf scheme. They have been abused, I know, for bringing in those Galloways, but as far as Connemara goes they were perfectly justified in what they did, and they did a lot of good for those animals. One other class of stock we intend to in the congested districts, namely, the donkeys. We have got altogether forty-one Spanish Jacks for improving the donkeys; these animals are mostly imported from Spain at great expense; we use them as much as possible at our own stations.

1791. (Mr. Mickel).—They remain your property?—They remain our property. The Department really gives the Jack to a farmer, and gives him 2s. or 3s. per week for his maintenance and allows him to work it at the same time, and then he takes it what he can get, but the animal is always the Department's property.

1792. (Mr. Brown).—Is he under any obligation as to what he is to charge?—Yes, we fix it at a certain sum, a small fee.

1793. He is under some obligation?—He is. With regard to sheep-breeding, we do intend to sheep-breeding in the congested districts, but have not done so much in that direction. Last year we sent out a number of rams. At the last meeting of the Agricultural Board I brought forward the question, and got their permission to give the promise that when the season comes round rams will be supplied, and then when I got from our inspectors and agent the number of per-

sons who want them, the Board will vote a sum of money for the purpose. (June 1, 1900.)

1794. (Mr. Mickel).—I saw in some of the minutes that you contemplated at one time getting 100 more Jacks?—Yes, but they are very difficult to get; we have to pay nearly £100 for each Jack, and our agent, who also buys for South America, often gives £250 or £300. They are very valuable animals, and that is largely owing to the fact that so many males are wanted, and unless don't breed, so they fall back on the donkey.

1795. (Mr. Dryden).—You are undertaking to breed them yourselves there?—Oh, yes; perhaps you were at Chardilly. It costs such a lot of money, and sometimes these animals are not well cared for, and I was hoping to breed a few ourselves, and we have bred a few.

1795. (Mr. Mickel).—They would be more useful than some of the fully-bred ones?—Yes, a few I picked up as the result of the Congested Districts Board's operations. We have not made such progress yet with our donkey stud. We shall by and by get a large number at Athlery. Before I leave this question of the live stock schemes, I would like to say that for the first year the work was very uphill, and like everything else, some years were required before the farmers came to learn the system. It is very hard to get a small farmer to digest these schemes, but he watches what his neighbour does, and does the same himself next year. One of the chief drawbacks to more rapid development has been the want of the proper number of good sires. The question of securing a fair proportion of the available sires for each county is one which has given the Department very serious thought. As was only natural, the more progressive counties have gone ahead, and have filled their lists from the ones available, with the result that they have left very few for the backward counties. To obviate this the Department have in recent years themselves had to buy a large number of bulls of the early sales, and, so to speak, hide them, conceal them, put them away at some of our farms and wait until the show and sales were over, and then some of our poor applicants, who had been late thinking about the business, had animals from which to choose. That is a question that may arise in the course of the inquiry. The action of the Department in this matter of purchasing sires for the backward counties has, as in many other of their operations, been often misunderstood, and they have been soundly abused for their action. For example, in securing animals for the poorer districts, if the Department purchased in Ireland they are accused of unfairly competing with farmers and raising prices, if they purchase in Great Britain they are accused of favouring the British breeder and ignoring those at home, if they do nothing they are accused of neglect. The Department have, however, never attempted to defend their action, as they know very well that by time the public will understand and appreciate what has been done, and the reasons for it. The question of subsidies to show, which I intend to take up now, has pretty well been covered by the questions put to me in connection with the live stock scheme, and I think perhaps it would shorten my evidence if I only refer to it very briefly. There is a vote of about £4,000 given by the Agricultural Board, annually for subsidies for agricultural shows.

1797. (Chairman).—Does it amount to this, that practically these high-class bulls are now really within the reach of the whole of Ireland?—Practically now they are, but they would not be if the Department did not take some steps to prevent a very progressive county picking up all the best bulls.

1798. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose the time may come when you will be able to cease doing that, to give the people who are alert the advantage of it?—That is a question that has only now come before the Department; we have only now got to our maximum expenditure, and it will be for the Agricultural Board to see.

1799. I said I thought a time might come when you would be enabled to drop the practice of buying a number of bulls early in the season, and thereby depriving, from your point of view, the more progressive from taking advantage of their alertness?—I don't think so, we will have to keep a reserve for many years. You can hardly expect the farmers of Kerry, Galway and Donegal to be as forward as the men of Down or Antrim. We have found we have to buy and stock up these particular animals. We have to do it for Donegal, Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, and parts of Cork.

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(Mr. Micks).—These are places where money is scarce.

1803. (Mr. Brown).—And they are a considerable distance from the centre?—And another reason, which is a bad one for my argument, they have learned that we will do it for them if they won't do it themselves, but we certainly will have to do it for a considerable time, and the progressive counties are to some extent punished.

1803. (Chairman).—Would it be practicable at all to increase the number of centres so as to bring these opportunities more into the neighbourhood of the parts of the country that are backward?—With regard to that, suggestions have been made that we should have centres in other parts, but I would be very reluctant to recommend the Department to do anything that would interfere with an institution like the Royal Dublin Society's Show. Apart from the fact that it is our duty as a Department to support that show in any way we can, there is a great education in bringing all these farmers and bulls together, and there is a further opportunity of distributing the bulls. All these different strains of animals come to Dublin, and some from the South go North, and some from the North go South, whereas if we did not bring them all to one centre we would lose the educational value. I mention Dublin because it is our principal centre. I must not overlook the importance of Cork, Londonderry, or Belfast. All these help, but Dublin Show is certainly an excellent place for the purpose, while there are many people who would prefer that we would bring these animals to a place like Mullingar or Galway.

1802. (Mr. Micks).—Does Ballinasloe Fair take the place of a show?—No, not for pure-bred stock.

1803. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—You would not get the breeders to send their good animals to Galway?—They would not.

1804. (Chairman).—How do the bulls you keep in reserves get distributed?—We buy them early, and keep them until all the bull shows are over. Then we know the people who have failed to secure animals. We write and say, "If you come to our station you can have a selection out of our store." In a few cases they will say, "We won't trouble, we will leave it to you."

1805. An enterprising man in Kerry who wants a bull and thinks he can make a good thing out of it!—He will leave it to the Department's inspector.

1806. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—You don't think you could get him persuaded to give his order, so to speak, at the beginning of the season instead of the end, even though the delivery was to be at the end?—It would be desirable, and we do encourage him to give his order early; in fact it has been a great difficulty in all our schemes to get them to come forward in time. They would leave it until too late, until all the sales were over, and then come to the Department and abuse the Department because there were no animals left. I would much prefer he would himself go to the agricultural station and select his animal. If you send him an animal he is apt to say it is a bad one, but if you say to him, "You must spend a little more money, go to a little trouble and come to Athlery and see these animals," then he makes his own choice.

1807. You would like him to say at the beginning of the season that he wants you to have something there for him to select from at the end of the season?—Yes, that is what we try to get him to do, but we would rather he would come and select himself.

1808. (Chairman).—Unless people will help themselves a little you cannot in the long run do much for them?—We do, I think, too much for them in many places, but I think at the same time it was wise to do it at first; but I think we ought gradually to ease off, and if a farmer who wants a bull in Galway won't come to Athlery, I think we ought not to send him animals.

1809. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—You think you have now reached the stage when you can begin to slack off with this extreme amount of assistance?—To the extent of bringing the animal to our own depot. I would not go beyond that, because if we did not buy early we would have come of these western counties left without their share of the animals, and the Department would come in for an amount of abuse that people would begin to think they were actually working against the county and trying to favour others.

1810. (Mr. Dwyer).—It is not the individual farmer who is buying the bull that you are looking after, but the mass of farmers that will have to use them?—Yes.

1811. You help the individual farmer for the sake of getting at the others, that is the crux of the whole scheme?—I am glad you reminded me of that.

1812. (Mr. Brown).—But it should not be done at the expense of other farmers in other districts. I do not object to it at the initial stage, but it should not be continued.

(Mr. Dwyer).—It won't need to be continued. As soon as these men are educated to the advantage of having a superior bull they will be on the spot as readily as other men?—I was asked the question whether we had arrived at the stage that we could slack off. I don't think we have.

1813. (Mr. Dwyer).—I would not like to see you slack off yet for the reasons that I have given.

(Mr. O'Driscoll).—It is not the man who buys the bull that the scheme is intended to help, but the people who own cows that are served by the bull.

(Chairman).—The justification of State aid is not the benefit of the individual farmer, but of the country?—Some of the counties complain very much that the Department insisted on this low fee of 1s, but it is obvious why we do so. We do so in order that we may compete with the very bad animals that is in the country. There was a resolution dealing with that question at the last meeting of the Council of Agriculture. About the Department doing something to prevent the use of bad ones, the only way the Department can do it is by placing a good one at such a small fee that it competes with a bad one. The normal fee for one of these premium bulls is not 1s at all. It is more like 15s., but by making it 1s we compete with the very poorest class of bull.

1814. (Mr. Brown).—Then there is this question of distance. If a poor bull is near people will send it even though the other is at a moderate price.

(Mr. Micks).—I suppose the Agricultural Council was aiming at a Continental system of not allowing inferior animals to serve?—The Department's view is that they have no power to do anything like that, but they endeavour to compete in this way. I say \$4,000 is annually voted by the Agricultural Board as subsidies for shows. This money is distributed amongst the various county authorities; they in turn give it to the local shows in their district. This diagram (Appendix XII.) illustrates the income in the number of shows subsidised in Ireland. We subsidised 51 in 1901, and this year we are subsidising 140. We have encouraged to the best of our power the establishment of small shows rather than large ones on the ground, first, that the ratepayers ought to have these shows brought to them as near as possible, and secondly, that these small shows do far more good than the large ones, at least that is my own view. I am aware of many districts where the persons who run the large show would say, "That is not the case, the large show is more useful than the small." I don't think so.

1815. (Mr. Brown).—Is the \$4,000 joint money?—No, the Department's.

1816. Then that means \$3,000?—It is nearly that; I have not really been giving you the money set apart for that, for I first of all gave you the forms for each county, and then a summary of the amount set aside for every one of these schemes in every county.

1817. How is the apportionment made?—On the basis of the valuation, but I also point out—

1818. If you have a show like Hollymount?—Yes, mean the apportionment at the shows, that is left to the County Committee.

1819. Of the sixty-one you subsidised in 1901 were any of them newly formed that year?—There were a few formed that year, but they were mainly existing institutions. Of course there were a considerable number of shows, I daresay, started to catch a share of the money; we went that so long as it is well distributed, and doing good, and I think the shows are doing good. Before I leave this question I have not got the figures with reference to the increase in the number of bulls placed under the County Committee in the congested districts. In 1901, in Galway, there were only three under the county scheme; next year, seven; the year following, seven; then fifteen, eighteen, and this year twenty-six. In Mayo, five,

ten, thirteen, twenty-one, and sixteen. In Leitrim, ten, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, sixteen. Roscommon, seven, four, fifteen, twenty-one, fifteen, twenty-one. Clare, five, nine, eight, thirteen, fifteen, and twenty-one. In 1901 there were only fifteen bulls in these districts under the local authority schemes, and this year there are 102. (Appendix XIV.)

1920. (Chairman).—In this diagram there is a little block in red, that indicates that special animals were put in by the Department. 1903 was the first year you took this matter over from the Computed Districts Board!—That is so. The figure 8 is against that, and the explanation is "Special premiums for computed districts," and there is a blue block against 1905, which are non-premium bulls supplied on reduced terms to the computed districts. I mentioned that we had this year started a much more economical system of putting bulls into the computed districts collectively. I said it was dangerous because County Committees would say we had no right to give different terms, but in the interests of economy we have put twenty-three in on different terms. These are mainly in very wet of the way districts where there is likely to be very little danger of conflict between our scheme and the local authority. The animal is sold outright for £10, and the buyer pays it back in these annual instalments of £4, £3, and £3.

1921. The bull is a selected animal!—Yes.

1922. He is of the same class as the others!—No, as a matter of fact they are Kerry and Galloway bulls, a chaper class.

1923. (Mr. Brown).—If they were on the premium system they would only have £10 premium!—Quite so, there is a special premium for these small breeds. I have now finished the part about the joint action. As to the work of the Department in connection with forestry, I may just say here, to a small extent, we are also acting with the county in regard to forestry, but I am going to treat this as if it were not a local scheme at all. This is a case where it is partly local, but mainly central, and I am going to treat it as if it were not local. Two aspects of the forestry question have to be considered, viz., forestry on a large scale, involving the planting and management of woods for profit, and tree-planting by the occupiers of land for shelter and ornament. The former is a subject which County Committees, with their limited funds, are not likely to undertake, and even while the planting of trees in waste corners of farms requires a great deal of special knowledge, it is very doubtful whether the funds of County Committees are sufficient to induce them to provide systematic instruction in the subject. The Department have themselves issued a number of leaflets on the subject, and they have held a special course in forestry to enable agricultural instructors to advise farmers how and what to plant. It has also been suggested that the Department should give instruction of a similar nature to the horticultural instructors, who are more likely to be consulted in the matter than the agricultural instructors, and for this the Department are now making arrangements. As has been already explained under the horticultural schemes, County Committees may purchase trees at wholesale prices and sell them at a cost price to farmers. Half a million trees were thus planted last year, and as the facilities for getting young trees at reduced prices becomes more known, and when information can be obtained through the horticultural instructors there will doubtless be a great number of trees planted in this way, and to this the Department are anxious to give every possible encouragement. The other aspect of the question, viz., the afforestation of Ireland, is one which concerns the central rather than the local authorities. Obviously the first duty of the Department is to provide education in forestry, for which there has hitherto been no provision whatever in this country. Anticipating a demand for trained foresters, the Department three years ago purchased Avondale House and demesne, County Wicklow, for the purpose of establishing there a forestry station, where young men could receive a training to fit them as working foresters. The lands have been carefully surveyed, and are laid out in plots to demonstrate the various kinds of planting. A small nursery is being formed in connection therewith, and Avondale House itself is being used as a school. There the young men who are actually engaged in practical forestry operations during the day receive systematic instruction in the evenings.

The course extends over three years, and the apprentices are admitted as the result of an entrance examination. In addition to instruction, the apprentices receive wages from 15s. to 25s. per week. During the first year their general education is mainly attended to, in the second year they received instruction in the sciences bearing on forestry, while in the third year the instruction will be mainly devoted to forestry proper. The school is at present in its second session, and the first batch of apprentices is about to begin its third year's work, for which a highly-qualified forester has been appointed. It is eventually intended to convert Avondale House into a residence (as well as a school) for the accommodation of the apprentices. In addition to the demesne at Avondale, which, as I have said, is laid out in forestry demonstration plots, a wooded area of about 340 acres, to be worked in conjunction with the Avondale Forestry Station, has been assigned in the neighbouring County of Wickford, while the woods attached to the Department's other institutions, such as Ballyhaise, will afford further opportunity for the practical training of the forestry apprentices.

1924. (Mr. Micks).—How many acres in Avondale?—I think there is 600. The reason is this, that we have been selling part of it to the tenants, and we have not yet got the agreements quite made out, and I am not quite sure exactly what we will finally retain.

1925. How much under timber?—It will all be planted. Mr. John Farrell cut down some of the woods before the Department purchased the place.

1926. (Chairman).—What is the character of the land, is it under tillage?—No, demesne land; some of it is rough land; there are portions rather too good for planting, but we want to have an arboretum and pinetum there, and to make a good school which in twenty or thirty years will be a first-class place. Wicklow is one of the best counties in Ireland for the purpose, and that was one of the reasons we went there. Of course we have the opportunity of utilizing the woods in the neighbourhood for the purposes of instruction.

1927. (Mr. Micks).—Men will be likely to get employment from that?—We hope so. The Department have powers, of course, to deal with forestry on a large scale, but the Department's funds are totally inadequate to do more than give instruction, and work through the County Committees, and to give advice to any persons about to plant, and I personally, and I think, the Secretary as well, for he has given a good deal of attention to this subject, anticipated that under the Land Act there would be large areas of land, second-class and third-class land, that might have been acquired and planted with State money or some other way, and we anticipated for this that foresters would be required, and as we had been so handicapped for the want of instructors in agriculture and other subjects, we determined to have these men as at once and have them trained, anticipating something of this kind would happen, and I hope that yet something will be done to provide means whereby large areas may come into our hands for the purpose.

1928. Has any inquiry been made about the extent of land that could be got, probably free of grazing rights?—The Department surveyed a large portion of the South of Ireland. They sent two foresters to examine the existing woods and tracts of land that might be fit for planting, but it was not possible for these men to get information as to how the land was held. We hope to get it from the Estates Commissioners, with whom we are in close touch.

1929. (Mr. Brown).—The Department have been advised that County Councils may acquire land as trustees for re-afforestation under the Land Act of 1903?—Yes.

1930. (Mr. Micks).—Do the Estates Commissioners hold out any hope of being able to offer you any large tract?—They do from time to time, but the Department's funds—

1931. Free of grazing and other rights?—In the case of Ballyfad Wood, Wickford, where we bought from the Estates Commissioners, it was, so to speak, the remainder of the estate. We also imposed upon the Estates Commissioners that now was the opportunity to get land and tell us of others, and they have just recently intimated to us that there is another large block of land.

1932. That was a very small piece of land?—It was small, but we could show the principle.

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2533. But anything on a really large remunerative scale—do there any prospect of getting even one block in Ireland?—I think it would be possible to get a block of a thousand acres.

1834. Have you in mind any place at all that could be got?—I had in mind a block of a thousand acres.

1835. Is not that too small?—If we get a block of a thousand acres, that would do for demonstration. A block of a thousand acres, I would say, would be on a fair scale within a ring fence. I don't think you would get a much larger area than that; you would get bog land.

1836. A sheltered hillside?—Yes.

(Mr. Brown).—Would you get it free of grazing rights?

1837. (Mr. Mick).—That is the difficulty—can he hope to get it. I want to find out from you whether, in your opinion, there is any prospect of getting large tracts of land, free of grazing or other rights, that will enable the Department, or any Government Department, to start forestry in this country unless they are given compulsory powers to buy out the tenant's interest?—Yes, I mean that.

1838. The Department could not at all do it now?—Certainly not.

(Mr. Mick).—Apart from the question of funds, I mean the state of the law.

1839. (Chairman).—Is there any prospect of a large amount of land becoming available unless there are special powers given for the acquisition of it?—Special powers will have to be got and special funds provided.

1840. Special powers to extinguish rights?—Certainly.

1841. (Mr. Gillea).—Otherwise every purchase would require a separate Act of Parliament?—Yes. I myself think that the present moment is very opportune for something to be done; if it is not done now, and the land passes into the hands of the occupiers, the opportunity of acquiring land for afforestation will be gone for ever. The Department have a Forestry Committee appointed at the instigation of the Agricultural Council, and the following resolutions were passed:—

"That this Committee are of opinion that the work of afforestation in Ireland as a general scheme for the country as a whole should be undertaken by or under the supervision of the State, and that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and the County Councils should be provided with adequate funds and powers for the purpose. That this Committee endorse the suggestion made by the Council of Agriculture; that Irish galls and Crown rots should be utilised in forming a fund for the development of forestry in Ireland; that the Committee are of opinion that special encouragement is justified in the case of private owners who undertake tree-planting, inasmuch as the profits of such planting, unlike the profits of ordinary crop cultivation, are enjoyed by succeeding generations, and not by the actual planters; that in order to give encouragement to private owners to undertake tree-planting such alterations should be made in the Land Improvement Act as will enable advances for planting to be made when such planting is for purposes other than shelter; that in the case of such advances, and in order to secure as far as possible that the planting shall be of permanent value when the borrowers are prepared to carry out their plantations under the advice, and to submit their plantations to the periodic inspection of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, an abatement of interest on loans advanced for this purpose should be made during the period of the loan so long as the plantation is made to the satisfaction of the Department; that with a view to the preservation of existing plantations, the Committee are of opinion that amendments should be introduced into the Land Purchase Acts to the effect that plantations over a certain size, the limits to be determined by the Estate Commissioners, should be reserved from sale and vested in County Councils or other public authority, or if sold to tenants vested in them under restrictions as regards felling or injury."

From time to time landowners and others desirous to plant large areas, have requested the Department to supply technical advice. Thus the Department have

done on a limited scale, but as the demand for advice of this nature is increasing, it is intended that the new forestry expert, while mainly engaged in giving instruction at Ardara, will also be available to visit districts in which planting is about to be undertaken, to help in the preparation of working plans and the management of woods, that is, a private owner who is not able to keep a highly qualified forester will get the services of one from the Department, either free or at a small cost.

1842. (Mr. Brown).—And public bodies also taking over woods will get the advantage of his advice?—Quite so. The Department are engaged in negotiations with one County Council which is making an effort to acquire land under section 4 of the Land Act. It is impossible at present to say what the result of those negotiations will be.

1843. (Chairman).—What is section 4 of the Land Act?

(Mr. Brown).—It says that lands may be vested in trustees for the purpose of afforestation or other purposes, and a further section enables money to be advanced for the purchase, but the question I asked Professor Campbell was had the Department been advised that County Councils were trustees within the meaning of that section?—There was some doubt on the point, but the opinion is favourable. I now come to a number of subjects in the nature of special investigations. I explained how the votes of the Agricultural Board were dealt with when paid through the local authorities, and the Secretary of the Department has already explained how votes for the purpose of special investigation of this nature are dealt with; I need not repeat what he said. First of all I deal briefly with field experiments.

1844. (Mr. Mick).—Are all or any of them conducted under section 5, authorising the making of experiments?—Quite so.

1845. (Chairman).—Or do they come under the more general powers mentioned in section 15 (g)?

(Mr. Gillea).—They come under both as a matter of fact.

(Witness).—Now with regard to these field experiments, I explained that the county instructor conducts them on behalf of the Department and collects the results, and they are all compared and published from this office. The plan of these experiments are set out in the printed memorandum, which I will submit as evidence. A very great deal of time and money have been spent on similar experiments in other countries, where several local authorities or agricultural institutions are engaged in such work, and where each devised and carried out its own set of experiments without any attempt at co-ordination. The result has been the compilation of an enormous mass of figures from which no general results can be drawn owing to the want of uniformity in the plan of experiments. When taking up similar work in Ireland I determined to guard against a like result. Accordingly the schemes devised in 1901 have been repeated unchanged year by year in a constantly-increasing number of counties, and we are now able to place before the farmers of Ireland a series of figures in which I may be pardoned if I feel some pride. These experiments are of a simple nature intended to test in the most emphatic manner some of the most elementary, yet badly understood, principles of manure and manuring. Their results have been each year embodied in leaflets which have been distributed over the country, and they have also formed the subjects of a series of lectures by the itinerant agricultural instructors. I am firmly convinced that the improvement that has taken place in the use and purchase of manures in recent years alone justifies every penny that has been spent on county agricultural instruction. I shall not attempt to explain the principles on which these experiments are based, or the results which have been arrived at. It would require a series of lectures to do justice to the subject. Suffice it to say, that the results are most conclusive, and will form a standard of reference for many years to come. I may say that manure manufacturers are now making up their blends in accordance with the results of these experiments. It is not claimed that they cover the whole ground, but what has been investigated has been done thoroughly and completely. It is now intended to start another series which will be carried out in the same manner, but which will have for its object the solution of a different set of

problems. The experiments already made cover the principal crops of the farm, viz., oats, potatoes, mangels, turnips, and hay. I submit herewith the leaflets showing the results of the experiments in 1905. You will remember I referred to demonstrations before. The demonstrations are cheap, easily done, and you want them in every locality. The experiments are costly, and we do not attempt too many of them, 432 last year.

1846. (Mr. Mickle).—That seems a large number!—Yes; at each of those there may be ten or twelve plots, making 4,000 plots altogether; the experiments will not go on so rapidly as the others.

1847. Have any similar experiments been conducted in any other country?—The same experiments have not been conducted, they may be of the same nature.

1848. Anything similar elsewhere?—In almost every county in England.

1849. Are they co-ordinated with each other?—No, they have not been. You could get experiments of the same character, but every institution and county authority has its own set, and you cannot bring them all together and boil them down to one issue; it shows the advantage of a central authority, being in touch with their work, and illustrates the difference between the system we adopt in Ireland and the system adopted in England and Scotland. There each local authority gets its grant and goes its own way. Here we keep a firm grip upon everyone of them, and are in close touch with them, and therefore the results are infinitely more valuable than if they were all different and confusing. I have not included barley-growing in this. The subject of barley-growing is one in which the well-known firm of Messrs. Arthur Guinness, Son, and Company, Limited, are specially interested, and as this firm desired that the barley experiments should be conducted on special lines, and as they have contributed two-thirds of the whole cost, considerable attention has been given to their recommendations. The experiments are mainly directed towards determining the best variety of barley for brewing purposes. A special expert is engaged who gives his whole time to the subject, and the experiments have mainly taken the form of the cultivation of a number of different varieties as well as manured plots. The produce of the plots is afterwards treated in an experimental brew-house on Messrs. Guinness's premises. As the experiments now stand we have arrived at a conclusion that two barleys yield better results than the others, and the experiment will now be directed towards seeing which of these two is the better for the Irish farmer to grow. The next subject is early potato-growing, and I make a general head of it, and so I will treat a number of subjects which are in the nature of new agricultural industries, early potato-growing, tobacco-growing, fruit-preserving, cheese-making, and such like investigations undertaken in connection with a number of industries which did not formerly exist in Ireland. A brief survey of the agriculture of Ireland, which I was able to make in 1900, convinced me that, compared with the conditions under which early potato-growing was carried on so profitably in parts of Scotland, the conditions prevailing in many parts of Ireland were far more favourable for this industry. The production of early potatoes, however, is more in the nature of market gardening than ordinary agriculture, and it requires enterprise, a readiness to adopt new methods and business capacity. Part of the cultivation of the potato must be done in boxes in the house during the winter months. Where the situation is favourable, the land well manured, and the seed properly prepared, the crop suitably harvested, and marketing facilities good, very remunerative prices can be obtained, while the land is cleared sufficiently early to enable an ordinary farm crop to be taken off the field during the same season. The action of the Department has been confined to surveying the country for suitable districts, supplying free of charge small quantities of seed and boxes for demonstration purposes, giving technical advice in the growing and harvesting of the crop and putting the growers into touch with the various markets. Some very excellent results have been obtained from this crop in Ireland. In four districts now a number of farmers know the business thoroughly, the profitable nature of the crop has been amply demonstrated, and it now only remains to be seen what the farmers will do for themselves. The work of this Department in this direction has attracted considerable attention

in the British potato markets, and several colonies of early potato-growing in Great Britain are becoming uneasy with regard to the competition from Ireland.

1850. How have they manifested their uneasiness?—By sending over deputations to see what is happening, and they have reported in several cases that there is likely to be great competition. It is just possible that these farmers have looked at the condition of the land and climate, and have not overlooked other difficulties.

1851. What bodies send over those deputations?—The Glasgow potato trade. I have reports from time to time, and you see in the Liverpool and Manchester papers reports on this subject. Of course the objection is not serious yet, because the area is not great, but there is no doubt if the farmers were alive to their business they can very easily compete with English and Scotch growers. The first crop comes from Jersey, that is followed from West Cornwall, and in previous years Scotland came next after West Cornwall. There was then a period between West Cornwall and Scotland, which we find Ireland could just fill. We came in before the prices began to fall. Farmers in Ireland, for example, have actually got £50 in cash for an acre of early potatoes in the ground, the potato merchant lifting it himself. Farmers in Ireland have actually refused that. He has often harvested the potatoes himself, sent them over to Liverpool and sold them, and probably found he would have been far wiser if he had taken the figure that the Scotch merchant offered him, and he is often content with £35 and £40—£40 is quite a common figure, I mean £40 to £50 exclusive of railway cartage and commission.

1852. That is clear profit, the £50?—No, not clear profit; there is seed, manure, and labour.

1853. (Chairman).—Sold on the spot as they grow?—The Department bought over merchants and tried to get these growers to deal with the merchants. We were hoping that the merchants would get these potatoes and make a good thing out of them, and tempt them back again, but naturally a small farmer when he sees a man come across from Glasgow and offer him £50 an acre he thinks the man is going to make a gold mine of it, and that he should have some for himself. I had long hoped that we should be able to develop this industry in such magnitude that the Glasgow merchants would send over steamers and take them away, but they won't do that unless they get a sufficient quantity.

1854. (Mr. Bruce).—Is the County Down one of the districts to which you refer?—There has been a good deal of early potato-growing in the County Down and at Rush near here, but they have not adopted the proper methods.

1855. Don't they adopt sprouting in Rush?—They do now, but they formerly did not.

1856. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—If the merchant bought the potatoes in the ground would he employ the farmer to lift them?—He would employ local labour.

1857. The payment for the labour of lifting would come into the farmer's pocket in addition to the £50?—It would, and he would be paid for carting them. In time they will see that it is to their advantage if we bring over these merchants again.

1858. (Chairman).—What parts of Ireland would be adapted, in your opinion, to potato-growing?—Connemara and West Conboy.

1859. (Mr. Mickle).—It has been tried successfully in Belmullet?—Then Youghal, County Cork. I have just had a report this morning from that district. The crops there are finer than anything in England and Scotland this year.

1860. (Chairman).—Is the West adapted to it?—Part of Wexford is fairly situated, and we are hoping to develop it there in connection with the new railway that is to be opened. It is rather far from a market at the present time, but with the new facilities it will be an excellent place for it. Then we have tried it all along the West. We got most excellent crops in Clare, but only in small batches, and it was quite impossible to bring those to the Liverpool or Glasgow markets in proper quantities to make it remunerative.

1861. (Mr. Mickle).—Would you want to guarantee about 500 tons?—Yes. This year there will be well over 100 tons.

1862. A steamer that could carry from 150 to 200 tons would come from Glasgow and take them?—Yes, it would.

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1853. (Chairman).—That is largely a question of transit again?—It is a question of transit, and a question of getting sufficient area.

1854. (Mr. Brown).—What is the reason you only get small areas in the West—is it on account of the soil?—Yes, and in the County Clare we are far from a railway.

1855. Are there districts with a sufficient quantity of suitable soil if they had the railway communication?—Yes, there is hardly a county in Ireland where you could not grow early potatoes.

1856. (Chairman).—Would they they grow on cut-away bog?—No, but wherever you have moor, light friable soil, well sheltered.

1857. (Mr. Michel).—And you could grow them almost in pure sand?—You could, but you have to compete with the Scotch markets. Our object is to get in between Jersey and West Cornwall and Ayrshire. The first crops in Ireland will be lifted next week, and the crop will be cut and cleared before a lot of the ordinary land is tilled for the usual crop. The only place on the West Coast where it has taken hold is in Sligo. A considerable area is now being grown at Lissacall and Rosser Point.

1858. (Mr. O'Donoghue).—That is a district from which it could be removed direct by car?—There is communication with Glasgow by a steamer that goes twice a week. Incidentally I may mention that this system of doing part of the cultivation in boxes in the house in winter has been applied to the ordinary potato crop in Ireland with extraordinarily good results. All over the country you are now finding the farmers applying these methods to their ordinary potato crops. We have had a series of experiments on the subject, and you will see that there has been a very substantial increase. I think an average of 2½ cwt. stems from the application of this system of boxing (leaflet 58). In 1903 we tried it at twelve places. We thought it would be an excellent opportunity of getting forward potatoes before they are put into the bog. Farmers have to wait a considerable time before putting them into the bog, and then the potato is not far enough forward to resist disease. In 1901 there was an improvement of 1 ton 15 cwt. by this system. In 1904 we tried it at thirty-four centres, and there was an average increase of 2 ton 15 cwt., and last year at ninety-one centres there was an average increase of 2 ton 1 cwt., and considering the large amount of potatoes grown in Ireland that is very important.

1859. (Mr. Michel).—Have you tried that in a number of districts where the people rely largely on the potato crop for food?—We have, in twenty-three counties altogether. This system of boxing has been increased to such an extent that the making of trays for boxes has now become an industry in the country, and so well and cheaply have they been made in Ireland that large quantities of these boxes are being exported to the early potato-growing districts of Great Britain by the Irish barkmen.

1870. (Chairman).—In Dublin?—They have started in Belfast and Cork also; they have added that to their business. There is one Dublin firm sends enormous quantities to Scotland, and I may say that we were at one time very much concerned for buying a ton of these boxes from Jersey as samples to send round. The result of that ton of boxes has been that not only have we shown all the barkmen of Ireland how to make boxes, but they are now exporting them to Great Britain. I mention that as an instance of how the action of the Department may be misrepresented. Every person that applied got a box sent to him.

1871. Is this system recommended for the main crop?—Yes, for all crops. I met a gentleman this morning who told me he had been in Wexford and had seen a very large number of fields where part of the potatoes had been sown in this way, and they were very much more forward than the others. In connection with the county schemes I referred to fruit-growing, but pardon me as if I return to this question now to discuss what the Department have done from the central office. I mean quite independently of the local authorities. I have dealt with the establishment at the Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin, of a horticultural school for the training of experts and instructors to work under the county authorities, and I have described the work of these authorities in connection with the Horticultural Scheme, the sale of fruit trees at cost price to farmers, and the inspection

of fruit trees for the prevention and cure of disease. These are, however, mainly intended to encourage cottage gardening and fruit-growing for home consumption. I now wish to deal with the work which the Department have, and are still administering actually. In parts of the North of Ireland fruit is grown as an ordinary farm crop. With a view to determining the capabilities of other districts of the country in this direction a survey has been made by the horticultural expert, and a comparison made of the conditions in non-fruit-growing districts of Ireland with those in the fruit-growing districts both of Ireland and of Great Britain. The Department further organised at Cork in 1902, and at Dublin in 1903, a large show of Irish-grown fruit. These shows were made the occasion for bringing together fruit merchants from Great Britain and Ireland, Irish fruit growers and those who have a special knowledge of this branch of horticulture. The result arrived at was that Ireland is particularly suited for the growing of certain classes of fruit, particularly apples, not merely for home production and consumption, but as a regular farm crop for the British markets. When this conclusion was arrived at, the problem arose as to how this fact could be best demonstrated in the non-fruit-growing districts. It is obviously impossible for the small farmer to compete in the British markets with the produce from his own garden. It is equally impossible to make an impression by merely marketing the produce of a number of gardens. What is wanted is the produce of a large well-managed area of fruit, well grown, of the proper varieties, properly packed and marketed on the most up-to-date conditions. To secure this the Department, with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, undertook to supply, free of cost, fruit trees in twenty-acre lots at selected centres, each plot to be on suitable soil in extent provided twenty farmers, each growing one acre, were prepared, at their own expense, to fence the land, plant the trees, care for them, and market the fruit in accordance with the instructions of an expert whose whole time was placed at their disposal for a period of five years. During this period the Department undertook to pay half the carriage of the produce to any market in the United Kingdom. Under this scheme, a copy of which is handed on herewith as evidence, about 115 acres have been planted. The produce of the orchards, which was first planted in 1903, will be available this year, and arrangements have already been made for the packing, grading and marketing of this produce on the most up-to-date lines. It is also a condition of the experiment that the farmer keeps an accurate record of all expenditure and receipts in connection with his plot, and this information will be available for others who desire to take up fruit growing on commercial lines. In connection with this work the Department have also given a very great deal of attention to establishing a system of grading fruit for the market and the use of standard packages. These are now made by Irish barkmen. To encourage their use the Department insisted on fruit forwarded to them being packed in them, and they will be used in the marketing of the fruit from the special fruit plots of which I have alluded. The Department have published full particulars regarding these packages, which have been highly approved of by fruit merchants and they have been recognised by some horticultural societies in Great Britain as the best on the market. I think at the Edinburgh Fruit Show they insisted on the Irish packages being used for fruit sent in. While there is an excellent opportunity for growing fruit as a farm crop in Ireland it is only possible to do so successfully if the aim is the production of the maximum amount for immediate consumption in large towns. If fruit-growing as an industry were properly established there must naturally be produced at the same time a quantity of second or third-class fruit for the preservation of which in some form or another provision must be made. The Department, therefore, gave a good deal of consideration to the possibility of starting industries for the disposal of second-class fruit. There is only one outlet for the inferior soft fruits, namely, jam-making, and for inferior apples, cider-making, an industry which had all but died out in Ireland. Jam-making factories, however, already existed in this country, and the Department had, therefore, some hesitation about giving direct aid to assist in starting others. In one district, however, Drogheda, where a large quantity of fruit was grown,

the Department encouraged the establishment of a co-operative jam factory, and went so far as to make a loan to the promoters for the erection of the necessary equipment. Unfortunately, however, the business did not turn out a success.

1872. (Chairman).—You dealt with that as a portion of agriculture? We looked upon it as an industry subsidiary to agriculture. So far as I am personally concerned, I wanted to get a market for fruit growers. That company, I may say, have this to say, that while they failed, they used nothing but the pure fruit and sugar, and I think they found when they had got their sugar and fruit in the boiler, the cost of it was just what they could get for it in the market, and there was nothing for all their labour and capital, showing that either their method was costly, or that in the ordinary manufacture of jam there must be a considerable amount of material used in the nature of adulterants.

1873. (Mr. Nichol).—They get their fruit cheap?—Yes, but they could not make it pay. They would either have to resort to getting in large quantities of glucose or some other method, and that they did not do, they preferred to let the company collapse, and it did. In the meantime the Department had devoted attention to other forms of fruit-preserving which did not already exist in Ireland, and to which, therefore, no exception could be taken on the score of competition with private enterprise, nor was there any legal objection from that point of view of the Act, all those being industries subsidiary to agriculture. The industry took the form of preserving or drying whole fruit, and for this purpose the Department established at Freetown, which is in the vicinity of a large fruit-growing area, a properly-equipped factory, engaged a technical staff and interested a number of local capitalists in the concern. The object of this experiment was, first of all we encouraged the farmers who brought their fruit to market the best in a fresh condition for immediate consumption, then we bottled and canned and dried and pulped this, and also made some of the apples into cider. These were the forms in which we sought to dispose of the material. A very large quantity of produce was made during the three years that the experiment was in existence, but during the first season the concern was little more than a school, and a great many difficulties had to be overcome, the chief of which was that the machinery had to be erected for the manufacture of tins for canning the fruit, and also for having these tins lugged inwards. That, we found, could not be done in Ireland, and the only way to get over the difficulty was to set up a tin-making plant and lugging appliances, and then we had a further difficulty, that we had to train all our workers. At one time we had as many as 300 hands training, our object being that if private enterprise came forward they would have these trained workers. It took these girls a long time before they could work these machines and turn out a proper lugged tin, but eventually, of course, we succeeded. In the second year the work was commenced in earnest, and there was a large number of trained hands. It was a very favourable year for fruit. After a large quantity of material had been manufactured, objections began to be raised by the grocery and confectionery trade in Great Britain as to the Department's alleged competition in the markets, and after a considerable amount of correspondence it was evident that the Department would have to retire from the business, and they did so. But in the meantime they had practically accomplished the object of their experiments, they had trained the workers, they had shown to other manufacturers of jam and other things how this work could be done, and they then set about the sale of these industries, the existing industries, or, in some cases, getting private capital to take them up.

1874. Then do I understand that this is a case in which the Department actually started an industry on their own account and carried it up to a certain point, and then it was taken over by private enterprise?—It was then taken over by private enterprise.

1875. How long did that last?—Altogether we were engaged about four years on the work, but the active work was three years.

1876. Have you any accounts showing what the financial result was?—The Department's financial result was that they spent a good deal of money in training these hands, setting up machinery and employing

experts. I don't wish to mention the names of the firms, although they have often gone so far in some cases as to show us the capital they are putting into it. Further, then, I may say that our financial relations are not yet finished, and they believed when they gave us the information, it was for our private information. Take first vegetable drying, a firm in Belfast has taken up that. Potato-drying existed before that, but not vegetable-drying of the kind that the Department started. We took a great deal of trouble in getting to the Admiralty to get orders for these dried vegetables, and we supplied from our factory about 6,000 lbs. of dried vegetables and carrots. We also made special soups; they were very successful. They gave us a trial order. I myself saw the Director of Contracts and sent a man to Dordrecht to see the stocks spread, and they were very well satisfied with the results. We proposed the firm that took it over that if they put capital into it we would do all we could to secure a share of these contracts for them, and hope to be able to do so. They have put a lot of capital into it, and we have supplied them with the use of a trained foreman, a German, who came from one of the Government factories in Germany, where they dry for themselves. We have given him free of charge to this firm for twelve months. Nothing and earning fruit, this system has been taken up by the firm in Freetown, which has added nothing to its business. Another firm in Belfast has done so, another in Rush-hill, and at Drogheda an entirely new industry has been created on the premises of the old jam company that failed. I may say that the Department, in order to find a market for the fruit in the Drogheda district, stopped in when this company failed and started fruit preservation, and as soon as they got the business established they sold it all to the firm.

1877. (Chairman).—Has the Department got rid of it entirely?—Entirely. Then a company in Belfast took over the tin-making plant, and added that to their business, and are now supplying tins in Ireland to meet this trade.

1878. (Chairman).—Where do you get the tin from?—I am not sure, they are got in sheets. Another small company has been formed to deal with the cider plant in the same way. They have built premises, and are now manufacturing ciders. At another place they have taken up the pulping of fruit. It is pulped into casks, and afterwards sold to the jam makers. There are other similar companies who have started time work in a smaller way, but I am referring to cases where they have actually put a considerable amount of capital into it, and where it is a direct outcome of the Department's attempt to start this industry in Freetown.

On resuming after luncheon.

Professor Campbell.—In regard to the new industries that I referred to, the Department in nearly every case gave us a trained expert for a certain period. To illustrate the sort of confidence that is put in the Department's managers and experts and the quality of our produce, I may read this letter, which may interest the public, if not the Committee. It was received within the last few days by Mr. James Harper, the cider-making expert.—"Dear Sir,—My cider this year has turned out very good, and it takes the same effect on people as ale or porter. Three pints will make a man tipsy. The priest here asked me did I put whiskey in it. Will you kindly say if anything can be done to prevent this. Hoping I am not giving you too much trouble."

1879. Mr. Dwyer.—The Department ought to suggest that they should drink a little less.—It illustrates the confidence that they have in the Department. Another industry that I wish to refer to here is that of cheese-making. Notwithstanding the fact that Ireland is pre-eminently a dairy country, cheese is not one of her exports. The Department early in the career made careful inquiries into the matter, and found that an extraordinary idea prevailed that Irish milk could not be made into cheese. To prove this idea, and to demonstrate the process of cheese-making, the Department rented a farm in County Cork and proceeded to equip thorough a cheese-making dairy. This dairy has been at work for five years, during which time nearly all the milk of the farm has been converted into cheese, which has been sold at top prices, mainly in the Glasgow market, where its quality has been pronounced to be excellent. The

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June 1, 1900. Department have not, however, attempted to urge on Irish farmers the general adoption of this industry for the following reasons.—Much more technical skill is required in the manufacture of cheese than in butter-making, and we have not yet arrived at a stage when it can be said with confidence that those engaged in the dairying industry in Ireland have a high technical training. The manufacture of cheese requires not only greater technical skill, but stricter cleanliness than is required in butter-making. I don't for a moment say that butter-making does not require cleanliness, but when uncleanly milk is made into butter the butter is consumed quickly, and you don't see the effect of it, but if bad quality milk goes into the cheese vat and ripens there the effect may be very serious. In butter-making he can correct the error in a day or two. In cheese-making he cannot. He must wait two or three months to see the result.

1820. You cannot make really good cheese of tainted milk?—You cannot. If tainted milk is produced in the creamery of a butter-maker he can pasteurise it, but in cheese-making you cannot pasteurise, because you would destroy its qualities for cheese-making.

1821. (Chairman).—You have to do the very opposite for cheese-making—you have to cultivate certain bacteria?—The risk in the manufacture of cheese is much greater, and more capital is required than in the manufacture of butter, owing to the fact that cheese has to be stored for months to ripen it before it can be sold and converted into cash. While cheese can be successfully made in factories, the highest qualities are made in private dairies, the great majority of which in Ireland are not large enough to warrant the expense of a proper cheese-making equipment. Finally, cheese-making is incompatible with the rearing of store cattle, as there is no by-product as in the case of buttermilk, on which calves can be reared, and the Irish farmer is so wedded to calf-rearing and cattle-dealing that so long as he can live at this industry it would be very difficult to induce him to undertake cheese-making, which, though more profitable, requires much harder work and closer personal attention.

1822. (Mr. Dryden).—You said buttermilk—do you mean skims milk?—In Ireland it is the separated milk brought back from the creamery. In cheese-making it would only be whey, which is used for pig-rearing.

1823. (Mr. Brown).—The milk, after the churning has been done in the old way, is called butter-milk?—That is so.

1824. (Mr. O'Gill).—What about cream cheese?—We have tried cream cheese-making in our school in Cork, and sent one of our teachers to the Continent to learn it as well as Camembert cheese-making, and there is no reason why they could not make it, but it requires a great deal of skill and a great deal of industry. There is no reason why they should not make it, but it would be the last class of cheese-making we could get them to take up, except a small special class of farmers. I have always hoped we should be able to devote some attention to Camembert and Stilton cheese-making. There is no reason why they should not be made in Ireland.

1825. Cream cheese-making is compatible with calf-rearing?—It is. Sufficient has been done, however, to demonstrate that first-class cheese can be manufactured in Ireland, and that it can be easily and quickly introduced as an industry in the event of the collapse of the store stock or the butter trade. It may interest the Committee to know that the price obtained for the milk at the Department's experimental farm is much higher than could have been obtained if it were applied to rearing calves, and more than could be got for butter-making. It has averaged between 5d. and 6d. per gallon, exclusive of the value of the by-products. For whey, which is used for pig-feeding, our manager estimates is always worth £1 a cow, and as a matter of fact that is about the value which is put down in Great Britain, where they rear pigs for the bacon factories.

1826. (Mr. Dryden).—£1 per cow for how long?—For the season. They usually reckon the value of this by-product for cheese-making, which pays the expense of making. Another industry that has been attempted is that of tobacco cultivation. This has been tried by the Department in Ireland since 1900. A French expert was obtained in 1901, and tobacco was grown on small plots in ten centres, and the crops cared at one of the Department's farms.

The results of these experiments showed that tobacco capable of being manufactured into a smoking mixture can be grown in Ireland. To induce farmers to grow the crop on a commercial scale the Chancellor of the Exchequer has, on the recommendation of the Department, agreed to allow a rebate of the duty for a number of years, amounting to about 1s. per lb. to certain selected farmers who grow tobacco under technical advice supplied by the Department. Originally it was for a period of five years. Now it has been extended to ten years. The rebate amounts to about 1s. per lb. It positively means a bonus of 1s. a pound to those persons who grow tobacco under the technical advice supplied by the Department, and are recommended by the Department.

1827. (Mr. Micks).—You mean the duty on tobacco now is altogether a Customs duty at present the duty is collected by the Customs Department?—The Inland Revenue or Customs at the port.

(Mr. Giff).—The duty on imported tobacco is collected by the Customs, but the duty on tobacco grown in Ireland is collected by the Inland Revenue.

1828. (Mr. Micks).—Is any duty for tobacco collected except by the Customs Department?—That I don't know.

1829. (Mr. Brown).—Is there any duty on a tobacco grown in Ireland?—Yes, but there is a rebate.

1830. (Mr. Micks).—I was thinking of the foreign tobacco coming in. It is collected at the port by the Customs?—Yes.

1831. The Exchequer, I suppose, are bound under the law to collect a duty on Irish tobacco?—Yes.

1832. No tobacco had been grown in Ireland for half a century previous to these experiments?—That is so. The farmer will pay the duty and sell the tobacco to the manufacturer, and then the farmer gets back his rebate of a shilling.

(Chairman).—Except for this special exemption there would be a full Exchequer duty on tobacco grown in Ireland.

(Mr. Brown).—The Exchequer duty is collected as a matter of fact, and the rebate afterwards made.

1833. (Mr. Dryden).—On the raw material?—Yes.

1834. (Mr. Micks).—Have you a hundred acres or fifty acres?—A hundred acres this year.

1835. The duty on the hundred acres would be the only tobacco duty collected in the United Kingdom by the Exchequer authorities as distinguished from the Customs?—Oh, yes.

1836. (Chairman).—If there were tobacco grown in England or Scotland it would be collected in the same way by the Exchequer?—Quite so. The Department has had a great deal of difficulty in obtaining proper experts for this work. The year before last we had an excellent one, but he was taken afterwards by the Cape Government, and we have now succeeded in getting a very good one from Kentucky, with whom we have made an agreement for a few years.

1837. Do you look forward to a large growth of tobacco in the future?—As long as they get a shilling in the pound, tobacco will be grown, and grown plentifully and at a profit. If I had nothing else to do I would certainly grow tobacco.

1838. (Mr. Micks).—If the Chancellor of the Exchequer would allow that to go on in the same way that he does for the 100 acres, who would be injured in this country by it, or in the United Kingdom?—I don't suppose anyone would be seriously injured. But there is no reason to give a bounty on tobacco. You should not give it on wheat, which is much more so the purpose. That is my personal view.

1839. There is no duty on wheat?—Not at present.

1900. (Chairman).—I don't think we will look that. The experiments so far have not shown that it could be grown profitably without the rebate. It is possible, however, as we get on, and are able to do it more economically and understand it better we may be able to do so, but it can be grown profitably as long as you get the shilling per pound.

1901. (Mr. Micks).—So long as the Exchequer does not get the shilling a pound from the grower?—The farmer grows his tobacco, pays his duty, sells his tobacco to the manufacturer, and gets the shilling back.

1902. (Mr. Brown).—What is the total duty per pound?—Three shillings. I think, but it varies a little. The Department have also erected at very considerable expense three curing barns, where the tobacco can be properly cured under expert advice. That is one of the drawbacks to growing it. You require very

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which are stiller co-operative, joint stock, or proprietary concerns. The creamery system has been submitted to a great deal of criticism on the somewhat strange plea that it reduces labour at the farm, and that it has an injurious effect upon young stock. With the latter I shall deal presently, and as to the former I do not think I need discuss the general utility of creameries. They are now an institution in the country, and it is clearly the duty of this Department to learn so much as is possible in order to improve the quality of the product by every means in their power. These creameries are by no means what they ought to be. Many of them do not compare at all favourably with those that I have seen in other countries. There can be no doubt whatever that if the milk were supplied and handled at the creamery under proper conditions there is no country in the world which could turn out a more marketable commodity. Nevertheless, while some of the Irish butter is excellent, and commands a high price, a great portion is often far from what it could be. The managers of the creameries are, no doubt, often blamed for this state of things, but it is only fair to them to say that they have had little opportunity so far of receiving a good practical or technical training; they are badly paid, the equipment provided for them is very often defective, and the milk supplied in a very unclean and unsatisfactory condition, and for which the manager has seldom a remedy, seeing that the supplier is oftentimes his master. Further, as the milk is nearly all produced in summer the manager loses his customers in winter, during which the creamery is often closed. The Department have no power to compel the farmers to supply milk in winter, or to supply clean milk; neither have they any power to compel owners of creameries to provide better equipment, but they have taken steps which are calculated to effect a great improvement in this important industry, and these have been now embodied in a general scheme, a copy of which I beg to submit as evidence. This scheme, which is estimated to cost for the present year a sum of about \$4,000, the amount voted by the Agricultural Board, comprises (a) inspection and registration of creameries and auxiliaries; (b) supervision by visiting instructors; (c) winter course in dairy technology for managers; (d) an annual examination for creamery managers' certificates, and (e) summer butter competitions. I shall briefly refer to each of these heads in the order given. *Inspection and Registration.*—Two inspectors are employed on this work. The owners of all creameries are invited to apply to the Department to have their management recognised as efficient, and as suitable for the training of pupils. As a result of this inspection the Department publish a register of well-managed creameries, and most managers are ambitious to have their creameries included in this list. About 150 creameries offer their management for inspection and registration, and the Department's inspectors are instructed to examine into their methods, book-keeping, buildings, equipment, and suitability for training pupils. A list of registered creameries for last year will be found on page 22 to 23 of the printed scheme which has been handed in. This diagram (produced) illustrates the number of creameries visited annually. The very great increase in 1904-5 is due to the fact that before that the Department and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society were engaged in this work, but at that point the Department took charge of the whole work, and inspected the creameries, which accounts for the great increase. In addition to the two inspectors already referred to, the Department also employ four travelling instructors in dairymaking, whose duty it is to visit periodically, and in rotation, the creameries which apply for their services for the purpose of giving technical advice on all the operations connected with creamery management. Altogether 380 creameries are at present on the list of those visited by the instructors. Of these creameries 166 are entered for registration this year. Leaflet A. 60/06 herewith indicates the standard aimed at by the inspectors and instructors' special courses of instruction. The programme at the Albert Agricultural College, Glanerin, has been so arranged as to suit students who intend to become creamery managers, and the Department encourage intending managers to attend this college. In addition, they have during the winter, when the creameries are mostly closed, special courses for managers in engineering and dairy technology. I may say

the running of a creamery requires a great deal of knowledge of machinery, both the plant as well as the running of the engine and the pasteurising plant. Last year thirty men attended this course, which lasted four weeks. During this time the Department paid their expenses to and from Dublin, a maintenance allowance of £2 when in attendance at the course, and provided the instruction fees. The provision of a special school for the instruction of creamery managers has often been under the consideration of the Department. Such a school, however, necessitates the running of a creamery by the Department, a class of work which it is not desirable should be undertaken by a Government Department. I am giving you my own view there. There is such a large annual demand for apprentices that it would require a huge creamery to accommodate them all if they were to receive training in the working of the machinery and in business management. Again, there has been such a demand for agricultural teachers that the Department's scientific staff have had more than they could properly accomplish in the training of teachers of purely agricultural subjects. Finally, the Department are of opinion that the best method of training creamery managers is the system under which young men are taken for the purpose by the best equipped creameries, and taught their business by managers who have already had a good technical training. A few such creameries have already adopted this plan, and it ought to be the ambition of every creamery manager to have his creamery sufficiently well managed as to become practically a school. In that way you would have a large number of creameries turning out trained apprentices, and you would give an impetus to the creamery managers to be something more than mere milk or butter.

1906 (Mr. Doyle).—He would make a charge on that case?—Quite so. They might make a charge on get apprentices in free instead of employing paid hands. I may say, however, while that is the view that we have taken so far, the Department retain an open mind on the subject, and if we had sufficient staff and could give the matter proper attention, and it was shown to us that such a school could better meet the requirements, I am sure the Agricultural Board would be willing to vote funds for such an establishment.

1907. We have three or four of these training schools in Ontario?—Yes, but you teach cheese-making there. That would require a school. It is such a highly technical subject. Another section of that scheme is the creamery managers' certificate. In order to encourage private study among managers, and to set a standard at which they might aim, the Department annually hold an examination, the syllabus of which will be found in the scheme submitted. At the result of this examination a provisional certificate is awarded to those who succeed in attaining a certain standard. A full creamery manager's certificate is awarded to successful candidates who during the season immediately preceding the examination, have managed registered creameries which can be obtained by the holder of a provisional certificate when he has managed a creamery for a period of twelve months to the satisfaction of the Department. The full certificates are renewable annually provided the holder continues to manage their creameries to the satisfaction of the Department. He cannot get a certificate merely on paper. He must manage a creamery as well. He has the next is the summer butter competitions. The objects of these competitions are to induce creamery managers, as well as the dairymaid in the creamery, to give every attention to the details of packing the butter and particularly to absolute cleanliness in every stage of the work. The competitions are conducted in the following manner: On not more than eight, and not less than five, occasions during the season the Department forward without notice a telegram to each manager entered for competition requesting him to send to an address in Dublin a box or packet of butter made on the day on which the telegram is despatched. The butter is housed in a store in Dublin, and four judges, three of whom are usually representatives of the principal markets of Great Britain, and one from Ireland, are invited to examine the butter and award prizes on a specified scale of points. One of these objects, of course, is to get over large butter merchants to see the quality of our products. In that way we have been very successful. We always try to say. We take four judges from London, Newcastle, and

Glasgow, and whenever there is a large consumption of butter, and they have been good enough to come so far without any fee, which is very satisfactory.

1903. (Mr. Micks).—Getting their expenses merely?—Yes. The Department award £2 each to the first prize lot, and £1 each to the second prize lot. The latter is sold after the competition. The creameries are paid for the butter at the current market rates for the various classes of butter as determined by the judges. To the dairymen who made each first prize lot of butter a sum of 10s. is also awarded. At the end of the season the manager obtaining the highest number of prizes is awarded £10, the second £6, and the third £4. To these competitions the Department bring a large number of creamery managers in order that they may have an opportunity of seeing and comparing the various butters submitted for competition, the Department paying their expenses in all cases. Advantage is also taken of these competitions to ascertain by analysis the quality of the butter from the various districts. Other forms of improving creameries: In addition to the foregoing, the Department assist creamery management in the following ways: By undertaking investigations into the methods of improving butter-making. This is usually carried on by their inspectors in conjunction with some of the leading creamery managers. Furnishing copies of plans and specifications for buildings and machinery. When a person is going to start a creamery he usually comes to the Department for plans and advice, and we have these plans prepared for them (*shows specimen*). All these are prepared by our own officers. We further undertake experiments and investigations into the disposal of creamery sewage. These investigations have mostly taken the form of the application of the septic tank system for the disposal of creamery sewage.

1903. There were a great many outbreaks of typhoid fever owing to this sewage?—There have been outbreaks. I don't know whether they have been specially traced to the sewage or the milk coming in from dairies where the disease exists. For a time the Department encouraged the erection of pasterising plant in many of the creameries by giving loans for that purpose.

1900. With the view of making the separated milk innocuous?—Yes. Investigations as to the best kind of butter packages have also been undertaken. We have held conferences in this room with butter box makers, and butter has been packed in experimental boxes and sent to London and taken back again and examined by the creamery managers, all that with the view of determining the kind of package that will stand the transit, and, as far as possible, we want to get a uniform package so that the Irish creamery butter won't be sent in a variety of packages. We even contemplate giving some sort of a brand to the consumer so as to be quite sure that the butter will reach the market in proper condition. Investigations are also being made as to the use of pure cultures of bacteria in the ripening of cheese, a system that has been practised for a long time in Denmark and other countries as well, and might possibly be introduced into this country with good results. Closely associated with the creamery work is the question of rearing calves. You remember I said that the creameries were blamed for causing great deterioration in the stork stock. Of course there is no doubt that the separation of milk in the creamery deprives it of more fat than the older system of hand-churning, but it is perfectly easy to replace that with artificial fat which can be had in the market in the form of various meals and cakes, and in order to encourage that sort of thing the Department made these experiments. At the Cork Exhibition we had self-feeding experiments. That went on the whole time the exhibition was opened, and since then they have been carried on at some of our farms. Another class of work which I included under the head outbreak of disease in animals I must here refer to. I don't refer to diseases which come under the Diseases of Animals Act, but diseases such as white scour in calves, wasting in young cattle, diphtheria in calves, abortion in cattle, red water and so on. The principal investigation which has so far been made in this direction is in connection with the white scour in Limerick, where it was held the creameries were doing the most damage, and to them was attributed the death-rate which we found on examination to be extraordinarily high.

I myself went round and found an enormous death-rate in young calves. I will refer to the farm which the Department themselves took directly in hand. The year before that farm had eighty-four calves born and lost 61, and when we took over the farm there were nineteen calves born that year and eighteen had died, and the nineteenth one did die, and the result of our investigation was that we applied methods which resulted in not a single calf dying for the remainder of the year.

1901. (Mr. Micks).—Have you had any connection with that farm since?—It is in our hands yet.

1902. (Mr. Micks).—You are not now making cheese there?—Oh, yes. The outbreak was so serious that the Department undertook to make a special investigation of the cause and for the purpose they availed themselves of the kind offer of the French Government to place the services of the late Professor Nocard, of Paris, at their disposal. They equipped a laboratory for him at Limerick where, assisted by a large staff of experts, he carried out investigations on an extensive scale.

1903. (Mr. Micks).—Was he specially employed in France in connection with cattle disease?—He was one of the most celebrated veterinary surgeons in Europe.

1904. Was he a bacteriologist or a specialist for cattle?—He was a veterinarian. He was the head of the veterinary college at Alfort, near Paris. The result showed that the disease which had hitherto been attributed to the creameries, was entirely due to the presence of a micro-organism, which is found about manure premises and enters the circulation system of the calf at the time of birth. The Department also rented a farm, to which I have already referred as the cheese farm, where they have since employed Professor Nocard's recommendations with the very best results. We took over the farm in the middle of the season, when eighteen out of the nineteen calves had died, and after that I think twenty were born and we did not lose one. In subsequent years we have had some losses, but it is very hard to say that they were not due to natural causes.

1905. Apparently from the same cause?—Yes. Our manager thinks they presented the same symptoms. 1906. It may have been from a little neglect in attending to the animals?—I have a reason for it, and that is that we had been buying cattle in from the neighbourhood where the farms are not clean. However, as to infants and purposes, the disease on that farm is entirely stopped, and several of our neighbours, who formerly had no calves, are now able to rear calves. I have been making investigations this year as to how the other farms are getting on, and I asked for a report to be sent to me. It only came into my hands this morning, and I have not had time to digest it to see how far the work of these investigations has been successful in other parts. We have not this year kept calves. We have sold them quite young, and sold them for a reason which ought to be of great interest to agriculturalists, namely, our manager says that by rearing calves he loses more than £20 a year. It is rather a commentary on the fact that the farmers in Ireland will do anything to rear calves, but he has convinced me that he loses very substantially every year by rearing calves, and that dairying pays him better. Putting on a full stock of cows and turning all his grass into milk pays him better than rearing calves.

1907. Where do the calves go?—We are selling them to the neighbours.

1908. They are brought up then as home calves?—They are. Our manager insists that year after year he cannot show the best returns with them.

1909. He is going in for the boarding-out system?—No, he sells them out and out.

1910. (Chairman).—It would really pay better to knock the calves on the head?—He says so. We get twenty-five or thirty shillings for them. If we fed them all the winter and sold them next spring we would only get £5 at the best.

1911. (Mr. Micks).—What I was thinking about is how it would pay the men who buy the calves?—It does not pay them.

1912. (Chairman).—You take advantage of the weakness of the Irish farmer?—The Irish farmer, particularly in some parts, is wedded to the system of store cattle, and likes to deal in them.

1913. (Mr. Glynn).—He cannot make as much of the milk as you can?—There is no reason why he should not.

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1944. Just now he cannot, and, therefore, it pays him better to rear your calves?—That is his system. I only mention it as showing we are rather dependent on the store cattle.

1945. (Mr. Micks).—What would you do with the calves?—Make veal of them.

1946. Then how would you continue the species?—I can answer that by telling you what they do in cheese-making countries. They keep a few of the best female calves.

1947. (Mr. Dryden).—What use does he make of the by-products?—He feeds pigs.

1948. Instead of calves he has pigs?—Yes.

1949. (Mr. Brown).—Is the feeding of the pigs more profitable by £50 a year than the feeding of the calves?—Making your milk into cheese, and feeding the pigs on the by-product he maintains is more than £50 a year better.

1950. (Mr. Micks).—How many cows does the £50 a year mean?—On that farm there is about forty head of cows.

1951. That is nearly a pound a head?—He would say it is far more than that, but I am convinced of that, and you can see what happens in this. If he does not require the grass of these calves to feed them next winter he can keep far more cows. The food that would go to these calves goes to feed extra cows, and therefore instead of keeping forty cows and the calves he will probably keep fifty without any calves.

1952. (Mr. O'Brien).—Taking the country as a whole it would not follow that that process would be the most suitable one for all the districts. There may be districts in which it would pay to rear calves?—Oh, yes. A serious outbreak of a somewhat similar character occurred some years ago in the County Wexford, and exists there yet, and was brought before the notice of the Department at a meeting of the Council of Agriculture. The Agricultural Board voted the necessary funds for the equipment of a cattle infirmary in the county, and for the placing of a highly-qualified veterinary surgeon in charge of the infirmities. These investigations are all present in progress, and the results yielded so far are likely to lead to the prevention of the disease. We now carry them on in the Royal Veterinary College in Dublin. The Department have given £50,000 to the veterinary college. Other outbreaks of disease into which I need not go at length are those of abortion, which is a very serious matter for owners of stock in the country.

1953. (Mr. Dryden).—The worst thing in any country?—Black leg, red water. For all these we have done a great deal. We practically keep a veterinary surgeon doing nothing else but going round demonstrating methods of preventing these diseases, and where possible, of course, he makes investigations, or has the materials sent to the Department to be investigated. In some cases we employ the Royal Veterinary College to undertake the actual work of investigation in special cases which he may discover and report. I omitted, I see, to say something about the flax industry. I mentioned that the County Committee distribute a certain amount of money in various ways for the improvement of flax cultivation. The remainder of the work is done by the Department from these offices. For example, we have a very large series of experiments in the manuring of flax, a subject as to which correct information is very badly needed. Unlike the ordinary crops on the farm, root crops and corn crops, very little was known as to the manuring of this crop, and our investigations have brought out rather interesting results, results that I personally was not prepared for. In order to carry out the tests between the Continental and Irish systems of retting flax, to which I made reference, the Department erected a Courtauld mill in premises near Coleraine in 1902. In addition to the primary purpose for which this mill was provided, it served for the retting of the produce from the field trials. The Department were, therefore, enabled to exercise complete control over the handling of the straw subsequent to retting. It was represented to the Department in 1909 that sowing seed of a rather inferior quality was being used in Ireland owing to the fact that Continental growers bought up the choicest seed early in the winter, long before Dutch and Russian merchants received inquiries from Irish buyers, and also that seeds from selected plants are being made. The Department accordingly arranged to purchase 100 bags of the best seed themselves, 100 bags one year and 400 another year, and this was distributed in small

quantities at cost price among the flax growers to set against the seed bought locally in Ireland, and also to show them really what good seed was. The Department have continued since to purchase small quantities, and to use the seed for paying prizes which they give at the flax shows. Instead of giving money they give seed. Inquiries have also been annually made on the Continent as to the flax seed market. Letters are issued for the benefit of the Irish growers. We make inquiries in Nijmegen and other districts for accurate information as to the quality of the crop. In fact we go as far as to recommend the specific brand of seed to buy, a somewhat dangerous thing to do; but the farmers say that we have better means of getting information than they have, and we boldly do it, but it is attended with risk, as we might find an error had been made in the samples with which we were working. So far we have been successful in our recommendations. Attention has also been directed as to the drying of flax straw and the saving of Irish seed for sowing purposes. During the present season trials of Irish seed from selected crops have been made. In Ireland, unlike what is done on the Continent, flax seed itself is all lost. The crop is pulled when it is in a half-ripe condition, and put into a bog-hole until it is partially rotted. They don't take off the seed.

1954. (Mr. Micks).—Which is not ripe?—Which is not ripe; but it would be most excellent feeding for calves if it could be saved, and the reason that is given for it is owing to the labour difficulty. Be that as it may, we have shown it is quite possible to dry the straw, and thresh the seed and make use of it, but I am bound to say the yield of seed is somewhat disappointing.

1955. Is that immature condition?—It is not so much that, but there are really two plants, a branching plant which is used for seed in Russia—lind oil is the product—then there is the other single stem with fibre. That is the one on which we work, so that the yield can only be expected to be small. The it has been urged on the Department that the system of retting at present in vogue should be entirely altered. We have from time to time sent parties of farmers to the Continent, and we cannot undertake work of a similar character here. We have no such rivers as the Lys at Courtauld, and if we had the fishery laws would prevent anything of the kind.

1956. Is it more than a canal?—It is very deep flax?—Yes, it moves quite slowly. It has accordingly been represented to the Department that an artificial system of retting, whereby you could control the quantity of the water, and raise the temperature if required, would be successful, and the Department, somewhat reluctantly, I must say, gave a grant to the Flax Supply Association in Belfast in order that they might undertake these experiments, and they are doing it for us. At the present time their application for a renewal of the grant awaits the sanction of the Agricultural Board the next day it meets.

1957. The object is to improve the flax crop and get the farmers higher prices?—Quite so. The idea is instead of doing it in these ponds to do it artificially in tanks with water absolutely under control. It has been tried in other countries, but has never been a success.

1958. (Mr. Brown).—Is retting in a river as bad to the fish as the system of holding the flax under water and then letting it all go?—I don't think any fish could possibly come near where the flax is retted.

1959. Where the water is moving all the time it is not so bad as where it is retained and let go in one river into the river?—In Ireland they let it into the river with a rush. If you are retting in a river constantly they would not come there. You would not have fish in your river, I don't think you can trust the fish.

1960. But it is in a much more dilute form when the water moves all the time than when it rushes out in large quantities. We have not tried it in any river. We don't know of a river that is sufficiently slow and sluggish.

1961. Are there any fish in the Fliemish river?—No. It would be impossible for anything to live in the river at Courtauld. I need not go into a long discussion of these retting experiments except to say that the work is going on. There is another section, the collection of statistics. We have endeavoured to obtain reliable statistics as to the manuring of flax.

the supply of seed, and the yield, but very little definite information has been obtained in that way, although we have spent a great deal of time on it. Then the scutching tests in which I have referred, which have been made in the Department's scutching school in Coleraine, have been in progress for some time, and we have shown there, as, I think, I stated yesterday in connection with another subject, that a modification of the Belgian mill is one that gives the best results. It is largely a matter of the weight and setting of the blades which scutch the straw. Perhaps you are not familiar with the process of scutching, and therefore I need not enter into any further details. The formation of co-operative flax societies is another work to which we have turned our attention recently. We have trained in the school in Coleraine young men with a fairly good education. There is an expert. We pay half his salary for a year. He manages the concern for a farmer who formed a co-operative society. We think that is the best way in Ireland. They can co-operatively buy seed and can co-operatively scutch it. We also hope through this society to get more in direct contact with the spinners. It years with each society how far they will unite. Every man in Ireland likes to make his own bargain and see his own, but where they can benefit by getting their own manager, a skilled manager, to buy the seed, which is a very important matter. Last year five of these flax societies were started, and that is an illustration of how the Department and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society work together. The Department first of all determines on a district where flax can be grown, or there is likely to be a sufficient quantity for the operations of the society. As soon as they can get a manager they invite the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society to form a co-operative society in that district. The Department then put in the manager and supply technical advice, leaving the work of organisation to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

1962. (Chairman).—The area under flax has increased somewhat this year.—Our statistics are not collected this year yet for this crop, but we have a way of getting at the area before the statistics are collected, and that is by finding out the quantity of seed that has been imported into Ireland, and, cautiously enough, every year we are able to forecast very accurately indeed the number of acres of flax, and we expect a substantial increase this year. The area has improved a little.

1963. I saw a rather more positive statement in the commercial article in the *Times* a few days ago as to the increase of flax in Ireland—I had not time to see it. In 1899 there were 24,000 acres, and now it is about 42,000 to 43,000. It is not a great increase, but it is an increase, however. I have already told you of this fact that we send annually to the Continent bodies of farmers and scutch millmen in order that they may see for themselves how the work is done, and in some cases they come back favourably impressed, and, of course, like farmers, they come back sometimes with an idea that their own methods are quite as good, but, on the whole, there is no doubt their visits there have induced a large number to adopt the recommendation for a slightly better system of scutching, and even if it costs more the spinners are willing to pay more than the difference. I just might briefly refer to a section of the work that I showed on a map that I handed round at the outset, that is, the work of supplying technical advice and correspondence. In the early years of our work we used to be inundated with letters from farmers, particularly in the spring. At that time there was no one but myself and the chief inspector to deal with it, and it was utterly impossible to do the work justice, and ever since we have all been hampered, particularly the instructors, to whom I have practically delegated the duty of seeing these queries dealt with. It has grown to such a magnitude that there is work for one good man. We often get very troublesome queries. Recently we had a man engaged in searching out all the work that has been done in connection with silos. If a farmer wants that information he will expect us to give it to him. Innumerable instructions could not do that.

1964. (Mr. Miskin).—Can you tell me whether newspaper information of that sort is still open to correspondents?—Yes, that is open to them still. Where work of this kind is taken up it increases the demand for information.

1965. Let them write all round and see which they like best—I believe they do. I have no doubt wherever that many of the questions that appear in the agricultural papers in Dublin have been addressed to the itinerant instructors, if not, to this Department itself. In the case of the *Farmer's Gazette*, I am glad to say the editor is one of our men whom we trained. He is able to deal with questions very much in the way he did when he was an itinerant instructor, and while he was one man taken from us, I think he is doing quite as good work there as he would have done had he been in the country. Then I might just briefly refer to the leaflets that we have to write. There is a very large number of them. Some of these I wrote in the early years in order to get something to reply to men's queries, but since then they have gone on increasing, and there is a very great demand for them indeed. They are prepared by the agricultural branch by our officers, but they are distributed by another branch of the Department, the intelligence branch, and they tell me that of each issue we have more than 12,000 have to be sent to persons who expect to be supplied with leaflets. There are 12,000 persons on our mailing list. The amount of literature that is distributed in that way is enormous.

1966. (Mr. Gylvic).—12,000 who are likely to utilize a leaflet whatever be its subject?—They are so interested that they want to get them all and keep them, but of some of these leaflets there are more than 60,000 issued.

1967. There will be a special issue of leaflets to certain classes of recipients according to the season involved?—Yes.

1968. (Mr. Brown).—Have you bound up any of the leaflets?—We have not yet.

1969. Our Committee have had a number of these bound up, I think, a couple of hundred, and they are all gone, and other people are asking me for more?—Here (produces) is the annual report of the King's County Committee, and I see they have printed a number of our leaflets, but perhaps one of those days when we have no more inquiries to attend to I may have some more written and have a volume of them issued.

1970. (Mr. Dryden).—I am interested in this journal—do you charge anything for it, or is it a free publication?—It is expensive a copy, published by Ponsonby. There are four volumes in the year. It is a quarterly journal, and that also, I may say, is a very severe task on our people. Many a time when that journal is going to press we have to turn to, and, if there is not sufficient interesting material of the right class, to prepare it. All that is work that might be developed if one only had time to do so.

1971. Then there is no definite subscription list?—No.

1972. Then how is it circulated?—People send to Ponsonby, and it is at the bookstalls and sold throughout the country. Another subject in which I have been very much interested, which has been taken up by the farmers, is the question of seed-testing. The Department have set up in Dublin a seed-testing station to which farmers can send samples of seeds to be tested for a fee of threepence per sample.

1973. (Mr. Gylvic).—Any sample whatever?—Yes. I think on the Continent you pay three or four shillings. Here it can be done for threepence. I think I have given you a copy of one leaflet or regulations with regard to our seed-testing station, and I prepared this diagram (Appendix XIII.) to show the advantage taken of it. It corresponds pretty much with all our work. It is going on increasing, and I anticipate that this year I shall have to ask the Agricultural Board for an increased grant to meet the expense of carrying it on, because the samples of seed coming in are so numerous.

1974. (Mr. Dryden).—What is the nature of the test made?—It is mainly for germination and purity.

1975. (Mr. Miskin).—Microscopic?—Yes. Our microscopic examinations are required to determine the purity, but the most important thing is to get a seed that will germinate well, and there is little doubt that Ireland has been the dumping ground for bad seed. There are many seed merchants who clean their seeds very carefully. There are seed merchants who buy commercial seed and clean it again in order to keep up a very high reputation, and, of course, the cleanings must go somewhere, and we have seen great quantities of seed in the West of Ireland, the congested districts and elsewhere, which you will see seed by little

June 1, 1966.

Professor J.
K. Campbell

June 1, 1906.

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shopkeepers. They are perfectly honest, but it is often old seed. These envelopes (showing samples) are sent out free to the farmers with instructions on the back how he is to proceed, and the sample is put inside with threepence, and he has the privilege of sending it without paying postage, which is a privilege that does not exist in England—

1976. I thought you could send a letter to any public department without paying postage?—Yes, but if you send a sample of seed to an English Department they won't test it for you.

1977. But you can send it?—You can, but you won't get a reply. That has been very largely availed of. I am not going to trouble the Committee with a description of the seed trade. You quite realise that Ireland is a country where a great deal of attention requires to be paid to it, there are so many small farmers buying small quantities from shopkeepers, but it is satisfactory to find that the system is working well, and has been taken advantage of.

1978. Have you any idea of the net cost to the Department of the seed-testing branch?—The seed-testing branch is under the direction of the Professor of Botany of the Royal College of Science, and he has a highly trained assistant. In addition to that, in a pressed season we will have another, and we often have a number of our smart boys and girls for counting the seed. The total vote per annum is £300.

1979. That is apart from the supervision?—Yes. That includes the salaries of the experts and of counters.

1980. (Chairman).—Do you send these envelopes in answer to applications?—Yes. We have got 120 notice boards of our own at all the police barracks, and then when the seed season comes round we shall probably send out a great big placard, "Farmers, see that your seeds are tested," or something of that sort. "Write for the Department's leaflet. Your seeds may be tested at so and so." And then itinerant instructors are constantly picking up samples and sending them up, and they are advising farmers to do the same. Co-operative societies are doing so also and even merchants are availing of it, and we charge them a shilling for purity and two shillings for purity and germination. They were very angry at not getting it done for threepence.

1981. (Mr. Brown).—And I suppose they would use the result as a sort of advertisement?—Very likely, to use it as an advertisement. You cannot prevent them, and the gentlemen who go round selling the seeds is often very smart in his business, and will tell you things which are not true.

1982. (Mr. McKis).—Where are those gentlemen from?—I am glad to say the specific cases I have in my mind are not in Ireland. They are agents from the other side. For example, we have articles sold at exorbitant prices, articles that we had to warn the public against repeatedly, and farmers have written to us to say the agents told them the Department specially recommended the material. We have to cope with them not only in the matter of sending in diseased trees, but sending in inferior substances, and Ireland was in the first years of our work an excellent ground for operations, because everyone was talking of improving manures and seeds, but there is too much information about for that to make rapid progress. In this connection we employ not the whole time but part of the time of our agricultural analyst, who does not analyse free of charge. We cannot do that because there are a large number of public analysts. There are no public seed-testers, and if a farmer thinks he is aggrieved and sends up to the Department a sample, and is prepared to come forward and substantiate certain agreements entered into when the bargain was made, we will then have the sample analysed for him free of charge; but that is really for our own information. And in the same way all the itinerant instructors have the privilege of sending up samples to be analysed free, so that they may be informed of what is going on in the country. They have specimens of certain merchants or firms, and are able to confirm them before they warn the farmers against them. That is altogether apart from feeding stuffs.

1983. (Mr. Dryden).—Is it generally the custom for the farmers to buy their seed as against preserving some of their own seed?—They buy most of their seed. They usually use their own potatoes and cabb, and sometimes barley, but the grass seeds they buy, except perennial rye grass; that is grown very largely in Ulster, not in

the rest of Ireland, where it is all bought seed. We don't go into any great extent for raising our own seed, except as I say potatoes, barley, cabb, and wheat. The rest is nearly all purchased. And similarly with regard to spraying mixtures. I devote a great deal of time and attention to the spraying of potatoes. We are just getting out our annual placard warning farmers to get ready their spraying materials against the potato blight.

1984. (Chairman).—Do you spray potatoes always or merely when there is an indication of disease?—Always.

1985. As a precaution?—Yes, as a precaution. We recommend it always to be done. In some parts it is done very well and regularly. In others when a good year comes and they escape they are apt to neglect it next year.

1986. (Mr. Brown).—It is not necessary in the case of early potatoes?—No. They would be up and gone. The disease is black rot. The disease is more successful in Ireland than in Great Britain. Ireland is a damper country, and the disease makes more progress here. I have never seen such good results from spraying in England or Scotland as I have seen in Ireland. The results in this country are wonderful. Anyone who is careful and sprays his potatoes, unless he may have the bad luck to have bad weather, which washes it off, and he may not spray it all too, but if it is well done it is very successful. This was work done by the Conquest District Board and other departments before the Department started.

1987. (Mr. Dryden).—You have not the potato beetle here?—No, but we have a law against importing it. I am not sure that the Colorado beetle would live in this country. It came into England about two or three years ago, and there was a very great deal of care taken to have it stamped out. It is very questionable whether that beetle would live in Ireland. I don't suppose it ever has been in this country.

1988. (Mr. Brown).—Have you nothing to say about charcoal spraying?—That is another work that has been undertaken through the instructions, and very successfully. A County Committee usually purchases one or two machines and lets them out for demonstration purposes. That practically finishes number 8. I have many other things which I intended to describe. Our system of ploughing lectures, which we still carry on. Notwithstanding all these itinerant instructors that I spoke of yesterday we have great and constant demands for other lectures to be sent out from the office here, and we have a regular system of sending out these men.

1989. (Chairman).—When you give lectures in small places the attendance is satisfactory on the whole?—Yes; the attendance is satisfactory in Ireland.

1990. (Mr. Brown).—These figures that you gave us yesterday about answers to correspondence, do they include letters written by the itinerant instructors?—Yes.

1991. (Chairman).—In reference to the question about the number of inquiries, I have a paper here which is a summary of the number of replies, and I find that these are the figures: Written queries received and answered by the county instructors during the past twelve months—agriculture, 5,881; poultry, 15,609; butter-making, 8,117; horticulture and bees, 5,230; making a total of 25,515.—Yes. I wish to refer to a few of the administrative difficulties we had to contend with at various times, because the Committee will, no doubt, in getting evidence have complaints made to them which the Committee might not understand so well as if they were first prepared with a brief statement of them. One of these difficulties was the size of the County Committees. The Department, in order to secure efficiency and continuity of policy, urged County Councils when appointing local committees to select men of outstanding ability who had a special knowledge of the work to be done, who would attend regularly, and to make the Committee as small as was consistent with proper representation. Very few County Councils, however, could be induced to adopt this policy. In many cases the whole Council resolved itself into a County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

1992. (Mr. Dryden).—How many would that be?—I will get the statistics; and in accordance with powers given them by the Act they co-opted an equal number of outside members. I had actually for you a list

showing the numbers for each county. I only just went to bring it forward to show you that it was one of the difficulties we had to meet.

1903. That would be an unworkable Committee!—In some cases they are still extremely large. Of course the Department have never insisted on having them reduced. They have tried to urge them, but we have no power to insist.

1904. What was the object of making them so large?—It is a little difficult for anyone who has not lived in Ireland to understand. If you had lived in Ireland you would understand at once.

1905. Is it a case of ignorance?—Well, I suppose it is. At any rate it is so.

1906. (Mr. Brown).—And it makes it most expensive to work when you are sending out inspectors and field?—We have had Committees of 28, 30, 33, 40, 15, 25, 26, 24, 29, 37, 23, 31, 55, 36, 23, 25, 27, 14, 35, 60, 32, 57. That is all it is now. Originally we had as many as 80, 100, and so on.

1907. (Mr. Dwyer).—In case there is any discussion you will never get any business done?—The Committee very often resolved itself into this, that after the meeting was over the business was done by the Inspector and the chairman in a much more useful way. I want to point out that that was in the beginning. In fact there was a time when the Committee themselves used to co-opt members at every meeting they attended.

1908. (Mr. Brown).—That was illegal?—It was, and the Department stopped that, and there was a great deal of criticism to the effect that the Department were dictating and coercing. But that was quite illegal, because the County Committee derives its authority from the County Council, and had no right to co-opt. That was in the beginning. A better state of things exists now, but the Committees are still too large, so that in practice the actual working of the scheme often goes into the hands of a few good men. That is what we want, and then it works all right, but if there is any special opposition, or any opposition to the scheme of a specific district, you may depend upon it that all the Committee will attend from that district on that particular day, and in that way our scheme are sometimes a little upset. Another difficulty is that it will be remembered that at the time the Department was created local government had been in existence only about two years, and the farmers had been accustomed to look to a central department for work to be done. In the West they looked to the Congested Districts Board. All the work was supervised by some central department, and so farmers had been accustomed to look to the central department to have the work done for them, and it was a considerable time before they began really to understand what was the meaning of having a local Committee to apply to, and even yet we have deputations of farmers coming here asking for specific assistance. They do not altogether refuse to go to the County Committee, but at any rate they are reluctant to go to the County Committee, hoping perhaps that they would get better terms or be attended to more quickly from this office. My hope was when I joined the Department that all these difficulties that we have to deal with in the central office would have been dealt with by the local Committee and none other, but the work of the local Committee is only a small part of our work. We have to be in touch with individuals and societies all over the country, and we practically keep an open house here for all who like to come. In the early years I have interviewed people all day long. I have many a day never opened any private or official correspondence until after five o'clock. They have been waiting in our waiting-room in quite large numbers.

1909. (Mr. Micks).—Are you aware that that is the usual practice in Government departments in Dublin?—This is the only one I have experience of. They call about any small matter about the farm, or they are liable to call about getting bulls or stallions. Naturally the work that should have been done through these local authorities had to be done through this office. That is improving, and I hope, will go on improving from year to year.

1910. (Mr. O'Leary).—Do the local authorities show any signs of reacting so much direct communication?—No, they do not; not in the least. I am aware that in some countries that would be the case; but it just illustrates the point I tried to make. It has been so

long the custom. They have been in the habit of looking to a central department. For example, in Scotland or England you would never have that sort of thing.

1911. (Mr. Micks).—You expected not to find it here, and were prepared to leave it in the hands of the local Committee?—I was prepared to deal with the local Committee, and, through the local Committee, with the people. Then another difficulty we had was the difficulty of the appointment of the secretary to the County Committee. That was a matter which gave us a considerable amount of difficulty, as it was not possible to apply the Department's rule that a secretary ought to be appointed who was not a native of the county, though I am sure it would have been a wise provision if it had been adopted in many cases. Some of the secretaries are excellent men, and in the counties where most work has been done there you will find it is very largely due to having an energetic secretary, who is always up to date with his work, and who takes care to keep the Committee well informed of the schemes as they are issued, and to have the meetings called in time and the advertisements issued in time. In some cases too the chairman of the Committee has not always been what one would wish.

1912. (Mr. O'Leary).—Is the secretary, as a rule, a whole time officer of the County Committee?—As a rule he is not, but not always. He is very often the accountant to the County Council.

1913. I don't mean giving his whole time to this business. It is not common for him to combine it with private practice as a lawyer or something like that?—Oh, no. In many cases the secretary has been so ineffective that if the chairman did not do the work schemes would have been impossible in quite a number of instances. The Department have now found it necessary to make a rule that a secretary must not be appointed until he has been examined and approved of by the Department. That is a check to some extent, but not so great as to any great length in interfering with the action of a County Committee.

1914. When the County Committee had made a mistake in selecting a secretary, does it as a rule refuse to re-select?—No, once appointed he is appointed for life.

1915. They are quite content to pay his salary. I suppose it is chargeable against the joint fund?—Yes.

1916. So that only half comes out of the local funds?—Yes.

1917. And they are content to go on paying that in some cases for quite ineffective service?—For very ineffective service. They are quite satisfied to do that if the man can show he has someone at home to do it for him.

1918. Then the work is done?—If his wife does the work it is done. I mention this not only to show that we had difficulties in getting our schemes worked in a few counties, but I do it because you will find that on this score a great deal of friction in the early years was caused. You can quite understand what happened when the Department insisted on certain persons not being appointed. For example, notwithstanding the Department's rule, it would be quite common for a County Committee to proceed at once to elect the man, and send the minutes up to the Department to the effect that so and so had been appointed. Of course the Department's reply would be that they must have an examination and they must advertise it. Of course there would be friction at once, and usually a delay of a few months, until in nearly all cases I am glad to say the County Committee did eventually advertise the post, and a proper examination was held. The Department insist on their publishing a circular of this kind (Appendix XV.) in the Press. I mentioned the other day the large advertisement for secretary, say an advertisement for a secretary who is to be paid £255 per annum. That is an advertisement in one of the most expensive papers. It gives you an idea of that other difficulty I spoke of, where the Department have sometimes to insist upon a secretary securing economy in the funds. All these matters created a certain amount of difficulty; and very violent speeches are made occasionally, which are intended for publication, and are usually published, and that is the only item of information which the public get from that meeting, though there may have been very excellent business transacted there. Then there is another difficulty that we had. The object of the bull scheme was wholly misunderstood at first. The idea was that that money was intended not for the

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farmers who were going to use the bull, but for the individual, and the farmer was sometimes selected with that end in view. That was another difficulty we had to overcome. Experience has to a great extent effected the desired change.

2009. (Chairman).—Are all these difficulties diminishing?—There are very few of them now. I know there are very few of them compared with what we had at first. We took a very firm attitude at the outset, but I could not lay my hands on any of them at this moment except the Congested case.

2010. May we not have this kind of thing until we hear from the County Council Committees themselves whether they have any complaints to make against the Department, and give the Department an opportunity of replying?—Very good. There is one brief one I should mention, the fact that members of the Committee may be beneficiaries under the scheme; that is the great difficulty we had to contend with. Frequently the Department's inspectors have had to declare a stallion, belonging to a member of a County Committee, as unwound, and therefore ineligible for subsidy under the scheme; his premium bull had had to be rejected owing to want of merit or bad treatment; his poultry have been rejected as not possessing sufficient merit; his mare has not been selected for a free inoculation to a registered stallion; other stock has failed to receive prizes out of moneys provided by the Department; his farm has not been considered good enough for a prize under the farm prize scheme. In these and other ways members of County Committees have failed, owing to the Department's inspectors having performed the duties imposed upon them, to obtain a cheque out of public funds, and whatever may be the private feelings of his fellowmembers, it is impossible for them not to sympathize with him in public, and to unite in wholesale condemnation of the Department. I don't for a moment wish to say it can't be remedied, but you can see it placed the Department's inspectors in a very awkward position indeed, where the members themselves will vote their own funds to themselves, not directly, but through prizes to their stock, and where the Department's inspectors report on the stock, and as a result of these reports they failed to obtain their cheques. Now I intend to refer to some other difficulties, the difficulties with regard to the Congested Districts. There was a provision in the Act which made it for a time almost impossible for the Department to make progress in some of the western counties. The Department was precluded from applying money to the congested districts. They were precluded from applying where rate money was not raised, and they were precluded from raising any rate on anything less than a rural district. But the rural district was partly congested and partly non-congested, so that practically a deadlock operated at the start, but since then legislation has put that matter right.

2011. That legislation was by way of extending the Act of 1899?—Yes, and then we got relief from a state of affairs which existed before that. It gave us an excessive amount of work, trying to carry out schemes under those conditions. There is only one other difficulty I will refer to. That is the fact which, I think, must be unprecedented in all other Government institutions. We have here a central staff provided by the Treasury, and we have as our masters the County Councils, and the Council of Agriculture and the Boards who, of course, call upon us to do the work, and are constantly urging us to do more by their pressure; on the other hand the caution of the Treasury has been not to go too fast. There again, I assure you, it has been exceedingly difficult for us.

2012. (Mr. Mickel).—Would that be the way in which the Treasury put it, or would they simply refuse you an additional staff?—One of the officials of the Treasury investigated my work, the late Mr. Spring Rice, and he simply said we must not go so fast, that we were underestimating too much work, and since then it has been mentioned in Treasury letters that we must proceed with greater caution. But it is impossible for us to proceed with caution when we have the pressure of the County Council, the Council of Agriculture and the various bodies outside.

2013. You have letters to that effect from the Treasury?—I have seen one to that effect, but I have had a personal conversation with one of the officials of the Treasury who told me so. I don't know whether that is a state of things which exists in other Government offices. I am glad to think that some of the

Committee are well acquainted with the system that exists in some other public departments. I don't believe such a state of things exists anywhere else. It practically amounts to this, that while you have County Councils, and the Council of Agriculture, and the Board of Agriculture, and the whole people urging you to do work and undertake new schemes the staff for doing that is not provided by those bodies, but by a totally different body, namely, the Treasury, and while the country says you are not going fast enough the Treasury says you are going too fast.

2014. (Chairman).—Is not that what the Treasury wants for—a check of that kind?—I don't think it quite does. If the Treasury provided the staff the Treasury would be the master.

2015. (Mr. Mickel).—The Treasury would be able to prevent undue waste of money, but as long as its work is good, ought they not to encourage it?—Certainly.

2016. (Chairman).—But still it is a question to the Treasury whether the value of the work is such as to justify the expenditure?—Yes, but it is not the Treasury that asks the work to be done.

2017. That is the case with many things the Department wishes to see done, and the Treasury say, "Balancing the one thing against another it is no work for which we could give the money"—Then the work is not done. However, the work has got to be done.

2018. (Mr. Mickel).—Do you think the Department has ever asked the Treasury for a staff, or for any expenditure that was really undesirable?—I can only speak for the agricultural branch, and I am certain we never have.

2019. Have you been refused?—Refused repeatedly. (Chairman).—Many of us ask the Treasury for things we think desirable, but the Treasury says no.

2020. (Mr. Mickel).—Could you give us some examples?—At the last meeting of the Council of Agriculture the question of providing a half-bred day scheme was brought up, and we did not want to do with it unless we could get a staff to deal with it. An immense amount of clerical work would be necessary, but though we have asked the Treasury they have absolutely refused.

2021. What was the estimated expenditure?—The estimated expenditure involved in this was two clerks.

2022. It would mean two second division clerks?—You cannot do with that.

2023. Did you make a definite financial proposal to the Treasury, and what was the amount involved?—That I am not able to give you.

2024. What you wanted personally was two assistants, and you don't know exactly the amount of money?—No, what you want is this. We have been obliged to undertake a piece of work that ought to be done. In order to do that no staff is allowed.

2025. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I think what we want to get from you is that as to this particular piece of work which you specified—which you and the Council of Agriculture, and the Agricultural Board considered a piece of work of the greatest possible importance at the present time—represented, coupled with a definite statement, which we will probably get from someone else—another officer of the Department—has been made to the Treasury that this work will necessitate an addition to the staff amounting to 10 and so, and that such request has been, as far as it has, refused?—That is so.

2026. (Mr. Mickel).—You know it has been refused?—I do.

2027. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Have you found it necessary in cases of that sort to distinguish between work which is really of a temporary passing character, of perhaps two or three years' duration, and work which is permanent?—Yes; when we have temporary work of that kind we used to get the Board to give a special staff for the purpose.

2028. In this particular case this is not paying work?—No. If this is not permanent there is no use beginning it.

2029. And your representation as Assistant Secretary in respect of agriculture has been to the effect that here is a particular work of a most important character, a work which is not of a passing kind—it is a permanent addition to the work which the Department has to carry out?—Yes.

2030. (Mr. Mickel).—Do I understand you correctly to say that this case you have given is only one instance of many?—I cannot charge my memory with

other cases, but I know the staff has been refused all along. The Committee cannot have failed to see how the work has been growing year after year, and, of course, the staff has grown, but it has not increased to the extent to which it should have increased. It is impossible to carry out the wishes of the Board. That is the best way to put it, that you cannot carry out the wishes of the Board and the Council unless you get the staff to do it.

2031. You would rather have a sufficient lamp soon to do your work than with your officers instead of going to the Treasury?—Most assuredly, and then the persons who call for the work would pay for it.

(Mr. Oylivie).—It is quite obvious—in fact it has come incidentally into your evidence several times—that when a new scheme is started the work is very much greater for some time; that the work in the office in connection with many of the schemes which have grown up—and everyone is delighted they grew up in such a remarkable way—has by no means increased in proportion to the work represented in the statistics?—That is so, that in initiating every new scheme there is a great deal of work required in the first year that is not required in subsequent years; that, in fact, the proportion of work required of the staff, to the apparent output of work as estimated by the number of cases dealt with, is diminishing. I may say it is possible that if your schemes are started one after the other it does not follow that the staff should necessarily increase steadily. That is, that the work should, as it becomes established, pass into the smooth water area.

2032. (Mr. Oylivie).—Yes, that you would be able to dispense with a certain proportion of the staff in one section in order to put them on to the next coming thing. I want to get from you how far it is possible that the transference of men from one established section of the work to a new growing section of the work may be expected to meet the difficulties?—I have never been able to effect a transference in that way yet.

2033. (Mr. Micks).—Your work is increasing everywhere?—It is increasing in every branch. Take the work that you say is fully organized, that is not by any means at its maximum. The committee are increasing their work year after year, and instead of taking men from that section they will have to add to it, but they will not have to add to it at the same rate that would be required in the case of a very new work.

2034. (Mr. Oylivie).—But you have got to add to it a lower grade of workers in the office?—That is so.

2035. It does not follow that because this new work requires men of good standing, ability and experience to look after it, it does not necessarily follow that the additions to the staff must be members of that class, because you may be relieving the time of that man from another kind of work?—That is, you can transfer a man from an organized work to an unorganized.

2036. (Mr. Micks).—Did the Treasury raise any such question, or simply give you a point blank refusal?—So far as I am concerned I got a point blank refusal.

2037. Did you see the letter?—I did.

2038. Was it a refusal?—Yes.

2039. (Chairman).—What are the hours of the staff of the Department?—I don't know what the official hours are. We never had such.

2040. (Chairman).—What are the hours?

(Mr. Oylivie).—From ten to five.

2041. (Chairman).—As a matter of fact, do they work much overtime?—We have worked overtime al-

ways. For the first year the office hours were never under eight o'clock.

2042. Is it a payment for overtime office?—No, the first year was never before eight o'clock, and while the live stock scheme was being brought out we were here up till twelve o'clock.

2043. (Chairman).—Do you work beyond your regular hours?—We never keep to our regular hours. The principal offices are never out of here before six or seven o'clock.

2044. (Mr. Micks).—While you are away does your chief inspector take your place?—Only if I am away on leave.

2045. You mean on inspection in the country?—No.

2046. (Mr. Oylivie).—Did the work let?—The work lies. Of course it is being carried on by the staff officers. I showed you how large a part is delegated to him.

2047. (Mr. Micks).—You did not allude to a couple of manufactures such as agricultural starch and beet sugar?—With regard to beet we have made careful investigations. One of our inspectors went to Germany and collected all the information.

2048. Have you made any experiments yet?—Only in growing beet, not in the manufacture.

2049. What about starch?—I have not gone yet into starch, though it is manufactured in Ireland.

2050. (Chairman).—Here is a letter which has been given to me addressed to the Departmental Committee by Mr. Vincent Riordan, who encloses a copy of a correspondence between the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and himself on the subject of Sugar Beet Cultivation. Mr. Riordan directs our special attention to a passage in this correspondence which runs as follows:—"It would appear from the inquiries of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, so far as they have gone, that the sugar beet industry is not generally suited to this country, and could be profitable only in certain districts, if at all." I thought, perhaps, I would ask you to look at that letter?—The information we collected is embodied in this leaflet.

2051. Would you give us a memorandum on that?—I will do it in a day or two.

2052. (Mr. Micks).—There was a question yesterday of the state of education. You said of the National Board schools that the system of education had ceased before you began?—Yes.

2053. You were aware, of course, that a certain amount of agricultural instruction was going on, but I don't think you happened to mention it?—I said in thirty-eight schools I believed it had been going on.

2054. And that it had all ceased?—It did cease.

2055. I was afraid from your mentioning that merely that it might be supposed by some of the members of the Committee that no agricultural instruction had been going on immediately before the Department started?—I did not want to convey that at all.

2056. At the time the Act passed, as appears from the Act itself, there was some agricultural work done by the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission?—Not education.

2057. Yes—Elementary instruction by the Congested Districts Board and the Land Commission?—Yes, the Congested Districts Board did.

2058. They were both working in the direction of agricultural instruction?—The Congested Districts Board was.

2059. What was the Agricultural Branch of the Land Commission doing?—I don't know; that was before my time.

2060. We shall be able to get evidence as to that?—I am quite sure you can.

The Committee adjourned.

June 1, 1906.

Professor J. R. Campbell

EIGHTH PUBLIC SITTING.—SATURDAY, JUNE 2ND, 1906.

At the Office of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Dublin.

Present:

SIR KENNEL E. DODDY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.
Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MILES.
Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Professor CAMPBELL further examined.

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E. Campbell.

2561. (Chairman).—You wish to add something about finance?—I just wish to say a very few words on that subject, and before I do so I just wish to add a few words to what I said last night. At the close of my evidence last evening I touched on some administrative difficulties with which the Agricultural Branch were beset, particularly in the early years, but you expressed the opinion that until there were some specific charges before the Committee, I had better not go into details. With this I am perfectly content, especially as you have permitted me to refer to the two main difficulties which I feel confident the Committee will bear in mind when hearing local evidence, viz., that members of Committees are themselves beneficiaries under the scheme, which explains the fact that while our relations with the statutory bodies are on the whole most excellent, frequent complaints are made against the Department by individual members who consider they have been personally aggrieved, and secondly, that while the staff have done their very utmost, the limitation placed upon their number has prevented them doing all that the Agricultural Board and the local authorities, in the exercise of their statutory functions, have expected the branch to undertake. I would be wanting in gratitude to the Agricultural Board if I did not state that the Board have always recognised our difficulties with regard to staff, and they have ever been ready to supply, under protest, clerical or technical staff, and the Committee will understand that while this would get us out of immediate difficulty, the introduction into a Government office of a number of temporary clerks is a procedure calculated to give rise to serious dissatisfaction among the permanent clerical staff, and I have refrained as much as possible from taking advantage of the generosity of the Board in this respect.

2562. (Mr. Ogilvie).—By temporary clerks do you mean clerks taken from the Civil Service, clerks paid out of the Endowment Fund?—I refer to my own branch, taking them from one section of my work to another.

2563. (Chairman).—But not from a branch quite different to yours?—The others are usually quite as much pressed as myself, and I recognise the difficulties of my colleagues and refrain from that as much as possible.

2564. It is an expedient you have to resort to generally in public offices in my own experience for temporary purposes, transferring a clerk from one department to another?—Of course there is a give and take.

2565. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Besides that, within certain limits, you can get temporary clerks from the Civil Service Commissioners?—Yes, but of course a temporary clerk under a technical scheme is not much use.

2566. Except for helping another man?—Yes.

2567. (Mr. Miles).—It would only be for typewriting or something of that sort?—Yes. I just wish to say a few words with regard to the state of the Department's funds. I am not speaking as to the accounts of the Department, but I only want to mention a few views which I have discussed with the Secretary to the Department generally in reference to the future of agricultural education. I have already pointed out that under the work of the local authorities there is a very large demand on our income, a sum which I

believe I stated in my evidence is about £85,000. The charges for agricultural education you will readily understand amount to a very large sum, and, taking those two, and the charges for provincial schemes, not as the introduction of creameries, analysis in connection not only with the seed-testing station, but also in connection with feeding stuffs and manure and fisheries, and in connection with various schemes, which I described yesterday, they have been so great that last year we actually exceeded our income, and were obliged to draw on the surplus. I want also to impress on the Committee the fact that the country understands very well how our schemes of agricultural education, and they look forward and expect the Department to establish a number of those agricultural stations and schools, and I feel that if a large part of our endowment is not set aside for that purpose, and if our surplus is not earmarked for it, it would be impossible to fulfil our promises to the country and impossible to carry out the schemes of agricultural education which we have set ourselves to build up, and which I have explained to the Committee. We have laid the foundations which I am certain will succeed if the programme set out and the money that have been earmarked for it are allowed to be developed on the lines which we have set out. I don't think I need go any further into the question of funds. I have no doubt you will take other evidence as to the details.

2568. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Do you propose to put in to the several heads?—I have put in the expenditure under the local authorities, but I have put in nothing in connection with the central scheme.

2569. (Chairman).—Can we get figures showing how far particular sums have been appropriated to various schemes?—In the minutes of the Agricultural Board you will get them.

(Chairman).—Will you put them before us in my collected form?

(Mr. Gil).—I will have a statement put in.

(Chairman).—I think it is very important that we should see how the Endowment Fund is dealt with and appropriated and earmarked.

(Mr. Gil).—I will propose a financial statement.

(Mr. Brown).—Is there any statement available already, showing that last year's income was not sufficient to meet the current expenditure?

(Mr. Gil).—Certainly. It is in the minutes of the Board.

2570. (Mr. Brown).—Does not the account embodied in the annual report, show it?

(Mr. Gil).—There is a clear statement in the minutes of the Agricultural Board which deals with that very point. It was a statement prepared for the consideration of the Board. I will have an accurate statement for you.

2571. (Mr. Brown).—I would like to know whether in your experience and the experience of your agricultural instructors, and of your inspectors, the material which comes from the primary schools is capable of taking advantage to the fullest extent of the education which you propose to impart?—I don't say that it often is not the case, and that is the hope that we get are not capable of taking advantage of the instruction, and it is for that reason that we are

obliged to submit them to a test of general knowledge, and that does, I am sorry to say, exclude a few boys. But you will understand that it would be quite unfair towards our teachers to ask them to teach pupils who come up who cannot make simple calculations, and we do find that we have to exclude from our schools a number of boys who would otherwise be admitted. I hope, however, that many of these will be able to get into some of these apprenticeship schools, where at any rate if they cannot take advantage of the technical instruction provided they will be able to take advantage of the practical outdoor instruction. But we hope by and by to have all the boys able to take advantage of the technical instruction as well.

2072. Are you of opinion that practical instruction of some kind in horticulture or agriculture should begin in the primary schools?—Of course everyone has their own views about education. I am thoroughly in favour of anything in the shape of school gardens or what might be called nature study in elementary schools. That is, suitable for a boy whether he is going to be a farmer or a farmer, but I am opposed to teaching anything like technical instruction to boys under thirteen or twelve. My experience has been in other countries that when you do that it degenerates into simple reading of a text book on the subject, and is not really effective.

2073. I am just at present on the school garden question.—That is a different matter, so long as the school garden is not made technical horticulture. To that I would object, but not so long as it made a subject for nature study. On the contrary, that is a most excellent thing.

2074. (Mr. O'Leary).—Beyond that is it, in your opinion, a very desirable thing that that aspect of the teaching work done in elementary schools throughout the rural parts of the country, should be in the first place directed towards rural interests, that is to say, that the instruction given should be always in consideration of the fact that the majority of the pupils are to have their future interests in the country?—Well, I am not quite sure of that, because it does not matter whether he is going to be in the country or in the town, he must be taught arithmetic, he must be taught English, and so on. It does not matter where he is going to be, he must be taught these things. If you could keep the boy long enough at school, then I would say yes, but I am very much against excluding general education, as is sometimes done, and taking up what is called nature study, which often degenerates into technical horticulture or agriculture, and it ends in reading a book on these subjects.

(Mr. O'Leary).—I quite recognise your point of view, but what I pointed at is not quite that. It is that the exercise of arithmetic, for instance, in rural schools, ought to turn rather upon matters of practical interest in the country—the price of produce, the area of fields—

(Mr. Micks).—By way of example.

2075. (Mr. O'Leary).—By way of example—that the whole of the example work should be taken from matter either within the pupils' knowledge, or that will come within the pupils' knowledge, and for which the preliminary guidance of the teacher is very useful.—I quite agree with that.

2076. In all matters, for instance, of geography, the illustrations should be taken rather from the facts of the surrounding district, its communications and roads, and the routes for transit, all these should be taken from matters within the circle of knowledge of the pupil by hearsay, if not by experience, and then

from the world at large?—With that I agree also. June 2, 1906.
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2077. (Mr. Brown).—Following up what I was asking you just now, you would be in favour, at all events, of such an extension of, I won't call it instruction in horticulture, but something that would give an interest at all events?—Certainly, so long as you did not call it technical horticulture.

2078. It should go far enough to interest them in agriculture or horticulture. Have you or the Department in any place ever given effect to that?—If you go to Glasnevin again I should like to show you our school garden we have there.

2079. But I am speaking of the whole country!—We are training them there, so that when these men become teachers under the county schemes they may be able to give instruction in school gardens in connection with such goods as we are allowed to enter. We have no scheme.

(Mr. Brown).—But I am talking of primary schools in rural districts.

(Mr. Micks).—Are you not forbidden to do that?

(Mr. Brown).—No, you are not. There is nothing to prevent it in the Act, but of course it could only be done by arrangement with the Board of National Education and with the managers of the schools.

(Mr. Micks).—Shall not include the instruction given in elementary schools.

2080. (Mr. Brown).—That is only the definition of technical instruction. Look at the definition of "purposes of agriculture" which includes horticulture, and in which there is no such restriction. That is the reason I am limiting my question to that particular point of view. Is there any way in which effect can be given to the view that the Department themselves entertain on this question, and that the County Commissions very largely, I believe almost universally, entertain?—That work that we have had to do, as I have been just trying to explain, has been so great that we have not been able to undertake other work, and it is possible that some arrangements might be made to whereby we could utilize these men in the country.

2081. That is the point I am driving at!—Certainly. I should like to see something of the kind, but I would not like at this moment to commit myself to any definite scheme further than to say that the Department are favourable enough to such work, and if our work was not sufficiently extensive we would be too glad to go into the question immediately and discuss it immediately.

2082. (Mr. O'Leary).—I am very anxious to get at your view accurately on this matter, because I gather throughout your evidence that you have had difficulty in getting at the most needy of the rural population from their slowness to appreciate new points that are put before them, and I want to make sure there is no mistake about your idea as to whether or not the general intelligence of such people—people who are not in the best likely to be at school after they are thirteen years of age—whether their general intelligence is more likely to be fully developed at that time if the teachers in the elementary school make the fullest possible use of the experience these people have of rural affairs in their ordinary life and work in a reasonably intelligent explanation of the results of the relation of cause and effect?—Certainly it would.

(Chairman).—Professor Campbell, I am sure I speak for every member of the Committee when I thank you for the very clear and comprehensive evidence you have given us, and the various diagrams put before us, for which we are very much indebted to you indeed.

GEORGE FLETCHER, Esq., F.R.S., Assistant Secretary in respect of Technical Instruction, examined.

Mr. George
Fletcher.
R.S.

2083. (Chairman).—You are Assistant Secretary in respect of technical instruction under the Department of Agriculture?—I was appointed to this post on the 1st of August, 1904, in succession to Mr. Robert Blair, who was appointed from this post to that of Executive Officer under the Education Department of the London County Council.

2084. What were you before you were appointed?—I was appointed from the office of senior inspector of Technical Instruction, which post I had held since April, 1894. I was offered the post of senior inspector only in 1891, so that I have been in Ireland just over

five years, roughly speaking for the first three years as senior inspector, and for the last two years in my present position as Assistant Secretary.

2085. Before that what were you?—I was Inspector under the Science and Art Department of South Kensington. I was offered the post by Mr. Adams in 1894 of a first-class sub-inspector. I ought to say, perhaps, that prior to that I had had a wide experience of teaching in various types of schools, principally in Dublin. I was head of a technical school in the town of Derby. I believe it was because of my success as a teacher that I was offered a first-

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class sub-inspectors in 1894. In 1897, on the death of Mr. Geldard, in the Midland District, I was appointed a district inspector for the South Kensington Department.

1895. Then since 1901 you have had experience of the work of this particular branch of the department? Yes, since April the 3rd, 1902.

1897. I think you wish to give as first of all some account of the state of technical education in Ireland at the time when the Department was established?—That is so, and I hold myself free to answer any question at any particular point of my evidence, if that should meet the views of the Committee, but in considering how best I might assist this Committee in its inquiries, I arrived at the conclusion that I might best serve the end for which it was appointed by offering evidence dealing with the operations of the branch for which I am responsible, explaining the general principles which have directed these operations, and giving some facts in regard to the results already obtained. In order that the Department's educational policy should be better understood, it would seem desirable that I should say some little, at all events, as to the state of education in Ireland at the time the Department was established. I am happy to be able to say that, in pointing out certain general weaknesses and defects, it is not necessary to depreciate the labours of those who, in the absence of adequate powers and sufficient means, wisely did such work as was possible. It had already been widely recognised that there were certain serious defects in the system of Irish National Education, and the appointment of the Commission on Manual and Practical Instruction in Primary schools under the Board of National Education in Ireland was one expression of this—

1898. (Chairman).—When was that?—I think their report was issued in 1896. It was just before the Department started. Up to this time, while there were individual instances of brilliant efforts in the direction of practical teaching, it must be said that there was practically no teaching of science and manual work in primary schools. Drawing, moreover, does not appear to have been generally taught. With the introduction of the revised programme in 1900, however, steps were taken to organise the teaching of science and manual instruction in primary schools, work which, I believe, would, if developed on an adequate scale, have accomplished most valuable results. I may here add that complaints continually reach me as to a difficulty experienced in our various technical schools and classes generally, viz., that so many of the pupils coming to them are ill-prepared to take up any specialised study, however elementary. This difficulty is felt in England and elsewhere, but is felt acutely in Ireland. The prime necessity in the case of pupils taking up the study of technology under this Department is (1) the ability to express themselves clearly both orally and by means of writing and drawing, and (2) a knowledge of arithmetic of a suitable nature. The training of the powers of observation and of clear thinking would be enormously helped by elementary science instruction, and the executive faculties cultivated by manual work, but I would remind the Committee that with an average school attendance of 66 per cent. in the National schools of Ireland, it is not easy to secure even the first essentials, though I believe I am right in saying that in England and Scotland it is nearly 85 per cent.

1899. (Mr. Micks).—As regards primary education, do you refer to both urban and rural districts?—That is the average in the country as a whole.

1900. You have not separated them for urban and rural?—I have not. It might possibly be got. Now, coming to the state of secondary education, I would refer the Committee to the report of the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Commission, 1899, appointed to inquire and report upon the system of intermediate education in Ireland, and particularly to the report on Science Teaching in Intermediate Schools, adopted by the Science Committee of the Royal Dublin Society, to be found on page 374 of the Appendix to the First Report, and to the evidence of the Right Reverend Monsignor Molloy on page 4 of that volume. It is enough here to point out that the number of boys presented in science subjects for the intermediate examinations in 1901 was 2,833; the number had decreased to 573 by 1896. Perhaps this was not to be regretted, for the teaching was for the most part

theoretical in character. In the whole country there were not more than half a dozen laboratories in secondary schools. There was no inspection of secondary schools other than that of science and art classes, and the results of teaching were assessed wholly by means of written examinations. Coming to the subject of technical education, things were much the same. Here and there an earnest effort under difficult conditions, but of technical instruction properly so-called, there was practically none outside the larger urban centres. The only source of aid was the Science and Art Grant administered by the Science and Art Department, South Kensington. In the academic year 1900-1901 there were 103 schools and classes working under the rules of the Science and Art Department, and sixty-one of these were classes in secondary schools. The total grant for these, put in the financial year 1901-2 was £5,185 3s. 2d., and in addition there was a grant known as the "Equivalent" Grant, amounting to less than £5,500, and expended under the terms of the Technical Instruction Act of 1889.

1901. (Mr. O'Grady).—Did the number of schools and classes include schools of art?—Yes.

1902. (Chairman).—Would you just explain the Equivalent Grant?—The Equivalent Grant, with which I will deal in a much fuller manner later, was a grant administered under the terms of the Technical Instruction Act of 1889. The Act did not provide the grant, but it provided for the spending of the grant. The grant was provided for in the Science and Art Department, and was equivalent to the rate contributed by the locality. The term "equivalent" is a little unfortunate, because it is applied to a number of different grants. It is applied sometimes to the equivalent to the grant which has been set aside for educational purposes on the other side of the water, but we hope to make quite clear what this equivalent grant was because it has been a very vexed question in Ireland, but this is hardly the place to deal with it. However, you will perceive that the total amount spent on technical education both in the secondary schools and outside—for a secondary school is not quite the place for technical education—was something like £10,700. I need only say that the administration of the Science and Art Grant was strictly limited to a specific list of subjects in science and art, and that technological and industrial subjects, so necessary in a country such as Ireland, could not be taught under these rules. There was but one inspector on the South Kensington staff to inspect the schools of Ireland, my late respected and brilliant colleague, Professor Preston. You will perceive that Ireland had never enjoyed anything like the share it should have earned from the Science and Art Grant, and this was because the rules under which the grant was administered were entirely unsuited to the needs of Ireland. Indeed I may go further and say they were not suited to the needs of Great Britain. More important still the Endow Grant of 1880, which was partly applied in England and Scotland for the benefit of technical instruction, was not made available for this purpose in Ireland. From this source during the ten years succeeding the passing of the Act, while £7,500,000 were devoted to technical instruction in England, and £400,000 in Scotland, Ireland had no equivalent except a sum of £11,315, the grant under the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, during that period.

1903. That £11,315 compares with seven and a half millions in England and £400,000 in Scotland?—Yes.

1904. (Mr. Micks).—Have you it by the year?—I can give it to you. It is given in the report of the Recome Committee.

1905. (Mr. Brown).—Would it not be the ten years following the passing of the Technical Instruction Act, 1889?—Yes. It practically brings it up to the passing of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act.

1906. (Mr. Micks).—Mr. Arnold Graves, who was responsible for this part of the report, says (page 25 Recome Committee Report), "While as regards technical education alone these returns made by Monsieur Fournier shows that inclusive of small contributions from the rates, the sums expended in 1895 were Great Britain, £806,323; Ireland, £4,944," and Mr. Grant makes the remark, "This assistance from rates amounts to a bounty to the English manufacturer, as (injurious); it should either be extended to Ireland, or withdrawn"—is that your view?—It is my view.

1907. (Chairman).—A statement has been put into my hands made by the Financial Secretary to the

Treasury in the course of a debate in 1904. "Besides this what is called the whiskey money, £78,000 a year, a large portion of that was allotted to the Commissioners of National Education, and the balance to the Intermediate Education Board."—That is what I have been trying to explain. The £11,000 is the Equivalent Grant given under the terms of the Science and Art Directory. We did not get for technical education the equivalent of the whiskey money. It came to Ireland for another purpose.

2008. It came to Ireland, but only a small portion came to technical education?—None of it.

(Chairman).—This is Mr. Victor Cavendish's statement.

2009. (Mr. Michel).—The Department got the £78,000 as part of their Endowment Fund?—That is a very large question. I only introduce the matter at this point to show that things were in a very backward condition, and that we had to deal with things as we found them. I am not now dealing with the actual financial position.

2101. (Mr. O'Donnell).—There is no question but that the corresponding sum went to educational purposes in Ireland?—I think not.

2103. The full corresponding amount in Ireland came to educational purposes though not to technical education?—I believe so.

2102. (Mr. Michel).—Are you aware of that?—Well, I would prefer to deal with the question as a whole. On the basis of evidence I put down specifically the question of the Equivalent Grant.

2105. Before leaving the question as to the state of technical education at the time the Department was started, have you read the report of Mr. Graves?—I read it some time ago.

2104. Not in view of this?—No. I shall now briefly describe the powers conferred upon the Department by the passing of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act of 1899. This Act, under section 2, transferred to the Department the administration of the grant for science and art in Ireland. This is the grant to which I have been referring as previously administered by South Kensington. It further transferred the administration of the grant in aid of technical instruction as defined by the Technical Instruction Act, 1839, in Ireland. This was the "Equivalent" Grant provided under the Science and Art Directory for 1900, paragraph LXXXVI. (a to d). It also transferred the powers and duties of the Science and Art Department in relation to certain institutions. So far as my branch of the Department's work is concerned, these were the Royal College of Science and the Metropolitan School of Art. In addition to these transferred powers, money was provided for technical instruction under section 15 (1) (c). This is the annual sum of £88,000 to be expended under conditions mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 6, and the Act also gave power to local authorities to give aid to schemes approved by the Department. Thus it will be seen that the funds of the Department are drawn from two main sources: (1) The Science and Art Vote provided annually by Parliament and subject to such rules as the Treasury may from time to time approve, and (2) the annual endowment of £88,000 for technical education.

2106. What is the total amount at your disposal yearly in the technical instruction branch?—£88,000 plus a grant of £7,500 from the Agricultural Board, plus a sum of £7,000 in lieu of the Equivalent Grant, plus the Science and Art Grant, which is a variable amount.

2106. That is in the vote?—I have mentioned all the sources now and they tot up to £92,500. If we add to that the total aid in the form of rates, and the Science and Art Grants we have all our sources of income, and the reason I postpone this question is that until I have at all events introduced the second branch of the question, the question of finance would not easily be explained. I now come to deal with the first great branch of the Department's operations in educational work, and desire to explain to the Committee the considerations which led to the organisation of a system of instruction in experimental science, drawing, manual instruction, and domestic economy in secondary schools. It will be perceived that the problem with which the Department was faced was

really to institute a system of technical instruction in a country where such instruction was practically non-existent, and where the primary and secondary education did not at that time afford an adequate preparation for it. In meeting this problem they had the valuable advantage of the experience gained by others in England and elsewhere. I mean that although lamentably behind in the race, we had the advantage of learning from the experiments, the failures and successes of other countries. One great fact had forced itself on those who had been engaged in educational administration in Great Britain and elsewhere—the hopelessness of attempting to construct an efficient system of technical education except on the foundations laid in a sound and generous general education, whether primary or secondary. The Department had no power to deal with primary schools from their Endowment Fund. I say from their endowment adversely, for I shall presently seek to show how we are not so limited, I think, in regard to science and art subjects. Reference to section 30 of the Act shows that technical instruction does not include instruction given in Elementary schools. Moreover, a great forward step was taken by the introduction of the revised programme of the National Board. The Department had, however, not only power to aid secondary schools, but also a very clear duty in view of the fact that in England the Science and Art Grant had been available for secondary schools, and that the administration of this grant had been specifically transferred to them by statute. If the Department had not adopted the rigorous policy it did in regard to secondary schools, the money now being paid for teaching in such schools, something like £285,000 a year, would have been lost to the country. I have a special object in mentioning this. There is a common impression in the country that we have been diverting funds intended for technical instruction, properly so-called, to teaching in secondary schools. This impression is an altogether mistaken one, as the Committee will perceive. The Department has most jealously guarded its Endowment Funds in the face of many requests to devote them to matters concerning both primary and secondary education. It is true that local authorities almost everywhere in Ireland voted aid for equipment of laboratories in secondary schools, but this was mainly from accumulated funds and not from annual income. The need for taking steps in regard to Irish secondary schools was very widely recognised. In a country in a backward industrial condition, as Ireland is, there were scarcely any schools which could properly be described as "modern." It is true that there were schools comparable to those which are labelled modern schools in England, but these schools were all for the most part of a classical type; laboratories were almost non-existent, and the work was much more academic in character. I shall be misunderstood in this unless I explain that our secondary schools in Ireland are very different in type to those in England. They cover a very wide range from schools of a high secondary type, to schools of a much lower secondary type, and especially here I should like to mention a class of schools that demands very special consideration. I refer to the Christian Brothers' schools, about which you will hear very much. These are schools originally primary in character. They have extended the scope of their operations, and a large number of these schools have now come to work under the Department's programme, and I think they may fairly be described as secondary schools of the lower type. I mean that a great many of the boys—for they are only boys' schools—going to these schools do not join the professional classes. They are being educated for occupations which are not necessarily professional in character, and therefore it is very desirable that the education given should fit the boys for the kind of work they have to do in after life.

2107. The education is good, although you technically call them second class?—Secondary; I call them so because they are not primary, but I wish to lay down that they hardly correspond to the secondary schools in England. They are secondary schools of a somewhat lower class, not that the education is of a lower class—I don't wish to convey that—but the character of the youths going to them is such as to make it quite clear that they are not being trained for a professional life, but for an industrial one.

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Fletcher,
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2108 (Chairman).—You state they started as primary schools, that they raised themselves into the rank of secondary schools, but that the class of boys who attend there are not like those in English secondary schools?—That is the case.

2109 (Mr. Fletcher).—Are you aware that a good many of the boys who do now go to these schools reach a higher station of life later on?—They did themselves in different stations, but not necessarily better ones. It has unfortunately come to be the case that the secondary schools in Ireland appear to be training youths for the most part for the lower Civil Service posts, and there is a very serious need for industrial training. I have said that there were scarcely any schools which could properly be called modern secondary schools in Ireland. There were but two schools in Ireland of a type similar to those known in England as Day Schools of Science. I refer to the Christian Brothers' school and the Christian Brothers' college at Cork. These were day Schools of Science under South Kensington regulations. The organisation of a system of practical science instruction in secondary schools was therefore imperative from the point of view of a permanent system of technical education. My point is that it was impossible to construct a sound system of technical education unless you began the work in the primary schools and the secondary schools. For the primary schools the Commissioners of National Education are responsible. In the secondary schools we had widely different powers, those inherited from South Kensington. Had South Kensington been working in Ireland the grant would have been continued to those schools. The difficulty was not upon us of retaining the whole scheme and elaborating this programme. In drawing up our programme we had in full view the scheme which had been at work in Great Britain and elsewhere. My predecessor, Mr. Blair, had a wide experience in England and Scotland. I myself had wide experience in England, and we were fully aware, I think, of everything that had been done both in England and elsewhere in regard to science work in secondary schools. I only mention that to show that we had, I believe, all the facts before us. It had come to be recognised that the subjects prescribed in the Directory of the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, although admirably derived and drawn up by eminent men of science, had been found to exhibit a serious defect in England and Scotland, and more particularly in Ireland. This defect was that the system endeavoured to confer on students a knowledge of some specific and specialised branch of science, while the students were quite unprepared in respect of general knowledge to receive this instruction.

2110 (Mr. O'Connell).—The system to which you refer was one which had originally been organised for the purpose of educating students in the evening, and at the time you are now speaking of it had not been revised in England and Scotland with the view to adapting it more particularly to the day schools. That is so. My remarks do not apply at all to the scheme for day schools of science in England, which I myself feel was admirable. I refer to the science and art subjects of the Directory, which was designed mainly for evening schools. These rules applied in Ireland to evening schools and to classes in day secondary schools. There were only two schools of the type of the day schools of science.

2111. It fell to your Department in 1900 to carry on the change—which, as far as Ireland was concerned had just begun—having been taken up in two schools only, the change of adapting the science and art instruction in evening schools to the conditions of the day schools.—Exactly. It was laid upon us to revise the regulations in much the same way as was done by the South Kensington Branch of the Board of Education in England, and by the Scottish Education Department in Scotland, but of course to amend them in accordance with our particular needs in Ireland as far as the special conditions prevailing here required. The Department sought then to avoid this evil of early specialisation, and its chief case was that science should not be an accretion to secondary education. They desired that the teaching they sought to introduce should bear a due relation to the other main branches of a general education, and that it should take its place as an organic part of the secondary curriculum. Especially was it desired to effect a much-needed grading in boys' schools, a problem very difficult of accomplishment in connection with

the system in which aid is given from public funds on the basis of written examinations. I shall explain how this grading has been secured. I refer for the consideration of the Committee a copy of the Department's programme now in force in secondary schools, and may state that it is now adopted by almost every secondary school in Ireland. Soon after the Department's programme was published in 1901, the Co-ordinating Committee for Co-ordinating Educational Administration, appointed under section 35 of the Act, had before them the question of co-ordinating this work with that of the Intermediate Board. As a result the Intermediate Board adopted the Department's programme as its own, and decided that it should replace the science programmes previously in existence. They also adopted the Department's suggestion to satisfy their conditions in regard to "Pass" and "Honours" candidates. Hence in a very short time the bulk of Irish secondary schools came under the Department's educational scheme. I now proceed very briefly to explain these regulations. They provide a programme based upon the best modern experience providing (1) a two years' preliminary course common to all schools; (2) special courses for third and fourth years in physics, chemistry, mechanical science, botany, geology, physiology and hygiene, domestic economy, and drawing. Schools are allowed to choose the special subject or subjects for the third and fourth years. It will be observed that the teaching of drawing is compulsory during the preliminary course, optional thereafter. Some exception has been taken to drawing as a compulsory subject in the preliminary course, but, acting from a strong sense of the great importance of the subject in education, the Department have retained it in the syllabus for the preliminary course. No school can be recognised unless it makes provision for the instruction of its pupils in a properly-equipped laboratory. Without burdening the Committee with a full statement of the reasons for this system of practical teaching, I would remind them that we regard the training in scientific method conferred by the practical work as being of great importance. In this connection I would refer the Committee to the prefatory note which appears on page 37 of the regulations.

The principal functions of a well-designed course in secondary schools are (1st) the training of the power of observation, involving the exercise of judgment and the training of the senses; (2nd) the training of the reasoning powers; (3rd) the training of the executive powers. Experimental work performed by the pupils themselves in relation to cultivation of manual dexterity, initiative and self-reliance; (4th) the imparting of some of the more important principles and facts of physical science. For the realisation of these aims the scope of instruction must be carefully planned and carefully taught. The method of teaching we regard as of greater importance than the mere imparting of knowledge, and the best results of the training are not so much as can be written by a written test. A knowledge of the facts of science, however important, is secondary to the training in "scientific method" which the course is designed to confer. Not that the scientific method is a method peculiar to science; it is the same as that employed in history. In the investigation of scientific phenomena, however, the facts are more readily ascertainable, and the argument is free from those perturbing elements which enter into problems connected with human relationships. I have need so much to show what faculties we believe science has to subserve in the secondary curriculum. It will be observed that the syllabus for the first two years' course deals very largely with fundamental questions, but in the third and fourth years we impose no stringent conditions on the schools. They can choose from a number of subjects, which I have named, the one most suitable for the school. The reason we make the first two years' course practically compulsory is that we know as well by which you can wisely make that knowledge of fundamental principle. No student is ready to take up the special branches until those fundamental principles have been dealt with. It will be observed, moreover, that the teaching of drawing becomes compulsory during the preliminary course, and it is optional afterwards. We refuse to pay a school for experimental science unless the school also teaches the same pupils drawing. Some exception has been taken to this in the part of some schools, although I believe that in almost every case they are convinced it is a good thing.

Our reason for insisting on this is that we have the highest possible appreciation of the value of drawing as an element of education, and it is very much neglected, I believe, in this country. I believe you will find that on the Continent it is generally compulsory, and almost invariably part of the instruction given in secondary schools. A great improvement has taken place in the teaching of drawing on account of our compulsory introduction of it as a concomitant of experimental sciences. It is not introduced as an art subject merely, but as an extension of writing, as a means of expression, and it is of enormous importance in view of subsequent specialised technical instruction. No school can be recognised until it makes provision for the instruction of its pupils in a properly-equipped laboratory. A further condition laid down by the Department is that the teachers engaged in giving instruction in their programme shall have received such a training as the Department can recognise as qualifying them to teach. When these conditions have been satisfied, the Department pay grants to the schools, the amount of this grant being assessed on two main factors: (1) the amount and extent of the instruction, and (2) its quality. Thus, a grant is based upon the total number of hours of instruction, but the normal amount of grant is subject to an increment of one-fourth or a reduction of one or more tenths according as the work is of conspicuous merit or defective in respect of instruction or organisation. The attendance of every pupil is registered. At the end of the year when the registers are submitted to the Department the total number of hours of attendance of pupils is divided by forty. Then payment is made on the basis of these units, paying ten shillings for each unit of science in the first year, and other rates for other subjects. But, having determined an amount in that way which depends upon the number of pupils and the number of hours instruction given per week, and also upon the attendance of the students, while that is used as the first basis, the amount that would thus be earned is subject to revision. We may increase the amount that is earned by one-tenth if the inspectors report that the work is of conspicuous merit. If the work is very defective we may reduce the grant altogether, and we prefer that alternative to reducing the grant by more than two-tenths. I have already explained that schools had no laboratories. The difficulty had to be met, and not immediately. The Department offered grants for equipment, requiring the preliminary approval of plans. The grant amounted to between one-third and one-half of the expenditure for fittings and apparatus. A special equipment grant was obtained from the Treasury. The total grants made from this source amount to £13,244. The grant was made for five years only and is now at an end, but nearly every secondary school in Ireland, to the number of 265, has been enabled to comply with our rules.

2112. (Mr. Micks).—Is that equipment grant likely to be renewed?—Most unlikely, because it was given for the purpose of equipping the secondary schools for a new programme, and although it is true that secondary schools need additional equipment from time to time, the grant was given for the purpose of equipping them in the first place.

2113. (Chairman).—Was it so much a year?—So much a year. We could draw on what was needed up to that limit.

2114. Did you draw more or less the first year?—The first year was less but last year we had not a penny left.

2115. (Mr. Micks).—You exhausted your grant?—We did.

2116. (Chairman).—It was left to you within that limit to draw what you required for the year?—Yes.

2117. (Mr. Brown).—Was it a limit fixed beforehand?—It was.

2118. (Mr. O'Grady).—How many schools have been equipped?—About 265.

2119. (Chairman).—I suppose there are schools without an equipment?—There may be one or two. As a matter of fact I cannot think at the moment of a secondary school in Ireland, which is not working under our rules, unless it be the Campbell College, Belfast.

2120. Which is not equipped?—Which is not working under our programme.

2121. (Mr. O'Grady).—You have a large number of schools in Ireland equipped very well for this work?—Yes.

2122. (Chairman).—Therefore this grant has so far fulfilled its purpose?—Yes; and I am about to refer to another source of aid.

2123. (Mr. Micks).—Are there any number of places where there are no buildings at all, and for which you want money for building?—There are those who argue we have far too many secondary schools in Ireland.

2124. If the schools were built would you want further equipment or have you enough?—We never have enough, but I don't think it is likely that fresh schools can come into existence with a declining population. We have had an increasing number of secondary schools, and there are those who believe that for efficiency we have too many. I am not going to debate that question.

2125. You don't want any more?—I am a parent myself, and recognise the difficulty of parents in very small towns where there is no secondary school, in getting adequate education for their children. There is a great deal to be said for the small secondary schools, but I don't think the number could be increased. If we were dealing with this large question, I would advocate the extension of the scholarship system. This £18,000 was a Treasury grant for the equipment of schools.

2126. (Mr. O'Grady).—Provision for maintenance is included in your grant?—The annual Parliamentary Grant. That grant, by the way, is shown in the diagram I have put up here (indicated). In 1901-2 the amount was £10,475. It amounted in 1902-3 to £20,860; in 1903-4 to £26,293, and in 1904-5 to £29,385. That included the Maintenance and the Equipment Grant also.

2127. That £29,000 includes about £20,000 of grants paid to the secondary schools in the course of the year?—Yes.

2128. Did that include final payments from the £18,000 along with other annual grants?—Yes.

2129. So that, as a matter of fact, your present grant from that vote towards secondary schools would be something like £16,000 or £17,000?—That year it is, including equipment, within a few pounds of £16,000. It is still going up.

2130. (Mr. Micks).—Although the share of the £18,000 is off?—The capital grant is increasing. Our payment from the fund for 1905-6 was £19,413 3s. 6d.

2131. (Mr. O'Grady).—How much does that include of the Equipment Grant?—None. That is kept separate.

2132. It is then an annual grant representing something which probably was only £4,000 or £5,000 a few years ago?—It was not nearly so much in respect of the secondary schools.

2133. (Mr. Brown).—You referred early in your evidence to a sum of £20,000 a year that was now being expended on secondary schools?—Yes, grants for science. That is the amount I am speaking of now. That precise figure I have just given, £19,417, is the equivalent of my broad statement of £20,000. I think I pointed out that the grant in 1901-2—that is a fair year to take—the total grant from this fund then was £5,385, and the greater portion of that of course was for evening technical schools. Only a small portion of this was due to secondary schools. Now the amount has risen roughly to £20,000.

2134. (Mr. O'Grady).—That £20,000 shown in 1901-2 included about £5,000 of Equipment Grant?—£2000 was for equipment in the year—including evening technical schools.

2135. I thought you told us that £5,185 was for both secondary and evening schools?—Yes.

2136. £2000 for equipment—what is the other £4,000 for?—The Equipment Grant.

2137. (Mr. Micks).—There was £5,500 Equivalent Grant in that year?—Each year. It has only come up to £7,000 now. I was on the question of grant, from the vote for the equipment of laboratories in secondary schools. That alone would not have met the needs of secondary schools. The local Technical Instruction Committees were, however, willing to afford further assistance for the equipment for these schools. They realised that a heavy burden was thrown on the school managers in putting up the buildings, and not a halfpenny was provided out of public funds for bricks and mortar. In other cases they had to reconstruct rooms, and were put to great inconvenience. Local Technical Education Committees both in

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counties and urban centres were exceedingly anxious to afford aid for equipment in such schools. I doubt very much whether, in general, Technical Instruction Committees in England would be quite so willing to provide equipment in secondary schools. The Technical Instruction Committee in Ireland were very keen on getting the schools in as good a way as possible to teach the Department's programme. Where they wished to give this aid, the Department allowed it out of their accumulated funds. I ought to point out in order to make this quite clear that it was really not until the second year of the Department's existence that we had schools in operation in counties and urban centres. That means that in that first year of the Department's existence the endowment was unspent. The Department were willing to place three-fourths of the amount at the disposal of the County and Urban Committees for purposes of equipment. It was from this sum, as a rule, that grants were made to the secondary schools for equipment of laboratories. The amount, as a rule, was assessed in this manner. After the Department's direct grant had been deducted from the cost of equipment the Committee were empowered to pay two-thirds of the remainder, and thus the schools were relieved of about seven-ninths of the total cost of equipment. As a rule, secondary schools in Ireland in equipping laboratories and manual workshops received a grant of about seven-ninths of the total expense of fittings and apparatus, but nothing in respect of buildings.

2138. (Chairman).—They received this partly out of the £18,000 and partly out of the endowment?—That is so.

2139. Seven-ninths out of those two sources?—Yes. In a few cases the Committees have made grants out of the joint fund.

2140. (Mr. Micks).—Did not Mr. Carnegie come forward in some cases?—Not for secondary schools. That was for libraries. The total grant from the local authorities up to the present time amounts approximately to £20,000. Hence you see that a total amount of £38,000 has been spent from public funds on the equipment of secondary schools for the teaching of science, drawing, and manual work.

2141. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—That £20,000 from local authorities includes money paid through the local authorities, but coming into it from your accumulated funds?—That is so mainly. There are a few exceptions. There are one or two schools that had received promises from the Technical Instruction Committee a year or two ago, and are only now enabled to claim these grants which are paid out of the Committee's funds, these funds being made up of the grants from the central authority and the rates.

2142. (Chairman).—Is it your general rule that the aid towards equipment is represented by this fraction, seven-ninths, coming from public funds; from what source is the balance provided?—From some private source, school funds, voluntary contributions in some cases. I think I might indeed explain now that the secondary schools in Ireland are not endowed as elsewhere. There are a few endowed schools, no doubt, particularly the Protestant schools, such as the schools of the Incorporated Society. In a great many cases the programme was taken up with such enthusiasm that voluntary contributions were made for building, particularly for the Christian Brothers' schools.

2143. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Two-ninths and seven-ninths refer only to the cost of equipment and not building?—Yes.

2144. In addition to that the school funds and voluntary contributions have got to find the buildings?—Yes, and in many cases that was a large amount. School managers have been very ready to improve their buildings, and put up most excellent rooms for the teaching of science and drawing, and this, I am sure, has contributed in a large measure to the greatly increased efficiency.

2145. And the interest developed in it locally has been increased?—Yes; science is now taught under favourable conditions.

2146. And encouragement?—And encouragement. Our effort was to make the laboratories simple and effective. Thus, although the first two years' course involves the teaching of elementary physics and ele-

mentary chemistry, in all the small schools we have been quite ready to accept a composite laboratory in which both may be taught. We have only asked for one room for the teaching of these two branches. In fact we distinctly discouraged undue expenditure on the laboratories. I would like to explain that as either difficulty was necessarily encountered at the stage. We had had no science teaching of a practical character in these schools, and therefore the nature of the laboratories, the equipment of them, and the apparatus to be got was not understood, and a very severe burden was thrown on our inspection. In the great majority of cases the inspection drew up plans, and these were sent for concurrence to the schools concerned. In other cases the schools either drew up the plans themselves or got architects or specialists to draw them up, and sent them to us for revision, but in almost every case it meant a visit or several visits, the inspector giving such aid to the schools as was possible. I would like to emphasize a point that I believe is of considerable importance, that is, the function of inspectors under this branch in Ireland. Their functions are quite deferred to those anywhere else, and certainly during the past five years the inspector has been not simply the eyes and ears of the Department, but an organizer, teacher, and helper. I venture to believe that the inspector has been all these things in the Irish secondary school. He has assisted in drawing up the plans for the equipment of the buildings, and there has been a thoroughly healthy relationship between the inspector and the teacher as the matter of arranging the courses. It is a very complex relationship, for that man has to assess in great—

2147. (Mr. Micks).—That is to say, he has to recommend the grant to the Department?—Yes, he has to say whether, in his opinion, the school should receive the normal grant or an increment of one-half, or a diminution of one-fourth, or of two-thirds, or usually he has to give a justification for that in his report. 256 secondary schools are inspected by the inspectors several times during the session.

2148. On notice or surprise visits?—As a rule without notice. We don't like the expression "Surprise visits."

2149. It is a customary one?—It is customary. We are seeking that our inspectors should not be private detectives, but useful educational experts in schools. He has to keep his eyes open, because he has to protect the public funds, and our accounts are audited, as you are aware. He has a double function.

2150. He has to check the attendance and to see that the returns are accurate?—Yes. That does become an educationalist, and is anxious to help the schools as far as possible. We believe that the schools are now for the most part well equipped. A further and larger difficulty was how to obtain teachers trained to give practical instruction in science. There were many teachers who held the ethical qualifications, but few who had had the opportunity of obtaining laboratory experience. The Department naturally looked, and still look, to places of higher education like the Royal College of Science and the Universities, to provide teachers for the work, but they realised that in order to initiate such a scheme as I have explained, it would be necessary to adopt some exceptional means of training existing teachers. They therefore initiated a scheme of summer courses, and these are held in the month of July each year. Beginning in 1901 with 276 teacher students, the number rose year by year until in 1905 we had 638 attending these courses.

2151. (Mr. Brown).—In that year alone?—Is that year alone. You will see it very well from this diagram (exhibited) which shows that in 1901 we had 276 teachers, in 1902 455, and the number amounted to 638 in 1905. Of course it must be remembered that these are not new individuals. The same teacher attended year after year, but still the number went up.

2152. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—In any one year it is individuals?—Yes. That is to say that in 1905 we had 638 people attending the course, many of whom had no doubt attended one or two years previously. The great majority of them had attended in previous

years. The number of special teachers engaged to take charge of this work was 136. The best teachers available are engaged, and the course lasts for twenty-two working days. Reference to page 79 of the annual report will show something of the nature and scope of these courses. I should add that the teachers selected to attend must be engaged, or about to be engaged, in secondary schools. A teacher having successfully passed the examinations at the end of a summer course is provisionally recognised for one year, and after satisfactory attendance at a second year's course is recognised for a second year. This provisional recognition is made permanent after he or she has successfully passed through five summer courses. Notwithstanding the obvious and inherent difficulties in such a system of training teachers for this branch of education, it must be said to have worked out very well in practice, and that owing to the devotion of those who have year by year given up summer holidays to this work excellent results have followed. These summer courses were only intended as a temporary expedient, and we look to more regular means, in the Royal College of Science and the Universities, for training our teachers of science. Thus the ultimate end of the summer courses would be to keep the teachers up to their work and afford them means for keeping themselves abreast of modern methods, but we have not yet found it possible to limit in any way the scope of these courses. Teachers have still to be trained, and I cannot at this moment place any limit to the summer courses, even with their present object.

2153. In other words, you do not find yet that the young men who have been turned out from universities and other places which supply teachers have received a sufficient course of training in the methods of teaching science?—That is precisely the case. Notwithstanding the obvious advantages of the university man in this matter, in most cases our teachers who have gone through five summer courses and fought for those honors will be from our point of view better qualified to teach than a university graduate with a degree in science, and I attribute this very largely to the fact that there is so very little attention paid to methods of teaching.

2154. Of course you cannot rely upon men who are trained in this way having themselves so full a knowledge of science as the university graduate?—It is only fair to say that in a good many cases the teachers are university graduates, and I am very glad to be allowed the opportunity of saying that there is necessarily more complete knowledge on the part of the university man.

2155. (Overseer).—Your teaching is rather different from that which he would get at the university. Your teaching would be teaching people how to teach?—Pedagogic teaching. At the same time there is a good deal of information necessary, especially in the practical work. The university man would be the best man for this work had he passed through a course of pedagogy and been trained in methods of teaching.

2156. (Mr. Ophris).—Not a literary course, but a course including practice?—It may be a useful contribution to this subject to mention the results of our work in the summer courses. We have found that although there are obvious defects in the method, the defects are much more apparent than real, that the results which have followed from this work, combined with the help given during the inspection, have been productive of much good. That will be a matter for the Committee to determine. Speaking from a wide experience of Irish schools, nearly all of which I have visited a number of times, and also English schools, I think we have done some good work in this branch of education. These summer courses are not organised solely for teachers of secondary schools, but, as in the case of the old summer course at South Kensington, we take in the teachers from technical schools. Thus we arrange for summer courses in cooking, for teachers of this subject in industrial workers. We also arrange courses in manual instruction, building construction, wood-carving, and modelling, and also a course for teachers of lace, croquet-making, sprigging and class embroidery. Last year seventy-six different courses were arranged, and the numbers attending these are shown in the report. The cost of these courses is now nearly £3,500 per annum, but this does not represent the total cost, as it does not include the

courses held at the Royal College of Science, and the drawing courses held in the Metropolitan School of Art, the cost of which is borne out of the Parliamentary vote for these institutions. You may think that that amount of money seems abnormally large, but the largeness of it is explained when it is borne in mind that the teachers who attend the course from a distance—and these are the greater number—receive an allowance of £5 10s. each, and third-class railway fare to and from their homes. That is to say, they receive a maintenance allowance, and in this respect we are following the practice that existed in the science courses at South Kensington.

2157. In so far as students attend the courses held in the College of Science that £3 10s. is included in the vote, as well as the teaching expenses?—Yes.

2158. But the cost of providing teachers, as well as the cost of maintenance of every student who attends the course from a distance, is covered by the endowment and included in the £3,500?—Yes.

2159. What is the amount taken in the vote for maintenance of summer course students?—I don't think it is kept separately. In addition to the course of practical instruction in each subject a number of special lectures are arranged in Dublin, and arrangements, by the way, are now being made for a series of eight lectures to take place, beginning on the 7th of July next. I myself give a couple of lectures, Professor Hardley of the Royal College of Science gives two lectures, Professor Barnett gives two lectures, and Professor McClelland will give two lectures on modern conceptions of electricity. We also endeavour to arrange exhibitions at the time the teachers are in Dublin. During the summer course last year, we arranged an exhibition of drawings from the various secondary schools of Ireland, in order that the teachers might compare results and see what progress had been made. Among other things we arranged for a geographical exhibition, an exhibition of maps and models from the Geographical Association, and later we arranged for an exhibition of students' work from *l'Ecole des Arts Industriels* in Geneva. The Department are anxious to secure a week-ended grading of schools, and arrange that youths leaving school between 14 and 25 years old, should receive a type of education suitable for the calling for which such a school would appear to fit them. The Department made a regulation that such schools as were unable to retain scholars for a third or fourth year in the science programme must, in the case of a boys' school, take manual instruction, and, in the case of a girls' school, domestic economy. That was a simple means to secure that in the case of the lower type of secondary school, where the schools were unable to keep the scholar beyond the age of 14 or 15 years, which we take as an indication that they are not training him for a professional career, in the case of such a school we say this: "If you are not able to run a third or fourth year's special course, if in other words you cannot train students for more than two years after the age of 13, and therefore can only take them through a preliminary course, then we shall refuse to pay grants, unless, in the case of boys' schools, you take manual instruction, which includes drawing, and in girls' schools domestic economy." That was an anti-scientific way of grading schools and it produced some embarrassment to schools which had a difficulty in providing teachers of manual instruction, or teachers of domestic economy. We were very anxious to enable them to meet these conditions, for we made no exceptions; we were unable to make any exceptions. We were very willing to give facilities to schools, and we found the local Technical Instruction Committees were also very willing to give facilities, and in a large number of cases there was a most useful piece of co-ordination effected between the local technical authority and the secondary schools in the neighbourhood. In some cases the teachers of science from the Technical Instruction Committee of their manual instructor or their teacher of domestic economy was allowed to teach in such schools on financial terms that I need not particularise. In other cases where there were a group of small secondary schools, arrangements were made for the students to take their lessons in a central laboratory in the technical schools. This was done in a number of cases, though the tendency is in the secondary schools to

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work in their own laboratory. If we had waited in Ireland for experimental science to be taught in secondary schools by expert teachers from outside, we might have waited a long time. If we want to introduce a subject like experimental science we must aim at having it taught by a member of the staff of the school. That is particularly the case in Ireland, where it is very difficult indeed to get experts to the schools. The places are too scattered. We have tried it in some places, but as a permanent arrangement, we are bound to have those subjects taught by the members of the staff.

2160. Do you regard that as profitable?—I believe it has always worked out in practice to be better. We find that where you have had a visiting teacher of science, the subject has been an accretion, an accretion which has not been connected up with the other teaching, and it is highly desirable if science is introduced into secondary schools that it should be an organic part of the curriculum and connected with the teaching of geography and mathematics, and we believe that our course does not help that in a very remarkable way. At first it does not appear that the teaching of elementary science could help English, but I believe it contributes in a very remarkable way to the teaching of English, because we lay down that all the notes must be written out carefully by the student. This affords a valuable exercise in composition, as the student has something tangible to write about, something he knows, something he is being taught. We believe that the teaching of science contributes to the teaching of English. We know that the first year's course assists in the teaching of mathematics.

2161. Have you any reason to believe that the habit of methodically setting down a statement and the systematic keeping of books insisted upon in your science work is a definite and valuable contribution towards commercial education?—Undoubtedly, it is. We have been seeking to make it that. We attach great importance to the notes and the logical statement of what has been done and what inferences may be drawn from the practical work. There has been a tendency to have these notes dictated or written down on the blackboard, and in this case the student is robbed of initiative.

2162. Where you find an indication of dictation of notes in that way I suppose you promptly knock off the two tenths from the grant?—I am not at the moment prepared to say that a notice of that sort would be visited by a reduction of two tenths. What the inspector does in such a case is to recognise that the record is not what it purports to be, and to take it into consideration with the rest of the work.

2163. (Chairman).—Does the difficulty of getting teachers who are competent to give this instruction as members of the staff grow less and less?—It is diminishing as the result of the summer courses. We believe, however, that when a teacher is recognised by us as qualified to teach, we still need to bring him up to summer courses to keep him up to the mark.

2164. It is not an insuperable difficulty?—We met the difficulty. The difficulties were extreme in the first few years. The difficulties were the greater because we were the only body asking for qualifications. The Intermediate Education Board does not ask that the teacher should be qualified. They ask that the scholar shall pass an examination. We adopt an entirely different system, abolishing examinations and saying, "You must provide a suitable building, well equipped. Your teachers must be qualified to teach, and we must recognise them as qualified to teach. You must give regular systematic instruction, and we on our part, having satisfied ourselves that that instruction is sound, will pay you on the results of attendance."

2165. (Mr. Brown).—There is no examination at all in connection with this?—No examination at all, but the majority of the students are also working for the Intermediate Education Board.

2166. There remains the examination of the intermediate?—Only for the purpose of honours.

2167. (Chairman).—How do you ascertain the qualification of the teacher to teach science?—At the end of each summer course we have an examination. The examination consists of three parts; firstly the report and remarks of the Professor in charge of the course; secondly a practical examination conducted

by the Professor on laboratory work, and thirdly a written examination conducted usually by an external examiner and an inspector of the Department.

2168. Therefore the teacher appointed by the local authority has three qualifications?—In the case of a teacher of the local authority he has probably got some other qualifications. While the great bulk of the teachers in Ireland are recognised as qualified under our summer course system, that was only a expedient, but if a teacher says, "I am qualified to teach because I have a degree in science," we may recognise that. Or we have other ways. A man should come and represent that he was qualified to teach experimental science, but had not a degree, and had no paper qualifications, we should still be prepared to deal with him and give him an examination.

2169. You do not limit yourself to any particular test?—No. There are called exceptional cases of recognition. They are few now. They were more numerous at one time.

2170. (Mr. O'Dwyer).—To come back again to the question of dictation and notes—there are, of course, numerous sections of work in science classes in which dictation of notes is a necessary and desirable thing, but the essence, as I take it, of the method that your grants are intended to encourage, includes this sort of the pupil to set down as well as to reason out, a proper description for himself; so if you found in any school that the notes recorded in the boys' book from the beginning of the session to the end were in a very large part dictated that would necessarily be a serious aversion of the method you intend to encourage?—Very. It would be a mark of bad teaching.

2171. And if that were persisted in, I presume you would consider it so serious a thing that you would deal with it in the grant?—Certainly. There are many grades of sinfulness in this particular respect. First of all the teacher, with the view of giving directions to the boys may say, "In writing out your results you should adopt this form, and he puts down on the blackboard how to arrange it in columns. That is not only not objectionable, but it is desirable. That is teaching. There is another case in which he dictates not only the methods but the records. That is distinctly wicked. Next you have another stage which is absolutely criminal, where the teacher gives the figures that the boy should have got as the result of his experiments. That is terrible. An inspector, I need hardly say, on discovering that, forms his own opinion as to the value of the teacher and the terrible effect on the character of the boy. I won't say on the girls, but we hope that these things are never done in the case of girls' schools. We are alive to the danger, and I hope it is exceptional. You were asking me the cost of the summer courses in the Royal College of Science and the Metropolitan School of Art. Last year it was £1,391. I ought to point out that, of course, the professors take charge of the courses in some cases, and their salaries are not included, but this must include the maintenance allowance to teachers, and the cost of certain additional teachers. I think I have already explained what the amount of money that is being earned on this programme. It amounts now to £20,000, and I have also referred to the introduction of manual instruction and domestic economy into these schools.

2172. These summer courses are held very largely in schools throughout the country?—Yes.

2173. Do you have to make a financial arrangement with the owners of the schools to get the use of the buildings and so on?—In the case of what we call a public course in Dublin we have in addition to the Royal College of Science—

2174. I meant in other places other than your own?—I think I perceive what you want to get at in addition to the Royal College of Science and the Metropolitan School of Art, which are our own institutions, we require to have other courses held, as in the case of St. Andrew's College, Stepney, where we make an arrangement for that, because that is a public course to which any selected teacher in the country can come. In a great many places we hold courses for Nuns. A large number of girls' schools are convent schools and taught by nuns. In

some cases these are enclosed Orders, and if we are to introduce science into such schools it becomes necessary to send teachers to the convents. We arrange for the Nuns to come from other convents of the same Order to a centre, and hold a course there. In that case we do not provide anything for accommodation. We pay the teacher. The question of teachers and their qualifications is dealt with just as in the case of the public course. It was only by such means that we could have introduced science as a general scheme all over the country. The scheme is introduced into the convent schools quite as freely as in the others.

2175. (Chairman).—There is no difficulty in any class of convent schools?—We anticipated very great difficulty, but there has been none whatever, and the teaching in some of the convent schools is as good as is to be found in Europe.

2176. Just the same class of teachers?—Yes. We had no difficulty in that. We don't observe that any difficulty whatever has been experienced. Their attitude towards this course was admirable, and enabled us to introduce, without exception, the teaching of experimental science into convent schools of a secondary type in Ireland.

2177. (Mr. O'Brien).—Where are the courses in Cork held?—In the Christian Brothers' school and the Crawford School of Art.

2178. In the case of the Crawford School of Art, are the buildings there placed freely at the disposal of the Department for this course?—In that case we only pay for cleaning. I should now like to speak of the relations of the Department with the secondary schools generally, and I should here like to say that the attitude of Irish secondary schools towards this new branch of work entailing serious cost and great exertions on the part of teachers, added duties, and the sacrifice of holidays, has been all that could be desired. Had they not cheerfully and willingly worked harmoniously with the Department in introducing so far-reaching a change into Irish secondary education I should not be able to speak of the results as I do now. I am not able to ascertain at first hand what progress has been made in the teaching of these subjects in English secondary schools during the last few years, but I can speak from a wide acquaintance of English secondary schools for the preceding seven years, and I believe that not only the system, but the method of teaching and the results obtained will compare satisfactorily with English secondary schools. I do not think we can afford in any degree to relax our efforts, for very much remains still to be done, but it appears to me after careful inspection of Irish secondary schools that an excellent start has been made. A responsible duty is laid upon our inspectors—that of maintaining a high standard of teaching. I don't mean that the teachers are not sufficiently zealous, but our schools are poor. The secondary schools in Ireland receive funds from two public sources—from the Intermediate Board and from the Department. The aid from the Intermediate Board is based upon the results of written examinations. The aid from the Department is based upon inspection. If we were to relax in ever so slight a degree our standard for secondary schools it follows as a natural consequence that the schools would devote their attention to those subjects which are to be tested by written examination, and in respect of which they also receive aid. I only mention this because it shows how delicate a duty is thrown on the inspectors in maintaining a high standard of education in the subjects of our programme.

2179. But it is a duty you find them perfectly qualified to discharge?—Perfectly qualified to discharge, and I believe they are discharging it with tact under the circumstances. I have already explained that the Department assessed the grant to schools on a dual basis, viz. on attendance and inspection. They decided from the beginning to eliminate examinations as a basis of paying grants, not that it was thought that payment by results was bad, but that, especially in such subjects, real and permanent results could not be ascertained by means of written examinations. The question was—how were we to assess the "results"?—The written examination is a bad criterion by which to judge of results, especially in experimental science. We have, therefore, so far as payments for teaching are concerned, entirely abolished examinations.

2180. (Chairman).—Then really these schools are running on two different principles?—They are, and although notwithstanding these difficulties and complications the work has gone on with exceeding smoothness, it is very largely due to the fact that both the Intermediate Board and ourselves have been exceedingly anxious to do the best thing for the schools.

2181. Has there been any movement towards unifying these schemes?—Yes. I think many people in Ireland are exceedingly anxious to bring about so desirable a unification.

2182. Does that form part of the functions of the Consultative Committee?—It may be read into them, I think, and they may make recommendations on that head. Indeed I am not sure that some recommendation of the kind was not made early. The subject has been considered.

2183. Is there any reference to it in your minutes?—I will turn that up in one moment. I am dealing with the Consultative Committee later on. The difficulty of our work is, as you will see, complicated by the fact that we have to test students for the Intermediate Board. The Board accept our programme and our inspection to satisfy their conditions for a pass. Moreover, they have an honours examination, and the best of their students in experimental science are put in for this honours examination. The first part of the honours examination is practical, and is conducted by our inspectors. They qualify or disqualify the candidates for the honours examination. Then the paper examination is held, and the Department confirms that too. We only do it, however, for the Intermediate Board, and to meet the requirements of the Intermediate Board. We do not require it in connection with our programme. We do it to bridge over the difficulty and to enable the system to be worked. That method has worked exceedingly well. It has not produced the difficulties we might have anticipated.

2184. Do I understand that the examination on which the payment by results is based is conducted by your inspectors?—I do not think it is possible to state the thing so shortly. The Intermediate grants are payable on groups of subjects, of which experimental science is one. It might have been expected that this system of inspection, with all its well-known difficulties, would have been a dangerous experiment in secondary schools where all the other subjects of the curriculum were paid for on the results of written examination, but this has not proved to be the case. The system of inspection adopted by the Department has shown, I believe, that it might be extended with advantage. Such extension would relieve secondary schools of some of that forbearance they must necessarily exercise where two systems are being worked side by side. In my present position, and as late senior inspector, I am in some difficulty in saying words of appreciation for my staff of inspectors, but would refer the Committee to a report on Intermediate Education in Ireland, recently written by Messrs. Dale and Stephens. I am not called upon to express an opinion on the many important questions raised in this report, but it is of importance as coming from two experts. On page 69 of this report it is stated that "the demand for inspection has, undoubtedly, been greatly increased by the successful working of the system under the Department of Technical Instruction." Speaking generally of the introduction of the Department's programme into secondary schools they remark (p. 29) "By these measures a general co-ordination has been effected in the working of the two Departments concerned. A single set of rules and a single inspection serve the purpose of assessing the grants of both, and this avoidance of overlapping is in itself no small gain. Again, the greatest benefit has undoubtedly been derived from the unanimity with which both Departments have directed their influence to the re-establishment of science and art in the Intermediate schools. . . . That these expensive improvements have been carried out, as our inquiries showed, without friction, and in so short a time is in itself a sufficient testimony to the tact of the Department's officers and the public spirit of the managers of the Intermediate schools. . . . It is hardly possible to overstate the importance of this reform in Irish education. For the first time in Ireland genuine instruction in science and drawing has been rendered possible, and the old methods of purely theoretical work based solely, or almost

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solely, on text-books and examination papers—work which was not merely futile in itself, but absolutely prejudicial to any proper grasp of scientific method—have been superseded by a system under which every student is forced to familiarise himself with the procedure of investigation by actual experiment. It would be superfluous to dwell on the educational gain involved; in every school that we visited where science was being taught the teachers were unanimous in their appreciation of the increased interest of the subject, and the benefit to the scholars already won under the new conditions and syllabus. This verdict is the more satisfactory since the work is still in the initial stages. The novelty of the change and the lack of specially trained teachers have hitherto prevented, and must for some years prevent, the full fruit of the reforms from being properly seen. I could multiply these quotations, but I think what I have quoted will be sufficient. I only want to show that the opinion of these two gentlemen at least was very favourable to the results. I may here add that every attempt has been made to maintain uniformity of standard among the inspectors. In addition to the inspections made during the course of the session—inspections without action, when the work is inspected during the normal course—final inspections are in all cases held towards the end of the session. These final inspections are now in progress, and have been for the last two months. Our inspectors are fully engaged every day. What would happen if an inspector were to fall ill? I hardly know. Well, I do know. We have a case in point. A temporary inspector fell ill last month, and it was quite impossible to carry on the work except by appealing to our friends on the other side of the water, the Board of Education at South Kensington. They have lent us a temporary inspector and I am afraid we are in the way of killing him. At all events we have had a letter word from him, that we are overworking him, and I admit it. I have explained that in addition to assessing the grants for our purposes—

2185. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I suppose for the final inspection you send inspectors to places outside their own usual districts—in fact you would regard the combination of inspectors during the final inspection works as one of the means of maintaining uniformity of standard?—That is so. We take an inspector from a district for a final inspection and let him inspect with a colleague in another part of the country. We also have, I ought to say, periodical inspectors' conferences, in which every detail of inspection work is fully and freely discussed in no high and dry academic manner, but quite freely. In this way I believe we do really secure uniformity of action. I am not prepared to say that appeals are never made against the judgment of inspectors. That would be expecting far too much of any system of inspection. I can only say that while all such appeals are seriously considered, they are never allowed to interfere with the initiative of inspectors.

2186. The absence of appeals would indicate considerable liberality on the part of inspectors?—Clearly, or that they were not doing their work.

2187. (Chairman).—You mean you have never seen occasion to upset an inspector on appeal?—I am not prepared to say that.

2188. Your judgment must differ sometimes from that of the inspector?—I am quite prepared, when the responsibility is thrown on me, with sufficient reason, to reverse the judgment of an inspector, but in most cases the appeals have not led to that. If one is to maintain this work on a satisfactory footing, and on a harmonious relationship with the schools, they must be in a position to say what they feel to the Department. Inspection constitutes the only satisfactory way of assessing results in science for the payment of Government grants. The personal element, of course, is a difficulty, but I believe we have proved it to be a very beneficial means of assessing grants.

2189. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I presume some of the cases of appeal, where you have not been satisfied that there was adequate ground for reversing the inspector's judgment, have been beneficial in giving an opportunity of explaining to the school the reasons for the result?—When the appeal is made officially, yes; but when it is made privately and verbally the opportunity is not given. But the

appeal is of value, because it always forms a point for discussion at the inspectors' conference as to what should be the guiding principle in such cases. The appeals, however, are remarkably few. Often an appeal is made with the view that an anticipated result may not occur. I need hardly say an appeal never affects such a result. Any appeal that is made is very fully inquired into, and I think, as a general rule, the person is satisfied. You will recognise it as an extremely delicate question, that of interfering with the judgment of the inspector. It is only a person who has been on the spot and seen the work can properly say what the work was like, and, therefore, it is only under the very gravest circumstances that there should be any interference with his judgment. We do all that is possible to secure that the judgment shall be sound. I think I may say that the advice and criticism which the inspectors have at ways been ready to offer have been universally welcomed, and that the inspectors and heads of schools are on excellent relations. I venture to think that one of the most potent causes of what I regard as a satisfactory state of things has been the close touch of the Department with the secondary schools in the country. The views of the secondary schools are sought and obtained on all important questions in our programme. We have a Committee known as the Committee of Heads of Secondary Schools. It consists of representatives of the Teachers' Guild, of the Convent Schools Committee, of the Catholic Headmasters' Association, of the Schoolmasters' Association, of the Christian Brothers' Schools, of the Schoolmistresses' Association, and so forth. They have met in these offices five times since the 15th February, 1905. They are asked to propose subjects for discussion, and these subjects are discussed with very great freedom and fulness. The views of the schools are thus learned, and the Department enabled to mould its procedure in such a manner as to reduce friction to a minimum. We cannot do all that is asked, but this most useful body recognises I think, that a useful and healthy relationship exists. A reference to the minutes of this body will enable the Committee to appreciate its value. We have done all we could to meet them, and it has been a great advantage to hear the views of teachers and see their views in establishing our course. Useful suggestions have come from them. Some of these have not been entertained, but I think when the reasons are explained to them they usually come round to the Department's views.

2190. (Chairman).—What is the nature of Association?—It is called the Committee of Heads of Secondary Schools. Perhaps you would wish that I should mention what subjects were discussed. I will take the last meeting here on the 3rd of April of this year.

2191. It is a strictly voluntary association?—It is an association consisting of representatives of almost every educational organisation of the secondary type in Ireland. They asked the Department to invite them, and we did so. It has no powers other than that of advising the Department. It is always fully attended, and we have as a matter of fact a verbatim report of the proceedings, but from the minutes I shall be able to show what questions are commonly discussed. The first point at the last meeting was that I draw the attention of the meeting to a newspaper cutting, which I had received from the south of England, which related to the death of a girl from having drawn strong emetic powder into the mouth. The object of introducing that was to point out a possible danger in experimental work. We have been singularly free from mishaps in this work in Ireland. I don't remember a serious case; but we are very anxious that one should not occur. There were a large number of suggestions dealt with. I think all the suggestions came from the members themselves. They had been submitted in advance. The first point was that in the case of a boy coming from another school that had not previously been under the supervision of the Department, the manager should be allowed to classify him provisionally, notifying the fact to the Department, and that these classifications should be recognised by the Department when visited by the Inspector on his first visit to the school after the boy joined. It was explained that the Department was in agreement with the suggestion, and there followed a long discussion as to whether it was really our practice, and the air was considerably cleared in consequence. They found that the question

arose on a specific case where a school had not taken the trouble to ask the Department whether boys might be classified in this way. We insist on a boy going through the regular course. He may not begin at our second or third year's course. He must have passed through the preceding course; but if he comes from another school, and we are satisfied it provides a genuine educational course, we have not the slightest objection where he begins. Then it was suggested "that pupils taking the manual instruction course should not be compelled to take drawing as a separate subject in order to obtain a pass in science." We refused to receive this suggestion on educational grounds, and I believe the Committee agreed with that. Then the question came up of the extension of the first year's course, also about a report course, and it was suggested that if a boy were required to repeat his course we should be allowed to pay on him for the second year. This requires Treasury sanction. We agreed on this case, and we made representations to the Treasury. I am not proposing to go through all these questions, but it shows the nature of the subjects dealt with, and I myself think that the Committee have served a very useful purpose, and especially it has prevented the development and growth of "grivances." May I say a word here as to the syllabus of work contained in the programme? These syllabuses have received a little, but remarkably little, adverse criticism, and in my view this is due to the manner in which they are framed, and from time to time revised. I think I may say that they represent the combined wisdom of the experts who drew them up, of the teachers of common courses, who are invited for their observations upon them, of the committee of headmasters, and of the inspectors. Never were syllabuses so fully discussed and criticised, but the Department notwithstanding do not let the schools to these syllabuses. If schools choose to draw up their own syllabuses and submit them, the Department is ready to approve of a syllabus educationally sound, though of course for the written examinations of the Intermediate Board only one syllabus can be employed. I have made reference to the Consultative Committee. I do not think that I need say any more than that it has performed a most important piece of work. It has met five times, but its work has been supplemented in matters of detail by formal conferences which have been from time to time held between a committee of the Intermediate Education Board and the officers of the Department. The Consultative Committee of Education was established under Section 23 of the Act, and consists, as will be seen, of five persons, viz., the Vice-President of the Department as Chairman, and representatives of the Commissioners of National Education, the Intermediate Education Board, the Agricultural Board, and the Board of Technical Instruction. They have discussed matters affecting the relations of the Department to the Intermediate Education Board and the Board of National Education, leading to the adoption of our programme by the Intermediate Board, the establishment of science classes for National teachers in the Department's technical schools, to the determination of work in evening continuation schools and technical classes. It has discussed the question of the grading of schools, the establishment of domestic economy as a special course in secondary schools, the Department's code for schools other than day secondary schools, and other subjects, and this has materially assisted the Department in shaping its policy. On the recommendations of the Consultative Committee, and acting in conjunction with the Board of National Education, the Department arranged for the establishment of classes in urban technical schools suited to the needs of teachers of National schools. An arrangement was made to inspect these schools conjointly, and to issue certificates as a result, these certificates being recognized by the National Board. We don't recognize such teachers for our secondary school work. It is only a means of providing an exceptional training in science for teachers of the National Board. The National Board recognizes these qualifications for teaching in their own schools.

2292. It is only a special qualification in science?—That is so. At the present time there are six such

schools at work attended by about 100 National teachers, and an extension of so useful a provision for the supplementary training of National teachers may be looked for. Now it is desirable here to say a word about the efforts made by the Department to introduce domestic economy into girls' secondary schools. It will be observed that the rate of payment for both manual instruction and domestic economy is smaller than for experimental science. The Department would be glad to see these rates increased, but a further restriction existed until the present session which was minimal to the introduction of domestic economy. It was only possible to take domestic economy as a special course if one of the other special courses was also taken. Permission was obtained from the Treasury to allow domestic economy to rank as a special course, though the rate of payment for it remained unchanged. This arrangement came into operation this session for the first time. We have a great appreciation of this subject of domestic economy. Personally I may say I believe we require some sort of reform to be introduced into the education of girls. It is to me a rather terrible thing to see in girls' schools the girls studying electricity, magnetism, and chemistry unless they are going in for a professional career. With regard to nine-tenths of them, this is not the case, and the career that they are destined for is that of mistress of the home; and instruction such as will fit them to take the management of the home, represents almost the only subject on which they have not had some education in the school. We are therefore strongly of opinion that in a large number of girls' schools domestic economy if well taught, and based on the preliminary instruction in science received in the first two years' course, forms an admirable substitute for courses of a more purely scientific character.

2293. There seems a reluctance to take up this subject?—Far less reluctance here than in England. The schools in general are very favourable to it.

2294. I mean on the part of the parents of pupils?—That is the difficulty with the poorer people, in itinerant instruction in rural districts—that is against us. In secondary schools also the difficulty is from the parents, not from the pupils. There is an idea that domestic economy is not needed.

2295. (Mr. Brown).—Has that really manifested itself?—One hears it particularly from the schools. Where one authorizes a school to establish domestic economy they will tell you that.

2296. I don't think there is any real objection on the part of the parents?—I think if you were to talk to heads of girls' secondary schools they would tell you that a parent rather prefers the science course to the domestic economy course. Generalizations are obviously dangerous, but that is a difficulty that has, I think, been felt everywhere. I was about to add that it was felt more strongly in England than here. It is exceedingly difficult to get the education of girls out of the rigidly artificial line it has taken.

2297. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You have your teaching of domestic economy on a preliminary course of the first two years in science?—Yes. I would not have the first two years' instruction in experimental science avoided. Domestic economy should be a little more scientific than it is now.

2298. It can be more effectively taught if it is taught to persons who have had the training in the first two years' preliminary course?—Yes, and I hold this must stand as a preliminary to future specialisation. In anything that I have said I am not inclined to blame the schools. We must bear in mind in the first place that the grant given for domestic economy is smaller than that for science, but I am not aware that the cost of teaching is less. The materials required are expensive. But notwithstanding these difficulties I ought to say that the number of girls' schools taking domestic economy has increased from twenty-six in 1904-5 to forty in the current session. I shall tell you at the next sitting about a special type of girls' domestic economy school that the Department are experimenting with.

Committee adjourned.

NINTH PUBLIC SITTING.—TUESDAY, JUNE 5TH, 1906.

At the Office of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KENELM E. DUBY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

June 5, 1906.

Mr. George Fletcher,
F.R.S.

Mr. GEORGE FLETCHER, F.R.S., further examined.

2194a. I think when I left off on Saturday I had come to the establishment of special schools for teaching of higher domestic economy; I was pointing out that notwithstanding the great development of domestic economy in girl's secondary schools, we were not yet satisfied that domestic economy had taken its due place in these schools. One of the difficulties in that direction is the groove into which schools generally have fallen under an examination system, and a very important experiment is being tried by the Department, with the concurrence of the Board of Technical Education, in the establishment of two secondary schools specialised on the side of domestic economy. One of these schools has been established in connection with the Ursuline Convent at Waterford, and the second school in connection with the Victoria High School, a Protestant school in Londonderry. While these schools provide a large amount of systematic instruction in domestic economy, we are not leaving the literary subjects neglected. The schools, however, cannot work in connection with the rules of the Intermediate Education Board, and it was therefore necessary, in order to get this new type of school started, that the Department should indemnify the schools against loss; they have done so for the first three years of the experiment. I only mention it as an interesting experiment, which we think may yield good results. The school at Waterford has been in operation for the last two years: the one at Londonderry is not yet built. In the case of Waterford we were able to utilize the property belonging to the Convent and the building was put up there; it was a simple matter. In the case of Londonderry, however, the Department has to build.

2194b. (Chairman).—You have no special building fund?—We have no building fund.

2200. (Mr. Mick).—Are you building out of the surplus?—Out of savings.

2201. At what estimated cost?—In the case of Waterford, where it is really a temporary building, the total cost to the Department is £750; it is not, however, in any sense a gift to the school; there is an arrangement by which at the end of three years' experiment we may take the buildings back at a valuation.

2202. (Chairman).—Of course you have to make special arrangements in each case?—Quite; the arrangement was to indemnify the school to the extent of £200 in each year; how that is going to work out it is impossible yet to tell, but such teaching is not cheap; it won't, indeed, be possible for the next three years to say how it is likely to work out.

2203. I suppose this building question is one of the chief difficulties you have to contend with?—It is one of the main difficulties, and I was dealing with that and other difficulties very fully later in connection with the fourth of my main heads—our relations to local committees. It is far and away the most pressing and difficult question.

2204. (Mr. Mick).—What is the estimated cost in Derry?—£1,500. In the case of Derry the building will be rented in the Department, but it is managed in connection with an old-fashioned school there. I should have this part of the subject uncompleted if I was not to mention that the object in starting these two schools is rather to set an example to other girls' secondary schools in Ireland as to what may be done.

2205. (Chairman).—Very well, then, leave the building question for the present?—I have pointed out that there is great need in Ireland for the grading of schools; that the system has been such as rather to throw the secondary schools of Ireland into one groove, one type. The Department strongly feels the need of a school of the type I am about to describe. Until recently there was no school where a youth who had passed through the primary school might receive a further education bearing directly on the trade he was to follow; the absence of such schools sets my adversary on industrial enterprise; the Department therefore encouraged schools of the type known as day trade preparatory schools in a limited number of centres, where the conditions seemed wholly favourable to their establishment. As, for example, in an urban centre, where a building used for evening classes was vacant during the day, and when, by a slight re-arrangement, the teaching staff might be made available. The aim of such a school is to provide for boys, who have received an education equivalent to that of the sixth standard of the national school, such a course of training as will fit them to enter upon an industrial career. The standard of education of candidates for entrance is decided by means of an examination conducted under conditions approved by us. The curriculum includes experimental science, drawing, workshop mathematics, manual instruction, practical geometry, oral modern language besides English, and such literary instruction as is necessary to keep up what they have already learned in this direction. Schools may provide a two, three, or four years' course. The efficiency of the school is decided by inspection, and where such a school is recognised by the Department, and the equipment, teaching staff, and curriculum has been fully approved, aid is given to the limit of three-fourths of the total expenditure. I should explain that this is by no means a general scheme; it is not a scheme in which we can say to any centre in Ireland "You may start such a school as this and we will give you a grant on this basis." We are not in a position to do that, and if we were, any belief would be that it would be inexpedient; we should come in conflict with the secondary schools, and no doubt with the primary schools. Up to the present time only six such schools have been started:

Belfast: Municipal Technical Institute.
" Christian Brothers' Schools, Harland.
Kilmany: City Technical School.
Queenstown: Technical School.
Fernside: Technical School, Ringwood.
Limerick: Christian Brothers' School.

That means we have six of these schools; we are not anxious to press for an increase; several centres are pressing us to allow them to establish these day schools in connection with their technical schools, where the building is standing idle in the day time, and when, also, they have an adequate staff, which, by means of a slight re-arrangement, could take the day work. We are very willing, where local arrangements are altogether favourable, to allow this to be done, because it is believed that such schools will meet a very real need.

2206. (Mr. Mick).—Your grants amount to three-fourths of the expenditure?—Yes.

2207. That is to say of the expenditure which you audit and certify?—Yes; I think, sir, this will make

it clear if I were to read the actual paragraphs of the conditions under which this grant is administered—a memorandum which is marked confidential because we can't hold this offer out to any school ready to accept it; we choose our schools. The condition is that: "The school managers shall, as soon as possible after the close of the season, send in a tabulated statement of receipts and expenditure accompanied by vouchers where required. The Department will make a grant not exceeding three-fourths of the total net expenditure provided that this does not exceed the amount previously approved in writing by the Department. By total net expenditure is meant the total expenditure incurred by the managers on the school, less attendance grants from the Departments where payable, the school fees received from the students, the proceeds of sale of materials, and other similar sources of income. The remainder of the cost must be borne from local sources."

2226. I want to get at the meaning of the words "total expenditure incurred by the manager upon the school," that must include nothing in respect of the building?—We allow them, in certain cases, to charge a rent for day work. The localities receiving our endowment for evening technical schools were already spending up to the hilt; if we were to allow them to run a different section it was necessary we should refund them. It will be found that where a school of this kind is run in connection with a municipal body it means no additional cost to that body.

2227. That is that one-fourth of the net expenditure which has to be found by the managers might be made up by fees?—No.

2228. If it is not to involve any loss to the locality from what source does it come?—The one-fourth can come from the sum we pay over from our endowment for the local scheme; moreover they have the staff already for the evening classes.

2229. (Mr. Brown).—Is the grant referred to here wholly out of the Department's fund or out of the joint fund?—Out of that fund of £7,000 to which I am going to refer presently.

2230. (Mr. O'Connell).—If they pay their one-fourth without any local subscription at all, practically it comes out of the funds that have been supplied to them for other purposes?—No; that is not so; there is a very great economy.

2231. Unless we take a special case it will be a little difficult to make this clear. The point of my inquiry is this. I want to see that the scheme is not so very attractive as it seems. Is it very unfair to other places not to let them have it, if some are getting everything for nothing?—No; because they are contributing their rate; it involves an increased Departmental contribution; you have a building and a permanent headmaster, whose time is at present employed only in the evening, perhaps very well employed—by an additional grant you have buildings, headmaster, and, indeed, part of the evening staff available for the day work; the only way in which we could get that work done is to pay wholly for it, because there is no other source of income; the locality has already given to the joint fund through local rate.

2232. (Chairman).—Then what is the meaning of this "the remainder of the cost must be borne from local sources"?—That is to say from the funds available from the local community.

2233. Although the fund came from the Department?—The wording of that, "local sources" has to apply to a number of different cases. Let us take the Christian Brothers' Schools in Belfast; there we are only prepared to give three-fourths of the cost, the remaining one-fourth must be found somehow; in that case it may not be from technical instruction funds. In the case of Kilkenny, that one-fourth must come from other funds at the disposal of the Committee, including the rate.

2234. (Mr. O'Connell).—I only want to get to understand the incidence of it. Supposing Cork had a municipal technical school, the rooms of which were largely empty during the day, and were suitable for the work of such a school as this; it is conceivable that the Cork authority might draft a scheme providing for the establishment of such a school, utilising the services of staff, as you have pointed out, and making to these men such additions to their salaries as would be necessary to recognize their day work in addition to the evening, and additions which would not be in the least in proportion to the number of

hours, because they may have to pay a man £250 at present when his work was almost entirely in the evening; if they gave him £200, and perhaps paid £50 for an assistant to take part of the evening work they would be incurring for that particular department, say, £250 a year expenditure; half of that man's work might be in the day, so that the day school work would figure as to this man at £125—It may; we have a revision of the proposals before we accept the school. In the case of Cork, if that application were to come we should look at it very carefully, because there is already in Cork a school which very largely attempts the same kind of work; I refer to the Christian Brothers' Schools.

2235. Then let us say X and take Cork out of it?—In the case of X we should say, "What are your proposals?" and a final estimate would have to be sent in saying how much they proposed to charge in respect of the rent of the building against the scheme; how much in respect of materials, and on consideration of their whole scheme, we would say whether it was possible to allow it. It is possible that such a scheme, if accepted, will not mean any additional cost to the locality; it cannot do so in many cases, as a little reflection will show; this locality must be contributing their full penny rate, therefore if any portion of the rate is required for the day school it must be obtained by economy in the evening classes.

2236. On looking at this preliminary estimate and checking the financial charge, do you look to see how much the total expenditure in the locality has been increased because of the cost of the establishment of this scheme?—Certainly.

2237. So in the particular item I have considered you look not to the £175 but to the £100?—Exactly, but we should look at all the circumstances.

2238. I could run a school of that sort quite satisfactorily with the information you have up to now given me and make money of it?—It would be possible if we would allow you to do so.

2239. What steps do you take to prevent that?—We will put it this way. By the 1st of October an estimate of the cost of working the school, showing under their respective heads the amount to be paid for rent, salaries and wages, heating, lighting, and cleaning, school maintenance, and other charges must be rendered. It is an inspection of that we either accept or refuse the various items; after all it is only a question of allocating expenses as between the day and evening schools; it is not so tough the evening classes were worked under a separate system and a separate body; we are not very particular whether there is a slight economy or not; we would be glad if we could improve the condition of the grant in respect of evening work.

2240. I am quite with you in all that, and also in the desirability of so working it as to get the best possible value for all the funds available, but what I want to see is whether you have anything to fall back upon; supposing other towns of 50,000 inhabitants should ask the establishment of such a school, if they were well advised, they could put forward a satisfactory financial statement?—In the first place I don't think there is much chance of that in Ireland; the conditions are such that we won't get these applications, but if such a thing did occur, we could not meet them; we could not treat urban centres in Ireland on an equality in this respect without very largely increased funds; it is essentially a partial treatment, a special treatment in those cases.

2241. (Mr. Michel).—Specially suitable cases? Specially suitable cases. The case of the Pembroke Technical School at Ringend illustrates my purpose admirably; it has gone on for a good many years as an evening technical school; an excellent building, but put up in the wrong place; its geographical position is very unfortunate, so much so that the Department were very glad to authorize an extension scheme by which a branch technical school was established at Ball's Bridge. Now there is room undoubtedly for a school of this type in this neighbourhood, which is of an industrial character, and therefore when the proposal came in to utilize this fine building for day classes of a trade preparatory type we considered that here was one of those cases where a trade preparatory school was suitable, and it was authorized.

2242. Was that school intended originally for fishing instruction?—It was. The school was erected, I believe, by Lord Pembroke, and was under the Educational Endowments Act.

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Mr. George Fletcher,
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Mr. George
Parker,
F.O.A.

2225. That accounts for its position?—Yes; but I think it failed as a fisheries school.

2225. (Mr. Oylola).—Do you find these schools very popular?—It is too early to say; they have only been established outside Belfast for a couple of years.

2227. Are their first year's courses attracting all the numbers they can accommodate?—Oh, no.

2228. They have not yet become known?—No; we are working with extreme care; in no case do we press a body to establish such a school, indeed we require to be satisfied that all the local conditions are favourable, and that we are not overlapping any other educational scheme, before we allow such a school to start. Hence it is that there is practically no opposition to those we have started. I can see a grave difficulty in the way of starting these schools as a system; there would be considerable resistance in the first place from existing secondary schools, nevertheless there is a distinct gap between the primary school and the secondary school, and there is need for schools of this type.

2229. Have you had any applications under this scheme that have not been approved?—We are dealing with two applications next session; we have had an application from Portadown, where the conditions are favourable, and where we don't come in contact with secondary schools, because, I think, there are none of them there. Waterford also, which has just set up a school, and which will be open shortly applied to have a trade preparatory school. The Bishop of Waterford was very favourable to the project, and we have included it in their programme, so that two new schools will start next year—Portadown and Waterford.

2230. (Mr. Miles).—Are these schools financed out of the £7,000?—Yes.

2231. What would the contributions to those six schools come to?—I cannot tell you because we have not come to the end of the year.

2232. What did you think they would cost when you went into it?—The matter was brought before the Board of Technical Instruction. From the Minutes, page 205, V. 3, you will see it was explained how we were proposing to deal with the additional amount of £3,500; we had to consider how we might meet certain cases of hardship that had arisen as the result of the withdrawal of the "Equivalent Grant," and we were proposing to make that good in some cases, and not in others; then the day trade preparatory school scheme was explained to the Board, and, as you will see, they agreed to the establishment of these schools out of the £7,000.

2233. Was there a vote on account?—Not yet, because it has not come into being yet. I ought to say that the establishment of these schools is always brought into the scheme for the locality, and I will show presently how that is done. That is all I have to say in regard to the day secondary schools, unless any question should arise. I will now direct the attention of the Committee to the fourth main head of my evidence, which deals with the organizing of schemes of technical instruction under local authorities.

The record of this branch of technical instruction is one of continued success. In the first year of the Department's work a little delay was inevitable. The Department had practically no staff; committees had to be formed under local authorities; the rate to be struck, and schemes to be formulated. A reference to the annual reports of the Department will show that in successive years until now, a greater number of local authorities had been willing to rate themselves, and to administer schemes under the Department's control, until there is only one county at the present time which has not a scheme in operation. That is Londonderry, but I believe it is proposing a scheme next year. The first year was, however, one of inquiry and discussion, and a large amount of preliminary work was done. Committees were formed, schemes of pioneer lectures framed and carried out, deputations of local authorities to visit technical schools in England and Scotland arranged by the Department and conducted by its officers. All this was a necessary preliminary to the drawing up of schemes. The Department would have been glad, had it been possible, to leave the formulation of schemes entirely to local authorities, and indeed many proposals and suggestions were received. These can, if it be thought desirable, be dug out from the archives of the Department. They were, in every case fully discussed between the Inspector of the Department and the local

authority, and an agreement was arrived at as to how much of them could be usefully incorporated in the local scheme. They were proposals quite natural under the circumstances, coming from committees without experience of technical work. For example, I have a case in mind, where the scheme of technical instruction from a committee really involved the redistribution of the funds amongst various rural districts in proportion to their rate contribution. I need hardly say that it was a hopeless scheme; indeed, when I suggested that one might go a step further and pay to each ratepayer the particular amount he had contributed to the scheme under the rate and have a little technical scheme of his own it solved the question, and we went back to a scheme for the county-at-large; but in all cases these proposals from the Committee were fully discussed between the Department Inspector and the local authority, and in all cases, I think, the agreement was arrived at as to how much of the proposals could be incorporated in the local scheme. In those early days the meetings between the committees and myself were very frequent indeed, a number of proposals were made, and they were all anxiously considered, and in the end, after such discussion, we arrived at schemes of technical instruction very much on the lines of these at work today. I would desire to deal rather fully with the question of our relations to these local bodies. I can speak with, I believe, a large amount of first-hand knowledge on the subject. I have met, I believe, almost every local statutory technical committee in Ireland, and in many cases my visits have been repeated a number of times. Let me say at once, that I have the very highest opinion of the earnestness of these bodies, and it is due to their interest and enthusiasm combined with what I believe to have been wise direction on the part of the Department that so much good work has been done. As I know these committees from long and frequent meetings, I am convinced, speaking generally, of their earnestness and keen desire to promote technical education in the areas dealt with by them. They have co-operated with us during the last few years in working out an extremely difficult problem. Education differs somewhat from other matters dealt with by Government departments. It cannot succeed without the interest and good will of the community as a whole; it is useless to attempt to force it, and, I think, in certain directions, progress might have been more rapid, by direct effort, if certainly could not have been so enduring. I am convinced that the only way to establish technical education on a sound and healthy basis is to develop it on the lines now adopted, viz., through committees of local authorities. I do not suggest that one would form this view if the work of local authorities from the public Press, and I do not know that one ought to expect to do so. The Press will naturally desire to record just that portion of any meeting which will prove of general interest, and the general public, neither here nor in Great Britain, have been educated up to the point of desiring full and impartial accounts of the doings of technical instruction committees in their morning paper. Having said so much about the work of the committees of local authorities, I am anxious to make clear the nature of their relation with the central department. It has been said that we interfere unduly with their freedom of action. This is a point which I venture to suggest is one of profound importance. I would respectfully suggest, however, that it is not likely that permanent Government officials would interfere for the fun of the thing. It would clearly be much easier not to do it; it might ensure freedom from criticism, and convert a two-hour into an eight-hour working day. Indeed it might be suggested that such action proceeded from a deep sense of public duty and responsibility. The absolute necessity, if we are to progress, of strong and wise central direction to so important a movement, becomes obvious from a few general considerations, which I now submit. For nearly thirty years, ever from the passing of the Elementary Education Act of 1870, local bodies in Great Britain gathered experience in the local administration of education; School Boards were formed, and public opinion was educated by an enormous amount of attention to, and discussion respecting, elementary education. Public interest, which had been growing in the direction of technical education, was stimulated further by the passing of the Technical Instruction Acts of 1859 and 1881. Technical instruction committees were formed in connection with the local authorities, and hence

is that while for the ten years preceding the passing of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act in Ireland, local bodies were getting experience and instruction about technical education in Great Britain; here no such opportunity occurred. Indeed until the passing of our Act, outside the large centres, little had been done to stimulate public interest or inquiry. The first committees formed in the Irish counties were not technical instruction committees. They were committees of agriculture and technical instruction, formed under Section 14 (1) of the Act. They were appointed for the double purpose of administering agricultural schemes and technical instruction schemes. I need not say that in a country such as Ireland, interest in the agricultural side of the work largely predominated, and I call to mind many meetings I have attended for the purpose of discussing schemes of technical instruction, where bulls and beans occupied three-fourths of the time, and nine-tenths of the interest of the meeting.

2224. (Chairman).—The same Committee dealt with both subjects?—At that time that was only possible. An attempt was made in Cork and Galway to form separate committees, and in many counties sub-committees for technical instruction were formed, but they were in a very anomalous position for they really had no statutory authority. We had a ruling on this question from a law adviser, and I think you will see on reference to Section 14 that only one committee is contemplated.

2225. Well, there is nothing to prevent your having sub-committees reporting to the main Committee?—Quite so; that was done in a good many cases, but there was a want of financial responsibility in the sub-committees.

2226. It does not now work in that way?—No, I am about to show how we have got joint committees, which are more useful. I only want to indicate that at that period, when we were busy drawing up schemes and setting principles, the interest of the committee was divided, the greater part of the interest lay with our agricultural schemes, and very much was thrown on the Department in the direction of formulating schemes, although very many useful suggestions were made by the committees. When technical education was at length reached, I usually found the committee more willing than I cared to leave the matter in my own hands. It was a burden commonly accepted, and after much thought and care a scheme was drafted and sent to the committee for their consideration. I do not remember any suggestion ever made by one of these committees which did not receive anxious consideration. In many cases, however, to have accepted them would, in view of the responsibility laid upon us by the Act, have been to act falsely. Had each county and town, in the state of things, been allowed to have had a scheme unriveted by a central authority, we must have said good-bye to any hope of a sound, co-ordinated national scheme of technical education, and we should certainly have been unable to secure those additional funds from the Science and Art Vote that the Department's scheme, which I am about to describe, will, as a matter of course, secure. Again, I wish to emphasize the fact that this does not imply the slightest depreciation of the work of these committees. I have worked with great friendliness with them, and I do not now believe that there are strong differences of opinion between these committees and the Department. I think very highly of them, and I have no reason to think they have not the same opinion of myself. Difficulties there were, but the difficulties were inevitable. I might take a number of instances of this, but I don't wish to waste the time of the Committee. I will only mention one that illustrates in some measure the difficulty of working in those early days. I remember going into a county in the West and asking the local secretary whether he would call together a meeting of the Technical Instruction Committee to meet me in order to discuss a scheme. He was quite willing, but unable to summon the committee. Why, he did not know who they were, because the committee, as appointed by the County Council, consisted of the whole of the County Council and of aldermen of all denominations in the county. He did not know who they were, and I suggested to him that he might advertise a committee meeting. In some of these cases the committee would mean considerably over 200 members. In attending subsequent meetings of the committee one saw a fresh set of faces with a fresh

set of opinions each time. I need not say it was necessary, in view of that, that some sort of director should be given to the schemes which were being framed. I am happy to say this condition has passed away, and although after some resistance the members comprising these committees have been limited to quite a decent number, as I have said, one of the great difficulties of technical education was that these committees were not appointed solely, or even chiefly, to administer technical education. Moreover, they had not, like the English counties, highly-paid organizing secretaries to assist and advise them. The funds could not, as you will perceive, allow high salaries, and the backwardness of technical education could not give us the experts. Of forty-four persons who at various times have been appointed to be secretaries of County Committees administering schemes of technical instruction, there were: Twenty officers of local authorities, nine persons engaged in farming, four persons engaged in commerce, two, one solicitor's clerk, one sanitary inspector, one reporter, one country gentleman. The personnel at present is: Fifteen officers of local authorities, eight persons connected with farming, six teachers, two persons engaged in business, one country gentleman. These gentlemen were, almost without exception, drawn from the county in which they were appointed. These are the officials representing the local authorities in connection with the Department.

2227. One thing we have to consider is the working of the Act itself. Would you suggest any alteration of section 14 (1)? any limitation upon the power to appoint a committee, in numbers or otherwise?—Four years ago such a modification would have been invaluable, to-day the need for it seems to have passed away, because with few exceptions the committees have discovered themselves that an unwieldy committee is very undesirable. I think we have power to lay down the constitution of the committee under our scheme, but we have never seen any need to exercise it so far. As a general rule the County Committees are quite willing to accept our suggestions.

2228. You would say, I suppose, that it is not desirable to impose statutory restrictions where you can rely upon this provision working satisfactorily?—It is very desirable if one can, without injury, allow the local authority to find out the mistake itself without imposing rules on them. In cases where permanent injury may be done we advise very strongly, in fact may lay down a regulation on the matter. Long ago we sent out a suggested scheme controlling the size of these technical committees, but never sought to enforce it, and I am glad to say the committees seem to see the necessity of it themselves. I pointed out the personnel of the secretaries of these county committees, and I think you will observe they differ entirely from those appointed in similar work in England, where in every case they have an educational expert who advises, and to a certain extent directs the committee. In some counties he is entirely vague the committee; in other cases the committees are sufficiently expert to control their director. These gentlemen I have been speaking of were drawn, almost without exception, from the county in which they were appointed. Had the Department insisted upon the appointment of persons with experience in technical education they must obviously have imported them. In Ireland you had an entire neglect of technical education for ten years. Things went back so much during that time that it would have been impossible to have found experts in technical education to have formed the officers of local technical committees. On the other hand it would not have been possible to have imported experts as secretaries to these committees; what we did, as a matter of fact, was to allow the appointment of these gentlemen I have been speaking of. I am inclined to think that much that we lost owing to the absence of technical experience we gained as a result of enthusiasm and aptitude on the part of those for whom the education was intended. It will naturally occur to the Committee that it might have been desirable to appoint, in each county, two committees—one for agriculture, and one for technical instruction, but legal opinion showed that section 14 (1) contemplated one committee, and one only. Legal advice, which raised this difficulty, however, saved the situation in the end, at all events so far as over twenty counties

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are concerned. I will try to make this clearer. In a large number of counties, where the urban districts were too small to run separate technical schemes, arrangements were made by which the 1d. rate from the urban district might be contributed to the county scheme, and that scheme made effective over the whole county area, including the urban districts. About a year ago, however, the Department were legally advised that it was not within the power of an urban district to contribute its rate to a county committee, and under these circumstances the Department turned to the second paragraph of this section of the Act and sought, in those counties working schemes embracing urban districts, to establish joint county committees of technical instruction.

2239. (Mr. Brown).—That did not apply to a case where the rate was raised under the Act of 1889 by the Council itself for the whole county?—That point was not raised. In the succeeding Act there was a correction made, and the rate made available outside the area in which the rate was struck.

2240. (Chairman).—The view would be that section 14 (1) kept the two things quite apart, Council of any county or Council of an urban district; there is no power for the urban district to have relations with the county; it has a committee of its own?—Under the Act of 1889 it is pretty clear that money could only be expended in the area in which it is raised. Under the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, sec. 1, the local authority may provide, or assist in providing, scholarships for or pay, or assist in paying fees of students ordinarily resident in the district of the local authority at schools or institutions within or outside that district. A local authority may, in distributing provision made in aid of technical or manual instruction, consider all the circumstances of the case, and shall not be bound to distribute the provision so made exclusively in proportion to the amount of efficient technical or manual instruction supplied by these schools or institutions respectively.

2241. (Mr. Brown).—When a county, under the Act of 1889, raised a penny in the £ over the whole county, was there anything to prevent them applying it in whatever way they thought fit in any part of the county; they were not obliged to allocate that sum back again to the localities?—They were not.

2242. They would not be obliged to expend it according to the localities?—No; the question in this case was involved by the contribution from the Department forming a joint fund; it was the expenditure of a joint fund.

(Mr. Brown).—In our county we have never raised any rate except under the Act of 1889, and that a rate for the entire county?—That is so; in a number of counties the rate is raised under the Act of 1889, but the provisions of that act are not alone under consideration, but the Department, under the Act of 1889, contributes its endowment, and it is on the basis, I suppose of that, that we had the ruling that an urban centre might not contribute its rate to the county scheme.

2243. (Mr. O'Grady).—Where an urban district raised a rate under the 1889 Act?—It might not contribute it to the county scheme.

2244. (Chairman).—The Act of 1889 is repealed by the Act of 1902?—For England and Scotland; not for Ireland; the Act of 1889 still obtains in Ireland. Under these circumstances the Department made use of the second paragraph of the section which enabled those counties working schemes embracing urban districts to establish joint county committees of technical instruction. County Tyrone, embracing the urban districts of Strabane, Cookstown, Omagh, and Dungannon, was the first to adopt this scheme a year before the legal decision made it a necessity. Since then twenty other counties have been re-constituted in this manner. The advantages are considerable, and I will now explain the constitution of these committees from a reference to County Tyrone, the scheme of which will be found set out at page 231 of the Annual Report. You will see that we laid down the number of representatives from the County Council and from each of the Urban Councils. The committee consists of a total of twenty-three, six representing the County Council, five the Strabane Urban Council, four, Omagh, four, Cookstown, and four Dungannon Urban District

Councils; that is the scheme that is being followed at present. Of course that involves a very considerable amount of co-ordination, and it can only be carried on by means of a harmonious relationship between the various contributing authorities; up to now it has worked well. A little while ago (though threatened) a motion from the county scheme, but I visited Omagh, discussed the matter with them, and they have agreed to remain contributory to the scheme. There are now twelve committees of agriculture and technical instruction and twenty-three joint committees; you mentioned twenty-one, but the two others are Ballymoney, where an urban and rural district have combined; the other is Tipperary—Tipperary town and the rural district; there there are six county boroughs, and twenty-five urban committees. It may be pointed out with regard to those twelve committees on the old basis, that the amount of technical instruction administered by them is not very considerable, and the lines of the schemes I think are fairly satisfactorily laid down. I may now deal with the methods adopted for the allocation of the Department's endowment of £25,000 among the various committees and other authorities. It is a very important question, and also an exceedingly involved and difficult question. Though many attempts have been made by the Department, in conjunction with the Board of Technical Instruction, to devise some automatic system of allocation, no satisfactory one has, in my opinion, yet been discovered, but I think the method of allocation now adopted is, on the whole, satisfactory. Let me say, in the first place, that there have been three seasons' systems of allocation made by the three Boards of Technical Instruction elected for the three triennial periods, the last of which has just commenced, a redistribution of the funds being necessary under the Act, and it was made at their last meeting. I am very glad to say, however, that the Board of Technical Instruction after full explanation and discussion of the subject, and acting on the advice of the Department adopted, as a scheme of allocation, the scheme already in existence, that is to say there is no change. Indeed, sir, it is very difficult to see how any change could be effected, the monies have been allocated and hypothecated; you cannot add to one district without taking from another, and as the other districts are spending all its available funds it is very difficult indeed to make a change.

2245. (Mr. Miele).—It is the apportionment of a fixed sum?—The apportionment of a fixed sum. But very lately has been a matter of great trouble to us. Again and again, local committees have been willing to increase their local contribution, and said, "We will give another £100 from the rates if you will give a penny for a penny." It was impossible to refuse the offer, because a fund already distributed among the counties would not allow of any such mode of increase. The Board of Technical Instruction, at its meeting on the 18th July, 1905, divided its endowment of £25,000 between the county boroughs and what were spoken of as the outside areas, as required by section 15 (1) of the Act. They decided that £25,000 should be distributed among the county boroughs and that the remainder should be available for outside areas. The Dublin Corporation Act of 1900, however, which dealt with the extension of the boundaries of the city of Dublin, empowered the Department to add to this an addition in respect of added areas as the circumstances of the case might require; and the amount now available for county boroughs is £25,000, which is distributed among them on a population basis. The Board also agreed on the general principle of dividing after a man had been set aside for central purposes, the residue of the £25,000 into two equal parts—one to be available for urban centres of more than 5,000 inhabitants, the other half to be considered as available for the remainder of each county area on the basis of population. The sum available for the urban areas was proposed to distribute on the arbitrary scale, which is set out at page 12 of the first volume of the minutes. You will observe there that a town of 6,000 inhabitants may receive £400, while a town of over 20,000 might receive £1,000.

2246. The whole of your money was not exhausted that year?—It was not.

2247. You were able to do nothing like that the next year?—We were not.

2248. But you could not go on without that?—I may well observe, a different system has been adopted, not necessarily a better one, in some cases it works up

higher, but the Board was at that time only feeling its way as to what was the best method of allocation. Quite a number of methods were suggested. An attempt was made to do it on a population basis, then it was hoped to take into account the question of poverty and need, and a number of other considerations. Now, coming to the second triennial period, you will observe that a fresh system of allocation was proposed, namely—it was proposed to divide the whole of the £25,000 available outside the county boroughs to urban districts alone; that is, £25,000 out of the £25,000, £4,000 being retained for central purposes. It was proposed to divide the whole of the £25,000 among the urban centres, and to give aid in respect of rural areas out of a grant made for such purposes by the Agricultural Board. That sum from the Agricultural Board, beginning with a small sum, has now reached £7,500 per annum. My branch receives a grant of £7,500 from the Agricultural Board, which amount is allocated among the county schemes in respect of rural areas, and is being wholly spent, and much more, in rural education—manual instruction for boys, domestic economy for girls, and aid in some cases for rural industries.

2249. (Chairman).—That is under the words "rural industries"—Yes.

2250. (Mr. O'Leary).—And that "much more"—where does the much more come from?—There is the rate itself, and from time to time we have added amounts to schemes from our savings.

2251. Not from the £4,000?—Well, we have aided schemes directly, as I will presently point out out of the £4,000. There is many a case in which we have given aid to rural industries out of the central funds; I think I must give you a detailed statement of that shortly. It was proposed at this second triennial division, in dividing the £25,000 among the urban districts, to take into consideration, not only the population, but the rate-paying capacity of the district. On a careful examination of the rate-paying capacity it was found that it ranged from about £6 to about £22 per thousand inhabitants—Blackrock being the highest. In other words, the 1d. rate in some urban districts yielded £5 per thousand inhabitants; in others nearly £22 per thousand inhabitants; £20 per thousand inhabitants was taken as a standard. Since then, in 1901, 813,535 inhabitants of urban districts, it will be seen that if the 1d. rate were worth £22 per thousand inhabitants, it would yield £10,300. However, the rate amounts to only £15,538. A sum of £4,762 was required to make the rate up to £10,300. This sum was accordingly set aside. The remainder of the £25,000 was then allocated among the urban districts according to their respective populations. It was not, however, found possible to adopt this scheme in its entirety. Indeed it was only intended as a working basis.

2252. (Chairman).—Is not that estimate of £20 per thousand inhabitants rather high?—It may be rather high; I don't think it will be very much above the average.

2253. (Mr. O'Leary).—It is double the average; the average is about £10 per thousand inhabitants?—Yes, but still it acts all round.

2254. You have very few above £20?—Not many; no; there is Blackrock, and one or two others, but the allocation was, in every case, submitted to the Board of Technical Instruction; cases were considered on their merits; in some cases we had local voluntary contributions; in the case of Athlone, £200 was given to the scheme, and an annual amount added. In the case of Portadown we have supplemented the aid on this strict basis; £150 was raised by voluntary contributions, and in recognition of this the Board of Technical Instruction allowed us to increase our contribution by the same amount. I think it would be well perhaps if I were to get in, for the information of the Committee, the amounts now allocated to each county and each urban centre. You will find in the Annual Report, at page 297, a table showing by counties the amounts allocated by the Department, and from local rates, and the figures include the amount we received from the agricultural grant. These are the amounts actually allocated for the session ending 31st July, 1905; with the exception of the county boroughs they were all submitted to the Board of Technical Instruction and approved by them. To finish what I have to say about that. As I have

pointed out, the Board of Technical Instruction, at its last meeting, decided to adapt as the scheme for the ensuing triennial period the previous allocation, subject to such slight revision as they may from time to time approve. May I now explain to the Committee the means adopted to frame and revise local schemes of technical instruction. In the first place, there is a close touch between our inspectors and local committees; indeed, quite as close as it is possible to secure with the existing staff. I consider this so important that I wish it were possible to extend it. I had, however, from inquiry, that representatives of the Department have been present at the meetings of local authorities on over 600 occasions. This works out roughly to over ten visits to each of them. The inspector makes himself acquainted, as far as may be, with the industries and educational needs of the districts. The elements of a scheme are then fully discussed, and an attempt made to adapt general principles to local needs. A study of the technical instruction schemes of the various districts will show how far this has been done. When an agreement has been come to between the Committee and the Inspector, the scheme is submitted to the Department, and, if considered suitable, is provisionally approved by them and submitted to the next meeting of the Board of Technical Instruction for its concurrence. I know of no case where the Board has rejected a scheme thus agreed upon between the local Committee and the Department, but there are many cases where the general principles involved in these schemes have been fully discussed by the Board. I cannot do better than ask the Committee to consider, briefly, so far as I am concerned, one or two examples of technical instruction schemes to show what a county scheme is like, and, at page 273 of the Annual Report will be found several schemes; these have not been chosen for any other reason than that they illustrate, in the most general way, the elements of the county schemes.

2255. (Mr. Miles).—Under what head do you take in the question of appointment of local officers?—I think we can quite well deal with it under this section. In the first place you perceive that the money is pooled; we state how much money came from the Department's endowment; the contribution from the various contributing authorities is added. On page 274 you have the contributions from the County Council. In Kilkenny City the one penny rate amounted to £75; from the Department there is the annual contribution of £230, together with a supplementary grant for aiding industrial training—that is £200. Then there is a provision towards the maintenance of the day trade preparatory school in Kilkenny—£200. Then there is the grant for the Science and Art Vote, which it is difficult to estimate—the small sum of £20.

2256. (Chairman).—Does £1,340, the sum of these figures, represent the State contribution, and £75 the rate contribution?—No; the rate contribution is £540, plus £75; this is a joint scheme for the county and city as a whole. We are hoping that in future years this grant from the Science and Art Vote will greatly increase; for a scheme of this size, £20, is ridiculously small, but that is because under the old system these grants were only available for pure subjects of science and art, and Kilkenny is not a locality in which we desire to go in for the teaching of pure science and art in evening technical schools. (The directory for 1901 was the one we were working on until now. Next session there is a revised scheme coming into operation, which I regard as of the very highest importance, and which I shall deal with under this section.) Then there is the estimated expenditure set out, and then the main elements of the scheme. First, the subjects of instruction in the trade preparatory school and in the evening classes, you will see that in the evening classes the subjects are, for the most part, intensely practical—wood-work, metal-work, mechanical engineering, practical plane and solid geometry, building construction and drawing, machine construction and drawing, practical mathematics, mechanical science, physics and chemistry, magnetism and electricity, hygiene and various subjects of art, domestic subjects, coakery, laundrywork, dressmaking and needlework. In commercial subjects, shorthand, book-keeping, business methods, commercial arithmetic. (In the smaller urban centres you will find a good many of these science classes, the subjects being almost wholly industrial in character.) Then

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the teaching staff is laid down, and their salaries. I wish to draw special attention to secs. 5 and 6 of this scheme. In regard to sec. 5—

2257. (Mr. Michel).—*Technical instruction*!—You, in considering the problem how to meet the needs of rural districts for technical instruction other than agriculture, the Department were dealing with a problem of extreme difficulty which has been felt elsewhere than in Ireland. We do not profess to have completely solved this difficult problem, but, in view of the time that we have been at work, a large contribution has been made to the solution. Recognising the disabilities of rural districts in regard to secondary schools, recognising also that a youth of exceptional ability, from whatever class of the community he may come, should be afforded facilities for receiving such higher education as he may be fitted for, the Department established in connection with county schemes, a system of scholarships from national schools tenable at approved secondary schools. These scholarship schemes are in operation in the following counties:—Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Galway, Kilkenny, Longford, Mayo, Roscommon, Queen's, Tipperary (urban and rural districts) Tipperary (N.R.), Wexford. They vary in value from £4 to £25, according to the remoteness of the pupil's home from a secondary school. That is a valuable principle, I ought to say, in the allocation of these boys' scholarships. If a boy lives near a secondary school his scholarship won't amount to more than £4 or £5, sufficient, perhaps, to pay the fees and procure the necessary books. If a boy lives outside a radius of three miles from the school the scholarships may be £7 10s., or even £10; outside a radius of three miles it may be £15; that is a jump, but where a boy lives seven miles from the secondary school it means, in the vast majority of cases, he has to go into residence.

2258. Or bicycle!—Yes; but it needs an indorsement to the boy who lives more than seven miles to bicycle in each day. These scholarships are tenable for a second, and sometimes for a third year on the conduct and progress of the pupil. There are, at present, 147 scholarship holders in addition to the scholarships being held in trades preparatory schools. One of the Tipperary (N.R.) scholars obtained one of the five senior science scholarships at the Royal College of Science. We, moreover, established a scheme of scholarships for girls, tenable at residential schools of domestic training established under the Department. These scholarships are designed to provide a year's training in domestic economy, such as will fit a girl for the important duties of home life. The scholarships are generally of the value of £15 each. In the case of one school, however, they are of the value of £12. The scholarship, together with the payment of a fee, usually of £2, entitles the holder to one year's board and residence with instruction. The award of these scholarships is by competitive examination, conducted by the Department in June, but the Department do not insist upon a competitive examination, but allow local authorities to make a selection through a selection committee appointed for that purpose. There are at present seventy-four of these scholarships being held, and the scholars are distributed between the following approved schools of domestic training:—Carrick-on-Suir, Convent of Mercy, Dunmoreway, Convent of the Sisters of Charity, Kilmacool (Co. Dublin) school of domestic training, Strathally, Presentation Convent, Meath Convent of Mercy. These schools are in addition to those under the management of the agricultural branch of the Department. Where conditions are favourable we act in co-ordination with the agricultural branch with regard to the establishment of subjects in which they are concerned. Thus the branch has given considerable aid in respect of dairy work at the Dunmoreway School, while it seemed desirable that, in the case of Portlanna, which was one of the most successful schools conducted by my branch, advantage would follow from its being transferred to the agricultural branch, and this has been done.

2259. It was in existence before the Act passed!—It was, but not organised in the same manner; indeed all these places were in existence, but they were not working domestic schools.

2260. I mean it received a share of the Equivalent Grant!—It did. Notwithstanding all that has been done in this way, however, it must be recognised that the vast majority of the dwellers, in rural districts remain untouched by these schemes, although the value

of them can scarcely be over-estimated. We, therefore, had recourse to a system which, notwithstanding its defects, is the only one yet discovered for dealing with rural areas. I mean the system of *student instruction*. You have already heard what is being done in this respect in the domain of agriculture, and it will be seen that outside this domain the scope is somewhat limited. It was recognised, however, that manual instruction in wood, both for youths and adults, always in combination with drawing, and adding wherever possible, instruction in building construction, would prove advantageous. The Department therefore established central courses in Dublin for the training of teachers of these subjects. They employed skilled instructors, chose the best young Irish artisans that could be obtained by competition, brought them to Dublin for a six months' course, gave them as good a training as is possible, paying a maintenance allowance, and, after due examination, recognised such as were fit to become teachers. The competition was confined to Irishmen. We have trained fifty-five; fifty of these have been recognised as qualified to teach; forty-two of them are now teaching in the country at salaries which commence at £120 per annum, as a minimum, increasing to £150, with travelling expenses. Of the remaining eight, one has become an assistant county surveyor; one has died; in the case of another certificate was withdrawn, and the others have returned to their trades with, we hope, and believe, considerable advantage to themselves.

2261. (Chairman).—They are all employed in Ireland?—They are all employed in Ireland in connection with county schemes.

2262. (Mr. Michel).—At page 297 are shown the amounts you pay; there is no mention there of any grant from the moneys voted by Parliament!—No; these are entirely from endowment, out of the £55,000 plus £7,500.

2263. Does anything go from vested moneys to these institutions?—Yes; page 201. You will perceive the amount in general of the vested moneys is small; we know they ought to be much bigger. Our endowment is strictly fixed, and educational requirements are not fixed. These manual instructors, of which we have forty-two actually at work now as itinerant instructors, conduct short courses of instruction in rural districts. They are supplied with travelling equipment, which is placed in the district for a period of at least six weeks. A building is secured and fitted up temporarily, classes commenced and continued daily until the end of the course. As a rule two lessons are given on each day, both outside national school hours. One of these classes is usually attended by senior scholars above fourteen years of age from national schools; on other by young artisans and farmers. On the whole this scheme is working exceedingly well. In some counties it is very popular; in others less so. The difference is due mainly, though not exclusively, to the personal qualities of the teacher. I need not here enter into a defence of manual instruction, for all those who have taken the trouble to study the question know its value. The highest value may not be got in the case of adults, but it is at least something to enable the son of a small farmer to hang a gate and make such repairs to farm buildings as usually remain undone. It is sometimes said, with regard to these courses, that they tend to produce the handy man. If by this is meant irregular tradesmen I think it is untrue. If it means that it tends to make a young farmer able to turn his hand to the various duties on his farm, I think the charge is probably true. In our county this instruction has led to a result which we hope to see repeated. In the County Kilkenny the instructor, who was unusually capable and enthusiastic, reported that a number of young tradesmen he had under instruction, were of exceptional ability. After correspondence we agreed to arrange a summer course in Kilkenny for these men, and to give them the summer course under the instructor, paying a maintenance allowance. This was satisfactory in all respects, and was repeated a second year; work of very high quality being turned out. These same men have since formed themselves into a guild of woodworkers in the city of Kilkenny, and are producing some high-class furniture. They have not asked for a subsidy, but we are giving them some assistance in the way of teaching.

2264. (Chairman).—What is the nature of their association?—It is a voluntary association; they are working together. They are working at their trade—

but not as hedge carpenters—skilled workmen, and they are making exceedingly good furniture.

2205. Are they working in partnership together?—They are on a co-operative basis, and they are not getting any help from us except such as we have been able to give them in the way of teaching; we sent them an expert wood-carver.

2206. (Mr. Micks).—If a man does a very good piece of work he does not share all round?—That is one of the difficulties with their working—we have no connection with it other than a friendly one; we hope to retain that—but they are working out their own salvation; one thing is certain—that here the education has been successful in getting together half a dozen men.

2207. (Mr. Brown).—Were they engaged in the trade previously?—Yes; they were all carpenters, but the county instructor discovered they were men of exceptional ability, and could take the higher training. May I now refer to a branch of rural work, that the Department regard as of the highest importance, I mean the instruction given to girls in domestic economy, to which I have already made reference, both in connection with the secondary schools in the county and also in connection with the residential schools of domestic economy. Well, at the first year or two, owing to the death of Irish teachers, instructors from England and Scotland were appointed by county committees with very great advantage to the teaching; the Department sought, through the agency of a domestic economy training school, of which they assumed control, to train young Irish women for this purpose. A course of training at the Irish training school of domestic economy extends over at least two years, and we are now fully meeting the demand for teachers of domestic economy. At the present moment there are a few of these teachers that we have trained at the Irish school of domestic economy not yet engaged. We are hoping that with the development of the work, which seems imminent, there will be room for many more teachers.

2208. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Do you say you are at present fully meeting the demand?—Yes; as it exists at the moment; we hope the demand will increase greatly.

2209. Do you know whether the wastage of teachers is any greater or less in the case of teachers of domestic economy than in the case of ordinary elementary school teachers?—Yes; there is a wastage; you may call it so, from marriage. Comparatively few leave the country; but we cannot insist that a teacher who has been trained in our school, and recognised as fully qualified, shall not go to England, or go abroad, if we are not prepared to offer her a post; and those posts come at particular periods, thus at present no county committee would think of appointing one, but towards August or September, when the new schemes commence, there will be appointments vacant, and I hope there is coming, by some means or other, a considerable extension of domestic economy teaching; it has never taken its due position under any scheme. I believe we shall need, for the proper development of the work, many more teachers than we have at present. I should add that we have fifty-eight itinerant teachers of domestic economy at present at work under the county technical scheme; these are in addition to those that may be engaged in connection with urban schemes. Their courses of instruction are arranged very much in the same way as those of the manual instructors. They are six weeks' courses; the equivalent is taken round; local committees of management, not statutory committees, are appointed; they announce the lectures, and in many places, a great deal of interest is taken in the lectures. We are hoping to get much of this instruction given in the homes of the people themselves. At present the classes are very largely attended; in a number of cases the attendance is far too large for efficient teaching, for we seek, both in the domestic economy and manual instruction, to make the teaching mainly practical. In one or two instances we have been able to get teachers to visit the people in their homes, with their good will, and give such lessons as might be possible. The development, however, of proper teaching of domestic economy is a slow growth. We believe that very great progress has been made, and we have ample evidence of this; I don't know an element of the county schemes which is more popular, and I know of no information which is more necessary, especially in rural districts; indeed I don't know that I need discriminate between rural districts and urban districts in this connection.

2210. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Do you happen to know how far the elementary school teachers, who are women, are qualified to give instruction in domestic economy, and how far they do give it?—I think I can tell you something about that. The National Board employ thirteen sub-organisers of domestic economy; they arrange short courses of instruction; very short—only three or four weeks; those short courses of instruction are attended by female national teachers, and, as a result of that, they may teach domestic economy in primary schools.

2211. Are those three or four weeks of continuous instruction and work?—They are.

2212. (Mr. Micks).—Have you followed the subsequent career of those girls—the girls who received the instruction in domestic economy?—I could give you no complete statement; they are just farmers' daughters, and the daughters of artisans and labourers, and domestic servants who are engaged in their own work; they are not being specially trained by us; we are supplementing the education of their daily life.

2213. Do they go into service afterwards?—No; we have been very careful to point out that these classes are not for the training of domestic servants; they are for home life; we think that the training of domestic servants is important, and it has been taken up; there has been a school established at Kilmac, outside Dublin, and, at that moment, we are taking over another school for the teaching of domestic servants in the south. None of these itinerant classes are for the training of domestic servants; first of all they would not be complete as a course of training, and in the next place I think it would militate against other classes.

2214. I suppose the instruction that is given for home life would be of great use to a girl going out as a servant?—Oh, certainly; in fact although classes don't exist for that purpose they are very largely attended by domestic servants.

2215. (Chairman).—Should you be able to give us any figures showing the growth and progress of this?—Yes; if you turn to page 347 of the Annual Report you will see there a summary showing the occupation of all the students attending classes under our schemes, both urban and county, but in order to show you the progress of that work may I call your attention to some diagrams here showing the number of individual students attending the schemes in various centres. I refer with greater pleasure to those diagrams, because their accuracy has been called in question; they were diagrams produced to the Council of Agriculture and the Board of Technical Instruction; the figures given there are absolutely correct, based on returns from the local authorities, checked by us; we have every reason to believe they are absolutely accurate. Here you see the growth of urban schemes. In 1901-02 under urban schemes we had 11,500 students; in 1902-3 the number increased to 16,000; in 1903-4 to 15,984; in 1904-5 to 17,030. It might be suggested that that is not a high rate of increase; as a matter of fact it represented a very large and permanent rate of increase. All sorts of prognostications were made the first year, because the number joining the classes was so large, it was supposed to be a flash in the pan, and that numbers would fall off. I must say I expected a falling off; such a falling off is common in England and Scotland; when a school is opened it begins with a great flourish of trumpets, and there is popular enthusiasm; as a matter of fact there has been an improvement here and the numbers have increased; some students have fallen away, and that we were glad of, because they were not permanent workers, but the numbers have increased, and the work is of a higher quality. In the county schemes the increase has been more remarkable still. I divide county work into work done in permanent centres, and work done in itinerant courses. After we have been working an itinerant course of instruction, if we find that a district is sufficiently large, or the attendance sufficiently regular to justify us in making that centre permanent, we are willing to engage a building permanently and allow the teacher to remain there for a large part of the year. You will see there is a great jump, taking itinerant instruction, we are unable to get the figures for 1901-3; they were not kept by the local committees, but you will see what an enormous jump there was from 1902-03 from 9,508 to 1904-5 with 17,030; there is a slight falling off next year, a falling off that is more apparent than real, for there are figures from several centres missing in that

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columns, but that it is more than made up by the growth of the permanent work at the permanent centres; these figures do not include attendance in secondary schools; there are, at least, ten thousand students under instruction in day secondary schools. I think, supplementary to that statement of students attending courses, we might take the payments made to technical instruction committees, other than county borough committees, out of our endowment, and you will see, as might be expected, concurrently with the increase of numbers, we get a great increase in expenditure; the amount from endowment has gone up from £6,556 in 1901-2 to £34,429 in 1904-5. I think you will observe that we are there spending more money than we get.

2276. (Mr. Micks).—Where did you get it?—Because we had not spent it in previous years.

2277. (Chairman).—You have not any special figures for these domestic economy classes. Are there materials to form some estimate of how far it is taking hold of the people?—I think so. I think we might even make a rough estimate from knowing the numbers of teachers engaged, and the average cost per course and the number of schools. I think last year there was something like 600 of these itinerant courses given altogether.

2278. Is there any prejudice—is there an idea that they know already what you are going to teach them?—That is no doubt the case among the older people; but, on the whole, the attitude towards the instruction has been excellent. I think the old housewife in certain parts of the country can cook salmon and potatoes quite as well as anyone, but there are very great improvements to be made no doubt, especially in the West, and new dishes to be introduced.

2279. (Mr. Micks).—Have you anything to show the number of those girls who have emigrated?—I don't think it would be possible to find that. It would be very difficult to say how many of those that emigrated had been attending our schools.

2280. Except through the local teacher?—It would not be possible to obtain it from the local teacher, and I fear not from the local committee.

2281. I should think they would know without any difficulty if they went through the list, and said, "Oh, she has gone, so and so?"—Possibly, a local committee of management might. The teacher is not a teacher living in one centre, but the teacher will take half-a-dozen centres in the county during the year. I might almost appeal to Mr. Stephen Brown, who would be likely to know whether such a statement could be got.

2282. Will you give me a district in any part of Ireland that an itinerant instructor would have that you remember?—They are numerous.

2283. You place a girl in any part of Ireland, and tell her she will have to visit so many places, and give instruction?

(Mr. Brown).—It is the local committee she will settle with.

(Fletcher).—At the beginning of the session applications are received from all centres that would like a course; these are considered, and a selection made by the committee.

2284. What is the last place you happened to visit in connection with this itinerant instruction scheme?—I could not say to save my life; it must be months since I visited any centre.

2285. (Mr. O'Leary).—You have given us that there were fifty-eight women teachers throughout Ireland?—Yes.

2286. (Mr. Micks).—Are they in all the counties?—Very nearly.

2287. What I want to get at is an idea of the size of the district?—Any small rural centre where there is a room.

2288. (Mr. O'Leary).—The point is, does one itinerant teacher cover half a county?—In some of these counties there is one, and in others there are three or four. I have got the whole of the information here under the schemes arranged for the current year, but we don't ask the committees to put into those schemes the centres at which they will teach. We have fifty-eight teachers of domestic economy; you can take it that each of these will cover six or seven courses in the year; you have roughly, therefore, over 350 courses of domestic economy held in rural districts. These teachers conduct two classes a day—one in the afternoon and the other later in the evening, and the numbers vary from half-a-dozen upwards. If the number

falls below that we are inclined to close the class, but it will go from that up to twenty or thirty. I have had cases in which eighty or ninety or 100 have been attending.

2289. (Mr. Micks).—What schools would the teacher at Portadown visit?—She would not go outside Portadown; she would stay there.

2290. Take a scheme like that of the County Kerry, where she would go to Cahirciveen; would Tralee be her headquarters?—No; in this particular instance of Kerry the county teacher has been resident. I know, at Killarney by special arrangement. There was a school there in which she gave particular assistance, but in general the scheme is worked from a centre. We find that six weeks on end involving on the part of the girl attendance every day, is a little strain, and a better arrangement is to run, in some cases, two courses concurrently, so one of which a teacher will go for two days a week and to the other for three days a week. In that case the course is extended over three months, and in some cases that works very well. It gives a longer time for absorption of instruction. However, we don't bind the county committees in this matter; they are allowed to run the course they find works best in the neighbourhood. I have a feeling now that I have not fully answered Mr. Micks' question.

2291. I don't think you very well could from what you say?—You may take it these courses are for rural districts, held in the smallest and poorest districts; sometimes a National schoolroom is used; that, however, we find is a bad arrangement, because the things have to be cleared up, and you are not surrounded by conditions analogous to those of the home.

2292. Have the students to be left in those places?—The students are left there for a time. We find the National schoolroom is imperfect, but where it is the only place we hold the classes there; in other places we allow a rent to be paid, and we have in a great many cases allowed a grant to cover alterations. In some cases a suitable dressed building, a dressed school, sometimes a private house, and sometimes a room has been let to us. We have been invited to consider the suitability of altered premises. I have inspected very many for this end, but I never found one suitable for technical instruction, because the rooms were unduly small and the place so badly built that it was hardly possible to make alterations, except at very great expense.

2293. (Mr. O'Leary).—With reference to the suitability of the room—for the early portion, at any rate, of the course—it is rather desirable that otherwise that instruction should be given in the room of a cottage?—Yes; except for the difficulty of getting a decent-sized class, the instruction is better. The numbers applying to come are very large, and unless rooms are taken to satisfy them, there is grave local dissatisfaction and wild talk of discontinuing the local penny rate; all these things have to be taken into consideration. Dealing with that question of school buildings, in which these classes are held—I am speaking now only of itinerant courses, I shall speak of technical schools later—but I feel that this work in the teaching of domestic economy is really only just commenced. We are dealing with a large number of students, but there is no scheme for dealing with the senior girls from the National schools. We have had many applications to allow our itinerant teachers to teach in National schools to senior girls; we cannot do that; I think I may say that we are forbidden under the Act. "The teaching shall not include teaching in elementary schools." We do, however, allow senior girls who have passed Standard 6 to attend our classes held outside National school hours. To go further than that, even though we were able, would be to very seriously deplete our technical instruction funds; we do, however, arrange our classes after school hours, and allow these girls to attend. The question of finding suitable rooms for centres is very great. Personally, I believe the solution will be found by the establishment in a large number of suitable rural centres of small buildings which could be employed both for manual instruction and domestic economy teaching, which might be attended during the day-time by senior scholars from National schools during the school hours, and in the evening be available for technical students, both young and old. Such a scheme could only be carried out with additional funds. The Department has from time to time considered the desirability of erecting or contributing to the erection of village halls, in which such instruction might be given; certainly it is one of the most pressing needs

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of small towns in Ireland. I am sure this Committee will be shocked to see some of the conditions under which we have to conduct our teaching. It would not be conducted at all, however, if we did not adapt, with the best modifications possible, the buildings that are there. There was one county in which we agreed to make a special grant for them to have a portable iron building for this instruction; it was found, however, that the cost of taking it down and removing it would be too high, and the county declined to receive the grant.

2294. (Mr. Micks).—Do you think you would be deterred from getting a list of the National school in the evening?—Oh, no; we do that continually.

2295. (Mr. Brown).—In some places, I suppose, it has been reported that schools are not available—managers don't give them?—I have no fault to find with that; those cases don't come before me. The local committee can choose rooms; but I am sure that difficulty has been experienced.

2296. There are whole districts of our county in which no instruction can be given because the schools will not be given?—Quite so.

2297. Some of the most desirable portions of the county are without instruction?—The difficulty in a good many of the National schools is that they themselves are very poor buildings, and the teaching would have to be done in the main room; a stove would have to be fixed, and all sorts of difficulties arise.

2298. (Chairman).—You really want a building which hardly exists?—Precisely. It is possible to find a number of centres where you have a group of National schools where it would be possible to put a central building of a very simple character, of two rooms, one suited for manual work and the other for the teaching of domestic economy—and allow children from these schools to attend the classes. The building might be also suitable for teaching by the poultry instructors and other itinerant teachers under the agricultural scheme; all this work goes on side by side. I mean that, in addition to the manual instruction and domestic economy in the technical branch, we have a number of different kinds of itinerant instructors in the agricultural branch; these work more or less in touch.

2299. (Mr. Brown).—My observations apply also to the use of these buildings by the agricultural branch—by the instructors of the agricultural branch—because they don't require any structural attention; there are no difficulties such as you have to deal with?—All this could be done in the existing schools if the management would allow it; the managers do as a rule, but there are very remarkable exceptions. I have no doubt that what I have suggested as a partial solution of what my branch has felt as a very great difficulty, would be accepted by the agricultural branch too, because they also have experienced this difficulty, and they would be glad, no less than ourselves, to see the village halls, which would be available, in the first place, for pleasure purposes, and to relieve something of the deadly monotony of life in the rural districts, and also be available for lectures from time to time both on the agricultural and technical side.

2300. (Mr. Micks).—That would mean a good deal of expense?—I don't think so. A simple structure is all that is required, and it would be a saving, for now we have in certain cases to pay a pretty high rent. If now we want a room for six weeks we have to pay for it in some cases.

2301. (Mr. Dwyer).—I have seen it done in tents?—Rural Ireland and our climate will hardly permit that. We have thought about it, and discussed it fully, but when you come to domestic economy, with fire and smoke, a high wind would, I think, dispose of the whole class.

2302. (Chairman).—I think we might go on to your next point?—I should here add that a large portion of the cost of this instruction in rural districts has been borne out of a grant from the Agricultural Board; a grant which, increasing year by year, at the present time amounts to £7,500 per annum. The whole of this amount is distributed among the various county schemes, otherwise, as you will see on the basis of allocation adopted by the Board of Technical Instruction under which the sum is distributed among urban centres, there would be no means of carrying out this important work in the rural districts—work which we believe, while still in the circumstances of the case imperfect, is yet in the right direction and of extreme value. I should add that every opportunity is taken

of improving this work by arranging conferences of teachers; by supplementing where it seems advisable the course of training at the Irish Training School of Domestic Economy; by a supplementary course in rural economy at the Munster Institute; by supplementary summer courses, and in other ways. Where a rural centre is of such a size or where the work is of such a character as to permit of its being converted into a permanent centre of instruction, this is done; and, no doubt, this conversion of temporary into permanent centres will continue and increase. It will, however, I imagine, be always necessary to arrange courses of instruction for many rural centres on the itinerant system. It is necessary that I should now make reference to the work of the Department in congested districts. I may remind the Committee that by section 18 of our Act, no money placed at the disposal of the Department under Part II. may be applied in relation to a congested area. This restriction was removed by a clause in the Land Act of 1903, and the Department has now, therefore, power to spend its funds in congested areas. The removal of this restriction was of great advantage, but it is important to bear in mind that the change entailed no additional funds, and that we could only undertake work in congested areas by using money which had previously been allocated over the non-congested areas, and as this is proving inadequate, we cannot fully meet the demand for instruction in congested areas.

2303. (Mr. Micks).—In connection with the 18th section of the Act of 1903, was any representation to that effect made at the time to Government, that you were getting a larger district and only the same fund to work it?—I believe I am right in saying that the Vice-President made representations with regard to the removal of these restrictions, but I don't know whether representations were made with regard to the funds. The Congested Districts Board are working directly in this area, and not through the county scheme; they are doing similar work, but on entirely different principles.

2304. (Chairman).—Then, what was the object of getting a removal of this section—was it simply to avoid practical difficulties?—Yes; many complaints were made that we could not carry our teaching over the border.

2305. It seems wrong in principle to have two different systems in operation on different principles in the same district?—I believe it is quite wrong in principle; at the same time every effort is made, and I believe successfully, to avoid foolish overlapping.

2306. Do you in practice leave the Congested Districts Board to carry on the work in their area and supply us your enlarged powers for cases where it is necessary to go over the border, or do you carry out the work on a large scale in the congested area?—No to the first, Yes to the second. We do not leave the Congested Districts Board to do this; and although I cannot say that we carry it out on a large scale, we don't simply see the removal of the restriction in the right way you have indicated. It must be remembered we are not sole judges—the county authorities desire in their scheme to send their teachers all over the area. After this Act of 1900 had come into operation an Act was passed which made it possible for counties when striking their rate to exempt the congested area. That was not acted upon. They wanted to take them in and administer their funds for them under one scheme. As a matter of fact, the counties did not accept the work that is being done by the Congested Districts Board as entirely meeting the case. They have not the same itinerant system, and we could not very well withhold sanction to these bodies to extend their teaching into the congested areas; the Science and Art Grant is available there, and there was something inconsistent in our being excluded for one portion of our work. When any proposal comes up in regard to congested areas we consult with the Congested Districts Board; there is an understanding between us as to the limit; but the fact remains that we have not money for work that ought to be undertaken by us in congested areas.

2307. (Mr. Micks).—Would you give us the nature of the understanding that exists between the two Departments?—When a proposal for a grant from any centre comes in—say, there is a proposal to pay a teacher of lace-making—we send that on to the Congested Districts Board, for we find there is a great tendency in some places to have two teachers in the

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locality, and paid by us and one by the Congested Districts Board; we do it now. I have a case at Cabri-creeen, here we give a grant for an industry, and the Congested Districts Board are paying a teacher for another subject in the same place.

2303. (Chairman).—Have you a case where there are two lace teachers?—There is a case at Kilmogh, where we have a capitation scheme running, but there is another class in another branch of lace-making in it in which the teacher is being paid by the Congested Districts Board. We have our eye on all these circumstances, but that does not remove the difficulty of having a dual system in the congested area. Combs generally were very satisfied when the restriction was removed. There is probably a little dissatisfaction with ourselves because we do not allow the same free treatment with regard to congested areas as we do with non-congested; very largely because, I think I must admit, to the extent that we spend our money in congested areas we are relieving some other fund.

2300. There is a payment made by the Congested Districts Board?—That is in respect of agriculture—in respect of work specifically handed over to the Department.

2319. (Mr. Brown).—Would the difficulty be met if the Congested Districts Board were to hand over their technical instruction work in the same way as the agricultural work?—They have never handed over to us their technical instruction work.

2321. (Mr. Muck).—Is not the technical instruction work of the Congested Districts Board on an entirely different system?—I cannot say it is entirely different; they teach domestic economy and manual instruction.

2322. I was thinking more about the lace and matters of that sort?—No; there is no essential difference between them in dealing with lace schools; we work on several plans, according to the needs of the locality. There are three special systems: in Fennagh they employ nine special county teachers, and use them over the county; there is a second case which allows the appointment, and pays a salary; and there is a third system, where a capitation grant is paid on account of each of the workers complying with certain conditions laid down.

2313. I was referring to the system the Congested Districts Board have—as far as possible of making commercial undertakings into schools of instruction?—Precisely our own system.

2314. You can do that for agricultural or rural industries, but you cannot do it for other industries?—Oh, yes, we can; I am putting in a full statement of industries assisted in that way. (Appendix Nos. XXVI., XXVII.).

2315. It would have been very useful if we had it before you gave your evidence?—That property comes under section 5, industries; but there is no essential difference in our manner of treatment, except that the Department deal with local authorities and the Congested Districts Board deals direct. Their courses of instruction are somewhat longer than ours. Our difficulty at the present time has been to meet the great demand for this work in various parts of the county, and one has to have reference to the share of a county which has been for a long time contributing to the rate and does not appear to have had teachers under it. We are doing the best thing possible under the circumstances of the case, and safeguarding the educational requirements.

2316. (Mr. O'Grady).—Take the case you have just been discussing—lace manufacture—might not a difference exist in this?—The work done under a County Council, with your assistance, would be limited to instruction in lace-making, and would be carried on, perhaps, two or three or even more years, until the pupils at a particular centre became sufficiently expert at the work to carry it on in a remunerative way, then the County Council without your having any objection, would drop the classes in that particular area. Would it not on the other hand be proper for the Congested Districts Board's work to continue to be carried on by the employment of some one who was not essentially a teacher but an organizer?—Certainly.

2317. Is there any difference in principle that the Congested Districts Board's work should not be handed over to you?—No, there is no difference. As to the subjects I have to deal with I am prepared to show that the aid we are giving is aid in respect of teaching and training.

2318. You might continue to add on the lines I have just said, but the continuation is prevented by

want of means?—Want of means entirely; we have full powers, but I come back again to the question that with an increase of powers for a new area we have not an increase of funds.

2319. (Mr. Muck).—Can you let us have the account of some one of your lace schools showing the state of the finances?—Certainly.

2320. Expenditure on materials, teachers' remuneration and sale of goods?—No, we cannot let you have that—we take no account of it.

2321. That is what I am coming to—that is the Congested Districts Board's system?—We don't do that.

2322. That is the point I was making that the Congested Districts Board runs a class of instruction as a trading concern, and for that reason you would probably find that the locality would not like the change?—In a great many cases we aid home industry societies; we make it a condition with such societies that their books should be available for inspection by one of our inspectors, but we don't require returns of their trading operations; we want to be satisfied that there is a return, thus, for example, if in a centre we had been paying the salary of the teacher £50 a year and find the return from the sale of goods is only £50 a year we know how to deal with that class, but we don't require this society to send us a full statement of their income and expenditure; what we are paying for is teaching.

2323. Are you aware whether all the money earned in these districts goes through the books of the Congested Districts Board?—It may be so.

2324. It does not go through your books?—No, that is a case in which some responsibility appears to be taken for a trading concern. What we are concerned with is this, before giving aid to a society or aiding giving aid, to see that that aid is being spent for the purpose of teaching under certain conditions and that a commercial result has followed; the books are inspected, we see the earnings and what amounts are paid the workers, and take the closest interest in it; thus, for example, we are actually prescribing books for them, each book, a ledger, and so on.

2325. (Chairman).—You are endeavouring to teach them how to carry on their business?—Yes, without taking any responsibility for it. I have not hitherto referred to our work in urban centres. This is a branch of the work of the Department which from its inception until now has yielded most satisfactory results. Schools were established in urban centres where previously there had been no instruction of the kind. They were attended by large numbers, so large indeed as to seriously embarrass organization. There has been no diminution of interest and the schools may be regarded as firmly established. The local authorities clapped with the establishment of these schools very properly decided not to wait for new buildings, but to establish the work in temporary quarters. May I refer to this diagram, which shows the growth of work established under the direction of the Department in urban centres. I have only chosen some of the urban centres. I have shown those in which no technical work had previously been in existence. In Waterford, it is true, there was a very small School of Art, but since the work was started there the numbers rapidly rose to 309 and 134; Ballymena, 443 in 1904-5; Lurgan, 235 and 176; Newry, 206; Dundalk, 209; Ballisodare, 342; Kingsdown, 242; Sligo, 337; Rathfriland, 220, and so on. There are schools in Coleraine, Banbridge, Portadown, Larne, Bangor, Armagh, Tipperary, Wexford, Tralee, Clonmel, Kilkenny, Newtownards, Bray, Blackrock, Drogheda, Holywood, Dungannon, Queensdown, Fermoy, Castle-town, Bandon, Omagh and Strabane. These would compare favourably with towns of corresponding size in England. There is a genuine appreciation of technical education—a technical education hanger not half satisfied. One of the great difficulties is to get students well prepared for the special kind of work we are ready to give them.

2326. (Mr. O'Grady).—These are mainly evening class students?—Wholly.

2327. And entirely exclusive of students doing web preparatory work as is essentially the completion of a good elementary education, that work being in the hands of the Commissioners of National Education?—Quite so. In a few centres evening continuation schools under the National Board have been established, but their numbers are not included.

2328. All these students are students whose primary education may be accepted as being equivalent to a good sixth standard pass in the ordinary subjects of elementary education?—I think you may say so; I have some hesitation, because we have not an entrance examination for each school, it has to be left to the judgment of the principal.

2329. (Mr. Micks).—A very large number of Irish people leave before they go into the sixth standard?—Yes, the large majority do, but we are only getting a small minority in these schools.

2330. (Mr. O'Connell).—Of that majority any who were coming to the schools, and had not a sufficient elementary education, would begin the evening continuation work by going to schools under the National Board?—Yes, but the evening continuation schools have not been comparable to the system in England; they have not met our difficulty in the preparation of students; they have not been sufficiently extended.

2331. Take the places which are obviously drawing upon a considerable supply of students who desire to do higher work than the evening continuation class work under the Commissioners, do you mean that the provision of evening classes in connection with the Commissioners' regulations is insufficient?—Yes, quite insufficient. The evening continuation classes were not taken up to any considerable extent. The conditions laid down were not such as to induce schools to take them up.

2332. You mean the conditions of grants?—Yes, and certain requirements in regard to the number of nights a week.

2333. That these were not such as to make them suitable for pupils who ought to be attending them?—Yes.

2334. As a result of that may I take it that these numbers do include some people whose further education, in the first instance at any rate, would have been better provided for otherwise than in the schools under your regulations?—To this extent, that I am convinced a number of the students attending these schools are not sufficiently prepared to take up the technical instruction that we can offer. We are now empowered to give a preliminary course of instruction, including literary subjects.

2335. A preliminary year that will to some extent cover this?—Yes, but we gave an undertaking that we would not take any student at a school under the rules of the National Board, and they will not take any student in any of their schools that is provided for by us.

2336. Has that new arrangement been come to after discussion with the National Board?—Yes, the Treasury laid it down, and we were quite willing to accept it. I was pointing out that the committee did not wait for permanent buildings, but to establish the work in temporary quarters. In a few cases very suitable buildings were secured; in many others private houses were rented and these soon proved inadequate to the numbers who desired to attend the classes. Matters had already lagged too far, and in one case we boldly converted the water power tower, under a water tank yielding a town supply, into a technical school, not without inconvenience, but it was the only thing to be done. The diagram I have placed before you will show in what large numbers students joined these technical schools. They indicate, I think, a kind of education hunger, the needs of which have by no means been fully met. The schemes, as I think you will see, are rational, and peculiarly suited to the needs of the localities in which they work. One might indicate their principles in a few words. Take the case of Rathmines Technical School; Rathmines is a business part of Dublin; there an ordinary technical school would have been a mistake. We got the local committee to agree with us that they might usefully specialise in a certain direction, and that is the teaching of commerce, and now you have in Rathmines a very successful school of commerce with 320 students. The whole of those students, you may take it, are engaged in studying commercial subjects. A house was taken, and the school has proved successful. The idea here was to establish a useful co-operation between the work of Rathmines, which is easily reached from the city, and the work of the City Technical Schools. We don't want to overlap this work, and we therefore encourage the City Technical Committee to go on in the direction they have chosen and to leave, as far as they are willing to leave, the work of commercial education to Rath-

mines, which, we hope, may ultimately serve not only the metropolitan area, but all Ireland.

2337. (Mr. Micks).—You do not include Belfast?—Perhaps that is too much to ask of Belfast. There is already a movement in Belfast to establish such work, and to doubt in their fine new building they will establish a commercial section. May I invite the attention of the Committee to a consideration of some of these urban technical schools, because I believe that they are in the right direction, and an excellent spirit is manifested in most of them. In the case of Portadown you will find that they have equipped a mechanical engineering shop, and this work was carried out almost entirely by the students themselves under the direction of the principal. This is most promising in a small town like Portadown; it is equally so at Lurgan, where the bulk of the work is fitting up the shop was done by the students themselves. I think we may say of most of the small technical schools in Ireland that they are adapted as closely as may be to the needs of the locality. I cannot refrain from mentioning one great need in connection with this part of the work. Our buildings are unavailable and inadequate for the work carried on in them. A sufficient time has now elapsed to prove that the experimental stage has been passed, and that this type of instruction has in it all the elements of stability. We must have better buildings, and great progress has been brought to bear upon us from a large number of urban centres to find means to enable these buildings to be obtained. The Department had no funds other than those allocated annually, and these have proved insufficient for the work in urban centres. The Department have, however, been willing, where the locality was able to raise a loan on the security of its rate, to allow the interest and sinking fund to be paid out of its annual contribution, but this contribution, none too large for maintenance, is seriously depleted by this heavy charge against it. Nevertheless, a number of centres have boldly undertaken the responsibility, and among them may be mentioned Londonderry, Waterford, Blackrock, Kington, Dundalk, Coleraine, etc. Others have adapted buildings; but these will in time, I firmly believe, prove inadequate. Belfast has almost completed the erection of a technical school which structurally and educationally will rank among the best in the kingdom. Happily it has students ready to occupy it.

The city of Dublin, while progress has been made, still lacks adequate provision for so important a city. The Committee have experienced considerable difficulty in regard to a site. The Department retain a sum of nearly £50,000 due to the city of Dublin for a scheme to be approved by the Department. We have intended to the Committee such assistance as was possible, and I put in a memorandum on a scheme of technical instruction (with recommendations) for the city of Dublin which I drew up over three years ago. These recommendations were not adopted. The Department were nevertheless prepared to accept the Committee's scheme subject to the condition that a director, having large experience and organising power, should be appointed for the large and important developments possible under a scheme which added about £10,000 a year to the funds of the Committee. The Committee have not been willing to accept this proposal, but the difficulty has been met for the time by the temporary appointment of a highly-qualified educationist to advise the Committee. Considerable difficulty was experienced in regard to the site, but there is now no obstacle known to the Department in the way of the provision of adequate buildings and the organisation of a more comprehensive system suited to the wide and diverse needs of the metropolitan city.

On returning after luncheon,

2337A. Witness continued.—We were finishing that part which dealt with our relations with technical committees and with schemes. I drew the attention of the committee to examples of schemes which are set out in the annual report for 1904-5. I am not anxious to offer more information about the nature of country and urban schemes than the Committee desire for its purposes, but I would like to draw attention to a fact, that I have already mentioned, that while running through all the schemes we have certain general principles which we adhere to as far as possible, these schemes are modified to suit the necessities of the various areas they are intended to apply to. Thus, for example, if one takes the scheme at page 273, the

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County Kilkenny scheme, you observe that in addition to the school working in the city, we have a day traders' preparatory school; we have a system of itinerant instruction in manual work and in domestic economy. We have a scheme of scholarships for boys and you will observe that the scholarships are tied to certain areas in the county and those, with the exception of certain evening technical classes and scholarships for girls in residential schools of domestic economy, represent all in the scheme with the exception of special provision of scholarships in weaving, to which I am about to refer. Then if one takes the County Tyrone scheme, again a joint scheme, on page 281, we have a scheme which is somewhat different in type. There the county employ an organising head teacher, an art teacher, a manual instructor, and two domestic economy instructors for carrying on their work both in the four urban centres and rural districts. May I say that in addition to the work in those schemes, the Department constantly intervenes directly with such aid as they can apply in a direct manner. I must refer to one thing in regard to which a very great deal of assistance has been given out of our central funds. I mean the various exhibitions—the Féisanna that have been held from time to time. These Féisanna, we believe, are serving an exceedingly useful purpose in many parts of the country in awakening local interest, and drawing attention to local industries, and generally aim at inspiring an industrial revival. Applications have been made to the Department from time to time to assist these.

2526. (Chairman).—What is the meaning of the expression *Féisanna*?—It means a sort of national gathering, not necessarily for educational purposes, but recreative purposes, in the nature of a festival, which, however, in the modern interpretation, includes exhibitions and competitions of an industrial character. So far as the recreative portion is concerned we have no power to assist, but so far as they aim at an exhibition with competitions of an industrial character we feel at liberty to aid, and we have, in some fifty-three cases, given aid to these shows. The usual programme is this: application has been made to the Department for aid; we have replied asking for the programme, and so far as that programme has been directly educational we have been willing to contribute a sum, in general, not exceeding £5 towards the prizes. We have also undertaken the judging of these exhibitions so far again as they are strictly educational in character; indeed we believe that we have had a very useful influence on these because we have been continually ruling out useless things, such as competitions in painting in oil, and the rest, but there have been competitions in manual work in connection with the various classes, and lace-making and hosiery, and such like useful industrial subjects; in these subjects we have undertaken, free to the locality, the duty of judging; sending down one of our inspectors, an expert in those matters, or in certain other cases employing experts and sending them. We have a large loan collection at the Science and Art Museum, consisting of many scores of cases of exhibits of a useful character; these were freely lent for this purpose, and, I believe, they have had a very great educational value. The next scheme is the County Roscommon scheme. That we may regard as a very simple scheme, suitable for rural districts; I think you will see that what is contemplated in it is even in schools in which a good deal of freedom is left to the local committee. We have technical schools for girls, of which I must say something here. You will observe that under that the Department seeks to give aid to home industry and rural industry under a scheme which allows a very considerable amount of freedom, yet a freedom bound by conditions which we believe to be essential. There were always in existence a large number of home industries; it was sought to foster these; to have offered to provide a teacher would not have helped matters in the slightest, for the teacher was there; in some cases, indeed, a teacher of whom the Department could approve. There were many widely different cases to be met, and this scheme was drafted to meet these divergent cases. You will observe that the Department sanctions the payment out of the joint fund administered by a county committee, of a capitation grant amounting to £2 per head; recently this amount has been increased to £3 a head in respect of the first ten pupils. The capitation grant of £2 per head was payable to the school if certain conditions were complied with—first the teacher must have been

approved by the Department as qualified to teach; in the next place the workers must have received at least 240 hours' instruction during the season, and also it is laid down as a condition that domestic economy must form part of the instruction, that, indeed, each worker on account of whom a claim was made must have received at least forty hours' instruction in domestic economy. This at once raised a difficulty, for the classes granted out to us that they had no one capable of teaching, and that the funds would not allow them to employ such a person. We met that by allowing county committees to place their teachers of domestic economy at the service of such classes; it was a very economic way of utilising their services, and it always secured a class, that is to say, the county teacher of domestic economy might hold a class in the evening for those not connected with the industry, but sometime during the day would also hold a class for the workers of the industry, to enable them to qualify for this capitation grant. Also you will observe that encouragement was given for the teaching of drawing. We allowed a drawing lesson to count at the rate of three times an industrial lesson. That is a scheme that has been availed of generally; it is an element of the County Roscommon scheme. It has not given universal satisfaction, because you will observe that the amount of earnings is proportional to the number of workers; thus, a very small class, which, under ordinary circumstances, might be started if the salary of the teacher were covered, would not get a very large income.

2529. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—£30 for ten?—Exactly; but under other circumstances, when one paid for the salary of the teacher, perhaps £40 or £50, the attendance might decline to half a dozen; in that case, under this system, they would only have received £12 as a maximum. We think it would be better to pay £12 for half a dozen students, or even £15, than to pay £30 for a teacher; this scheme forms an element of many county schemes. I don't profess that it is a perfect method of dealing with a very difficult question, but I think it served a very useful purpose in encouraging a very large number of rural classes in lace-making, crochet, sprigging, machine knitting and embroidery, and a large number of other industries, the earnings from which is very considerable in Ireland.

2530. Can you give us any idea of to what extent this scheme has been taken advantage of?—Yes; I have a full statement here.

2531. That is to say in every one of the cases yet included here you have practically a co-ordinated scheme of instruction including, in every case, domestic economy?—Yes.

2532. And along with that such other women's industry as is suitable for the locality?—Yes.

2533. With possibly also drawing. Certainly with drawing if the industrial subject is one for which drawing is useful?—Drawing has not been made compulsory, but we have given a premium by allowing them to count a drawing lesson at three times the value.

2534. So that the result would probably be that wherever the industrial work is of a kind that leads to a full appreciation of drawing, drawing will come to be included?—Certainly, especially in lace-making and crochet; we were most anxious to encourage the teaching of design in connection with these subjects. The appearance of domestic economy here may not be fully understood. May I say a word in justification of making domestic economy compulsory. It is in this many girls undertake lace-making and crochet and such like subjects for a time; they marry; they no longer make lace and crochet, but they have to manage a house; we feel it is a magnificent thing when you get girls together in a class to learn some home industry, to take that opportunity of teaching them something at least of domestic economy.

2535. This is a self-contained co-ordinated scheme of instruction for young women in rural districts?—I think that is a fair description of it. We won't allow payment on the industry unless they receive at least forty hours of domestic economy teaching during the year in which they receive payment.

2536. (Mr. Brown).—Is there any test as to whether the teaching has been efficient?—We assure that it is efficient because we won't recognise domestic economy teaching unless it is performed by a teacher previously recognised by the Department.

2537. It is more from the point of view of the effort on the pupils; supposing a pupil has not responded, must the teacher certify that they have not only

attended but been attentive?—No; it would be hardly practicable at this stage to make the payment to an industry depend on the goodwill of the pupil towards domestic economy.

2344. I am only asking for information—I quite see your point, and it is no doubt a difficulty.

2344. (Chairman).—You must have thirty hours' cookery, and ten for laundry-work!—You; it was to prevent undue attention being given to one of the subjects.

2350. If they took the minimum forty hours they must have done nothing but cookery and laundry-work!—The point is to secure that at least thirty shall go to cookery. Now, as to the classes that have taken up this scheme, I have a long statement here showing what has been paid to each of a large number of industrial classes during the last four years under this scheme.

2351. (Mr. Brown).—Just mention the number of classes that have been assisted?—I have fifty-two classes that have been assisted in this way, and the total amount of the grant paid during the last four years has been £4,861. (Appendix No. XXVII.)

2352. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Do you find any tendency to increase in this particular direction?—It would increase unquestionably except that we allow alternative methods; in certain places we allow of the direct employment of county teachers; in Farnham there are nine teachers; in Donagh there are four employed, and there is a good deal to be said for that method, because teachers may be transferred readily from one centre to another, and then again we allow, in certain cases, teachers to be employed and paid by the county committee without necessarily being removed from one centre to another.

2353. The alternative permits of assistance being given in cases where pupils cannot be secured for as long in the session as 240 hours?—No; I would not like to say that.

2354. That is not the difficulty?—No; we distinctly object to pay for a teacher if the students won't stay for 240 hours. Our great difficulty is to frame rules that will prevent people taking up a thing impulsively and dropping it just as readily, and we seek, in all these rules, to make it permanent. I could mention a number of cases in which industries have been started and dropped without being given a fair trial; we are exceedingly careful not to bolster up anything of that sort. We find the capitation scheme works very well in that respect. It does not necessarily follow that we will accept a school working under this scheme because it applies. The case is approved by the Department, and the approval is arrived at after inspection and ascertaining whether there is any chance of the industry succeeding.

2355. In cases where the alternative methods are adopted, do you find any readiness to incorporate with these the special features of this case?—No. There is a great difference of opinion, and many attempts have been made to upset this restriction as to domestic economy. It is argued, for example, that domestic economy interferes with the hands of workers in an industry such as lace-making, and there are various opinions about it; but I think it will be seen that the tendency must naturally be against domestic economy. It is not a money-earning subject, and the first object of a class started in a poor district is to earn money, and it is our business to secure this educational advantage.

2356. You think there is not a readiness to appreciate domestic economy as a means of saving money?—Precisely; that is undoubtedly one of the great weaknesses, that, instead of regarding prosperity in the household as being the ratio between income and expenditure, they regard it as depending solely upon the income. It is our object to as much reduce under-expenditure in the household as to increase it. I do find a tendency to neglect expenditure.

2357. (Chairman).—Take a girl who is very keen upon learning lace-making as being a thing that will pay her best, if she has to devote thirty hours to domestic economy she will probably think that a very great nuisance, and others will think so too, and the study of domestic economy will have a rather undue share of unpopularity for that reason?—Undoubtedly it is regarded as a nuisance in some cases.

2358. Does not that rather lessen the whole thing with a hale of unpopularity?—That is the tendency,

but I believe all these preliminary difficulties have been worn down, and I am sure it is recognised by all thinking people that this is a very good thing to do, and it would be a pity not to make this condition.

2359. For the purpose of encouraging this particular study?—Yes.

2360. I was only asking whether there was not something to be said on the other side. I did not say that you were advocating the other view?—No.

2361. I was trying to ascertain how far this subject of domestic economy was likely to become as popular and useful as it ought to be?—This is only a very small part of our work in domestic economy. I described to you the intimate instruction and work done in secondary schools; this is the part by which we get hold of girls who would not be reached in any other way. If the principle and importance of it was sufficiently recognised you would have no need to make it a condition of payment, we could make it then a perfectly voluntary thing; we don't do that because I don't think we have reached the point when we might say, "You may take domestic economy if you will." A girl from a poor family would certainly rather spend that hour making lace than learning to cook.

2362. Still she does spend the hour in learning to cook, and does so with profit?—Yes; we believe so.

2363. (Mr. Brown).—The capitation grant enables the manager of the industry, if he thinks fit, to compensate the girls for the loss of the hour?—Undoubtedly that is what might take place, but I would not like to say that our grant was being used for that. If one carefully goes into the industrial classes we find, in some cases, girls are paid beyond the market value of their work for a time, and I am not going to criticise that; for a time, while they are learners, it is probably necessary they should be treated with a certain amount of leniency by those managing the class in order to encourage it. I think, sir, you would not wish that I should deal further with the urban schemes. I mentioned them this morning, and there are three set out here—Ballymann. Bray is an interesting case, because we have there worked in with a little local art furniture industry, and in Roskiline and Rathgar we have a school of commerce. I won't burden the Committee with any more than they wish in that direction. I observe Mr. McKis this morning raised the question about the appointment of teachers for these schools and I promised him I would deal with the question before leaving it. In general it is this: a scheme is framed, and we find that to run that scheme you require a headmaster having certain qualifications; the local authority advertises, let us say, for a headmaster to fulfil these conditions; applications are sent in; the applications are sent to the office; they are carefully collated, and the Department send down to the authority a list of three whom they would be prepared to approve of as headmasters, and, in general, I think almost without exception, the committee have taken our view, and have chosen one of them. Generally an inspector of the Department attends when the appointment is being made, for the purpose of advising the committee, for the purpose of questioning the candidates, and giving, indeed, such friendly advice to the committee as is possible.

2364. (Mr. McKis).—As regards that position of the Department's sanctioning these candidates, is it under any statutory authority you do that?—If we require, under a scheme, that we shall have the approval of the teacher. I think we may read that into the Act, in sec. 26 (5) "Money to be applied by the Department under this part of the Act shall be applied subject to any conditions which the Department may require."

2365. It would be under that sub-section that you would claim the right to approve?—We can at least make it a condition of the scheme and we put this condition into the scheme. Under the general conditions of schemes approved by the Department, on page 280 of the 6th Annual Report, is this condition: "The scheme requires that the committee shall furnish full particulars of the qualifications and experience of any teachers they propose to engage, and obtain the Department's approval in writing before the appointment is actually made."

2366. Are you aware that in most Acts of Parliament where appointments are to be made by one body, and require the approval of any other, it is generally mentioned "subject to the approval of the Lord Lieutenant," or whatever it may be?—I don't know; I am not aware.

June 5, 1906.

Mr. George Fletcher.
J.M.S.

June 8, 1908.

Mr. George
Fletcher,
F.R.S.

2357. Are you aware whether any such power is claimed or exercised by the Board of Education in England?—Certainly; in respect of the science and arts grants.

2358. But they do not generally claim such a power and exercise it?—They do, in respect of grants out of the Science and Art Vote.

2359. Is that the only vote they have to administer?—That is the only vote they have to administer.

2360. Then they claim it generally and exercise it generally?—No; I cannot say that. These is the residue under the Local Taxation Act, 1890, which is distributed among the counties, and certainly, so far as my knowledge goes, the Board of Education does not control that; it amounts very much to the same thing, however, because the teachers who work under the one scheme work under the other, and therefore they have to be recognised by the Board, except the Board choose to delegate their authority to the local authority.

2371. That is unless they choose to exercise their own. What is the practice; do they interfere or intervene in the appointments made by local authorities?—I think they do not nearly to the same extent as we do here.

2372. (Mr. Gifford).—The essential difference is that whereas the other educational departments, as a rule, leave the appointments to be managed as the local authority agree, but come in where they find it necessary to come in, only when a grant is claimed in respect of a teacher who is unqualified, or whose recognition is asked for a school, and the staff, as put forward, do not appear to possess the requisite qualifications for teaching, your Department says, "You must not wait until you have appointed your man, but you must find out from us before you appoint him whether we are going to recognise him or not."—That is exactly the case; what we seek to do here is prevent county committees and urban committees making a mistake if we can help it; there would be nothing easier than to allow them to appoint an unqualified person, and afterwards refuse to pay the science and art grant on account of the character of the teaching; we seek to prevent that, and, as a rule, with the good will of the committees.

2373. How far is your procedure accounted for by an important distinction to be borne in mind, considering the practice in Ireland compared with the practice elsewhere—that the local authorities have not in all cases got an expert educational man as adviser, who would assist them in investigating the qualifications of candidates?—Our practice is wholly dictated by the necessities of the case; by the fact that the committees themselves have not had the experience, nor have they expert advisers who would keep them in the right direction in regard to these appointments. In normal conditions it might be possible to refrain from any interference in this respect, but the conditions in Ireland, as I have explained, and those of England at the present moment are widely dissimilar.

2374. You are doubting the desire which in England are performed by two separate bodies for a local authority. In the first instance, you are doing for the local authority what its own officer does for it in England; and in the second place, you are doing for it, or by it, what Government Departments do?—Yes; what we are doing in Ireland is to avoid, if we can, a difficulty that would become very embarrassing. Suppose, for example, in regard to the danger of appointing a teacher to teach subjects, the cost of which is defrayed out of the Endowment Scheme, suppose you allowed such a teacher to be appointed, you might afterwards be forced into the position in which you would be unable to pay any of the Science and Art classes taught by that teacher because he was unqualified. We seek to prevent such an unfortunate circumstance, and so it comes about that we retain the approval of the teacher, both under the Endowment and for the Science and Art Grants as well.

2375. (Mr. Miché).—Have not the local bodies also the assistance of your inspectors on all these important questions?—They have.

2376. Therefore, they would have expert advice in the choice of officials?—I perceive that you are distinguishing between the inspector and the Department. I cannot admit that distinction; they do not exist apart from the Department.

2377. I mean as officials of the Department?—That is a power we would not allow to an inspector in the least degree.

2378. Of course, if an inspector is present he forms an opinion about a man, and when you were acting as an inspector yourself in the country I suppose you were felt debased from giving an opinion?—Never.

2379. You did give an opinion?—Constantly, at the request of the Committee. What one did was to sit with the Committee around a table, to question each of the candidates, and then, in the most friendly fashion at the end of it, to express an opinion.

2380. You would be asked for your opinion, and would not hesitate to give it?—That is so.

2381. That is the only thing I mean?—Still, I think there is a little point left; that is, that the people you interview there are people whose names have been sent down by the Department as qualified to teach.

2382. Supposing no such preliminary selection was made, and the whole of the applications were referred to a committee of selection of the local authority, you would attend at that committee?—Yes.

2383. And give your opinions about the different men?—Yes.

2384. And most likely, up here in Dublin, the Department would be guided largely by the inspector who interviewed the candidates?—Yes. I have a case here where they are about to appoint a headmaster; there are over seventy applications; as a matter of fact, an inspector of this office sat up until six in the morning going through them, because the case was important—separating the wheat from the chaff, seeing who were suitable, and which on the face were not suitable. In such a case there are always a large number of perfectly hopeless applications, and it is very difficult unless one understands the whole of the circumstances and the value of the certificate and what it means; it is not easy to distinguish the wheat from the chaff. The useless ones are put on one side, and all those who are suitable are sent down. We only indicate to them which of the candidates would be recognised on their paper qualifications.

2385. A *rapport d'office*?—Yes; we say, "These have the best paper qualifications; examine them, and make your choice; and if in making that choice we can aid you by sending down an inspector we shall be very glad to do so." These are difficulties sometimes. I mean that would be preferred by a committee, possibly a local man, is not chosen on this system.

2386. (Mr. Gifford).—You send the names down in alphabetical order?—As a rule; but if there was a man standing above all others we would probably indicate it. That we do before the interview takes place.

2387. (Chairman).—Does it tie your hands at all, if you discover anything?—It has not seemed so from criticism, but from very awkward situations in which possibly, with the best of intentions, unsuitable people might have been appointed.

2388. It saves you from having formally to disapprove of the appointment?—Yes; a very unpleasant duty.

2389. It is a sort of intimation to the Committee that if they appoint A, B, or C the Board would approve of him?—Yes, we are glad to send down a large list. In a particular case I may mention we were able to choose five. I think I ought to say quite frankly that I believe the criticism arises very largely from the desire in a good many cases to appoint a local man, or, at least, in every case an Irishman. That would be our desire, naturally, but if one goes over the history of technical education in Ireland only for the last ten years, one can see how difficult it is to find, for headmasterships at all events, the kind of person necessary to carry us a step further in this most important work. I believe we can choose either of two incompatible things—we may seek to run the technical schools with the best men we can find, from whatever place they may come, or we may restrict the choice to the country or to the district. As a matter of fact, what we have to look for is not the good of the single individual, but the good of those who attend the school. In doing that we are most desirous to bring back to Ireland young Irishmen who are capable of undertaking such work, and we take special care to find these out and bring them back where it is possible. I may refer to the point that once we have started work a great many have been brought back. I have three inspectors on my staff, Irishmen, who have been brought back from England; the present headmaster of the Belfast Municipal School, Mr. Fort, one of the ablest of our teachers, is an Irishman, brought back; he was at the Manchester Technical School, and is a product of our own Department here. Dr. Ryan is another example, appointed

by the Dublin City Committee as their special expert, Mr. O'Keefe, the headmaster of the Crawford Institute at Cork, is another Irishman, who, after a long experience at the Finlery Technical Institute, came back to assume the post of headmaster in that school. I know there is a good deal of feeling on this question—set on the part of the Committee, but of individuals. I believe it arises very largely from an altogether mistaken notion. We can train young Irishmen to be manual instructors and we can train young Irishmen to be domestic economy teachers; we are doing it, and the supply came altogether from Ireland; we can train young and able men to become teachers of commerce. We have at the School of Commerce in London six young Irishmen, enjoying scholarships value £100 each from the Department, in training to become teachers of commerce. We are carrying that on year by year, and the intention is to men the schools by native teachers. But I know no way of training a man to be head of a technical school. You may train a thousand, and get a few capable of running a technical school, but you cannot take up a youth, and say, "He shall be trained to be head of a technical school." Other qualifications besides the possession of mere knowledge are requisite in order to administer a technical school. I mention that because we have here a Royal College of Science; part of the duty of that College is to train science teachers. We take in a youth at the age of sixteen, he passes for a scholarship a stiff competitive examination, and for entrance, a fairly stiff examination in general education. He stays there three years, and you may appoint that man somewhere as a teacher, but it would be monstrous, except he shows very exceptional qualifications, to put several hundred young people under his charge. He has had no acquiring experience. I will say boldly, in such a case it would be well that that man should under present circumstances go away to attend at one or other of the technical schools abroad, and come back and take up the technical work with added knowledge. I don't believe, until we have had far more experience of technical work, and have larger and more highly organised institutions in Ireland, to form a fitting training ground for these technical schools—until that happens I believe we would be moving in a vicious circle to put young, untrained men as heads of schools.

2330. (Mr. Mick.)—Except as regards the position of headmaster, do the Department exercise a right to approve of other appointments?—All appointments are submitted to us, but there is never any difficulty. We don't want to choose for a committee, and we require that the person they have shall hold a qualification; that is to say, let us suppose that a local technical committee wants to put in X as a manual instructor. X is a local carpenter; he is reputed to be extremely clever. We hear X, because Y, who has been through our course of manual instruction is available, and we really have a responsibility towards Y, who has given up his competition as a builder or carpenter, and has taken our six months' course of instruction, and he is out of employment. It would be wrong, in our view, to allow X, who has no such qualifications, to be appointed, while Y, to whom we have the responsibility, is on the market.

2331. (Chairman).—Is there anything in your scheme applying to appointments other than that of headmaster?—The clause I have read says "any teacher."

2332. In the case, of which you have given an instance just now, you practically say to the Committee you are not to appoint X and you are to appoint Y?—No; we don't even say that "You are not to appoint X."

2333. But you say, "If you do you won't get your grant?"—If X is highly qualified he may be appointed.

2334. (Mr. Mick).—Unless he is a resident of the county?—We take no exception to that. It is the agricultural branch that applies that.

2335. (Mr. O'Connell).—If he is highly qualified as a teacher as well as a carpenter?—We say we require to approve not of the person but of the qualifications. If X were qualified there would be no objection; but in general the local carpenter or builder, however clever he may be, would not be able to teach.

2336. He may come up for a course of instruction?—Yes; he has that chance. We choose those men for courses by competition. At all events, it seems to me that there would be something quite inconsistent in training teachers for a particular kind of work and then not to employ them.

2337. (Mr. Brown).—Has there been any general

complaint by local committees themselves in respect of the Department in the first instance approving of the qualifications?—I don't know of any general complaint; there may have been instances. I think I can call to mind the case of a lace teacher, for example, where the Department refused to approve the qualification. In our view, after expert advice, the work submitted was not such as justified the Department in recognising this lady as a teacher. I think, probably, you mean an objection on the part of the Committee to our procedure. There has been very much Free comment; there have been individual objections, but I don't remember any from a committee except in the general case I referred to this morning in the city of Dublin, that, however, had no reference to the individual, but to an appointment—a general term in the scheme.

2338. Could you tell me how many teachers have been appointed altogether on this principle?—I could not; some hundreds.

2339. And you know of no case of a committee as a whole objecting to this scheme?—Well, I cannot recall one now.

2340. (Mr. O'Connell).—Don't worry if you have any difficulty in recalling one, that is good enough. I am anxious not to make a rash statement here. I have been to so many committees; we have had so many things under discussion; indeed I think you had better ask the committees; I am not aware of any grave difficulties; in general my feeling is that they are very glad to be relieved of a very difficult duty. In 99 cases out of 100 they welcome such aid as we can give them in such a matter; if we did not give it, this difficulty would arise almost every day. Supposing the committee resolved to put in a teacher of whose qualifications the Department did not approve—

2341. (Mr. Mick).—Why should you assume that they would do anything wrong?—Because they are unable to judge of the value of the qualifications. It is an exceedingly delicate matter.

2342. Even with your inspections by to give them advice?—That matter does not arise; it has been dealt with by the Department. Take this case where there are seventy-two applications. What is the order proposed; how shall we deal with it? The seventy-two are not before the inspectors.

2343. Are these applications addressed to the local committee or the Department?—The local committee.

2344. The local committee face a date or appoint a day of selection?—It usually deals with it as a committee.

2345. Then your inspector will get notice of the meeting and attend?—Yes.

2346. Would not his advice be, in your opinion, sufficient to prevent them from making a bad appointment?—They could not get the seventy-two people there.

2347. He could go over it once with them; I don't say they would make the appointment straight off. No; I should most strongly disapprove of such a suggestion, because the inspector cannot be expected to fully understand the relative value of degrees and of certificates by the City and Guilds of London Institute, by the Society of Arts, and by the Department itself. It was a matter that required to be dealt with absolutely impartially, and impersonally; and in the case of the inspector who has to work in the district it would be a difficult and dangerous proceeding for him to choose.

2348. We have that duty to perform in the Local Government Board?—The duty does arise later, when the inspector advises the committee in respect of the restricted number.

2349. Don't you think it is much easier to think it out than to advise who is the best man out of five?—That is precisely what we do. We don't choose the best of the five.

2350. That is left to the local body?—Yes.

2351. (Mr. Dryden).—You suggest that the local body has a more difficult undertaking?

(Mr. Mick).—I was merely suggesting that the local body, if they had the assistance of your inspector, would fix a day for going through the examination; the inspector would sit with them, and he could bring back any report that he wished to make, and that such procedure would leave the appointment all through with the local body?—No; it would be quite impossible, believe me, to work on that basis. It is the Department and not the inspector who must approve of the qualifications.

June 5, 1906.

Mr. George Fletcher,
P. S. A.

June 5, 1905.

Mr. George
Fletcher,
N.E.A.

2412. Supposing they had not the right to do it, could it not be worked as I say?—You mean the Department have not the right to do it. The Department have a right to lay down qualifications for the Science and Art Grants.

2413. Supposing they had as such right?—Then, as a matter of expediency, I can imagine nothing better than that we, who are experts in the matter, should offer our help to local committees as long as they were willing to accept it.

2414. And they are, you say, most willing to accept it?—Yes.

2415. (Chairman).—Have your inspectors any general instructions as to what they say to do in the case of these appointments; is it part of their duty to attend meetings?—It has always been part of my duty as senior inspector, and is now the duty of the senior inspector and also of those in charge of districts, to attend meetings, but the appointment is usually made through the Department. Usually there is a request from the local committee asking that an inspector shall attend, and the inspector is instructed to do so.

2416. He is not a member of the Committee?—He is not a member, and can only attend by invitation.

2417. And unless they wanted his advice they would not ask him to come?—His advice is usually asked for.

2418. They are most anxious to receive it?—Yes.

2419. Then that practically unifies matters between the Department and the Committee?—They make possible a piece of work that would be absolutely impossible without the close touch and understanding arrived at in conversation.

2420. What stage is gone through before the Department take the seventy-two candidates that would be reduced by the Department?—The Committee advertise, and usually, though not necessarily, submit the advertisement to the Department. We don't want that, but they find it a wise thing to work with the Department.

2421. Then you don't follow quite strictly Clause D: "The Committee shall furnish full particulars of the qualifications and experience of any teacher they propose to engage." It would seem that it was not until the Committee had made up their minds as to the teacher they proposed to engage that the matter came before the Department at all?—Our duty towards the Committee is not to dictate to them who they shall employ, but to assist them in getting the best men.

2422. You give them general assistance, to begin with?—Yes.

2423. As this is framed, it seems to be that the Committee should first of all select the person they propose to engage, that the matter should then come before the Department, and that they should say whether they will or will not approve of the appointment of that person?—That is the way in a great number of cases, because the assistant teachers must, as a rule, be local teachers, and they choose the teacher, and submit the qualifications to the Department.

2424. What you do is rather outside these conditions?—Yes. In the case of headmasters we say, "You ought to get the best man you can." I think I may say that in general the Committee's recommendations are adopted.

2425. (Mr. Micks).—Has there been a vacancy for a very considerable time in the headmastership of the School of Art in Dublin?—There is, but that is hardly germane to this part; it is a central institution. I have already described the Department's scheme for day secondary schools. When this had been introduced, the Department proceeded to frame a revised scheme for the administration of the Science and Art Grant in schools other than day secondary schools. This scheme was fully discussed, although the form of the discussion has, as I shall explain, led to adverse criticism. The scheme was submitted to the Treasury, who were asked to approve of it in place of the Regulations of the Science and Art Directory for 1902. The scheme, however, involved far-reaching developments, and their lordships did not for a long time see their way to accept the Department's proposals. They have now done so, and these regulations, which are about to be published, will come into operation in the coming session. They are to be issued immediately. The matter is so important that I think it would be well for me to indicate in the briefest possible way the main elements of this new scheme. I explained, when first I began my evidence, that the Science and Art

Grants in Ireland had fallen to a very small amount, indeed, quite out of proportion to what Ireland should have got in virtue of its population. No fault could be found, however, except that the regulations under which these grants were being earned were unsuited to our needs. That is pretty well granted; there is no question about it; in fact, the Board of Education afterwards improved their regulations very much. They aim in the same direction as these which the Treasury have now approved for Ireland. This scheme, first of all, lays down the qualifications for entrance; that is to say, we won't pay on a student if he is not qualified to take advantage of technical instruction. We lay down what those qualifications are, but for those who have not those qualifications—they are high qualifications—for those who have not those qualifications we arrange a preliminary year's course that students who are not prepared for specialised study may take—a preliminary year's course, involving the teaching of English, elementary mathematics, elementary science, or drawing. Then students who have followed that course, or who are qualified to go on to the higher subjects without passing through that course, may join one of a number of specialised courses. The attempt here has been to group subjects, and to pay for subjects correlated in groups. The method of payment for these subjects is capitalism—payment per attendance hour, various rates of payment are set out for different subjects, the amount varying with the difficulty and cost of the subject. The important element in this, however, is the rate of increment for continued attendance. Thus, above twenty hours, from twenty-one to forty hours, we pay an increment of a penny an hour; from forty-one to sixty, an increment of twopenny; from sixty-one to eighty, threepenny per hour, and so on; there is the strongest possible inducement to schools to retain, by any means possible, their students for a long course. All those who have been engaged in technical teaching know the evil of a student joining for a few weeks and falling away; every effort ought to be made to keep students, for a longer period, especially in evening classes. The amount of time at the best is very small; we attach very great importance to this proposal for an increment for continued attendance. These rates, also, are applicable in day schools, but the payment there is only at half the rate. We have also a clause providing day schools for apprentices and those engaged in business. Where day technical or commercial schools or classes are conducted by properly constituted managers with a view to improving the conditions of local industry, whether in the case of apprentices or foremen, we will, under the conditions which are laid down, accept such schools, and pay three-fourths of the certified annual expenditure. Schools of art working with the Department may work under a similar scheme; that is to say, they may receive a grant which is in the nature of a block grant. In that case we pay up to three-fourths of the net annual expenditure. There is also provision for teachers' classes and for the payment of grants in training colleges. There are also local science and art scholarships and local exhibitions; and we propose to give a certificate on the satisfactory completion of a course. We will reserve to teachers those privileges extended by the Board of Education, South Kensington. That is, as you see, a very complicated and comprehensive scheme, providing for many courses of instruction, and we think it will be most advantageous for the technical schools. The schools that will benefit by these schemes are the urban schools undeniably; a large, well-organised school as the one that would profit most by this, but a small urban school can also profit.

2426. (Chairman).—Has this scheme been published?—It is about to be published.

2427. (Mr. O'Connell).—We recognise that it is a very important document, and appears to be one that will have a very wide influence for good on all schools to which it definitely applies. You have not mentioned, however, whether the implied restriction that your grants under the Vote have hitherto laboured under—a restriction to the named and numbered subjects of science and art in the old directory is removed?—Thank you very much for reminding me of what was a very serious omission. It was the main object in approaching the Treasury with regard to the scheme to get them to extend the grants very far beyond the subjects of the Science and Art Directory. As a matter of fact, there are no subjects I think in the technical schools at the present time working under the Department's endowment which may not be paid upon under this scheme. The subjects are—building industries, metal

industries, textile industries, printing and process industries, furniture industries, leather industries, wood-work industries, carriage building industries, electrical industries, chemical industries, agricultural industries. If an industry has been missed out there we don't know it.

2922. Next year you are prepared to pay grants upon technological subjects in as far as they involve instruction in principles of applied sciences and art?—Certainly; that is only one group.

2923. I only wanted to know whether you had got away from the old restriction?—Wholly. We have group A, commercial subjects; group B, languages; a further group, mathematics; a further group, higher commercial subjects; science, pure and applied; handicrafts, domestic science, and art subjects. I don't know of any subject which is fit to be taught in a technical school which may not be claimed upon under these regulations.

2924. You can now pay upon everything that the Board of Education pay upon in England?—That is so. Under this scheme I know of no disability under which we labour.

2925. (Chairman).—This scheme has been approved of by the Treasury?—Yes. In this respect we are without a grievance. I think I have fairly well covered the main head, No. 4. I now come to what must be regarded as one of the most important aspects of the work of my branch—I mean the relation of its work to industrial progress. I cannot think of any part of our work which has engaged more anxious thought than this, if for no other reason than because the progress of our work in the domain of technical instruction has been hampered by our backward industrial condition, and it is true that the work of technical instruction is limited and conditioned by the progress of industrial development. One of the most frequent criticisms of our work has been that it led to nowhere except, perhaps, to America. Now, I am not going to pretend that technical education alone will bring about industrial regeneration, but I venture to express the strong view that industrial regeneration cannot take place without it. Industrial regeneration under the present conditions of commercial competition cannot take place without technical education. It is also true that people enquire whether they have received technical training or not; and it is probably better that if they must enquire they should go as well equipped to hold their own in the battle of life as those of other countries. This, however, does not meet the argument that we should do something to create industries. I may, perhaps, remark in passing, that it is much easier to destroy an industry than to create it—that an industry must grow, and that the stability of an industry is, generally speaking, in inverse ratio to its rate of growth. The Department, however, needed no urging to do everything that was possible within its powers to promote industrial development. It has been frequently said that the Department has done nothing for industries. I shall, therefore, state as succinctly as possible exactly what the Department has done, so far as my own branch is concerned; what principles it has been working on; and how far its work has been limited by the powers under which it works. Section 20 (1) of the Act enables the local rate of 1d. in the £ to be applied for the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries, and the second paragraph makes the rate raised under the Technical Instruction Acts of 1889 and 1891 also available for such purposes. Under section 16 (1) (c) part of the Department's endowment is available for technical instruction, and the expression, "technical instruction," is defined in section 30 as instruction in the principles of science and art applicable to industries, and in the application of special branches of science and art to specific industries or employments. It will become evident as I proceed that the Department has interpreted these powers in as liberal a sense as is permissible. When the Department commenced its work there were already in existence a number of home industries. Some of these were flourishing, some languishing; they nearly all needed and were willing to receive assistance and advice. County and urban schemes of technical instruction had not yet been put into operation, for some time necessarily elapsed before local authorities could be got to strike a rate and consequently consider the question of schemes for their localities. The Department, however, at once decided on assisting suitable home industries, which seemed likely to afford employment. They accordingly gave grants, and these grants usually took the form of the

payment, or part payment, of the salaries of teachers.

A very general rule in the case of such suburbs as Crook and Looe-making was to pay 17s. 6d. per week towards the salary of a teacher. As soon, however, as local schemes of technical instruction came to be framed the Department sought to administer such aid through the local schemes, and to this end empowered technical instruction committees to engage county teachers. Such an arrangement, however, did not meet many cases where, perhaps, the teacher was a member of a religious community. They, therefore, drafted a stipendium scheme, applicable to what were termed technical schools for girls. A copy of this scheme is before you. A grant of £2 is given on account of each pupil who has attended at least 240 hours' instruction during the session under an approved teacher. One important proviso, however, was that instruction in domestic economy must be given for a limited time to each of the pupils, and county committees were empowered to lend the services of their domestic instructors for this purpose. Where instruction in drawing was given, each hour's instruction in this subject was allowed to count as equivalent to three hours' instruction in the practice of the industry for a limited number of hours. A very large number of the rural industries have worked under this scheme, and during the current session an alteration has been made, by which the stipendium grant has been raised to £5 per head for the first ten pupils. I put in a statement showing the industries which have received aid by means of stipendium grants under local schemes of technical instruction, showing the subjects, and showing that a total of nearly £8,000 has been expended in this manner. (Appendix No. XXVII.) It will be observed, however, that these industries are all what may fairly be described as cottage or home industries. They may be looked upon as industries auxiliary to agriculture, and yield supplemental earnings in families of small farmers and farm labourers. The amount earned in this way is very considerable, and, I submit, justifies all the help that may properly be given. I do not propose to quote to you the earnings of the various home industries in Ireland. In a statement I have before me, which I do not hand in, I find one, Class A, earning in one year £419; a second, £250; a third, £372; a fourth, £226; a fifth, £280; and very many others.

2926. What counties are those classes in?—The class earning £419 is in the County Down, the one earning £250 is in Fermanagh, the third one is in the County Cavan, £286 is in the County Leitrim, £280 is in the County Donegal.

2927. (Mr. McKee).—Three out of the five are in congested districts?—Not necessarily in congested districts.

2928. I mean they happen to be congested districts?—One may be, the others are not. The total amount earned, as I have said, is considerable, but I am not clear that it is your wish that any statement should be handed in on this subject. We have had a number of visitors from abroad, full of enthusiasm, and with open, inspiring minds. We also have to consider competition, not always fair, from other countries, and often exhibiting the successful form of factory. I should like here to state one of the results of my experience which, I believe, is of some importance as to the limits set to the operations of a home industry. When one goes outside the range of what may be properly called home industries, such as lace and crochet-making, and goes into the domain of industries requiring machinery, such as weaving and hosiery, for example, one finds that a small industry cannot go much farther than to make goods for the immediate neighbourhood. Directly an attempt is made to secure a wider market, and to deal with large wholesale houses it is found necessary to adopt methods which would place these industries under very much the same conditions as obtain in factories; indeed such an industry would have to become a small factory industry. The direct aid which I have already referred to as having been extended by the Department in the earlier years of its existence is still continued in the case of a limited number of industries. I ask you, however, to note that such aid can only be provided from what we call savings. In regard to this direct aid I have spoken here of the direct aid that is being given by the Department to a number of classes. I find that that total direct aid amounted to £5,100 during the period from 1st April, 1900, to 31st March, 1906, that is the total amount of direct aid. (Appendix No. XXVI.) I have also

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pointed out that there has been nearly £5,000 given in aid of teaching under the capitation system, and we are spending now under county and urban schemes, not as a capitation grant, an amount which, this year, is about £2,000; that is in addition. I shall discuss just so far as you desire, some of those institutions, to show on what general principles the grant is administered.

2435. (Chairman).—Just take one or two to illustrate the principle?—The direct aid to which I have already referred as having been expended by the Department in the earlier years of its existence is still expended in the case of a limited number of industries, but that must be provided from "savings." There are still a few small urban centres which have not struck a rate, and are not yet entitled to a contribution from the Department; the amount saved in this way is now £1,025. If they did strike a rate we should have to pay them nearly £2,000 that we now take for other purposes. I may mention, as instances of these centres, the neighbouring towns of Dalkey, Killiney, and Ballybrack; they are almost wholly residential centres, and have never yet seen the desirability of striking a rate, and until they strike a rate they will not receive our endowment.

2436. (Mr. Brown).—Is it an annual sum that is available?—I would not like to say it is available, but the moment they strike a rate they will be entitled to this money annually. At the present time all the urban centres outstanding altogether would only be entitled to £1,025; it is not that money that we have been enabled to further aid industries.

2437. (Mr. McKee).—You will cut it all up if they don't apply?—It is more than eaten up.

2438. If they strike a rate they will have nothing to gain?—If they strike a rate we shall immediately pay them, but not for the past; the accumulation is gone.

2439. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The same thing does not apply to the money which has not gone to Dublin in the past?—No; we cannot spend that; the amount that we are holding for Dublin will remain to its credit. The amount allocated to county boroughs cannot be spent for any other purpose. I ought to say—I think I omitted to say—should there be any balance left over at the end of the year we don't take it from local committees.

2440. You would find that a little difficult?—It was a great difficulty; sometimes a county would only spend half the money allocated to it. If we took the money away from them, then there was a tendency to spend liberally anyhow, because if they did not spend it they would lose the money. I therefore considered it was far better to put a clause in the schemes, which I did with the consent of the Department, saying that any unexpended money would remain available for such purpose or purposes as the Committee with the approval of the Department, might decide. It is from the savings in respect of centres yet without schemes, the amount that is returned for central purposes out of the endowment, and a grant from the Agricultural Board, that we have been enabled to directly assist certain industries. Where a strong case has been made for the assistance of an industry the Department has usually, after full inquiry, admitted its duty to aid in the technical training of workers, and I hand in as evidence a list of such directly aided industries. (Appendix No. XXVI.) It will be seen that we have expended, up to the end of March 31st, 1906, a sum of over £6,000. This, added to the amount administered in capitation grants under local schemes of technical instruction amounts to some £11,000. I will take one or two instances to show in what manner the Department has dealt with this problem in regard to direct aid, and I cannot do better than take as one case that which has already been raised before you; I refer to the Kilkenny Woollen Mills. Put briefly what has happened is as follows:—Representations were made to the Department early last year in respect of a projected woollen industry in Kilkenny. Correspondence ensued, and the Kilkenny Joint Technical Instruction Committee unanimously adopted a resolution—"That the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction be requested to take shares in, or otherwise financially assist the woollen factory about to be established in Kilkenny." The Department were, I need scarcely say, unable to act on this resolution, but recognising the genuineness of the effort, they expressed a willingness to assist, but desired to associate the local authority with the project. After

full inquiry we agreed to make provision in the Kilkenny county scheme of technical instruction, and I refer you to section 8 of the scheme, to be found at page 278 of the Annual Report before you. Section 8—Industrial Scholarships in Weaving.—To aid the local authority in developing the weaving industry in Kilkenny the Department are prepared to make a special grant not exceeding £200 to enable the joint committee to provide for the training of selected boys and girls in power loom weaving and allied processes; the money is to be utilised in paying for the instruction of, and in providing maintenance allowances for suitable candidates for apprenticeships while they are receiving instruction under a recognised instruction in an approved factory. The details regarding the qualifications of the candidates, the method of selection, the amount of the allowance and the conditions under which they may be awarded must receive the written approval of the Department before the facility is exercised." This took place as soon as the factory was contemplated. I think there is a great promise of success for woollens in Ireland, and this amount was set aside for the purpose of providing scholarships; that was an additional sum for the Department and shows what Kilkenny was entitled to, but we preferred that it should be done through the local authority, and with the special concurrence of the Board of Technical Instruction, hence it was placed in the scheme.

2441. (Chairman).—That was within your power to help technical instruction?—It was technical instruction, not for the practice of a trade. The scheme took the form of scholarships, paying for the maintenance of prospective workers at Kilkenny and Galway, where there were woollen mills already in existence. All this took place before the mills at Kilkenny were erected. A sum also became payable to the instructors in these factories. These scholarships have been held. When the factory was approaching completion representations were made by the manager and many others, requesting continued aid to the project. The Department received such representations sympathetically, and admitted the principle that they might pay for the technical instruction of workers, even though that instruction were carried on within the walls of the Kilkenny mills. They wrote to the manager of the Company on the 10th April last, stating that should the joint committee for technical instruction appointed by the County Council and the Urban District Council submit proposals, having for their object the renewal for one year of similar aid to two school workers, the Department would, after full consideration of the question, be prepared to give their favourable consideration. This, I need not say, would involve a further special grant of £200. Following this, however, came an application from the Mr. Canoe Doyle for the payment of the salaries of the manager and nine foremen and skilled artisans, amounting to £1,251, and also for the payment of 5s. per week to every boy and girl in the mill during their period of training. This last sum works out to £15 per year, and if payment were made on, say, forty workers, would mean £600; that is to say a grant of approximately £1,050 per annum was asked for an industry with a capital of £15,000, which, I believe, is equivalent to a dividend of 15 per cent. There the matter stands, and I do not propose to prejudge the Department's decision by anything I shall now say, but I understand that the woollen factory in Galway, where a certain number of these scholarships were held, and which I believe has now acquired a penny from public funds, is paying a dividend of 7½ per cent. The position of the Department is clear; we admit that it is a right thing we should devote part of our endowment for the technical training of workers; we do not stand on too academic a basis; we may not teach the practice of an industry, but may give instruction in principles underlying it. Here indeed is a fine line, I know, but when in a higher developed community we may give instruction for workers of a higher grade, we feel in Ireland we are also justified in giving aid for workers so long as it is genuine technical training; beyond that we have clearly no power.

2442. I don't know whether you are going to give a case which rather struck me—Athlone—because I saw that the principle was discussed?—It does not quite bear on this, perhaps, but I will deal with it; it is a very interesting case.

2443. You will find it at page 193, Vol. 2 of the Minutes?—When the technical scheme for Athlone

was being discussed there was a very strong desire there to bring it as closely as possible into touch with industry; we were entirely in sympathy with that view, and allowed them to turn their attention in the direction of a wood-working school, and there exists there now a wood-working school. A skilled carpenter and joiner was employed, a certain amount of money was contributed from local sources to run the school; there was a capital contribution of £500, and the Department increased its contribution in consequence of this. A very excellent equipment we got. A number of small houses were knocked into one large room, and we have there a wood-working school. It is attended by young men, and these have supplied, to some extent, existing industries; but I cannot say that the efforts satisfy the aspirations of the local technical committee. They wanted an industry, and one that would yield profit. I visited the committee several times, and we discussed this very fully, indeed a number of proposals were made; one involved the committee forming itself into an industrial concern.

2448. (*Mr. Micks*).—Into a limited liability company?—Yes; the committee itself; that could not be done; there was then a further suggestion to hand over the school and the contents to a company to run it as an industry. I was present at that meeting, and then said that while it was clearly, in my view, impossible, we would take advice. We took advice, and as you might have anticipated, there was no power to hand over a school that had been built out of public funds to a company. There the matter stands; the difficulty there is not with a definition of trade teaching, but that the technical committee are so interested in industrial developments that they

went to hand over their school to be run as an industry. June 6, 1906.

2449. (*Chairman*).—Would that come under the heading of "rural industries"?—I don't think it would be quite possible. Mr. George Fletcher, res.

2445. I should like to read one or two lines of what the Vice-President is reported to have said, at page 197. "Similar questions had arisen in connection with other schemes, and the line which the Department had taken was that they would not be justified in aiding, from public funds, a large industry that would directly compete with other industries of a smaller kind, at present existing in a town." You mentioned, in the Kilkenny case, that it might be in competition with another industry in another part of Ireland?—Yes.

2447. Would you say the action of the Department is limited by the words, "Other industries of a similar kind at present existing in a town"?—It is undoubtedly limited by that, but we have never had from Athlone any suggestion that it was possible, legally, to set upon, for running the scheme more closely in connection with an industry, and from the point of view of expediency the Vice-President's remarks apply, because there is already a large industry down there.

2448. (*Mr. O'Brien*).—The statement the Chairman has read does not exhaust the principles on which the Department has acted?—Even in aiding existing teaching one has to have regard to circumstances.

(*Chairman*).—He says, "It would of course be admitted that no difficulty arises in non-existing or hoped industries; in such cases assistance from public funds might be given."

The Committee adjourned.

TENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH, 1906.

At the Office of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KENELM E. DUGBY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MITCHELL.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

MR. G. FLETCHER, F.R.S., further examined.

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Mr. George Fletcher,
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2448. (Mr. Fletcher).—Yesterday I was dealing with the question of industries, and I think I had begun to give illustrations of the Department's methods in dealing with industrial questions. I think I mentioned the case of Kilkenny, and what the Department had already done there. There was raised a question with regard to Galway at the previous meeting of the Committee. I think I ought to point out that nothing has actually been done in Galway with regard to the textile industry, but that application was made to the Department for aid, and a good case was made out. The Department, however, pointed out that they had no funds available for the purpose, and that application should be made, in the first place, to the Galway County Committee, and the Galway County Committee passed a very strong resolution approving of the object, and recommending the Department to give substantial aid. The Department also approved, but pointed out to the Galway County Committee that they had a considerable amount of accumulated funds that had been allocated to Galway for technical instruction. Subsequently the Galway County Committee voted £200, subject to such conditions as the Department might require. These conditions, therefore, will be introduced into the scheme for the coming session.

2449. (Mr. Brown).—Did they get the £200 out of the joint fund?—Out of the accumulations under the joint scheme. Well, sir, I might take very many examples of industries. A large number have been helped both directly and through county schemes, and we always take the line that such sums are only available for teaching purposes, and it really is not very material whether the money goes in payment or part payment of the salary of the teacher, or whether it goes in the form of scholarships, but as a matter of fact we very much prefer the latter method.

2451. (Chairman).—But as to the teacher, would you consider a person who was actually engaged in the industry as a foreman to be a teacher?—Assuming he was properly qualified, we would recognise him as a teacher. We always do lay down the condition that there must be a certain definite amount of teaching.

2452. You pay a portion of the foreman's salary, but it will be salary as a teacher and not as a manager of the business?—As teacher, and that protected moreover by visits of the inspectors. We make it an invariable condition that the industry shall be subject to inspection by the Department's inspectors.

2453. Does he report to you whether or not the foreman is carrying out his duties as a teacher?—Quite so. A considerable amount of aid has been given to the Wexford straw hat industry. Stimulated, I believe, by the part the Department took in the Cork Exhibition, a number of persons in Wexford sought to introduce the making of straw hats. The Department gave assistance in the direction of training, and that industry is now, I hope firmly established in the town of Wexford. I am not going to multiply instances, but another instance which is of interest to us is that of the shirt-making industry at Mullabawn, some six or seven miles from Dundalk. I think the movement owes its inception to Father Johnson, who took a very great interest in it, and urged the Department to aid in establishing the industry.

2454. (Mr. Ogilvie).—What form does the aid take in this case?—Payment of the salary of the teacher and equipment.

2455. How frequently do the classes meet?—They

meet every day, and instruction has been given together with the work. Separate hours have not been set aside.

2456. (Chairman).—Therefore it is superintended and instruction going on at the same time?—Yes.

2457. (Mr. Brown).—You make it a condition that a certain number of those who are employed must be persons who are learning?—The great point is that they are absolutely new to the work. We have accepted the principle, that with a perfectly new industry, which is severely handicapped by the want of trained workers, it is our business, where possible, within our powers, and within our funds, to aid in the training of those workers, so that the industry shall start fairly.

2458. You aid in the training of the workers by superintending the actual working, and explaining to them how to do the work?—That is so; but when a worker begins an industry such as shirt-making—a girl coming new from the country has to learn the use of the sewing machine, and this spoils a good deal of work.

2459. Do they get them absolutely new, or would they have some preliminary teaching before they set to work?—Absolutely new. This is a new industry.

2460. (Mr. Ogilvie).—How long has that been going on?—Three years.

2461. The workers who joined the class at the start are, I presume, now expert?—They are now expert.

2462. Are they still receiving any assistance from the teacher?—I was coming to that in the history of the matter. What happened in this case was, as I said, that we gave aid for teaching, but the teacher there was a forewoman.

2463. (Chairman).—In this sort of case you would not have a separate teacher?—You cannot have a teacher of a subject like that except an expert workman or expert workwoman. Aid was also given for equipment for teaching.

2464. (Mr. Mitchell).—Sewing machines?—Yes. After some time, however, notwithstanding the most satisfactory local efforts in this direction, difficulty was experienced in finding a market. It is very difficult to compete with Belfast and Manchester firms. There someone was found—perhaps I ought not to mention names, in connection with this—a manufacturer who had a market already, and was willing to take over this business. He has done so, and is running it, I believe, very satisfactorily. The members of the Committee would find fifty or sixty girls at work there to-day.

2465. Is this gentleman's head place of business anywhere in the neighbourhood?—It is at Manchester. There are marked advantages in getting shirts made in Ireland. The work is cleaner. He finds the labour very apt and cheaper, and is willing to take up the venture.

2466. (Chairman).—As soon as he took it over did your connection with it cease?—Not wholly.

2467. (Mr. Ogilvie).—So that as soon as the workers really became trained in the work it ceased to be a school?—Absolutely.

2468. (Chairman).—And I suppose you claim that as a justification of your proceedings?—Quite.

2469. You say, "We have trained these people up to the point at which they have established the business sufficiently to make it worth while for a manufacturer to take it over."—That is precisely the position. Our relationship has not been with the person who took it over, but with the Committee, who brought the industry up to a certain point.

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2470. How long a period elapsed from the very commencement of it to the date when it was taken over, or when it was arranged that it should be taken over?—Roughly three years.

2471. In three years, would you say that under your system, you set this industry on its legs, taught the girls, and established it on a sound commercial basis?

2472. So much so, as the proof of the pudding is in the eating, that the manufacturer takes it over!—Quite so.

2473. (Mr. Micks).—Did he take it over with a consideration of assistance from you?—No; we bring it up to the point and say, "Here are trained workers, and a considerable amount of local interest," and it is taken over.

2474. (Chairman).—Do you know if the business has gone on increasing?—It has. I was there a week or two ago, and the place is full. It is a very inspiring sight, right out in the country, in the mountains.

2475. And you claim that as a success?—Undoubtedly; one of the most promising things I know of, because we got over the difficulty here that occurs in most cases—that of finding a permanent market.

2476. (Mr. Micks).—On what conditions did you hand it over?—We did not hand it over.

2477. On what conditions did the local committee hand it over?—I could get the file and tell you, but it is hardly a matter that concerns us.

2478. Except, of course, I suppose, they introduced some safeguards?—They have. I can tell you in a few minutes by getting the papers. We gave them advice in this matter. There were certain things binding on the gentlemen who took it over with regard to the establishment of a certain number of machines.

2479. Did he buy these sewing-machines from you?—They were not ours.

2480. I thought you provided the equipment?—In the first place we aided it, and there was a considerable amount of local aid too, and even now. By the way, let me make a correction; we are paying the salary of the teacher for one year.

2481. (Chairman).—Who were the people who were actually entitled to take the profits, if there were any, before the transfer?—The local society; it was co-operative.

2482. (Mr. O'Connell).—And during those years, when the business was carried on locally by, and for local people, it would practically have two functions, one as a school—and that is the side you aid—and the other side as an incipient industry, which was managed by the local committee, with which you had no further concern, except knowing that it was going on and was likely to afford a proper field for the work for which you were training workers. The commercial part was under this local committee?—That was so, but with the view to ascertaining that the instruction is sound and properly directed, and not likely to be wasted through a thing falling through, we only concern ourselves with the industry by now whether it is suitable or promising, because we have quite a number of cases naturally in Ireland where there is an attempt perhaps to start a lace-making school, and they ask for grants under our scheme, but there is not sufficient interest or control behind them and they may fall away again. We found it absolutely essential that we should ascertain whether the industry is likely to prosper. We can say of most other forms of instruction that they will be valuable to persons at some time or another, but with regard to specialised instruction, it is not of much value, unless an industry is contained, and continued in the neighbourhood.

2483. Now you are paying a teacher to give instruction in the principles underlying shirt-making—that is, the management of machines?—Yes; you may say so; and there is a provision made for a continuing increase in the number of workers.

2484. Implying that there are a certain number at present under training?—Yes; we follow the same principle in our education scheme by only allowing instruction on account of the same student for one year, and not allowing them to continue the instruction beyond the point at which it is instruction.

2485. (Mr. Micks).—Before you went to Manchester did you make inquiries on this side of the water for persons to take it up?—Yes; but although we aided them as much as possible, this relationship is one between the local committee and the person who is taking it over.

2486. Was it the local committee who found the Manchester merchant or the Department?—Oh, the

Committee. We gave them aid throughout; and I do know that very serious attempts were made on this side by the Committee to find parties to take it over.

2487. Where did they try?—Belfast is the only place, and Derry. Might I say a word here in regard to the introduction of new industries, because from time to time very strong representations have been made to me in regard to the introduction of industries which might seem likely to succeed here. I am thinking of such industries as straw plait, which would seem most likely to thrive in Ireland.

2488. You said Derry just now. You said first Belfast was the only place; why did you add Derry?—I don't think it is right to press me on the relationship between the Committee and the persons who took up the offer.

2489. That is not the point. You first said inquiries were made in Belfast, and then you added Derry. What inquiries were made in Derry, and from whom?—Mr. Chairman, these inquiries were made, not by me, but by the local committee, who manage the industry.

2490. (Chairman).—So I understand!—And although I think if I was to have the file before me I could give you much fuller information than I have done, and tell you precisely, yet I am not prepared to say in full what were the inquiries made. It is not in my memory.

2491. (Mr. Micks).—I don't, of course, want any more of it as it is not in your memory, but you said Derry?—I cannot tell you, because the thing is wrapped up with the previous industry in Dundalk. The Dundalk industry failed. That was shirt-making, and it was worked on a larger and more complete system. In the first place the Mullabawn industry was connected with the Dundalk industry, and when Dundalk failed Mullabawn was left stranded.

(Chairman).—I don't think Mr. Micks wishes to press it.

2492. (Mr. Micks).—Not in the least if you say you don't remember it!—What I am anxious to do is to give this Committee as much information as I can; but I know in connection with the Dundalk industry a very large number of inquiries were made in Belfast and in Derry, and I know that from members of the Committee who told me.

2493. (Chairman).—I think we all agree that this has gone far enough now!—I mention Mullabawn as an instance of an industry that we hope is firmly established and capable of extension. I was referring to new industries. We have attempted, first of all, to find what chance of success there may be for new industries, suitable for rural districts. A summer or two ago, by the instruction of the Department, I made a number of inquiries on the Continent in centres which are the home of this industry of straw plaiting. I mention this case of straw plait especially because it was thought that it was very suitable for introduction. I visited a number of centres in the Black Forest, and found it a general home of the industry. One may see the women walking about these plaiting straw during the day. I found they got for much labour twopence or threepence a day; and even so, they were being displaced by Chinese plait, which is being introduced through Losen. In face of difficulties like that we did not take any steps to introduce it into Ireland.

2494. (Mr. O'Connell).—How do the Losen women manage to make a living by it?—I think the straw-plaiting industry is declining there. As a matter of fact the Chinese plait, except in certain forms, is tending to displace it. During the meetings of the Galway County Committee a very strong desire was expressed to introduce the industry, particularly into Connemara. We were quite willing to consider anything that might be proposed. After a time it was proposed to start an industry that has existed in Ireland, particularly in the neighbourhood of Dublin—the manufacture of straw cravattes for bottles. They wished to devote some of their money to this, and thought it was quite suitable, as a rural industry, for Connemara. We made full inquiries from our consuls abroad, at Oporto and elsewhere, and we have these reports, which, on analysis, show, that in a large measure, this has ceased to be a home industry. Machines are now being bought for £25 which will supply a very large area indeed. What we found was, that it was almost hopeless to introduce this industry now as a home industry; that since these and similar industries have left Ireland a change has

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taken place, and the industries which were previously home industries have now become factory industries. I mention this because I am sure that there is some amount of irritation that we don't readily allow an industry like that to be included under a county scheme; but unless there is a fair chance that such an industry will prove remunerative we believe that it would be a very great evil to allow them to start in under conditions which wider knowledge show cannot lead to success. Those remarks apply in part to such an industry as hand-loom weaving. It is still a successful industry in certain parts of Ireland, especially Donegal, and the goods produced are widely known, but the market is a narrow one, and the product of the power loom can compete with it on favourable terms. We made attempts to encourage this industry in Leitrim. We employed, for some time, an expert, trained in the Yorkshire College, Leeds, who went round as an itinerant teacher, working under the county committee, giving instruction and advice respecting dyeing, spinning, and weaving. Moreover, an experiment was made at Abigail and Portlough. A number of diseased linen looms were altered for the production of woollens. It is a very poor district, and since the manufacture of linen has become a factory industry thousands of diseased linen looms are to be found in the houses. The looms were altered and employment was found for these poor people; I cannot say at remunerative rates, for the difficulty of competition with the power looms comes in. I don't think we can make anything in woollens on the hand-loom now that cannot be produced on the power looms. Power looms, I regret to say, are making great quantities of "home-span" woollens. What I am driving at is this: I myself regard such an industry as being in such a condition that it must sooner or later go under before the power loom industry. That is my opinion, and naturally it almost goes without saying that they can produce at a far greater rate. I should like to make one modification here. It may be that we shall find some solution intermediate between the hand-loom and the large factory. I should like to mention this fact. A year or two ago I was in Lyons. The history of the silk industry in Lyons is important as bearing upon this problem; we have, as elsewhere, the decline of the hand-loom weaver, and only one small corner of the city was left to him, where there were still a few men left weaving with the hand-loom, the very finest products, all the other fabrics having been taken by the power loom; and in the course of time even these finest materials could be woven on the power loom. Well, these men still cling to their industry in tenement houses. Their sons were not brought up to the industry however, and the hand-loom was threatened with total extinction, but it was saved. The Rhone had been canalised; electric power was cheap, and electro-motors were devised to work a group of looms in houses, and you had a return to a condition of work in which the workers worked in their own homes.

2505. (Chairman).—Were the old looms capable of being adapted to electrical power?—I have seen a number of looms driven direct by electro-motors fixed on the looms. This has some bearing on small factory industries in Ireland. We have not very much water power in Ireland, but we are not using that which we have, and I believe it is quite possible in certain centres, by a cheap distribution of electric power, to find something intermediate between a home industry and a large factory, which does not readily find a congenial home in Ireland.

2506. Has that idea taken a practical shape?—Not as yet.

2507. (Mr. Meade).—Have you studied in what districts it might be possible to try experiments in that midway institution?—Yes. It occurred to me that the neighbourhood of the Banu would be a good place.

2508. What is the chief site of the home spinning industry?—Donegal.

2509. What part of Donegal is it chiefly in?—It is centred, I think, all over Donegal.

2510. Are you aware it is only in a few parishes?—They are congested, and we are not working there.

2511. It is not all over Donegal?—Yes; there is a good deal of home-spinning.

2512. Where have you seen home-weaving?—I know that scattered in the houses all over Ireland there is a good deal of home-spinning.

2513. Are you under the impression that weaving is general all over the County Donegal?—No; I am not.

2504. I thought you said so just now?—No.

2505. Well, what did you say?—I said such hand-loom weaving as there was was mainly in the County Donegal.

2506. But in what parts?—I don't know. I cannot give particulars, but I believe they are mainly in the congested districts. I think that is all I have to say on that head except this, that the Department has, in addition to direct work, undertaken the containing of giving expert advice to the various industries, employing, where necessary, experts to visit and report upon the various industries. I see that I have a note on the question of a commercial bureau.

2507. Are you leaving the question of the relations between the Department and industries?—I am leaving that now.

2508. Before you leave it, has it been put forward by the Department that the restriction in the Act of 1890 hinders the development of industries in Ireland?—No.

2509. I think you will find that it has?—Well, if you will kindly tell me where.

2510. I think your Department did make very strenuous efforts in 1904 to obtain an amendment of the law that would put them in the same position as regards industries as the Congested Districts Board is in; were you aware of that?—At that time I was senior inspector.

2511. In 1904; when were you appointed assistant secretary?—On August 1st, 1904.

2512. You were inspector in 1904?—Chief Inspector.

2513. Well, at all events your Department in 1904 thought that the restrictions in the Act of 1890 were an impediment in the way of developing Irish industries, and asked the Government to remove those restrictions. The restrictions were in the 31st section: technical instruction shall mean, "Instruction in the principles of science and art, applicable to industries, and in the application of special branches of science and art to specific industries or employments. It shall not include instruction given in elementary schools or teaching the practice of any trade or industry or employment, but save, as aforesaid, shall include instruction in the branches of science and art with respect to which grants are, for the time being, made by the Department, &c.;" are you also familiar with the corresponding section in the English Act of 1902?—I believe no such restriction exists in England.

2514. The Act of 1890 was repealed so far as England was concerned by the Act of 1902, and this section is put in which takes the place of the definition: "The local educational authority shall consider the educational needs of their area, and take such steps as seem to them desirable after consultation with the Board of Education to supply all aid, and to supply all education other than elementary to promote the general co-ordination." That was extended to London in 1903. As regards your own personal opinion, do you think the repeal of the limitations as to teaching the practice of any trade, industry, or employment in the Act of 1890 would be of any advantage as regards the development of industrial efforts in Ireland?—No. I think, in view of the liberal meaning with which we have interpreted this that an extension of the power at the moment would not add anything to us that we have not got.

2515. You don't think the abolition of the limitation would have any beneficial effect?—I think it is probable, if further funds were available, we might feel that restriction. At the present moment, however, we find that we could spend, and more than spend, the whole of the existing funds on technical instruction, properly so called, and we don't feel this restriction at the present time. It has not, to my knowledge, stood in our way. Under another part of the Act we can go much further in the encouragement of home industries and rural industries. If we were able to add a factory industry absolutely without any restriction I am not at all clear, in the present state of things, that it would not throw an enormous difficulty in the way.

2516. Therefore, do you think, as matters are at present, the abolition of the limitations would not have a beneficial effect?—At the moment it would not.

2517. Would it at the moment have an injurious effect?—It would simply mean that that instruction might mean anything.

2512. What is the law in England—the teaching of anything useful to any person?—Even so; a great deal is left to the common sense of administrators, and that power that is given, apparently without restriction, is nevertheless restricted by what restricts us all—that is, funds. If this additional power were given to us at the moment I don't quite see what we could make of it. Administering the money that we have, we find plenty of opportunity for administering it well within the terms of that definition.

2513. Then you really would not be in favour of any change in the law?—I would be in favour of any change such as would help us to make a removal of that word "rural" in the other section. I think if you remove that definition then you have got no definition whatever of instruction. It may be anything.

2520. That is the state of the law in England?—Very well. I understand that there is really no restriction other than that which the local bodies choose to make, which, by the way, I believe they do make, owing to the same question of want of funds.

2521. Would the assimilation of the English law and the Irish law have an injurious effect?—I don't know that it would have any effect at the moment at all, whatever the future may contain. I don't think if that restriction was removed it would confer a benefit. I cannot think of a case where we desired to go further and have been prevented by restriction. On the other hand, it has been at times useful.

2522. Is your opinion, on the whole, in favour of retaining the law as it is?—Certainly; unless other changes are made. I mean that with the present state of our funds there is no advantage to us in removing that restriction.

2523. If you got more funds would you wish that restriction removed?—I would not alter that; still—I am expressing my personal view—I would wish to remove the restriction with regard to "rural."

2524. Would not that cover everything if you removed the word "rural"?—Well, it would.

2525. It would virtually mean the practice of any trade?—I think not; because you are distinguishing between aid to an industry *qua* aid, and instruction.

2526. (Mr. Gifford).—Is it not rather important that you would bring in the aid to an industry if taken under section 16 (1) (g) only where possible from surplus after other purposes of the Act had been served, including instruction?—I don't mean that. What I mean is that if it is proposed to aid industries other than by means of technical instruction it would be better to aid it frankly, and not call it instruction. Let it be quite clear, if it is a question of an industrial subsidy. I regard that section as being distinct from the teaching. Let us understand what we are really teaching in other words. I want to save technical instruction.

2527. You want to make perfectly clear what is what?—Exactly.

2528. So much money is spent on technical instruction, and that other money is spent on aiding industries otherwise than by instruction?—Quite. I think it is very undesirable that we should alter the definition of technical instruction in such a way that we should aid an industry, and profess it is being done for education, when it is quite clear that it has no connection with education.

2529. (Mr. Mickle).—If the Act was construed strictly would not that hinder the experiment you conducted at Mullabawn?—It would. I take it the question is whether, if we interpret in a particular way, it would not hinder what we have been doing. Unquestionably, if we did interpret strictly; but I hold strongly we have been justified throughout in our interpretation. That interpretation has been a liberal one—we liberal as in England and elsewhere. In order to teach the application of science and art to various industries we have to do it in many ways through a practical channel, and we have done that quite freely.

2530. What purpose do you think these words serve?—Forbidding the "teaching the practice of any trade or industry or employment"—I will give you a case in point. We have been dealing with the question of Kilbenny. Suppose those words were not there, I think it would be quite open to make a great account of every worker in the mill without any reference whatever to whether they were receiving instruction or not.

2531. (Chairman).—Surely the broad line is clear, though it is difficult to apply it to particular cases, here is a distinct difference between teaching and subsidising an industry?—Quite.

2532. And there may be a very difficult question in a particular case as to which side of the line that particular thing falls on; and you claim for the Department that you have interpreted that liberally, so as to draw the line at that point, which admits of a great deal under the name of teaching which from another point of view might be regarded as subsidising an industry?—Quite; and I believe it is useful to be in a position to draw the line.

2533. (Mr. Mickle).—I have asked you what purpose these words serve, and your answer is that they enable you to draw the line?—They enable us to assist training with this money that might be otherwise a bonus to the industry. It enables us to secure that it is utilised for the purpose of teaching.

2534. It enables you to say that "If we give you so much a head for learners you would not have any power to see that they were instructed"?—We would otherwise have, at all events, no word as to the nature of the instruction, no jurisdiction as to the character of the instruction.

2535. Except that you would make your grant subject to certain conditions?—Well, these are the conditions. Do you mean to say we could make them for ourselves?

2536. Yes; with the other people you could say, "We will give you so much for each learner provided you satisfy us on such matters"—Here the condition is made for us.

2537. You prefer to keep that in although it is out in England?—As things are at present with our funds, no inconvenience is experienced with regard to the definition, having regard to our funds and our method of interpreting it.

2538. (Mr. Gifford).—I should like to ask you one or two questions as to this point, the restrictions being out in England. You have had some experience of work in England?—Yes. I had been an electrical engineer in England for some time, and closely connected with commercial work.

2539. And you know the conditions under which education is carried on in England?—Yes.

2540. The Act of 1903 placed under the county authorities certain funds to be spent upon higher education. It did other things; but one section of the Act gave them certain funds, which made them liable for carrying on the work of higher education, each in its own area. The application of these funds is restricted by the fact that their scheme of application has to be arranged after consultation with the Board of Education. The duties which are laid upon the County Councils include maintenance of secondary schools, training of teachers of all grades, including former pupil teachers. Are you aware whether or not those which are first charges have any very considerable balance available for the County Councils to take into consideration whether or not they should give instruction to the practice of industries?—In answering that I may say that it is my experience that after the local authorities in England have discharged those main duties—what they regard as their main duties—there is very little left for indulging the further powers that I am sure they have under the Act. I am also fully aware that we have gone very much farther in Ireland with our restricted powers than what they have in England with their wider powers. There is nothing like the same encouragement given to rural and other industries in England with their wider powers.

2541. (Mr. Mickle).—You are speaking of powers with regard to agricultural and rural industries?—Yes.

2542. (Mr. Gifford).—Are you aware that in very many counties the network of the 1903 Act in England had been to reduce very considerably the amount of money which the country has spent upon technical education?—I am aware, but not at first hand. I am aware through many channels—the reports of local authorities, and published matter. I am aware that was so, and it was due largely to the revision of feeling that took place in England in favour of encouraging secondary education further.

2543. As a matter of fact, you will find on inquiry that a good many counties while still as desirous as ever of spending money on technical instruction find they have not got it?—Precisely.

2544. Therefore, so far the letter of the expression in the English Act has not worked so as to extend the application of funds in this direction?—That is so.

2545. That accords with your view?—Absolutely.

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2540. Suppose that county authorities in England had ample funds available for expenditure in connection with industrial education, from your familiarity with the conditions of industries in England, do you think they would receive much encouragement from the ratepayers if they were to establish a system of aid for the maintenance of industries?—Oh, of course, I don't hesitate to say that English feeling is absolutely against any such thing. The subsidizing of industries would receive small encouragement in any part of England.

2547. Therefore, whatever is to be said about England your view is that the case of England is different from that of Ireland in so very many respects that the experience of England, whether under the powers of the Act or in the application and working of the Act by the local authorities, does not help us very much in considering what are the needs of Ireland?—The freedom enjoyed by the English local authorities in the removal of these restrictions does not alter the conditions in the slightest, because the English local authorities are concerned with education, and not concerned with the encouragement of industries, except through the medium of education, and therefore there is no danger. I find myself unable to draw a lesson from the withdrawal of the restrictions in England.

2548. (Chairman).—The question really could not arise in England?—It could not arise; and I should be moved very strongly from this position if instances could be brought out in England, like those I could enumerate by the dozen here, where there have been these direct subsidies of industries. I don't mean to suggest that I can point out here to the subsidizing of industries, but I can point to many cases where there has been a very direct and liberal encouragement through the means of education.

2549. (Mr. O'Leary).—Therefore, I understand that your position is that Ireland, and its conditions educationally, must be considered as a whole, and that the methods by which technical instruction is to further the interests of Ireland must be adjusted to the special conditions of Ireland?—Yes; and I am prepared to point out that the extreme backwardness of Ireland in the matter of technical education is almost lost sight of in the demand for the creation of industries which depend for their healthy existence on a sound system of technical instruction.

2550. And your Department is charged with the responsibility of promoting the industrial interests of Ireland through education with a freedom which does not as a matter of practice in England devolve upon either the central department or the County Councils. That is because you have not got in Ireland the widespread commercial activity that there is in England for spending these industries?—Precisely. The direction which technical instruction has taken here has been determined by the conditions. Assuming we had been in a much more forward condition, then I think it would have been a waste of money to have spent such large amounts for

the lower grades of technical instruction. We would have devoted our attention to training captains of industry, as they do in England, Germany, and elsewhere. Here we have interpreted technical instruction in such a way as enables us to deal in a great many cases with the workers. It was the stern pressing want.

2551. I followed very closely your distinction in the Mullahaven case, and taking it as a typical one, it appears to indicate that you devote a considerable amount of attention to giving instruction in the applications of science and mechanism for industrial work under conditions that gave a reasonable prospect of satisfactory results?—Yes.

2552. That is one of the sections of the activity of the Department?—Certainly.

2553. Though you are at the same time, giving attention to the preparation of men for higher work in connection with industries?—We are doing a great deal in that way, as I shall show shortly when dealing with the scholarship schemes.

2554. You are not losing sight of that?—No.

2555. The point you are explaining at present is this: your giving of instruction is as definitely for the encouragement of industries as possible?—Quite.

2556. Take this Mullahaven case again—machine construction would have been useless there. What you wanted was instruction in the use of the sewing-machines, and certain other principles?—Our technical instruction, while sound in principle, had to be modified to meet the circumstances of the workers and their state of proficiency.

2557. You prefer it should be perfectly clear and obvious that the money so spent should be spent upon technical instruction in methods of spinning, which is obviously applicable through the length and breadth of the country?—Remove that restriction and you subsidize the industry directly.

2558. Personally you see no objection to aiding industries otherwise; at least you have mentioned none; but you have an objection to mixing up accounts?—I have an objection to mixing up principles, which we should be doing there. On the question of subsidizing the industries in Ireland I have my views. We are not concerned with that.

2559. (Mr. Meeks).—Why not?—At this moment the question is: are you going to subsidize an industry under the pretext of technical education? I say you have a definition here which, as interpreted, does no harm.

2560. (Mr. O'Leary).—You prefer that there should not be any special meaning attached to the word technical instruction in Ireland; that the educational meaning shall apply throughout?—I do, indeed.

2561. Apart from the question of whether the assistance given to the industrial progress of Ireland should not extend further than is allowable under the head of technical instruction?—It is a difficult question.

Mr. T. P. GILL called.

P. T. O'GILL.

2562. (Chairman).—You have put this into my hand as an authoritative statement of what the Department proposed with reference to the amendment of the Act?—Yes. It is the proposed Amendment of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899:—"The unexpected obstacle to the development of the Department's work in regard to industries raised by the law officers' interpretation of the meaning of the expression 'The purposes of agriculture and other rural industries,' as defined in section 30 (1) of the Act, may perhaps be removed by a short amending Act on the following lines:—

1. Make provision that for the expression 'The purposes of agriculture and other rural industries,' wherever used in the Act of 1899, shall be substituted the expression 'Agriculture and other industries.'

The omission of the word "rural" would remove the existing limitation. The alteration suggested would, moreover, be in strict conformity with the title of the Act itself, viz., "An Act for establishing a Department of Agriculture and other industries and Technical Instruction in Ireland, and for other purposes connected therewith." The alteration would also be in accordance with section 1 (1) of the Act, which runs as follows:—

"There shall be established a Department of Agriculture and other industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, &c., &c."

It may be mentioned that the expression "The purposes of agriculture and other rural industries," is used in the following sections of the Act of 1899—5, 12, 16 (1) (g), 17 (2), 18 (1) (2), and 30 (1).

Mr. G. FLETCHER further examined.

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2562A. (Mr. Fletcher).—Bearing upon that, you will allow me to say that when I was examined by Mr. Meeks, I was not aware of this, because at that time I was not assistant-secretary.

2563. (Chairman).—Your opinion is that the repeal of that limitation had practically no effect in England?—Yes.

2564. (Mr. Meeks).—Are you aware of the technological subjects on which grants were paid for the years 1901-02 in England?—Yes.

2565. Shall I give them to you? 1st, laundry-work, 2nd, domestic economy, 3rd, cookery, 4th, gardening, 5th, any other subject approved by the Board as of educational value?—Yes.

2566. The phrase there "of educational value," was that put in to rule out trades?—I could not tell you.

2567. Is that what you would assume as an expert?—Now, will you allow me to say—

(Mr. Gifford).—What you are reading is a list of subjects in respect of which and was given from the Parliamentary Vote of the Department, not money which was at the disposal of the County Councils.

2568. (Mr. Miles).—Science and art grants?—Well, that was not clear to me.

2569. That is, of course, what I meant?—It might have been subjects paid for out of the mounds.

2570. Can you tell me what the list is at the present time?—On what subjects science and art grants are paid since the Act of 1902?—Yes. Practical, plane and solid geometry, machine construction, building construction, navigation, mathematics, applied mathematics, sound, light, and heat, electricity and magnetism, chemistry—

2571. (Mr. Gifford).—You are asking him the subjects on which grants are paid in England?—They are indefinite; they are numerous. You had already informed me of that, and I took your further questions to refer to Ireland.

(Mr. Miles).—I was comparing the state of England before the Act of 1902, and the state of England after the Act of 1902 had passed. I read you the four, and the additional one, and I wanted to ask you what is the present condition?

(Mr. Gifford).—There is no connection whatever between this extension of subjects on which science and art grants are paid and the passing of the Act.

2572. (Mr. Miles).—I have my opinion about that. I am not saying it is so, but I am just asking what the subjects were before the passing of the Act and after?—I certainly am not inclined to question a statement made by the head of the Technological Branch of South Kensington with regard to the subjects on which payments may be made. Almost everyone is aware that at the present moment the science and art grants in England as now, and has been for some time, available for a large number of subjects for which such grants are not available in Ireland.

2573. And were not available in England prior to the passing of the Act of 1902?—Yes.

(Mr. Miles).—Well, that is the only point; that is all I wanted from you.

2574. (Mr. Gifford).—Then I must ask a question on that. The point which has now been made clear is that in the year 1901-02—you are working under the 1902-02 Directory?—Yes.

2575. Therefore the grants that were paid upon by the Science and Art Department in 1901-02 are in respect of the same subjects that have been paid upon ever since?—Yes.

2576. That is to say that the first list applies to Ireland at the present moment?—Yes.

2577. Is applied to England in 1901-02?—Yes.

2578. Every year there have been further changes made in the regulations affecting the grants in connection with the evening schools and technical instruction in England?—Yes.

2579. Every year since 1901 changes were made in these regulations?—Yes.

2580. These changes have all been, in this particular matter, in a definite direction, the direction of encouraging localities to provide classes upon the principles underlying the various trades. This is the aspect of the work we are now looking to. In Ireland no change has been made from 1902 to this date?—That is so.

2581. You now, however, I understand from your evidence yesterday, have arranged so that in future grants in Ireland shall run in respect of instruction which is definitely applicable to industrial needs in Ireland, as those in England are to industrial needs in England. I gather from you that the regulations for which you have secured the approval of the Treasury, are on all fours with those which at present hold in England?—Certainly.

2582. And, therefore, that during the coming year you will be able to encourage a class of instruction by grants which you have hitherto not been able to encourage by grants—grants from the Vote?—Yes.

2583. That is to say, that the work which previously, in so far as it has been done in Ireland, has had to be charged against your endowment may now, to a large, and we hope, an ever-growing extent, be charged against the Parliamentary Vote?—That was precisely our object in framing these regulations. All

along grants for these subjects have been available but of the endowment. I mean to say of this wide range of subjects mentioned by Mr. Miles—they have been available out of one portion of the income and art grant; I refer to the equivalent grant, under which we were able to teach domestic economy.

2584. Please don't mention the word "equivalent grant." The term "equivalent grant" is applied to these or four things, and I have one already been thrown out by taking the wrong meaning. You mean the grant in aid of technical instruction?—I see it is because it is known all over Ireland, and has a special significance here.

2585. A painful significance?—A painful significance. I am speaking of the grant mentioned in section 2 (1) (f) of the Act. That has been available for a wide range of subjects, it only being necessary that a minute should be laid on the table of the House. Our object all along was to extend our vote. The endowment was meagre; the science and art vote is elastic. As I have already explained our first care was in regard to the secondary schools of Ireland. We got a revised scheme, which I have laid before you, for these, and the science and art grant increased, as I made clear by the diagram, from £20,475 out of the Parliamentary Vote in 1901-02, to £29,389 in 1904-05. As soon as we got that scheme we proceeded immediately to get a scheme which would extend the scope of our grants in school other than day secondary schools.

2586. (Mr. Miles).—This has no reference to what I was asking you about, as far as I can see, but I don't object to your going on?—I would like to finish. The object in drawing up this revised scheme was to place us on the same footing in regard to grants outside secondary schools as exists in England and Scotland. We got, as I have tried to explain to you now, through the sanction of the Treasury, a scheme in which grants on a fairly adequate scale may be given for teaching in all kinds of industries. I know of no restriction now, and I know of no disability under which we shall labour when this scheme comes into operation on the first day of August this year.

2587. That is, any disability under which you labour as regards technical instruction?—Quite so.

2588. As regards England again, you think that the Act of 1902 had very little effect on technical instruction in England; is that so?—It had very little effect in the direction you have indicated.

2589. In what direction had it little effect?—It has had very little effect in the direction of diverting funds intended for technical instruction in the way of subsidising industries.

2590. I never alleged such a thing at all. As regards England there is no occasion to subsidise industries there. They want a little tapping of any thing?—Will you make your point clearer.

2591. Take the number of trades schools that were existing in England before 1902 and the number of trades schools that now exist in England, is there a remarkable difference?—There is not.

2592. Do you say there is the same number possibly?—I say that there is a very slight increase, and I am prepared also to show that there has been a far greater change in Ireland than in England.

(Mr. Miles).—I cannot press that any further, because you have given me a definite answer. It becomes a matter for further evidence; for evidence of expert English witnesses.

2593. (Mr. Gifford).—The average trade school is a school which is entirely covered by such a definition as is in your Act?—Certainly. We have them, and are working them under the Act.

2594. So that the question of numbers of trade schools does not have any direct bearing upon the actual teaching of the practice of a trade?—It has no bearing whatever.

2595. (Mr. Miles).—Take an instance to the contrary—what I would allude to is an instance to the contrary. Take the case of training under the London County Council; take the case of preparing cabinet-makers, and bringing them to a stage of proficiency, where they would walk out of the technical school and get wages at £1 a week?—Shorelinch. I am well aware of that, and we are doing the same here.

2596. Would it have been legal in England before the Act of 1902?—Certainly.

2597. Although the words are, forbidding the "practice of any trade"?—Yes, it was done. There were trade schools in England before that.

June 8, 1906.

Mr. George Fletcher,
L.S.C.

June 6, 1901.

Mr. George
Fletcher,
S.S.A.

2503. There were sums, but it was known they were outside the border line!—We knew all through.

2504. Now, I ask you, are there a great many more when the thing is open?—No; I don't think that the passing of the Act of 1892 made any developments of the kind to which you refer.

2505. Then it is a matter for expert evidence from England?—I have made some inquiries in the matter myself.

2506. (Mr. O'Brien).—I take it that the view you express is that since the passing of the 1892-93 Act have been increased by the authorities there has been a great development of the definite application of instruction to trades and industries?—That application has only, to a limited extent, taken the form of actually training youths in the practice of a trade to an extent which would make them capable of entering as trained men.

(Mr. Micks).—Certainly, not as fully trained men.

2507. (Mr. O'Brien).—You agree that there has been in England considerable improvement in the matter of the application of school education for boys between fourteen and sixteen as a preparation for the work they are going to enter?—Undoubtedly.

2508. There have been established a small number of schools which have gone further than that, and have definitely tended to give youths a preparation in the actual handicraft of the trades?—Yes; some of it was being done before.

2509. There has been an extension, and certain schools in England have been established which do make their end that of preparing boys for a definite trade, giving them not merely the manual training preparatory for trades in general, but specific manual training applicable to specific trades only?—Certainly, I am aware of that; and there has been a very great development in that direction since the passing of the Act of 1892.

2510. Before the passing of the Act of 1892 any work of that kind had to be done with funds found otherwise than by rates?—Yes.

2511. If a school was going to give definite instruction in a trade that instruction had to be paid for otherwise than out of the public funds?—Yes.

2512. Now it can be paid for out of the public funds?—There was, however, already going on a number of schools, which, I think, might fairly be called trade schools, in operation before 1892. At Coventry I saw a weaving and hosiery school.

2513. But your point is that there have been certain additional schools established in England which are preparing most distinctly for particular trades, and giving them not merely the underlying principles in the instruction, but giving them also actual trade work?—Yes.

2514. The number of such schools is not great?—No.

2515. Do you know very many?—I am very anxious to make myself clear in this matter. Before the Act of 1892 there were in England schools which may fairly be called trade schools, supported out of public funds, notwithstanding any restrictions which existed. With the growth of technical instruction they have increased in number, and there has been a widening of opinion in the way of preparing boys specifically for their business in life. I am not aware that the passing of the Act of 1892 had any very great influence on that. The tendency had begun before.

2516. (Mr. Micks).—Therefore the Act was passed to facilitate it; might not that be possible?—It might, certainly. In Ireland, on the other hand, notwithstanding our restrictions, we have these trade schools. I learned while in England the other day that Bradford has started a trade preparatory school very much of the type we started in Belfast three or four years ago.

(Chairman).—I should like to recall the Committee to the questions which are really before us. Our duty is to inquire into and report whether the provisions of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act (1899) that constituted the Department, and the methods which the Department has followed in carrying out those provisions, have been shown by experience to be well suited to the requirements—to be well suited to the conditions of Ireland; whether any, and, if so, what changes are desirable, in these provisions and methods. Therefore, it seems to me that any question—and I think that most of the questions have been more or less directed to that—which goes to show whether or not the provisions of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction

Act of 1899 ought to be changed, and in what direction they ought to be changed, is strictly relevant; and, of course, for that purpose a comparison between English and Scotch methods would hardly be within the scope of our inquiry. I hope the members of the Committee will confine themselves to questions which bear on the point—whether or not there ought to be any change in the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act of 1899. I don't mean to say that the questions have gone beyond that.

2517. (Mr. Micks).—Of course, Mr. Chairman, the way in which this question arose is this—that in the Act constituting this Department, the definition in the English Act of 1899 was followed. After the passing of the Act of 1899 the law was, in 1900, changed in England. The definitions which some people—I don't say Mr. Fletcher, but some people—regarded as being in the way were removed in England. What I am asking about is why should not we in Ireland have the same liberty? (To witness).—Are you aware, or have you ever heard, that the County Council of London has been advised that under the existing Act of 1902 they can go so far as to withdraw apprentices in private works, provided it can satisfy itself that the instruction is given actually and regularly by a competent teacher?—I have heard that, and I am also aware that we can do the same. You are also aware, referring to previous questions—the whole question arose out of this definition, and whether it was restrictive with us—any argument is that it is not in any sense restrictive, that we have started in Ireland such trade schools and have given, when desirable, such instruction in trades as is now being done in England. If you will take what is being done in Belfast and Dublin you will find we give instruction in science as applied to special industries. You will find a textile department in Belfast, an engineering department in Dublin, and in Cork you will find instruction given in book-making. If you go to Lurgan you will find a weaving shop there, and throughout Ireland you will see other schools of that character. As I said quite frankly, I don't see where this restriction has acted harshly, or to our detriment; and that has been entirely owing to our reading of it.

2518. The only thing I cannot see in why should you object to its being removed?—I don't object to its being removed; but you did not ask me that.

2519. Do you object to its removal?—I don't; but our principles will be exactly the same. I am speaking for myself only, but I am prepared to show that we have gone further than they have in England, with their wider powers. I can give you many specific instances, if you desire.

2520. (Mr. O'Brien).—You have just said now, I think for the first time, that you do not object to the definition of technical instruction, as given in section 3, being altered in the direction indicated?—No; but this would be creating a duty upon the Department that the Act now provides for.

2521. The definition of technical instruction, as technical instruction, has not been altered in any of the Acts subsequent to this. Higher education has been used as a term which includes technical instruction—the training of teachers, and a great many other things, including education in the practice of a trade. I want to put to you what seems to me, from an administrative point of view, a very strong reason why you should object to any alteration of the term technical instruction here. It is this. You have now got a scheme for the administration of the Parliamentary grants upon lines which are on all fours with those existing in England and Scotland. The Parliamentary grant is a very elastic method of bringing money into Irish education. The more that you can facilitate the draft of Ireland upon the Parliamentary Vote for technical instruction the better for the interests that we are here to promote; the more simply that you can promote those interests, the more simple the mechanism for working the schools in Ireland the better. I think that goes without saying. If you have, as you at the present moment have, the same definition in effect for the administration of your own money under technical instruction and under grants from Parliamentary Votes, there would be a very great advantage in administering these two grants together. You will not be called upon to make any separate regulations. You will not be called upon to make any distinction between the application of the one money and the other?—Quite so.

2522. In view of that would you be prepared lightly to accept this change of definition, or of

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you in view of that see any objection to the change in the tariff?—I am in entire agreement with what you say. I thought I had made it abundantly clear, that in my view no good purpose would be served by the removal of the restriction. If it were removed, the responsibility would be thrown on us, and we should interpret as we have always done. The removal of it would accomplish nothing, because my argument is that it has existed no restriction on us.

2632. (Mr. Meek.)—That is, the restriction is no restriction?—If this alleged advantage were given to us of removing the restriction it would be no advantage at all.

2633. (Mr. Gifford.)—If for no other purpose; you would find it administratively desirable to replace a sum such as this as contributing your grants under your Act in order that you might bring them on all four with the conditions governing the other grants?—Certainly. I take it that we will still have to act on the principles we have adopted. The restriction may have come up once in two years to be considered, but it has not in practice arisen hardly upon us. I think I have stated that a number of times already. That restriction has not affected us.

(Chairman.)—We have been going over the same ground a good deal.

2634. (Mr. Meek.)—Apart altogether from this question of technical instruction—put technical instruction out of your head—would it be a great assistance to an industry in Ireland upon its being started if the Department could give instruction to young people anxious to learn the business in the works?—Oh, certainly. You put it as a new question, but it is what we are doing constantly.

2635. Have you ever considered the question of how far it would be desirable to assist commercial enterprise at the start in Ireland?—Oh, yes.

2636. To what extent would you assist them?—In the first place, let me say—

2637. I am not only speaking of technical instruction now so much—I believe that technical instruction is at the bottom of the whole thing. It is a condition precedent, and you will never get anything else without it. If you ask me further what steps could be taken I would say, first of all, the very first reading we have made in regard to the phrase technical instruction, the way in which we interpret it, has allowed us to teach apprentices and workers.

2638. To teach the "practice of their trade"?—Oh, no.

2639. I am at it from that point of view. Don't you think it would be an advantage in starting a trade if the Board could openly teach the practice of the trade?—Really, the difference is a little psychological.

2640. You made it yourself, and I thought it was very good—I am really not quite clear than any advantage would be gained by endeavouring to teach the practice of a trade. We say we teach the principles underlying it. I should draw the line at the point where education ceases. If you ask me I think it would be a good thing to go further than that, I would say I see great difficulties in regard to existing industries; difficulties so grave that I believe it would be in the highest degree undesirable and injurious to enter into. With regard to new industries capable of introduction into Ireland, which do not now exist, industries which may have lapsed or are entirely new, where, in other words, the element of competition does not enter, I believe in such a case it is a question for statement to say whether the State might not undertake duties in regard to such an industry that we have no power to undertake now.

2641. But you would not facilitate an industry that could not be regarded as new?—I would not; because the moment you give special terms to one you do an injustice to the other existing ones.

2642. Had you any personal experience of Ireland before you came over here as an inspector?—No.

2643. Have you, since you were appointed as inspector, furnished any general reports to your Department on industrial developments in Ireland?—None other than are to be found scattered about through the annual reports.

2644. I don't mean on any particular industry, but of a general kind?—These reports will be found in the annual reports.

2645. There are some of yours in the appendices?—No; in the body. Moreover, shortly after my visit to the Continent, I made a report on the conditions there regarding industries. I have the report here.

2632. Is that as regards Continental or Irish industries?—Continental. But throughout the annual report you will find a large amount.

2633. But not in any form that I could say, "This is Mr. Fletcher's opinion"?—Yes, I think so. I cannot say that I dealt with them in the general way that we have been dealing with it round this table. That would have been improper for an inspector.

2634. Unless you were asked to do so?—Unless one were asked.

2635. I suppose you have a large number of reports dealing with local industries and commercial undertakings?—An enormous number.

2636. You would have a hundred of them?—Quite.

2637. Could you lay aside for some day when we are visiting the office a few, of those that we could look at?—I see no difficulty, assuming my chiefs have no objection.

2638. You think it is outside the functions of a Department like this to make loans of money, at low interest, for the establishment of industries on commercial lines?—The matter has been decided by law so far as industries other than rural industries are concerned.

2639. It has been decided by legal opinion?—Yes.

2640. Therefore, that ought to be dropped. Would you be in favour of a change in the law that would enable you to carry out the intentions frustrated by your legal opinion?—I think that in the case of certain industries, especially home industries—small industries—loans are very valuable. In regard to the larger industries, factories, I have very grave doubts about it. My own personal opinion is that there is available—there should be available—in Ireland a large sum of money for capitalising such industries, and, therefore, I do not see the need in the case of these larger industries for Government loans.

2641. Then, as regards these larger industries, it is your personal opinion that neither money nor money's worth ought to be given to them at the start?—Given—certainly not.

2642. I mean lent at cheap rates?—I don't think you can differentiate as between one effort and another in the same line of business. These businesses that have been commenced up to the present time—the woollens—have been successful. There is room for many more. With increasing confidence and the growth of technical education in Ireland, there will be more of them, and there is nothing in the way of their succeeding. I don't see at the moment the need for giving a loan unless it was given at a low rate of interest, in which case you must be prepared to treat every one of the industries on the same basis.

2643. You must be prepared to use your discretion?—Oh, no. If you lend to one woollen mill at a low rate of interest you must be prepared to lend to others.

2644. It would be a question of personal discretion, would not it?—I hope not. I would not like to be the person in whom the discretion would be vested.

2645. (Mr. Gifford.)—It is what a banker does?—He uses his discretion with regard to the security.

2646. (Mr. Meek.)—That would be a sufficient reason?—It would not. We would have to use our discretion with regard to criticism. Why lend to one industry at 2½ per cent, while there is another that has to borrow at 5 or 6 per cent?

2647. You are aware from the report of the Recesse Commission and Dr. Gifford's book, you are aware of the industrial system of Ireland from the time of Charles the Second?—Generally.

2648. Do you, as an Englishman, believe that measures were passed against Irish trade?—Yes.

2649. Do you, as an Englishman, think it would be only a matter of fair play that England should facilitate the re-establishment of those industries in Ireland that she was the means of ruining by direct legislation and other means?—Most emphatically. I don't wish to qualify that remark at all; but no aid would be aid which outrages economic principles.

2650. Do you think the persistent action of England in the past did not outrage economic and every other principle?—I am sure it did. You are not going to hold me responsible for the English Government of 200 years ago.

(Mr. Meek.)—I am glad to hear your views are sound on the matter.

(Chairman.)—After this little interlude we will proceed to the next point.

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(Mr. Micks).—It is not an interlude. It is the whole part of the play.

3051. (Mr. Oylet).—We have now come to the commercial bureau, I think. This is a matter that has been brought very frequently before us. We have, as you know, scattered all over Ireland a number of small industries, and we have a difficulty in marketing their products, and it has been thought again and again that something might be done in the direction of helping them in that way, and indeed it is one of those things that we have power to do. We seek to aid those industries in every possible way. Occasionally we send experts to advise them. We give them advice respecting fashions and markets. Every year one of our inspectors goes to London, and collects information in regard to the present and probable trend of fashion in reference to lace. This information is got partly from personal investigation and partly from correspondence with the big houses. We embody that in a circular to those industries, and hope to prevent them from making articles unsuitable for sale. A large number of the smaller industries want some outlet for their goods. The matter has been frequently under the consideration of the Department and the Board of Technical Instruction. The matter is exceedingly difficult, because of the danger of interfering in competition with existing industries. The Board felt the difficulty of their doing this, and no definite steps have been taken; and the more so, as since the question was first mooted a number of efforts have been made by bodies not so restricted as a Government department in the scope of their operations. For example, you have the growth over the country of industrial associations. You have got a most excellent one, publishing a commercial directory, formed in Cork; you have an industrial development association in Dublin, and you have even houses, like the one that exists in Clare-street, for disposing of the products of home industries. The Department would far rather co-operate with a voluntary association of that kind than accept work in which it would find itself continually limited and restricted by rules which you must hold to in the case of a Government department. It is a matter on which the last word has not been said, but we feel that the Department may better assist, and with fewer dangers, by working through those voluntary associations than by undertaking work, in which, at every step, it would meet with difficulty. That, so far as I am concerned, is all I have to say on No. 5.

3052. (Mr. Micks).—What action has been taken on the minute of the 9th of November, 1904, page 1281.—About that time the Dublin Development Association was started, and a house was opened in Clare-street for the disposal of the products of home industries. Pending some experience of the working of this, the Department decided not to take any steps in regard to the establishment of the bureau.

3053. How does the matter stand now?—It is hanging.

3054. Then it is not going to be established?—I cannot say that.

3055. Is anybody doing, to a certain extent, the work that was contemplated?—Yes. First, the industrial association, in the matter of giving information and intelligence; and also the place in Clare-street, which is disposing of the products of a number of home industries. I am not prepared to say that the ground is covered, and the question is not entirely solved yet, but it is in the way of solution.

3056. (Chairman).—Go on now to the Department's scheme for training teachers?—I put in two reports, from which I quoted yesterday, on industries (appendices Nos. XXVI, XXVII). In dealing with the various branches of the work I have dealt so fully with the training of teachers that I can make this section exceedingly short, leaving myself open to answer any questions that may be asked. I have said that directly the work started in the country the Department started the training of Irish teachers to occupy all the positions that were likely to arise. They look to the higher educational institutions in Ireland for providing these with teachers, under normal circumstances; but in view of the exceptional circumstances and the backwardness of technical education in Ireland, it was necessary to take immediate steps. Hence the summer courses for training teachers, to which I have referred, and also the exceptional steps taken to train manual instructors and teachers of domestic economy. I think I have described these courses of training. I will refer, however, to steps that

we have taken to train teachers of commercial subjects. There is grave need for improvement in commercial education as a branch of technical education. We have had started a school of commerce at Rathman, and many counties and urban centres have started the teaching of commerce, using local teachers. I need scarcely say that this involves for the most part the teaching of the elementary part of commercial work—short-hand, type-writing, and the like. We have exercised considerable restriction on the multiplication of these classes. Indeed, I well remember discussing this matter with the County Galway Committee, when, for the previous year, they had had large classes a shorthand and type-writing in a rural district. I remember meeting the committee, and taking great exception to this, on the ground that we were educating boys and girls in rural districts to leave those districts to take up work in which there were very few vacancies. I was very much opposed; but I pointed out that such instruction might very properly be given in urban centres, and suggested that their plan would be to find a Galway man, to whom we would approve the giving of a scholarship, send him away for a couple of years to some approved school of commerce, and then bring him back to teach commercial subjects in the county. They took that view, and sent one away. The Department then instituted a scheme, under which we may choose each year half-a-dozen of the best men we can find in various parts of the country, and these men may go to any approved school of commerce in the world. The value of the scholarships is £100 each. As a matter of fact, all our scholars have gone to the School of Economics in connection with the University of London.

3057. (Mr. Micks).—In what subjects did the Galway boy get instruction?—He was allowed a large amount of freedom. He was a young man, not a youth. He had experience in a commercial office. One of these men had an excellent knowledge of French. We allowed the men to draw up their own time-table and programme, which we were to review.

3058. Was it for any subjects, such as shorthand?—No; we advised them to go in for higher business methods and statistics.

3059. Is any of the pupils now a teacher?—To those who went off in the first year—I think five—at the end of the year the Department gave the option of coming back to work immediately in the country, or to take a second year of instruction. Two of them have returned to Ireland, and have been at work—one in Galway and one in Cork. Both these young men have now applied for a renewal, and I am recommending the Department to grant a renewal, because I find there is a very great advantage in having a year's work in the country and working in between the two years' courses of training.

3060. (Chairman).—They want to go back to Ireland?—Yes, and we allow them to do it. We shall allow two students who have had one year's course in London to replace them.

3061. Do you think these men will come back to Ireland?—They will come back to Ireland. We have taken definite steps to retain them. The Department is proposing, with the concurrence of the Board of Technical Instruction, to employ them at a commensurate salary of £150; and we are proposing to co-operate with the local authorities, by lending them for a certain time the services of these men, charging their expense against the county.

3062. (Mr. Micks).—What subjects do they get instruction in in London?—Modern languages, statistics, banking, business methods, and shorthand, and commercial law. There is a very excellent syllabus drawn up.

3063. Do they get certificates there?—Yes; and we have certificates also from the school of the progress of their work. Last year we got a large number of applications, but were only able to choose two out of the number who applied. Although we might have appointed a half-dozen, they were not of the right type; and I believe the reason for that was that they had previously we were not able to say to the men coming up, "You will get a post after taking this." I remember interviewing some dozens of candidates myself for these posts, and their attitude was, "What will happen at the end of it? Will you guarantee us a post?" My reply was, "No, we are unable to do that; but there is a great need for teachers, and it is almost certain that you will be appointed by county committees." We have asked the Board to allow us to appoint these trained people directly, and allow their services for such parts of the country as may best avail of them.

2664. (Chairman).—It is thus referred to in a minute of the Board of Technical Instruction: "23rd November, 1905.—Met Mr. Dr. Glancy, while agreeing largely with Sir Edward Fitzgerald, pointed out that Ireland held a backward position in the commercial world, and that it was most desirable to provide trained teachers of commercial subjects. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the Department would directly appoint, for a limited period, a certain number of special teachers, whose services would be available for work in connection with county schemes."—That was the sanction for employing them. The matter had been previously before the Board, and the Board had sanctioned the scholarships.

2665. (Mr. O'Leary).—You are preparing these men, so that they will be able to give instruction of a very much higher standard than at present there is any demand for?—Yes; everywhere in the country, with some brilliant exceptions, commercial instruction is very backward and unprogressive; but of higher business methods we have few teachers.

2666. (Chairman).—These people have not come back and started teaching yet?—Two have been at work in the country. I am able to give a full answer to Mr. Micks on the question he asked me a moment ago. He was asking the subjects. I have taken the work of one of the students. The director of the institution, Mr. Macdonald, certifies that this student has been a regular attendant during the past term at lectures on industrial and commercial law, the organisation of reference to the British Empire; the British Constitution, public administration with special reference to the local government of Great Britain; municipalities in England, their constitution and functions; principles of economics, including history of economics; theory, method, and application of statistics; history and geography, economic basis of social relations at the present day, methods of investigation. I have visited these students in the College, and they are making excellent progress; and we believe it is a sound way of preparing teachers of commerce. There is only one other point I need mention in regard to this school. It is that while we can train teachers, and are training teachers, for every branch of our work we don't know any method of training headmasters. The same kind of training that will do for one will not do for the other; but we shall be able to select from those who have been trained as teachers men to occupy these higher positions.

2667. The training is the same, but the personal qualities are different?—The personal qualities vary; and it is also very wise that the teachers should get a little additional experience of technical education where it is being developed.

2668. You are not training individual headmasters, but you are training the breed?—You cannot train for a headmaster any more than you can train for a field-marshal. Now I come to the work of the central institutions—the Royal College of Science, and its relation to the work of the Department. I don't know to what extent you wish me to describe the Royal College of Science. I believe the members of the Committee have inspected it. I have here the programme for the session, and from it you will learn that we have a certain number of faculties. Some three or four years ago a scheme of reorganisation took place, and agriculture was admitted as a faculty. We are seeking to develop the work, so as to attach it to the Department's general scheme of education throughout the country. Considerable steps have been taken in that direction, and progress made; but that progress must remain hindered until we are in a position to properly house the college. We have buildings in course of erection. When those are up our hands will be very considerably freed, and we will be able to do many things which are quite impossible now, owing to the want of accommodation. The engineering faculty is specially handicapped in the present building. For the last two years we have been depending on the courtesy of the Dublin City Committee, and utilizing their workshops, for which, of course, we have paid a rent. A large portion of the agricultural work has to be done at the farm at Glanara. We are restricted in the way of developments at the present time. Very strong representations have been made to us for the establishment of a public health museum and a Veterinary Institute, but however desirable such a thing is—and we consider it highly desirable—we are handicapped

in the matter of space, as I think you have already seen.

2669. (Mr. Micks).—Does the National Library come into your branch at all?—No.

2670. (Mr. O'Leary).—Would you mind telling me what is the precise position as to the building at present?—The plans have been approved by the Department, and the matter rests with the Board of Works. It is entirely a matter of progress.

2671. Do you happen to know if the estimates have been accepted?—I cannot say. I know that the plans have been through the office, and intimated by the Vice-President. They were very carefully gone through, both by us here and the professors of the College.

2672. Have you had any indication of the date on which you may expect to be put in possession of the new building?—No; I am not aware.

2673. Have you anything to tell us as to the history of the projected connection between the College of Science and the other sections of teaching work in your Department?—Yes. That has been most marked in two directions up to now. First, the establishment of the faculty of agriculture, and the training of teachers for the itinerant teaching of agriculture at that institution. There are forty such students in the College now. The other development has been in the direction of summer courses, of which I have already spoken. A number of summer courses are held there every year. For the rest, the College of Science has formed the training ground for our teachers.

2674. Is that the policy for the future, do you mean?—Yes; that is one of its main functions. It is not the entire function it must perform for the country, but the same sort of function the Royal College of Science in London performs—that is, in the way of training engineers. Training teachers is not its sole function. The College is training engineers, and giving instruction in the higher branches of pure and applied science. We are anxious it should fulfil that function, and not overlap the work of higher technical schools, either in Dublin or elsewhere. I think there is room for the fullest development of high-class technical instruction both in Dublin and Belfast; but this work of the College of Science is of a national character, and we draw the best students from all parts of the country. The College would not be fulfilling its functions unless we made provision for the highest type of education in Ireland.

2675. What is the relation of the work of the students to examination work or other functions of a university in Ireland or elsewhere?—We have not drawn up our programme with special reference to the programme of any university, but many of our students do sit for examination at the Royal.

2676. In what facilities in this connection with the Royal University most marked?—In physics and chemistry and engineering.

2677. Can you say how many students of the Royal College graduated last year in the Royal University?—I could not offend; but I will try to get you that information. I ought to say that, though they have done so, they have done so without any very carefully arranged co-ordination, because the College of Science cannot be said to exist for precisely the same purposes as the Royal University. First of all, the Royal University is not a teaching, it is an examining, body.

2678. And the College of Science does not require the courses necessary in the Royal University?—Quite so.

2679. And, therefore, if the students go up for graduation they have to do it at some personal inconvenience?—Yes. You will see the impossibility of arranging a course intended, say, for teachers of agriculture, to make that efficient, and yet work for a university degree, at least on the lines on which they work in Ireland. There is very much more that we might say about the Royal College of Science.

2680. (Mr. Micks).—Have the plans been considered by the Department?—Yes.

2681. Has any other body asked to be allowed to see the plans—the Visitors, for instance?—I think I would rather you would ask that question of the Secretary, for this reason, the Secretary said in his evidence that the College of Science is really administered by the Secretariat. I am not ultimately responsible, though I am in close touch with the institution; and I could not answer your question with confidence.

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The Metropolitan School of Art is also undergoing a wide reorganisation, so as to fit the work there specially to the needs of the Department. The Department do not regard these central institutions as really distinct from the other parts of their work. They regard them as part of an organic whole, and that the teaching of these institutions should be co-ordinated with the other schemes of education all over the country.

2582. (Chairman).—The School of Art is specially mentioned in the Act—it is mentioned in section 2 (1) (g). This was one of the departments previously administered by South Kensington. I have recently given evidence on the working of the Metropolitan School of Art and its relation to other art institutions in Dublin before a Committee appointed to inquire into the art institutions; but I will now say all that I think is necessary. Since the Department took over the School they have sought to develop it particularly in a direction which would enable the teaching to be applied to art industries in Ireland. They, therefore, included in the curriculum instruction in stained glass work, mosaic work, enamelling, and certain other art crafts. They appointed as headmaster Mr. Willis, who had charge of this work of reorganisation, but who, we all regret, died in the middle of his work last August. That had been a set-back, to some extent, and since this time the School has been without any headmaster. We hope that the work of reorganisation will be pushed on vigorously, but it is not easy to find the precise type of teacher who will undertake so responsible and difficult a piece of work.

2583. (Mr. Micko).—Why has that School been left for a whole year without a headmaster?—For the reason I have just mentioned—the difficulty of finding, at the salary we were able to offer, a man having the qualifications.

2584. (Mr. O'Connell).—What is the salary?—From £600, by £25 increases, to £700.

2585. (Mr. Micko).—Have you advertised for it?—No.

2586. Have you had applications for it?—Many.

2587. The appointment has not been made at all events?—The appointment has not been made. We are very desirous of making it. We had decided on a gentleman that we thought would have done this work exceedingly, but there was a financial difficulty about his appointment. He wanted more than the Treasury allowed.

2588. It is a serious matter that a school like the Metropolitan School of Art should be without a headmaster for a whole year?—Well, there is a good assistant master there. An institution of that kind is not like an ordinary secondary school in which the headmaster must pull together all the parts of the work. It goes on very much like the Royal College of Science, with separate branches of work and separate teachers. The teaching has been supplemented of course.

2589. (Mr. O'Connell).—The assistant master has been acting as headmaster, and you have been supplying temporary additions to relieve him of his ordinary work, or to relieve someone else to relieve him?—I am not saying that the existing state of things is satisfactory.

2590. (Mr. Micko).—Is it not most unusual that a school of art should be left like that for a year without a headmaster?—I cannot generalise as I know of only one other institution like that.

2591. Did you take exceptional measures to try and get the Treasury to increase the salary?—Yes.

2592. Will the sum that has been voted by Parliament for the salary be surrendered to the Treasury?—Yes, in respect of that year.

2593. (Mr. O'Connell).—It probably has been surrendered?—Yes. Mr. Micko is aware that any voted money must be surrendered if not used. I ought to say also, that in certain items of the vote, where we spent more than the estimate, we can transfer, and we have done so. As a matter of fact, in our secondary schools science and art vote, we wanted £17,000. The Treasury thought £15,000 would be sufficient but as a matter of fact we required £12,500, and that was found.

(Mr. O'Connell).—Altogether you have not done so badly during the past year.

2594. (Mr. Micko).—You would not say it was not bad to have the school without a headmaster for a whole year?—Oh, yes; the inference might be that it was neglected.

2595. No, but that it was not at its full efficiency?—It won't be at its full efficiency for many years.

There is a tremendous amount of uphill work to be done in connection with the school. The Irish Training School of Domestic Economy in Kildare-street; that is a school we took over from an association called the Irish Association for the Training and Employment of Women. It was in existence for many years before the Department came into being, but it was in a somewhat languishing condition. The Department mislaid it as soon as they began the work, and utilised it for training teachers for Ireland. Hitherto most of those holding certificates from it left the country. Immediately we proceeded to turn it to our needs in Ireland—to train teachers for Ireland. The Department entered into negotiations, and finally the school was transferred to the Department.

We now administer it solely from this office. I have put in the programme of the school, from which you will learn how it is organised. We have made a number of changes all round. Rather valuable scholarships are given by the Department, including free tuition. There is an entrance examination, both personal and written. Students chosen for admission are put through a two years' course. Last year we sent a selected number of candidates down to the Munster Institute in Cork, to get a further course of training in rural economy. Others we selected and allowed to take a course in high class cookery. We improve the course continually. Last year science was ably taught in the Kearn-street Technical School. Now we have equipped a laboratory, and the teaching will be given by a lady teacher next session. We desire that the training given in this school shall be the highest possible, but adapted especially to our needs. Our needs, while they are similar to, are not identical with those of England. The needs of rural districts require very special consideration. Without repeating much that you might see from the programme, I don't know that there is any more that I have to mention. Now, sir, I come to the question of scholarships, and here again I need say little.

2596. (Chairman).—You do not mention the number of students at this place?—Last year there were seventy-two; the number of teachers in training admitted to the school this session is forty-one.

2597. Where do they come from chiefly?—They are drawn from all parts of the country. Some of the counties give what are called limited scholarships. They send a girl up and contribute half the fees.

2598. Do they come more from the north than elsewhere?—No; quite otherwise. As a matter of fact, I believe, before we took it over, there was a sort of natural differentiation. It was a differentiation in the way of possessing money; the fees stood in the way of the poor able girl.

2599. What do you say the fees are now?—Twenty guineas for the two years' course. We give scholarships involving free tuition. They are given on the basis of a written, and afterwards a personal, examination by the Department.

2600. How in Dublin?—The examination is conducted in several centres.

2601. (Mr. O'Connell).—How many of the forty-one students are going there the first year, and how many the second year?—About half and half.

2602. (Chairman).—It was in existence when you took it over?—We took it over on the 1st of August, 1905.

2603. Is this the principal place for the training of teachers in domestic economy?—It is the only one in Ireland.

2604. (Mr. Brown).—It is not intended to compete with the school in Waterford?—No; there is no difference in different parts of the country that story of school, but we are quite satisfied that for teachers on is sufficient for the needs of Ireland.

2605. (Chairman).—Are there any trained in this school now acting as teachers?—A very large number. I have a list of those trained in the school, showing where they are now being employed. They are employed almost entirely in Ireland. We can place no effective restriction on their going away.

2606. (Mr. O'Connell).—Except by paying them better in Ireland than elsewhere?—I am very glad to hear we have done one good thing.

2607. (Mr. Micko).—If you give the young men employment in Ireland, would not the girls be likely to get married and settle down here?—We do give the young men employment. I have a list showing what became of all the students trained by us. The vast bulk remain in Ireland.

2708. (Chairman).—As teachers?—Certainly; inevitably, because the vast majority of those that we are training specially are being trained as teachers, and sixty-two out of fifty manual instructors are already at work.

2709. Can you give us some corresponding figures with regard to this school, and also in regard to the Metropolitan School of Art?—We have got the fullest information we can; but directly you get away from these special courses devised for this special and then it is great difficulty in following them. At the Metropolitan School of Art the people are not trained specially for teaching. A person may come in and take a course of work.

2710. For, this is a case in which you are training people for a special calling, and more or less keep your eye on them afterwards?—Yes; and the results are extraordinarily good. They have remained for the purposes for which they have been trained. The next point also need not be lengthy. I refer to the system of scholarships, and I would like to give briefly the three of the scholarships we maintain. First we have scholarships for primary to secondary schools, of from £4 to £30; scholarships at day trade preparatory schools, generally including free admission, but sometimes carrying payment; next the scholarships at residential schools of domestic economy training, £15; local science and art exhibitions, value £50 each. We have revised the scheme for local science and art exhibitions, offering greater freedom under the new scheme for the administration of science and art grants. We have science and technological scholarships and bursarships in training at the Royal College of Science. These are worth £50 and railway expenses. We have teachers in training at the Metropolitan School of Art, getting a guinea a week at present. The science and technological scholarships are worth £50 a year, and the teacherships in training a guinea a week. The teachers in training at the school of domestic economy and cookery have free tuition. The commercial scholarships, to which I have referred, are held in the School of Commerce in London, are worth £100, and we have certain industrial scholarships to which reference has not been made. These are three of those industrial scholarships being held during the present term. This year, for example, we sent a man employed in the woollen industry to take a course at the Yorkshire College, in Leeds. Another one is taking out the work of house decorating at the School of Arts and Crafts in Canterbury; and another scholar is learning tapestry and rug-weaving. These scholarships are worth £80 a year, and are given yearly.

2711. That comes out of the endowment?—It comes out of the endowment. In reply to your questions as to the students who have passed through the Irish training school of domestic economy, there are thirty who received diplomas or certificates other than the full diploma, that is to say students who were already in the school under the old conditions. Twenty-seven of these are being employed in Ireland, one is being employed in England, and of two we have no record. We have another batch of forty who have taken the full diploma. Twenty-four are in Ireland, one in London, and of the fifteen others the majority are awaiting situations—probably they will obtain them next session.

2712. (Mr. Gifford).—That forty represents two years' output?—Yes. These scholarships are all awarded by competition. A very heavy duty is thrown on the Department, having regard to the examinations in connection therewith. All these examinations are conducted by us. I have here a very long list of examinations which we hold at various times during the year.

2713. (Chairman).—Do the officials of the Department act as examiners?—We employ very many outside examiners, but in some cases we find it important to have an inspector of the Department as a co-examiner. In the College of Science the examinations are usually conducted by a professor of the College and a co-examiner. In the case of a simple examination, such as the entrance examination to the trade preparatory school, or a qualifying examination, in which no very serious responsibility can occur, the examiner may be an inspector of the Department. When a big thing is at stake, like a scholarship, we strengthen the examination in every way possible.

2714. Is there much competition for these scholarships?—Yes; keen competition.

2715. (Mr. Gifford).—Do you wish to say anything about scholarships under local schemes?—I have al-

ready referred to scholarships from day primary schools transferable to secondary schools, and the numbers of those who are shown in the diagram behind you. They have gone up to 182.

2716. (Mr. Brown).—What value are the scholarships?—From £4 to £30. We find that this works exceedingly well, because it adjusts the amounts to the needs as nearly as may be, and in connection with this many very interesting questions come up when discussing the question with the local committees, as, for example, whether you should allow the best boys from any part of the county to hold the scholarships in competition, or whether you should tie the scholarships to certain specific districts. Of course, under perfect conditions, you would say, "Choose the best boy from whatever part of the county he comes"; but, as a matter of fact, we have found it expedient to modify that in some cases, and to tie a scholarship to a district. Assuming a boy was good enough, and could pass the qualifying test, we would choose him from that district, so as to distribute the advantages among the districts. That was absolutely necessary, for grave dissatisfaction would have arisen had the district got no facilities whatever under the scheme, but ultimately, of course, the ideal plan is to take the brightest boy.

2717. (Mr. Gifford).—To take the brightest boy would be fair if all the schools were equally satisfactory as a means of developing a boy's brightness?—That is so; but that would also have, we should hope, an effect on the school itself. A school which failed continuously to win a scholarship would be regarded as an indifferent school, and would suffer. You are quite right in your general contention.

2718. The presumption being that the scholarship should be in a district if there is a qualified boy there?—Yes, the presumption is that. The number of scholarships available for all Ireland would otherwise, perhaps, fall to a few centres. You must make a concession to local feeling.

2719. You don't mean it naturally as a concession to local feeling, but regard it as a proper principle?—Yes. You are already aware that drawing in elementary schools in England was under the direction of the Science and Art Department, and a grant was given for this, and that that grant was also available in Ireland except in national schools. That is to say, there are a certain number of primary schools that were receiving this grant for drawing and manual instruction. We inherited that duty, and this instruction is being given in about ninety schools. I believe they are almost entirely Christian Brothers' schools. The Department have to inspect the drawing in these schools, and grants are made; and there was a total payment in 1904-05 of £1,355 7s. 8d. It is a small part, but an essential part, of our work.

2720. Is drawing and manual instruction looked after by the examiners?—I am afraid there is very little manual instruction in national schools.

2721. Is there any provision for assisting it?—Not specially. There is for drawing, but drawing is not compulsory there. It is, unfortunately, by no means general in the national schools.

2722. (Mr. Brown).—Is it the restriction of section 30 that prevents dealing with the national schools?—Yes.

2723. But it does not prevent you from dealing with primary schools not under the National Board?—That restriction relates to the endowment, not to the Science and Art Vote. This money is given out of the Parliamentary Vote.

2724. Then this section 30 does not affect you?—No.

2725. Then what makes the distinction between schools under the National Board and elementary schools not under the National Board?—The national school system in Ireland has never been connected with South Kensington in the same way as the primary schools were in England. The Christian Brothers' schools have never worked in connection with the National Board, and they took up the South Kensington system.

2726. It is not the state of the law prevents it?—There is nothing to prevent this Department undertaking the teaching of drawing, domestic economy, or manual instruction in national schools; if the Treasury choose to give a grant, as they did elsewhere, we could take up the work.

2727. Is there any restriction against it?—The pounds, shillings, and pence restriction.

2728. (Mr. Gifford).—Suppose the managers of the national schools applied to you for recognition of

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their schools in drawing and manual instruction what would you answer to?—We should say we had no power to do it.

2739. Why?—We have no money. The endowment is controlled by the Act, and the Treasury has never approved of the expenditure by us of any voted money on national schools in Ireland.

2740. The Treasury have sanctioned a vote for the current year of a certain amount of money for drawing and manual instruction in certain schools in Ireland; is there anything in that authority which prevents its extension to national schools?—Yes, national schools are expressly excluded under the regulations under which the money is given.

2741. (Mr. Browne).—Under the Treasury regulations?—Yes.

2742. (Mr. O'Gillivray).—It is in the arrangements by which the grant was awarded previous to the establishment of this Department?—Yes.

2743. With reference to the exclusion of national schools from these payments for drawing and manual instruction, do you happen to know what is the respect of money being available for teaching these subjects in national schools from some other source?—Presumably. It is a point that I am not prepared to deal with.

2744. The Commissioners were in possession of funds that were assumed to be sufficient for the whole elementary education to be carried on in the schools?—I think so.

2745. (Mr. Browne).—That was the position so far as the science and art grant is concerned; that these national schools of Ireland are absolutely forbidden to participate in these science and art grants?—Oh, no.

2746. I understood that was the effect of what you said?—No.

2747. (Mr. Miles).—Is there any manual instruction in the national schools?—Practically none. Some years ago the report of a Commission on manual training was issued.

2748. (Mr. Browne).—I thought that was dropped?—Not dropped, but largely reduced.

2749. Could we see a copy of the Treasury regulations to clear my mind on the subject in regard to drawing and manual instruction in national schools?—I will show it to you; but what I want to make clear to you is this: I wish to make clear something that I said yesterday which may be misunderstood. I suggested an arrangement by which we might have special centres, and have students attending from the national schools in the daytime at these centres. Immediately it may be said: "You have no power; the Act does not allow you." Quite so, but there is nothing to prevent our doing this work under the Science and Art Vote, if funds were found for the purpose.

2750. If you had a teacher already employed in the district teaching evening classes, and if there was a national school in the district you might employ him to give instruction, not in the school itself but at some centre?—Or in the school. At the moment, however, we are prevented from doing it because the expense of doing it would have to be borne from the endowment, and section 30 says you must not spend any money in these schools.

2751. If the science and art grants were available the remuneration of the teacher applicable to that particular work might come out of the grant?—Certainly.

2752. (Mr. O'Gillivray).—The history of the science and art grants does not lend itself to this extension. Here is the 1899 Directory. The vote is applied, "(4) The grants for drawing and manual instruction in elementary schools, which are not under the English or Scotch Education Department, or the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland." Therefore at that time the Government held the annual vote for elementary education in England, Scotland, and Ireland, as charged with the whole duty of providing elementary education to children of school age; that is to say including whatever of drawing and manual instruction was supposed to be necessary; and the science and art administrative vote, as applicable to schools outside the elementary education of the country?—No.

2753. That is how it reads?—I inspected those schools for some years, and it is a fact that the grants from the Science and Art Department were given to public elementary schools in England in respect of drawing and manual instruction.

2754. (Mr. Browne).—Even those under the English Education Department?—Undoubtedly.

2755. (Mr. Miles).—What date are you speaking of?—I am speaking of some years prior to my coming here.

2756. Would you be referring to that particular year—1899?—No.

2757. (Mr. Browne).—Can you tell us whether there has been any alteration in the law since 1899?—

(Mr. O'Gillivray).—I can tell you that in England there is the legal descendant of this grant, £200, paid to old schools that are not under the local authority. It is not in the Directory of 1899?—I can explain that. It was shortly before I came to Ireland. The work had devolved on the inspectors of the Science and Art Department, and was paid for by a grant from the Science and Art Departments before the work of that Department was transferred to the Board of Education; but my contention is hardly touched, which is that the Science and Art Department administered these grants by Treasury sanction, and it would be quite possible for this Department to do so, assuming the Treasury agreed to the proposal.

2758. But at the present time, as at that time, the grants for drawing and manual instruction in schools under any one of the three National Boards were under the vote?—In 1899 the grants allowed for drawing and manual instruction in elementary schools were paid for by the South Kensington Department, and inspected by them. A change took place, and this work was transferred to Whitehall, and an addition was made to the regulation—"The vote is applied to grants for drawing and manual instruction in elementary schools," and this was the addition, "Which are not under the English or Scotch Education Department, or the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland." It was in that year it was taken by Whitehall, but the power remains untouched.

2759. The point is whether the money that was applied to teaching, drawing, and manual work in elementary schools, and which was transferred to Whitehall in that year was similarly, in Ireland, made available for the National Commissioners?—That I cannot give you an answer upon. What I am anxious to show is that there is nothing to prevent an arrangement by which we could be made responsible for such part of the work as we are able to do by our staff of teachers.

2760. (Mr. Browne).—You could only do it in a very small way without a large addition to the staff?—We could do much useful work with a slight addition.

2761. (Mr. Miles).—Do you think you could do drawing one day in the week in a school?—Undoubtedly. As to domestic economy, there is in the upper standards much lack of that work, and we could undertake such work to the great advantage of everybody concerned if funds were available.

2762. (Mr. O'Gillivray).—You could undertake it, but do you think it is a desirable thing to separate off, within the curriculum of the elementary school, one section of the educational work that is being done through the others?—No. I call to mind here what I said about secondary schools. We distinctly deprecate such a division, but in our national schools in Ireland the work has not been done at all.

2763. But it would be possible to do it under the organisation that is responsible for the rest of the school; that any assistance of a special kind that was desirable could be arranged for from the specialist department?—Certainly. The grants were not made available for national schools in Ireland. It is, perhaps, an important point.

On resuming after an adjournment.

2764. (Chairman).—Now, Mr. Fletcher, I think we are ready for the equivalent grant?—I, sir, am ready to answer any questions in reference to that. I think, by the equivalent grant—Mr. O'Gillivray's little statement the grant in aid of technical instruction, as defined by the Technical Instruction Act of 1889, and provided in the regulations of the Science and Art Directory. In Clause 26 of the Directory of 1900, there is a statement that grants will be paid in Ireland in aid of technical instruction given under the Technical Instruction Act of 1889, and laying down conditions. The grant in aid will be made to a school aided by rate locally, and will be equal in amount to the sum contributed by the local authority out of their rate for instruction in subjects other than those for which the Board give aid under the Science and Art Directory.

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You see, from that, the grant was a grant equivalent to that contributed from the rates by the local authority. Undoubtedly when the Department commenced its work its officers were under the impression that that grant would have been continued. It was not the case, however. The Treasury did not take that view, and the grant, which then had been standing at a maximum rate of £2,500, was continued to us for three years. That, in brief, is the position.

2755. (Mr. O'Connell).—Well, I believe, Mr. Fletcher, that the whole question was thrust out in Parliament a year or two ago on the basis of the grants then available?—It has been thrust out many times I believe, both in Ireland and in Parliament. I need not say that very many and strong representations have been made to the Department from time to time. The question has attracted a very considerable amount of interest in the country. Meetings have been held, and, as the Committee probably know, a deputation went to the then Chief Secretary, Mr. Wyndham. As a final result of the deputation it was decided that the amount should be increased to £7,000, which would be a grant in aid, and which is now available.

2756. Permanently available?—Permanently.

2757. (Mr. Brown).—Is that permanent?—It is.

2758. (Mr. McKel).—Except that the £7,000 might be increased?—Yes; certainly.

2759. It was put in expressly, I think, at the time, that the £7,000 was liable to be increased?—Mr. McKel is quite right. It was merely as a starting point.

2760. (Mr. O'Connell).—Now, I think, that from the explanation you were able to give us yesterday it is probably unnecessary for us, or for the country at large, to consider it any longer. It appears to me that it is one of the grievances that have been removed; for, as I am not right in understanding, that the grants you are at liberty to pay out of the amount placed at your disposal in the vote are limited by a requirement that the local authority should provide at least one-fourth of the expenditure. Is that the standing rule?—No; that is not the standing rule in regard to technical instruction.

2761. I don't mean technical instruction. I am speaking of the science and art grants in the vote?—No. There is no such requirement; are you not thinking of the grants that were made in respect of equipment?

2762. Not at all.—I am asking you about the annual grant in aid of science and art instruction—the grant which is placed upon the vote, and which will not fall to be distributed or administered according to the regulations you have now in force?—The revised regulations you may say fall briefly under two heads: those which provide a capitation grant, and those dealing with schools of art and apprenticeship schools. In this case we are able to pay three-fourths of the total expense, and one-fourth will fall on the locality.

2763. You may pay out of the Parliamentary Grant three-fourths of the expense of schools of art and apprenticeship schools?—That is so.

2764. With regard to other schools and classes aided out of the Parliamentary Vote, what limits are there in respect of local assistance? Is there any condition as to the proportion of local assistance afforded in the case of other schools than these?—None.

2765. So that the grant which is set forth in your new regulations will be payable irrespective of whether the local authority finds, or does not find, one-fourth, or any other proportion of the expenses?—Certainly. That is so.

2766. Then let us come back to the position in 1900. There were certain grants, science and art grants, available for certain specified subjects of instruction in pure science and pure art. These were the grants that hitherto had been administered by you?—That is so.

2767. In 1900 it was apparently recognised by all concerned that it was desirable that there should be further assistance in respect of instruction given in subjects other than the specified subjects, assistance in respect of subjects more directly applied to principles of science and art and trade industries than was possible under the Science and Art Bursary?—Again that is correct.

2768. And it was in respect of that section of education that the English and Scotch County Councils were afforded an opportunity—it was a voluntary opportunity—of spending their residue grant?—Yes.

2769. Ireland had no similar grant available at the time, and it was in respect of that section of technical instruction that this grant in aid of technical instruction was then given?—Undoubtedly.

2770. That section of technical instruction, the section for which this grant in aid of technical instruction was given in 1900, is now, I take it, absolutely covered by the possibility of grants under your new regulations?—Yes; I agree that, with the reservation I shall shortly make, that is undoubtedly the case.

2771. That section previously covered by that is now covered by this?—Assuming, of course, the elasticity of the science and art grant in accordance with our requirements.

2772. It is absolutely elastic. You have regulations now which enable you to spend public money for aiding this section of education, and as the work is done, so the money will be paid. The money is as elastic as the work is done?—Subject to Treasury control, that is so.

2773. Did you ever know the Treasury to refuse to follow up an expansion of grant which had been proposed in such a way?—They have been.

2774. It is not usual; at least, I know no case. Therefore there is every reason to be expected that the grant is now as elastic as the work?—We believe so.

2775. With the exception of the limits as to local contributions, the grants you are now going to administer are freer than was the grant in aid of technical instruction?—Much freer.

2776. Your previous grant had to be balanced by at least an equal amount found locally. Now, in the only case where there is any limitation as to local contribution, it is one-fourth instead of one-half the local authority has to find?—I am very glad I have not to defend the equivalent grant.

2777. What I want to get from you is whether you are not now in the most fortunate position of being able to congratulate your Department on having secured from the Treasury, from the Parliamentary Vote, a provision in aid of technical instruction, which covers all that could ever have been covered by the grant in aid of technical instruction, and does so in satisfactory form?—I think I suggested, when pressed in this matter, that we had no grievance—in other words, I believe that under this scheme, of which the Treasury has approved, we will be under no disabilities. It is true that in the ten years before the passing of the Act of 1899, there were the gravest disabilities. I am prepared to show that hundreds of thousands of pounds that should have come to Ireland for technical instruction, did not come. At present I must grant to Mr. O'Connell his contention that since these revised regulations have been approved—

2778. (Mr. McKel).—When were they approved?—They have only been approved within the last month.

2779. Then their operation is future?—Yes. They operate from the 1st of next August. I grant Mr. O'Connell's contention, assuming a free field for these regulations, and I have no reason to believe they will not have a free field. I think they will confer the greatest benefit on Irish education.

2780. (Chairman).—How did you manage to get round the Treasury?—Very strenuous and urgent representations were made by the bodies concerned.

2781. (Mr. McKel).—Is it looked upon by the Treasury as a substitute for the equivalent grant?—I have no means of telling.

2782. Have you heard it put forward in that way?—No, because this is a recent idea. I think I may say, however, that the Treasury regard the endowment as a substitute.

2783. (Mr. O'Connell).—That was made abundantly clear in Parliament; that was the official point of view; I am now looking at it from the Irish point of view?—From the Irish point of view I can understand quite clearly about the educational grant—I don't care whether you call it equivalent grant or something else—that we have been labouring under great disabilities, and that these disabilities are now removed.

2784. (Mr. McKel).—You hope they will disappear in the future?—I believe they have disappeared.

2785. As regards the past, would not the Department have had more money at their disposal if the equivalent grant arrangement had gone on from 1877 to the present day?—Certainly.

2786. Therefore to that extent?—You mean had grown as equivalent to the total amount of the local rate?

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8787. Yes!—Oh, certainly.

8788. So to that extent there is a reason for complaint—I must not beg the question then. If the equivalent grant had gone on from the passing of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act at the present time we would now have been in possession of £28,000 a year.

8789. Perhaps you would not have got it all. Some places did not strike a rate!—The majority struck a rate.

8790. (Mr. O'Grady).—When did they strike a rate—not for 1900?—Well, during 1900. The Act came into operation on the 1st of April. It is not perhaps correct to say £28,000, but a large amount.

8791. (Mr. Micks).—You could have done some building on that!—We are very badly in want of a building fund. I think I made that clear. I have got a final statement here which will show you that we are poor.

8792. If you did get the money you could have had £350,000 to your credit!—Undoubtedly.

8793. (Mr. O'Grady).—Have you not been getting annually, £78,000, which is the money derived from the Local Taxation and Excise Act, money which corresponds to that given in England, going to the endowment fund of the Department?—At the passing of the Local Taxation Act in 1900 the sum of £78,000, the Irish equivalent of what went in England to technical instruction, went in Ireland to the National Board of Education.

8794. (Mr. Micks).—What was the Irish share—can you tell me?—£125,000; but it is only right to say that the £1,100,000 in England was not devoted wholly to technical instruction; £300,000 was devoted to police superannuation; and similarly in Scotland. We are dealing with £78,000 only which went to the National Board here, and came back to the Department under our Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act.

8795. That money went in England to technical instruction and in Scotland to technical instruction, but in Ireland it went to the National Board and the Intermediate Board?—That is so.

8796. (Mr. O'Grady).—It is not quite so. It went in England very largely and in Scotland to some extent!—To the extent of £50,000.

8797. Not for 1890?—I am dealing with the allocation in 1890, and I believe in Scotland £40,000 went for police superannuation, £40,000 went in relief for the payment of school fees, £15,000 to medical officers and sanitary inspectors; the residue went to technical instruction and the relief of rates.

(Mr. O'Grady).—And the relief of rates—it went to technical instruction in as far as not allocated to the relief of rates, and I think you will find a very small proportion went to technical instruction.

(Mr. Micks).—I deny the Scotch have got a grievance too.

8798. (Mr. O'Grady).—No grievance; the local bodies put it to the relief of rates, themselves!—That was done in some English counties until an intelligent public opinion put a stop to it. You cannot expect a person interested in technical education not to regret that £78,000 that might have come to technical instruction in Ireland went to the National Board. We lost it.

8799. (Mr. Micks).—They lost the whole £125,000!—That is not so, because the fund never went wholly to technical education anywhere; but the educational equivalent of £125,000, we lost that, and not only so, but we lost during the period a very considerable amount we might otherwise have got from the Science and Art Vote, which was abnormally low in Ireland. I could give you figures in very great detail on all this. I don't know whether you will desire it, and I don't know quite what purpose it would serve, for, as far as I can see, everybody would admit that the years from the passing of the Local Taxation Act to the passing of the Act of 1899 were practically ten "dead" years for technical education in Ireland.

8800. The money has been given to the National Commemorations!—Yes, and to the Intermediate Board. I don't suggest it was lost to Ireland, but it was lost to technical education, for there was no machinery at that time for dealing with it.

8801. (Mr. Micks).—If you gave money, the machinery would spring up quickly!—The money would precede the machinery.

8802. From 1889 and up to the present time you have lost still further under what we are talking about as the equivalent grant!—According as you take the point of view.

8803. So you have twenty years!—According to the point of view. The point of view of Ireland is it should have continued, and the view of the Treasury is that the money granted under the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act replaced that.

8804. It was never so stated at the time when the Bill was going through—I have read the debate very carefully!—At the time the Bill was going through the House of Commons I was a district inspector under the Board of Education in England, and I assure you I did not take very much interest in the passing of the Bill, so I am really unable to say what happened. I have heard it stated since.

8805. You have not read Hansard since!—On that question no, because, as far as I was concerned, the matter was settled by the attitude of the Treasury.

8806. The Irish position was that in the Act of 1899, by section 3, the conditions under which Parliamentary grants may be made in aid of technical instruction or manual instruction shall be those contained in the minutes of the Department of Science and Art in as far as for the time being they came under the Act of 1890, section 2: "There shall be transferred to the Department (f) the administration of the grant in aid of technical instruction as defined by the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, in Ireland." As one of the writers on the subject stated it would be hardly reasonable to suppose that Parliament handed over to the new Department the administration of nothing!—I quite agree with you. In fact there was a sum.

8807. Do you happen to have the order transferring the Science and Art Grant?—I have not.

(Mr. Micks).—Can we have the order of the 1st of April, 1901, transferring the Science and Art Grant? (Mr. O'Grady).—Yes.

8808. (Mr. Micks).—The Department in a document issued in June, 1900, called, "Suggestions for the guidance of local authorities and others," mentioned quite plainly that they had as a source of revenue as equivalent to a penny in the £ that would be raised by the local bodies!—They mentioned that the equivalent grant would be available.

8809. There was a subsequent memorandum in December, 1900, and there they again made a similar statement!—I think I have already stated that the officers of the Department were of opinion—

8810. They made a statement in the "suggestions" and in a public memorandum, and I think there were similar statements made orally; and in 1902 or 1903 they received an intimation from the Chief Secretary that the grant would not be payable in 1904!—So.

8811. When did they get that intimation?—They got it in the first place from the Treasury.

8812. Not from the Chief Secretary?—No.

8813. What did the Treasury say?—That the Treasury were not in a position to continue the grant. The Treasury informed the Department that "the grants for technical instruction have only been continued in Ireland because of the non-existence there of the special funds which have been at the disposal of the English and Scotch local authorities for these purposes; now that these differences have been removed by the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, it follows that the vote of grants for technical instruction in Ireland must cease. For the present year they may be continued."

8814. (Chairman).—That is in the minutes of the Technical Instruction Board!—Yes; the 19th of April, 1902, page 48, volume 1.

8815. (Mr. Micks).—Do the Treasury say they have power to withdraw the vote—they don't say how!—The vote is capable of reduction, as our science and art vote is capable of increasing.

8816. What is the Treasury view of that—can you explain it?—It occurs to me it does not require explanation. The Science and Art Directory is subject to annual revision and the grants in it also.

(Mr. O'Grady).—In the Directory for 1900 there is: "The vote for science and art instruction is liable to be decreased and eventually discontinued," so that they were amply covered by warning authorities in writing that these things might be discontinued at any time.

2817. (Mr. Micks).—At all events the Department were quite unaware of these matters referred to now in this Directory!—They were quite aware.

2818. The Department were painfully aware they would not get it—I won't say that. The Department hoped and believed they would get it and proceeded on that assumption, until it was made abundantly clear that they would not get it.

(Chairman).—Following up what Mr. Micks read there is this note: "The Department thereupon had entered into correspondence with the Treasury directly, and through the Chief Secretary, with the result that on the 2nd of August, 1901, the Treasury said: 'My Lords are willing, under the circumstances explained, to allow these grants to be paid to the institutions now receiving them for a further period of three years from the present year.'"

2819. (Mr. Micks).—Are you aware that when the Education Bill of 1902 was passing through Parliament it was objected that the Act of 1899 would be repealed if the Bill was passed?—It was so repealed.

2820. Are you further aware that with reference to that it was explained by a Minister at the time that the repeal would not affect Ireland?—It has not affected Ireland.

2821. That is the point, of course, that I want you to bear in mind, and was it further stated at the time that Ireland must not be deprived of the equivalent grant by virtue of anything contained in the Act of 1902?—I was not aware of the fact.

2822. (Chairman).—Have you read the debate?—From time to time I have read nearly everything that has been said, in view of this particular inquiry. I cannot say I have read it in regard to this particular point, but this was the opinion of a Minister.

2823. (Mr. Micks).—Opinions of Ministers, which influenced people responsible for taking action. "As the Bill referred to England only the Bill would, if the repeal passed, not extend to Ireland, and the grant would consequently be continued." If it was stated in Parliament, would it not be likely to still further strengthen the opinion in Ireland that they would go on receiving what was known as the equivalent grant under the Act of 1899?—The Department did expect the grant until the Treasury announced that it would not be continued.

2824. That was an unpleasant intimation?—I don't think it is fair to ask me. At this time I was not assistant secretary. I was chief inspector, and it would not be quite fair for me to say what the opinion of the Department was.

2825. It is hardly necessary to ask you, because the Department publicly stated their impression?—I was convinced the Department expected to get that grant.

2826. Did the Department obtain any legal advice as far as you are aware on that question as to what their rights would be?—I cannot answer that question.

2827. The Department then expected that £7,000?—That £7,000 that was given was given after very great argument on the contrary, and after a deposition had written on Mr. Wyndham, and had got the £7,000 as a concession.

2828. How has the annual sum of £7,000 been expended since by the Department?—That is laid down in the minutes of the Board. First of all, I ought to say it is given as a grant in aid to the Department. The Department does not tie it to the places that had previously been receiving it.

2829. They did for a certain time up to the end of 1904?—No; they did not tie it at all. The moment the £7,000 ceased, that moment the rights of localities to receive it ceased.

2830. The Treasury did continue it from 1902 to 1904, I think?—Of course they did, and the places received it.

2831. Then it was continued to those places for a limited period?—It was.

2832. One of the grounds put forward publicly in the agitation that took place at the time for getting that £7,000 was the great hardship that would be inflicted on those places, Cork, Portlanna, Dublin, and other places, if this penny grant was withdrawn?—That is so.

2833. And that hardship ceased, in your opinion, to the places?—It did.

2834. Why?—Because we made provision. In the first place let me say that since this equivalent grant was given to the various centres our Act of 1899 had come into operation, and these places which had previously been receiving this money were allocated large

sums. Thus, for example, take the cases—take Dublin Technical School. They had had an equivalent grant of £354 17s. 7d. Under the Act they received an additional annual sum of nearly £50,000. The Dublin School of Cookery received a sum of £200. In that, by the way, there is no grievance, because we have taken over the school and administer it directly. The Harewood Penitentiary School received an equivalent grant of £436, but under the new scheme they received nearly £1,000. Indeed, since the withdrawal of the equivalent grant we have increased that amount, and have also allowed them to establish a day trades preparatory school which more than makes up for the difference due to the withdrawal of the equivalent grant. The next case is the Cork Presentation Convent, which received £30 equivalent grant, but we under the Act endowed the county with additional funds, and when the equivalent grant was withdrawn we were in a position to add £93 to the South Tipperary scheme, under which the convent comes. In the case of the Cork Crawford Municipal Technical Institute, which, with the school of music, received two sums of £614 7s. 6d. and £213 8s. 6d., we have replaced that amount by a larger amount. That was the result of a meeting between myself and the Cork Technical Instruction Committee. The Cork Technical Instruction Committee asserted that they were entitled as of right to this equivalent grant, now that we had it extended. On behalf of the Department I questioned that right, because the extension was given as a grant in aid. They contested the question, and I was proved to be right. We then dealt with the needs of Cork on its merits.

2835. (Chairman).—How did they feel the question?—They wrote to the Treasury. We dealt with the question then on its merits, and we found they really required the money. They required more than they had been receiving as an equivalent grant. I recommended the Department to make them a grant of £590 more than they were receiving, and that has been done. I mean that the amount we are now giving them is more than their sums. The next case is the Limerick Municipal Science, Art, and Technical School, which was receiving £270 11s. 6d. as an equivalent grant. That was withdrawn, but the city of Limerick had accumulated funds. Nevertheless we don't deny that they should have to draw on these accumulated funds, which they will require sooner or later for equipment, and the Department has agreed, in the case of Limerick, to pay for the current year the difference between the income and the expenditure, but we have not made any permanent arrangement with them because there are certain developments in technical instruction in that city which we desire to see carried out. There is no hardship in the case of the Belfast Municipal Technical School.

2836. (Mr. Micks).—Is the grant subject to the carrying out of certain changes which you consider desirable?—I mean we have not settled the matter permanently in the case of Limerick. In the case of the Municipal Technical Institute, Belfast, the equivalent grant was £270. That ceased, but we have agreed to bear the cost to the extent of three-fourths of the trade preparatory school, which they started without any help from the Department. That is to say, Belfast has no grievance.

2837. How much does it get under the three-fourths arrangement?—About £300. The Galway Technical School was receiving about £110. When this ceased we increased the amount under the scheme by £30. Then we have the Gort Convent of Mercy Technical School. That was receiving £100. That has ceased, but the school is administered under the County Galway Technical Committee's scheme, which has been put in funds by the Department, and the amount given is very much greater than what they have been deprived of by the withdrawal of the equivalent grant. The same is true of Claremorris. It ceased, but we were able here to add to the Mayo county scheme, and they have been put in funds since the equivalent grant was withdrawn. The Portlanna Convent of Mercy had been receiving £73 16s. 8d., but we supplemented that to a very large amount, and it was taken over finally by the Department, and is maintained by the agricultural branch, by whom at present the whole of the expense of the school is paid. The Tuam Technical School is a similar case to that of Cork. We have given quite a large amount to

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June 4, 1903. County Galway, and Team comes in under that scheme. I think I have now answered the question whether those schools individually suffered hardship, and I think you will see by my opinion is that there was no hardship. That does not answer the question as to whether there was a total loss, but the point I seek to make clear is that there has been no case of hardship in our method of administering the £7,000. In answering the question further as to what we did with the money—

2832. (Chairman).—These cases you mention came out of the £7,000?—Some of the same mentioned came out of our endowment. The larger amounts, as in the case of Cork, must come out of the £7,000, because we have no power to aid in the case of a county through by money out of our endowment, other than under the automatic arrangement. As to the rest, that is largely hypothecated for the central scheme of scholarships approved by the Board and also by the day trader preparatory school.

2833. (Mr. Micks).—Do the local bodies interpret the statement you have now made as satisfactory to them?—It has never arisen, with the exception of Cork, where the matter is settled.

2834. Or Limerick?—No. The fact is we have met them generously.

2841. And they are quite satisfied?—To the best of my knowledge they are.

2842. (Chairman).—You have no other complaints? No other complaints. We have dealt more liberally with Cork than it was entitled to.

2843. They have profited by the £7,000 more than by the equivalent grant?—Yes.

2844. (Mr. Micks).—Is that their view of the matter—do they think they have profited, or do they want it both ways?—You must ask Cork, but the equivalent grant has been replaced and increased. From a recent paragraph I saw in the paper I think they feel pleased themselves. I ought to say it is not required of a local body to be particularly satisfied so long as there is a chance that they might get more.

2845. Can the £7,000 be spent by the local bodies in just the same way as it could have been in the old times before the passing of the Act?—Not quite—you must judge for yourselves. The condition laid down when the £7,000 was given was that it should be for new developments, whatever that may mean, and I was very glad to accept the suggestions in Cork that they require an electrical engineering laboratory, and the grant was in respect of that, but it is quite impossible clearly to separate such developments from the ordinary work of the school, and I must assume that what was meant at the time as a reasonable thing is that this amount of money should be available not for old centres, since the conditions had been altered, but available in such a way as might be thought most desirable.

2846. Most desirable by the local body or by the Department?—By the Department, because I have no doubt if you were to ask the local committee, say the city of Galway—no, I had better give another instance—

2847. Yes, I was going to ask you about that, because the County Galway was one of them that objected to the scheme (page 63, vol. 1 of the Minutes)?—That was very early. It was in 1902. It has not come up since.

2848. They differed from the Department as to the way in which they should work?—They differed from the Department in this respect. They said, "If you don't give us the equivalent grant we won't have a scheme at all."

2849. They had no scheme?—Oh, they had.

2850. I mean in that year?—I think they had. They have had a scheme all the way through.

2851. The Department say here they asked the Committee to frame the scheme on this basis, and as the Committee appeared to be prepared to persist in the scheme they had drawn up, the Department feared that the scheme would have to be dropped this year, but the Board of Technical Instruction desired to have it needed that they considered it a matter of regret that the Committee should not proceed on the reduced scale. You think it went on all the same?—Yes.

2852. You say here, page 131—that is the scheme, I suppose?—County Galway scheme from 1st of August, 1902, to 1st of July, 1903—they did have a scheme.

2853. (Mr. O'Connell).—I have got before me, Mr. Fletcher, the Rules and Regulations of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, and I find

that drawing and manual instruction are compulsory by the programme of work. On page 66 there is given an excellent programme of instruction in drawing. On page 85 there is an opening, apparently for suggestions upon a programme of manual instruction. It is obvious, I think, that the responsibility for paying for instruction of this kind, for encouraging instruction of this kind, by payments for work done in elementary schools, rests with the Commissioners?—It does.

2854. But I expect in Ireland, as was the case a few years ago in England and Scotland, the great difficulty in having a wide application of the programme in rural schools at any rate is that the teachers are not qualified to give such instruction?—That is so.

2855. In both England and Scotland it has been found necessary to make special provision for classes for teachers in elementary schools in the direction of training them to give this instruction to supplement their previous training as teachers that had been in this respect insufficient for the requirements of the present day. I would be glad if you would mention, in supplement to your head, these Departmental schemes for training teachers, whether anything has been done at all in the direction of encouraging the formation of classes in Ireland for such a supplementary instruction of teachers in subjects which are of special interest to your branch?—Oh, yes. Acting in conjunction with the National Board we established in technical schools classes in experimental science for National school teachers, and that is a thing that I think is likely to develop. It will go on with the development of our technical schools.

2856. That, I presume, is working up to a very well-prepared scheme of object lessons in experimental and elementary science?—I should tell you the National Board took into their own hands such training on a large scale, and five years ago appeared Mr. Heller to be chief organiser, with a number of sub-organisers to act in the training of teachers under the National Board, and Mr. Davis as instructor in hand-and-eye training, and they had previously appointed a number of teachers of domestic economy. The National Board were doing the work themselves.

2857. With reference to drawing?—Drawing appears to have been a little neglected. The classes in all our technical schools are open to, and are largely attended by, National teachers.

2858. You perhaps know the development in Scotland of what is called the 04 (f) classes, where teachers are brought up on Saturday afternoons from the country to schools where they get special instruction in drawing definitely directed to fitting them to give teaching required in their schools. Is there anything of that sort here?—Nothing, except that I believe assistance is given by the National Board to teachers to attend these central classes conducted by their own teacher.

2859. Your trouble with regard to drawing is that there is no special encouragement given to it in any way?—There is no separate grant given for drawing, and it is not compulsory.

2860. It would be taken as a part of the general course to have its influence in that way?—Yes, except that, unfortunately, it is not universally taken.

2861. (Mr. Micks).—There was one question yesterday that I was quite willing to postpone to another occasion if you thought fit. It was about an answer given to a question of the approval of officers. It seemed to me that you stated yesterday that the English Board did not adopt a very different procedure from the Department here as regards the approval of local officers. Are you aware, I said, whether this power of approval of officers is exercised by the Board of Education in England, and you said certainly in respect of science and art grants?—I did.

2862. Would that convey the idea that the English Board of Education at all approves of the officer in his appointment?—No; it does not convey that, but it does convey this, that grants in respect of his treatment are not paid unless they do approve of his qualifications.

2863. Take the cities of Manchester, Birmingham, Hull and Sheffield. Is it the fact that the officers are appointed there, and that even their names are not submitted to the Board of Education at all in England. The appointment of the local body is final, and they only learn of the appointment when the programme or some formal notification is made of the whole of the proposed work of the body for the ensuing year?—Certainly; that is so.

2954. That is what I wanted to have clearly on record!—Certainly. There has never been any doubt on my mind as to that.

2955. They would have the power if they thought necessary to disallow the fees, if they thought a claim was not properly taught!—Certainly.

2956. But they would not have the power, at least they don't exercise the power of removing the officials?—No.

2957. Their check on the local body is the stopping of the grants!—Yes. The rule under the Board of Education in South Kensington—I hope Mr. Ogilvie will correct me if I am wrong—was this: they never recognised a person as qualified to teach, but they recognised a person as qualified to earn payments on certificates.

2958. When they had a list of fitness it was a hard and fast one such as a university degree, not the opinion of the Board!—They never had a hard and fast one.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—Oh, yes, they had. Under the distinctions Mr. Fletcher has just drawn, the Board recognised a man to earn payments on results, and payments were made not on attendance but by results of examinations. Now, of course, the system is changed.

2959. (Mr. Michs).—In practice, therefore, the intervention in Ireland is greater than in England!—The methods are different.

2960. And the intervention is greater!—Yes, I think you may say so. It is hardly the case, however, in regard to county boroughs, where we still have to look, having regard to the science and art vote, to certain specific qualifications which are laid down quite definitely, but we go further in regard to small places spending our endowment.

2961. I see in a newspaper of a few days ago that you appeared at some public meeting with reference to an increased grant of salary, at Freetown, I think, it was!—Yes.

2962. How would such intervention as that take place!—Perhaps if you will allow me I think I can explain it quite fully.

2963. It is merely on the point of intervention as regards local officials!—It has no connection with the question of qualification, but I am quite prepared to explain it.

2964. (Mr. Ogilvie).—If it is the general question of intervention I want to be quite clear about this qualification business, and we will put off the intervention for a moment. The portion seems to me to be this at present. In England we will say the Board makes payments in respect of instruction given by a teacher. Before he begins to work it has to be satisfied that the teacher is qualified; that is, the Board's payments are grants which are made after a report that the teacher is a satisfactory teacher. Therefore, the Board in England is satisfied before it undertakes

liability for any payment whatever that a teacher is good; and I might in understanding that your position is that when a man is appointed your money is to be earmarked to a certain extent for his salary!—It is.

2975. And, therefore, the only stage at which you could intervene to secure yourselves that your money is not to be paid in respect of an unqualified teacher is by intervening at the moment of his appointment?—Yes.

2976. Before his appointment is final!—That is so. It is put before as a design for preventing annoyance. Instead of allowing a difficulty to arise we prevent it. In other words, if we can we will prevent a local committee from appointing a teacher in respect of whom we shall afterwards have to say, "We cannot pay you grants."

2977. (Mr. Michs).—Is not your money derived in the same way as the English money. The Board of Education in England does not make any inquiry at the time of the appointment. They can say afterwards, "We won't sanction the payment of the grants in this case because so and so is not a competent teacher in our opinion!"—Exactly. The difference is this. The Board of Education will allow a local committee to employ a man, and then refuse to pay a half-penny on account of his teaching. Our method is to begin a little earlier and say, "We are sorry; if you appoint this man we cannot allow the grants to be available."

2978. I think it would be interesting to know why you interfere with the salary in the case of the Freetown officials!—It relates to the question of the payment by an Urban District Council of a salary which the Department had refused to sanction. It is not a personal question, because afterwards the Department were able to greatly increase the salary. The Local Government auditor did not surcharge, and it became necessary for the Department therefore to ask that this amount should not be allowed because it was virtually tearing up the scheme. I appeared on behalf of the Department.

2979. To object to the increase of salary!—Certainly not, because the salary was increased very largely subsequently. I represented that this payment was not proper, since when it was before the Committee the Department objected to it.

2980. What was the payment for!—The payment was in respect of a salary in regard to the previous year.

2981. It was an additional payment of salary which had not been approved of by the Department!—That is so. I have said before you a statement of the expenditure with regard to the technical instruction branch. The thing almost explains itself. You will see from that that our funds are low. We have been spending from accumulations, and are reduced to a matter of £5,000 accumulations.

2982. (Chairman).—Just glancing through it it seems to explain itself!—I think so, and I don't propose to add anything to it.

Mr. W. G. S. ADAMS examined.

2983. (Chairman).—You are Superintendent of the Statistics and Intelligence Branch!—Yes.

2984. You have given us an outline of your system. You first of all propose to tell us something about the system of the Department in dealing with statistics!—What I wish to say on that point is simply to draw attention to the various statistics which were brought together in connection with the Statistics and Intelligence Branch of the Department. There were three sets of statistics brought together. 1st, there were the statistics which had been prepared and published by the Registrar-General; 2nd, certain statistics compiled by the Land Commission; and 3rd, those compiled by the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council. The statistics compiled by the Registrar-General consisted of the agricultural statistics dealing with acreage, live stock, number of holdings, and other particulars relating to live stock and crops; the statistics relating to the movements of migratory labourers, and the statistics relating to banking and railways. From the Land Commission were taken over statistics relating to Prices, and from the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council were taken over the statistics relating to imports and exports of live stock. In addition to this work, since the

establishment of the branch there has been an attempt made to collect statistics of all imports and exports at Irish ports. These represent the four main branches of statistical work. Outside the statistical work of the branch there are three other sections, the inquiry and intelligence work, the press editing and management of publications work, and there is the despatch and distribution work. These three latter branches have grown up with the development of the Department, and are new. The intelligence work is particularly work closely connected with the statistical work, and one cannot keep the two really apart.

2985. What experience have you had in statistics before you came here!—I have had experience in connection with many kinds of economic work.

2986. What was your occupation before you came here!—Immediately before I came here I was on the staff of the University of Manchester.

2987. When did you come here!—In January, 1905.

2988. Up to that you were in Manchester!—Immediately before coming here I was in the University of Manchester, and I was lecturer in economics. Previous to that I was in the University of Chicago, where I was lecturer in economics.

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Mr. George
Fletcher,
S. C. S.

Mr. W. G. S.
Adams.

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Mr. W. G. B.
Adams

2380. (Mr. Micks).—Is that your native land?—No. In connection with statistical work I may say, also, that I was secretary for a year of a committee on trade statistics appointed by the British Association. Coming to the detailed work of the statistical branch, the reports are as follows:—1st, those connected with acreage and live stock. Each year we publish three reports, first an abstract, second a statement of the yield of produce, and third a final report, which treats more comprehensively of the subjects dealt with in the preliminary reports. With regard to this part of our work, the information for the reports is collected annually, first in the month of June by the Royal Irish Constabulary. That collection deals with acreage and numbers of stock.

2381. (Chairman).—They make inquiries throughout the country, and send in reports of acreage and number of stock?—Precisely.

2382. And horses?—Yes, all kinds of live stock. Later in the year, in October, they make reports of the estimated produce of crops and of certain other particulars.

2383. Still the Constabulary?—Yes.

2384. Have they any assistance in doing that—any expert assistance at all?—No, they have none.

2385. They simply get the information as best they can?—They make it in accordance with carefully-drawn instructions. I have copies of the forms and of the instructions.

2386. They are supplied with these forms, you say—they speak for themselves?—The Constabulary make up the various tables and return them to the Department. The instructions are very full, and whenever difficulty arises they appeal to the Department, which gives any further instructions necessary in particular cases.

2387. How many appeals from them?—Not many.

2388. (Mr. Micks).—Has any change been made in the system of collection since that duty was handed over to the Department from the Registrar-General?—There have been minor changes.

2389. The general procedure is very much the same?—Very much the same. The instructions have been thoroughly revised, and in the instructions now before you greater attention is directed to points of difficulty.

2390. (Mr. Brown).—Has that revision of the instructions taken place since the discussion at the Agricultural Council in which the correctness of these returns in some instances was called in question?—Yes.

2391. Do you expect you will be able to secure accuracy by means of these revised instructions?—I hope so. I shall be glad to say something on the question of reliability if it is desired.

2392. (Chairman).—There is no system of getting returns from the occupiers themselves?—The Constabulary are supposed to visit every holding in the country, and take down at the holding the particulars of the farms.

2393. (Mr. Brown).—The allegation is that in some cases they did not do that but filled up a return similar to that of the previous year without going to the occupier?—In the case of the returns made in June on the acreage and total number of stock it is essential that the returns should be made of every holding in the country. That is to say, we must have the total acreage and the total number of live stock. In the case of returns made in October, where we wish to get estimates of the produce of crops, it is impossible to obtain estimates of the produce of each farm, but the enumerators are instructed to inquire of representative and reliable farmers what they would consider to be the average yield of the several crops in the electoral division. That is to say, the enumerators practically act as crop reporters.

2394. (Chairman).—Is it simply the general knowledge of those farmers, or do they go round?—The general knowledge. The district is a small one, and the information forms the basis of the return which the enumerator makes. He is required in his return to state the names of the persons who give this information.

2395. (Mr. Micks).—Which is the small district you refer to?—The electoral division.

2396. (Chairman).—Is the choice of the people to whom he refers left to him?—It is.

2397. (Mr. Brown).—It was that part of the statistics, I think, that was most criticised?—It was.

2398. (Mr. Micks).—Can you tell me anything about the size of an electoral division?—They vary.

2399. Have you any idea about how much they vary?—There are over 3,000 electoral divisions in Ireland, and I know the differences are considerable. I would not like to make a statement as to the degree of variation. I am prepared to point out the difference between the English and Irish systems of reports. In Ireland there are something like 3,000 crop reporters sending in estimates of crops.

2400. (Chairman).—The crop reporters are the persons consulted by the police as to the yield?—No. The crop reporters in this case are called the enumerators.

2401. (Mr. Micks).—How many police have we in Ireland?—I have not got the figures.

2402. At all events you get it from 3,000?—Roughly, over that number.

2403. (Chairman).—I have not quite got the process in my mind. The police refer to trained persons, whom they consider experienced, to tell them what the produce of the particular district is?—Yes.

2404. The police report that to the Department?—The police report to the Department the results of their inquiries, using also their judgment in the matter.

2405. (Mr. Brown).—The only alternative to that would be to get the produce of every farm and ascertain the average?—Yes. We have adopted certain methods of checking the returns, and what I come to the question of reliability perhaps there I might deal with that matter. The price statistics which were taken over from the Land Commission are collected in a different fashion and from a different body of men. Reports are made to the Department by nine reporters of store prices of cattle. At Dublin and Belfast returns of the prices and weights of fat stock are obtained. As regards the produce returns, these are obtained from the Inland Revenue officers in certain centres. Full information as to centres is given in the annual report on prices, copies of which I have in.

2406. (Chairman).—Now the returns of stock—how do you say it is done—you get it from certain centres?—Yes, there are nine reporters of the prices of some stock. A number of farms have been selected in the country. Each reporter has a district. He is required to visit so many farms in that district, and he reports to us the actual transactions which take place and the prices realised, and gives us the names of the persons who were parties to the transactions.

2407. Those are typical districts?—Those are typical districts.

2408. (Mr. Micks).—Are they officers of the Department or gentlemen who are engaged by fact?—They are men who are engaged for the purpose.

2409. Are they paid weekly or monthly?—They are paid per fair.

2410. (Chairman).—Is that also throughout the year or at a particular time?—Throughout the year.

2411. Are they kept constantly employed?—No, it is only part of their work.

2412. (Mr. Micks).—It is not done by the agricultural instructor, but by outsiders?—It is done by outsiders. All the work was taken over from the Land Commission, and remains largely as it was under the Land Commission. The next report is the report of the migratory labourers.

2413. (Chairman).—That means the labourers who go to the hay and corn harvests in England and Scotland?—Yes. The information for that report is collected from several sources. First it is collected by the Constabulary while they are acting as enumerators of agricultural statistics in June. Second, in addition to the information obtained from the Constabulary a record is kept of their movements at the ports by the postal enumerators, Dublin being excepted in this case, and for the port of Dublin information is obtained from the railway companies who carry the migratory labourers, especially from the West. Dublin is the great port of shipping for England and to some extent also for Scotland. Third, the information obtained from these sources is supplemented from time to time by inquiries made in May land. We attempt in the report not only to get the

total number, but to distinguish the districts and the routes from which the labourers are drawn, and to show where they go to work in England. We have also made an attempt to ascertain the conditions of their life while working in England and Scotland, and the wages which they earn.

2923. (Mr. Micks).—Have you any means of showing the distribution of the migratory labourers?—I have not a map at hand.

2924. Are you saying anything more at any other period about the migratory labourers?—I was not intending to do so unless questions were raised in the matter.

2925. Most of them come from the County Mayo?—Yes.

2926. And what other counties supply them?—Donegal sends a very considerable number. In the last report are carefully worked out the numbers that went from each county and where those men went to.

2927. What do you mean by Donegal?—When they come from in Donegal?—They come from Glenties, Millford and Danganagh.

2928. What part of Glenties do they come from?—Glenties is fifty or sixty miles long?—I can give you particulars on that point, but it will have to be looked up exactly. The returns show the names and addresses of the individuals and the size of their holdings, and a statement could easily be prepared if desired on that point.

2929. You cannot say off-hand from what district in Glenties they chiefly come?—Not more particularly than that they come from the union of Glenties. Many of them have holdings of considerable size.

2930. The report does not say the quality of the land?—No, but we can get an idea from referring to the agricultural statistics, and in that connection you may notice a paragraph in the report of last year where I showed in a certain number of cases how much of the land belonging to those holders was under tillage, and what was the character of the land.

2931. Are you familiar with that part of the country yourself?—Have you ever visited it?—No, I have not.

2932. Have you ever visited Mayo or Galway?—I have not yet been in Mayo or Galway. As to the banking statistics those are obtained each half-year from the banks of Ireland. The railway returns consist of weekly returns obtained from Irish railways. We publish the information obtained half-yearly. In this connection I may say that in one of the issues of these banking and railway statistics, information was collected with regard to canals, but that is not a regular feature of that report. On the other hand each year we show also the entrances and clearances of ships at Ireland.

2933. (Chairman).—In the banking statistics from 1895 to 1904 the estimated balance in Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland rose from £2,433,000 to £10,920,000?—Yes.

2934. (Mr. Micks).—You were saying something about the ports?—Yes.

2935. Do you show the trade of each port in the June return?—We only show two tables; they are simply summary tables.

2936. The commodities exported from each place?—No; that is another matter. That comes under the import and export report.

2937. What is under this head?—Simply a statement of the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared. It is not a matter of great importance. It does not show the nature of the trade.

2938. It shows the volume of it?—Yes, of tonnage; but that even is not a good criterion. The volume of trade is best ascertained by the collection of statistics of Irish imports and exports. Before dealing with that I would like to refer to the imports and exports of cattle and live stock. Returns are obtained from the ship's inspectors and port supervisors of the movements of live stock at the Irish ports. The information collected is issued weekly and monthly; and the statements which we issue (produced), showing the ports of shipment and landing, are sent to the Press, and to certain private individuals and companies, who find this information useful. Annually, a statement is also included in the report of the proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Act. In addition to this information collected regarding the imports and exports of live stock, the Department recently have been collecting information with regard to the general

trade of imports and exports from Ireland to Great Britain and abroad. This information has not been collected, at least no information is forthcoming, since 1895; and the collection of information regarding the movement of trade across Channel is extremely difficult, and can only be imperfectly done. The matter has received much attention from us, and we have the information now organised, and it will be shortly published.

2939. (Chairman).—Where do you get it from?—Mainly from the harbour authorities, who collect this information for us.

2940. Do they do that voluntarily?—We have no statutory power, and that is a matter of very great importance; because we cannot require any returns to be made, and we have had to negotiate with each party in order to get the reports from those parties.

2941. I suppose you have no statutory powers except those you have been given over?—None; except those that have been taken over.

2942. Under the Acts of some of these authorities, whose duties you have taken over, there are compulsory powers?—There are powers specified in the Act regarding the transfer from the Registrar-General and the Land Commission of the collection of certain statistics, but there are no compulsory powers with regard to agricultural statistics; similarly the price statistics are collected entirely on a voluntary system.

2943. With regard to the employment of the police, is that done by arrangement with the heads of the Force?—Yes.

2944. There is no statutory authority?—Hardly. We could not at first obtain from all the ports returns of imports and exports, because the harbour authorities did not have the information to give us in all cases. When this work was first started no adequate returns were in the case of any of the ports collected as to the trade of those ports, nor was any distinction made between cross-Channel trade and purely Irish coasting trade; and as the essential thing is to get the cross-Channel trade, special arrangements had to be made in every case to obtain this.

2945. (Mr. Micks).—By the coasting trade you mean communication by steamer between various ports in Ireland?—Yes. I don't know whether you would wish me to go into the matter any more fully.

2946. (Chairman).—We have got all these returns before us, which we will look at; and I think if you explain your method of collecting them, as you have been doing, it would be all that we require now?—The information collected from the harbour authorities is based on the information which they get from the ship's manifests; but then is a very imperfect source of information, and no attempt is made by the harbour authorities to ascertain the value. Even the weight is often imperfectly stated. There is, further, no uniform system of classification. Therefore, the returns will be very imperfect for this reason; and until statutory powers are given for the collection of this information it will be impossible to get, in my opinion, adequate information on the subject.

2947. Have you any means of getting information from the Customs?—The Customs only have information dealing with foreign trade, and with the shipments of a few particular dutiable articles.

2948. And nothing of the trade between England and Ireland?—They have no record of that since 1825.

2949. And I suppose your trade is almost entirely with England?—Very largely with England and Scotland.

2950. There is no direct trade with France?—There is a small trade.

2951. I suppose you can get all the imports from America?—Yes; the imports directly into Ireland from foreign or Continental ports can be obtained.

2952. But not the trade with England or Scotland, except in the way you have mentioned?—That is so; and it is very important to know what that trade is, because the matter has been simply one of conjecture since 1825.

2953. Have you any suggestions to make about that; suppose you were asked what Act of Parliament you would pass if you had the power to do so?—I would ask that the cross-Channel trade should be treated similarly to the foreign trade; that there should be an extension of the system of information, or an extension of that system suited to the particular circumstances of the case.

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2954. That every ship cleared from an English port should make certain returns, or some thing of that kind?—Yes.

2955. (Mr. McKel.)—The collection of your returns would be a great deal simplified if we had a little duty payable on articles coming in from England?—Certainly; anything which requires specification assists information.

2956. (Chairman.)—At all events, you say that is a great need—that you have not any information about the trade between England and Ireland?—Yes. As to the information which will be obtained by the present method—even suppose we succeeded in perfecting that method considerably—it would still remain short. We have obtained great assistance in the matter from several of the shipping companies and also from private traders. We have applied to private traders to assist us in identifying the value of goods, to determine the amounts of allowance to be made for weight and packing and for tare, and generally to afford us an approximate idea of the value of this trade.

2957. You have received a great deal of assistance from them?—Yes.

2958. But still you cannot make it complete?—We cannot make it complete. One man will give you assistance, and another man will not; and also, we cannot get all the information we would wish from all the ports. Certain shipping companies are not prepared to give the information; partly, I take it, because of the trouble involved in preparing this information. In addition to these regular statistical returns, there are also special statistical tables prepared from time to time, dealing with matters relating to the work of the Department; also in the Journal each quarter statistical summaries are presented.

2959. Is there anything else on the question of statistics that you think you ought to give to us?—No; there is nothing I wish to add.

2960. We have here the various half-yearly returns?—Yes.

2961. Now, as regards the intelligence work?—The intelligence work is, in some respects, closely connected with the statistical work. We have no special staff for the intelligence work. It is a side of the work which has only been gradually developed as time could be found to undertake the questions that were submitted to the branch, either by the public or by other branches of the Department. The work of this side of the branch is one which has been much restricted, owing to the fact that it was very difficult to methodise it. The class of inquiries is very varied. There are a large number of general inquiries as to all kinds of information referred to this branch, as the branch which publishes various reports, which controls the Bureau of the Department, and which collects information both at home and abroad. Then there are special inquiries of a more systematic character. I shall refer to certain of these. And, lastly, there is the work of exchange of publications with foreign governments, and the collection of information on a large number of subjects. There is no special staff for this work; but the officers who are engaged in statistical and the other work of the branch are used to carry out the inquiries, which are submitted to the branch.

2962. (Mr. McKel.)—What officials are these who carry on the intelligence work of your branch. You are at the head, of course. How many second division men have you under you—you have two staff officials?—Yes.

2963. (Chairman.)—There have been additions to your staff lately?—There have been, but mainly in connection with the import and export work.

2964. One of your heads of evidence is as to inquiries from members of the public—do they come before you?—A certain class of these inquiries come direct. Others are referred by other branches of the Department. I should like to explain what we conceive to be the intelligence work, and the developments which should be carried out by the branch. The publication, "Ireland: Industrial and Agricultural," is one example of the work, which may be partly called intelligence work or information work.

2965. Is this a publication of the Department?—Yes, it was compiled; and the arrangements for the publication of the work, and the compilation and working of it, were the work of my predecessor. I may put the matter thus—intelligence work includes the

making of what one may call an economic survey of the country. In other words, we ought to be the centre which possesses full information as to resources and possibilities of development. Up to the present there has been no special provision for this work. We have made such inquiries as we could from time to time, but there has been no systematic work of this kind. We are now on the point of sending out further inquiries regarding industrial possibilities in different parts of the country.

2966. (Mr. McKel.)—Preparation of industrial chart?—No, they are simply inquiries as to the resources of the different districts, the cost of transport, and various matters which would be of interest to manufacturers, and would enable them to see at a glance what districts would be of interest to them. This broad work of methodically attacking the problem, and seeing what the resources of the country are, and bringing home to those who are interested in the matter what its resources are, in an accurate way—is part of the function of this branch. But it is a very big work to undertake, requires a great deal of systematic thought, and the application of resources in a systematic way.

2967. (Chairman.)—Is that work going on now?—We are working at it tentatively.

2968. Have you conceived any general plan of working?—We have in our minds a scheme of obtaining systematic information. I have here, for example, a circular which we intend to send throughout the country, asking this to be filled up and returned to us, containing particulars and information on industrial points. Work of this kind has been done by other governments. Very similar work has been done by the Bureau of Industries in Massachusetts, and there is a close need that such work should be done in Ireland at the present time. That is one broad example of the functions of the intelligence branch.

2969. This is in its infancy now?—We are endeavouring to meet that need. Then there are many particular questions which rise in connection with our work. For example—the flax crop, not only in Ireland, but the estimated yield of flax crops in Russia, Hungary, Holland, Belgium, and France, is a matter of very great importance to a considerable community in Ireland. It is exceedingly difficult to obtain reliable information as to the flax crop, but at the present time we are endeavouring to obtain reliable reports.

2970. Have you evidence that there is any great demand for information of that kind?—We have. We have had many such inquiries, and the matter has been brought before the Department more than once; thus at the present time I am in communication with the Department of Agriculture at the Hague, which supplies us with information regarding Holland in regard to reports which we send as to the prospects of the flax crop in Ireland. In a word, we try to attack this problem by getting representatives in other countries to join with us in bringing information together; and I conceive that to be one of the functions of the intelligence branch.

2971. Have there been any proposals or suggestions made by the Council of Agriculture at their meetings with regard to these statistics?—I don't know of any relating to that particular side of the intelligence work, although the matter of the importance of the flax produce has recently been before them. To take a second example. One of the matters of great importance to the country is the question of the shipment of live stock and of meat from foreign countries into the United Kingdom. We have been making inquiries to see if we could not get some system arranged of informing the Department as to the number and quantity of cattle and meat on sea; that is to say, to know what is going to be the state of the market in England. That can only be done to a large extent through co-operative action of the port or governmental authorities in foreign countries. That is the sort of work we ought to be in a position to attack more systematically than we are at present. In general, the establishment of a system of foreign correspondence, and obtaining intelligence from foreign governments and universities and other institutions connected with agriculture, as to developments which have taken place in these countries is part of our work, and this is extending every month.

2972. Have you regular correspondence with foreign countries?—At present we have a small number of

foreign correspondents. We have started communication with certain people, whom we asked to correspond regularly with us, and act as correspondents for the Department voluntarily. In return, we send them our publications, and give what information is of interest to them in their work. But, on the whole, we have had to depend largely on writing to a particular person or a particular government on a particular point. The system of having correspondents is only in its infancy, but there is no reason why that should not be rapidly developed.

2973. Have you done anything through the Foreign Office, such as getting reports from Consuls?—Inquiries are sent through the Secretariat to the Foreign Office. We do not as a branch deal directly with them.

2974. (Mr. O'Donnell).—Have you found that the information received from correspondents abroad as to the crops was, as a rule, accurate, in the event?—I think the matter has not yet had sufficient time to really test itself. In all this work I may say we are in the closest communication with the agricultural branch throughout. Our object is to serve the other branches, and we take their advice as to the places we should apply to for information, and keep them informed as to when information we get.

2975. (Mr. Mitchell).—You could collect the prices of fax in the North of Ireland, and from Russia and Belgium, and be prepared to compare them together?—We cannot at present; but it is what we are endeavouring to get at. The work which is now being attempted is practically getting correct notions of the prospects of what the harvest is going to be in foreign countries.

2976. (Mr. O'Donnell).—How far have the fax buyers in the North of Ireland a going commercial scheme of early advice as to prices?—I am informed they have a considerable amount of information, but there are great difficulties in obtaining reliable information, especially in the case of Russia.

2977. (Chairman).—I suppose that sort of information would refer to the actual state of things existing at the time?—Exactly.

2978. Information that you cannot wait for until the statistics of foreign countries are published?—Exactly. We want to make our work as helpful to the practical interests of the country as possible. Again, to take a further example of the sort of work we are often asked to ascertain where supplies of goods can be obtained, and to put people in touch with one another. We get inquiries as to where certain things are produced in Ireland, and we have had recently before us the project of compiling something like a manufacturers' and exporters' list, which may be widely distributed—say, among the Consuls in foreign countries, who often want information regarding Irish goods. The Spanish Government does such work at the present time. In other words, the conception we have is that of bringing together and distributing information relating to the agricultural interests connected with Ireland. That is the conception we have of the work of the intelligence branch. The connection between the intelligence work and the statistical work is close and clear. The information that we get regarding statistics often requires to be followed up and examined, and reports have to be written. For example—take the Migratory Labourers' Report. It is not simply a matter of statistics. It also presents a statement as to the general conditions or movements and earnings of this class of labourer.

2979. Do you ever get inquiries from Donagel or from Mayo asking for information?—No; not on that point.

2980. The people themselves hardly realize that if they came to you you could tell them something about the state of employment in England?—Those who really go to the various places in England and Scotland have an extraordinarily good knowledge of the opportunities of the districts. The importance of the report is that it brings before the notice of the Government and of the public the movements of a considerable body of labourers seasonally, their earnings, and the conditions affecting these labourers. The third branch of the work is the editing and managing of publications. The branch publishes all the reports and bulletins and leaflets issued by the Department. Along with the branch runs the issue of the quarterly Journal of the Department.

2981. Do you do your own printing?—No, it is done through the Stationery Office; but the work of editing

and supervising involves a great amount of labour on the branch. The publications are considerable, and our duty extends also to forms and circulars, etc.

2982. (Mr. Mitchell).—Does your share of the Journal consist in editing it, or do you do any original matter for it?—We do original matter also.

2983. In the current number is there any original matter from the Intelligence Branch?—The tables at the close and the notes are always prepared by the branch. It so happens that in this number the notes were practically excluded, because of the large amount of other matter which had to go in. In this number nothing is written by the branch, but in other numbers we could refer to articles contributed by members of the statistical branch. It has been the custom since the beginning of the Journal, so far as time would permit, to contribute to it; but we depend to a large extent upon the other branches of the Department for the subject matter, and it is right that it should be so.

2984. (Chairman).—Would any leaflets be written in your Branch?—Not as a rule; in most cases that would be written by the instructions of Professor Campbell.

2985. (Mr. Mitchell).—These notes and memoranda are yours?—Yes, but notices of meetings of the Board are sent in by the Secretariat.

2986. (Chairman).—Anything in the nature of comment on statistics would be from your Branch?—Yes.

2987. Anything in the nature of statistics?—Yes.

2988. Would your Branch deal with inferences from statistics?—Certainly. Also, we arrange for articles to be written by other people, and we write ourselves when there is time.

2989. You not only publish a collection of figures, but the deductions which may legitimately be drawn from these figures?—Certainly; but that work is done mainly in connection with the special reports. I may say that Mr. Byrne contributed articles to the Journal, and since I have come I have myself written for the Journal. The fourth branch is that connected with the notes and distribution work, and the despatch work of the branch. All reports, bulletins, and circulars, and similar matter are stored and distributed by the branch; furthermore, the work of Presenting, the distribution of publications received by the Department, and the charge of the library fall under the work of the branch.

2990. (Mr. Mitchell).—The library—is it extensive or is it chiefly a blue-book library?—It is chiefly a blue-book library.

2991. (Chairman).—You have told us the mode of collecting information?—Yes. This work involves also considerable correspondence. There are the Royal Irish Constabulary, reports of market prices, postal inspectors, banking and railway companies, port and harbour authorities, and voluntary correspondents. This list shows the large number of bodies with whom we are brought into touch, and the considerable correspondence which is involved, and which has to be dealt with in the branch. Particulars can also be given of the number of leaflets distributed.

2992. How many leaflets?—Last year they were sent out something like 1,600,000.

2993. Do you send these on application or are they despatched?—We have a mailing list of people who wish to have all the leaflets sent to them. This has over 12,000 names on it, in all parts of Ireland; and then we get something like an average of thirty applications a day from people who are not on the mailing list; and, in addition to that, in one particular case—that is, of the leaflet dealing with the prevention of potato blight—we distribute that periodically by means of school children so that special attention might be drawn to it, and the leaflets taken home.

2994. You think the leaflets reach the people?—We get constantly acknowledgments of the leaflets, and find that the leaflets are appreciated.

2995. Questions upon them, and so on?—Questions upon them, and people writing, and saying they found the leaflets valuable. As regards the internal staff, a large number are lay clerks, who are engaged on simple mechanical work of the branch.

2996. (Mr. Mitchell).—Telling?—Worthily that, and also assisting in distributing work, addressing seeking up parcels, and despatching publications. They are used also for mechanical work of various kinds. Then we

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have the library to provide for. One second division clerk is in charge of the Press-cutting work and the library.

2997. Do you take all the local Irish newspapers?—No. But we have a large number. Then, again, with regard to markets and fairs' work, there are two men employed on this work; the reports are issued, as soon as they are received and compiled, to the Press, so that the materials may be known at once. The other members of the staff are employed on the work of the agricultural statistics, and on the import and export work; but it is important to make clear that those men are not absolutely employed on the work, but are also engaged in dealing, as far as time will permit, with inquiries which are sent to the branch. We have no division between the intelligence work and the statistical work.

2998. (Chairman).—You have no sub-organization at all. You have no branch in the Department itself?—There is no sub-organization, except in so far as there is a despatch room, with a clerk, and a certain number of janitors under him; there is the library part; the section which deals with prices; the section which deals with agricultural statistics and the section dealing with exports and imports; but men are drafted from one kind of work to another, according as the work requires to be dealt with.

2999. Is your staff fully worked?—Absolutely. I may say my senior staff officer is regularly early in coming and regularly late in going away.

3000. Have you any figures at all as to the number of letters that pass through your Department?—We have not an accurate record, because the numbers are so great, and the matters inquired into are not matters of which a record ought to be kept.

3001. (Mr. Micks).—It is not the correspondence branch mainly, but we estimate that about 25,000 letters are dealt with. That is in the branch itself apart from the registry. Those include also inquiries, which can be dealt with by a letter being sent. The Registry is a separate branch. The work of my first officer is very largely taken up with looking to the publication and supervision of the Press-cutting, and also with staff management; and as superintending my own time is considerably taken up with going into inquiries, which are referred to us by various branches of the Department. The superintending is required to act in an advisory capacity, and this forms a very important part of his work.

3002. (Chairman).—Suppose I want to know for a particular purpose how many bulls there are in Ireland, could you furnish that?—We could. It is in the statistics, and not only that, but the breed of them. That is all I have to say as regards the work of the different sections of the branch.

3003. Then I understand what you really say you require is some additional power of collecting information, especially with regard to trade?—Yes; I think there are three lines of development which experience suggests. One is in connection with the problems which were raised of the reliability of the statistics. I think that requires strengthening by the establishment of a system of supervising the estimates made and the reports given.

3004. I suppose you cannot expect in this country to get returns direct from the farmers and small holders themselves. In England one has to make a return of his own animals, and so on, but you have no such system here?—I think the system as it exists offers the foundation for a development along the best lines. The question as to whether practically a census method can be adopted instead of the existing method is one of great importance, and there are considerable advantages in the census method; but any such change can spring best out of the existing system, and for the present there are certain aspects which make the work particularly difficult in Ireland. In the first place, there is a very large number of small holdings, and anyone who has dealt with statistics knows it is very difficult where there are a great number of holdings to get anything like a complete return. Then there is considerable confusion owing to the different weights and measures. There are three acres in Ireland—the Irish, the Cunningham, and the statute acre—and confusion takes place owing to these differences; then there are varying measurements so far as produce and crops are concerned. You will find that a barrel of potatoes in one place differs from what it is in another; and there is very considerable difficulty in making up the returns

in a uniform character. I consider that great advantages would accrue ultimately from a system of returns made directly by the farmers to some intermediary collector who sorted and sent on the actual returns. But that would involve one other consideration, namely—that it would throw an immense amount of work on the central staff, and require a great increase.

3005. (Mr. Brown).—Is it not the duty of the Comptroller in each district to go round and make personal inquiries from either the occupier or some person supposed to be able to give the information?—Yes.

3006. It would not add very seriously to their duties if they had to leave a paper and collect it, as they do in the case of census returns; checking it on the occasion of their visit by making the same inquiries as at present?—Yes.

3007. The area each enumerator has to deal with is not a very large one?—We have considered that point, and that is the line along which, in my opinion, the development of the census system, if adopted, will have to work. We would not be able to depend entirely on returns sent out and sent back without the personal visit to complete the information.

3008. The personal visit has to be made, in point of fact, in collecting the paper, and it has to be made at present to get the information, so that really the only additional thing is sending out these papers and extracting the information from them?—Yes.

(Mr. Micks).—Have you any idea how many farms in the West of Ireland would be utterly unable to fill these forms?—

3009. (Mr. Brown).—I am not suggesting the doing away with the present system, but I don't see any objection to their giving a paper to be filled up by the proprietors?—You prefer the census system. If it is to be adopted it must be built on a basis similar to what exists at the present time. It is a development out of that, and, of course, there is no statutory authority requiring people to make the returns. There is no statutory authority in England either.

3010. Don't you think there ought to be statutory authority here?—I would not object. I would be glad of it, for although I think the use of the statutory power is hardly required, it is well to have the power. When you have the power, as lies in your discretion whether you would use it.

3011. (Chairman).—There would be nothing to prevent the adoption of that system now?—It involves, of course, arrangements with the police. It would mean, in certain respects, a considerable increase in expenditure and also of labour; but I am convinced that statistical work would be strengthened by the appointment of a statistical supervising officer, similar to the inspecting officers in the English Board of Agriculture, under the statistical branch. We have various ways of testing the returns made. On the one hand we have the official return. On the other hand, we have the returns from private correspondents in every Post Law Union in Ireland, from whom we get independent reports, which assist us in our work. It is an extremely difficult matter to get—especially on the question of rates of produce—returns which people will regard as accurate. A third line which would improve the statistics would be for a certain number of returns of weighed crops to be obtained in every county. The attempt is being made to secure that. If sample crops are weighed in every county it helps to give a correct idea of what the yield of the crop is. I should like to say, further, on this question of the reliability of the statistics, that it varies greatly with the subject matter in question. The number of holdings is undoubtedly much more accurate than the distribution of the land into the various crops. The number of milch cows is more accurately returned than the number of poultry. The reliable figures to a certain extent with the nature of the subject; and—in the case of certain crops—the estimates are more reliable than in that of others. It is not without some significance I take it that the estimate of the cereal crops and of the root crops show a remarkable correspondence with the averages of such weighed crops as we have been able to obtain. On the other hand, in the case of hay and potatoes, of which there is a very large area in Ireland, there are remarkable variations in the yield. It is exceedingly difficult to estimate rightly the yield from each district. We made careful inquiries last year on these matters, and find on the one hand, as regards the hay crop, the opinion of independent reporters is that our yield is somewhat high. On the

other hand, as regards our potato crop, our estimated yield is regarded as somewhat low. In general my opinion would be in favour of having several convergent means of testing the yield of crops. If you have, first, the reports of the enumerators, second a network of voluntary correspondents; third, a system of weighed crops extended as far as possible; and if you get these three things, together with using the judgment of such men as the county instructors in agriculture and horticulture, who have a widening knowledge of the agricultural developments of the country, you have a means of arriving at a conclusion as approximately accurate as any system of statistics can reach. As regards the intelligence work, what is required is the strengthening of our staff and of the funds available for inquiry. Initiative is desirable, so as to work up the field.

3012. How do you propose to do that?—At the present time we are not able to take up many subjects which one would like to follow out. Subjects, such, for example, as the insurance of cattle. It is of great value to have amassed an amount of data which would enable us to build sound conclusions, which would guide the Department in embarking, say, on any scheme of the kind.

3013. If the Department thought that any particular line of inquiry should be followed up, could you not do that now?—Yes. It is simply a question of strengthening the staff.

3014. You don't feel justified in suggesting certain lines on which to run the Branch, because you have not got the staff to do it?—Our staff is absolutely worked up to the full at present. As regards trade statistics

work, statutory powers would enormously simplify the situation, lead to satisfactory results, and, I think, in the long run, lead to the convenience of traders.

3015. The staff does not strike one as being very scanty on paper—you have five above the second division?—No; I have two staff officers and two clerks, but the latter are not above the second division.

3016. You have very efficient second division clerks?—Certainly. But the staff as it exists was a staff transferred to us, and absolutely required for the existing work.

3017. Is there much that you still wish to say?—No; that represents the statement which, I think, gives you an idea of the work done.

3018. You say there is a great deal of work to be done, and you find that as the general work grows your work grows?—Yes; and the developments before the work are great.

3019. You have in view this aspect of the development work, that you want to give information as fresh as possible?—Yes.

3020. With a view to its bearing on practical life?—The developments on the intelligence side I consider one of the most practical ways of assisting the industry of agriculture.

3021. Do you find any increase in the inquiries made, and as to the use people are making of your Branch?—Yes. I have been struck with the number of inquiries which come in of one character or another, and the variety of these inquiries.

3022. Are they generally of an intelligent character?—Yes, they are.

June 6, 1896.

Mr. W. G. S.
Adams.

The Committee adjourned.

ELEVENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—THURSDAY, JUNE 7TH, 1906.

At 15, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KENELM E. DIGBY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGBURN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKEL.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

MOST REV. DR. KELLY, Bishop of Ross, excused.

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3023. (Chairman).—I believe, my lord; you are here as representative of the Board of Agriculture, and that you have been appointed by the Board to give evidence?—Yes.

3024. And I believe I am right in saying that your lordship represents the Munster Provincial Council on the Board, having been elected by that Council, and that you are also a member of the Council of Agriculture?—Yes.

3025. You have been concerned with the matters before us from the time the Act came into force?—Yes, I have been a member of the Board from the beginning.

3026. And consequently you must have had a great deal of experience as to the working relations between the Board and the Department?—That is so.

3027. Then would you kindly tell us what your experience has been as to the working of the Board with the Department?—The relations between the Department and the Board have always been very harmonious, and there has been the closest confidence between the Board and the Department. The Department has always submitted to the Board all important questions beforehand, and we have discussed the matter with the Department, and as a result of the discussion the schemes have been either adopted or dropped or modified. Usually the schemes have been adopted, generally with some alterations, but there have been instances where the schemes have not been adopted. But of course, according to our statutory position, we have simply the right to put a veto on the scheme.

3028. On the enforcement?—On the enforcement, but in practice it has worked out that we have a great deal more administration than that right seemed to give us.

3029. As to finance, is the practice this, that the Department submit to the Board in the first instance the expenditure that they propose to carry out on any particular project?—No, they first submit to the Board that they propose to do a certain thing, and then they discuss the policy and the project with the Board, and after the matter is thrashed out, if the Board think it would be a good thing to do, then the Board ask what will be the expense in doing it, and if the Board think the scheme would be good value for the money they agree to the scheme and vote the money. If they think the scheme is not worth the money they object on the question of finance, and the scheme sometimes has been dropped because the Board did not consider it worth the money. The Department has frequently brought forward projects before the Board for discussion and consideration which it was not intended immediately to carry out, but which they thought they would do in future, and merely have the opinion of the Board on it. They have frequently brought forward projects and asked the Board to think about the matter and give them the result of their consideration, so that personally I have been quite content with the action of the Department in this regard, and I think every member of the Board has been. The question has been raised about initiative, so far as I am personally concerned, and I am sure the same is true of other members of the Board, I have had a great deal more initiative than I wished for, because my desk for the last six years has been constantly littered with communications from the Department asking me to think out such and such projects, and I have really got a great deal more work to do in that way than I wished.

3030. Was any proposal illustrative of initiative, pure and simple, ever made by a member of the Board?—Certainly, decidedly.

3031. Although that is not within the four corners of the Act?—Not within the four corners of the Act I myself have initiated several projects.

3032. And there is no difficulty thrown in the way by the Department?—On the contrary, the Department has constantly invited us to think projects on and intimate them, and wherever a sound idea has come up the Department adopted it. Of course, one has been brought forward and thrashed out that did not appear sound to the majority of the Board.

3033. Can you recall any case of an important character in which the initiative came from the Board?—We were all, both the Department and the Board, exceedingly anxious on the question of agricultural education, and it was and is a very great difficulty. It is partially solved, but the solution is by no means complete; from the very beginning I laid down as a doctrine that according to the peculiar temperaments of the Irish mind it would be necessary to bring to education as near as possible to the young men and women. There is a perfect mania in Ireland, and has been for some years, among the people to get away from the land. I am sorry to say this mania seems to be pretty prevalent all over the world. Our young men and young women who go away from home for any time to school or college, spending generally, as quite unwilling to return to agriculture. When I maintained if you established large agricultural boarding schools, large schools of domestic economy, and large dairy schools, and took the young people away from their homes for twelve months, these young men and young women would not be satisfied to go back, and I used the rather original illustration that we must treat them like snails in their shells; if the snail is taken out of the shell it will never go back again. Then the question arose as to how this could be carried out. Professor Campbell, Mr. G.D., and I particularly considered the matter very carefully, and I also maintained that we should remove from these institutions as far as possible all notions of schools or colleges, and we should remove from the students all ideas of students or scholars, that the very word would have a bad effect. One of these agricultural institutions has been established in my own diocese and I may say under my own patronage, and the idea has been worked out; it is not an agricultural school or an agricultural college, but an agricultural station, and the young men there are not students or scholars, but apprentices to farming, and the work is altogether of a practical character.

3034. Are they many?—The place was opened last November, and there is accommodation for thirty-two; there are nineteen there at present; it started with nineteen; it was not quite filled the first year; it was now, people did not understand it, but it will be more than filled the second year, because those nineteen are so satisfied with the place that they have been writing home to their friends, and I think there are more applications in for the next year.

3035. Do they come from the country?—It was established for the Province of Munster. There is one at Clonsilla (Cork) for Munster, there is another at Athlery for Connaught, and another has been established at Ballyhaiss, County Cavan, for Ulster.

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Dublin you have the Glasnevin school which fulfils not quite the same function, but to some extent the same function.

3036. That is rather a school for training teachers; is it on a higher level?—Yes.

3037. What sort of a class do the students come from; are they the smaller farmers' sons?—They are all farmers' sons, but they come from all classes, from farmers from 25 valuation up to £300 or £350.

3038. In any assistance given the students while they are there?—Oh, yes. I (Mr. Campbell) discussed this question already. The fee is merely nominal; for the sons of small farmers the fee is only 25, and then for the sons of larger farmers of £200 or £300 valuation the fee is 25s or £30.

3039. How do they qualify for admission?—They have to send in applications to the Department; they have to fill a form, the principal points of which are these: first, that they have a sufficient parental income, say education, so that the instruction will not be wasted on them; secondly, and a most important point, that they have actually been engaged in farming, and thirdly, they must sign an undertaking, that they intend to live in Ireland by farming, and they must also point out their prospect of obtaining a farm, such as a son states that he is to succeed to his father, or that his father has two farms and intends to give him one, and that statement must be countersigned by the parent or guardian and the clergyman of the parish.

3040. Do you consider that that will be successful in drawing the right class of boys and keeping them in the country?—I have no doubt that it will draw the right class, and consequently I have no doubt that these particular boys will be kept in the country, because in principle I laid down that the education must be such that it will not fit them for teachers, and they will be ineligible for teacherships, and they have to undertake that they will live by actual farming.

3041. You say there are other institutions in the country as well as these?—The Department has purchased a considerable estate at Athlone for £27,000, and we have already voted £25,000 for the erection of buildings there; an estate also was purchased at Ballyhane, County Cavan, and there is a considerable mansion house there, but it will have to be remodelled, and we have already voted money for remodelling; the students are actually in Ballyhane at present. I give that as one instance where private initiative was not only allowed but welcomed. I have no immediate connection with the technical side of the work, but at the same time I have had my finger on the pulse, and I want to give you an instance of initiative there. The Cork County Committee of Technical Instruction drew up a scheme in the very early days for technical instruction of young men and young women in the County Cork. I was not a member of the Committee, but when the scheme appeared I seriously objected to it as being on wrong lines on two or three points; first, the county money was to be distributed by way of capitation on the students. I objected to that because I held and do hold that what we want is teachers, and that the teacher must be paid a salary; send him to a locality; if he can manage to get a school together keep him there; if after trying for a year or two he fails to get a school together remove him. But I thought it would never work to have him paid merely by capitation fees. For instance in the town in which I live myself I said, "If we bring a teacher here we shall have to secure him a salary; are you willing to put your hands in your pockets and pay a salary in case a school does not come together?" and in the second place if these young fellows knew that the teacher depends on their attendance for his salary and fees, this will disturb the relations and the pupils will become the master instead of the teacher being the master. I also objected to the scheme on the ground that they were going to expend entirely too much money on the artistic education of girls—bookbinding, crochet, and other elegant arts, which are all very well in their way, but they are not going to save Ireland. Ireland must be saved by agriculture, fisheries, and good house-keeping. The third point in the scheme to which I objected was, they proposed to establish a residential school of domestic training for servants. Well, I objected to that on the ground that in Ireland as things are at present the wages of trained domestic servants are not sufficiently great to keep them in the country, and if we gave them a high-class training it would mean they would leave for a country where they would be paid a proper remuneration for

their skill. I pointed out that what we really wanted was to raise up the bones of the people, and it is at the daughters of the farmers and shopkeepers and labourers and other people in their homes we should get, and instead of a school of domestic economy for training servants that we should establish a school of domestic economy for training daughters of the middle classes, farmers, shopkeepers, and others. I wrote to Mr. Gill on the subject, and he wrote back to say his views entirely concurred with my own. The result was that the original scheme proposed was given up. Shortly after that Mr. Gill was down in Cork and I happened to meet him there, and I told him that there was at Dunsanyway, in the western portion of the Co. Cork, a building which had been established as a literary boarding school and had failed as a literary boarding school, and that I thought it could be utilized for a school of domestic training for the class of persons I contemplated. Mr. Gill proposed immediately that he and I would go down to Dunsanyway, and we went down there and saw the Sisters of Clervin, and we worked out a scheme of domestic training for the daughters of farmers, shopkeepers, and others of the middle class, and the type of school that was wanted there has been applied to several parts of Ireland.

3042. You think there is a large future before this domestic economy training?—I do. I will illustrate that for you by an example. I feel exceedingly strong on the question of domestic economy. There is a great lack of domestic knowledge among the women of Ireland. I need not go into the history of the country. You know the whole country was upset and the homes of the people upset, and that has left its mark on the country, but I venture to think that neither in England nor in Ireland is there domestic training of the right sort. I gave evidence before the Physical Deterioration Committee a few years ago, and I read the evidence afterwards about the homes in England, and it was simply appalling. We cannot boast of having the class of domestic knowledge they have in France. I felt very keen about this, and I impressed this upon the religious communities of nuns in my diocese, and told them they should get training in order to teach. They agreed, and I worked out a scheme to gather them together in one place, two or three sisters from each convent; they were to contribute pro rata to the expense and I would get a teacher for them. This was agreed to, and I applied to Mr. Blair, who was at the head of the Technical Branch here in Dublin, to recommend me a teacher. He inquired what I was going to do and I told him. He said, "We can save you the expense of the teacher; that comes within the functions of the Department, and we will supply you with a teacher." I was very pleased, and then, in consultation with Mr. Rich, who is now under the London County Council—he was at that time stationed in Cork as Inspector—in consultation with Mr. Rich we got a Scotch lady, a Presbyterian; we got her into the convent. And perhaps I may say that the admiration and the affection between this lady and the nuns, the mutual admiration and affection, was something literally amazing. These ladies were trained, and I may say that that was an act of initiative. She spent a year training these sisters in my diocese. The following year she trained the nuns of the diocese of Cloyne; at the present moment she is working in Thurles, training the nuns of the Counties Tipperary and Limerick, and for next year she is engaged to go to Kildenny to train the nuns of Kildenny and Ossory. The nuns were then examined by the Department and got certificates from the Department as certificated teachers of domestic economy; they were examined by the Education Board in South Kensington in hygiene, and got certificates there also. Then when I had my sisters trained I said, "Now one of you will be set aside exclusively for the instruction of adults and externs; the other can devote some of her attention to the primary schools." I worked out a scheme then as to how the instruction would go on. I submitted the scheme to Mr. Fletcher, the secretary of the Technical Education Branch, and he said the scheme was admirable, but that he thought we should modify it slightly so that it might become applicable to all Ireland. The modifications were merely nominal, so the scheme was adopted and is now at work, and under that scheme during the last twelve months they had three courses; if it would be any interest to you I will describe what the scheme was.

3043. If you please?—My first point in the scheme was that no person would be admitted to instruction

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under eighteen years of age. I no more believe that you can make a woman a good housekeeper at a young age than you can make a man a bishop at eighteen or a lawyer. There was no upper limit of age. The next point in the scheme was that these women and girls should not be more than between two and three hours in the day out of their own homes, and consequently they should attend only one class in the day. There are two classes carried on, a forenoon class from 10 to 12, and an afternoon class from 4 to 6, and these hours are fixed so as to interfere in the least possible way with the home life of the people. The dinner hour is usually 2 o'clock, so that you had one class between the breakfast and the dinner on the one side, and between dinner and the people leaving work in the evening on the other. Then no person is allowed to attend two classes, the idea being that if they spend four or five hours out of the home, the attending of these classes would become their whole object in life and, to some extent, take the snail out of the shell.

3044. (Mr. Dryden).—Are the two classes the same? —One is a repetition of the other, with a different set of students. I proposed that the class should last for half the year, twenty-weeks, in order to make any real impression you require to keep them half a year in training. The secretary pointed out that for the country generally it might be hard to get the women to attend for so long a period. I agreed to modify the scheme into a session of ten weeks instead of a session of twenty weeks, but he agreed with me that each student would be eligible for two sessions instead of one, so that if they were willing to come back to a higher course we could bring them to the higher course. We have been at work only a year and a half, and so far we have had only the junior course, if I may so call it, because I was anxious to get as quickly as possible into as many homes as possible; sixteen attend the morning class and sixteen the evening class. There are three sessions in the year of ten weeks each; they attend five days in the year of two hours a day, so that each person gets 100 hours' instruction; they have just concluded their third session, and ninety-six have been instructed this year, that is, we have got into ninety-six homes and they have been instructed at a cost to the public of exactly ten shillings a head.

3045. (Chairman).—They have gone back to their homes?—Oh, yes; they are all at their homes.

3046. They are all within reach?—Some have come on bicycles five or six miles from the country, but they all live in their own homes; I was speaking the other day to a gentleman who is proprietor of a hotel in the town and he told me that his daughter first attended one of the courses, and the mother was so pleased with all the daughter had learned that the next session was attended by the mother.

3047. No upper limit?—No upper limit, and the result is that he has told me he has let his cook go. And it was not merely that he had saved the wages of the cook, but more important still was the economy in the working of the hotel. I knew other cases in which the daughters attended first, and then the mothers, in order to hold their position at home, had to come and attend.

3048. Do you draw these from the poorer people at all?—That is one of the most satisfactory circumstances in connection with it. There are sitting side by side domestic servants, the wives of solicitors and doctors, the wives of local J.P.'s, all sitting and working side by side. At first we were afraid there might be some little social difficulty, but a good spirit was established, and the wife of the J.P. is as willing to clean a pot as the servant girl.

3049. Did you find among the poorer people much prejudice against it?—It requires a little gentle pressure within the law, but when once the thing is started it goes on splendidly. It requires a little talking and a little reasoning.

3050. Like a snowball, it grows—if one girl goes and profits by it she attracts others?—Once you get a class started the thing works itself. But in all this work there has been a good deal of an uphill struggle at first, because the country did not understand what was proposed, so the first three or four years of the work was largely an effort to break down prejudice and instruct the people.

3051. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you found that the less people know the more difficult it is to get them to come?—Of course it is.

3052. Those who know a little are anxious to know more?—That is so, and one of my troubles at present with these ladies in the domestic economy class is that, they are bringing great pressure to have the higher course now, and I am trying to hold them back to supply the knowledge over a larger area.

3053. (Chairman).—I suppose in many parts of Ireland the home life standard is so very low that it requires a good deal of stimulus to make them see the need?—My idea of the home life of Ireland is that there is no country in the world where there is so much spent on the maintenance of the people with so little result. The amount spent on the living of the people is quite sufficient to give them a reasonable standard of comfort, but a great deal of that money is wasted through sheer ignorance.

3054. (Mr. O'Connell).—You attach greater importance, as far as I can see, to the advantage to the home from the saving of expenditure than to a slight increase of income by utilising the woman's wit within the limits of the home?—There is no comparison in my point of view between the two things, the saving of expenditure in the homes of the people from my point of view is counted by millions, and anything you can make by lace or crochets will be only a drop in the ocean.

3055. (Chairman).—I don't know what is your next point, my lord, that you wish to call attention to?—Well, really, I came rather with a view to be questioned. These points I merely have given as illustrations of initiative, and what I have said of myself I have no doubt other members will say, and anybody who has been willing to work at them has had similar experience.

3056. A most striking instance of initiative, for it brings local knowledge to bear in setting the Department in motion?—There have been a variety of schemes suggested that when examined did not hold water, and, of course, these were not adopted. Then, as I said, one of the great difficulties was to convince the people and get them to understand these new ways and new methods. Then the various County Committees, naturally enough, did not understand what was being done in America, Australia, Württemberg, Belgium and other countries, and each man came up with his own idea, and there was some little trouble in keeping them from running their own ideas, which would be entirely contrary to what was being done in the countries generally. The Act of 1899, as far as I understand it, has been adapted from what was being done in France, Belgium, Württemberg, Denmark, and other countries, with certain modifications, to bring it in touch with Irish life. The County Committees did not understand what was being done in those countries at first, and there was a little friction in bringing them into line, but they came into line quickly. Another difficulty from which the Department suffered at first was the people through the country generally regarded the Department as a Castle Board. This is rather an historical and political question, and it is not easy for an outsider to fully grasp what is meant by a Castle Board. Mr. Brown will know it. The Castle means the Irish Government, and there is the greatest distrust, and has been in the minds of the people of the Irish Government, and that is altogether apart from the persons who have to administer the Irish Government for the time being. It is distrust of the institution, and if you put an archangel at the head of the Irish Government the distrust will be still there until the system was changed.

3057. That was partly aimed at by the framing of the Act, for it is a decentralising Act?—Exactly; there was a good deal of difficulty in getting the people to understand that the Department was not a Castle Board, as were the Board of Works, and—I am sure Mr. Brown has had experience of this—of trying to get into the minds of the people that the Department was an independent body.

(Mr. Brown).—Very great.
(Mr. Fitzmaurice).—And that we really were not "Castle hater" at all.

3058. (Chairman).—But the Act was very carefully framed with the object of preventing that idea?—Yes, and of course the Vice-President was to be a Minister. Let it be said in any way in connection with the Irish Government he was to be appointed by one of the principal Secretaries of State, so that the Lord Lieutenant and Chief Secretary for Ireland would have no control over him.

3059. Circumstances have happened to change the position of the Vice-President?—I don't think so in the least.

3060. I mean as regards his being a Minister going in and out with his Party; he is in Parliament no longer!—No, there was no difficulty about his not being in Parliament, because while he was not in Parliament he was still responsible to Parliament, and the only change was that he was a Minister out of Parliament, and the Chief Secretary or somebody else had to answer questions on his behalf, but he was still responsible to Parliament, and was quite independent of the Lord Lieutenant, or the Chief Secretary, or Dublin Castle.

3061. And although the Vice-President has not been in Parliament for five or six years?—Not since 1900.

3062. That really has not affected the principle?—Not in the least. In my opinion the principle is still there, and will have to be, in my opinion, adhered to.

3063. You attach importance to that!—Great importance; it is absolutely necessary from my point of view that the constitution of the Department should remain unaltered in that point, and in that I speak for the Agricultural Board. That is the strong feeling of the Agricultural Board.

3064. Do you think it would be desirable that the Vice-President should be in Parliament, and should be one of the Ministry who go in and out with the Party?—I don't think it is at all necessary that he should be in Parliament.

3065. If he is not in Parliament it alters the character of his office; if he is not in Parliament it follows that he does not, at all events, necessarily go in and out with his Party, that he is a permanent official at the head of his office; he has the responsibility of the office irrespective of whether this Party or that is in power—it rather alters the character of the original conception of the office?—If the Vice-President were to become a permanent official or, as it is sometimes called, a Civil Servant of the Crown, it decidedly would alter the position, and to that the Board would strongly object, but then the Board does not see any need of his being in Parliament, provided he is still appointed by one of the principal Secretaries of State, and provided that he is responsible to Parliament for his work, and not responsible to the Irish Government. It is rather unusual in political life that that position should occur, but there have been cases where Ministers have been without seats in Parliament. Our Irish Attorney-General and our Irish Solicitor-General, and a number of these have been over and over again without seats in Parliament. One of them is at present, and the Board, as far as I understand the feelings of the Board, would have no difficulty whatever that the present Vice-President should continue in the position he has occupied from 1900 to 1906.

3066. Then you would have him continue quite irrespective of any political considerations, whether his party or that was in power?—No, I would not; I would have him always appointed by the party in power, and that he would have no longer tenure of his office than until that party went out of power, and if the new party wished to appoint him that that should be in their power. He had been appointed by a Conservative Government; when he had not a seat in Parliament they kept him there. If a Liberal Government wished to appoint him on the same terms I have no objection whatever, I do not think there is any man in Ireland I would rather prefer to work with than the present Vice-President, and if the Liberal Government wish to re-appoint him and leave him in the same position as he has been from 1900 to 1906 we would all be very satisfied, but we would not be satisfied that the Liberal Government should say, "We will appoint you now as a Civil Servant and permanent official, and you will be under the control of the Lord Lieutenant and the Chief Secretary for Ireland."

3067. May we take it that what you have just been saying represents to the best of your belief the views of your Board?—It represents the strong views of—perhaps I cannot say of the Board unanimously—but the strong views of the vast majority, and we think it essential to the work, because, as I said already, if once the Department was in the position that it had to take its orders from Dublin Castle, I see no possibility of its retaining the confidence of

the country—you would immediately have collision between the various County Committees and the Department.

3068. Then do you think that owing to that other reason, as a matter of fact, the Department has got the confidence of the country?—There has been, and is, a certain amount of grumbling here and there, but I have no hesitation in saying the Department has got hold of the country. In the first year, 1900, the County Council of Cork, in which I live, refused to strike a rate or have anything to do with the Department mainly for political reasons, because they thought it was a Castle Department, and they would have nothing to say to it. The second year they struck a rate, and I think it would take a great deal of agitation at present to prevent them from striking a rate. There were only two counties that held out the first year against the Department, Mayo and Cork. Both came in the second year, and I think there would be a great murmuring now if the county did not strike a rate, and the people would be quite unwilling to give up the various agricultural schemes started.

3069. What effect has the question of the arrangement under the Act of having a large proportion of the Council and of the Boards elected Members, had in gaining the confidence of the country?—It has had a most decided effect.

3070. Is that diminished by there being also a large proportion of nominated members?—Personally, I don't think so; I sincerely think that the Boards and Council are better constituted as they are by two-thirds elected and one-third nominated than if they were all elected; I certainly hold that minorities, where it can be done, ought to be represented, and whether that be done by a cumulative vote or any other device, I think minorities ought to be represented.

3071. Where you have to deal with questions of a more or less technical character which require a great deal of knowledge and training and education, do you want an element which can only be supplied by nomination?—Well, I don't take that view quite so much; it is not with regard to the superiority of the nominated gentlemen, but it is simply to have the sections of society that would not be supplied by election represented.

3072. As far as your lordship's experience goes has there been any difference of opinion as divergence of any sort between the elected members and the nominated members?—None whatever.

3073. You could not predict beforehand that the nominated members would take one view and the elected another?—No. If you were to sit at our Board of Agriculture, and we have twelve members, without knowing the general personnel, and knowing how they came to sit at that Board, you would find it absolutely impossible to form an opinion whether a member was elected or nominated.

3074. You have had experience also of the Agricultural Council—would you say the same with regard to the Agricultural Council?—Yes, there have been eight meetings of the Council, I think I attended five, but so far as I saw I would say the same of the Council.

3075. I would just ask you as to the way in which appointments are made by the Department: are these in any way brought before the Board?—The Board has no control whatever or authority in connection with the large sums of money voted annually by Parliament. In the appointments of the very high officers, that is the Assistant Secretaries of the branches and of the head of the Statistical Branch, the three or four of these very officers, when the appointment was being made, the Vice-President has always brought before the Board as a matter of information the various persons that he was thinking of trying to induce to take the office, because that was really the position, looking out for the best men. We were trying to steal somebody from Canada, and we were very nearly successful. He has brought before us very carefully those principal officers and told us the qualifications and chances of their coming and his opinions about them for recommendation, and also any suggestions which any person was able to make. That has been so with regard to these principal officers. With regard to the minor appointments we never heard anything. Some members of the Agricultural Board, and I have to say this in order to represent the Board, because the matter turned up

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at the meeting at which I was appointed to give evidence. There are some members of the Board, possibly the majority, that think that the Board ought to be consulted more generally with regard to the appointments. I don't think that the Board would wish to have the appointments in their own hands; for myself, I certainly would not wish it, and I don't think it would work well, because I am not personally in a position to be able to keep up a correspondence with the various candidates and go through all the details, and I have not the knowledge to form an opinion, so I think the Board would not wish to have the appointments in their own hands. Perhaps the majority of the Board think they ought to be consulted more widely not merely with regard to three or four of the chief officials, but with regard to a number of others, and some of them would claim to have a veto on the appointments, and the reason stated was that in looking to the future you might have a Vice-President of the Board that would wish to stock the Department with his own friends or others that would not be at all suitable, and it would be well that there would be some check. I may say that so far as I am concerned I am not very keen on that matter. I do say distinctly that so far as I know that in the appointments up to this the only consideration was to get the best man possible, and I quite concur in the view of bringing Scotchmen or Canadians, or any other good man we can get, because we want this in Ireland; we had not the information ourselves; we had to bring it from the outside, and, as I told you a minute ago, when I wanted to train my men in domestic economy I got a Scotch lady. Now with regard to this agricultural station at Glenakilly, which is to some extent under my patronage, the patronage arises in this way. The farm and the buildings belong to myself and a co-trustee; they were left to us by legacy, and we are still the legal owners of the property. We retain the legal ownership, but we have handed the property over to the Department on condition that they would work it as an agricultural station, but we retain a certain general right of patronage over the place. I myself legged and entrusted to the Department, and almost made it a condition of giving it to them that they put a certain Scotch gentleman I knew at the head of it, Mr. Duncan, because I thought he was the best man we could get. I made his acquaintance at the Cork Exhibition, and he impressed not only me, but everyone who met him, most favourably, and he is at the head of the place working it splendidly. Some members of the Board fear that that may not always be the case, and therefore they wish to have some check.

3076. Do you think that is a general feeling?—I rather think the majority are of that view.

3077. That they would like to have a veto?—I rather think so, some check, whether by way of veto or some check that would be effective if a Vice-President wished to pack the Board with incompetent officials.

3078. Now I suppose you are looking to a certain extent for a supply from the training institutions which have been started?—Oh, yes, we will soon have our own supply; it will take us some time before we have our own men fit for the higher posts; I hope we shall not want one for a long time. Another of our difficulties—this does not arise quite naturally from the inquiry—but another difficulty the Department has to contend with in getting on with the work is this, if this work had commenced in Ireland twenty years ago, when Ireland was more or less on the up-grade in agricultural matters and agricultural prices, the work would go on much more smoothly than it does, but this work is commenced just at the very moment when European, at least English and Irish agriculture were on the rapidly down grade; the Department has been doing some good, but yet it is not at all able to counteract the influence that are at work. There is one aspect of the case that I just call your attention to briefly. Most of the Commission know much more about the matter than I do myself, but there is just this general view. The beef and mutton trade on which Ireland depends so largely is, from my point of view, for the present and in the future, an impossible trade. The production of beef and mutton requires little labour, the animals produce and fatten themselves, and if we look to the productive powers of the countries that are deluging our markets and their consuming

power at the same time the matter seems to me to be extremely serious. We have in Ireland about four and a quarter millions of people, and we have four and three-quarter million head of cattle, and we are not able to consume all our own beef; we send a great deal to England. We have three and three-quarter millions of sheep, and send a great deal of our sheep to England. We have 1,315,000 pigs, and we send a great deal of our pork out of the country. So four and a quarter millions of people do not consume all the meat of a cow, a pig, and a sheep each year. In the United Kingdom there are forty-two millions, and it is fed the forty-two millions you have eleven and a half millions of cattle, twenty-eight millions of sheep, and four millions of pigs. It is quite clear that there are not sheep and cattle and pigs enough in the three kingdoms to feed forty-two millions.

3079. (Mr. Dryden).—That is where the Canadian pigs get in?—That is where you get in. Now I turn to the countries that are feeding us, and I see that the Argentine had in 1898 12,000,000 of cattle and 55,000,000 sheep. In 1899 it had 25,000,000 cattle, more than double the number, and 89,000,000 sheep. I need not go over the prices they have been paying for bulls in Ireland and England, 1,500 and 1,000 guineas each, and reaping all our best cattle sheep. To eat that enormous number of animals they have just 4,000,000 people. Now 4,000,000 of people are not going to make much impression in eating 25,000,000 millions of cattle, and there is no reason that 25,000,000 won't run in the next thirty years to 100,000,000. In Australia in 1891 they had 104,000,000 of sheep and 10,000,000 million head of cattle, and the population is only three and a half millions for all these animals. In Canada the population in 1901 was 5,330,000, and of course the Commission knows a great deal more about the Canadian resources than I do, but I am quoting from the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. It says that "Across the Continent there is a zone 3,500 miles long, and as wide as France, with a climate adapted for the production of food of a superior quality. The quantity of albumenoids in Canadian flour is one-tenth greater than in the best European brand, Babcock can make from it the best bread, and also the largest quantity per barrel." The population of the Argentine, Australia and Canada is going up very slowly, and looking at human movements, there is a possibility that in 100 years they will have a population to consume their own produce. Canada had a population of five and a half millions in 1901.

3080. It is more than 5,000,000 now?—But you will remember the United States. In 1800 it had 5,500,000, in 100 years they had 70,000,000. It took them 100 years to go from 5,000,000 to 70,000,000. From 1800 to 1897, during seventy-seven years, over 15,000,000 emigrants got into the United States, so that you in Canada can hardly ever expect the immigration that has gone into the United States. But, assuming that you had the same immigration, and multiplied at the same rate, you will not be able in 100 years to consume the food of Canada. All that is working upon us in this country, and it is only in the incipient stages. Though there has been a great deal of importation, that importation will increase year after year, and hence those depressing influences, over which we have no control, have rendered the work of the Department immensely more difficult than if it had commenced twenty or thirty years ago; that is rather a digression.

3081. Notwithstanding those depressing influences, the Department are doing their best?—The Department has been doing its best, and I might possibly be permitted to say this of the officials of the Department. I have been brought into rather close touch with them, and there has been an enthusiasm and energy, and, I might almost say, a fanaticism about their work. I have been impressing upon the Department that we must enter upon a more determined campaign in the country to try and compel the people to produce from the land their own food and food for the cattle, and not to attend so much to the question of cattle-rearing and cattle-breeding. My opinion is that we shall always be able to do a pretty good trade in Ireland in the matter of butter and pigs, wherever manual labour comes in, because those countries I have been referring to for want of manual labour cannot extend at all to the same extent their dairy produce and pigs as they can their

raising of beef and mutton, because beef and mutton will produce themselves, butter and pigs will not produce themselves, and hence in Ireland I think we should devote ourselves very much more than we do to producing food out of the land both for people and animals, and also to the production of butter and bacon and devote ourselves a great deal less to the live stock industry.

3052. (Chairman).—I suppose the rearing of cattle is really a passion with the Irish farmer?—It seems to be that.

3053. (Mr. Dryden).—The climate makes it possible for his lordship to make that statement, but in Canada we require to have some labour, because the animals must be housed the seven months in the year. (Witness).—Yes, but in the Argentine they don't need that.

3054. (Chairman).—That is an advantage Ireland has in that way—they require very little housing. Then, notwithstanding all this, does your lordship lose with helplessness on the development of agriculture on the lines adopted by the Department?—Well, I have given the matter a great deal of thought myself, and I certainly cannot see any better way than the Department has been following, but if you ask me is the Department going to succeed in making a happy Ireland I could not answer that; I could not pledge myself to that proposition.

3055. But you think the attempt is worth making?—About this I am quite clear; if the Department were not at work things would be a great deal worse than they are, and as time goes on the Department will prevent things from becoming as bad as they otherwise would have done, so it is a decided gain; but whether the Department will succeed in keeping things as well as they are, or improving them, I would not commit myself to that statement, for I am not able to fully estimate these awful causes that have come into play within the last five or six years, and I don't think any man can properly estimate them at the present moment.

3056. How has the Agricultural Council, in your experience, worked on the whole?—It has legally very little power; it is more of a deliberative assembly than an assembly vested with distinct functions except for electing the Board.

3057. Do you think its working has been satisfactory?—I think it was a very useful body in this way, that it brought the Department into touch with the principal men from all the counties of Ireland, and brought the representatives of all the counties into touch with the Department, and there was a communication of ideas. The Council instructed the Department as to the conditions of agriculture and the wants and needs of the different parts of the country, and then on the other hand the Department instructed the Council in the aims and objects of such a Department which, as I said already, was very little known in this country, and there there was a sort of mutual education going on which, in my opinion, was very valuable both to the Department and the Council itself. That educational process has been to a large extent fulfilled now, and I would think that the Council at present might be taken a little more into the confidence of the Department and of the Agricultural Board. I don't propose that there should be a transference of power from one body to the other, but that there might be brought before them more of the Department's work. There are two recent examples of that, there was a question before the Agricultural Board, over and over again, the difficult question of the Agricultural Organisation, and the question was discussed by the Council, and having been discussed by the Council, no decision was arrived at, and it was postponed to the next meeting. There was also another question that was before the Board more than once, and the Board did not see its way very clearly about it, and that was with regard to making a large grant and supplying the officials of the Department for the working of the Dublin Exhibition here. The Board fully concurred in the policy of the Department in giving large grants, and also the services of their officials in the earlier years of the work of the Department, for it was felt by the Board as well as the Department that these exhibitions were a good means of exciting interest in the Department's work. However, having gone through the Cork and Glasgow and St. Louis Exhibitions, the great majority of the Board felt that the time for

exhibiting ourselves in that initial stage, showing who we were and what we were was over, and now the time had come for work, and the time had not yet arrived when we were able to exhibit the results of our work, and therefore there should be a lull in our exhibitions. However, it was agreed to refer that matter to the Agricultural Council. The matter was referred to the Council, and the Council declared that only small assistance was to be given to the exhibition. I should think a little extension of the policy of referring questions to the Council could with advantage be carried on.

3058. Although I suppose the Council has no legal power to stop an expenditure of that kind or take any steps at all?—No direct power. I myself was one of those that suggested to refer it to the Council, and at the Council my attitude was not to say a word. I was a member of the Board, I did not wish to say a word, I wished that the Council would discuss the matter for themselves, and I felt in the frame of mind that, as far as I could, at the Agricultural Board, whatever policy the Council adopted I would loyally carry it out, and if I did not they could throw me out at the next election; they have at least that power over the Board.

3059. Would you wish to see greater powers given to the Council or would it be enough, in practice, to adopt the course of referring questions of that kind to the Council?—At least for the present the various powers seem to be pretty well balanced, the action of the Department as the executive, the action of the Boards as administrative, and also, as I showed you, as initiative, and the action of the Council as deliberative and advisory, and also a check. I think things are pretty well balanced at present, and the thing may be allowed to work itself out. Of course I may tell you that I am a rather strong Home Ruler, and as a Home Ruler I want to work things out; I am not for centralisation; on the contrary for evolution and devolution in principle, and hence I would not check the Board and the Council in any way; if anything I would extend their power and operation, but at present I do not think any violent change or transfer of powers from one to another would serve any good purpose.

3060. The instance you have given appears to be a very good one of the actual power of the Council, although it has no legal authority.

(Mr. Dryden).—You think that in a general way the discussions of the Council represent fairly public opinion over the country?—Well, I think they must, because on the Agricultural Council you have almost all the chairmen of the various County Councils and the chairmen of the County Councils are also members of the County Committees of Agricultural and Technical Instruction, and they are generally the leading politicians in their district too, so I think a discussion conducted by them fairly represents the opinion of the country.

3061. So that one reading the reports would get a fair view so far as the questions that have been discussed?—Yes, you have the trade interests on local questions that are sometimes represented by the Council and sometimes not. We had a great deal of difficulty in Cork in getting the work on at all because the Cork butter market was one of the most important trade interests in Ireland; it was the salt butter firm; then in the change of times the merchants and various parties interested did not understand why the salt butter firm trade could not be kept up at the same rate of prosperity as it had been for a century or two centuries, and they resisted very much any change in the methods of butter-making; they thought that the Department meant to change all this, and that it meant the destruction of their own trade. There are two daily newspapers in Cork, and both were writing furiously against the Department and all its works and pumps, largely from this trade point of view. In other parts of Ireland there were similar troubles, sometimes matters of that sort crop up at the Agricultural Council, sometimes they do not, but on the whole I think the members of the Council fairly represent the country as a whole. You cannot fancy any more representative men than the chairmen of the County Council; these men are all elected themselves by the people on a popular franchise; they get together and the County Councils elect their chairmen.

3062. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say on the question of the requirement of more funds?—That will become an immediate trouble and difficulty; in the earlier years the funds were saved up a good deal,

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so that a few years ago we had an accumulation of savings of about £400,000; then the Department began supplying these agricultural stations and equipping technical schools and other things, and a great deal of that surplus has been already expended, so that the surplus of £400,000 we had two or three years ago has now fallen to £120,000; some of the money, though voted, has not yet been spent, but there is only £120,000 unexpended; our annual expenditure, which began with £20,000 a year, was last year considerably beyond our income.

3093. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you the exact figures of the expenditure?—The total income for agriculture and technical instruction is about £180,000 a year; we started with £166,000, and we got a few additional acres since—£5,000 a year—that was given us by the Royal Dublin Society; then we took over a good deal of the work of the Congested Districts Board, and made a very bad bargain; they are giving us £3,000 a year for doing work that costs us £7,000 a year. I protested vigorously against making such a bargain; however, I was over-ruled both by the other members of the Board and by the Department too. Then there was a further sum of £7,000 a year given for technical education; these few sums run up our income from £166,000 to £180,000. Then up to the present we have some interest on these savings invested, but of course these will disappear. Our present income is expended to the extreme limit; in fact we will have to commence to draw in.

3094. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say about the administration of the finances?—Of course if I criticise the finances I criticise myself, because the finances are always submitted to me in the most detailed fashion. In the first place, as I told you already, when we discuss a scheme we ask what it will cost and we vote the money, and according as the scheme is carried out periodically we are told to rough has been spent on it; the details were often handed round, and anyone who wished to see them might.

3095. The important matter is the approval of the estimate rather than the supervision of the details of the expenditure; you have the details of the expenditure accessible?—Not merely in the bulk sum of the estimate given, but as a rule the details are given.

3096. Are they subjected to close criticism by the Board?—They are; the Board over and over again will say that is a very good thing to do but it is not worth the money.

3097. So that it really has an effective check?—I feel so; I quite feel myself that so far as finances go I am master of the situation.

3098. Therefore you think you must have recourse to getting more money?—I think so; it is possible we might make some saving on the live stock schemes in the future, but otherwise we will require a great deal more money for agricultural education.

3099. (Mr. Dryden).—Don't you still require to spread these live stock schemes, and that will repay you?—I believe myself that we will have to depend more on agriculture.

3100. (Chairman).—Do you look to an increase of the dairy industry, milk and butter?—Yes, I think we should increase the milk and butter industry.

3101. Anything in fact for which you have a ready and immediate market?—What I rely upon is this, that wherever you require a good deal of personal labour, we have in Ireland a population, and we require to keep our population, and where we can utilise personal labour we can compete with other countries, but you cannot compete in the raising of beef and mutton with places like the Argentine and New Zealand, where they have unlimited land to let cattle and sheep roam over.

3102. Do you look hopefully to fruit cultivation?—Of course that will take time also, but some efforts have been made, especially in the South of Ireland. In my own part of the country twenty or twenty-five men have planted an acre each of fruit trees and got considerable assistance from the Department, and there has been an horticultural instructor allocated there to look after these plots. I would not be quite true to my own opinions if I don't add a word which I hope the Committee won't take to be ungracious. I come here very reluctantly.

3103. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Both in what I have been able to see myself of the work in the country and from what I have heard in the evidence, I have been rather struck with the great advantage, as far as I have been

able to estimate it, that the Department has derived from having the co-operation of ecclesiastical organisations in promoting their work; I should be very glad if you would say whether the impression I have obtained is a correct one. I have seen that it has been possible to have a much more rapid multiplication of teachers, trained so far as is necessary, and to have those teachers made much more directly available in different parts of the country from what appeared to me to be the cordial co-operation with the Department, at all events by the very strong ecclesiastical organisation in this matter. Is that an accurate impression?—Yes, I think your impression is quite accurate; the clergy of all denominations have taken up with warmity the work of the Department, and when Professor Campbell came over first, the first two or three weeks he was in the country he made a little run through the country, and at our next meeting of the Agricultural Board I was rather struck that in his short tour of the country he came back and said, "We will never get this work on until you can get the clergy to take an interest in it." It has been and jokingly to me that Sir Horace Plunkett was a very clever man when he got hold of for his Board an Archbishop and a Bishop.

3104. In fact we may take it that the clergy as a rule—I mean all the clergy—are so far familiar with the conditions of work as well as the conditions of the people in Ireland that they are very effective co-operators with those who are more directly interested in the financial aspects of the business?—Yes, taking them as a body the vast bulk are.

3105. And wherever it has been possible to an existing local educational organisations, of whatever type, as a means of supplying more readily the methods that the Department has after advice adopted, that has been available?—Yes.

3106. I have been rather struck with your estimate of the limited possibility for even the co-operation of the present income to Ireland from the stock market; I wondered why there was so little to all appearance—I mean from the returns and examination of mutton—so little to all appearance of the minor industries, that are related to stock work, soap, candles, tanning, and all that sort of thing, all over Ireland; I rather gather from what you say that it is not particularly desirable that there should be much money spent on the development of that, as the present supply of raw material is by no means one that is likely to be relied upon?—I am entirely in favour of the spreading of all these minor industries. I merely contrasted lace-making and crochet work with hawthorn-keeping, but I would be very sorry if you gathered the notion that I am opposed to all the minor industries connected with agriculture.

3107. I have not represented my question properly; it is rather this, that if the stock production we're remain in future as large an item in Irish agriculture as it is at present, then it would, judging from the distribution of work in other parts of the British Isles, be worth while to save the money that might be made out of the manufacture of soap and candles and tanning and leather. I know some parts where there is a great deal of money made in that way. You will always have, in my opinion, the same amount of raw material for this work as you have at present, for I always look forward to this, that we will raise a Ireland quite sufficient cattle and sheep to send to our own butchers, so, as far as the hides, bones and fat, we will have in the future quite as much as we had in the past. We send about three-quarters of a million cattle to England every year; these cattle are slaughtered in England, and of course the offal from these cattle is bad in England, and not in Ireland, and we have the offal in Ireland from the cattle that our own butchers slaughter.

3108. I had thought that there was a possibility of doing a dead meat trade as is done in England and Scotland?—Well, on that question there was a Mr. Tolleran in Dublin twenty or twenty-five years ago, he was exceedingly strong on that point; he wrote a number of letters in the Dublin papers about the great waste it was to Ireland to send cattle over the water than dead. I heard nothing about the matter since.

3109. These considerations you put before us justify very special attention being given to the development of everything in the nature of dairy work?—I think so.

3110. And any such aspects of agricultural work as require hand-work require people to work at?—That is my idea.

3131. Then I should like to know how far you think the establishment of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction has been of special advantage to Ireland in the matter of consolidating the agencies, so to speak, for the whole extent of the country. One is familiar in England with a large county like the West Riding of Yorkshire or Lancashire, where there is a population of some millions to deal with. The County Council of a large county in one place or a small county like Westmorland has to deal with problems very much the same as those that have to be worked out by the Board of Agriculture and the County Councils in Ireland. A question arises as to how far the concentration of agencies in the hands of the Department as the single organisation for all the counties in certain aspects of the work, has been an economical one and also an effective one—I think the County Councils and their committees of agriculture and technical instruction have been left a good deal of liberty and a good deal of responsibility has been thrown upon them. They have conducted the work themselves under the direction of the Department. No doubt the Department has to approve of their schemes, and the clerical of the Department have to fix the expenditure before it is made by the county committees, but the committees do their work effectively and well. The only organisations that really work at the promotion of agriculture that the Department is in touch with are the County Committees of agriculture in the various counties.

3132. But the Department has done a good deal in the detailed preparation of schemes applicable to the whole country, in assisting the counties in working out their own schemes, acting as a sort of technical adviser to the counties; what I want to get at is whether it has been an economic arrangement for Ireland that the Department was available for the whole country in this respect? The work could not be done at all without the Department being there, for the various committees themselves could never carry on the work without the help of instruction from the Department and the Department's inspectors, and from the point of view of economy I thought it was very economical, and the early years' expenditure was very small.

3133. At the present time the functions that the Department performs in the assistance and direction of the local authority in these matters is really a method of securing efficiency and economy in the expenditure of money—I think so; I don't think they really interfere with County Committees at all; of course County Committees knew very little about this work at first, and they had to be instructed to a large extent. I was a member of the County Committee of Agriculture of the County Cork, and I was rather a diligent attendant at their meetings for some years; latterly I don't go very often; I am busy in a variety of ways; I used to go there because it was necessary to take a broader view of things, and I always found when the matter was explained to them and they saw the wider aspect of it, they immediately agreed with you, and now they are pretty well instructed and I seldom go near them. I generally go there when they are adopting their annual scheme and on a couple of occasions like that.

3134. Then it follows that the experience of the past five or six years has been a very valuable experience for the county authorities—I have no doubt whatever about it—a very valuable experience, and they are now very much better able to do their own work than five or six years ago.

3135. And to that extent the Department will gradually find their labours rather lightened—Decidedly in the matter of organisation and supporting the schemes they will find their labours lightened, but they always have the very peculiar task before them of technical education which will take them all their time.

3136. (Mr. Brown).—I don't know whether your lordship is aware that the Department applied at one time to have that restriction as to the application to industries removed from the Act, so as to the application of the surplus of the endowment fund "for the purpose of agriculture and other rural industries." They sought to have the word "rural" eliminated so that the surplus would be available for all industries; having regard to the fact that expenditure on these purposes, that is, agriculture and other rural industries, now exceeds the income, would it be advisable, do you think, that such an extension should be made unless accompanied by a very large increase of income?—I think it would be quite inadvisable to take the present

fund away from agriculture and apply it to industries, but if there was a very large increase of income I would have no objection then to the application to help on industries.

3137. Suggestions have been made as to the reconstitution of the present Boards which have taken the form of suggesting that the administration (presumably of the Boards and the administration of the Department itself) should be discharged by four paid Commissioners, by two separate Boards, one for agriculture and the other for technical instruction, consisting each of four paid Commissioners, one elected from each province; does your lordship think that any improvement on the present system?—It is the first time I heard the suggestion.

3138. It has come before us in the answers from certain public bodies; I mention it because a considerable number of bodies have suggested it.—That is the first I have heard of it; the members would be elected as they are at present. Apparently the four Commissioners would supercede the Department and the Boards themselves.

(Mr. Miles).—Not the Boards

(Mr. Brown).—The Boards would have no functions if the Commissioners were to administer. I had better read the suggestion:—"To have the administration composed of four paid Commissioners for the technical side and an equal number for the Agricultural side; those Commissioners should be elected by the County Councils; one for each province, and held office for a term of five years." That is from the Standing Council of the Irish Technical Association, and it has been followed by a number of the Committees.—It is quite obvious that those four would supercede both the Department and the present unpaid Boards.

3139. (Mr. Miles).—I should not take that view of it, my lord; "administrative," not "consultative."

(Mr. Brown).—They are certainly intended to supercede the officials of the Department and implicitly to have no function for the Boards.—Implicitly. I don't see how the Agricultural Board could continue to control the fund. Take me as a non-paid representative of the Council of Munster; I don't see how they could get myself and another to control the funds administered by a person elected by themselves; that would be putting two unpaid elected men to watch one paid elected man. The great difficulty to my mind would be this; the work is of a highly scientific and technical character, and if the County Council of Munster offered to elect me to the position and pay me £1,000 a year I hope I would have the humility to refuse it on the ground that I was quite unfit for the work.

3140. (Chairman).—There is something you wish to add?—As I said, it is rather ungenerous to add it, but I have appeared here to-day with a considerable amount of reluctance. When the Board asked me to appear I told them I had no desire to appear before this Committee, although I have often appeared before Commissions and Committees with a great deal of pleasure; the last time I appeared was before the Commission of which Mr. Miles was chairman. My difficulty here to-day is this, and I want to be candid about it. I really don't see the purpose of this inquiry; I don't quite see what it is aiming at. When the Poor Law Commission was held I quite saw what the Commission was aiming at; the Poor Law system had become quite antiquated; the conditions of the country, the population and everything, had changed so that we have at present an antiquated and extravagantly costly system. The Department and these Boards have been instituted only a few years ago on the best continental and foreign models and the conditions of the country have not changed much since then. Now if the inquiry were to be carried out as it was first suggested I could understand it; the first suggestion was to inquire into the Department's relations with the other branches of Irish administration. But what is in your warrant is, "in regard to other departments especially those charged with educational functions." There is a very great difference between the two things; if you were inquiring into the relations of the Department with the other branches of Irish administration I, as a House Ruler, would be inclined to think that you were sent here to see how the Department would fit it in with the general system of an Irish government, and I could see that and could see my way to give evidence, and give my candid views how you would fit in with the general system of an Irish Government; but to commence to inquire into the Department and its work at the end of six years, and

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June 7, 1906. to leave the Board of Works out, and to leave the Local Government Board out, and to leave all the other Boards out. I confess I did not see what the inquiry was driving at, and therefore I was quite willing to answer any question put to me, but I had nothing to say on my own part, for I did not quite see whether I was coming here to defend myself and my own action or where I was to sit, whether in the

witness chair or in the dock, or whether I was coming here expected to make an attack on somebody or other. I have practically said as much as that at the Board that appointed me, and I would not be candid if I did not say so now.

(Chairman).—We are all extremely glad that your scruples did not prevail, and that you have been able to give us such interesting evidence.

Mr. PATRICK J. O'NEILL, J.P., examined.

3121. (Chairman).—You are the Chairman of the Dublin County Council?—I am.

3122. I must ask you to be good enough to tell us what you wish to say about the various points on which we have got the hands here. Will you kindly tell us how long you have been Chairman of the County Council?—I have been Chairman from the beginning, 1893. I have been a practical agriculturist all my life, and engaged in agriculture as an industry, and at the inception of the Department's work I was naturally interested in what it proposed to do for the purpose of furthering the interests of agriculture in Ireland, as I believed it to be perhaps the most important of all industries in this country at the present time. I was sympathetic with its work and desirous of seeing it carried to the fullest extent, and I think I have taken a practical interest in all the schemes which have been undertaken by it. I was instrumental in inducing the County Council to co-operate with the Department after it was established for the purpose of establishing a County Committee in the Metropolitan area, and I was appointed chairman of that committee and have been chairman of that committee since that date, and I am familiar with the working of the Department's schemes as chairman of that committee. As a member of the Agricultural Council and as a member of the Agricultural Board, I have been one of the elected members representing the Province of Leinster since the formation of that Board, and I have taken some part; certainly a sympathetic part, in the working of the Department's schemes, and given what assistance was in my power in drafting and devising those schemes. I should like to say that the most cordial relations have always prevailed between the Department and the Board, and for my part I have no complaint whatever to make regarding the administration of the Department in its relations with the Board. Of course from time to time in matters of detail differences of opinion have arisen between the Department and the committee. I think I might say that in my opinion some of the friction which has taken place between those local committees and the Department might have been avoided by a less rigid application of the various schemes. I am free to confess the Department always were most anxious in the first instance to establish broad principles, but in the application of those principles differences of opinion from time to time arose which caused friction between the Department's officials and the County Committees. They were in some degree inevitable, I suppose, and would have arisen, I think, necessarily in all new undertakings with which the people were not familiar, but at the same time I do think that a more elastic administration of the schemes in some matters of detail would certainly have forwarded the interests of the Department's work in some of the counties, and I think would have gone in a large measure to popularise the administration of the Department at an earlier stage of its work. I think that the committees, now that they are becoming familiar with the principles on which the Department administers, are more tolerant, and recognise the necessity of what at the outset they were slow to see.

3123. Do you wish to mention particular cases to illustrate what you say?—It is always best to illustrate what one means with individual instances. With regard to the poultry scheme in Dublin County my committee was anxious to put this scheme into operation and they determined to do so, and for three years they continued to keep the entire scheme in operation; at the end of the three years they were convinced that the lectures in connection with poultry were not patronised to the extent which they desired, and they came to the conclusion that as the people had not manifested a desire to attend for the purpose of being instructed, and I admit they needed the instruction, we had not received the co-operation from the people that we desired, the committee thought that they would not be

justified in continuing the portions of the scheme which had proved unpopular, and they made a proposal with that intention to the Department which the Department refused to sanction. I admit then was a strong show of reason for the Department's attitude, their contention being that instruction should go on at the same time as the demonstrations with regard to other branches of the subject; but a feeling prevailed at my committee that as the people had not manifested the desire they would not be considered as wisely administering public funds by retaining officials to give lectures to audiences which did not assemble. I only give this as an instance in which I think more elasticity in the administration of the Board might in some degree have tended to popularise the administration of the Department.

3124. But assuming the Department was wrong, it was a fair question in which there might be a difference of opinion?—I quite agree, but my point is this, that the benefits of the scheme, which I fully believe, were denied to the county by reason of the Department's determination not to allow one part to proceed unless the other was taken up; it was abandoned altogether.

3125. (Mr. Brown).—The committee refused to go on with other part?—The committee were willing to go on with one part, and the Department refused sanction because they were unwilling to go on with the other part.

3126. (Chairman).—Where you have a scheme of that sort dealt with by two separate bodies, each of which has some authority in the matter and looks at it from different points of view, you are sure to have friction?—I stated that I regard friction as inevitable between the central power and a local committee.

3127. Do you say that these cases of friction are frequent?—No, I do not think they have been frequent, and considering the circumstances under which the Department undertook their work, the cases of friction have been marvellously few.

3128. Now with regard to the connection of the Department with the Agricultural Council?—Regarding the connection of the Department with the Agricultural Council, I think it is only right to point out that if the feeling prevailed of dissatisfaction with the Department's schemes, which some critics would have us believe, we should have had a more radical change in the Agricultural Council than has really taken place. The Agricultural Council has now been elected for the third time in this year, and the number of changes that have taken place in that Council are singularly small. I take that as evidence that the country at large is not dissatisfied on the whole with the administration of the Department, otherwise it would have elected different representatives to the Agricultural Council, who would have had a mandate from the country to bring about an alteration in the administration, or bring the administration to a deadlock; it is also a remarkable fact that the Agricultural Board, which has now been re-elected for the third time, contains many of the members who were members from the beginning. That, too, I think, is an evidence that the Agricultural Council itself is not entirely out of sympathy with the administration of the Department. And I think that it is scarcely possible to conceive any more direct representation of public opinion than exists through, in the first instance, the election of the County Council, then the selection by the Councils of the members of the Council of Agriculture, and subsequently the election by the provincial councils of their representatives on the Board.

3129. You think that gives a fair representation of the general views?—I can hardly conceive anything coming more directly from the people than that.

3130. Is that at all modified, do you think, by the existence of a comparatively large nominated element, both upon the Council and the Agricultural Board?—With regard to the question of nomination, it is rather an important one, and I must say this, that in my

opinion, it is economically unsound. I do not approve of having the power vested in any official of nominating representatives who will be entrusted with the administration of public funds, and, unfortunately the nominative system in this country has always been exercised in such a way as to inspire distrust amongst the people. For that reason I think it is one, that holding the political views I do, I could not subscribe to in the main. However, I think it is only just and fair that I should say, that as far as its application to the working of the Department goes, I have no fault whatever to find with the representatives that were nominated on the Agricultural Board. They have shown a keen and practical interest in every scheme that has been brought before the Board, and they have loyally co-operated with the representatives of the people in the effort to improve the general condition of the country. So far as their status at the Board is concerned it would be utterly impossible for a stranger, if he attended every meeting of the Board, to determine from the attitude or the manner to which the deliberations were carried on, who were the nominated and who were the elected representatives.

3131. Will that apply both to the Council and to the Board?—It substantially applies in the same way to both.

3132. Now, as to the relations between the Department and the county committees?—I have dealt with that perhaps slightly out of its order. I gave you instances which fairly illustrate, I think, what I intended to convey. It is just possible, now that these committees have been, in some degree educated, that it would be wiser to give them a little more power than they have hitherto exercised.

3133. What would you suggest?—For instance, with regard to the live stock schemes, they are now governed rigidly by the Department, because an Advisory Committee, which was nominated by the Department, has arrived at certain decisions with regard to the breeds of horses that ought to be subsidised in the country. That Committee is fairly representative of the various interests of the country generally, and the horse-breeding industry particularly. They have taken a strong view with regard to the introduction of certain breeds of horses in the country, and believing that the main industry of Ireland, as a horse-breeding country is hunter-rising, they have advised the Department to restrict the breeds of agricultural horses to certain prescribed districts throughout the country. In my opinion that is a matter that might be left to the opinion of the local committee, and for this reason; I think that these committees are fairly in touch with popular sentiment; they have a practical knowledge of the wants of the district, and with that knowledge they should probably be better judges of the breeds that should be subsidised in these districts than any central authority, however representative that authority might be. I would not subscribe to the view which has been given expression to by the last witness, that it would be wiser to practice economy with regard to the live stock schemes, because, in my judgment, no branch of the Department's work has been more productive of good than these live stock schemes, and their efficacy has been hampered very considerably, not because of a plethora of funds, but of the reverse. The Horse-Breeding Committee has, from time to time, had under consideration the advisability of subsidising mares. Unfortunately agriculturalists in this country are by no means well-to-do, and most of them find it necessary, if they have an animal of considerable value, to turn it on to the market at the earliest possible moment, and the result is, that, in many districts, where small holdings prevail, only the males are reared for breeding purposes. Schemes have been brought forward by enthusiastic supporters of the view that mares ought to be subsidised, and an effort made to improve the horse-breeding through the mares, but the Department has always met these schemes by the declaration that the funds at their disposal are inadequate for the purpose, and I believe the Department is absolutely right in that regard. I quite subscribe to the doctrine that it is most necessary and useful that the horse-breeding industry should be improved through the mares, but, with the funds at the Department's disposal at the present time, I believe that nothing of a really efficient character can be carried out through that agency. Again, with regard to the cattle scheme, enormous sums of money annually leave this country for the purpose of procuring bulls. The cattle scheme is one

that has been extremely popular throughout the country, and the Department, at the beginning, determined that a certain standard of excellence should be reached in each animal that would be subsidised by them; that I think, was a wise precaution to take. There are a very small number of pure-bred herds in this country, and most of these, I think I can say, are not so well kept as they ought to be, and I think too, that they would hardly have had sufficient encouragement in the prices they realised for their young stock to warrant them expending the amount of money that is necessary for the purpose of putting them on the market in the most finished state. The same cases would present them from introducing new blood into the country, which, I think, is most desirable and necessary. I would strongly advocate some system whereby it would be possible for those who keep short-horn herds in the country to raise the animals here to the same degree of efficiency which is attained in England and Scotland, and I think the Department's money would be well, and economically, and profitably utilised to accomplish that view. I am free to confess that the same reason prevents the Department from taking the necessary steps to carry out that idea, which, I think, is sympathised with by the officials generally. The only thing that could be done has been done, and that is, that bulls of outstanding merit have been purchased by the Department's officials, who have shown very considerable judgment in the matter, and they have been placed at the disposal of the owners of short-horn herds for the purpose of introducing new blood, and also for the purpose of introducing animals that otherwise would have been entirely beyond their reach, because the prices that have hitherto obtained would not warrant any stock-owner paying the price which these animals realise in the open market in England and Scotland, when they have to enter into competition with those representing the ranch-owners of Canada and the Argentine.

3134. Then, if I gather aright, you think the Department has been on the right lines, but you would like to see a great extension?—Yes; many of the schemes which the Department has undertaken have not, in my opinion, reached the degree of perfection they might have, and could have, if more money was available for the purpose. I think they are proceeding judiciously in subsidising sheep in the first instance, as they can, with the amount of money at their disposal, do a larger amount of benefit by that means than they could by subsidising females, but I think it is absolutely essential, if these schemes are to be really effective in the country, that some effort should be made by the Department in the direction which I have indicated. The same applies, though, perhaps, in a minor degree, to sheep and pigs also, which, in some districts, are the main production of the smaller landowners.

3135. I gather you don't criticise the schemes themselves, but you wish them to have a larger and wider operation?—Precisely. They could be more beneficial if the endowment of the Department would enable it to carry out what is the necessary consequence of what they have already embarked upon. There are one or two other schemes, I think, highly advantageous to the country, one is the Domestic Economy Scheme. I think that should exercise an extremely beneficial influence over the working classes generally; in my opinion, even from the poverty that exists in this country, better provision could be made for the feeding of the peasant class, if domestic economy were more generally understood. I think too, that another scheme, which has been extremely useful, and I hope, will lead to developments in the country, is the introduction of new varieties of potatoes, and the application of new methods with regard to their production. The Department has been fortunate enough to secure the services, as an expert, of one of the most accomplished experts in the kingdom with regard to this particular matter. He has been instructed by the Department to make an inspection of the country with the object of determining in what districts it is possible to develop the cultivation of these early potatoes; he has been, for the last four or five years prospecting the country generally, and he has made a selection of certain districts where, from the aspect, the nature of the soil, and other conditions, he thought it would be possible to develop the industry.

3136. Where are you referring to?—Mr. J. M. Wallace. It has made fairly considerable progress

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in some districts on the southern coast; notably at Clonsilla, and this year a further field has been opened up in the district of Yougal, where, I believe, at the present time, there is a prospect of an abundant and early crop. My belief is this, that so far as the industry is concerned, these particular districts would never have dreamed of embarking on such an industry if it had not been for the work of the Department and its officials, and I think it is partly to the credit of the Department that they have been instrumental in stirring up, in these districts, such a prospect of increasing the production of the land and improving the condition of landholders as one may reasonably hope for in the near future. And let me here say that one of the principal difficulties that confronted the Department's officials and those co-operating with them is the transport difficulty. The railway rates in this country are prohibitive, and it is extremely difficult to secure through bookings from remote districts to Liverpool, and Glasgow, and other places, where the best market is available for these early products.

3137. That is one of the functions the Department is entrusted with—to facilitate transport?—It is quite true, but the Department, any more than individuals, has not been able, either to induce private corporations to approach the consideration of this question in a business-like way. They had tried to do so and they have not succeeded, and it is not likely they will in the future. I was going to turn to the action of the Department with regard to agricultural organization. I do not, myself, propose to be at all familiar with agricultural organization in its general application to the country. I live in the metropolitan county, within a short distance of the city, and the necessities that arise in the metropolitan county are by no means the same as those which exist in remote parts of the country. For that reason I have never been engaged in agricultural co-operation or organization, because the Dublin market is available for residents in Dublin County, and they do not suffer to the same extent from a want of organization that residents in more remote districts do. It is perfectly clear that if the produce of the land is to be offered in the best market some effort must be made by some central authority to organize the sale of agricultural produce, and have it put on the market in its most marketable form. One of the weaknesses that exists in agriculture at the present time is the want of grading and want of care in packing and forwarding by rail. The Agricultural Organization Society has devoted a considerable amount of time, and a not inconsiderable sum of money, subscribed philanthropically for the purpose, but, for some reason, which I do not profess to understand, they have not secured the same co-operation in the country they might have hoped for, considering the beneficial purpose they had in view. And I think, from what I have learned, from the discussions which have taken place at meetings of the Board of Agriculture, where we had some of the most prominent members of the Agricultural Organization Society, it seems to me perfectly clear that the Department will be compelled, in the near future, to take over this work themselves. That will be a further strain on the resources of the Department, but dual administration has led to considerable friction, and, in some degree, I think, wrecked the efforts of both the Department and the Organization Society. It is extremely difficult to find the officials, representing one organization and another, working for the same end, co-operating loyally in carrying out the purpose for which they are appointed. A certain degree of rivalry must undoubtedly be present with the representatives of the different organizations, and that leads to friction, and, I think, leads to a certain amount of distrust in the country generally, and certainly to a want of co-operation, so that, in my judgment, if this work is to be made a success, it must be made a branch of the Departmental work, controlled by the Department's officials, and under the Board.

3138. Would that require legislation?—Oh, no; the Department have always recognised the necessity for carrying out this work, and I may say, from an early period of the Department's administration, I have entertained the same view, and I have advocated its being taken over as a branch of the Department's work; but it was pleaded by the Department always that they themselves were already overtaxed and unable to cope with another additional branch with the staff

at their disposal. They have not been over-fortunate in obtaining from the Treasury that co-operation which I think they had a right to expect and demand, and I must say, in justice to the officials of the Department, that they have always readily set themselves against the application of the endowment fund to the payment of officials which they believed should be chargeable to the Treasury. In my opinion they have sometimes gone almost to the verge of a fault in that particular, because so anxious was I to have a certain thing done that I would even favour having it made a charge on the endowment fund rather than have the work undone. But the Department officials have always resolutely resisted such a policy, and said there should be all charges on the Treasury.

3139. It is merely a financial difficulty that prevents the amalgamation of the two?—It is not entirely a financial difficulty; the idea prevails, to some extent, that it is hardly judicious to apply public funds for the purpose of promoting the sale of produce, which, in some degree, may militate against local enterprise, but I must say this, that, in my opinion, the education of the public mind at the present time has altered the view with regard to that particular item, and for my own part, I think that any public Department charged with the advancement of certain industries in the country is not only justified, but bound, to take the broadest possible view of its administration, and if unfortunately it should, in some degree clash with private enterprise, or private interest, that ought not necessarily prevent the public good being considered and advanced.

3140. In the evidence you have been giving you are speaking in a representative capacity, representing the Board to some extent?—Well, I have been speaking over the Boards I have indicated for a number of years, and I suppose my views are known.

3141. And you have been selected to give evidence?—Yes; I have been selected by the Agricultural Board, but there was no restriction placed on members in regard to the line of evidence they should give. I was rather of the opinion that a good many grounds of understanding might be arrived at beforehand, so that certain views could be put forward as the views of the Board and other individual members could give their views.

3142. Your views were well known, and you were elected to come here?—Quite so.

3143. And, generally speaking, the attitude of the Board towards the Department, in what you have represented?—The views I have indicated here are the views I have expressed repeatedly at the Agricultural Board.

3144. (Mr. Hicks).—Would the keeping of good males in the country for a very short time, say even five years, have a very decided effect on the improvement of the Irish breed?—A most salutary effect, even for a short period.

3145. Do you think it would be possible, without any very large expenditure, considering there is some little surplus, do you think it would be possible to draw up such a scheme; would the funds there available permit the trial of a modification of the scheme so as to keep the fillies in the country for five years?—I am afraid not. That idea prevailed with one member of the committee for a considerable time; he has been very enthusiastic on this question, and he has endeavoured to elaborate a scheme which would have for its object that particular purpose.

3146. Did it mean a continuing scheme or a scheme for a short period?—It was meant to be taken on as a permanent addition to the scheme. Of course the schemes are revised every year, and such alterations as might be found necessary are made in the scheme.

3147. If a sum of £25,000 were to be arranged for premiums for fillies for five years, you would have at the end of the time two or three times the number of the present good males in the country?—Yes. I must say this; the Department endeavours to accomplish that purpose by another means. At the local exhibitions their inspectors, by specific instructions from them, select, in the first instance, young males, the object being to retain these in the country, and to have a foal or two from them before they are sold for commercial purposes, and that is the only way in which, as far as I know, the Department has been able, up to the present, to accomplish that, and it certainly would be a matter of considerable difficulty, because you see very decided preferential terms would have to be given to individuals, and the selection of these individuals no doubt would be distinctly injurious, at the same time I do not think that that is entirely

impossible, and if the funds were available there is no particular reason why that idea should not be carried out.

3143. The greater number of farmers in Ireland are men who have only one horse or mare, generally a mare; in the western part of Ireland they nearly all keep a mare, and sell the foal every second year—don't keep the foal, until the mare is really worn out!—Quite so.

3149. If you were able to subsidise a good filly for a couple of years, until she was able to work, the old mare would be sold instead of the foal—I quite sympathise with the idea, and have no doubt it could be carried out if a larger sum was available for the purpose. Even at the Agricultural Board, homogeneous though its members are, and their relations with the Department, certain differences of opinion exist as to whether or not too much of the funds of the Department have not been devoted to live stock. Each member of the Board has his individual opinion, and these opinions are largely guided by the conditions that prevail in the district which he represents, and not unreasonably he advocates whatever system he thinks will be most beneficial to the district he represents, and the conditions with regard to live stock are entirely different, even in the different provinces.

3150. In the western province the custom prevails of selling the produce of these mares at the time when they are never offered for sale in other districts of the country—as the foals. There is a fair in Clifden in December at which hundreds of these animals are offered for sale—it is entirely unknown that such a system prevails in the Province of Limerick, the economic conditions being so entirely different and the size of the holdings differing so remarkably; and the resources of the people being so limited; all these things control the particular industry in which they are engaged.

3151. They get about a 85 note for their foal at Christmas!—Yes; from 85 to 87.

3152. If a premium, not so large as 85, was given there would be an inducement to keep the fillies in the country!—There would, but there is some difficulty with this, owing to the limited extent of their holdings.

3153. Have they not unlimited commons grazing over thousands of acres!—In the mountain districts they have, I daresay, it is the necessity of their condition that compel them to part with these animals.

3154. Anything on the same lines as regards heifers would mean a great deal more money!—That would require to be dealt with from a different point of view. In the remarks I have made with regard to the cattle scheme I have dealt more with the purchase here than the cross stock, my desire being to have the bulls subsidised by the Department, which cost enormous sums in Scotland and England, raised in Ireland as an industry, and any scheme having for its object the development of that idea, would, in my opinion, be economically beneficial to the country. Of course there is this objection to it, that the keepers of pure-bred herds are men in somewhat different positions from the majority of farmers in Ireland, but even so I should regard it as economically sound to raise the stock in our own country and not be sending money out of it.

3155. You mean in Ireland?—In Ireland. I am not speaking in any provincial sense; my desire is to make the country as independent as possible.

3156. As regards the cattle trade of Ireland, the western half of Ireland, roughly, supplies the calves and young stock for the cattle-feding districts, therefore, would it not be important as well with the poor herds to have the local half-bred or some heifers that would take their place, improved in the districts that supply the calves!—I think it would be extremely useful; I would be hopeful that by the persistent use of well-bred males you would grade up the female stock.

3157. A great number of heifers leave the West, and the breeding out of the old cows continues!—Yes; but the small farmer of the West is more largely influenced by the milk production than the churning of the animal that will be the outcome of mating.

3158. Most of the farmers keep merely a cow for milk for their own family!—Quite so.

3159. You spoke of some experiments tried by the Department with respect to small plots; I think you will find that others were done on a similar scale, both by the Congested Districts Board and the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission before the Act of 1880!—That is possible; I am not at all familiar with them, nor am I controverting your state-

ment, but they must have been done on a more extensive scale by the Department than hitherto, because they have attracted an amount of public attention which did not prevail before.

3160. So did those at the time, because I happened to be connected with the experiments myself—I hope you do not contend that the interest was enormous.

3161. To some extent, I am afraid, but the traffic difficulties were enormous!—One hope I would have, that by the development and spread and increase of these industries such a trade would be created as would make the railway companies alter their terms and become more radical with regard to the assistance they would give to these industries when the trade would extend.

3162. Professor Campbell in his evidence put it on the right basis, that in, in order to make an industry of that kind successful it would be necessary to grow, in a small limited area, a sufficient crop to freight a special steamer!—That, I am afraid, would respect the field in which it would be possible to subsidise these industries; the coast line of Ireland does not abound in harbours.

3163. In Cork it does!—Well, it has been most successful there.

3164. You consider the fact that the third Council was re-elected of practically the same men as an evidence from which you would be entitled to infer that the country at large was satisfied with the administration!—I regard it as the most conclusive evidence I can have. That generally speaking the country is not out of sympathy with the administration of the Department; it is, in some instances, out of sympathy with particular parts of the Department's work; that I regard as inevitable, no matter who is there; it is quite impossible to expect that any department could devise a scheme which would be alike popular in districts where the economic conditions are so radically at variance.

3165. If the country were under the opinion—whether erroneously or not—that the Council and Boards possessed no real power of modifying the administration under the Act, would not that account for the fact that they made no change in the personnel!—I would not take that view. And now that you have raised that question, I think I might state that, as my view, that if the public generally were more familiar with the administration of the Boards, and if they were more definitely advised as to the action of the Boards regarding the administration of the Department, I think it would tend to increase public confidence in the administration. Some people entertain strong views on that point, and a great deal is to be said in favour of them, that the meetings of the Board should be open to the Press. That would, in some degree, discount the distrust which prevails in the public mind with regard to the powers of the Board. But from an administrative point of view I think it would be extremely unwise that all the proceedings of the Board should be open to the Press. The Department has from time to time found it necessary to acquire property in different parts of the country; they have taken the Board into their confidence with regard to the proposals; they say to the Board that a certain property is for sale in such a district; if the owners of the property were advised at the outset that the Department had set their eye on that as a suitable location the price would go up a hundred per cent. That is one of the disadvantages which would arise from opening the proceedings of the Council to the Press, but, at the same time the public in Ireland have a strong wish and desire to know what view every representative man has taken on any controversial question that arises. I must say I think there is a great deal to be said in favour of it. If the people elect a man to represent them it is only reasonable to expect that they would know what view he takes on questions of public interest.

3166. (Mr. O'Brien.)—So far as the election to the Council is concerned the public do have that information!—Yes; because those elections are carried out by the County Councils in front of the Press.

3167. That setting is an indication of the opinion of the people who elect!—Quite so. My belief is that an erroneous opinion prevails in the country generally as to the powers exercised by the Agricultural Board, for it is by no means an uncommon expression to hear that the Agricultural Board has no power. It has power, which is negative rather than positive; it can say to the Department: "We disapprove of your scheme and refuse to grant money to carry it out." It may be contended that a positive power should be given to the Board. In that respect too, I think,

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that so far as it has been in operation in the past it has not prevented the Board from exercising the power of control over the funds of the Department which it desired to carry out.

3108. So that the principal difficulty at present is that the people have not an adequate means of reaching how powerful in practice the Boards are?—My opinion is that if the country generally was more familiar with what takes place at the Board, and knew the views presented by their own representatives, they would be more in sympathy generally with the proceedings of the Department than they are at the present moment.

3109. But, on the whole, nevertheless, you do not think it desirable that the meetings of the Board should be open to the Press?—I think it would be undesirable that all the proceedings of the Board should be open to the Press; because I have given an instance in which it would militate against the Board very unfavourably. At the same time many other instances arise which, I think, it would be undesirable to have admitted to the public before a decision was arrived at on the subject. For instance, questions will sometimes turn up and discussions take place and no decision can be arrived at, because further information is desired. It would be extremely undesirable that a discussion should take place in the public Press on the merits of such questions until the Board charged with forming an opinion on the subject had all the information at their disposal which would enable them to form that opinion.

3110. In your opinion, has the general effect of the exercise of the power of nomination to the Council and Boards by the Vice-President been such as to secure representation of minorities or interests which might have been missed by the other system?—I am rather inclined to think that so far as I am familiar with the nominated representatives of the Board, that has been the general application of it; but I must say that in some instances I have not been able to see what particular section of public opinion or what particular commercial interest some nominated representatives can claim to be exponents of.

3111. With certain exceptions, the fact has been as I say?—Yes. In some instances it has been most judiciously exercised, and has brought to some of the Boards members most valuable to the Board and the Department in carrying on their work and scheme.

3112. (Mr. Brown).—You would not think that the publication of the abstract of the proceedings of the Board would satisfy the public?—I think it would, in some degree; and I may tell you that I think there is an agreement at the moment between the Board and

the Department's officials that a more extended report of the proceedings than has hitherto been published will in future be given; and that is in deference to the opinions expressed by the Agricultural Council and by individual members of the Board. I am hopeful that that will have the effect desired.

3113. And, in any case, the question is one for the Board itself?—The Department has always taken the opinion of the Board on the subject, and the opinion of the Board has been in conformity with the Department's practice.

3114. As regards the question of further power to county committees, you do not indicate further statutory powers?—I was not dealing with statutory powers, but with the question of the Department's administration towards the committees. It requires no legislation at all. It is merely a question of the Department's administration.

3115. And partly of the Board's; because the Board would indicate when approving of schemes is what respect elasticity might be allowed?—Yes; but I would like to say the Board are not so entirely responsible for the administration as the public might assume. The Board meetings are not frequent, quarterly perhaps; and a long agenda has got to be considered at each of these meetings. It would be almost entirely impossible that all questions of administration should come up for discussion at these meetings. Of course, if members of the Board have become familiar with the details of friction that has arisen between the administration of the Department and certain committees, attention is sometimes directed to it at the Board. I can quite conceive that all these points are not brought within the purview or knowledge of the Board, and some of them might in some degree be modified, and a working arrangement arrived at, if they were open to discussion at the Board. When I say open to discussion, I don't suggest that the Department's officials in any degree seek to prevent the Board from a full knowledge of details with regard to the working of the scheme; but they don't wish to weary the Board with minor details with regard to the conduct of the secretary in letters or an official in Cork. These questions are not discussed by the Board, and are dealt with by the Department, unless some question of grave administration comes up, and then, of course, the Board expresses their opinion on the subject.

3116. I suppose the Board would have quite enough to do without entering on these details?—It would be hardly possible for this Board, or any other Board, to take charge of the administration unless it met weekly or daily; for the post has never failed to bring in a certain number of complaints.

On returning after luncheon.

Mr. ROBERT DOWDSEY, J.P., Chairman.

3117. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Council of Agriculture, and you are also a member of the Board of Agriculture, appointed by the Provincial Committee?—Yes.

3118. How long have you been a member of the Board of Agriculture?—Two years this June. I succeeded Mr. Kelly, who was a former member, representing Leitrim. He died, and at the subsequent election I was appointed.

3119. You have something to say about the relations of the Department to the Board of Agriculture?—Yes. Before I make any statement in that matter—the suggestion that I would be inclined to make to the Committee, although at present I consider them of importance—I would consider them of very secondary importance if the Department and all other Boards in Ireland were under an elective body.

3120. The Department and all other Boards?—No; but I would like to see them controlled by an elective body.

3121. What jurisdiction would you give to the elected body. What sort of control would you give it—administration, for instance?—Certainly. My idea is that if there is a Board—call it a Parliament or a Council—substituted for the existing system in Ireland, the Department, the same as all other Boards in the country, should be subjected to that.

3122. I don't quite catch what Mr. Dowdsey means. Would you have a general body, consisting of all the County Councils, or delegates from all County Councils?—I would have a Council elected by the people.

3123. Do you mean for the whole of Ireland or repre-

Westmeath County Council, examined.

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sentatives of the existing County Councils?—I would be inclined to think a general Council for the whole of Ireland.

3131. In place of the present County Councils?—Oh, no. County Councils are for local administration.

3132. Then you want a Council for the whole of Ireland?—Yes.

3133. For general or special purposes?—For the general administration of the whole country; and I would put the Department under the control of that Council, and make it subject to that Council.

3134. In that case, whom would the Department be appointed by?—I presume they would be appointed by the executive of the people—when the people elected.

3135. By whom would the executive be appointed?—You have a very distinct idea, I have no doubt—I just want to understand what it is?—I should think that the country would elect representatives to the Council. That Council, I presume, would formulate the details of its own administration.

3136. What do you mean by formulating the details? Do you mean the Council would appoint certain persons for certain work?—I think that this Council that I propose should have the power to appoint all the Boards in Ireland for the administration of the country.

3137. The Council are to appoint the Boards, and, amongst others, this Board?—Yes.

3138. And then, when the Board was appointed, how would it work? what would be its relations to the Council itself?—I take in the same relations as exist between subsidiary bodies in other counties to the Executive Government.

3302. Then, we have got our Board appointed, what powers would you give it—the powers it has now or powers subject to the Council?—I would have them subject to this Central Council, and to take its mandate from them. My reason for suggesting a course of this nature is this. In Ireland, for the last century, we have been ruled by Boards on which the people have not been represented. As a consequence, there has been in four-fifths of the country a feeling of distrust and suspicion, and want of harmony with these Boards during all that time. That has reflected to a great extent on the Department. Also because, of course, it is not a Board constituted or elected by the people; and so such, the Department has shared, to a certain extent, in the suspicion that is on all Boards in Ireland; and, as a consequence, the country has not joined in the working of the Department's schemes with the same enthusiasm as it would if it knew that the Department was a body under their own control.

3303. Then, in fact, you would have the Department really elected by the people?—It comes to that. I would have the control of the Department in the hands of the people.

3304. (Mr. Brown).—You would have the body that controls the Department elected by the people?—Yes. I would have this Council, and the Department would be only one branch of the Government of Ireland, subject to this Council.

3305. I don't quite get at how the scheme would work. Take a live stock scheme, or anything of that sort, started by the Department, or proposed by the Department, would you have that brought before the General Council?—No; not a matter of that kind; I would not.

(Mr. Brown).—I only wanted to know what you meant by being controlled.

3306. (Mr. Michel).—The Council would be a sort of Cabinet?—It would be a Cabinet for all Ireland, for other than Departmental work.

3307. (Mr. Brown).—Call it a Parliament?—Yes; or call it Home Rule, if you like. Otherwise I believe any changes that would be made in this Department would be of little permanent advantage, as long as you have the people divorced from the Department, as they are to a great extent at present. I don't believe the Department's work will have that efficiency that it would if people believed it was under the control of their elected representatives.

3308. (Chairman).—You want a great change, affecting not only this Department, but all other Departments. You don't distinguish, so far as this is concerned, the position of this Department from all other Departments?—I would be inclined to put them and all other Boards under the one authority. If the question of public control were conceded, the questions that I think now of vast importance become of minor importance then. At the present time I would like to have the powers of the Board and of the Department defined. The Board has got on as very friendly terms with the Department, and the Boards have, from time to time, gone outside their statutory jurisdiction; but there has never been any friction between the Board and the Department; but I will see the possibility that that state of affairs may not always exist. They now happen to have the advantage of Mr. Flinn's ability as President. I never met a man who could get on with a maimed body as well as he can; but I quite see that when Mr. Flinn resigns, or his position is changed, it is quite possible a man of a different calibre may become head of the Department, and the existing men of the Department may not always be those; and it is quite possible a deadlock might be caused between the Agricultural Board and the Department, because, as I say, at present there are certain courtesy privileges exercised by the Agricultural Board which may be reduced at any time by the Vice-President. I would like to see these privileges, which are courtesy at present, made statutory.

3309. You mean questions such as initiating proposals. As a matter of fact, we have been told this morning the Board to initiate proposals, though there is no statutory power for them to do so?—Not as I understood.

3310. But you would like to see that power given?—Yes; if the Department remains under its existing conditions. I only mention these matters because, as the Department exists at present, those things which are now very important would become quite subsidiary if public control became the law. I think that the Department is too cramped in its statutory conditions. To give an instance of what I mean. About a year

ago I brought forward at the Agricultural Board a suggestion for the compulsory registration of stores in Ireland. I give this as an instance of how its power is confined. That is a matter that I know, from my own personal experience, is of vital importance in the country. I would like to say in connection with that matter, in regard to horses, I would not bring under that rule the compulsory registration of horses that stand at a fee of over 25s—I mean horses that are serving farmers' manes. The same applies to bulls. The Department, I believe, were in sympathy with the suggestion, but I was told it was necessary to have an Act of Parliament passed in order to bring it into operation. I think the Department should have the power to pass an enactment to that effect without having to go to Parliament.

3311. (Mr. Michel).—A Provisional Order?—Yes.

3312. (Mr. Brown).—You are aware such an Order could only be enforced by a penalty?—I think in such an agricultural matter the Board of Agriculture ought to have the power to make an Order of such a sort.

3313. (Chairman).—To make an Order regarding penalties. There are plenty of precedents, but you would want an Act of Parliament to give them power?—Then I think they ought to have an Act of Parliament to give them that power.

3314. You would give them power to make Orders of that kind?—I would. I think it is a very important matter in Ireland. I have experience of the loss that occurs in the country from the use of bad seeds. I have rather an extensive experience of that.

3315. Would you give the Department power to make what is practically such a law as that on their own motion or would you require them to have the consent of any of the existing bodies?—Yes. I think a matter of that sort should be brought before the Agricultural Board, and the Agricultural Board should discuss the feasibility of the suggestion, and if they agreed to it it should be promulgated.

3316. (Mr. Dryden).—That would take the responsibility away from the Department and throw it where it is now, somewhat, on the Board?—I think if you have an advisory Board they are quite willing to accept the responsibility; and, as far as my knowledge of the administration of Ireland for the last six years, since the Local Government Act came into existence, I think the success of the Act is a strong justification for increased powers to be given to the people in regard to matters of this sort.

3317. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say to the constitution of the Board itself?—To the principle of nomination I object; but I must say that in the way in which that principle has been acted on by the Department, I see no objection to it; but I see the possibility that it may not always be carried out in the same effective and proper manner, as I believe it has been carried out up to the present.

3318. With regard to the appointment of officers, have you anything to say as to that?—Yes. I think the Agricultural Board ought to have the right of veto on the principal appointments in the Department.

3319. Over heads of branches?—Yes. I don't mean to carry small offices in the Department, but I mean the principal offices in the Department. I would not be inclined so much to seek the right of appointment; I think the right of veto would be quite sufficient.

3320. (Mr. Michel).—And would it extend to promotions or only new appointments?—I would not go into every detail; I would rather go on the broad principle, and let matters of detail be worked out by the Department.

3321. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say about the Agricultural Council, because the Council has the power of discussion, and of appointing the Board. Do you think they ought to have more power?—I would be inclined to think that they should have more power of bringing their resolutions in an official manner before the Department.

3322. Referring things to the Department or to the Board?—To the Department, through the Board, perhaps. I am perfectly certain that it is necessary to largely increase the Endowment Fund of the Department. The funds are becoming beautifully less each year; and unless there is a very large increase in the Endowment Fund, the schemes which the Department have now in existence will have to be considerably curtailed, or possibly done away with, on account of the large extension of schemes each year; and I think that these schemes cannot be continued, or other ones cannot be initiated, unless there is a large increase in the Endowment Fund.

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3313. Do you approve generally of the agricultural schemes?—Personally, I have very little fault to find with the schemes proposed by the Department. In my county we have had practically no friction with the Department, and the schemes are working, I think, fairly well. I don't see that I have any great objection to offer to any of the schemes. I think the schemes, taken as a whole, have been well considered. I don't speak about the educational portions of the schemes, but rather of the live stock portions of the schemes. I think these schemes are good schemes, and I know they are doing a great deal of good.

3314. Do you think they are generally understood and appreciated by the farmers and tenants?—No; they are becoming more understood than they were. They are not fully understood by the country yet; but they are being grappled with by degrees; and I think the country is gradually being improved by these schemes. But, as I said in the start, the want of sympathy with these schemes has, to a great extent, curtailed the advantages of them.

3315. You think these schemes are doing good?—I think they are. Broadly speaking, they have done a great deal of good. With regard to the control of local committees, I was here when Mr. O'Neill's evidence was given, and, as far as I could judge, he seemed to think that local committees should have complete control of what classes of horses or stags should be introduced into a county. I am absolutely in favour of the fullest liberty to county committees, but I can well see an advantage in that particular line—that is, to subsidise a certain class of stallions or hackneys. A lot of county committees may be inclined to have hackneys. I think that would be a great mistake, because the blood is let all over the country. Or if a county wishes to have Clydesdales and Shire horses, it would be a mistake to allow the committee to take in any kind of horse without any restriction. These matters ought to come before the Agricultural Board or Advisory Committee, and they should decide whether a certain class of animals should be kept out of Ireland or admitted.

3316. (Mr. Mickel).—You would not give the County Council full power, but the Agricultural Board or Advisory Committee?—I would give it to the Agricultural Board, the representatives of the people. So long as you have the elective principle situated all these matters become matters of detail.

3317. (Mr. O'Neill).—Under existing circumstances, you would give it to the Department, subject to the Advisory Committee?—I would give it to the Agricultural Board.

3318. (Mr. Brown).—Is it not, as a matter of fact, one of these matters on which the Department do consult the Board?—They do, as a matter of fact.

3319. And in it not necessarily involved in any scheme they bring before the Board?—Yes, it is. But, as I understand, the Agricultural Board at present, if the Agricultural Board differ with the Department on details, they have not power to have their views carried out.

3320. Have they not the power of the purse?—They have, no doubt; but I can well perceive that that may result in a deadlock.

3321. It might, of course, but if a deadlock did occur it is the Department that must give way?—No; the Department can go on.

3322. You have never found any such acute differences?—No; quite the contrary.

3323. The whole thing is working smoothly as it is?—Yes, it is; because, as I have heard it stated already, that precedents have been established which cannot be gone back of, and those precedents have now a kind of force of the law with the Agricultural Board.

3324. The Agricultural Board can at any time depart from any precedent; those are matters only that guide them for the sake of not reopening new questions?—Yes; but what I have seen is a statement that the precedents which have been established by Sir Horace Plunket have the force of law now, as far as the Department and the Agricultural Board are concerned.

3325. (Mr. O'Neill).—That they had the effect, and it was extremely improbable they would ever be overturned?—I must say I don't agree with it. The precedents that were established by the Vice-President, his successor will be bound by them. I don't agree with that; because in Ireland, within the last few years, we have had several precedents and policies reversed by even the same man who instituted the first one; and there is just the possibility that the same

thing may occur in the future, and I should like to guard against that.

3326. You would be quite satisfied to see the present positions in these matters crystallised and made permanent?—No, I don't agree with that. I would like to see it crystallised under an elected body.

3327. I think we are all taking the whole of your evidence, with the preliminary reservation, as being in your opinion, not the best thing possible for Ireland, but the best thing that can be done, if we are to accept the existing arrangements for Ireland?—Oh, certainly.

3328. So far as the arrangements for the working of the Board are concerned, what you desire is that there should be no doubt whatever about the practice which has been established in the past years being thoroughly established as the practice that must be followed. Quite so; I would like that practice to be made statutory.

3329. I am not quite clear about these arrangements. You think that subject to the general reservation, that the Department should be elected by, and be responsible to, the Agricultural Board, the Agricultural Board being taken on much the same lines as at present. The Department should be appointed by it. Do you mean that it should be subject to be changed at the close of the tenure of office of the particular Agricultural Board?—No.

3330. Do you mean the members of the Department should be appointed by the Agricultural Board, and vacancies filled by the Agricultural Board as they occur?—Yes.

3331. That the Board should appoint the Department in this way?—That they should have a right of vote on these appointments.

3332. You have drawn a distinction between the Department and the officers that are to be appointed by the Department. Who do you mean by the Department?—

(Mr. Mickel).—Sir Horace is the Department.

(Mr. O'Neill).—The Department is at present the Chief Secretary and the Vice-President?—We understand the four or five principal officers of the Department; I did not mean to say they should appoint the Chief Secretary.

3333. You would like to receive from the Council their recommendations in a formal and effective manner. I suppose, during your experience as a member of the Board, the Board must have considered, as occasion arose, any resolution of the Agricultural Council?—Well, yes, occasionally; but the Agricultural Council, as I understand it, has no official or statutory power to send forward to the Department any suggestions they make and get a reply from the Department in return. The Department may or may not act on the suggestions as they think fit. I think the Board should have more authority, either in the initiative or in the working out.

3334. What I want to be quite clear about is what you want in all these matters of Council, Department, and Board's relations, is or is not anything more than what we have just cleared up, which is in one respect that the existing practices should be made statutory. So there be any resolution of the Council of Agriculture that you would like to have been considered only by the Board of Agriculture, that the Board of Agriculture has not had an opportunity of considering?—I have not gone into any specific instance, but I would like the Board to have the power to send forward those matters that they raise after discussion; that they should have power to send those matters forward.

3335. If there were power to send them forward formally so that they should be fully considered by the Board of Agriculture, even although some permanent head might arise in some future years who would say—

"Very well; I stand upon the existing statute, and the Council of Agriculture may resolve as it likes; I am not going to let this business go before the Board"; that is what you want to avoid?—Yes.

3336. Do you wish the practice to be made statutory?—I would.

3337. And then the Board is to send these resolutions with their own observations to the Department, and the Department is to report to the next meeting of the Council?—My idea about that was that the County Council administration the District Councils send forward a proposition, say, about a road; they pass a resolution that a road will be made in a certain district; they send forward their proposal to the County Council. Now the County Council either approves or disapproves or refers back that proposition for further consideration to the District Council. I

think there ought to be some authority, not exactly similar to that, but somewhat on those lines, existing between the Council and the Agricultural Board and the Department.

3238. Do you take account of the essential distinction that the County Council is the responsible body for all such business as you have been referring to, whereas the Council of Agriculture is essentially a deliberative and expressing body. The Board of Agriculture, upon the suggestions which you have just given, would be really the body in which the executive power lay; it would be in those respects the effective body, just as the County Council is in County Council affairs, to send the things back again to the Council of Agriculture for settlement, as it would be sent to the County Council for settlement; that would not be in accordance with the rest of your suggestions; do you mean it should only be sent to the Council of Agriculture for its information?—The Agricultural Council is the most representative body of the two, because it is directly representative of and elected by the country, and I think as such it should have a larger voice in the administration than at present.

3239. Stronger than the Agricultural Board?—No; I think though if they pass a scheme, after being referred back to them, I would be inclined to give power to make that scheme law.

3240. No scheme could be put into operation until it had come back to the Council of Agriculture, after having been set upon by the Board, by the Department, and then again by the Board; that might entail so great a delay that it would be too late to be of any use?—I mean any propositions or schemes they chose to make that they should have that power.

3241. That they should have power to say, "This resolution of yours must not be acted upon until we have had full particulars from the Board of Agriculture and from the Department as to the precise manner in which they propose to act upon it?"—No; what I mean is that if a member or the whole body pass a resolution on a certain policy or scheme, that that matter should be considered by the Board and by the Department, and then the suggestions of the Board and of the Department should be sent back to the next meeting of the Agricultural Council for further consideration.

3242. Supposing the Council considered they were satisfactory, what next?—Then the Department adopted it.

3243. Supposing the Council considered them unsatisfactory?—I think I would give power to the Council to control it.

MR. ROBERT CROFTON, F.R.S., examined.

3252. (Chairman).—You are Chief Clerk of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes, sir.

3253. First, you wish to give us a general statement of the duties of your office?—Perhaps I may first mention that I have been thirty-eight years in the public service.

3254. How long in this Department?—Since it started in 1900. I was for eleven years in the Local Government Board for Ireland. In 1873 I was transferred to the Chief Secretary's Office, and was appointed to the Chief Clerkship of the Veterinary Department of that office; I held that post until 1900; when the Act constituting this Department was passed I was transferred under the statute and promoted to the chief clerkship of the new Department.

3255. As chief clerk, what are your duties?—I deal with matters relating to the office establishment, salaries, new appointments, superannuations, questions as to leave of absence, control of the registry, the control of the messenger staff, correspondence with the Treasury, the Civil Service Commissioners, the Courts, the Chief Crown Solicitor, the Board of Works, the Stationary Office, including such matters as examining and countersigning requisitions for fornicators, forgers, supplies; the official correspondence from the Accounts Branch that passes through the Secretariat, and the approval and countersigning of all schedules of payments before they are made, when the secretary is absent or otherwise engaged; the general administrative work of the Veterinary Branch.

3256. That is a special function; you are in charge

3257. In every case of that sort you hang up all action until you have a meeting of the Agricultural Council?—No, I don't mean to say that the whole working of the Department should be carried out by the Agricultural Council; on a matter that they considered of vital importance I think their views should have more control than they have at present.

3258. That is what I put to you a few minutes ago; you mean to say you would have them come to a resolution, that they should have that resolution as belonging to one or other of two classes; first class, a resolution that we don't want to have any more about; second a resolution that must not be carried into effect until you report again to us. You want them to have the power to do that. If that is the case it would be necessary for the Council of Agriculture, whenever they come to a resolution, to add to the statement of the resolution: "This is a resolution that we don't want to be acted upon until it is brought before us again"—That would not delay work so much except upon that particular item.

3259. They would have to state what items they wanted to delay?—Yes. As I said already those matters would not be considered as all necessary if the whole country was under the one Government elected by the people.

3260. You think the Board of Agriculture should have a right of veto over the appointment of members of the Advisory Committee. I should like to know how far that is in the same category with the other things; according to you the practice of many of these things has been satisfactory although the theory is not; is this one of them?—The appointment of the Advisory Committee has never come before us since I became a member of the Board.

3261. No, but the names have always been before the public after the appointments were made?—As a matter of fact I don't know the names.

3262. (Mr. Brown).—They are easily ascertained?—Those committees are appointed entirely by the Department. I think the Board ought to have supervision over these appointments; they might wish to add names to them; I think they ought to have the power because these committees are very important.

3263. (Mr. O'Brien).—What I wanted to know was whether as a matter of fact you find the existing Advisory Committees are not satisfactory?—Oh, no; I have no such idea.

3264. Your previous expression about the other nominations apply to these, that up to the present they have been satisfactory enough, but you have no guarantee?—As far as I know.

of that Branch?—Those were my old duties, and I continue to discharge them under the direction of the secretary. Papers from such institutions as the National Library and Geological Survey pass through my hands before they go to the Secretary. I minute them for his approval. I have charge of the correspondence relating to the transit of animals, the transit of agricultural produce, railway rates, the Food and Drugs Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, and the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act; Parliamentary Bills, questions and returns; and various miscellaneous matters, such as applications for appointments, and queries on general subjects that do not belong to any special branch. I have also the custody of the seal of the Department and seal the official documents, licences, by-laws, etc. Furthermore, I read a large share of the official correspondence before it is signed by or for the Secretary.

3265. (Mr. O'Brien).—Are the more important official correspondence and other documents in your charge personally?—I keep in my charge certain Treasury correspondence, and other documents.

3266. (Chairman).—Those are not kept in your registry?—Not the more important documents.

3267. That represents a considerable bulk of work?—Yes. It occupies me for pretty long hours daily. Of course I have assistance, I need hardly say. You mentioned the other day you wanted to have a comprehensive statement of the work that passed through the office. I have had a return made out; in some respects it is only an approximation, but I can hand

June 1, 1906.

Mr. E. DOWDALL, J.P.

Mr. Robert Crofton, F.R.S., J.P.

June 7, 1935.
 Mr. R.
 Cuthrell, T.A.O.

is in (produced). In the registry of the central office the average annual number of papers registered is 35,000; in the Fisheries Branch, 6,000; and in the Veterinary Branch, 11,000; there are three separate registers.

3260. (Mr. Brown).—Are these letters received?—Letters received and registered.

3261. (Chairman).—What is your distinction between registered and non-registered?—We don't register returns, forms, and acknowledgments of letters, and things of that kind.

3262. There are all documents of more or less importance?—The registrar of course exercises his discretion.

3263. (Mr. McKis).—What is the annual total?—60,000 registered papers.

3264. Is that an estimate?—That is actual, 50,000, and the number, estimated, unregistered is 247,000, total 297,000. In addition there are received 345,000 returns from enumerators of agricultural statistics.

3265. (Chairman).—1,596,000 printed leaflets were distributed from the Statistical and Intelligence Branch during the year?—Yes, and there is a large amount of semi-official correspondence, shown in the last column of the return. The typed official letters signed by or for the Secretary last year amounted to 31,950. The Vice-President and Secretary's semi-official correspondence and various other documents such as printed or typeset letters, circulars, typed minutes, etc., to the extent of 23,000. There were also 25,000 similar communications from the Agricultural Branch, 32,000 from the Technical Instruction Branch, 57,000 from the Accounts Branch, including paying orders.

3266. (Mr. McKis).—Who signs your bank schedule, the authentication of payments?—I do when the Secretary is not there. The bank is authorized to accept the signature of Mr. Gill or myself. Of course the clerk in charge of accounts also signs; there must be two signatures. The Treasury in 1909 authorized me to act for the Secretary in that way.

3267. (Chairman).—That gives me an idea of the extent of the work. Now, let us go to the work of the Veterinary Branch?—The branch is entirely concerned with the administration of the Diseases of Animals Act, and it was under the direct control of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council until the year 1900, when, by an order of the Lord Lieutenant, made under section 2 of the Act of 1889, his powers, and those of the Chief Secretary and Under Secretary, were transferred to the Department. The Veterinary Department was first formed so far back as 1855 to carry out the Cattle Diseases (Ireland) Act, 1855. The cattle plague appeared in Great Britain, and that was the cause of the original formation of the Veterinary Department. It consisted in those days of a superintending inspector and a few inspectors and clerks. In 1879 a new Act relating to animal diseases was passed, and the Veterinary Department was then recognized and constituted as a branch of the Chief Secretary's office. The office of superintending inspector was changed into that of professional adviser, and a chief clerk was appointed who was placed in charge of the general administrative work of the office. In the year 1886 the office of professional adviser was abolished and a chief inspector was appointed, who was also to act as professional adviser in all matters that were referred to him. Subsequently certain responsible administrative duties in connection with professional matters were entrusted to him. The work was thus continued until the Veterinary Department was merged into this Department. The Department of Agriculture has special statutory powers under the Acts for dealing with a number of contagious diseases of animals. There are eleven such diseases scheduled under the Act, cattle plague, pleuro-pneumonia, foot and mouth disease, anthrax, rabies, swine fever, sheep pox, sheep scab, glanders, paratuberculosis, and vesicular lymphangitis. The Department have also power to make regulations regarding the transit of animals by rail and sea, and the importation of animals from other countries. There are at present twenty-eight general orders in force relating to diseases or animal transit. In pursuance of a provision in the Diseases of Animals Act, 1884, made with a view to secure uniformity of action in matters which so vitally affect the whole of the United Kingdom, all orders made by the Board of Agriculture in England are sent to us and we in turn send all orders made in Ireland to them. We are

in constant touch with the English Board, and in dealing with diseases, whenever any new action is contemplated, we consult each other. The principal officers of the respective Departments have held frequent conferences for the discussion of questions of policy and of modes of procedure; and since the Department was established they have followed precisely the same lines as the Irish Government did in this respect.

3268. Now, as to the action for the suppression of diseases?—Since 1878 three of the diseases that were scheduled under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1878, have been entirely stamped out; foot and mouth disease, for instance, was very prevalent in Ireland at one time. In 1884 we finally got rid of it, and measures have been taken since by prohibition of the importation of animals, when foot and mouth disease appeared in England, so it has done on several occasions, to prevent its spreading to Ireland. Other means have also been adopted to prevent the re-introduction of the disease.

3269. Have there been successful?—We have not had an outbreak in Ireland since 1884. I may mention that all animals coming into the country are inspected at our ports as well as those going out.

3270. You have a long list of inspectors?—Yes.

3271. I see there are a good many added in 1933—have there been considerable additions lately?—No, the return you have is merely brought up to date since 1902-3, but I think it relates only to permanent inspectors; we have a good many temporary inspectors besides. As a matter of fact there is one chief inspector, a superintending travelling inspector, who deals with transit matters, twenty-eight period inspectors, stationed at various ports in Ireland to inspect the animals leaving and those that are allowed to come in under our regulations, and there are sixteen temporary veterinary inspectors who are mainly employed in dealing with swine fever.

3272. Are you pretty free from other diseases in Ireland?—Last year, so far as cattle are concerned, we had no disease amongst them except a few outbreaks of anthrax.

3273. (Mr. Brown).—What were the other two diseases that were stamped out?—Pleuro-pneumonia was the next; it was very rife in parts of Ireland, and we used at times, I daresay, to send it over to Great Britain, where it was also prevalent. For many years it was dealt with in both countries, solely through the agency of the local authorities, and the cost was borne by the rates. In some districts where the disease was prevalent, this was a rather heavy burden, and a year or two on it was seen that there was no hope of stamping out the disease by local action, which often lacked uniformity. One local authority did not see eye to eye with another, and finally local legislation was introduced, and an Act was passed in 1892 which put the duty of stamping out the disease on the central authority, the Board of Agriculture in England and the Veterinary Department in Ireland. The Government also placed funds at the disposal of the central authorities, who were empowered to slaughter not only affected cattle but also those that came in contact with such, so that there was no way exposed to infection; and to impose very stringent restrictions upon the movements of animals. By these means, of course with the expenditure of a very large amount of money in compensation, £336,000, the disease was stamped out in three years. We have had no outbreak in Ireland since 1892.

3274. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Where did the money come from?—Imperial funds.

3275. (Mr. Brown).—No local contribution?—No for pleuro-pneumonia. There are certain other diseases dealt with by local authorities, and they pay the cost, but pleuro-pneumonia was a disease the suppression of which was entrusted to the central authority in 1892, and Imperial funds were provided for the purpose.

3276. (Mr. Dryden).—How do you deal with contagious abortion?—That is not one of the scheduled diseases under the Act. That is dealt with at the Agricultural Branch as a disease outside the Diseases of Animals Acts, and investigations have been made respecting the disease, and leaflets have

been issued as to its treatment and prevention. Then the third of the scheduled diseases under the Act which has been stamped out by the Veterinary Branch was rabies. We first took steps to stamp that out in 1895; an order was passed enabling local authorities, who were then the Boards of Guardians—there were 159 of them—to make regulations for the muzzling of dogs. This was done in a large number of cases, but there were also 608 other local authorities, magistrates in petty sessions districts, who were also entitled under another statute to make regulations controlling dogs, so that the various conflicting regulations were very confusing. Finally, the central authority, as a result of recommendations made by a Departmental Committee of Inquiry into the laws relating to dogs, made a general order applicable to the whole country, providing for the muzzling of dogs for a certain time, the destruction of stray dogs and dogs that were suspected of rabies, and also for the slaughter of animals that were bitten by rabid dogs. The disease was finally stamped out in 1903.

3277. (Chairman).—I suppose that was the same time that it was stamped out in England?—Yes, the action taken there was under Mr. Walter Long's muzzling order. The diseases that are now giving us most trouble are swine fever and sheep scab. Swine fever is a disease which was exceedingly prevalent all over the country for many years, and caused very serious pecuniary losses. It was found that just as in the case of pleuro-pneumonia it was hopeless to get it stamped out owing to the cost that was imposed on specific districts where the disease was prevalent. Departmental Committees of Inquiry were appointed and they recommended fresh legislation, and the task of dealing with the disease was transferred from local authorities, so far as the slaughter of animals and the payment of compensation was concerned, to the central authority, and money was again provided, as in the case of pleuro-pneumonia, by Parliament for the suppression of swine fever. An Act was passed thirteen years ago, in 1895, to secure this object, and in the first year of its operation there were over 9,000 outbreaks of the disease. Last year we had 137, and there has been a progressive reduction nearly all through, so that matters are looking rather hopeful as regards the suppression of swine fever at a comparatively early date. If the Government contribution for the suppression of swine fever in any year does not prove to be adequate a fund called the General Cattle Diseases Fund can be drawn upon for the purpose. If we exceed the Parliamentary Grant in Aid in compensation or other expenses this General Cattle Diseases Fund can be drawn upon.

3278. (Mr. Brown).—That is made up by the local authorities?—Yes, the fund was established over thirty years ago for the purpose of paying the cost of suppressing the cattle plague, and it was constituted as a practically permanent fund in 1878. It is levied, as required, by order of the Local Government Board, the usual assessment being a farthing in the pound on the net annual value of the whole of the property in the country. The Department see to its expenditure. The main purpose of the fund is to meet each local authority one-half of its expenditure, so that if a local authority in one district has spent an unusually heavy amount in suppressing outbreaks of any particular disease it deals with, the country at large bears a share of the cost, so that the burden shall not press too heavily on one particular district.

3279. (Chairman).—These powers were taken over by you in 1899, and I suppose you administer them? I don't know that any particular question has arisen about your administering them before?—I am not aware that there has; what has been done is being done.

3280. You seem to have done it successfully?—The main line of action are continued.

3281. I think we may take it quite shortly—it does not stand quite in the same category as other parts of our Inquiry?—No, it is not new work; there is no change in principle.

3282. Does it come under the Agricultural Board?—No, being transferred work, it is not defrayed out of the Endowment Fund in any way.

3283. (Mr. Miles).—I suppose the Board know, generally, what is done?—Yes, it is from time to time mentioned to the Board that such and such a step is in contemplation; the action taken, for instance, about sheep scab.

3284. You attend the Board in order to be able to give information?—Yes.

3285. (Chairman).—Now, as to transit of animals and railway rates; that, I believe, is new work?—The latter is new work. As regards the transit of animals, that is largely old work, except that since the Department was established, as the result of the recommendation of a Joint Departmental Committee of Inquiry, appointed by the Board of Agriculture and the Department, fresh regulations were framed with a view of ameliorating still further the conditions under which animal transit by rail and sea between the two countries is carried on. There is a staff of inspectors who look after such matters. These orders are made under the Diseases of Animals Act.

3286. Is the transit of agricultural produce dealt with in the same way?—That is a new development, so far as the transit of agricultural produce is concerned. It comes under section 20 of the Act of 1899. Powers are conferred on the Department for aiding and facilitating the transit of agricultural produce, and in order to do this the Department utilise the services of the inspectors who are engaged in the work of animal transit, their number having been increased, with Treasury sanction, from two to four. This was done, because these inspectors were trained in transit work, looking after railway trucks and ships, and also to prevent the overlapping which would occur if there was a set of transit inspectors dealing with agricultural produce, and another set dealing with animal transit.

3287. Does that represent much work?—Yes; it represents a very considerable amount of work, and a good deal of benefit has accrued from the work. The first thing that was undertaken was an investigation in 1900-01 of the manner in which butter, eggs, fruit and other perishable commodities were conveyed by the railway and shipping companies, and placed on the markets in Great Britain. As a result of that inquiry, the Department obtained a considerable body of evidence to show that a state of things existed which called for much improvement in the methods of packing and treating produce during its conveyance by railway and sea, and placing goods on the market. Having gathered that information, the Department entered into communication with the railway companies and shipping companies, and with the consignors of butter and eggs, and issued various circulars, describing the causes which led to depreciation in the value of produce, and making suggestions for an improvement in the state of things, as far as such could be brought about; conferences were also held with the railway companies on the subject, and the inspectors had interviews with the companies' officers, and with consignors and consignees. Each year a large portion of time was spent by the transit inspectors in England. Through the courtesy of the English railway companies, our inspectors are allowed to go into their goods stores, and watch how the produce is handled; in fact, we have the most cordial relations with both the English and Irish railway companies. They recognise that it is to their advantage, as well as to the advantage of the customers, and the result of our action is, we are informed, a large reduction in the amount of claims against the railway companies for compensation for goods damaged in transit. Butter merchants and egg merchants in England in large numbers—Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow—are interviewed, and it is ascertained from them what fault they have got to find with the goods received by them, and we try to trace the matter back, and induce the consignors to take more care.

3288. Is the work of your inspectors to inquire generally into the methods employed by the railway companies or to investigate a particular case?—Both. If there is any complaint made it is investigated specifically; but, apart from that, the inspectors look after matters generally. Last year they visited seventy-three centres in Great Britain, and had interviews with 409 merchants or receivers of produce. Amongst other things that have been largely brought about through the agency of the transit inspectors are—the accelerated service of goods trains in some instances, quick service for fruit from certain districts, increased number of steamships provided with refrigerating compartments for the conveyance of butter from Cork and Waterford. Refrigerator vans have been supplied by, at least, two of the railway companies in this country for the conveyance of butter and eggs.

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3389. Was that done through your inspectors?—It may be possible the railway companies had the matter in contemplation. The Department, however, made strong representations to the railway companies as to the improvements.

3390. Supposing any particular consignee had goods damaged on the railway, would he apply as a natural thing to you?—No; I don't think he would.

3391. You are not a general agent in remedy wrongs?—I am afraid that would be more than the Department could undertake; but at the same time any complaints we do get are taken up and investigated.

3392. Now, as to the railway rates?—The powers of the Department with regard to railway rates are contained in section 17 of the Act of 1899, which enables the Department to appear before the Railway and Canal Commissioners on behalf of aggrieved persons.

3393. I think we have been told that there has only been one case in which you applied?—There was only one case.

3394. That would be only a very exceptional case, in which you would take that action?—I don't think any other case has arisen.

3395. What was that—a case of undue preference?—No; a proposed increase in a number of rates all along a certain line of railway. That was a matter of general public interest, and the Department received numerous representations from individual merchants and farmers, and from local bodies in the districts affected.—Town Commissioners and County Councils—asking them to appear on their behalf, and the Department did so.

3396. Was there litigation?—The case came before the Railway and Canal Commissioners, but the company failed to sustain their application.

3397. (Mr. Michel.)—You beat the company?—It did not go as far as that. The evidence that was given by the company was insufficient, in the first instance, to satisfy the Commissioners that their application was a well-grounded one.

3398. But they were the applicants?—Yes; the railway company were the applicants.

3399. (Chairman.)—Did that cost you much?—It did; over £1,000.

3400. (Mr. Michel.)—No recoupment?—No recoupment. We had to pay that from the Endowment Fund.

3401. (Chairman.)—You did not get costs?—No; we got no costs.

3402. However, it was an experiment?—It was possibly worth the money in the moral effect it had. There has been no application of any kind since, as far as I know, to increase rates; in fact, the tendency is the other way.

3403. Still, it is obvious you can hardly do that sort of thing very often?—I fancy it ought to be a matter of more than an individual interest to justify such action.

3404. This was more than that?—Yes; it was a proposed general increase of rates on certain commodities, a matter that affected a large part of the country. Many complaints have been received about

excessive rates, or applications to have other rates established, and matters of that kind. At the end of 1905 we had 134 separate complaints. We made no inquiry in every case. Sometimes it takes a very considerable time to do this; because several different companies may be involved, if it is a question of transit to a remote part of England. The net result is, shortly this—that out of the 134 cases the railway companies were induced, by friendly correspondence, to give reduced rates, or through rates, in forty-three cases. In twenty-five cases, where rates were wrongly charged or other special circumstances occurred, they made refunds to the complainants of certain sums, and nine or ten cases are still pending.

3405. Do you know at all how far your powers under the Act compare with the powers of the Board of Trade in this matter; of course the Board of Agriculture in England have no such powers?—Under section 31 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1899, anybody who feels aggrieved may complain to the Board of Trade; the Board of Trade make inquiry into the matter; and they bring the parties together, if necessary, and try to effect an amicable settlement. If they fail to do that, it is then for the complainant to go to the Railway and Canal Commissioners himself, with, I think, a certificate from the Board of Trade, that it is a proper case to bring under the notice of the Commissioners. There is also a section in one of the earlier Acts—the Act of 1875, which enables the Board of Trade to appoint a person who can appear before the Railway Commissioners.

3406. Their powers are somewhat analogous to yours?—They are somewhat analogous; but it is not quite so direct a power.

3407. There was no such power existing in Ireland before?—No; it was specially introduced into the Act of 1899.

3408. It is a very important power, and one which, although you may not take action frequently, does give you a strong position in dealing with railway companies?—I think it does.

3409. (Mr. Michel.)—The Board of Trade has some power in Ireland?—It has the same power as Ireland as in Great Britain. Section 6 of the Act of 1899 says: "Any person appointed by the Board of Trade may in like manner apply to the Commissioners." They don't appear themselves.

3410. (Chairman.)—It is a more direct power than the Board of Trade's power?—The Department are empowered to defray out of their endowment fund any expenses incurred under Section 17.

3411. The other powers of the Department are substantially transferred powers?—Yes; except the Sale of Food and Drugs Act of 1899, which was passed at the same time as our own Act—the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act. The Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899, which is one of a series of Acts passed to prevent adulteration, conferred certain new powers on the Department. I am quite ready to go into the details of its administration.

(Chairman.)—No; I don't think it is necessary.

The Committee adjourned.

TWELFTH PUBLIC SITTING.—FRIDAY, JUNE 8TH, 1906.

At 18 Lower Baggot-street, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KESTELM DUGBY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OGGILVIE.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MCKES.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

MR. H. DE FRANKENBERG MONTGOMERY, D.L., EXAMINED.

3312 (Chairman).—I believe you have been deputed by the Board of Agriculture to give evidence here?—Yes.

3313. And you are a member of the Agricultural Council?—Yes.

3314. And chairman I think of the Tyrone County Committee?—Yes, of both committees; they are very fond of making me chairman of everything down there.

3315. At all events you are here to speak as a member of the Agricultural Board on behalf of the Board. First of all, as regards the constitution of the Board, its being partly an elected body and partly a nominated body?—Yes, sir; that appears to me to be a very satisfactory arrangement; it has worked very well so far, and it appears to me that the bodies that send my elected members for the Council, and ultimately to the Board, are not elected for this special purpose, and therefore there would be a risk, if there were only elected members, that some of the most useful men in the country would be left out, both as regards expert knowledge and knowledge of the affairs of the country. So it appears to me, if the Board is to be made responsible on the lines laid out, the nominated element is necessary, and I think whether my colleagues are entirely in agreement with this view or not, I understand from what I have gathered that they all agree it has worked so far satisfactorily.

3316. I will ask you a question that we asked several witnesses yesterday. So far as you have observed has there been any marked divergence of opinion at all, or method of looking at things, between the nominated members and elected members?—I don't think, when sitting round the Board, we know who is nominated or who is elected. There was a suggestion made at the Council to that effect but it took us all by surprise; we had never heard such a thing suggested before.

3317. In fact it does not appear?—Not in the least.

3318. As to the functions of the Board, what have you to say on that point, that is to say, the functions they have under statute, and in point of practice?—It appears to me in that case too, that it works admirably in practice, and the Board has quite sufficient power. It appears to me that if the Board was given more power, entrusted with more matters of detail and so forth they would really not have as much power as they have now. We have all had experience of Boards that have powers and all sorts of details to look after; if the secretary chooses to amuse his Board by giving them a great deal of details he can do a great deal more of what he likes than if the Board had certain selected things to deal with.

3319. There is another consideration, the frequency of meetings, and it might be difficult to get the Board together?—Impossible; it is very difficult as it is; most of us have our own engagements and business in the country.

3320. As a matter of fact we may take it that the Board deals mainly with the question of principle?—It deals with the question of principle, and to a certain extent, with matters of detail, because the Vice-President has taken as very fully into his confidence, and in any matter which came before us in which the details were of any importance they have either been put before us, or if we have asked questions we have got full information.

3321. Take its statutory power, the important power of its assent being made necessary to any expenditure?—That also has worked excellently. I think our disposition at first was, knowing the immense amount of time and thought which the Vice-President and the heads of the branches had given to these matters that we were inclined to give him leave to try any experiment that he had come to the conclusion he ought to try, but latterly, since we have been getting nearer the end of our funds, we have taken a stronger line about certain things and on various occasions have cut down expenditure on what we thought, not necessarily undesirable, but less important lines than others for which the money was wanted.

3322. And it is a real power?—Undoubtedly.

3323. And is effectively exercised?—Yes; and undoubtedly if things remain as they are it will be more so, because we have now come to the position that we have a certain amount of money, not enough to do everything with, and the Board will have power to say it shall be used for this, and shall not be spent for that.

3324. Supposing there is a scheme in the air which involves considerable expenditure, when does the Board first hear of it?—Anything important we generally have an opportunity of considering twice; it is put on the agenda, and, if generally approved, it may go through then, but if any discussion arises about it, any doubt as to either the scheme itself or details, in every case it has been adjourned to another meeting.

3325. Would the Board have an opportunity of considering the general advisability of the scheme before it deals specifically with the question of finance; does the question arise whether a particular scheme is desirable and worth spending money on before you get to the actual question of money?—Oh, yes; that constantly occurs; a scheme is put down before us and a certain sum of money mentioned, and if the scheme is approved the money is discussed.

3326. Then you get more or less a specific estimate?

—Yes; and if it is a scheme that is approved, and the head of the branch tells us it cannot be done for less than so and so, we give it to him, but if it is a question of giving a certain sum of money for something, we stick out it down considerably.

3327. Are the accounts submitted to you afterwards?

—Yes, and also a statement of what is being done and has been done. Professor Campbell at every meeting of the Board makes a full statement of what his branch has been doing, and answers any questions that may be asked him.

3328. Mr. McKes has just put this into my hand—Vol. 2 of the minutes, page 251, accounts of expenditure from 1st November to 31st December, inclusive; is that typical?—That is strictly typical; we get a statement of that sort frequently, but there was a very much fuller statement of accounts, more details; I forgot the meeting.

3329. (Mr. McKes).—Was it on one occasion?—It was on one occasion, but it was carried forward; we had three meetings over the sum; it was laid before us and then put in the minutes of the meeting for the consideration of the next, and it was further adjourned to the third, so we had three statements and estimates before us for a long time.

3330. Was it published in the estimate?—Yes.

3331. (Mr. McKes).—This is a statement of expenditure actually incurred?—In the case I mean there were

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D.L.

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accounts of what actually had been spent, and an estimate of what was wanted. I forget exactly the shape of the thing, but it was, at any rate, a very full statement.

3332. (Chairman).—What I wanted to get at was this—you have, first of all, an estimate of the probable expenditure, and then when the expenditure has been incurred; you have an account somewhat in that form?

3333. (Mr. Brown).—On page 215 I think there is a sort of balance sheet!—Yes; that was it; you see there is a lot of information there, two or three pages of it.

3334. (Chairman).—As regards the power of initiative which the Board has; strictly speaking its powers are limited by the statute, are they not, by advising the Department on matters which the Department submits to the Board. Supposing a member of the Board desires to bring on a particular scheme or proposal before the Department, would he have power to do so?—Certainly; I never heard any suggestion that any of us could not bring forward any point we liked. I think it would be a great pity to emphasize that too much, because these are technical matters that require a great deal of thought, and I think that the practice generally adopted and suggested by the constitution is a right practice. Those who are paid to think out these things should have the initiative as a rule; but if there is anything on which there is a strong feeling on the part of the Board or of an individual there is nothing at all to prevent it coming forward, and, in an extreme case, if we had a Vice-President that we thought was not working on the right lines, we could stop the money, and could insist on his working on our line; but it would be a great pity to emphasize that, because pressure would be put upon us to bring forward all sorts of matters that would not have been so well considered as matters brought before us by the heads of the Department under the present system.

3335. Therefore you don't desire any alteration of the statutory provision in this respect?—No; I think it works as well as a thing of that sort could work, and it would be a great pity to risk that by any change at all.

3336. Now, with regard to the appointment of officials and otherwise, have any questions arisen as to that?—No; there have been the usual questions occasionally as to why a Scotchman was appointed instead of an Irishman, and so on. There is a public feeling about that, but when it comes to the point it does not go much further; the people feel bound to make these patriotic protests occasionally, but when the reasons are explained to them there is no more trouble about it. I may mention, perhaps, that at a meeting of the Council there was this point raised. I think it was raised in this way, that a certain appointment should be postponed for a year until there was an Irishman ready for it, and I put the other side in a most uncompromising way that we would take teachers from China or Persia or anywhere, if they were the best to be got; it was put to the vote, and I think the gentleman who insisted on the appointment being postponed found no second. The majority of the Council went for convenience.

3337. The view has been put before us that it was desirable that the Board should have some power of veto upon the appointments?—I was struck, in talking over the matter with some of my colleagues, with what was said with regard to the possibilities under another sort of Vice-President, but thinking the matter over I do not see how the thing would be managed. I think if the patronage was wrongly used, whoever used it would have in Parliament, and other places, a bad time. It is very difficult to get the best men to accept these appointments sometimes, and if the Vice-President, or whoever has the appointment in his hands, had to tell whoever he was trying to persuade to take the appointment that he took it subject to running the gauntlet of a Board here, it might very likely turn the scale against getting a good man, and on the whole I have come to the conclusion that the matter is best as it is.

3338. After all you have the great controlling power of the purse?—Yes.

3339. (Mr. Dyson).—Not in that respect?—Not in that respect, but indirectly.

3340. The Board does not supply that fund.

(Chairman).—No, but it supplies other monies.

3341. (Mr. Hicks).—They could stop the work he does.

(Chairman).—They have the same check which has been found effective in the course of history.

(Witness).—I think the persons who are responsible should be held responsible as they are now, and I think it would be very unfortunate and very uncomfortable for the Board if they were supposed to have anything to do with appointments. Even if it was only a veto, the veto might be made to work in the other direction, and I know when I was first a member of the Board before the thing was understood, I was bombarded with applications from all sorts of friends, political and otherwise, to get them appointments, and it was a great comfort to me, and I really think it is to every member of the Board, to be able to say, "We have really nothing whatever to do with the appointments."

3342. (Chairman).—Then that finishes, I think, what you have to say about the constitution and working of the Board?—With regard to the position of the Vice-President, I don't know that I can add anything to what has been said about that, but perhaps as other witnesses mentioned the matter I had better say what I think. I think my colleagues, those who have been witnesses on behalf of the Board, have all agreed that for practical purposes they have had great satisfaction under Sir Horace Plunkett's presidency, and it is merely a matter of theory whether his position should be changed in any way. I myself have by no means always agreed with Sir Horace Plunkett, in fact I have sometimes strained his patience to a considerable extent by differing from him strongly, but I have come to the conclusion that it would be infinitely easier to find a worse man than to find a better, and I hope some means will be arranged for regularising his position. I don't quite follow the tendency of the Bishop of Ross's evidence with regard to his constitutional position as not being responsible to the Irish Government—that I don't understand myself, and I don't think we in the North have any feeling about it. The Chief Secretary under the Act is supposed to be the President of the Board, and as far as we are concerned, whether the Vice-President is directly and solely responsible to the Chief Secretary and the Government, or to somebody else, I don't think we care, but if it would tend to give any notion of the people in this country more confidence in the institution, that there should be some special arrangement of the sort, it would be highly desirable to carry it out. But I don't myself quite follow the distinction; I don't think that now with these Boards and this Council and all the rest of it, that there is any necessity for the Vice-President having a seat in Parliament; in fact I think he is a great deal better without it, because he has plenty to do over here without spending his time running backwards and forwards, and therefore if something like the present provisional arrangement could be regularised it would be on the whole the most satisfactory arrangement.

3343. The Bishop of Ross's strong objection, yesterday, as I understood, was to bring this Department under the control in any way of what is called the Council; that you say you don't attach so very much importance to?—No, we are very practical people in the North, and have no sentiments about these things. If the thing is well administered, and we get the benefit of the instruction we look for out of it, these points don't concern us. If there is any point that won't practically change the position of the Vice-President very much which would please people in other parts of the country; for my part I see no objection to it.

3344. I did not understand the Bishop of Ross objecting to the present state of things, but rather as depressing a change?—The present state of things is purely provisional, and not in accordance with the Act, and the question arises whether the simple course should be taken of making the Vice-President a Civil Servant like the Vice-President of the Local Government Board, or some other change in the constitution, which I don't quite follow. Only having seen a newspaper report I don't quite follow what he means, but I think it is really a matter of indifference as long as the Vice-President has a fair amount of independence.

3345. I see on page 222, vol. 2, of the Agricultural Board's minutes, that the Bishop of Ross proposed a resolution which was seconded by Mr. O'Neill—both of whom gave evidence before us yesterday—implying what I suppose was the view expressed here yesterday, and the resolution was adopted, "Mr. Mostgomery dissenting."—Yes, I had forgotten that incident; that was on the ground that I put just now.

that these I represent here really do not care about these points at all, but only about good administration.

3348. Now, with regard to the programme of agricultural education generally, what do you say about that?—That appears to me, as embodied in the pamphlet issued by Sir Horace Plunkett three or four years ago—I suppose you have had that before you—that appears to be a most excellent scheme, and it is in complete accord with Continental experience, that is to say, that before any form of college or school is founded, the way must be paved by itinerant instructors for some years. I happen to know something about what has taken place on the Continent in that way. My paternal grandfather, Follenberg, was a great agricultural reformer in his day—at the beginning of the last century. About 1812, he started an agricultural school near Bernau; he had been working at it for thirty or forty years; he had things of the sort which went along in a small way; they did a good deal of good, but the new school was not largely frequented by the class that it was required for, and after his death it was dropped altogether, it was so badly frequented. About ten or twelve years ago the Prussian Government took up the Prussian system of sending round itinerant instructors, and after they had been working for eight or ten years the school was opened again, and the influx of the people for this school was so large that they had to build an enormous annex, and it has now become a tremendous institution, solely, apparently, in consequence of this system having been adopted. I happened to have an opportunity of submitting that pamphlet, just after it appeared, to Dr. Thiele, the permanent head of the Prussian Ministry of Agriculture. He said he would read it carefully, and asked me to come and see him after a couple of days. He then told me that he thought it was most admirable, and the whole scheme laid down was entirely in accordance with the experience they had had in Prussia. Before you can persuade the farmers to send their sons to any school or college for the purpose of farming their own farms better (they would send them to a farm or college to make them head stewards, or get them positions abroad somewhere), but before they can realise the fact that there is anything to be learned in any agricultural school that would be useful for their own purposes, you have to teach them that there is something to learn that they don't know better, and in most cases it takes several years. In our cases the actual lectures will only be useful for one or two years. But then you must have the man with the example plate going about, and talking to these people, until it gradually dawns upon them that their sons may possibly be better farmers than they are, but it takes a long time, and it is not in the least a characteristic of the Irish people alone, because as far as I can make out, the small farmer is the same all over the world. We hear a good deal of nonsense about the Irish people being this, that and the other, but there is no difference between the Irish farmer and other farmers. I have had experience talking to Germans about the co-operative movement. I have repeated the current talk, "Ah, but our people are so and so, and therefore this would not do in Ireland." They have laughed at me, and said, "Our people are just the same; there is no difference."

3349. There is this to be said about the growth of the Swiss system, that there you have a very advanced primary education to commence with.—The primary education is better, and, therefore, you would conclude that it would take longer here to prepare farmers for these schools than there, but in Prussia, where the primary instruction is probably the best in the world, Dr. Thiele told me it took eight years for the itinerant instructors to work before the schools were opened. After having about, these instructors settle down and open classes, as we have done in Tyrone, and then, after these have worked for some time, the time arrived for opening a permanent school with a certainty that it would be made use of.

3350. Do you see any great progress made in agriculture in Ireland through the work of the Department?—Undoubtedly. We have had classes in several counties in Tyrone, which have been very well attended by bonafide young farmers, who were going to farms at home. There may have been some with other objects, but these formed a substantial part of these classes, and worked satisfactorily; and our Secretary—whom I hope you will examine for the details of the matter, because he is so efficient that my lack of knowledge is made very easy—he has formed what, before this system was

introduced, would have been quite impossible. He has formed, out of those who attended these classes, an Agricultural Association at Omagh; and these young men who were at these classes have joined the association, and come in on certain days, and have debates on agricultural subjects and points. I think I sent you copies of the two last reports, and you will see there that the committee—which is a very representative committee of County Councils and others—really consider the system is doing substantial good; and everybody says that the quality of the cattle, poultry, and everything we have taken in hand, is most decidedly improved.

3351. (Mr. Dryden).—Are there any regulations made by the Department for the control of this Association?—The Association, so far, is purely voluntary; but I think the Department very likely, when it sees it is doing good work, may give it help in some way. I don't think it has given any so far.

3352. (Chairman).—It is of spontaneous growth—I think it is chiefly the question of our Secretary; but at the same time he has something to work upon.

3353. (Mr. Brown).—Is the association confined to those who have passed through your school of instruction?—That I cannot tell you. You will get that from Mr. Dallingier by and by.

3354. (Chairman).—As to the question of funds: you say the funds are not more than necessary for carrying out the scheme of agricultural education?—That was more with a view to the actual funds that we had before us at the Board of Agriculture. What happened in Tyrone was this. The Tyrone people at first, when they heard that this money was available, were very anxious for the benefit of the people—I think not altogether for the benefit of the students—were very anxious to see a fine agricultural college established there; and there was a question, of course, whether they would strike a rate, fall in with the scheme, and tax the ratepayers for the scheme at all; and at first they said they would raise a rate if they would get a college for it. I persuaded them that the only way they could do that would be to adopt the scheme as laid down by Sir Horace Plunkett, and carry it out, and when the proper time came they would get a college. The proper time they think has now come; and whether it has actually come this minute, or is going to come next year or the year after, it has either come, or is coming; and, of course, the money will be wanted for that. There was a great doubt on many people's minds whether smaller and more modest schools, and more of them, would not be better than one very finely equipped college for a county. And there is a great deal in what the Bishop of Ross told you yesterday about that. But there is this difficulty—that you want the best teachers you can get for these pupils. You cannot multiply the first-class teachers in what you may call second-class schools. The second-class schools would be the best as regards mode of living and surroundings, but there is a difficulty in getting the number of qualified teachers for these schools; and, therefore, there is a good deal to be said on both sides; and whether you have a number of small schools or one big school, you want money for it; and the building and equipment, and the purchase of the land takes a lot of money; and it seems to me that if the other districts in the same position as ours get what they expect, and have a right to get, under this head, it will absorb most of the accumulations; and, therefore, it is most undesirable they should be tapped for anything else; especially as I think some little non-ag must be left for the financing of the first years of agricultural credit.

3355. One danger of these larger colleges is, that the higher level you put them at the more danger there is that you are training people for going elsewhere.—Exactly. I am afraid there is no doubt about that. I should be altogether in favour of a smaller model school for a county, or two for a county, but for the difficulty of getting a supply of good teachers; for if the teachers are not good the whole thing is useless.

3356. Are you satisfied with the level which is obtained by the present itinerant instructors—do you think they are efficient as teachers?—They vary very much. It is very difficult to get the right sort of man. If you get a man too highly educated the farmers say, "He cannot tell us anything about farming; he never stood behind a plough." And, on the other hand, if you get a man who has stood behind a plough he sometimes has not the readiness to talk that is required.

3357. And there may be many people, with good knowledge themselves, who have not the gift of imparting it—I think, considering the difficulty, the

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supply is improving. They are being trained at the College of Science and at Glenside, and so forth. Up to this I think the supply has been rather short, and some of them have been, perhaps, in one or other respect not quite efficient. Some have been very efficient; but I think they are improving every year. One thing I think is wanted immediately in Tyrone, even if the school or college is not built, and that is some one or more stations—if possible, a central station—where experiments can be carried out under more constant supervision of the agricultural instructor than is possible in those plots which he can only visit once a month, and, meanwhile, does not know exactly what is happening there. In Tyrone, we have an itinerant instructor, and also another instructor, who has been taking the classes, and if an arrangement could be made for a central station, under the control of the man who has been taking the classes, he could watch them constantly while the itinerant instructor is going to the outside plots.

3366. Do you think much difficulty arises from distance; would people come a distance to institutions of that kind?—Well, of course, there is a difficulty, and you will have to have outlying plots too, but it certainly would be an advantage to have, even in a big county like Tyrone, where the distances are very awkward, it would be extremely advantageous to have one central place where experiments could be carried out.

3367. Something intermediate between the agricultural station and the big College?—Yes; or if a site could be secured now for one of these agricultural stations, and that could be built on later.

3368. (Mr. Micks).—Would the Loughrey estate serve your purpose?—No; that is for a dairy school, and in one corner of the county too.

3369. (Chairman).—What do you say about forestry?—I have already stated that I think our funds would only just do what we are responsible for in these county schemes, and so forth, and therefore if forestry is to be worked properly we shall want more money.

3370. What I am anxious to get is your view about the importance of forestry?—In order that forestry may be worked properly there must be some substantially-stated forest planted somewhere; that is a very expensive thing, and I think outside the scope of the Department. But the Department might very well supply the teaching and the control, and there is, at the present time, a very fine opportunity to get a lot of smaller woods planted, if an expert, an adviser, was at hand, because there is a quantity of land through the country, steep hills and scrubs, both on the farms of farmers who have bought out their farms, and on the residue of the properties of landlords in their own hands, which a very little encouragement would induce them to plant; and I think, probably, a forestry branch of the Department would be the most effective possible machinery for doing this. The money would have to be advanced, I suppose, from the Board of Works. You can get money to plant from the Board of Works, but there is a technical difficulty—whenever the owner is a limited owner, he can only borrow under the Lands Improvement Act, and under that Act you can only borrow for planting for shelter, and the Treasury has taken a very strict view lately of what "shelter" means. This could easily be corrected by a short clause in the Public Works Loan Bill any year, to assimilate the words to the words in the Land Act of 1831, as amended by the Tramways Act, 1883. There is a wish to plant now, and a great ignorance of what to plant, how to plant, and where to plant, which, if not taken in hand now, will lead to a reaction. People will say, "The trees won't grow," because they have planted the wrong trees in the wrong way and in wrong places, therefore I think it is highly desirable that an expert adviser should be sent on by the Department, with a view of advising anyone who seriously means to plant, and also, I think, some arrangement should be made by which money should be advanced on especially low terms to persons who will agree to plant under inspection, under the direction of the expert, and submit to inspection, and comply with the directions subsequently.

3371. All this implies looking a considerable distance ahead?—Planting trees always means looking a considerable distance ahead.

3372. Do you put this among the immediate requirements of Ireland, or would you prefer to see money spent in other ways for the promotion of forestry?—It is a pity to lose this opportunity when there is a lot of land that otherwise might be divided

up, of land that won't do anybody much good, but if you divide it up among smaller farmers around you won't get it back again. There is a great deal of waste land which, if this thing is not encouraged at once, might not be available again.

3373. (Mr. Micks).—Do you mean planting on a large scale?—Both; on a large scale and on a small scale.

3374. (Mr. O'Connell).—A large scale and small plantations?—What, in Canada, would be called small plantations, but here I think it is always worth encouraging the planting of ten or twenty acres.

3375. (Chairman).—If I understood aright, your view is that it would be a very important function for the Department to provide efficient assistance, and instruction and help to any body of persons or individual persons who are willing to undertake planting?—That, I think, as an immediate need, and if that was at once done, then, if these arrangements that I have suggested were carried out, of course, it would render the branch twice as useful as it can be now.

3376. (Mr. Micks).—Have you introduced planting on any very large scale?—I have not; but I contemplate doing it now.

3377. Some thousands of acres?—No; I have not got anything like that, but I would plant several hundreds of acres.

3378. With a view to wood industries, arising from the planting further on?—I was looking at my neighbourhood the other day, and I consider, that while I am prepared to plant two or three hundred acres, it would be possible to get possession of high-lying valleys that would grow larch for a Government Department. I could get about 1,000 acres altogether, and there are a number of more or less desolate demesnes that would afford 300 or 350 acres each for planting; that would be sufficient in order to be managed by one man. In consequence of a communication I got from the Forestry Society, I was looking around to see what could be done, and if in addition to my few hundred acres there was a Government forest there I think it would advance industries.

3379. (Mr. Brown).—You are aware that under the Land Act there is power to advance money to Councils, as trustees, to purchase waste land for reforesting?—I think there is such a clause, but I don't think they have the money to spend.

3380. No; but to purchase land, and as estates change hands there are quantities of waste land suitable for this purpose?—Yes.

3381. Do you think the County Councils would be willing to act as trustees?—I am afraid not. I know my County Council would not put money into a thing that would not give a return for many years.

3382. They would only have to pay 3½ per cent. for our ratepayers don't like to get 1 per cent. on anything we are not quite sure about.

3383. You don't think the Council would be willing if they could acquire these waste lands for the purpose of reforesting at 3½ per cent.?—There would work in some instances held out, your Councils may be more patriotic and less economic than ours.

3384. The only thing is to get them to look far enough ahead; the growth of forests is slow, and Councils are not like an individual; their life is perpetual; if they looked far enough ahead they would get a good return?—I would be very sorry to lay it down too strongly that Councils would not do it. There is such a remarkable feeling growing up in favour of planting nowadays that it is quite possible it may catch on to County Councils, but up to this the only Council I know would not be inclined to look at it with approval.

3385. Don't you think that either the agricultural instructor or the horticultural instructor, if he received a course of forestry instruction, would answer the purpose you have just been speaking about?—The horticultural instructor with us is doing a certain amount of that work, and I think he could do a good deal of it; that is to say he could advise the small people who are planting a few acres on a farm and so forth, but I think that where a man is prepared to plant say upwards of 100 acres you would want a man with rather more experience.

3386. Then would not a practical expert under the control of the Department itself answer that purpose?—Yes, that is my idea.

3387. Supposing the Department had an expert in forestry who would be available to go down and advise as to planting on a large scale, and that the horticultural instructors also received some special training in forestry, would not that practically satisfy all

purpose?—Yes, that would be quite sufficient at first, and if you found there was more demand for larger plantings than your own expert could meet you would get a second. The horticultural instructor's business is to teach people to plant fruit trees, and it is a cogent duty to plant forest trees.

3376. (Mr. Aitchison).—Do you know of any area of waste land in Tyrone that would do for planting?—Not on such a scale as is talked about. I don't know where you would get a thousand acres except absolutely wild mountain.

3377. Could you get even a thousand acres of wild mountain in a sheltered position?—I was looking at a place the other day where I think something like a thousand acres could be got, but then it is not all sheltered. Some of it would be wild mountain, but probably wild mountain would have turbarry on it that might be worked at a profit while the trees were growing in the valley.

3378. Sheltered from the prevailing winds?—Partly so.

3381. Is that land you have in your mind subject to any commonage grazing rights?—There is part of it that is in hands and part of it I am afraid is commonage. The grazing rights are the great obstacle that prevents you getting the thousand acres you want almost everywhere, but these rights are not of the intrinsic value they were some years ago.

3382. In the County Tyrone, as far as you know it, there is only this one place you can think of where you could get land on a large scale, and even that is to a certain extent subject to grazing rights?—Tyrone is a large county, and I don't know what there is up in the north; there is wild land there towards Famlodge, but I don't know that country. There is a place that I have heard about, but I had better not mention it, that might be got hold of.

3383. You know the West of Ireland a good deal; do you know of every place where you could get any considerable quantity of land free of commonage or grazing rights or turbarry rights?—I am afraid not from what I hear; I don't pretend to know that country well.

3384. Do you think if planting on a large scale were decided on it would be necessary to get some legal power like the Lands Clauses Act put into operation, or would you recommend any such interference?—I would not recommend any such interference until I had tried what could be done otherwise, because after all, though it is said that it does not pay to plant under 1,000 acres, still if you get 1,000 acres scattered over a district in 100 or 200 acre plots I think you could do a great deal of good, and I don't like to talk about compulsory powers until you see what you can do without them.

3385. (Mr. Gellie).—What do you mean when you say that you think forestry or some portion of it is outside the scope of the Department in view of the fact that section 25 uses the expression "purposes of agriculture," and defines it as including among many other purposes "forestry." I did not quite understand what you meant by outside the scope of the Department?—I think I was probably referring rather to the funds than to the law. I don't think the Department is likely in the immediate future to get sufficient funds to start planting on its own hook.

3386. (Chairman).—They are doing it to some extent at Avondale, are they not?—That is educational. Of course I think that probably it might be the very best thing, if in order not to have a multiplicity of departments, the Department were furnished with sufficient funds to plant, and to form a real forestry branch, and I am not to be taken as saying that it is outside the scope of the Department in that sense, but looking at the immediate future I think that with the funds the Department has and is likely to get, the best thing is about as much as they can look to in the immediate future.

3387. (Mr. Gellie).—It is not beyond their authority but beyond their present possibilities?—That is all I should say. I have expressed myself badly.

3388. (Chairman).—The next matter is agricultural co-operation and in connection with that agricultural credit?—That naturally comes into the scope of the Department, because there are no other Government funds for financing agricultural credit. What has been done in that direction has been done partly by an independent society, the Agricultural Organisation Society, and partly by giving small loans to co-operative loan societies. I know that the small farmers will not be able to hold their own unless this co-operative movement extends, and is worked more on the lines that have succeeded on the Continent with such mod-

ifications as are necessary here. I don't think I need take up your time by going into the matter, because the Committee have received various articles and notes of mine, and really I think they contain all I have to say.

3389. Still it is rather convenient to get very shortly on the notes the views of experienced witnesses like yourself on the subject?—The way in which the credit side of the thing is done abroad is this, that the savings of the small farming class are made available in the same concrete or in the next district where loans are required. That you can only do by some sort of central bank, and what occurs to me is that the model that has been copied here chiefly are the original rules of the Raiffeisen Banks, started half a century ago, but I hold that the position in this country is rather the position of the Prussian Government, when they wanted to introduce the system, which had grown up spontaneously on the Rhine, into the eastern provinces, and there they found the thing would not march at all unless they started with Government money, and the Prussian Parliament some ten years ago voted half a million sterling, and ultimately two and a half millions sterling to be put at the disposal of certain central banks that would lend to these local banks. The result of that has been to stimulate the deposits until, although the Government contribution has steadily increased, the ratio of deposits to the Government contribution has increased in a still greater ratio. It has encouraged these things, and they require encouragement more here than they did in Germany, for this reason, that over there they had local savings banks, more or less Government institutions, that were outgrown to lend on good security in their own districts. The agrarian party in Germany and Prussia generally have successfully resisted all efforts of all Chancellors of the Exchequer to start a post office savings bank, because they say that to take the savings of the people to headquarters depletes the local savings banks, which are available for the purpose of agricultural credit. Now we have a well-established post-office savings bank which has done excellent service, but that appears to me to make it all the more clear that to start this thing in this country you must have funds. That is a question which, I think, must be worked out very carefully by the Department. I am not prepared with a cut and dried scheme, but there must be some scheme to do this, a better scheme than the present scheme of just advancing £50 to this loan society, and £500 to the other; it must be organised in a better way, but it is so important that until we know that Parliament would provide money for the purpose from some other source, I think we are bound to earmark a certain amount of our accumulations for that purpose.

3390. Then, unless Parliament establishes some scheme of this kind, you think it must be done in particular localities by such means as may be made available for the purpose?—The thing has hitherto been worked, as far as it has been worked, by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and where it was necessary, they have been financed by the Department or the Congested Districts Board. There is a considerable advantage in having an independent association at the head of all this co-operative business, and at present it is a question whether the Department should subsidise the existing Organisation Society, or start something fresh, and that is under discussion. I would sooner not go into the details of that question.

3391. You have called our attention to it and referred to certain documents which we have before us?—I sent Mr. Gellie some time ago a memorandum of some things I picked out that had been done abroad. I only have some rough notes here. In spite of all that co-operation had done, and all the admirable system of savings banks they had in Denmark, in 1899 they voted £395,000 of public money for the further advancement of co-operative credit banks for the agricultural classes. In Hungary there is about £495,000 sterling voted for the purpose of co-operative agricultural credit. In Serbia 500,000 francs has been voted for the purpose, and in Roumania, I have not got the figures, but they are working there, and in Finland they have lent £150,000 at 5 per cent., and contributed £200 to the expense of administration. I don't know whether that was before or after the suppression of the Constitution there, but I have a note to that effect out of a German statement. In Prussia there is two and a half millions sterling put at the disposal of co-opera-

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tive credit institutions, and according to the last statement I have seen there is about £600,000 of Government money actually lent.

3392. How far has the thing worked financially—has there been any breakdown?—Absolutely none in this respect; the only breakdown I ever heard of in the co-operative movement in Germany was where they built some very gigantic corn stores. I believe the money was lost in that, but in these loan banks and so forth there has been no money loss at all; the mutual security is fixed on a basis that makes loss impossible.

3393. You believe it might be worked on better financial principles?—Certainly, and it would be a great mistake to do it otherwise; I don't know what some of these countries may do, but in Prussia there is no money advanced except with the most ample cover; the security is absolutely the same as that on which they advance public money. There is one thing which, I suppose, is outside your terms of reference, but I should like to mention it: for all purposes of agricultural credit in Germany the essential basis is considered to be a proper system of registration of title to land, that a man who owns land should have absolute freedom to deal with it, and thus affects not only mortgage credit, but the credit of these little banks, because if a man is going to borrow from a bank on personal credit, if he is able to take the secretary of the loan society to the nearest registration office and show him that he is the absolute owner of his farm, and the only charge against him is so and so, he knows where he is and that man may get an advance with safety.

3394. (Mr. Brown).—Is not that practically the system now in Ireland?—Mr. Justice Madden, when he was Attorney-General, persuaded the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Gordon, that some system of this sort was absolutely necessary for the safety of the Government instalments, but it is so remote from our land system that the system introduced is very imperfect indeed. Most of these titles are not absolute titles. They are registered subject to equities, which very often don't exist; but as a blot on the title these they are. The whole thing is exceedingly elementary. There was an Act drafted by Mr. Justice Madden in 1903, I believe, and I pressed very strongly upon Mr. Wyndham that he ought to get it through in the same session in the wake of his Land Bill; and he promised me that, without fail, it should go through in 1904, but nothing has been heard of it since. With great difficulty I got a tabular form introduced into the Registration of Title office, but I believe they don't use it. The registers I have seen in the local offices are merely a series of small instruments, put in anyhow, regardless of whether it is a purchase or a mortgage, whereas the German system is all in columns. That is the thing I have made out (paper handed in), and a modified form of it has been adopted, but it is only used in certain cases. They would not adopt it at all until they got hold of the Dillen Estate, and found they could not register that properly at all on the current system, and then they looked at its form, and said they would use them. In the local registry in Tyrone I have never seen any signs of a tabular system.

3395. Once the equities are discharged it is always possible, by the very certificate the man holds himself or by reference to the registry, to ascertain whether there are any charges?—Of course it is a technical matter, but in Germany they look on this as a matter of the first importance, as the basis of agricultural credit of all sorts, real and personal, and they go on improving it and improving it. Then with us, of course, the land that is registered in the Registry of Deeds Office and the Registry of Titles Office, is mixed up, and the country lawyers don't know which is which; and the only right way to put people in a position to work up agricultural credit is to send a Commissioner round, as they did in Germany, county by county, and register every acre of land; and it is wanted for other purposes as well as for credit, because now these people are beginning to farm their farms properly, there are constant cases in which a man wants to sell a bit of his farm and buy a bit of another man's, and he cannot do that now.

3396. (Mr. Micks).—Is there any opposition to such a system?—There is opposition; because nobody understands it except the lawyers, and some lawyers prefer the present system for selfish reasons, others prefer it perfectly honestly, because the old system was a very

difficult system to learn; and they have learned it, and they have plenty to do without learning a new system, and so the only people who understand it are generally opposed to it.

3397. (Mr. Brown).—Once a holding has been purchased or has been registered under the Registration of Titles Act, the old system of registration is at an end absolutely?—They are registered in a way that does not give the owner the advantages that the German system has. It requires an enormous amount of simplification.

3398. (Chairman).—May we just sum this up. You say a system of agricultural credit is really necessary, and in order to do that Parliament, or whatever authority may have to do with it, must take in hand the registration of titles?—I only wish to mention it.

3399. I think it is strictly relevant to say you do consider that a necessity?—Yes.

3400. (Mr. Micks).—I understood you to say that you do not wish to go into the relations with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—I think not.

3401. You know they have been discussed here in the Committee?—Well, of course, I am entirely at the disposal of the Committee, but a provisional arrangement has been made by which the Agricultural Organisation Society has received certain terms in certain conditions. I don't know that it is desirable to go further into it.

3402. I don't wish to press you, but we have had evidence on the subject?—If there is any question arising out of that that you would wish me to answer I am prepared to do so.

3403. One of the witnesses was asked whether, in his opinion, the organisation would be better done outside the Department or in a branch of the Department. Have you formed any opinion on that?—I think if it was entirely satisfactorily done, if there was a society working in entire harmony with the Department, that, on the whole, it would be advantageous to let the co-operative business be run by that society, but it is absolutely necessary that there should be harmony, and if there is not harmony, that the Department, if they vote the money, should have sufficient control, and the present arrangement is an experiment to see whether the Department can obtain by the arrangement made, sufficient control and modification on such points as require modification to enable them to work the thing successfully.

3404. Your view is that it should be independent, provided this experiment succeeds in showing that the Department could have sufficient control?—Yes. I have formed the opinion, rightly or wrongly, that the Agricultural Organisation Society is not altogether worked on right lines; but fortunately, Professor Campbell has been made a member of the Committee with another gentleman, Mr. Foster, who has been, as they say, in the army, seconded to the service of the Agricultural Organisation Society, a very capable man; and if he gets sufficient control, I think the thing will work very well, and if it does it will be better than taking the co-operative business directly under the Department; but if it does not work, the Department will have to take it in hand. It is too important a matter to let slide.

3405. (Mr. O'Neill).—There was a reference made to the statement of accounts put before the Board of Agriculture at meetings; I suppose the instance on page 94 represents the normal statement of accounts. Were there any restriction on the availability of details of items given under these separate heads for the information of the members at their meetings?—My impression is that we never asked for any items that we did not get.

3406. Any information asked for was supplied?—Yes; that is my recollection.

3407. (Chairman).—You put in, don't you, the minutes of the County Tyrone Committee?—This is the Technical Instruction Committee. There are two separate committees in Tyrone.

3408. Just tell us the nature of the document?—This is the resolution that was passed the day before yesterday, which was the first meeting we had after the letter from your Committee was received.

COURT OF RESOLUTIONS unanimously adopted by the County Tyrone Technical Instruction Committee at their meeting held in Dungannon on the 6th of June, 1905.—

"That, as requested by circular letter of the Secretary of the Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, we, the members of the Tyrone Technical

Instruction Committee, beg to make the following observations:—This committee, which is nominated by the County Council and the Urban District Councils of Strabane, Omagh, Dungannon, and Cookstown, to administer a joint scheme of technical (non-agricultural) instruction, has had three years' experience. During that time a large number of pupils have received instruction, which they would not otherwise have obtained, in commercial subjects, domestic economy, art, science, and, to a small extent, in technology. The work has been limited in two ways:—(1) In those of the urban districts the committee has been very seriously hampered by want of suitable premises with properly equipped classrooms, particularly for science teaching. The need of a building fund is urgent, if adequate results are to be obtained from the present expenditure on teaching. (2) The second limitation is the defective primary instruction of the pupils whom we admit, which the committee hope will be partly remedied as the compulsory provisions of the Irish Education Act become more effective. The committee, however, have to give elementary instruction to these pupils, who have left school, and we are of opinion that the cost of this teaching should be more adequately and directly met out of the funds for elementary education. The relations of the County Committee with local committees, who supervise the classes in the urban districts, have been of a uniformly friendly character, in spite of the difficulties inherent in the inauguration of a perfectly new system of education. The same remark, with the same qualification, applies to the relations of the County Committee to the Department, which have become increasingly cordial as the local requirements, on the one hand, and on the other the general principles underlying approved schemes, were developed; and we are not in favour of any change in the constitution of the Department or Board of Technical Instruction, considering that it would tend to dislocate the work and interfere with the continuity of those principles which must be settled, and generally understood, before full advantage will be taken of the instruction available. At the same time, as regards the employment of the funds of the Department, we suggest that some clear and authoritative statement should be made as to how far the public money may be used for aiding proposed new or existing technicalities, either by instruction or direct bonus; and, without expressing any opinion on the advisability of giving financial aid to industries, we strongly urge that no agency intended for technical instruction should be diverted from that purpose and used as subsidies or bonuses; and we submit the names of the Chairman (H. de F. Montgomery, Esq.), the Vice-Chairman (M. Lynch, Esq.), H. L. Claugow, Esq., and the Rev. A. H. Delap, members of the County and Local Committees, and the Secretary (L. Bradley, Esq.), to give evidence to the Inquiry Committee on behalf of the Committee."

3426. Does that express your own view?—I agree with that; it was not drafted by me, but I accept it.

3430. As to the necessity of more funds for building, do you feel that strongly?—Very strongly indeed; there is a very keen feeling; our Urban Districts have taken the schemes up very actively, and three of them, I think, are hampered for want of funds to build; they cannot get a suitable building, and they have not funds to build one.

3431. Have you any suggestion as to where the funds should come from?—As long as we get them we don't care where they come from.

3432. Are you prepared to give more funds locally?—I think these urban districts have taxed themselves a penny in the £ and the county gave a share of the penny rate, and I think the rates are felt to be high enough. The Strabane people propose to raise money on the security of the rate and to get a loan. I am not quite sure exactly from what source, but it was a matter the Department dealt with, and that the interest was to be paid out of the joint fund. The scheme was stated as far as that went, but they found the security of the penny rate was not sufficient, and they invited the Strabane people to strike an additional penny rate as security. I understood that this need not be raised; it was only there in the case of a failure of the funds to pay the interest, and I understood the Strabane people are doing that. They agreed to do it, subject to the second penny not being raised,

which probably will have to be modified, but at all events they are not willing to pay an extra penny but only to pledge it.

(Chairman).—Then there is power to exceed the penny rate?

(Mr. Brown).—A penny under the Act of 1880 and a penny under the Act of 1890.

3433. (Chairman).—That you put in as chairman of County Tyrone Technical Instruction Committee; now as chairman of the County Tyrone Agricultural Committee, do you put in any documents?—Yes, I sent in the minutes containing the resolution:—

"We, the members of the County Tyrone Committee of Agriculture, desire to give expression to our sense of the importance of the work which is being done by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland as at present constituted and by its officers, and we consider that any material alteration in the existing constitution of the Department would tend to check the progressive movements which have been inaugurated under the Department's influence, and which are calculated to improve the condition of agriculture in Ireland. At the same time we would point out that it is desirable that the Department should increase the facilities afforded for technical training and teaching as applied directly to the improvement of agricultural methods and practice, and to the improvement of crafts allied to agriculture, and in order that this may be done we consider that it is desirable to provide Agricultural Colleges or Schools which may serve as centres for the training of young men in each county, and also afford means for the better training of craftsmen, such as farriers, wheelwrights and others, whose occupations are directly connected with agriculture. We would further recommend that larger powers should be given to county committees to adopt all, or part of, the schemes annually submitted for adoption by the Department, and to vary such schemes in accordance with the special circumstances of their county, subject to the approval of the Department. We also recommend that the Chairman of this Committee, H. de F. Montgomery, Esq., D.L., the Secretary, Mr. P. G. Dallinger, and Mr. W. Cooke be examined by the Committee of Inquiry."

3434. You also put in, I think, the reports of the County Tyrone Committee for 1904-05 and 1905-06?—Yes. I marked the paragraphs showing what the Committee unanimously thought of the work of the Department.

3435. I may read this marked passage in the report for 1905-06:—The Committee feel justified in stating that during the period under review the operation of the Department's schemes in the county has proved of increasing benefit to the agricultural community, and, in conclusion, they desire to call attention to the high quality of the work done by the itinerant instructors and to place on record an expression of their appreciation of the honest and successful endeavour which has been made by them to further the interests of agricultural progress.

H. de F. MONTGOMERY, Chairman of the County Committee of Agriculture.

FRANCIS G. DALLINGER, Secretary.

P.S.—To the above report, prepared by the secretary, and approved by the Committee, the Committee desire to add an expression of their strong sense of the zeal and ability with which the secretary has performed his duties, and of their opinion that the success of the work of the Committee is chiefly due to his exertions.

On behalf of the Committee,

H. de F. MONTGOMERY, Chairman.

And in the Report for 1904-05 there is:—

In bringing their Report to a close the Committee desire to record their conviction that the work of the year under review, and that of preceding years, is bearing fruit, and while all results cannot be tabulated, while indeed the most important results cannot be set forth in the convenient compass of a Balance Sheet, being represented as they are by a gradual dissemination of knowledge, so increase in receptivity to new ideas among the agricultural community, and the adoption of new methods, nevertheless the progress in the directions indicated is real, and is, in the opinion of the Committee, of

June 8, 1905.

Mr. H. de
Fellenberg
Montgomery,
&c.

primary importance. The teaching given to those attending the classes of instruction in technical agriculture has been of special value, and it is believed that the results of this training on younger farmers in the county will be far-reaching and permanent. An attempt has been made to ensure a continuation of interest among students of the classes by the formation of an Agricultural Students' Association, and by giving facilities to students to carry out, on their own farms during the summer, experiments under the direction of the itinerant instructor of agriculture. The interest taken in the lectures of the itinerant instructors throughout the county has increased considerably, and the constant demand made for the assistance and advice of these officers is a satisfactory proof of the high quality of their work. The classes of instruction in the fattening, killing, plucking, and trussing of poultry, and in the grading and packing of eggs which were organised in the spring of 1905, have met with far greater success than was originally anticipated; the actual application, under expert direction, of the principles which have been taught in the lectures has proved both attractive, and of great benefit to the wives and daughters of farmers throughout the county. In regard to the operation of the Live Stock Schemes it may be pointed out that improvement in the quality of the mares exhibited at the annual shows has been very marked, and the number of exhibits has increased. If the results of the veterinary examination at these shows be taken as a gauge of the soundness of the horses in general use among the farmers of the county, it must be admitted that the percentage of unsound animals has decreased in a very marked degree. The quality of the huffs holding premiums under the Committee's scheme, and the suitability of these animals to improve the type of cattle in the county is demonstrated—the regret of the Committee—by the selection of many of them for export, and by the high prices which they realise abroad. The introduction of suitable breeds of various pure breeds into the county through the assistance of the Department has increased the facilities afforded to farmers in regard to pig breeding. These matters are mentioned at the close of the Report as they are not such as can be satisfactorily tabulated, they are nevertheless of importance. The Committee trust that the retrospect of the operations of the agricultural year 1904-5 may stimulate a hearty co-operation on the part of all sections of the community who are interested in agriculture, in the schemes in operation during the present year, details of which will be found in Part II.

(Signed), H. de F. MONTGOMERY,
Chairman.

FRED G. DALLINGER,
Secretary.

P.S.—To the foregoing report, drawn up by the Secretary and approved by the Committee, the Committee wish to add a renewed expression of their sense of the ability, enthusiasm and indefatigable industry with which the Secretary performed his duties, and of their belief that the success of the various schemes under their control is largely due to the Secretary's exertions. Proposed by Mr. Matthews, seconded by Mr. McManis.

On behalf of the Committee,

H. de F. MONTGOMERY,
Chairman.

(Witness).—The resolution of the Technical Instruction Committee was the result of some discussion; I should like it to be put in verbis.

3416. (Mr. McManis).—You said that resolution was the result of some discussion!—There was no difference of opinion, but there were some verbal alterations; it was a joint committee representing the four urban districts and the county.

3417. The local body passed a resolution against giving a bonus to industries, or, at all events, asking that if a bonus were given it should not be diverted from the sum of money allocated for technical instruction!—No, the resolution does not express any opinion for or against the bonus, but merely says

they would like some distinct rule laid down about it, and that in any case the money allocated for technical instruction should not be used for this purpose, simply because they want to do one thing well. The special reason why it was put in that shape was this, that there are certain people in Tyrone who rightly or wrongly think the Department ought to advance money to help them with their business, and the Department refers them to us, and they expect us to recommend it to the Department. We get into hot water, or at least, we annoy these people by not doing what we have no power to do.

3418. Do you think it would be well that some power were given with funds, not trenching on the funds for technical instruction?—The difficulty of doing more in that direction is that you raise expectations which it would be improper to fulfil; if one man gets cheap money why should not another. I understand that in very poor and congested districts there may be little rural industries, and it would be quite right to teach a man to make baskets, but there is a good deal more than that wanted. This gentleman I should like to want cheap money from the Department to enable him to make some sort of wooden goods, mats, and there is a strong feeling, and I think a feeling not without justification, that people who have worked up with their own unassisted hard work little industries should not be competed with by somebody else who visits with Government money.

3419. That would be a reason for refusing a loan or assistance if it unfairly interfered with any existing industry?—Yes, but how is the Department to know whether it is interfering with an existing industry or not?

3420. They would have their inspectors to investigate and report would they not?—They would, but still at the same time the place where the industry started might appear to be a poor place, and the thing may seem to be deserving, but it may undermine and choke off an independent industry, two or three per cent of that you don't know anything about.

3421. There is a feeling locally of getting some assistance for local industries?—I don't think there is except among the people who want the money.

3422. In your committee was there any feeling in the subject?—No; the only feeling I heard was a feeling against it. I think the gentleman who drafted the resolution did not want to raise the question; he did not know whether there was anybody in favour of it or not; as a matter of fact the only expression of opinion at the meeting was distinctly against it. The meeting was held at Dungannon, and that is on the fringe of the industrial portion of Ulster where people have worked up industries, entirely independently with their own means, and they don't see why other people should get help when they don't.

3423. Was your committee composed largely of industrial people?—There was a couple, I think; the rest of them were not engaged in manufactures.

3424. Agricultural people?—Not agricultural people. This was the Technical Instruction Committee.

3425. Were the members there very largely agricultural?—They were not on that day, because there was a cattle show going on at the same time; we had not them there; it was a rather small committee; one was a manufacturer who expressed a strong opinion about Government subsidies, and the others did not say much.

3426. There was another matter referred to in the examination, and that was the question of whether the locality could not provide funds by local contributions of some sort. I understood you to say that you did not think it fair to come down on the locality for any further money in addition to the penny rate!—Well, so; I think it is as much as you can expect from them at this stage.

3427. (Mr. Ogilvie).—What other local contributions for educational purposes are there in the district other than the penny rate—voluntary contributions?—I am afraid I had better not answer that question, because I have not got the details; I really don't know.

3428. Without knowing the amount, do you know the extent of any of them?—There are a certain amount of private endowments to primary schools. There are the Christian Brothers, who have a school; I am not sure that they have not two; they have one certainly; I don't know whether there is any more; I think there is, but I think if you could examine

the secretary on that point) or the other members; as I told you just now, they are very fond of making me chairman down there, whether I know anything about the business or not. These details of technical instruction I am not very well up on.

3422. There is no formal or general contribution for educational purposes of any kind other than the penny rate?—None that I know of.

3430. I did not quite catch the significance of the observations of the Committee with reference to the scheme of the Department; they seem to suggest that the scheme as sent down to the Committee from the Department included some object that the Committee would desire to omit?—Yes, I think that all these committees like to be as independent as they can, and probably the time may come when the local committees should have more power; it was impossible to allow them more power up to this, because when the Department settles on a particular class of scheme they must try to cut, and I think that part of the resolution is a little premature.

3431. Is it not at present the case that the form of procedure taken is that the Committee does transmit to the Department the scheme for consideration and approval by the Department?—I think what exactly happens is this, that the Department send down at certain times of the year a request that the local committees shall tell them if they want any change in the scheme, as it was carried out the year before, and where the County Committees send up these recommendations the Department take them all into consideration, and when they think they are practical they embody them and modify the schemes in that way, and bring them before the Board for their acceptance or modification, and then they promulgate them, and the County Committees have to take them or leave them.

3432. (Mr. Brown.)—The scheme is supposed to be drafted by the Technical Committee?—The passage that I thought you were referring to was in the agricultural report.

3433. (Mr. O'Leary.)—That is the fact; your account of it answers my question: the procedure seems to me to give just what the Committee ask, that is to say, they should have power to submit to the Department their views as to what ought to be confined.

Most Rev. Dr. CHANCY, Bishop of Elphin, examined.

3440. (Chairman.)—I believe your lordship has been selected to give evidence on behalf of the Board of Technical Instruction?—Yes.

3441. You are a member of the Board, and have been appointed, I believe, by the Connacht Provincial Committee?—Quite so.

3442. Then, will you commence with your first head, as to the relations between the Department and the Board of Technical Instruction?—Yes, I intend to follow that course. (a.) I am a member of the Board of Technical Instruction, having been elected by the Connacht Provincial Committee of the Council of Agriculture. During the six years of my membership I have attended the meetings of the Board with few unfavorable exceptions. (b.) I am the chairman of the Sligo County Committee of Agriculture and of the Sligo Urban Committee of Technical Instruction, and am a member of the Roscommon County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. (c.) I have been appointed by the Board of Technical Instruction and also by the local committees with which I am associated, to give evidence before this Commission. I may observe at the outset that it is with a certain amount of reluctance I appear as a witness before you. I have always had the greatest admiration for the Department and its work, and for the efficiency with which, in the face of many difficulties, that work is being carried out, and I have never been able to see any adequate reason for the appointment of this Commission. I should say that with apologies, perhaps, for introducing such a topic.

3443. I don't think any apologies are necessary at all—I wish to observe also, that in no sense am I here as a representative of our Episcopal body; and, therefore, any statements I may make, or any views I give expressively so, rest on my own personal responsibility. I shall divide my evidence in such a way as to make it fall under two general heads—the first dealing with the Department and its relations to the Board

This they should, subject to the approval of the Department. That approval of the Department comes in almost identically as the paragraph seems to desire; it is an approval of the Department subject to the Board's control?—I am afraid I cannot altogether defend that resolution. I don't think there is any point in it, it is merely the opinion of a section of the Committee that happened to be there that day, that they ought to say something and have a little more discussion than they have now.

3434. There has been no serious difference of opinion upon the matter?—No.

3435. (Mr. Brown.)—On the question of the practice the Committee are invited at the close, or shortly before the close of the year in which the scheme has been at work, to send up to the Department their observations upon it, and any suggestions for alterations in next year's scheme. An inspector usually attends the meetings of the Committee at which the scheme for the following year is being considered?—That is so.

3436. And he brings with him suggestions for next year's scheme?—Yes.

3437. And they are fully discussed by the County Committee, and the Committee have a considerable latitude as to confirming or altering the items they don't think desirable, and the scheme is agreed to between the Committee and the Inspector?—I think that is exactly our procedure, but all our members don't attend very regularly, and when they come and want something altered they are told it is the Department's scheme, and then they want to object a little. You asked a question about credit loans abroad.

3438. Yes; what is your experience of money-lending in Ireland?—I have no personal experience, but I understand there has been so money lost, and I believe the statement is right. What is the matter with the Irish banks is that there are not enough of them, and they do too small a business; they are confined to very poor little communities, whereas in Germany they comprise the whole agricultural population. I paid a visit a couple of years ago to a Protestant clergyman who was president of a savings and loan society, and he told me that every household in his parish was a member, small and great, except two Jews.

3439. The experiments which have been tried in Ireland have been in the very poorest districts, where there would be most likely to occur?—I think so.

of Technical Instruction; the second, with the provision made for technical instruction in the localities with which I am officially connected in the sense already indicated. (1.) The Department and Board of Technical Instruction?—I presume that the object of this Inquiry is to ascertain whether there are any defects in the constitution and working of the Department, and to suggest in a report the remedy for such defects, should they be found to exist. (2.) This being so, I venture to state as a preliminary, but fundamental observation, that, in my opinion, the chief, if not the sole, defects in the Department and its working are statutory rather than functional. It has been put in evidence that the Boards which work under the Department are advisory and critical, and exercise control over expenditure. All this is absolutely true. And from my experience of six years on the Board of Technical Instruction, that body exercises these powers to any extent it thinks proper. When advice is tendered to the Department by the Board of Technical Instruction, or by any member of it, the questions raised are freely discussed; and decisions are arrived at with as much deliberation and immunity from departmental prejudice as holds in the case of any public board in Ireland. I may add that when the light of expert advice is thrown upon our deliberations by the officials of the Departments who are present at our meetings, it is generally found that the views of the Department command themselves as wise and practicable to the Board, and are therefore unanimously approved of. Yet instances have arisen in which individual members of the Board held views which did not meet with general acceptance, and which consequently were set aside. I once advocated, for example, that the teaching of Irish should form an item on the programme of technical instruction; and to enforce my view I adduced the argument that the subject had had a place on the Science and Art programme of South Kensington, and that our Irish Department had in-

June 8, 1901.
Mr. W. de
Tobiasberg
Stockholm,
S.W.

Most Rev.
Dr. Chancy.

June 3, 1906.
 Most Hon.
 Mr. George.

herited the rights of that Department. I found myself, however, in a minority; and, although a scheme came up from the Technical Instruction Committee of the County Kerry, setting forth Irish among the subjects to be taught, my motion was negatived. Yet it is only right to say that at a subsequent meeting a compromise appears to have been arrived at, and that the teaching of Irish was allowed as a subject of Technical Instruction, provided it could be proved that a knowledge of Irish was necessary to conduct the commercial or trade business of the locality. I give this as an instance of the power which the Board exercises in nullifying the action, or, perhaps, even, the policy, of the Department. As regards the control of the Board over finances, such control is, undoubtedly, exercised to the extent of giving or withholding approval in respect of the financial aspects of the schemes which are submitted to it. It ought to be remembered, however, that before these schemes come before our Board they have been thrashed out, in every detail, by the local committees, who know their own financial capabilities and needs best; and have subsequently been scrutinised by the expert officials of the Department, who are trained financiers. It is, therefore, easy to understand that when such schemes come before us in great numbers, each involving long columns of figures, the members of the Board in most cases take for granted that they are correct, and without further delay give their sanction to them. It is understood, however, by every member of the Board that it is competent for him to examine into and query each detail, and in the case in which this has been done the officers of the Department in the most courteous manner have explained every item called in question. A case occurs to my mind at this moment. It was proposed to expend a considerable sum in fitting up a scheme for Ballymerry, in Antrim. It appeared to me that, while the ascertainable purpose was to provide a technical school, within the meaning of the Act of 1889, the real aim was to equip an intermediate school for a population who were quite capable of doing so out of their own resources. Remembering the sacrifices that we, Catholics of the West of Ireland, have had to make in order to build intermediate colleges and schools—a point which I hope to deal with afterwards at greater length—I could not quite see why the Presbyterians of Ballymerry should not provide an intermediate school at their own expense. I, therefore, objected to the expenditure; whereupon the then Secretary of the Technical Instruction Branch of the Department went into the most careful and elaborate explanation to satisfy the Board that the primary aim of those who submitted the scheme was to provide a school of technical instruction; but that no objection should be raised by us if the local committee thought it well to let some rooms for the purposes of intermediate education at a time when those rooms would not be otherwise required. It is not impossible that the case led to a subsequent decision of the Board that no funds should in future be available from the Technical Institute Grant for building purposes. I give these as instances of the perfect freedom of discussion that characterises the Board's meetings, and of the methods adopted by the officers of the Department to secure the approval of the Boards for their projects. The relations between the two bodies have always been most harmonious. It has been said that the Boards have no initiative. I entirely agree with Mr. Gill, who stated in his evidence before this Commission that on this score there is not the smallest ground of complaint or dissatisfaction. In connection with the charge, I should like to express to the Commission the usual methods of procedure. I have been in closest touch with the work from the beginning, and I know every step in the process of devising schemes and carrying them into effect. I have had a large share myself in formulating the schemes that are at present being worked in the counties of Sligo and Roscommon, and am almost exclusively responsible for the scheme which is in operation under the Sligo Urban Committee of Technical Instruction. At the initiation of the work of technical instruction the local committees were requested by the Department to draft schemes, and, in doing so, to keep in view the special needs of the locality, the financial resources available, and the necessity, above all things, of providing thoroughly capable teachers for the work. With these special lights to guide us, we set about formulating our schemes. In their first form they were comparatively crude. Travelled gentlemen would aim at cultivating the fine arts, at emulating in some local school the masterpieces of the Louvre or the Uffizi, or at exceeding the grace and symmetry of the sculptures of Angelo or Canova.

Those interested in providing refined, yet lucrative, occupation for women, would recommend the formation of lace and crochet classes, or opportunities of training in stenography or shorthand. Some few would suggest the desirability of teaching women the principles of simple, frugal housewifery, and then the art of performing their ordinary duties with more skill and economy, and a closer fidelity to the principles of each science. At the meetings at which these and other such points would be discussed a prominent officer of the Department was invariably present. With his expert knowledge and large experience, and manifest interest in the material well-being of the people, he tendered his advice on the various points that came up for discussion, with the result that his recommendations were invariably accepted. I cannot recall a single instance in which the committee did not separate, perfectly satisfied that the officers of the Department were their best and most candid friends, and that it would be utterly folly to reject their advice or run counter to their wishes. The schemes thus framed were forwarded by the secretary of the local committee to the Department for its sanction. Sometimes the sanction was immediately given, sometimes it was granted only after the introduction of some slight modifications; but never without allowing the local authority the fullest freedom to embody its views and wishes in the scheme to be carried into execution. Ultimately these schemes were laid before the Board of Technical Instruction for final approval. Again, any member of the Board could suggest modifications—the introduction or elimination of subjects, the expansion or retrenchment of expenditure. If the Board did not interfere in these circumstances, it was because "initiation" at such a stage would have been absurd. It is my candid opinion, therefore, that, at every stage of the formation of schemes of technical instruction, from the first session of the local Committee to the final sanction of the Department, "initiation" is possible for those who have the faculty to initiate, and that, if there is little initiation at the Board itself, it may be all the better for the schemes. It may be asked, then, whether the Department's constitution and methods are, in my opinion, so perfect that I see nothing to find fault with in them. By no means. I see much room for improvement; but, as already intimated, the fault is that I discern are statutory, not functional. Let me explain. I turn to page 2 of the Technical Instruction Act of 1889. Now, although much may be said in favour of nullifying the various streams of industry that are indicated, it appears to me that there are too many functions committed to the charge of one man, because I find the Department resolves itself into one man. I know there are many who will differ from me in this, and who would rather be in favour of a still closer unification of the various streams of Irish industry and education, but to any person who reads the long list indicated by the letters from (a) to (i) in this page, it will be clear that many of the departments indicated on this page are almost inconceivable with one another. In that respect there is room for some amendment. Feeding stuff, fertilisers, fisheries, and fine arts are jammed together in the most utter confusion. The taking over of buildings in Kildare-street, of the Albert Institute at Glenview, of the Munster Institute, near Cork; the supervision of exports and imports in the matter of live stock; the collection of statistics and the issuing of journals and reports; the direction of the entire veterinary business of the country; the examination of intermediate schools in science, art, and domestic economy—these are some of the varied and unmanageable subjects entrusted to the Department; and how they can all be efficiently managed under the direction of one man, however capable and industrious he may be, surprises my comprehension. I think it well to add, however, that, while pronouncing these strictures on the constitution of the Department, I yield to no man in respect for its versatile Vice-President and its accomplished Secretary, or in admiration for the ability and single-mindedness with which they are discharged their multifarious duties. But there is a limit to human capabilities, and Sir Thomas Forsyth and Mr. Gill will not live always or occupy their present positions for ever.

3444. Would your leadership indicate what division of the work you recommend?—Let us take, for instance (b)—under (b) the Department is entrusted with the administration of the Destructive Insects Act, and the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act; under (i) they are entrusted with the powers and

duties of the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries; under (c) they have the administration of the grant for Science and Art in Ireland.

3445. (Mr. Meade).—A non-existing grant?—As transferred by the central vote. Pupils in our schools are still passing examinations in science and art under the South Kensington Department. It has always appeared to me that those subjects were so far asunder that it seems incongruous to unite them under one Department.

3446. (Chairman).—For instance, you would put the powers of the Inspectors of Fisheries under a separate Department altogether?—Yes. At the same time it has to be said on the other hand that education of all things should be practical, and it should have a practical bearing on our national industries, and consequently that the training of pupils in science and art and industries in our schools should be so directed as to have a practical bearing upon agriculture, which is included under (b), and perhaps of fisheries, which is included under (c).

3447. Education being the common link?—Many are in favour of that view, but in my experience, which, of course, is not a very extended experience, I must admit it would appear that these duties are so incongruous that it seems unreasonable to unite them under one Department. With your permission, I shall next advert to a complaint that has frequently been made against the methods which the Department has followed in making some of its most important appointments. I was pleased to read, in the evidence given by Professor Campbell before the Commission, some days ago, that though dissatisfaction has been loudly expressed on the point, the cases which present any grounds of complaint are not so numerous as has been generally supposed. In my opinion, when there was a question of introducing a new system of education comparatively unknown in this country before—a system, too, whose success depended almost entirely on expert knowledge on the part of its teachers and pioneers—it would be unwise, as it is unnecessary, to labour this point at too great length. What I desire to point out, in a special way, at present is this—that here again the defective methods of the Department are statutory. The Act of Parliament, as it stands, renders the Department, in reference to such matters, absolutely independent of either of its advisory Boards, as well as of the Council of Agriculture; and, notwithstanding the representative character of these Boards and this Council, their opinion is never sought, and their advice is never tendered in the making of these appointments. Individual recommendations of suitable candidates for such positions are favourably considered, and fitting appointments, I have no doubt, are made from many Irish candidates when such candidates can be found who are clearly adapted for the position. I have heard this very much-debated point discussed again and again, and I have always been able to assert with perfect conscientiousness and candour that the appointments that were made of non-Irishmen always proved most satisfactory, and that their knowledge contributed in the most effective way to the success of the Department's work, and personally I have never yet had any relations with the officials of the Department who came from England, Scotland, or elsewhere, which were not of the most satisfactory kind. To prove that the Department is absolutely within its statutory right in acting in this independent and, as many would think, high-handed fashion, you will allow me to refer you to Section 5, Paragraphs 1 and 2 and 3 of the "Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899" (read paragraph). It is quite clear that the Department is absolutely within its statutory right in making these appointments without consulting the Boards. That is a point which I wished to emphasize, because there is a great deal of misunderstanding on the matter in the country. Many persons in the country think that the Boards should protest in the loudest way against these appointments when they are considered unsatisfactory. I have no doubt that the Boards would in a becoming way enter a protest against such appointments, and I have no doubt that the Department, even though the Boards would be exceeding their statutory limits in doing so, would hear them with the greatest consideration. What I wish to observe is that if there is a defect in the working of the Department from this point of view, the

defect is in the Act and not in the working of the Act. There is another matter of supreme importance which naturally arises from the question I am now considering, and which, I beg you will permit me to say, demands the most serious attention of the Commission. I refer to the utterly inadequate means from an educational standpoint, provided in this country for the training of expert teachers of agricultural and technical industries. The University is the natural training ground for teachers, not alone of intermediate and primary schools, but of technical schools as well. Moreover, all the modern Universities—such as those of Scotland and Wales, the Victoria University of Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester, the Birmingham University, and the London University, which differing in spirit and in methods from the older Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Trinity—aim at bringing their graduates into closer touch with the industrial exigencies of the age and country, and in some respects have become training colleges of technical experts. It is so also in Germany and America. I had an opportunity of visiting the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and the University of Illinois, in Chicago, some few years ago, and I believe I do not overstate the figures in saying that above four-fifths of the pupils in each of those universities are pursuing technical studies with a view to prepare themselves to take part in the great industries of the country. I am convinced that if technical education is ever to assume large and satisfactory proportions in Ireland, and to find its way into the straits of society that most need it, we must have a poor man's university, where the talented boy and girl, no matter from what social position they may spring, will be educated and thoroughly trained, not to emigrate, not to transfer the service of their brains to other countries after they have been educated at our expense at home, but to take an active and effective part in reviving and sustaining our national industries. It may not be quite within the scope of this Committee to take cognizance of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on University Education in Ireland. But, if it be, I should like to put in evidence the recommendation of the Commission under Chapter X, and Chapter VI. of the Report. There is no need of my specifying the precise points in these chapters which merit your special attention. In connection with the report of the Commissioners there is a pamphlet by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick, entitled "A University for Catholics," and I should be grateful if you permit me to put in evidence its second and third chapters, which deal largely with the question of higher technical education.

3448. We will read them—I should be glad if the gentlemen of the Committee would see their way to read especially those two chapters in Dr. O'Dwyer's pamphlet; I consider them more important than the report of the Royal Commission.

3449. You express agreement with them?—Entire agreement with them.

3450. I understand you don't express any disagreement with what is stated in the report—it does not go quite so far in meeting our Catholic claims as I should wish.

3451. You would supplement it by this?—Yes.

3452. This may be taken as stating the view of the Catholics of Ireland?—Quite so—entirely. To obviate the necessity of my presenting myself before you a second time, I should be glad now, with your permission, to add a few observations in reference to the local Technical Instruction schemes, with which I am officially connected, either as chairman or member of the committees under which they are being carried out, or as Bishop of the Diocese, whose limits are, to some extent, coincident with the counties concerned in them. The Technical Instruction scheme which is in operation in the town of Sligo was framed to meet the local demands. It embraces drawing in all its branches, manual exercises, and carving in wood and stone, for men; and domestic economy, in all its branches, for women. There are also commercial classes, and courses in stenography and typewriting for those who wish to learn these subjects. The number of students at present on roll is about 360; and the average weekly attendance at evening classes is over 500. To provide accommodation for these numbers we have been renting the best available house in the town; but it proves utterly inadequate, from every point of view, to meet

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the demands made upon it. A new school, of larger dimensions, provided with suitable accommodation of every kind, is an imperative necessity. Before coming here to give evidence, I consulted some of the most prominent and representative men of the locality to know whether there is any prospect of our getting aid from local rates for building; and their reply was, that their Urban Council is already on the brink of bankruptcy, and that they cannot afford to vote a shilling for such a purpose. The need of a building grant from the Treasury, therefore, is clear and unanswerable. The same is true, I may observe, in most parts of Ireland. It may be asked why, as in other countries like America, for example, some generous local benefactor is not forthcoming to build, or, at least, to aid in building, such a school as we require. My answer is—that local generosity has been strained to the snapping point already to provide us with educational institutions. I have calculated that at least £20,000 has been expended in Sligo to provide suitable Secondary or Intermediate schools for Catholic boys and girls, and more than half that sum, in addition, to provide them with Primary schools. And all this has come out of the pockets of our poor, struggling Catholic people. While our neighbours of other religious persuasions have an admirable "Model" school covered out of public funds for a sum of £8,322 and placed at their disposal, without the cost of a single penny, as well as richly-endowed schools for purposes of Secondary education, we, Catholics, have had to provide every penny of this £45,000, or more, to which I have alluded, in order to accommodate our Catholic children with the means of education.

3453. May I interrupt you for a moment. From what source was the Model school built?—It was built by the Commissioners of National Education, from moneys placed at their disposal by the Treasury; it is a higher Primary school, but it is inconsistent with Catholic principles that our Catholic children should attend it, and consequently they have never gone to it. The matter is universally known in the country. If I may extend the range of my observations in reference to this matter, so as to include the entire diocese with which I am officially connected, I would say that the sum expended on schools and colleges, and on those portions of conventual buildings which are exclusively occupied by children, and are, therefore, in the strictest sense, educational, I would set the figure expended at close on £201,000.

3454. Is your diocese a large one?—Yes, it extends over 80 miles in length by about 30 in width.

3455. (Mr. Dryden).—There are all private subscriptions?—From private subscriptions; and all this has come either from the private funds of the institutions concerned, or from the voluntary offerings of our Catholic people. May I observe, in passing, that this is a rather strange comment on our critics, who proclaim that we, priests, "can find money for everything except education." I mention these facts now for the purpose of pointing out the sacrifices that our people have already made for educational purposes, and of proving that it would be utterly unfair—more especially since their neighbours of other religious denominations are so generously dealt with—to ask them to contribute funds for the erection of technical schools. We may surely expect that much at least as a free gift from a paternal Government, more especially when it is remembered that we are annually overtaxed to the tune of three millions sterling, and that one of these millions would be amply sufficient to provide Technical schools for the whole of Ireland. A Royal Commission, about ten years ago, reported, unanimously that Ireland had been overtaxed to the extent of nearly three millions a year, and we think it would not be too much to expect that our Liberal Government would give us as much money as would raise technical schools for the whole of Ireland out of these superfluous taxes which we pay.

3456. Superfluous taxation?—Perhaps I had better say "undue" taxation. There is one other subject which I would submit for your consideration before I conclude—I refer to the necessity of co-ordination in our various systems of education. The report of the University Commission compares our educational system to so many terraces on a hillside, each inaccessible to those that occupy the one immediately beneath. Others would call them so many water-tight compartments. In a country like Ireland, which abounds in talent and poverty, a means ought to be provided to bridge over the chasm or chasms, whichever we wish to regard it, that separate our educational systems; and the only effective way of doing this is the establishment of scholarships, to give

the talented children of our primary schools to reach a secondary education, and—the university portion being once and for all satisfactorily solved—enable the talented children of the secondary school to reach the higher technical school, or the university. I may be permitted to observe that we have been endeavouring for some years past to solve this problem, in our own way, in the diocese with which I am connected. The priests of my diocese, without a nation, pay out of their own pockets a generous annual contribution towards the maintenance of bursars in our Diocesan College; and each year six boys are selected by competitive examination from the numerous of the diocese, respectively, to enjoy three bursars. The boys so selected become residential pupils in our Diocesan College, and are maintained there at comparatively little expense to their parents for periods varying from four to six years. Last summer our secondary school for girls inaugurated a similar system of bursaries. Thus, it becomes possible for every talented boy or girl in the diocese to advance from the Primary to the Intermediate school, and thence to receive, at little expense, any form of education—classical, commercial, or scientific—that may be desirable. It is, no doubt, within the knowledge of this Commission that, last year, the Catholic Bishops of Ireland established a system of University Scholarships, by which clever boys and girls in our Intermediate schools may go forward to higher Catholic Colleges to receive a University education, and to obtain University degrees. Thus are the steps in our educational ladder complete. But I beg to be permitted to impress upon the Commission that we are doing all this out of our poverty, by the most painful, and often, humiliating efforts, while in other countries, and in our own country for the members of other religious persuasions, such provisions are made from endowments of public funds. Yet our critics would have you believe that we, Catholic bishops and priests, can find money for everything except education.

3457. (Mr. Miles).—In the beginning of your evidence you mentioned that you had some little doubt why the Committee was appointed, and you seemed to regard the matter as if we were appointed merely to examine into any supposed deficiency in the administration of the Act?—Yes.

3458. But I think you will observe from the terms of the reference that the first matter we are asked to inquire into is whether the provisions of the Act are sufficient?—Well, I have indicated my view on that point already by pointing out what I consider to be defects in the Act.

3459. As regards the appointments—but have you any wider view of the insufficiency of the Act?—I think the Act has dealt in a very ungenerous manner with the Vice-President of the Department in not making it quite clear that he should either be a member of Parliament or not. In the third paragraph of the first part of the Act the following sentence is found:—"The office of Vice-President of the Department shall not render the person holding the same incapable of being elected, or of sitting or voting as a member of Parliament, or avoid his election if returned, or render him liable to any penalty for sitting or voting in Parliament." I think that it would have been much more generous of those who drafted that Act if they were to make it compulsory to have the Vice-President of the Department a member of Parliament also, because then, if he should fall in, as it happened some years ago, a seat in Parliament for an Irish constituency, it would be obligatory for the Government in power for the time to provide a seat for him elsewhere.

3460. (Mr. Dryden).—Not necessarily.

(Mr. O'Sullivan).—Or change him.

(Witness).—If I may express my candid opinion on that, I should say it would be impossible, or next to impossible, to find a man who would administer the Technical Instruction Act with greater benefit to the country than our present Vice-President. In my opinion that is the view generally entertained. No man in a public position, of course, can avoid criticism, more especially in the Press or from platform statements; but, in my opinion, if we were all to express what we feel in our inmost hearts about the success of the Department, we should come to the conclusion that this Department does its work admirably, and deserves no small part of its success through the personality of the Vice-President.

3461. (Mr. Miles).—Do you think the Act goes far enough to meet Irish requirements?—I just might be raised under that head as to whether it

might be desirable for the Department to assist financially leading industries and industries in danger of collapsing.

3432. Or projected industries?—Quite so. Well, as regards that, I think it is possible to spoil a country as it is possible to spoil an individual with kindness, and dotes from a Government sometimes do more harm than good; but, on the other hand, I think it ought to be the province of the Department to provide expert teachers for industries of this character, and to pay the salaries of such teachers—so that would be acting more in their educational capacity, which, I take it, is their primary capacity, and, if they do that, it will have a much more stimulating effect upon industries and they progress than it would if money were given directly to subsidise industries. That is my own personal opinion, and I have no doubt it is economical sound.

3433. In what way would you provide the teaching—would it be in a technical school, or would it be in the places where the industry was carried on?—If there were a question of commercial duties, in large commercial houses, I think it would be well to provide in some of our local educational establishments a special professorship for such purposes, and such a professorship might be largely subsidised from the Department's funds. As regards industries actually in operation, the payment of salaries for such workers is a great deal, and it would be most desirable, I think, to help such leading industries over their initial difficulties.

3434. Its non-earning period?—Yes; and, therefore, it might be well, for a few years at least, for the Department to pay salaries to experts whose capabilities for doing the work are recognised.

3435. While giving that instruction, would they be according to your views, necessarily the officers of the Department, or might they be competent overseers or directors of the industry?—I think they should be overseers employed by the Department, just as occurred in the case, with which, I think, sir, you are familiar, in connection with the Congested Districts Board, where teachers were appointed in many parts of the country to train girls in house-making and crochet, their salaries being paid by the Congested Districts Board, a system which helped the country in an inestimable degree. I have an instance in my mind at present that occurred at Orange; I know we all down there—although I had not the privilege of knowing you personally there—were very grateful to you for your efforts in the matter. We felt that that industry would never have come into existence were it not for the expert teacher paid by the Congested Districts Board. What occurred in that case should, I think, be done with other industries.

3436. Taking an industry of a larger kind, conducted in a factory, you would see no objection to officers appointed specially for this piece of work from the Department free training hands to make them fit for the work?—I should see no objection whatever.

3437. Do you think it would be desirable that, on reporting on that reference your Lordship has before me, they should recommend that an extension of power should be given in that direction?—I think that recommendation would be most desirable; but it would be well to recommend with it the grant of much larger funds.

3438. It could not be done without much larger funds?—No, I think it is necessary in Ireland, where industries are falling for want of such expert advice.

3439. Or non-existent?—Or non-existent, it would be necessary to provide the most expert teaching, and that cannot be done without very much more money than the Department has at present, and, consequently, I think, accompanying that recommendation should be an application for much larger funds.

3440. As regards Section 2, you pointed out the different kinds of duties transferred to the Department. Besides those mentioned in Section 2, there are the general powers under Section 15, where they have to administer the £26,000 for technical instruction, and the surplus for agricultural purposes, did you, my Lord, consider at all in what way you would divide the various duties that are now discharged by the Department?—As regards the discharge of the duties under the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, those with which I am most intimately acquainted are, I think, discharged as efficiently as they could be at this stage of the Department's history; the Department is progressing; it had to surmount a good deal of opposition at the beginning; it came into not exactly smooth; obstacles may have been raised from motives which it is not necessary to

indicate on a public Commission of this kind, but, at all events, the fact was that difficulties were raised, and difficulties, perhaps, in some degree, are being raised still against the work of the Department both as regards technical instruction and agriculture; but I think it has slowly overcome those difficulties, and, in my opinion, no matter what individual critics may say here and there, it has won the confidence of the country, and I should expect that in future its course will be much smoother, as it will be much more effective than it has been in the past.

3441. Do you mean that you think it is now unnecessary to separate any duties from the Department, but that originally it would have been well?—I am confining myself to these two sections of work, one agricultural, and the other technical instruction; those, I think, are admirably provided for under the Department, and there is a manifest possibility of unifying these, but it occurred to me, possibly owing to my own inexperience and want of knowledge—

3442. Or possibly to the opposite cause?—It occurred to me that there were a great many other points which fitted in badly with a unified system of education.

3443. You mentioned sub-section (b), sub-section (c), and sub-section (i). Did you mean by mentioning them specially to indicate that you thought they might be taken out?—Sub-section (i) always appeared to me to involve a rather strange series of duties—

3444. Land and water?—For a Department having the control of science and art in schools.

3445. Then if further powers were recommended by this Committee, and if Parliament gave these powers, there is, the power of banding and aiding industries in the manner your Lordship suggested, would you think that would unduly increase the burden laid upon the Department?—It might increase its work very considerably.

3446. In other words, do you think the helping of industries would be rather an interference with pure education on the technical side?—I don't think so.

3447. You think they might go hand in hand?—I think so, for this reason: that our education in a poor country like Ireland should be practical, it should lead towards the development of industries; a purely theoretical education for a large number of our people would be impractical, and consequently we should give a practical training and turn, and in so doing it would be perfectly consistent with helping industries in which boys and girls properly educated would take a part afterwards.

3448. That would fitly go in with education?—Yes. As regards these other points to which I called attention—

3449. Do you think science and art don't go well in with technical instruction?—Oh, yes; I think so. I would not take that away.

3450. I thought you mentioned it?—I mentioned it as rather bearing a strange connection with fisheries.

3451. Would not sub-section (3) go in quite properly with agriculture?—Yes.

3452. So that really the only thing you suggest to touch would be the fishery operations?—There is another point that struck me, too, in this long list of institutions taken over—the Albert Institution, the Munster Institution, and the Science and Art buildings here in Kildare street. No doubt, the Albert and the Munster Institutes are connected with agriculture, and possibly the others are connected with arts, so on a closer analysis of the subject it would be possible to fit in all these points under Agriculture and Technical Instruction with the exception of fisheries.

3453. (Mr. O'Donnell).—Did I understand you to say that the appointments which had been made by the Department or the Vice-President in accordance with the Act had been appointments which did not themselves raise any cause of objection to the Board, although you directed attention to the fact that the Board had no authority in the matter?—The Board raised no objection to those appointments, as far as I am aware, but the country outside, and, of course, the Board represent the country, the country consider that there was a dangerous tendency of introducing foreigners, if I may use that expression in reference to gentlemen from England and Scotland, in preference to local talent, and I think the criticism that was expressed in reference to that matter was rather a warning than a censure. Such criticisms are often expressed with a view that the officials of the Department who have these appointments in their gift may read them, and be put on their guard. Therefore, in calling attention to the matter, I do so, not for the purpose of censuring the appointments that have been made, but to voice the views of the country on the matter.

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3484. As a matter of fact, of your own personal opinion do you think it is desirable that the Act ought to be altered in any way with respect to the power of appointment?—At present the Department has absolute power in the matter of the appointment of its own officers. So long as the Department is bound to give an account of its actions to Parliament I don't know that much objection can be found to the system. Many would hold that the Department itself should consist of a number of representative gentlemen. Personally I have no reason to concern what the Department has done in the matter, and consequently I should be slow to form any decided and irrevocable opinion as to the desirability of making the Department itself representative.

3485. May I ask you on another point. I was very glad to hear from you definite statistics of the figures, at any rate, as to the voluntary assistance that had been accorded to your own particular district for educational purposes; the sums you named are very large sums, and I have no doubt that these subscriptions and contributions are continuing?—The money procured in this way extended over a period possibly of 40 or 50 years. It is not of recent years that all this money was expended, and it is much more difficult now to get money for such purposes than hitherto—in fact, my experience is that it is almost impossible now to get money for this purpose. I don't know if gentlemen on the other side of the water are acquainted with what is known in this country as a *bazaar*. Most of our money got for building purposes was got on the occasion of *bazaars*, and of *bazaars* the people have grown tired, and I don't think there is any probability of getting money in future in that way.

3486. With reference to the annual sums required for the maintenance of these schools, that, I presume, except in so far as obtained by grants from Government, is provided voluntarily?—Voluntarily entirely.

3487. Are there any figures available in reference to this?—The figures that I should be supposed to give offhand are the sums of money contributed by our parishes. Each parish priest contributed £2 a year, and each curate £1 a year towards the maintenance of the bazaar I have described, and sometimes bazaars are left in for the same purpose, and by the exercise of the closest economy we are able to meet our demands, but our bank account does not show very much credit sometimes, and consequently it is with great difficulty we are able to manage our finances.

3488. (Mr. Micks).—The Diocesan College?—The Diocesan College and funds.

3489. (Mr. O'Leary).—Then the secondary schools which are carried on more or less directly within your personal cognizance, those have in many cases adopted the scheme for science instruction promulgated by the Department?—Yes.

3490. How far do you find the scheme a satisfactory one from an educational point of view?—That is a very important question, and one on which I am very glad to give my opinion. In the first place I feel it right to say that we have got the most cordial and generous co-operation from the officials of the Department in introducing science laboratories, and in equipping our colleges and convents with the laboratories. But as regards the usefulness of the course of studies for the girls and boys educated in our institutions, if it were to continue on purely scientific lines for our girls it would prove useful for only a few, a small percentage, but that small percentage I should be sorry to ignore, and consequently it is most useful to have such a provision. From some of our schools appointments have been made to most important positions in the Department of Science and Art, and were it not that we have our institutions equipped in the manner described we never could prepare our pupils to receive such positions. As regards the larger number of our girls, in my opinion elementary science and elementary chemistry is of great importance as an educational subject, but it would be a mistake to continue it too far, and consequently the direction which has recently been given to the scientific studies towards domestic economy and housewifery is, in my opinion, of a most useful character. For the last two or three years, two years, I think, the programme of science in our schools has taken a practical direction, with the effect that all our girls, without exception, are now being trained, after an elementary science and chemical course, in domestic economy in all its branches. The consequences are that they are turned out, not only with minds educated and refined, but also thoroughly equipped for the ordinary duties of life in the country. As regards our boys, a pretty large

percentage of our boys are ecclesiastical students, about 25 per cent. It is most useful for them to have science and chemistry, and, in fact, we should enlarge our programme of scientific studies to a greater extent if the funds were available for it; but I think it would be a great defect in the education of a boy if he were to pass the Maynooth College and begin his ecclesiastical studies without having been thoroughly trained first in science and chemistry. Besides, in Maynooth College at present are students become graduates of the Royal University, and it would not be easy—I don't say it would be hardly possible—for them to become graduates, and pass the examination successfully without credit to themselves if they had not this elementary training in our seminaries. As for the education of our boys, 75 per cent, that remains, they receive a practical education in English, book-keeping, and commercial subjects generally, and many of them become shop-keepers and farmers, and many of them go in for the professions. They become solicitors and doctors, and for all these, in my opinion, too, it is most important that they should be trained in science. I think an education that has not science as an essential part of it is a very defective education.

3491. May I ask you how far you find that practical people, those engaged in industry, commerce or otherwise, in the district, appreciate now the advantages of having this element introduced and fostered very strongly in the work of the schools?—Those who are attending our college appreciate it thoroughly, but I am sorry to say many of our young boys enter on a commercial career or begin the local trades with nothing better than the mere elementary education which is given in our primary schools. It would be my desire that our pupils who are intended for commercial life should have a thorough training in book-keeping and commercial subjects and also science, because I think it will open up a new field of interest for them—it will render life much more interesting, and much more attractive, and much more happy for them if they are acquainted with the principles of physical science than if they were ignorant of these principles. This is rather a sentimental view of the subject, but still it may enter very practically into real life.

3492. As a matter of fact, the point I wanted to get at was informed knowledge on the part of employers and parents—do you find that they are appreciating this introduction of science?—I believe so—I believe they are. Parents leave the education of their children to a large extent in the hands of those who have charge of the educational institutions. They are satisfied that we look after the interests of their children, perhaps, best, and consequently they don't raise questions on that point. But perhaps when they are acquainted themselves with the needs of life, and with the subjects that are necessary for progress in commerce they may make suggestions as to an improvement in our curriculum, but I am not aware that they have made any suggestions or raised any complaints.

3493. With reference to the other sections of the Technical Instruction scheme for Sligo and the district, how far do you find that the lines upon which that scheme has been drawn are satisfactory in describing other sections, including evening schools, in the work?—Our evening schools have proved a most successful addition to our educational system. We have attending our evening schools as many as 350, and this in a small town. There is a perfect enthusiasm on the part of the people of the locality of Sligo for the form of technical instruction at the present time. All our young tradesmen—carpenters, masons, and so on, and others, come in in the evening, and spend two or three hours at drawing or manual work, and they are to be rather fatigued with the work, it is not an attraction for them. We have produced specimens of drawing by our ordinary mechanics and specimens of wood-carving from that school which would be credit to the School of Art in Dublin; and as regards the girls attending lessons in cookery, laundry, and housework, they are attracted in large numbers to these schools, and I have no doubt the instruction they receive there has a most beneficial effect on home life, renders the home happier, and renders themselves better fitted for the duties of life, and consequently I should be very sorry to see it dropped. I may say that when the Technical Instruction system of education was first introduced I tried to utilize our convent nuns for the purpose of promoting such studies for the Catholic girls. I even went so far as to invite the members of other religious persuasions to come to our convents for instruction, because our nuns are

thoroughly trained artisans and accomplished and excellent teachers, and for a time members of other religious persuasions did come to our convent schools. But objections were raised to that course for reasons which it is unnecessary to mention here, and consequently I thought it would be more effective for our technical education in the locality if it were carried on on neutral ground, and therefore I advised the local committee to take a house in town, even though we had to pay a high rent for it, and throw it open to members of all religious persuasions. Knowing that there could be no more injurious influence from the religious associations on one side or the other than there would be in our large drapery establishments, where Protestant and Catholic girls sit down at millinery together or in workshops in which boys of all persuasions work together, I did not see any difference between the two, and, therefore, I gave my approval for opening this school to members of all persuasions. The pupils, it should be remembered, are for the most part of mature years, and the subjects of study are almost exclusively industrial, which makes a difference. Since that was done a great impetus has been given to the study of technical education in the locality, and I am thoroughly satisfied with the results. My school has been criticised in more than one place, but I have satisfied my own conscience that from the religious point of view there is not the smallest danger, and consequently on account of the great material benefits to be derived from the system and the efficiency of the school I consider I have done right. The head of that school is a Protestant whom we have brought over from England. I see the Bishop of Rome mentioned something about his having a Presbyterian lady in his part of the country; we are quite as liberal in Shige.

3494. And you find it quite inconspicuous?—Yes.

3495. May I ask you how far you have observed an increase in the educational facilities, and the advantage taken of them as a result of the work which has been done in the country under this Act?—We had a difficulty in managing technical instruction classes in some of our rural districts; it can only be done through the efficient instructors; that is the system adopted throughout the whole of the County Roscommon.

3496. What I rather want to get at just now—because we have got the scheme before us—is how far the volume and the standard of the work, taken as a whole, has risen since 1900?—The interest in technical studies is undoubtedly increasing, and I think the people have much more comfort and more happiness in their lives now owing to the knowledge they have received under this system than they could otherwise have. The numbers attending are increasing, and the interest in the subjects is increasing, and I think this form of education is being worked as efficiently and fruitfully as it could under the circumstances.

3497. Was there much of such work as drawing, teaching for artisans, and domestic teaching for girls and so on—was there very much of that before 1900?—In our convent schools they always had industrial classes; cookery and laundry work, and housewifery were always prominent subjects in our convent schools. I think I should be correct in saying that the convents in my diocese have not benefited very much by it because the same knowledge was there before. But outside the convents I think the country has benefited by it largely, and seeing that to be the case it has always appeared regrettable to me that the work done by our convents in this department has not been more generously recognised by the Government. They have done exactly the same work for the last twenty years which is being done elsewhere through the assistance of the Department as regards technical instruction, and they did it without any subsidy; and it appears to me that I should be right in recommending that in any further development of technical instruction it would be well to take the services of the convents into account and remunerate them as generously as other schools; it appears to me that it was because they were found to be doing work, no assistance was given, and possibly if they were lucky they would receive assistance.

3498. It is literally an interpretation of the text "to him that hath shall be given." In one of the convents I had the pleasure of seeing there had been a very great increase in the effectiveness of the work by the addition of science teaching in the secondary school, and in the higher school for domestic training. I suppose that is not uncommon?—That is not an

common. In the points that I have just referred to I had before my mind the system of our Convents of Mercy. But there is another convent in the diocese, the Ursuline Convent in Sligo, where unquestionably a great impetus has been given to study of every kind since the Department was instituted. They have got their laboratory and domestic economy in the most useful and practical form to teach. Their progress has been made, which, I think, never would have been made but for the assistance of the Department.

3499. How far is there any shortage of facilities for continuing instruction in evening classes of pupils who have to leave elementary schools before their elementary education had been so completed as to enable them to take advantage of the higher work that the science and art classes afford?—We provide for that by our evening schools under the Technical Department. We have some evening schools under the Commissioners of National Education, but they have never been popular; they worked satisfactorily for a year or two in rural districts; men came long distances to learn how to read and write, and the charm of that novelty soon passed away, and, in my opinion, it can never prove an effective way of meeting the difficulty. In the town the difficulty is met in the most admirable form by our technical classes; in the country places the only way to meet that difficulty is to make our primary schools as efficient as they should be. If I direct attention to agricultural education which is germane to this, I should say that much more might be done in rural districts for training boys in agriculture than has been done; a great deal might be done, for instance, through experimental farms; I should be very much in favour of seeing an experimental farm besides every school, so that every man would know exactly, and buy, too, how to cultivate the land, to manage manures and fertilisers of every kind in fertilising the soil, to put down seeds and all other operations of agriculture. I have an instance of what is before my mind at present, which, perhaps, the Committee will allow me to refer to. It is connected with the charge that we have no initiative, and I think you will be interested to hear the details to exemplify the point that we have initiative, and secondly, that a great deal may be done for the training of boys and girls in rural districts in industries. I was much enough some years ago to take over from the Congested Districts Board a large house at Loughglilly, the mansion on the Delton estate about which so much has been heard, and I found myself in possession of this large house and about seventy or eighty acres of land, and I set about utilising, and I am glad to say, with the assistance of the Department, my initiative has been crowned with the most brilliant success; I invited over a number of Belgian nuns, who were thoroughly trained in every department of agriculture, who have no difficulty in looking after the operations in the fields as well as in the houses, and know dairying, the rearing of calves, the cultivation of poultry and all these things; I got them over to take charge of the institution; the Department was good enough to give a very generous help to the venture, and the results are of the most satisfactory character. We have at present 120 girls on the roll of our school; the average attendance every day is seventy or eighty, and these girls come to learn how to manage the dairy, they churn, they make butter, they even make cheese; we can send the most delicious specimens of cheese to the market at the present time from there; they are brought out in relays to a small experimental plot and taught all the operations of agriculture; the pupils are brought to the poultry yard and everything connected with the rearing of poultry is explained to them. They are brought then to the farmyard, where the management of calves and young stock is exemplified to them, and then when the work of that regular character has been completed they are brought into a large schoolroom and they stay there for four or five hours in the day and turn out the most admirable specimens of lace, crochet and embroidery; they are even making carpets which can enter into keen competition with the best carpets produced in Donegal; I hope I shall not get credit for advertising them here. I mention that to show what can be done in rural districts, in the first place to give a solid instruction suitable in every way to their locality and circumstances to our country girls, and in the second place I introduce it for the purpose of showing the Board the initiative which I myself have shown and which proved

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such a success under the fostering care of the Department. I might mention, perhaps, that these wonderful men who have come from abroad are of the greatest assistance to the dispensary doctors; they are doing the duties of nursing; they go round the various townlands in the neighbourhood within a radius of four or five miles; they go into the homes of the people, and they teach the people how to keep their homes neat; they teach them how to nurse, how to manage children, how to keep every aspect of

their homes in a presentable condition. They take the girls out in the fields and show them the latest in their system of agriculture; and they have laid down certain rules which have had the most beneficial effect in the locality. They have instituted a system of prices, and one of the conditions of giving a prize is that the manure heap is no longer to be found at the door, and there are to be no cattle, pig, or poultry in the homes of the people.

On returning after luncheon.

Rev. T. A. FINLAY, F.R.C.S., &c., CHAIRMAN.

Rev. T. A.
 Finlay,
 F.R.C.S., &c.

3500. (Chairman).—You appear to give evidence on behalf of the Board of Technical Instruction?—Yes, sir.

3501. You are a member of the Board of Technical Instruction?—Yes.

3502. (Mr. Nichol).—And a member of it since the start?—Yes.

3503. (Chairman).—Were you elected or nominated?—Elected for the province of Leinster by the Committee.

3504. But as a member of the Board of Agriculture?—I was nominated.

3505. I think your first head is as to the relations of the Board to the Department?—Perhaps I might say that in general I regard the Department as having done remarkably useful and fruitful work in this country, and done it in the face of very great difficulties that at first might have seemed almost insuperable. In the first place they have succeeded in arousing the country generally to the knowledge of its own deficiencies in the matter of education, which is always an exceedingly difficult thing to do, and they have also created in the minds of the people at large a general interest in the education which is subsidiary to industries as a whole. Having secured knowledge of this kind they generally seek for opportunities to put it in practice, and the result has been, I think, that all round there is an eagerness and a desire on the part of the people to apply the knowledge they are getting, and to seek for the establishment of industries in different directions.

3506. Do you think that is penetrating down?—Down to the poorest districts, and even in rural districts, with which I come in contact largely travelling through the country, I notice everywhere the desire of the people to secure some industrial employment.

3507. You speak with general knowledge of the various parts of the country?—Yes; I have been almost all over Ireland since the establishment of the co-operative creameries, and have had abundant opportunities of studying the feelings of the people.

3508. You think that is still progressive?—I think so. The difficulties the Department had to contend with in the beginning were, first, the apathy of the people in the matter of education. People will not seek education when they have no opportunities second them in industrial life of applying their knowledge practically, and I think it is only in industrial countries you will find this general desire among the people spontaneously springing up, this desire for technical or industrial education. In countries like America, which I visited as a member of the Mosley Commission, I noticed that there is no difficulty there about securing attendance at the technical and trade classes. People are only too eager to get this knowledge.

3509. I suppose that here that desire has not been created?—It has not been created, and that, I think, is one of the greatest services that the Department has rendered to the country. Then there was the further difficulty that in Ireland itself they could not really find men qualified to initiate or develop the system of technical education. We had nothing of the kind in this country before. It was not our fault. But the facts were we had not the men qualified to undertake such work. The result was we had to seek them elsewhere, and this naturally brought the Department into collision with a certain form of public opinion among our people, who regarded this as what they called the importation of foreigners. The Department had two courses open to them—either to seek at once qualified men outside Ireland, or to do, by beginning its work and select men from Ireland,

and send them abroad to be educated, and wait two or four years until these men came back before starting their proper work. If they took the second course the probabilities were that before the end of the time or four years necessary to educate proper teachers, or entry against them for doing nothing would be so strong that it would become irresistible. They took the other alternative, which was undoubtedly calculated to bring them a certain amount of unpopularity, but then, in their wisdom, I think, chose rightly enough to face the unpopularity and to set the system at work.

3510. Do you think that feeling is diminishing?—Now that a number of people educated in the country are being qualified for this work, the reactions are more and more filled up with people educated at home. Moreover, the Department were very fortunate in securing men—at least a large number of men who when they came in contact with the people secured their good will for themselves and their work, notably the present Assistant-Secretary, Mr. Fletcher. I don't know anyone who has done more to render the work of the Department popular. He has all the tact necessary for his office. In the Department itself, as to the relations of the Council with the Board and the Department, the harmony is entirely due to the consummate ability of the Vice-President.

3511. These initial difficulties have been to a certain extent surmounted?—They have been, and are daily disappearing. Now that our teachers and experts are being educated at home to qualify for the work done in Ireland, these difficulties are more and more disappearing.

3512. As to the relations of the Board of Technical Instruction with the Department?—Throughout, the relations between the Department and the Board have been of the most harmonious kind. There has been from the beginning no conflict whatever between them, and so far as the Board's power goes, I don't think they have exercised them in perfect harmony and with the goodwill of the officers of the Department.

3513. At the same time they have examined and passed?—They have. The schemes in the various centres proposed and approved by the Department were brought in every case before the Board. They were critically examined, and in some cases rejected, and the Department was obliged to recast the scheme and bring it up in the form prescribed by the Board. Otherwise there was no chance whatever of its being put in practice.

3514. Could you give us an instance?—In the case of the urban school at Ballymoney. As a member of the Board in 1902 a scheme was brought up for the amalgamation of two local schools, and the establishment of an institution that would at once have the character of a secondary school and a technical school. I myself objected to the scheme on the ground that it was not for the Department of Agriculture to deal with secondary education as such, to contribute its funds to the establishment of a secondary school, and that as they could only subsidize legitimately those schools which were distinctly technical, I objected to the scheme. The Board agreed with me, and the scheme had to be withdrawn, and drawn up in a form under which the local people had to provide a secondary school, and generally secondary education for themselves; and the Board would only sanction a contribution to the technical part of the work.

3515. That is a distinct instance?—That is an instance, and shows, I think, that the Board exercise effective control.

3516. Can you mention any other case?—I took

part in this, and it is one that impressed itself on my mind at the moment. I have not another.

3527. Do you think any alteration is desirable as regards the functions of the Board—do you think they ought to be enlarged?—In one respect I should; not that I think there would be any necessity for a statutory provision, but I think larger one might be made of the powers the Board already has. As far as urban centres are concerned, the schemes for technical instruction in those centres must be submitted in all their details to the Board, and approved of by the Board, before they can be put into operation. There is, however, in the case of the county boroughs a provision in the Act which exempts the scheme of the county borough from consideration or approval by the Board, with the result that the Department has itself to take the whole responsibility of any suggestion which they may choose to make to the schemes submitted by the county boroughs. This, I think, is a disadvantage for the Department itself, for this reason, that if a conflict of any kind arises between the Department and the local authorities, the Department has got no backing of representative opinion behind it in any action it may take. This is very remarkable in the case of the City of Dublin. The Department is now in existence for six years, and the City of Dublin has not yet formed a scheme which is acceptable to the Department, and can be put in operation in the city. All the other county boroughs have done so; but on account of some difference of opinion between the Department and the City of Dublin the grants available for the city are still lying in the hands of the Department.

3528. (Mr. Meek.)—And nothing has been done?—The City of Dublin had a technical school of its own before the Department was established. They are carrying on the school since by the aid of the rates merely, but the Department, until this year, has made practically no grant for the work, and for the reason that there are certain points of difference between them; but I am persuaded that if this matter had come before the Board, as it should have done if the schemes of county boroughs were submitted to the Board, in the same way as the schemes of the urban centres, the matter would have been promptly settled.

3529. (Chairman.)—Settled by discussion?—Settled by discussion; and in any case the Department would have avoided the criticism to which it is subjected in the Press and by public opinion, by having laid it to the deliberative opinion of the representative element.

3530. It would have been very much the same thing as if the Technical Board insisted very much on its right to veto the expenses without having the matter brought before them at a previous stage?—Yes. If you look at section 16 of the Act you will notice the difference between county boroughs and urban centres: "One shall be distributed in proportion to the respective populations between the county boroughs, and shall be applied by the respective Councils of those boroughs in aid of schemes approved by the Department." Now, if you observe the second sub-section: "The other portion shall be applied subject to requests any particular application to the concurrence of the Board of Technical Instruction." I think it is a disadvantage both to the Department and the boroughs that the county boroughs should be exempted. There is no reason why these schemes should not be dealt with in the same way as the schemes of the urban centres. The county borough of Dublin frames a scheme, and brings it before the Department, and the Department say they don't approve of it; they object to certain points in the scheme, and any such and such things must be done before it is approved by them. If the Board discussed the matter in the same way as it would discuss the scheme of an urban centre the scheme would be much more easily settled.

3531. In the former case the Department must approve of a scheme already made; in the second, they must apply for the concurrence of the Board of Technical Education in the scheme?—In the first case, that of a county borough, the Board simply distributes the money, and when that is done its function ends; but in the other case, the scheme for which the money is being applied must be brought before the Board.

3532. Could you develop that difference?—I have been for a few months a member of the technical instruction committee of the City of Dublin. I find that there have been a great many disputes with the Corporation of Dublin itself with regard to the side of the schools, and that even yet the matter is not settled. Then there is the question of appointing a

qualified director to manage the education of the school week, and on that point there has been great delay.

3533. (Mr. Meek.)—The question of the site—that is, the European Hotel site—kept back the full working of the scheme?—Yes.

3534. They had already in Dublin the Kevin-street premises?—They had.

3535. But as regards the Kevin-street premises, did the local body get any assistance from the Department?—Yes; we have got this year a grant of over £5,000.

3536. But before this year?—I don't think that up to the present they got anything; but I am not certain.

3537. What was the difficulty between the Corporation Committee and the Department as regards continuing paying for work in Kevin-street?—What the Department wanted was that this very large and important school should be under the direction of a qualified and trained teacher.

3538. The local body would not agree to that?—As a matter of fact, the excellent gentleman whom they appointed principal of the school was not a trained teacher at all; and the Department on their side, insisted that the man in charge of the school should be a trained teacher and an expert in the matter which he was supposed to control.

3539. Do you happen to know, as a member of the Board of Technical Instruction, how it was that the Department claimed the right to veto the appointment?—The words are, "In aid of schemes approved by the Department."

3540. That would be the scheme, but the personality of the man administering the school?—It was not a question of the personality of any individual; but the Department laid down as a principle of the scheme that there should be a trained expert.

3541. Is that part of the scheme on the other side of the water?—I don't know. I think the head of a school is usually a trained technical expert.

3542. (Chairman.)—Have you any other suggestion as to enlarging the functions of the Board?—Well, I should be glad to see it in cases where a dispute should arise between the urban centres and the Department over details in the working out of a scheme approved by the Board, that cases of this kind should be settled by the Board when a difficulty arose. It gives so much more satisfaction to public opinion. At meetings of the Board such cases have been again and again brought forward, and the action of the Board has always been on the side of sound administration.

3543. As to the position and functions and efficiency of the Consultative Committee?—I believe you are a member of the Consultative Committee?—I am. That body has done a great amount of useful work in the co-ordination of elementary education, and of the various departments of the education of the country. It has, however, I think, one great drawback. It is merely an adjunct of the Department. It is constituted under section 23. The Vice-President of the Department is *ex-officio* chairman of this body; and in the following section 24, the Department is empowered to make general regulations for regulating all the proceedings of the Board constituted under the Act. Thus the committee comes very much under the exclusive control of the Department. The result is that the other bodies—the Board of Intermediate Education and the National Education Board—don't regard themselves as identified with it in the same way as the Department does. They are led to look upon it as a branch of another Department. I think if it stood a little more apart from the Department, and acted a little more on its own initiative, its effect would be more far-reaching and its work more useful.

3544. Would you enlarge still?—The proposal is quite right, and its deliberations are exceedingly useful, and the men on it are all thoroughly conversant with the several systems they represent. I should not have them summoned by the Department when the Department chose to summon a meeting, but I would have regular stated times of meeting at the Consultative Committee, which should be able to take action not only on the initiative of the Department, but on that of the Intermediate Board or National Board or its own initiative.

(Mr. Doyle.)—I thought there were three connected with the Department and two outside.

3545. (Chairman.)—Only two—the Vice-President and the Secretary?—They have apparently now power of arranging any meetings for themselves. Of course, if a member applied to the Department, a committee meeting would be summoned; but I would prefer

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seeing the Consultative Committee as closely identified with the other two educational bodies as with the Department.

3536. The Agricultural Board and the Board of Technical Instruction have each one member?—They have. It has been in existence now for six years, and there have been five meetings held.

3537. I suppose the province has been only to assemble the Consultative Committee when there is some matter of very considerable importance to the relations between technical education and national education?—Yes. In other words, when the Department saw the need of it they summoned a meeting; but I should like to see it summoned when either of the other bodies wanted a meeting.

(Mr. Brown).—I don't see anything to confine it to the Department, except that the Vice-President is chairman.

(Chairman reads sections 23 and 24 of the Act of 1890.)

(Mr. Brown).—It is customary that the chairman of a committee is the man who summons that committee, but that is mere custom. If a member of a committee desires a meeting he can always requisition a meeting, or the Committee can make its own regulations as to time of meeting.

3538. (Chairman).—It would, to some extent, meet your view if they had regular meetings?—Yes. There was a conference held before Mr. Long went out of office. He invited the representatives of the various Boards to meet and hold a conference in reference to educational matters, and one of the recommendations from this conference was that the Consultative Committee should have regular meetings, and that its meetings and resolutions should be submitted to each of the educational bodies concerned.

3539. (Mr. Brown).—Do you mean that a regulation to that effect should be made by statute?—No, no.

(Chairman).—I don't see anything to prevent a committee from resolving that they would meet at regular intervals if they chose. All the statute provides is the constitution—who is to be chairman and who are to be the other members.

3540. Mr. O'Driscoll.—Was any action taken on that resolution?—Mr. Long went out of office shortly afterwards. Besides the five meetings of the Consultative Committee there have been also five conferences held of representatives of the Intermediate Board and the Board of Technical Instruction to arrange matters concerning the schools in which both were involved; and those conferences have been very fruitful, and have led to arrangements of various kinds for the prevention of overlapping and arranging programmes for schools. They have been, perhaps, more fruitful than meetings of the Consultative Committee. The officers of the various Boards come together with representative members of the Board, and these discussions are most valuable.

3541. (Chairman).—Can you trace any definite action to the Consultative Board on the questions that have arisen as to the relation of the work of the Department with the primary Education Department?—That was discussed, and various resolutions came to; and the Board of National Education, in consequence of the resolutions of the Consultative Committee, made every effort to carry out the suggestions of the Committee. Friendly relations were also established between the Intermediate Board and the Department, the science programme in secondary schools was a matter of agreement between the two bodies; and that matter, too, was amicably arranged, and all friction avoided, and the teaching of science proceeded satisfactorily.

3542. That was an item to the credit of the Consultative Committee?—Yes.

3543. Is there any report of this meeting you have been speaking of with Mr. Long?—There was a report of it, but I don't know that it was published.

3544. Your next point is as to the relations of the Department to the Board of Intermediate Education?—I think the Department has done, perhaps, the most useful part of its work in the country in association with the Board of Intermediate Education. The science teaching in secondary schools in the very deplorable condition in which it exists is entirely owing to the intervention of the Department. The number of science students in intermediate schools had fallen to a very low number?—I think about 600. There are now close on 10,000 in the secondary schools. That was entirely due to the action of the Department—not that the Intermediate Board itself could not have done this work. It had ample resources to do it, but it was

prevented from doing it by the action of the Government. Science teaching, it is obvious, cannot be carried on in schools without a system of inspection. Some officer of the Board concerned must visit the school to see that it is properly equipped, and that practical teaching in science is duly carried on. It is impossible to test scientific work by a system of examination, and up to 1890 the only system available under the Intermediate Education Board was a system of written papers. The consequence of that was that the preparation for these papers was made out of text books in which the chemical formulae were learned by heart, and set down in answer to the printed questions. There was really no proper science teaching in the strict sense of the word.

3545. Was there any separate staff for science teaching?—None whatever. It was given by the teachers in the schools. Nor was there any guarantee whatever that the school was in any way equipped for science teaching, or that the pupils had ever seen any scientific experiments carried out. The Intermediate Board itself took action, and applied to Parliament for enlarged powers in 1900, and an Act was passed which enabled them to appoint inspectors to visit the schools, and determine on the character of the teaching.

3546. Was that in connection with the establishment of the Department?—Not at all; an independent system. Seeing that the system was so defective in this respect a Commission of Inquiry was held. The members of the Board themselves were the Commissioners, and reported in favour of a system of inspection, and Parliament passed an Act enabling them to appoint inspectors, but when the time came to carry out the provisions of the Act of Parliament the Irish Government refused to allow the scheme of the Board to be presented to the Treasury, and the result is that the thing has been lying up ever since.

3547. (Mr. Micks).—What was the result?—They had some great scheme for the reformation of Irish education in their minds, and until that developed fully and came to maturity nothing could be done.

3548. (Chairman).—The Government refused to transmit it to the Treasury; then what happened?—Then the Department interested, and very fortunately for the Irish schools, did intervene. It was as to the same extent under Government control as the Board of Intermediate Education was, and they could carry out their schemes with a free hand. In its secondary schools they made a very large grant for the equipment of laboratories, and then appointed a staff of inspectors to visit the schools; and further they instituted what was an admirable plan and system of training for the teachers who went to teach in intermediate schools. They gave courses in certain centres, and these courses were attended by the teachers in the schools, and after they had learned enough to enable them to conduct science classes properly they were granted a professional certificate for just a year, and then, if they came back a second year, another certificate, and so on, and in that way a number of teachers were qualified. The laboratories were equipped, and then a number of inspectors went round to see that the teaching was practically carried out. The Intermediate Board at once took advantage of this action on the part of the Department, adopted the syllabus which the Department laid down for science teaching, made it part of their rules, and made elementary teaching in physics and chemistry—the first two years of the course, a preliminary course—made it obligatory on all students in the Intermediate schools in Ireland to which a grant is given. The preliminary science is really nothing more than nature study, but it is universally recognised that the study of nature is a essential part of education, and it was by means of the action of the Department that this very important element was introduced into secondary schools.

3549. Is there any difficulty experienced now in those schools from the co-existence of those two different systems—a system of examination and one of inspection?—That has been got over in this way. In the case of science for juniors, the inspector holds an oral examination; in practical teaching in the schools and certifies that such and such pupils have passed. The Commissioners of Intermediate Education recognise that certificate as a pass in the subject, and then, when they compete for honours and prizes, which are considerable—some of those prizes are £20 and £40—the competition is carried out by means of written papers. But these are only given to students

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who have passed the practical examination, so that both are tested.

3550. Who act as examiners?—The Department send in a list of persons whom they recommend as examiners in science.

3551. Would the same persons who carry on the inspection act as examiners?—Yes. The examinations are conducted by members, so that the examiner does not know the names of the candidates whose papers he is examining.

3552. The last point you have here is the relation of the Department to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. I believe you have been Vice-President of that Society?—Yes, since it was organised. I should like to say, in reference to that, I regard it as the duty of the Department to promote, and to use its funds for the promotion of co-operation among the farming population. I think it is recognised in every progressive country that combination among farmers is a necessity for the successful pursuit of their industry.

3553. Combination for what purpose?—For the general purposes of their industry. For instance, take the case of butter-making. In the modern conditions of this industry you require machinery which necessitates the investment of considerable capital. No single farmer among the Irish farmers could, in the poorer districts purchase the machinery necessary for a creamery, and he could not supply from his farm the milk to keep it working. If the Irish farmers are to avail themselves of these new methods, they must combine together and erect a creamery for the common use, and have it managed by an expert in the common interest. If the farmers are not to give all the profits over to some outsiders who will settle among them they have to do this on co-operative lines. Take farm requirements. If they want to secure for themselves the advantage of purchase upon a large scale of manures, feeding stuffs, and other things, they have to combine together to purchase the consignments in large quantities, as they can do by combination, and get the guarantee of an analyst, and in that way they have realised in Ireland the advantages which they have realised elsewhere both in production and purchase. Everywhere it is admitted both in Europe and the Colonies, that a system of co-operation in farming has become a necessity, and the community which does not apply it need not hope to hold its own in the market—competition is so keen.

3554. Could you give us an idea of how that has progressed?—Some few of us have been at work for about fifteen years. In the earlier years we could not get anybody to believe in the method at all. It was quite new to the people; they had never heard of it before. It was for a long time in existence in Germany. I made acquaintance with it there, and when I returned to this country I tried to persuade people to adopt these methods, but I could get no one to listen to me. I found that Sir Horace Plunkett was then practically at work trying to induce people to organise societies. He had held 50 meetings in various places, and had not succeeded at the end of the 50 meetings in starting one society. However, private individuals who believed in the system worked on, and gradually a few societies came into existence. In 1894 a society was formed for the purpose of familiarising the people with these industrial methods, and it was called the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. This work went on, and they found as they progressed the need of some Government aid. The work grew apace, and the number of societies multiplied, till it became almost too much for private individuals, by private enterprise and subscriptions, to carry on. It was the success of this enterprise which led to the demand which was addressed to the Government about 1896 that something should be done to establish Government aid for agriculture in Ireland. Out of this movement practically grew this demand. Everybody felt the need for technical education in farming pursuits.

3555. Previous to the Act of 1899 was nothing done?—No, merely meetings were held. The Excess Committee held its meetings, and then a deputation went to Mr. Gerald Balfour, the Chief Secretary, and put before him the needs of the farmers in this respect. But from 1894 on the voluntary work grew, and we succeeded in founding 650 of these co-operative societies in Ireland, with a membership of close on 90,000. They deal with various aspects of the farming industry. First, they dealt with the manufacture of butter; then with regard to finance and agricultural

credit a system of agricultural banks was established throughout the country on the Raiffeisen system, and in this way small men, who otherwise could not get security in a joint stock bank, by combination together have been able to get capital for their farms.

3556. And all this has been done on the voluntary basis?—Up to the foundation of the Department. The Department had not in its own service and could not procure expert officers for the various branches of its own work, and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society had at that time a large staff of trained experts of its own for its own purposes. The Department was very willing to take over these men or at least utilise their services and pay them, and it made advances for two years in payment of services rendered by these men for their purposes. Later on it made a grant to the Organisation Society for the general work of organisation, recognising that it was the business of the Department to promote this essential condition of success in agricultural industries. In the last two years there was a formal application made to the Department for a grant for this purpose, and the question was brought before the last meeting of the Council of Agriculture, and discussed at great length with great variety of opinion on both sides. I should say that from the beginning I was myself opposed to receiving any financial aid whatever from the Department, and although the coming of the Department crippled us seriously I would have faced the strain and stress of the development that the coming of the Department brought with it without receiving its aid. The Department coming on the scene impoverished and diverted aid from the Agricultural Society. A great many men interested in promoting agriculture subscribed freely to the funds of the Organisation Society and enabled it to do its work, and in that way from various sources we got subscriptions to the amount of £25,000. When the Department was created public opinion regarded the scheme of the voluntary society as practically at an end.

3557. They thought that agriculture was otherwise provided for?—They took it for granted that the State would here supersede private effort. That idea seemed to me to be fatal to the principle of co-operation. State aid, except given with great reservation, would be fatal to the spread of the movement, and for that reason I always dreaded receiving any State aid. When it was known that State aid was received in this case, although it was only in payment for services rendered, and a refunding of the money that we had expended ourselves, nevertheless the public at large came rapidly to confuse the Department of Agriculture with the Organisation Society, and it was very hard to get people to distinguish one from the other, and recognise that the Organisation Society was a voluntary organisation not at all under the control of the State. In later years, the last two years, the Department went a step further, and what it did when it made a grant to the Organisation Society was that it made that two representatives of its own should be on the committee of the Organisation Society. This on the plea of seeing how the public money was to be expended, and claiming to control the public money, I hold very strongly that public control is entirely different from public management. They have their representatives on the Executive Committee. They take a very active part in the management, and being the holders of the purse to a considerable extent, they practically control the working. That condition of things I believe to be fatal to progress and to the essential spirit on which the co-operative movement is founded. I hold that it would be infinitely better for us to face again the poverty and hardships of the first years and start perfectly free and independent of the Government.

3558. You would wish to keep it apart from the Department?—I would. If the Department would recognise co-operation as a necessity of modern agriculture, if they would furthermore recognise that co-operation is a voluntary work to be done by the people themselves and their advisers, guided but not managed by the State, I would accept their aid. I would have the relations between them the same as they are between the Department at present and the Technical Instruction and Agricultural Committees in the country. Schemes as prepared by the local committee are sent up to the Department and approved of by the Department, and grants are made for the carrying out of these schemes, but the Department does not take any active part in the application

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of the grant, or claim any voice in the management of the committee. On the same terms as these and on these only I would consent to receive a subsidy from the Department, and if they would not grant it on these terms I would not take it at all. I would have the grant of public money under public control, but not under public management. The scheme should be prepared by the society, submitted to the Department for approval, and full accounts rendered to the Department for the expenditure of the money. That I would consider public control. But what I would object to is public management, to officers of the Government sitting at the table and discussing the details of the management of the bunnies and giving their views and exercising power. I think the Department does not claim in the case of Agricultural Committees that its representatives should sit on these committees, and determine their action or the details of their work.

3559. This question is still pending?—It was discussed very vigorously at the last meeting of the Council of Agriculture, and has been put off for six months.

3560. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—I am rather in a difficulty. I should have liked to ask a great deal about the pecuniary position that affairs are in in Dublin, but I think it is hardly fair to ask that now, as we will be getting information about that more directly later on.—You will have a representative of the Technical Instruction Committee of the city of Dublin before you.

3561. The Intermediate Education Board got an Act in 1900. That was after the passing of the Department's Act. Was it not at this time anticipated that action would have been taken under the 1899 Act in the direction of working the science work through the Board of Technical Instruction?—I don't think it was contemplated at all at the time. The Intermediate Act was the outcome of the Commission which had been sitting years before, and had recommended these changes. And the Act did practically nothing more than give the Board power to carry out the details and the recommendations of the Commission, and I don't think the Commissioners took into consideration in the least degree the relations that they possibly might have afterwards with the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

3562. The Intermediate Education Board has now power, so far as the statute is concerned, to appoint inspectors and make a change so far as they thought desirable in the methods of allocating the funds at their disposal. Have they taken any action since the first attempt you described failed to come off?—They applied again and again to the Irish Government pointing out the great hardships and inconvenience of the deadlock which existed in the schools, and the difficulties they were in; and, furthermore, it is held by some of the members that there is a direct violation of the Act of Parliament in the present condition of affairs. Whoever is responsible for it, it is not the Board of Intermediate Education.

3563. Your members have a feeling I gather that the method of distribution of school "grants" which they at present follow is not the best possible method in the interests of Intermediate education in Intermediate schools? They recognize that mere examinations are no general test of good teaching. Written examinations cannot test practical science. They are of comparatively little value in modern languages. Where you want to judge of the value of the actual work done in school you have to see the school at work.

3564. I suppose they regard the work done in connection with the science teaching in these schools as throwing considerable light on the problems? That part of the work is very valuable for the purpose.

3565. In view of that, their opinions are still more strongly now in favour of the changes than they were before?—Certainly.

3566. I suppose you personally would prefer to see something on the lines of estimation of the value of work that are adopted by the Department of Agriculture in that particular respect *mutatis mutandis* applied in the case of other subjects of study?—I think that is the general feeling of the Board. It is my own feeling certainly.

3567. So that it really does not require any management in the part of the Consultative Committee to urge that view of further assimilation of method

in the secondary schools?—None whatever; and I may mention that one of the points I pressed in the report of Mr. Long's conference was that the value of the Consultative Committee and its work was considerably impaired by the fact that the representatives of the Intermediate Board had no inspectors' reports to go upon. They had not the same knowledge of the system which they were supposed to represent as the representatives of the other systems. The Board of National Education had its inspectors, and through its inspectors its representatives knew the needs of the schools, and had an estimate of the work carried on; the representative of the Technical Board had inspectors' reports also; but the representatives of the Intermediate Board had no reports of what went on in the schools except the reports of the examiners, who deal with written papers.

3568. One of the advantages you would look forward to in the immediate future if the constitution and relations of the Consultative Committee was altered as you suggest, would be that you would go back to such a scheme as the Technical Education Board?—Our work would be very ineffective without it.

3569. Have you anything to guide you as to how these schools would work under a system of inspection?—Everything was prepared for the change. The scheme was submitted to the Irish Government, and in order to carry out the provisions of that arrangement the schools were all required to send in a written statement that they would submit to inspection in all the details which the Board required, the equipment of schools, construction of buildings, and the character of the teaching. Every schoolmaster in Ireland agreed.

3570. The difficulty then at the present moment is the way of the adoption of the scheme that on the face of it seems a desirable one, but purely with the Executive?—Entirely. This has been insisted on in two or three successive reports that the Board presented to Parliament, in which they stated the matter fully.

3571. Has any public statement been made of the reasons for delay?—None except that there was some great scheme hardship.

3572. Is this desire to have a larger scheme understood to exist more particularly in Irish executive circles or in British?—It is a question for the Irish Government. It rests entirely with them. The Irish Government don't appear to be prepared to take what they can get.

3573. (Mr. Alder).—You would not be afraid that the attitude of the Irish Government might be prompted by the external experts on the other side the Treasury?—The Treasury won't be asked for expense more. The money is there. We have a fall of £100,000 lying by.

3574. I was going to ask how you would carry through a method of change after the allocation of the grants without raising difficulties of getting new money?—Our invested savings amount to £100,000.

3575. Perhaps you might mention the sources of the revenue of the Intermediate Board?—The interest on £1,000,000 from the Church Treasuries Fund, and some £60,000 a year from the whiskey money.

3576. When you received the £60,000, what steps did you take to utilize that money for the benefit of Intermediate education?—A very large portion of it goes in the form of a school grant which is allotted to the schools merely on the results of written examinations.

3577. You still had grants on the written examinations before you got the whiskey money?—Yes, but they were much smaller. When the Act was passed the sum fixed as the highest grant available was £10 for senior grade students. Now a school can get between £20 and £40.

3578. I think I would like to get into the evidence your views as to the general features of this scheme of awarding grants which make it objectionable from an educational point of view?—When you are creating them on a written examination you have as means, in the first place, of testing the general teaching of the school. Suppose there are 100 boys in a school, the Principal may take out these boys that are likely to pass examinations.

3579. Well, at least, there is a temptation to do so?—He may take out a certain number who will pass the examinations and get a high school grant, a sort of capitation grant. Suppose he yields to the temptation and concentrates all his teaching on those boys

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who are sent up for the examination, what becomes of the others? What guarantee have you that the general teaching of the school, as a whole, is effective? You have none. This faulty method to which those responsible have drawn attention already has much to answer for in the backwardness of boys who are otherwise than bright in the secondary schools. I should say myself that the teachers, in their own interests, will concentrate their attention upon the bright boys, the boys that will secure a larger education grant for them. There is one grant for boys that pass, and a widely different grant for the boy who takes honours; and it is the interest of the teacher to concentrate his attention on the boy who will secure a large grant.

3580. The general scale of grant is not so liberal as will render it possible for any teacher who has to keep one eye on the finances of his school to be quite independent of the consideration that we have referred to as a temptation.—The Board feel that the grant should be given to the school as a whole in reward for the general teaching of the school. Besides, we have special prizes for the boys who are distinguished, a prize rather for the boy than for the school.

3581. Is it in the power of the Board to take any step to rectify that partially and increase the grants for the more passive, and diminish the grant for the very high passers?—The Board, I may say, have exercised their ingenuity to the full every way they could, calculating the percentage of boys passing to the boys who attend the school, and increasing the grants as the percentage rises, but they feel it won't succeed.

3582. So far as you have been able to learn, the schoolmasters feel equally that that is a failure?—Yes; I think that the schoolmasters as a body prefer much that they should be judged by the general character of the teaching in the school rather than by the results of concentrated efforts on a few.

3583. Have you taken any close interest in the adaptation of technical instruction schemes to the requirements of particular localities as distinguished from there being a sort of general pattern scheme that will apply to the whole country?—I have seen these schemes at work in various places, and it seemed to me that the scheme would be valuable only in proportion as it is adapted to the actual requirements of the locality in which it is established. In the first place, with regard to the teaching of agriculture, I have had something to do with that, so much as I have endeavoured, as a matter of experiment, in some primary schools to introduce those the teaching of elementary agriculture as so to give the children, if possible, a taste for rural life. That is the great difficulty we have in Ireland, and I see from President Roosevelt's statement they have the same thing in America.

3584. (Mr. Dwyer.)—And the same thing in Canada?—The people try to get away from the land, and the education in Ireland in primary schools up to the present is mostly of a literary kind. The idea of success in life that is put before children is success in commercial life. A boy will become a clerk or a girl will succeed in getting into the Post Office or becoming a telegraph clerk, and these cases are held up to the children as models of success, with the result that the children of the rural districts come to regard agriculture and the work upon the land as only the occupation of those who are failures; that anyone with talent would not confine himself to the land, but would betake himself to some other work. The only way to meet that is to introduce into Ireland something of the system which prevails in Belgium, in which you have the children of the inhabitants of the rural districts trained to regard the occupation of agriculture as the most dignified and desirable to put their hand to, with the result that when a boy or a girl comes out of a rural school in Belgium it never occurs to them to seek occupation in the town. They feel the land most worthy of them is on their father's farm. The Belgian boys are farmers. They go out of school farms, and the girls come out of school farms. If you listen to a number of peasant women talking, their conversation becomes quite tiresome. They will discuss nothing but the details of farm life; they are absorbed in it. In Ireland if we could have in rural schools some system of that kind introduced we could change the character of our schools. I have induced some schools that I could influence to take advantage of the National Board rules stating that the manager of a local school may, if he does not choose to follow the Board's programme, select a programme for himself, submit it for the approval of the Board, and have it carried out. I induced a manager

to draw up a programme to take four of the five school hours for literary work, and to devote an entire hour each day to agricultural instruction of various kinds, teaching natural science and engaging the children in some interesting agricultural work, making them take an interest in it, rewarding them for their success in it, and teaching plant and animal life. The experiment has been successful.

3585. (Mr. O'Brien.)—We have had a great deal of discussion, one way or another, as to the mechanism of concentrating upon the main object of the whole of this Act, in one department of its business, the scheme that reveals in the department and the various Boards and local committees, and bringing that to bear on the educational advantage of the locality. How far have you been able to form an opinion as to the general efficiency of the result?—I think I may say that the result, as far as the primary schools are concerned, is very trifling.

3586. I don't mean the elementary schools, but the work done directly under the Technical Instruction Board?—There is a certain enthusiasm for evening classes, especially where the instruction is of a technical character. The different instructors go round and give their lectures, but I may say that except where pressure is brought to bear on them by influential gentlemen, priests and others in the locality, it is very hard to get the people to attend. They take no interest because they come out of the primary school without any appreciation whatever of agricultural education. They don't value it. They have not been taught to value it. I must say I do not think that with all the mechanism of education that the Department can command they will ever succeed in making an impression on the general body of the people in rural districts until the children come out of the primary schools trained to appreciate the teaching they offer. The teachers would support such a policy, for it is the case that the great majority of the teachers in the elementary schools in Ireland have themselves been brought up in personal contact with rural affairs.

3587. There is not in Ireland any very great effluence moving of town-born boys into the country as teachers of country schools?—That is quite correct.

3588. Then the teachers are those who by upbringing are familiar with the facts of rural life. How far has their professional training and their surroundings during professional training, and the influences they have been brought under when they were young men, been such as to develop their interest in rural affairs, and their having such knowledge of rural affairs, and of the principles and views of work in the country, been such as would help them to teach children in the schools?—As far as I know, the system of training is absolutely without effect in that direction at all. I don't think from what I know—the teachers of Ireland are an admirable body, and have made use of every opportunity given to them to do their work within the limits imposed on them ably and most devotedly—but I don't in the training they receive provision is made for developing that side of their efficiency. If the Department wishes to utilise its opportunity of really making an impression on the mind of the people of the country, it will not look only on its present method of sending out itinerant instructors, to teach the children or the grown people, and then to bring such inducements as they can to bear to get them to attend lectures. The wiser way would be to establish centres of instruction for the teachers, and, having taught the teachers, they may be perfectly certain the teachers will train the pupils. You will then have a generation of boys and girls coming out of National Schools who will appreciate higher technical education and be glad to avail themselves of it. There was a suggestion made that the Department should send teachers into the National Schools for the sixth standard. I believe that will not succeed. The teacher won't be sympathetic with a man who comes in from outside and teaches his pupils for an hour in the day, and the visitor will never establish such an influence over the boys as the teacher who has them in his hands all day.

3589. (Mr. Michel.)—Don't most of the teachers endeavour to get a little farm of their own?—A great many have not the opportunity.

3590. A great many have?—I have seen some of these men, simply by their own efforts, create a very good system of instruction in agriculture by gardens, and by a little ground hired that they could cultivate themselves, and by school museums. But this has all been

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done by these men on their own initiative. They had no previous training for that purpose.

3591. (Mr. O'Sullivan.)—You have got in Ireland a set of teachers in the rural schools who are themselves from bygone familiar with rural affairs; they have had an excellent training as teachers, so that in the mere methods of teaching generally they are all right; in the knowledge of subjects that at present form the most prominent subjects of instruction in elementary schools they are similarly masters of the situation. They have a general, and some of them, as Mr. Hicks has pointed out, a very practical interest in agricultural affairs, but what is desired is that there should be, not in the case of a small proportion of them but generally distributed, in addition to these other things, a sound knowledge of such natural phenomena as appeal to the intellect and the reasoning powers of the person who is living in the country. What you seemed to indicate is what has been almost exactly found in an adjoining country, if one may venture to mention it, Scotland; that same difficulty was found there. Do you happen to have observed anything of the classes that are familiarly known as *61 (d)*, that being the clause of the Scotch Code under which they were conducted where the Department took special means of encouraging the formation of Saturday courses for teachers for three or four years, just in the same way as the Department here is taking special means to encourage certain other sections to work this particular section of work, which is the one that we have been discussing, that is the work of preparing rural teachers to give instruction to children in country schools?—I am not familiar with the Scotch system, but I quite see that it would be applicable to this country from all the details you have mentioned.

3592. The education here apparently lies in the hands of another Department whose interest apparently is not so much in the training of adults after they have once entered on their occupation, as with the training of teachers?—The National Board I see quite certain would welcome a movement of that kind and cordially co-operate with the Department in carrying out such a scheme. It would welcome those courses of instruction for teachers, and where established by the Department would encourage the teachers to avail themselves of them.

3593. Then it is merely a matter of getting the external machinery into motion?—It is a matter that might be easily arranged.

3594. And you might expect to get a good crop after four or five years?—I am quite certain you would get a very good crop inside of five years.

(Chairman.)—That is work for the Consultative Committee.

3595. (Mr. Hicks.)—You mentioned about the desire of getting away from the land: do you mean about the boys passing Civil Service examinations?—Yes. I mean to say that in the country if you talk to the people you will find they always regard as the successful man of the family, not the man who is doing good work on the farm, but the man who has gone to the town and got a good post in a shop or in the Civil Service. These men are regarded as the successful.

3596. Why have these people gone to the shop and the Civil Service?—One reason is because of the failure of tillage in the country. The system of agriculture discourages the application of human labour to the land. Every year the statistics show that the quantity of land under grass is growing. This is due to the fact that the small farmers are now putting their farms under grass. In former times grass farms were created by the clearance of great ranches. For the last thirty or forty years there has not been a ranch created in Ireland, and all the time the land under grass has been steadily growing.

3597. The eldest son will get the farm and the others must go elsewhere?—Yes.

3598. If they get a farm in the country they would not go?—Or if a system of tillage was applied to the land.

3599. Then what would their position be; would they become labourers or go in for a sub-division of the holding?—I should be glad to see a system of economic holdings generally over Ireland of from twenty to twenty-five acres that could reasonably be dealt with by a man and his family.

3600. What would the younger members of the family do?—We could in time introduce rural industries. I don't mean city industries. I should not care to have a second Belfast in Ireland. One is

enough. I should be glad to see rural industries established on the system on which they are established in Bavaria, Switzerland, and the Tyrol. You see then a magnificent combination of the agricultural industry with the manufacturing industry, and as breaking up of the home life, no drawing the people of the land. The factories are brought to the people and not the people to the factories. Along the rivers in the Tyrol you see the manufacturers with only a group of houses for the most part near them, and the people coming there a distance of two or three miles and walking home in the evening.

3601. As long as there is so much grass and the eldest son gets the farm must not the young boys go?—But if you cultivate the taste for agriculture among the young people you would counteract this growth of grass.

3602. Would you cultivate in them a taste they could not satisfy; where would they get the opportunity?—It would be quite possible for two or three families to live on land tillied which would only support one family if grazed.

3603. In order to keep the people on the holdings as much as possible you would like to have these industries such as you have mentioned abroad. Have you any idea how that could be done?—The problem is an exceedingly difficult one. Any attempt to subsidise industries is fatal. You must get such a man as an entrepreneur. A Government officer never could do that. It is a man of special capacity you want for the undertaking. He has to buy and sell and know the markets in which to buy, and as well be able to make a study of the change of conditions of industry as they occur from day to day—the changing conditions of the market—and the man must be able to foresee and forecast the future.

3604. What would be the cost of hiring such a man?—Where would you get him? He is like the poet; he is here, not made.

3605. Can you not engage a man with commercial training, teaching, and education?—Then a much difference between a technical expert and an entrepreneur, the business man. You will be able to buy the technical expert but not the other. That is the great difficulty I foresee: the want of business capacity. I have seen a great many of these industries started, and wherever there is Government money behind them they are not generally successful.

3606. What business have you in view?—The one at Sligo. The entrepreneur who takes up the business on his own, throws himself into it, puts all his energies and capacities into it. He knows there is no way Government subsidies behind it to make up for his failure. That man is in a different position from the man with Government money, who, if he fails, has the Government to look to. I don't think you will readily get an entrepreneur who is really worth having going to enter the Government service. The only capable entrepreneur will not take office with Government.

3607. Suppose he does not take it under Government, but suppose there is Government aid at its start?—That is a matter you will find very difficult. I am sure it could be done, but it would require great caution. You would have to keep alive to the full the activities of the people, and not by any spirit of Government aid in any way to diminish their sense of responsibility or their dependence on their own efforts. That is a difficult thing to do. In the most places you must not rouse jealousies among the manufacturers themselves. In an industry already established you cannot use public funds to aid one manufacturer in competition with another. One Irish manufacturer will resent another being aided to compete with him, and you will find the British manufacturer will fiercely resent any aid being given by the State to an Irish industry likely to compete with him. In the case of the Drogheda jam factory this was made plain. If you had the Irish Government so independent that they could disregard English opinion you might possibly devise a scheme with regard to industries which are not already established in this country to compete with English industries, and you might with care and caution promote some successful undertakings; but at present English opinion controls the action of the Government and not Irish opinion.

3608. Is it your opinion that we could not hope to get any industries established on a large scale in the country?—I do not say it is impossible, but I believe you will hardly be able to carry out any large

scheme of Government aid towards industries under your present system of Government in Ireland, inasmuch as in what is called an Irish Government your action is determined entirely by English opinions, and English opinion at present is for free trade.

3609. Do you think it would be a right thing to do at all; we may find it difficult?—If we had a Home Rule Parliament to-morrow I would by all means do it, but in accordance with sound economic.

3610. Or if we could manage to induce them, or make them think it prudent to do it?—That by all means. I would go back to the system of the old Irish Parliament and give bounties and protective tariffs.

3611. (Chairman.)—If you had an Irish Parliament would you subsidise Irish industries: some industries subsidised by the State and others not?—If we had an Irish Parliament I should prefer a system of bounties. The system of the old Irish Parliament worked very well.

3612. But not bounties in one place against another in Ireland?—Oh no.

3613. You would not give a bounty to a woollen industry in Kilkenny and no bounty to another industry somewhere else?—No, I would not. I should do just as they did in the old Irish Parliament. They offered bounties which encouraged men of business to start and create industries in localities suitable to them.

3614. Bounties which any one might earn?—Yes.

3615. Not one which a particular set of persons only might earn?—The State could not do otherwise.

3616. The question is whether you would, even if you had Home Rule, subsidise one particular industry in one particular place, and not subsidise another industry of the same kind in another place?

—There might be one exception to the general rule, and that is as a measure of public utility, and for the relief of the distress of a particular district that such a thing might be done, not as a measure of general policy, but simply as a measure of dealing with the needs of the locality. For instance, in Farnham, where this thing has been done, and help given both by voluntary contributions and from the Congested Districts Board, and they have created in the centre of most desolate and forlorn district a flourishing industry, which employs the people and is not competing injuriously with any existing industry, and will help to spread the reputation of the Irish woollens.

3617. Is there not a danger that when the circumstances alter and you withdraw the State help there may be some particular circumstances which contribute, such as an extremely able person who started it or something of that sort?—As a matter of fact that was the case in this particular instance. It was all due to the ability of one woman. She is not taking an active part in the work now. She has broken down in health, but the work is still going on prospering and thriving.

3618. (Mr. Miles).—You might describe her as an Irish entrepreneur; she is one of those business persons whom it is difficult to get?—Exactly.

Jan 8, 1906.
Rev. T. A.
Paddy,
P.O. 111, 112.

The Committee adjourned.

THIRTEENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH, 1906.

At 18 Lower Baggot-street, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KIRKEL E. DEGET, K.C.B., K.C. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.
Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGLIVIE.Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MACKE.
Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Mr. W. S. GRANT examined.

June 9, 1906.

Mr. W. S.
Grant.

3618. (Chairman).—You are Chief Inspector of the Fisheries Branch of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Department?—That is so.

3619. You were, previously to the formation of the Department, one of the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries?—Yes, since 1889.

3620. Perhaps you will give us some account of the duties of the Irish Fisheries Inspectors before the formation of the Department?—I might go back perhaps a little bit before that even, because my connection with the Government began in 1889, when I was asked to make a survey of the fishing grounds off the west coast of Ireland. Mr. Balfour at that time was Chief Secretary. He wished to get some idea as to how far the fishing grounds off the west coast of Ireland were capable of development if money was available. At that time he was making the railways in the west of Ireland which made such development possible. I undertook that survey before I was Inspector of Fisheries, but a vacancy happened to occur on the Board of Fisheries, and whilst I was starting on the survey I was appointed an Inspector of Fisheries. When I undertook that survey there was associated with me Mr. Lane, who is now my colleague as Inspector of Fisheries under the Department, and also Mr. Holt, who is our scientific adviser. They worked with me for two years, 1890-1892, and Mr. Lane was with me in 1892 as well. I became Inspector of Fisheries in 1890; and the duties of Inspectors of Fisheries are described in over forty Acts of Parliament, some of them very long Acts indeed. We have published a manual of the Acts of Parliament relating to Sea and Inland Fisheries of Ireland.

3621. This is published by the Department, and is a summary of the existing Acts?—It is the Acts themselves indexed and with a few notes. The Irish Fisheries Acts, as they at present stand, date from 1842, because by the Act of 1842 all previous Acts were repealed, and the material contained in the previous Acts was codified and put into this big Act of 1842.

3622. There are many Acts subsequently to that?—The number of Acts subsequent to that are over 43.

3623. The time has almost arrived for further codification?—Quite so. We are quite ready for codification again, and it would simplify matters considerably, but unfortunately I suppose it would do harm to the legal profession if they were simplified.

3624. At all events, there are a great number of Acts?—The duties of the Inspectors of Fisheries were very largely in the way of making by-laws and regulating fisheries; but beyond the funds which we had available for the issue of fishery loans we had no funds whatever to spend on the development of fisheries.

3625. Do you mean prior to the formation of the Department?—Prior to the formation of the Department, prior to getting the £10,000 per annum. When I say that I should qualify it to this extent—At different times grants were made by Parliament of large sums of money for the erection of piers and slips, but that was quite sporadic, and the thing was carried out in a very short time by some Commission specially appointed, and the Inspectors of Fisheries were only advisory. Then as to the duties I have described in the Act of 1842, this provided that the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries could make by-laws almost on any subject relating to the fisheries. Their powers were very wide, and they could deal with anything they considered to be for the better protection and preservation and development of the fisheries.

3626. How are the by-laws made?—The Inspectors make the by-laws, etc., in this way. Under some of the Acts of Parliament there are very elaborate arrangements made for the holding of an inquiry, which would be a preliminary to the making of the by-laws, and so others the previous arrangements are very much left to themselves. In all cases printed notices have to be issued. In some cases a statutory time was fixed for these notices.

3627. And had you any public inquiry?—Then we had to hold a public sworn inquiry when we considered it necessary.

3628. You had power to administer an oath?—We had, and we have all the powers of the Court of King's Bench in committing for contempt of court and in the subpoenaing of witnesses.

3629. And as to discovery of documents?—Yes; all that kind of thing. We can issue subpoenas for witnesses.

3630. And are your by-laws confirmed by any public department?—By the Privy Council. The duties of the Fishery Inspectors are divided into two heads. They were not divided into two heads in the days of the Inspectors of Fisheries, but under the Agricultural Act they have been divided into two heads. One is called the judicial. There are special enactments which are called judicial, and the arrangement in the Act of 1890 was that these judicial functions should be delegated to one Inspector, and those duties were delegated to me.

3631. What is the meaning in this connection of the word "judicial"?—They were counted judicial by the draftsmen of the Agricultural Act, but nearly all our decisions are of a judicial character.

3632. You had power to prohibit trawling within certain limits and to make by-laws?—That is not judicial. The definition is very arbitrary, and it was not a definition we would have made, but under heads this came under the division. Some are judicial and some are not.

3633. Can you give us a list of the judicial by-laws?—In the Act there is a schedule of the judicial by-laws.

3634. (Mr. Oglivie).—Do you mean the 1890 Act? (Mr. Brown).—Is there an Order in Council made under the 3rd section as to which of the duties are to be regarded as judicial?—Yes (proceeds to read). You asked me for an illustration. In the 5th and 6th Victoria, chapter 102, section 25, is one of those scheduled enactments, and it is as to judging whether stake weirs extend solely to between high and low water, and that they are not capable of catching young unsalmonid salmon; and in another Act, the removal of illegal weirs and nets, if I decide that a weir is illegal and should be removed, then it must be removed.

3635. (Chairman).—I see. A judicial by-law is merely a by-law conferring judicial powers, making you a judge?—Yes.

3636. A decision under that by-law is a judicial decision?—There are other statutory powers relating to mills, oyster beds, and a number of things like that, which are regarded as judicial. On the other hand, it might be said that there are cases certainly of a judicial nature, though not technically judicial, in which we have to decide upon whether we would make a by-law or not. These have often a very great influence on property and the distribution of property in salmon fisheries for instance, and these are far and away the most important and responsible duties which we have to perform, and sometimes involve the making

of by-laws which really mean shutting up a man's estate in a fishery and interfering with his rights.

3638 Do you mean the provision of close times?—That is one of our duties.

3639 Or restricting his power of netting in a fishery?—Exactly. We can prohibit the netting in the whole fishery if we like, and we have interfered with certain very important fisheries in that way.

3640 Would you call those by-laws by any general name?—No. They are administrative. We make the by-laws after hearing the case in court, and then from certain of the judicial ones there is no appeal; but in all the other by-laws there is an appeal to the Lord Lieutenant in Council. If there is no appeal, and we have not done an illegal thing in drawing up that by-law, if the law officers decide that the form is legal, it becomes law. It goes through the form of being approved by the Council, but the case is not re-heard. In the case of an appeal it is re-heard in Council, and they have the power to accept or reject, but no power to alter.

3641 (Mr. O'Sullivan).—The responsibility for the judicial duties rests on you personally?—Personally.

3642 The responsibility for the administrative duties rests with the Department?—Quite so.

3643 (Chairman).—By way of appeal from you?—No. We act in the name of the Department.

3644 And is there then an appeal to the Lord Lieutenant in Council?—Oh, yes. The way in which the thing came about was this. These were the powers of the Inspectors of Fisheries, and all those duties of Inspectors of Fisheries were by the Act of 1890 transferred to the Department, so it is the Department make the By-law though we actually hold the inquiry.

3645 You advise the Department?—We advise the Department, and our act in that case is signed by the Secretary of the Department.

3646 I should like to carry this a step further. Is there any appeal to the Lord Lieutenant in Council from that action of the Department?—There is. There is no difference between them. The powers of the Inspectors of Fisheries are vested in the Department, and a by-law made by the Department is liable to be appealed against before the Lord Lieutenant in Council.

3647 (Mr. Dryden).—You spoke in the first place of the Inspectors. I suppose there are several of them?—Two, Mr. Lane and myself.

3648 Then one takes one branch and the second the other?—There used to be three. For many years there were three. You asked me as to the duties. It was part of the duties of Inspectors of Fisheries to make the by-laws. Another duty of the Inspectors of Fisheries was to recommend the issue of loans to fishermen. That has been going on for a very long time. The fishery loans in Ireland have been going on for nearly one hundred years, and with the greatest success. The loan is very small, and the good it has done to the fishermen of course is very great. Generally speaking, the loss from bad debts spread over the time that we have under review and that we have actual papers regarding was about one per cent. The loans issued by the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries up to the passing of the Act creating the Congested Districts Board from the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund for seventeen years amounted to £104,297, and there was a return showing a loss of £1 per cent. owing to bad debts, and a lot of those bad debts occurred from people dying or the boats being lost. The Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund in eight years, concurrently with the seventeen years, lent out £28,128, and the bad debts on that particular loan fund were not five pence per £100. With regard to the sea and coast fund since 1890, for, say, fifteen years—that is since the creation of the Congested Districts Board, because the Congested Districts Board took some of the money and administered it with regard to the congested districts—the bad debts we have been let in for since the thing was divided, that is with regard to the non-congested districts, only amounts to £1 per cent on £36,762.

3649 (Chairman).—What is the security for these loans?—Very often security that no banker would think of.

3650 Is it personal?—In the West of Ireland it is small farmers give security.

3651 Does a man get a couple of farmers to guarantee him?—Yes; a couple of small farmers. There are some very important matters with regard to this which I would like to enlarge upon.

3652 This is to my mind important!—I have a June 3, 1905 note here.

Mr. W. R. Green.

3653 Give us any details about those loans?—The Inspectors of Fisheries had an fund for fishery development except the Reproductive Loan Fund and the Sea and Coast Fisheries. These amounted in 1890 to £83,000. That was the year in which some of the money was transferred to the Congested Districts Board, as regarded the congested districts, and since that time that portion of the loan which applied to the Congested Districts Board has been administered by the Congested Districts Board, and we have nothing to say to that. But then by the passing of the Purchase Act, in 1901, £775,000 of the £83,000 was transferred to the Congested Districts Board to be administered in congested areas.

3654 When you say the Purchase Act you mean the Congested Districts Board Act?—That is the Congested Districts Board Act, but it is called the Purchase of Land Act. In communities consisting of persons who are half fishermen and half farmers, except in some of the very poor districts in the west, the loan system works very well, because it is generally possible in such a community to find persons possessed of sufficient property ready to assist their neighbours by giving security. The most difficult cases are those where communities of fishermen exist, and where fishing is the chief means of earning, and where the fishermen are unconnected with the farming classes. In such districts this loan system is not of so much help as we would wish it to be, for the fishermen in some cases find it impossible to get persons to go security for the loan. There are parts of Ireland where we have first-rate fishermen, but they are quite separated—they live in towns perhaps—they are quite separated from the farming classes or any persons whom we could accept as security, and in those cases very large loans are the ones that are most frequently needed. Arklow is a very good illustration of that. It is in the County Wicklow, and unless a shopkeeper will go security, the fishermen cannot get anyone to go security for them. They may and they may not, and if they do give security, of course the man can get the loan. The reason I refer to Arklow is that the fishing fleet out of Arklow is, and has been for many years, the largest local fleet of large fishing vessels that is in Ireland—vessels that go to the Irish fisheries round the coasts of Ireland, and also go to Scotland, Fraserburgh, Aberdeen, and some as far as Yarmouth for the herring fishery. There are also communities along the coast where villages of fishermen exist and where the farmers are the only people with property, where there is nothing like a town in the neighbourhood, and where the fishermen are the only people who could be accepted as security, and in those cases fishermen's loans don't work. The loans the men want are large loans, and the security that is available among the fishermen themselves is worth nothing, and the farmers won't go security because they belong to an entirely different class. They have no connection with the little fishing community which is on their borders.

3655 Then in both these two cases, where the community consists almost entirely of fishermen, and, in the second case, where the fishermen and farmers, living in the same neighbourhood, have so little in common that the farmers won't go security for the fishermen, you say the system of loans does not work?—Those are the districts in which the thing does not work satisfactorily.

3656 Are the loans not made at all?—I should say this, that when I am speaking of these difficulties I have a return here which shows that during the last five years the Department has been working in these non-congested districts the loans that were applied for were 714, and of those the loans that were recommended were 553, so that only 61 of the applications did not come to a successful issue.

3657 Was the difficulty got over in those cases?—In a good number of cases where those loans were issued the fishermen were small farmers, or, at all events, mixed up with the farming class, and they all work together, and can get the security which is necessary.

3658 Then those loans, I understand, are, in fact, not granted in cases where the farming classes and the fishermen are separated?—They are sometimes granted, and in that case the mortgage on the boat is the chief security.

3659 You would have to be more careful?—We find it more difficult to give loans in that case, but when you see that there were over 700 applications made

June 9, 1906. and over 600 were granted, the difficulty is not so great as it seems.

Mr. W. B. Green.

3660. These are districts where the same persons were farmers and fishermen!—Those are the districts in which the loan system runs quite easily. For instance, down in the south, about Cape Clear and Glenties, the fishermen and farmers are more or less mixed up, and men can nearly always get security.

3661. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—Do you have many applications from the other districts?—We have applications. But others know themselves that they need not seek the loan if they cannot find security, and then they don't make application when they find they have not got the security. So that, besides the failure to grant the loans when they were applied for, there is no doubt that a great number of men are deterred from asking in these districts, but I don't know any country in the world where fishermen's loans are so successful as in Ireland. The result of what have been issued is very satisfactory. The boats have been purchased, and the men have paid back the loans.

3662. (Chairman).—Is there any difference between the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund and the Sea and Coast Fisheries' Fund?—One of those funds was allotted to certain counties and the other was carried over to counties not named in the first.

3663. The object is the purchase of boats!—They are looked upon as one fund, and treated as one fund.

3664. For the purchase of boats and fishing gear!—For the purchase of boats and fishing gear and the erection of curing houses. That is one of the things included. They have been going on now for a great number of years, and the total amount issued in the last thirty years was close on a quarter of a million altogether for these fishery loans; that is, excluding those issued by the Congested Districts Board, and the result, as I said, is that the loans do not come to quite 22 per cent. I beg pardon one moment. I left out, with regard to the security for the large boats we have one way out of the difficulty of getting security, and that is where a large and valuable boat is purchased by a loan we obtain a mortgage on her.

3665. To what extent?—Sometimes we take the whole loan.

3666. How do you value the boat?—On the price paid.

3667. What proportion of the loan would you take?—Suppose a boat cost £500, we would mortgage her for the £500.

3668. (Mr. Brown).—Is that gradually paid off?—(Mr. Michie).—The mortgage you take in that case is so drawn that you can proceed at law for the recovery of a single instalment!—Yes.

3669. (Chairman).—Do they, as a matter of fact, pay this off by instalments, or otherwise?—Oh yes, they do. They pay off the loan.

3670. Is it part of the mortgage that it should be paid off within a particular time?—The mortgage is as security, and is not foreclosed under any circumstances except in the last resort of failing to get the instalments.

3671. Does the mortgage contain any terms that the principal is to be paid off in a given time or by given instalments?—Oh yes, in a given time. The value of the boat, plus 2½ per cent. interest on the money, is divided into six money equal instalments, and when we issue a loan for a boat costing £500 we probably give seven years to pay that, and for a small one three years, and for nets, of course, a very short time, because they are perishable. You asked, Mr. President, what were the duties of the Inspectors of Fisheries. They are to make by-laws and rules and regulations for the fisheries and the issue of fishery loans, and general supervision, the publication of an annual report, the collection of statistics of fisheries, and supervising the Boards of Conservators all through Ireland who have the control of the salmon fisheries, and the enforcement of by-laws and protection of the rivers. The prosecutions that are brought by the Royal Irish Constabulary for poaching and the memorials that are addressed to the Lord Lieutenant are sent to us to give our reports thereon.

3672. Have you any control over the Royal Irish Constabulary for that purpose?—We have no control, but, according to their own regulations, provided the work does not interfere with their paramount duties—their duties are defined in Acts of Parliament—they may look after the rivers in the spawning season, and offences consisted at night after dark, and they can seize illegal nets, and

in a great many districts they are very active in putting down poaching in the spawning streams.

3673. Have you any staff of your own for that purpose?—We have not, because it is not our duty to patrol the rivers. It is the primary duty of the Boards of Conservators and they have funds and they have a staff for fishery protection.

3674. Suppose there is an infringement of a by-law, you have judicial powers: can you inflict a penalty?—We fix the penalty in the by-law.

3675. Does the case go before an ordinary bench of magistrates?—Yes. We don't try the case. Once we make a by-law it has the effect of law, and they prosecute in the ordinary way.

3676. You can prosecute, of course!—We can prosecute, but we don't prosecute. It is the Board of Conservators who prosecute. I am speaking now with regard to inland fisheries, but, of course, with regard to sea fisheries we prosecute.

3677. Now, will you go to the sea fisheries, or will you take your own line?—You asked me to tell you what were the duties of Inspectors of Fisheries. I look upon that now as being finished so far. I think I should now say what were the new duties added by the creation of the Department of Agriculture. In the old days, in the time of the Inspector of Fisheries, we had no funds except those loan funds, no other funds whatever for the development of the fisheries, either sea or inland, nor had we any money to provide for the protection of the sea fisheries. We had often asked the Government to assist us in enforcing the law with regard to the sea fisheries, but at the time the Department came into existence every bay in Ireland where any fishing worth having existed was poached by steam trawlers coming across the Channel, and fishing within half a mile of the shore and making the local fishing in many places utterly impossible where it had been good for years, and it was the subject of a great many questions in the House, and one of the first duties thrown on us by the creation of the Department of Agriculture was that of enforcing the law on the sea. For this purpose the Department of Agriculture was entrusted with a fund of £10,000 a year. Part of that was to be spent on the support of a cruiser. The next business which was thrown on us besides that, and which had to be paid for out of the £10,000 a year, was the construction of piers and harbours, providing means for carrying out experimental fishing, scientific investigation, instruction in fishing, the encouragement of industries immediately connected with fishing, and, as I say, the supervision and protection of the fishing grounds, and the enforcement of by-laws and the prosecutions arising therefrom, salmon hatcheries, assistance to Boards of Conservators in protecting rivers, the improvement of fish passes in rivers, the restoration and protection of public eystee beds. These were some of the duties that were completely new, because they depended on funds.

3678. Section 16 says, "Shall be applied for the purpose of sea fisheries," and the definition of that is found in section 30 (which section 30)—Part of these new duties was provided for out of the £10,000 a year which was given us for sea fisheries; but those duties which appertain to inland fisheries were not provided for financially, except that inland fisheries were included in rural industries, and the Board of Agriculture had power to vote money for rural industries, so that when we came to look for money for the improvement of the inland fisheries (the salmon fisheries), we had immediately to go to the Board of Agriculture with our schemes, who, if they approved, would vote the money. Up to the time of the establishment of the Department of Agriculture money had been given from time to time for sea fisheries in the way of piers and harbours and loan funds. In fact the amount spent on sea fisheries was very large if you take all the different grants that were made, but up to the time of the creation of the Department of Agriculture not one penny of government money had ever been spent on the development of salmon fisheries, so it was only when the Department was created that we were in any way put in the position to get money to do anything for the salmon fisheries. The salmon fisheries of Ireland I should say are very much so important in money value as the sea fisheries. The value of one is about equal to the value of the other. When we came to the Board of Agriculture we found they listened very attentively to all we had to say about these schemes for inland fisheries. They

looked upon it as part of their duty to attend to this as it came under the section that I have referred to. But sometimes our schemes did not meet with their approval and they were sent back for the next Board meeting; and we came on and brought up a scheme again a little bit improved, and in all cases nearly the money was voted; and a thing that has puzzled us from going further in that direction is that we have been told that the money available for agriculture is not sufficient, and that though they had money to spare at the beginning they have not got it now. Whatever the money was to spare we found they were quite ready to do their duty with regard to inland fisheries, and what we would ask for if we had any chance of getting it would be that a sum of money should be earmarked, allocated to inland fisheries, similar to the other £10,000 a year for the sea fisheries.

3676. Do you mean you would ask the Department or ask Parliament—I would ask Parliament to give the Department money, to increase the endowment fund.

3680. You want some provision from Parliament for inland fisheries without having to get it in this roundabout way?—Yes. We have no fault to find with the way in which the fund available has been administered by the Board, because they have given it ample attention and given us the money as soon as we proved it was a good job.

3681. You have no functions independently of the Board; you are officers of the Board of Agriculture?—We are officers of the Department.

3682. The reason for the allocation of money for inland fisheries by the Board is that you can obtain part of the Endowment under the charge of the Act which gives it for rural industries including fisheries?—Yes.

3683. And that brings it under the Agricultural Board?—Yes. We, as Inspectors of Fisheries, get up a scheme. We come to impress this upon the higher officers of the Department, that is to say the Vice-President and the Secretary. They first of all overhaul our scheme, and if they think it is worth presenting to the Board, it comes before the Board, and we go there and back up our scheme. As I have said there are schemes we would like to bring forward for the improvement of the inland fisheries which we cannot do now because we know that the money is not available, and there is no use in talking about it; but the Agricultural Board has voted roughly about £2,500 a year for the inland fisheries, and that money has been spent on the creation of salmon hatcheries, on assistance to Boards of Conservators to protect their rivers, that is by supplementing the funds which they already have for that purpose, and on improving fish passes on the rivers; but we could very easily frame a scheme that would expend another £5,000 a year very successfully. Perhaps if I am not getting too long there is one very important matter—

3684. You know your points better than we do, and therefore we rely on you to tell us those which you consider important?—If you will allow me I will just refer to a matter which touches this very closely. I think one of the reasons why the inland fisheries of Ireland have been neglected—that is to say from a Government point of view—is chiefly because of the failure to realise the very important difference that exists between the position of inland fisheries in Ireland and that in Scotland. It goes without saying that a large number of our legislators are accustomed to fishing in Scotland, and a comparatively small number—of course I know that you are one of the small number—come to fish in Ireland, but whenever a fishing question arises the Scottish idea prevails. The difference I am referring to is this. In Scotland there are no public rights of salmon fishing. No case could arise of a man fishing under his common law rights.

3685. A Royal Fishery?—It either belongs to some private person or to the Crown.

3686. Yes, but to be a private person under his supposed grant?—In Ireland the public have a right to fish for salmon everywhere in tidal waters, except in a few cases where there is a several fishery, such exclusive rights are of limited extent; but all the sea is open to the public to fish for salmon in, just as they would fish for sea fish, and the value of that public right salmon fishery in Ireland is worth over £300,000 a year. It is very difficult to get accurate statistics about the salmon fisheries. We can get them fairly accurately about the sea fisheries, but it is very diffi-

cult to get them about the salmon fishery; but so far as we have been able to go we believe that the salmon fisheries of Ireland are worth between £300,000 and £400,000 a year.

3687. Are you including in that the fishery in tidal waters?—All the salmon fishing in Ireland is worth between £300,000 and £400,000 a year.

3688. Do you include in that the fishery in tidal waters?—All the salmon fishery in Ireland is worth between £300,000 and £400,000 a year, including rivers and tidal; and from the statistics we have been able to gather we believe the amount of that which goes to private proprietors is about £60,000 a year. That leaves all the balance as the value that goes to the man fishing on their public right in tidal waters, or other waters where private rights are not claimed, and, of course, to employees on the seaboard fisheries and the private fisheries.

3689. (Mr. O'Brien).—I did not quite catch what it was that was worth £200,000 a year?—I had given it a second time more accurately. That was a rough statement of what was left to the public. It is over £300,000 a year, and the way we come at it is this. The total value is over £300,000 and £60,000 goes to private owners. That leaves a public interest in salmon fishery of over £240,000, and that is the reason why I say that public money ought to be spent on the protection and development of these salmon fisheries.

3692. The £20,000 a year which you say belongs entirely to private individuals—is that entirely inland?—No. There are "several fisheries" in some of the estuaries. The Duke of Devonshire has a very large several fishery on the Blackwater. There are other large private fisheries.

3691. How have they been acquired?—By a charter dating back before Magna Charta. Poyning's Act made Magna Charta applicable to Ireland. Therefore no public right can be given away now in Ireland. But in Scotland there was no Poyning's Act, and Magna Charta as regards salmon fisheries does not run. They belong to the Crown, to lessees from the Crown, and to private owners.

3692. (Chairman).—Therefore any private right of fishing in tidal waters must date from before Magna Charta?—Yes, but on the other hand there is the right in inland waters which goes with the right of property on the banks.

3693. A riparian owner?—Yes. It is because there is this great public right in Ireland that I say the money should be found from public funds to assist in developing it. There is another reason; that is, that the inland fisheries lend themselves much more readily to treatment than do the sea fisheries. When we were on that survey that I spoke of in Mr. Arthur Balfour's time the first naturalist that came with me was Professor Finlay. He was with me half the time. Then he became head of the fisheries in Canada. There they have spent an immense amount in improving inland fisheries. We don't believe very much in the attempt to breed fish for the sea fisheries, but there is no doubt whatever that the breeding of fish for inland waters produces an effect. We have at the present moment at Lismore, on the Blackwater, the largest salmon hatchery in the United Kingdom. It is subsidised by the Department and several others as well.

3694. Is that the Duke of Devonshire's?—We have a grunted scheme for establishing hatcheries, but I think Mr. Holt, our scientific adviser, is going to give evidence here, and as that is part of his business I would say he will give it.

3695. This particular hatchery you say is subsidised by the Department?—It is subsidised by the Department. All the hatcheries are subsidised by the Department, and some were created before the Department began. Many of them have been created by the Department. Then we made others to other people who, we thought ought to have hatcheries. We have hatcheries now on all the biggest rivers except the Shannon.

3696. On what principle are the hatcheries subsidised by the Department?—That public funds may be expended on a great public right which we serve.

3697. And it is believed to assist the sea fisheries too?—The tidal salmon fishery.

3698. You do it to increase the supply of salmon, which is available for public fisheries?—Yes; when we start a hatchery we believe we are benefiting the man fishing under his public right in the proportion of three to one as against the proprietary fishing. We cannot help benefiting to some extent the proprietor, but we expend the money because we know we are also assisting the public.

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3699. That is the ground on which you justify it?—That is the ground on which you justify it; and to come back to the comparison with Scotland it would not be justifiable there. Possibly the Scotch people might take a different view.

3700. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Not equally justifiable?—I don't say that there is the case in Scotland for the expenditure of public money on salmon fisheries that there is in Ireland, for the reason that in Scotland the salmon fisheries are proprietary and in Ireland the greater bulk are public.

3701. Has science advanced sufficiently far to enable you to draw the conclusion that a large expenditure on a hatchery is justifiable by the results as shown in the increased catch of the fish resorting to the particular river?—I think I would rather leave that to Mr. Holt, but we know enough about it to be quite satisfied to go on, and be has all the instances; and we have this book on the scientific investigations published every year (proofs). Our report is divided into two, the general report and the scientific report. This is our second report, part 2, of the Fishery Branch. The Fishery Branch produces a report, and that is submitted to Parliament. It comes out in two parts.

3702. Are you going to give us as part of your evidence the amount that has been expended on these hatcheries by the Department?—Mr. Holt, I take it, will give you full information.

3703. Shall we be able to compare that with the amount expended by individual proprietors on their hatcheries: the individual proprietor may think it worth while to establish a hatchery?—When we make an offer the greatest difficulty is to get people to take up the hatchery. We have to make our offers or we won't get the hatcheries started. The way the subsidy is carried on is on the output, a royalty of so much on salmon over hatchery out. The amount we spent on hatcheries since the Department was constituted is £3,006. We have them on the Boyne and on other rivers. Still the curious thing is we have not one on the Shannon, the biggest river in Ireland.

3704. (Mr. Brown).—You mean you have not been able to induce any private owner or combination of owners to take it up?—We cannot get any private owner to take it up on account of there being other private owners who they think would benefit. There are too many of them.

3705. (Mr. Micks).—Do the salmon run to the upper waters beyond Lough Allen?—They are known to go into Lough Allen but not further up. I don't think they go into the river above Lough Allen. Several times we held inquiries up there about how far they ran up there, and we got all sorts of conflicting evidence about it. I think I have said something now about the duties which devolve upon the Department, which were not part of the duties of the Inspectors of Fisheries, such as the question of hatcheries. Then we had the enforcement of the fishery laws. We put down steam trawling fairly well. We got a steamer. First we found that there were any amount of steam trawlers to catch, but gradually they have become fewer and fewer, and it is only occasionally now that we manage to pick up a steam trawler.

3706. But if the Helga was taken off they would come on again?—If the boat was taken off they would be on twice as thickly as before, because there are a great many more of them on the sea now.

3707. (Chairman).—What is your procedure. Suppose a French boat comes in and trawls, how do you proceed?—We have made special arrangements with certain coastguard stations round the coast, and the coastguard stations are at strategic points—at all creeks we get information about any steam trawler. We were asked the other day in the House of Commons to tell the speed of our boat and we refused to do that; as one must draw the line as to telling everything. We get telegraphic information about every trawler that comes inside the prohibited area, and then as fast as possible we get our steamer on the ground. There are some grounds on which it is most important to keep her frequently at work, and in those places we make most out of our captures. Then the system is when we capture a boat we board her, take the name of her skipper from her papers, and then let him go having seized his net and fishing gear. Then we have to send a summons served with a summons for an Irish court which is near to the place where the offence took place, over to England to hunt him up and serve the summons. Legislation gave us this further facility, we can recover the

summons on his place of business if we fail to find him. The case is tried in Ireland before the magistrate, and a fine is imposed.

3708. Suppose it is a French or foreign boat?—The Frenchmen that come on this coast are all madmen fishers. We have had no experience of French trawlers on this coast.

3709. Have you any experience of foreign boats?—Yes, we caught one Norwegian. We prosecuted her. She was convicted but unfortunately she slipped her shunt.

3710. How did you serve your summons?—She was fishing out of an English port, and we got the summons served that way.

3711. Suppose she goes to Norway?—We have arrangements made. At the time we caught her we took ordinary proceedings and succeeded in getting her to court.

3712. (Mr. Micks).—Have you power to take the trawl?—Yes, on the spot. The trawl is seized on the spot.

3713. (Chairman).—That is a practical measure?—It is, but that does not do it much harm because all the steam trawlers have plenty of spare trawls on board.

3714. (Mr. Micks).—Can you seize them all?—No, only the offending article. If we were empowered to clear her out altogether we would not be so very anxious to get the fines.

3715. (Chairman).—What force have you on your boat? how many men?—We have sufficient men to catch two trawlers at the same time. The last couple of trawlers we caught we lowered two boats simultaneously with a full crew on each boat. We got in between the two trawlers and boarded them simultaneously. We have got sufficient speed and we have got sufficient force.

3716. You can practically keep it in check?—We can keep it in check, and it is being forced on us in Parliament and out of Parliament to get other boats, faster boats and more expensive boats. We can very easily do that if the funds were provided, but we think that the same amount of money could be expended much more effectively on other objects connected with the fishing. Practically we put a stop to illegal steam trawling. We have the Helga, which belongs to the Department, and by arrangement, the Grannus belonging to the Congested Districts Board, is available for this purpose. Of course she has other duties to perform, and does not stick to this the same as the Helga does. The Helga captured 43 steam trawlers, 27 sailing trawlers, and 5 other offenders, and the Grannus has captured 10 steam trawlers and 1 sailing trawler. At the beginning the game was pretty thick in the coasts, but it has been getting scarcer. I have spoken of our duties with regard to salmon fisheries and the protection of sea fisheries, and in addition part of the duties imposed upon the Department was the building of piers and harbours. That necessitated the establishment of an engineering staff. For one thing that we are able to do in all these cases there are a dozen applications, things that had to be looked into, and in many cases surveys had to be made by an engineer and the engineer's report is always necessary. The Congested Districts Board had an engineering staff, and we, by arrangement with them, by strengthening their staff a little bit, we got the use of their staff for our purpose, and we work the two businesses, the Congested Districts Board and the Department's business, as regards marine work, with one staff. The Department's work has been more continuous, so now the whole staff has been taken over by the Department, and we are responsible for giving to the Congested Districts Board any help they require. All this expense has to be borne out of the £10,000 a year for sea fisheries, the engineering staff, the scientific work, and the protection duties. Among the costs which we were let in for in connection with the engineering duties was this, that the harbours on the east coast are in danger of silting up. One of the greatest benefits that could be conferred on the east coast harbours was to keep the ports open. Arklow is a case in point. We were appealed to with regard to Arklow. Arklow has besides the fishing boat a very important industry in the manufacture of explosives. There are great quarries there, and also a brick yard, and various industries, and there is a local fleet of fishing vessels numbering over 70. And when the Arklow people came to us we found that at high water there

were only four feet of water on the bar. Not one of the large boats of the fishing fleet could get in, and the schooners could not get in or out, and the smaller which attend Messrs. Kynoch's factory was damaged out. It could not get in and the whole business of the place was in danger of being stopped. The Department undertook to open the port, and we made an arrangement with the Harbour Board by which they pay us all the dues they can get after paying standing charges, and we undertake that we would keep the port open for that. We immediately went to work with a big crane and grab, working from the pier, and also a steam dredger working a grab, and we found that these means were not sufficient. The Department immediately then got a steam self pump dredger built in Holland by a firm that specialises in that particular business. She was brought over and is able to keep Arklow bar clear, and since she started there has never been less than 11 feet of water on the bar, and since it is properly opened it seems to remain open.

3717. (Mr. McKee).—Is that at high water?—Yes. The rise and fall of the tide at Arklow is only a foot and a half. The Department, at an expense of £5,000, brought the dredger to Arklow, and Arklow has first claim now on this dredger, by the arrangement as to dues of the Harbour Board.

3718. (Chairman).—Is the dredger your property?—Yes, and it is available for any harbour we like to send it to provided Arklow is not neglected.

3719. Are your expenses repaid?—The arrangement we have made is they shall give us all the harbour dues of the port after the standing charges are provided for. When we began these dues were all paid the Harbour Board was in debt. Since the harbour was opened of course the dues have increased, and we got £200 for last year's working.

3720. Is this a fixed arrangement?—It is only made from year to year. If they say they are well enough off without as next year they are at liberty to do so; but in the meantime we have made an arrangement with another port, and the dredger is going to it under an arrangement with them for the working of her which we think will relieve the Department of the expense of upkeep.

3721. Does the entire expense come out of the £10,000?—It has all to come out of the £10,000 a year.

3722. (Mr. McKee).—Not the purchase money for the dredger?—It nearly all came out of it. We got a vote from the Board of Agriculture. I said before the Agricultural Board has been good enough to vote us money each year for various purposes out of the endowment fund.

3723. (Chairman).—Apart from the £10,000?—Yes. Some of it was for salmon fisheries, some of it for fisheries, some of it for marine works on the ground that we were assisting the transit of produce. We could not properly go and spend money out of our fishing fund on keeping Kynoch's factory going, but it was looked upon as legitimate expenditure for assisting the transit of produce. The transit of produce at Arklow was completely stopped. Produce could not come in for agricultural purposes, and the bricks could not go out; so the Agricultural Board voted a sum of money. The exact sum they voted was £2,500.

3724. (Mr. McKee).—How did the bar rise so suddenly, when the boats were so many in and so many out, what did they draw?—Six or eight or ten feet.

3725. Did the bar rise in a night?—No; these boats were laid up for the year, the fishing season was coming on.

3726. They were laid up the whole winter?—Yes.

3727. (Mr. McKee).—You were not able to get the whole of the cost on the surplus?—No. We have got some money from them for other fishing harbours. We would ask them for a great deal more if we thought we could get it. We could not expect to get the whole of this money from the Agricultural Board for building the dredger. We had the place thoroughly examined by engineers—we got one engineer from Holland, who is the greatest expert in dealing with sandy harbours, and we got an estimate from him of how much the dredger could do, and everything he said has come to pass; and we have the dredger available for other fishing harbours. We hope to make use of her not merely in the non-congested districts, but by arrangement with the Congested Districts Board we can make use of her in the congested districts. She is generally useful and can make her way round the coast.

3728. (Chairman).—I think you will find the pro-

ceedings with regard to Arklow on page 137 of the volume of the Agricultural Board's minutes for 1903. What the Vice-President said was: "The total cost of the pier and harbours we estimate roughly at \$6,500 and it is proposed that of this sum £2,500 should be paid from the endowment fund and £2,500 from sea fisheries."—He was quite correct that that sum would be necessary, and it was necessary, because before we got the dredger at all we had to go to great expense immediately as an emergency case, and we had to get a steam crane on the pier with a very long jib and get a small grab dredger to work. The urgency of the matter was very great. The fishing fleet was damaged in and Kynoch's great explosives factory could not get its material or get out its products. Besides Arklow, we have had applications from a great number of places, and we have carried out a great number of them. But unfortunately we were hampered by the law. There is what we consider to be a defect in the Act with regard to our powers for dealing with fishery harbours, and the defect in the Act is this. The Local Government Act comes in conflict with us on the subject of constructing fishery piers. I need not go into details, but it works out in this way, that a County Council cannot combine with the Department of Agriculture for the construction of any new work which will cost over £450, and no new work of any importance can be built for £450. We can, of course, repair harbours, and where any work has gone ahead that would need repair the county can raise any amount of money it likes to repair a harbour or repair a pier, and then we can combine with them; and we have undertaken a number of works which are looked upon as repairs or maintenance, or in some cases reconstruction, and we are building at present a pier on these lines where the county combined with us at Tramore, and we have rebuilt the pier at Foyens. We are reconstructing a pier in the County Wickford at Poodell, and we have a great number of piers to which we have given contributions, but the result is we cannot go on because the amount which we had available for this purpose was the fund which accumulated from the beginning, because we had little expenditure in the first year of the £10,000, and we had a slight accumulation of funds; but now that we have to maintain a steamer and keep up a dredger and keep up an engineering and scientific staff out of the £10,000 a year, there is not very much left for building piers or harbours; and there is the charter of the *Grossadale* as well. We have to pay for that every time the *Grossadale* goes on protection duty. We have to pay sometimes five or six days, and sometimes ten days, and what we have to pay for her—

3729. I don't quite understand that.—In the protection of the sea fisheries we have not only to pay for the maintenance of our own cruiser, the *Alga*, but we have to pay for the *Grossadale*, which is the Congested Districts Board steamer, whenever she is made available for protection duty for doing our work.

3730. (Mr. McKee).—I suppose you tried to get an Admiralty ship?—For a great many years we were applying to the Admiralty for a ship, and in the old days, thirty years ago, something in the way of fishery protection was done. At that time they had a number of old gun-boats which were available, but they were found to be utterly useless, and the Government would not send them after the steam lawless. There were in existence, some of those old Government vessels, at the time the steam lawless began, but they were not going to send a vessel that travelled five knots an hour to catch a steamer that travelled ten knots an hour, and they refused to be responsible for them. When the thing came to a point the Admiralty were finally asked about this matter before the appointment of the Department of Agriculture, and I understood from the officer of the Admiralty that the position was this, that the Admiralty had no vessels at all suitable except destroyers or torpedo gun-boats, and the maintenance of a vessel built to travel at twenty-five knots an hour on a service of that sort would be so very great that it would be much cheaper to give the Irish Government power to provide their own boats at about quarter of the expense out of the general funds of the country than put one of these vessels on fishery duty.

3731. Was that £10,000 practically given for that purpose, not for the encouragement of sea fisheries, but the policing of the waters?—Yes; I understood that that was the first charge on it.

3732. (Mr. Brown).—The purpose is mentioned and is shown in the definition.—It was to be for all pro-

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poor. It seems to me the administration of the fisheries is more the subject you wish to go into rather than the general state of the fisheries or anything of that sort; so I need not weary you.

3733. What we want to know is what you spend on fisheries and what you are doing?—Perhaps I might say this much about them, that the value of the Irish sea fisheries is about £500,000 a year; the inland fisheries are worth between £200,000 and £400,000; so the whole thing is about £800,000 a year. In some cases it has exceeded £1,000,000. A thing that is constantly said in the Press, and, I believe, in various other places, is that the Irish fisheries are not developed as much as they might be, and that that is shown by the enormous amount of fish landed in England as compared with Ireland; that the amount of fish landed in England in a year is over £6,000,000 worth, while in Ireland they only land £300,000 or £400,000 worth. The answer to that is, if there were in Ireland a population which would eat £6,000,000 worth of fish, these £6,000,000 worth of fish would be landed in Ireland, because the fish landed in England to make up this enormous figure are brought from Ireland and Morocco, Portugal, the Bay of Biscay, the North Sea, and all along the coast of Ireland, where the fishing vessels are fishing and delivering in Fleetwood and Milford. Trawlers come from Fleetwood and Milford and the Humber, and some of the London companies that were fishing out at Cardiff have, I think, gone back to Milford. Where Ireland catches a great deal of fish, it is for the most part sent to England. Where the sailing boats use the Irish coast, fishing for mackerel and herrings, all the mackerel, all the spring mackerel, goes to English markets by rail across Ireland and then by steamer from the North Wall to Holyhead. The herrings that are caught on the Irish coast in the spring time, those caught on the south coast, are sent fresh to the English markets. Those caught on the north coast, which are of much higher quality, are cured and sent to Russia or America or Germany, and the autumn herrings that are caught off the Donegal coast all go to America or Germany, so that there is a great export of fish from Ireland.

3734. (Chairman).—From Irish waters, not from Ireland?—Those fish are directly exported from Ireland, but I may say there is a large amount of fish caught off the Irish coast which is landed in England direct and goes to swell the English return, and that is chiefly on account of the increase of steam.

3735. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—But is not fished for by Irish fishermen?—To some extent fished for by Irish fishermen, but to a small extent. In Dublin there is a steam trawling company which fishes along the Irish coast and delivers altogether in Dublin, and a great deal of the fish goes across the Channel afterwards.

3736. (Chairman).—When you speak of the value of the fish approximating to £1,000,000, do you include those fish that are in this way taken away and from which Ireland gets no benefit?—That figure is for sea and river fish landed in Ireland. Ireland gets no benefit whatever from those caught off the Irish coast and taken direct to England, none whatever, they are not counted in our returns. There are a few Irishmen employed on those boats.

3737. Is there any evidence as to the depletion of the fish off the west coast?—There is, and it is not the most hopeful view of the question. The spring mackerel fishing, which came into existence in the sixties, was for a great number of years the most important and most paying fishing in this country, and it has gradually been getting later and later. I remember in the seventies when that fishing was begun on Saint Patrick's Day, the 17th of March. This year that fishing did not open until the 1st of May. It closes in the middle of June, and consequently the season has been getting shorter and shorter, and the money that would be earned by the fishermen in the fishing is getting less and less. I would not say it is a decline in the amount of fish. The amount of fish that comes in seems to be as great as ever. Immense takes were made last week all along the south-west coast. The fish seem to be there, but they don't turn up on the coast so early or remain as long as they did, and that fishing is declining, and it is a very serious blow to the South of Ireland.

3738. Are there any steps which can be taken?—Mr. Hall will be able to say what are the chances. There are some of the things we are investigating—the changes upon which this thing turns.

3739. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—You say, while the period for fishing was shorter, the total take was not much diminished?—The total take is diminished.

3740. (Chairman).—Have you got to that part of your evidence where you have something to say about fishery intelligence?—When I say the spring mackerel fishing is declining there is one hopeful thing—that the herring fishing on the north-west is greatly increasing. We know from local statistics of past years, that there have been great fluctuations, and the herrings have been in great quantities all round the Irish coast, and there have been years that they have gone away again. We have been making experiments trying to find out whether certain fish are to be got in these different places. This year we started these experiments in February, and we had boats fishing out of Dunmore East, because we believed that there was a herring fishing possible at a season which was not the common one for boats to fish in, and with some success. I am not at all certain that the thing won't be tried again next year, not subsidised by us, but on its own account by the men who fish, and we have done the same thing in various parts. It is by experimenting occasionally that you hit on a happy card and discover that there is a fishery which has not been found out before.

3741. Can you point out to any result of that kind?—Not in the work of the Department, but the Congested Districts Board is more lucky, by being on less known ground, and it was in the districts of the Congested Districts Board that some of the best results have been obtained.

3742. They work on the same lines as you do?—Yes, very much the same lines as regards that kind of thing.

3743. Then your relations with the Congested Districts Board are chiefly territorial; they have a certain area and you have a certain area?—Yes, that is it, but, of course, you are aware I am a member of the Congested Districts Board, but I have left out altogether anything about the Congested Districts Board, as I take it you are not examining into that Board.

3744. No, except as far as the two Boards have relations?—Well, in the matter of experimenting in the Congested Districts, we have results to show, and very big results to show; but that is sufficient reason for us to go on making experiments, although in our non-congested coast we have poor results to show. On the west coast from Fenit we have had experimental boats fishing, and from Dunmore East. On the Antrim coast we have another scheme on at the present moment, but we have not turned out anything of a very remarkable character as yet. I think I could answer the question you asked me about the fishery intelligence. The fishery intelligence is worked chiefly by my colleagues, Mr. Lee, but it amounts to this that we get telegrams as for the spring mackerel fishing and for the herring fishing from all the important centres where these are going on, and those are posted in all the other centres twice a week, so that in every herring or mackerel centre they have on a board on the pier, or wherever it is most convenient, telegrams pinned up twice a week giving the information as to what is going on, and how the fish is at all the other ports. These fleets of boats that fish for Irish mackerel or herring come from distant places—many from Arklow and Co. Down on the east coast. They go to the west coast, and are ready to move from one port to another if they find better fishing going on there than where they were. Before we did that it was a common practice for one port which was anxious to get a fleet of boats to go to it, to put into the newspapers the most extravagant reports of the fishing, and when the boats went there they found the whole thing a fraud, and only put in in the interests of shopkeepers who wanted boats to go to the ports.

3745. Have you anything to say about oyster fisheries?—That is one of the things the Department is doing now. The oyster fisheries of Ireland, particularly on the west coast, were very good in days gone by. There were splendid supplies of oysters—the Red-bank, County Clare, and the Burren oysters, all those oysters from Clare, and in the Kinsale straits, and Galway Bay, Clew Bay, Belmullet, Sligo, were famous. They have all been worked out, and the working out depended on the increase of railways. When the railway facilities came they worked out the beds. The working out of those valuable beds was a very serious thing. We have now undertaken to try and restore these public beds. In some cases we have put on a beach trying to enclose the law, and the result of putting on protection on some of the beds is that we have raised the price of oysters from 3s. 6d. to 8s. a 100, and they have got more for the oysters which they have sold, on account of its being known

that the rim and everything else are watched, then they did before, and they are quite satisfied with the bait looking after them. In other parts we go so far as re-stocking the public beds, and we are now engaged in another big scheme of re-stocking, if we can only get over one or two small difficulties which we have been advised about by the law officers of the Crown, legal difficulties—for we must have control.

3746. Do the oyster fisheries give much employment?—The oyster fisheries in other countries give enormous employment, and we have most suitable waters for oyster culture, practically unlimited, and a pure water supply.

3747. Can you tell us something about your system of instruction in fishing?—The amount of instruction in fishing we can give in the non-congested parts of Ireland is insignificant compared with that which the Congested Districts Board has to do in the West. In fact our east coast fishermen have almost all the knowledge that is necessary regarding sea fishing, and a large number of the instructors who have gone to the west coast to give instruction have been from Arklow on the east coast. The Arklow men are in the habit of going to Shetland, to Fraserburgh, and all over the place, and they know all.

3748. It is really on the west coast that there is the greatest need?—Yes, and particularly in those districts with which the Department does not deal. These are isolated cases where we considered instruction was necessary, and we have put instructors on the boats in those non-congested districts and sent them out fishing; and we look upon it that the only way instruction can be given in fishing is at sea, by putting an expert fisherman from the east coast of Scotland, or some other place where fishing is carried on on a larger scale than it is with us, on board as a member of the crew. The crew and he work together, and they learn all that is necessary in that way. And there is no other way in which you can teach a man how to shoot nets and work the boat crops at sea.

3749. But you say that in the congested districts instruction is carried on to a large extent?—To a very large extent.

3750. Then it comes to this that the Department's work is chiefly in the nature of assistance to an industry rather than instruction in an industry?—It is. We would like to assist the industry in every possible way we can. There are various ways in which that assistance might be given, but I don't know whether that is part of the subject of this Inquiry.

3751. Any new powers or anything of that sort that you say is needed I think it is material for us to know, but I trust you to keep it within limits?—The way in which the fisheries can be developed is by improving the means of communication. Whenever the means of communication have been improved the fisheries have become possible where otherwise they would be impossible. Above all that is of course the improvement in landing facilities—piers or slips, very often small works. We fortunately have a great number of creeks and harbours where fishing can be carried on, and the expenditure need not be very great at any of them. But the autumn mackerel fishing and the herring fishing are the two most valuable fisheries which we have, and in both of those cases a number of small works are more wanted and more useful to the fishermen than any very large work. To build one large work and ignore the small works would be quite wrong. I would like to have in some cases large works carried out, but the small works would enable a greater number of people to take part in the fishing, and we have experience of that in the congested districts, where creeks have been improved when there was no boat engaged in the fishing, and there are now over a dozen boats fishing there, and curing firms have come and established themselves at the place and started drying, and the place has become a market. Little creeks, where there was no business going on before, have been now turned into regular centres of an industry, and that has happened in dozens of places. The facilities for landing the fish and carrying the fish to market are two of the ways in which the fishing can be assisted, and if they cannot go on after this is done, then there is nothing else for it but direct State aid.

3752. You regard the mackerel fishing and the herring fishing as of the first importance?—Yes. There are more people employed in these two sea fisheries than in all the others put together.

3753. Are both in the South?—The mackerel industry is chiefly in the South and West, and the herring in the North and East.

3754. And the salmon fishery?—The salmon fishing is everywhere. I may say the number of men engaged in the sea fisheries is about 25,000, and the number of men engaged in the salmon fisheries is about 14,000.

3755. Can you mention the places where you give instruction in fishing?—There are special instances!—In Portrush and Portlewart we put instructors on board for the purpose of enabling the men to go over to Down's Bay in Donegal, where fishing was going on. They had not been in the habit of working large boats of herring nets or of going from home, and they wanted instruction to manage their nets and also men to act as pilots on an unknown coast. One of the greatest difficulties that we have in developing fishing in Ireland is that fishermen as a rule are very slow to move away from their own homes to distant places. Large boats come to this coast from Scotland and from France, which are often spoken of as examples for them, and it is said that the Irish fishermen ought to have these high-class fishing vessels, but the point I think is rather ignored that these fishing vessels could not exist if these men remained and fished from their homes, or fished from any one place. They can only be maintained by leaving their homes and sailing to different places where fishing is to be had. The Scotchmen who come to the Irish coast go through a regular cycle of fisheries in the year. They come down to Kin-sale and fish from there. Then they go up to fish at Skerroway. Then they go to Shetland, direct sometimes; sometimes they stop on the east coast of Ireland if the fishing is good there, and then go to Shetland, and work down to Fraserburgh and Aberdeen, and go on from there to Yarmouth, making the whole year. When this is done the large fishing boat pays its way, but if a crew on the Irish coast or anywhere else gets a large boat and takes part in the spring mackerel fishing, and lays the boat up for the rest of the year, it is quite certain that the boat cannot pay its way. What we are most anxious to do, and the direction in which instruction is most likely to produce an effect would be if we could get over the prejudice against wandering and get the men to go from fishing to fishing, and that when the mackerel fishing is closing in the South and the herring fishing opening in the North they should sail away and put in a second season's fishing.

3756. (Mr. Micks).—How many boats are instructed from Portlough or Portlewart?—Two or three.

3757. Is there any other place where instruction is given by the Department?—Ballinagar, near Duncannon.

3758. How many boats there?—A fair number. We had only one instructor.

3759. Have you regular instructors?—No; we get them as we want them, but ours is a very small instruction as compared with that given by the Congested Districts Board. Most of these east coast people know their work.

3760. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Is there any opening in Ireland for the useful application of instruction which is given in some parts of England and Scotland in coastal navigation, trying to get the young fishermen to know simple methods of navigation sufficient to take them from point to point of the coast?—I think they should be taught the rudimentary use of charts. It is not necessary to know latitude and longitude, but it is necessary for them to know the use of charts and the use of compass, and how to lay a course, and it ought to be taught. It is very simple to teach it in east-coast schools. Simple navigation ought to be taught in the schools, and it would probably tend to the young chaps wishing to practice it.

3761. (Chairman).—That is not done now?—I don't think it is done—I never heard it being done. I believe it was done at the Pembroke Technical Schools; and I remember at one of the schools a girl got the highest prize.

3762. I was going to ask you whether fishing in Ireland affords, as it does in England or Scotland, considerable employment for women in gutting and salting?—We have to go outside the non-congested districts to talk about this, because this is chiefly going on in the congested districts. The fishing goes on chiefly from the non-congested districts. It is not curing. Oh, I beg pardon, I was thinking of the herring fishing. There is great employment given for women in curing mackerel for the American market. The export to the American market is worth about \$100,000

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a year, in the autumn. I have been speaking of the spring mackerel fishing down in the South getting later and later and of the herring fishery on the north coast showing a hopeful improvement, but I wanted to say that the biggest fishing of all now in the south of Ireland is the autumn mackerel fishing, the product of which is almost altogether cured for the American market, and there are a great number of boys and girls employed in the curing.

3763. In what places?—The mackerel curing for the American market begins at Kinsale, and every available creek right round to Mayo, Glenties, Castle-townshend, Balmora, Valentia, and Dingle are great centres for it; and it is with regard to that that a brand has been urged upon the Department, like there is in Scotland for herring; in this case for mackerel. The object aimed at appears to be to enable the small curer to compete with the large firms, and nowadays we are being asked also, as the herring fishing has developed, to establish a herring brand in the North for Donegal. The late Mr. Leese But brought in a Bill for establishing a brand, and it did not go through. We have been inquiring for the last sixteen years, and I have been all round Scotland to the herring curing places. I had to hold inquiries there; but the result of all our inquiries is that a brand for mackerel could not be established without bounties. There is no use in trying to establish it otherwise. There is one point I omitted when speaking of the work of this Department, and that branding question brought it to my mind. It is that some people have said that the establishment of the Congested Districts Board took a great deal of their work from the Inspectors of Fisheries. There is no work that the Congested Districts Board have to do that was ever part of the work of the Inspectors of Fisheries, and we see responsible for legislation and the enforcement of the fishery laws for the whole of the congested districts as well as for the non-congested.

3764. (Mr. Brown.)—You protect the congested districts as well?—Yes, and all the salmon business, the by-law business which was the duty of the Inspectors of Fisheries also applies there, and if a Government brand were established it would have to be run in the same way for the congested districts as for the non-congested.

3765. (Chairman.)—Those powers were not transferred to the Congested Districts Board?—No; the only matter in which the creation of the Congested Districts Board relieved the Inspectors of Fisheries of a duty was in regard to that portion of the fishery loans which were taken from the Inspectors of Fisheries and administered by the Congested Districts Board. With the Boards of Conservators we have a great deal to do in the salmon fisheries. The Boards of Conservators are primarily responsible for the protection of the salmon fisheries. They issue the licences and receive the funds; but the funds available are quite inadequate for the proper protection of the salmon rivers, and the number of hatcheries that can be put on, and the supervision of the hatcheries is quite microscopic.

3766. (Mr. Micks.)—Can you tell me a little about the eel fisheries?—They are worth in Ireland a very large sum of money—about £26,000 a year; and they have been largely ignored in fishery legislation. The law on the subject of eels is very obscure.

3767. Something like the habits of the eel?—We are beginning to find out about the habits of the eel and the breeding of the eel, but we cannot get through the law so easily. The great eel fishing rivers are the Barne, including Lough Neagh. The second place where there is good eel fishing is the Shannon. The large lakes produce a great quantity of eels. Lough Derg and Lough Ree produce quantities of eels. The law requires revision about the eel fisheries.

3768. Is there any legislation except as regards fixed weirs?—There is the case of fry and in regard to fixed weirs.

3769. As regards the general receipts and expenditure of the Fishery Branch of the Department, I drafted a couple of returns that I think will give me all the information that I now want. They are returns, I think, that can be easily filled up and will save the trouble of asking questions (preferable returns). It is a return of expenditure under fishery heads?—The salaries of inspectors, scientific head, clerical staff—yes, we can easily give all that. (Appendix No. XXV.)

3770. (Chairman.)—There is one question that I omitted to ask. We observe in the representations

that have been made to the Committee by local bodies who have been invited to send in observations that a great many opinions have been expressed in favour of the separation of the Fishery Branch from the Department and the creation of a separate Board for Fisheries founded on the model of the Scotch Board?—I think there is a good deal of confusion of thought on the subject. I have, of course, seen it mentioned constantly. It has been said we ought to be reconstituted on the Scotch system, but the Scotch Fishery Board is appointed altogether by the Crown, and we think that the Department here with its elected Boards is more in consonance with Irish ideas than a Department of that character. Another thing is that in Ireland, as I pointed out before, we have an important salmon fishery element that is not taken cognizance of in the Scotch Fishery Board, because there the salmon fisheries are all proprietary and the by-laws and everything else are made by the proprietors in Scotland under the sanction of the Secretary for Scotland. With regard to separation from the Agricultural Board, we have no fault to find with the treatment we have got under the Agricultural Board. We find that they are most reasonable and capable of understanding questions submitted to them. If we had a Board elected by persons interested in fisheries it might become a source of great difficulty to us, because some of these gentlemen would undoubtedly be interested in the very questions which it would be our duty to investigate at public inquiries judicially, and if we are able to do the work, then we think we are in a safer position, and third we can do it more disinterestedly than we could under a Fishery Board. There are points as to which we want the advice of the fishery people, and we have in the Department an Advisory Fisheries Committee. These are persons who have been appointed to form the Committee by the Department, and we have put on the people that we think the most capable of giving us advice. We have only asked them to come together very rarely, because our work is chiefly administrative, but where an Act of Parliament is sent to us for our observations or whether legislation is desirable, or where we have planned legislation, we have called them together to help us, and we can always do that, and we are always ready to take any suggestion that is sent to us from any person interested in the fisheries into consideration. All these matters come to us, and any member of the Agricultural Board can make suggestions to us.

3771. It would require to have quite a different constitution. Your evidence has shown sufficiently that your administration is closely connected with the general scheme applied to agriculture and technical instruction, and so on. You are brought in touch with the Agricultural Board in various parts of Ireland, and if you had a new constitution it would upset all that?—Certainly it would upset all that. We have no objection whatever. We find the thing works satisfactorily. All that we can think of that we want for the inland fisheries is more money, and if we are to go ahead with the sea fisheries we also want more money; and we want a certainty of money for the inland fisheries to know how to plan schemes with a view to continuity.

3772. (Mr. O'Brien.)—If the comparison is with the Scotch system, is it not of some importance to remember that your judicial functions are peculiar here. In the Scotch system, with a separate Board of Fisheries, there are no similar powers of a judicial kind, at least no such powers of a judicial kind as are vested in you here?—No, there are not.

3773. (Mr. Brown.)—I understand that in England the Fisheries are connected with the Board of Agriculture?—Yes, in England the Fisheries are connected with the Board of Agriculture. That has been done quite recently, and I might also say that the American Fisheries, which for about thirty years formed a separate Board, have been comprised under the Government Department of Commerce and Labor within the last two years.

3774. Prior to your connection with the Department, you were, in point of fact, practically constituted a separate Department?—We were.

3775. And you have had control of the present arrangements?—We have had control under the present arrangements.

3776. Has the connection with the Department been helpful or otherwise?—We find it helpful.

3777. (Chairman).—You have been nominated by the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction to give evidence here. It is the Cork Committee you represent—I came from Cork, but I am a member of the Board of Technical Instruction, to which I was appointed by the Department. I succeeded Mr. Ludlow Beaudish, who was the original nominee of the Department about two years ago.

3778. Will you kindly take first the question of the relations between the Department and the Board of Technical Instruction?—The relations I consider highly satisfactory. The schemes are put before the Board by the Department, and they are fully discussed by the Board and the Department, and its efforts seem anxious always to give us the fullest information. On any occasion, when necessary, there are very long explanations entered into. From my experience up to the present I am inclined to think that the Board has sufficient powers for its limited functions and duties. Of course its duties are quite different from those of a board of guardians or a harbour board, or a corporation, and its constitution—considering that its members are collected together from the four provinces—as such that it could not be expected to meet very often; and consequently I think that things are better as they are, that the statutory, as a rule, should come from the experts of the Department. On the other hand, the Board have exercised a very wide and useful control, and whenever a member of the Board wishes to modify a scheme or make any suggestion the Department is always willing to meet him most fully.

3779. Would you agree with what some witnesses have told us—that although there is no formal power of initiative in the Board, any member of the Board, who really wishes to bring a matter forward, can do so and have the points considered?—That is so, and they are always met with the greatest courtesy by the Department whenever they wish to do so. I think, too, that it is possible that at some future time the Board may be more able to initiate schemes than at present, because when technical education has been working in the country for a considerable time the representatives coming from various districts will have had an opportunity of judging of the success, or otherwise, of the various schemes in the district, and they will know more about technical education. They will have a more practical knowledge of it, I hope, in the future than they have at present. At present I think the practical knowledge is greater among the experts of the Department.

3780. Some of the witnesses expressed an opinion in favour of the exercise of a veto by the Board; that they might be enabled to exercise a veto upon appointments made by the Department. What would you say about that?—I think, as a whole, the appointments are just as likely to be well made if in the hands of the Department, and are less likely to be influenced by local considerations. Again, I am strongly of opinion that the objection people have in some districts to what they call the importation of foreigners is a mistaken view. I think it is a narrow view and an ill-gotten view, because our complaint in Ireland is that we are specially deficient in technical education, as a nation. How are we then to get from our own nation experts of special knowledge?—There is a case, I think, that bears on the point that made a lasting impression on my mind. I doubt if it would have been possible to establish the great tweed industry in the South of Ireland if Scotch managers and Scotchmen had not been imported. They brought in the technical knowledge. They found the natives very apt scholars. By importing Scotch foremen and Scotch experts, there was a substantial distinction in the importation of Scotch tweeds.

3781. Is that a large industry in the South?—It is a very large industry.

3782. Are there many centres where it is carried on?—Yes; Blarney, Douglas, where there are McHugh's and O'Brien's factories. McHugh's were started 25 years ago.

3783. (Mr. Brown).—I believe they export considerable quantities?—They do; a very large quantity, to England, America, and Scotland. Blarney commenced making tweeds about 25 or 30 years ago, but that factory had been making yarn long before that.

3784. (Chairman).—When did this importation of Scotchmen take place?—About 40 years ago it began.

3785. You give that as an illustration of the establishment of a new trade by bringing in persons who have learned and practised it in other countries?—Yes; and I think if it is true of a factory it ought to be true of the national education for the same reason.

3786. You are giving that as an instance of the danger of establishing the principle that you should confine the teaching and the expert element you want in some industries to your own country?—Yes.

3787. The very fact of your not having it in your own country is the reason for getting it elsewhere?—Yes. I think by introducing technical knowledge by a few foreigners and disseminating it you enable a large number of Irishmen to live at home, which they could not do if they had not got the knowledge.

3788. You think the experiment the Department has made in that way has been justified by results?—That is my own view.

3789. I believe you wish to say something about the butter market?—I was a trader of the Cork Butter Market. I was chairman of it for 19 years. In that capacity I had special opportunity of witnessing the benefits and the far-reaching results produced by technical instruction in the making of butter at the Munster Dairy School. This school was established a considerable number of years ago, and I formed the opinion many years since that the money expended on it produced something like a hundredfold that amount in the improvement of the staple industry of the province of Munster. There was £1,000,000 sterling worth of butter passing through the Cork Market at one time, and after the technical instruction was begun in butter-making the improvement in the quality of the butter was something extraordinary. The school is now in the hands of the Department, and it has been very much enlarged by them, and the number of pupils has greatly increased.

3790. Still, it had got its increase before I—I had been a success before. The idea originated with Dr. Sullivan, who was then President of the Cork Queen's College, and had a very great knowledge of technical instruction. He had lived on the Continent for a long time. I doubt if there was any other industry in which such sudden and striking results could be produced as in butter-making, because the industry had gone on in the province, and was bound to go on; whether it went on well or badly, it would go on in the future as in the past, and by the aid of the school new and scientific methods were grafted on to the ancient rule of thumb system, and the results were very striking and sudden.

3791. Was that the action of the Department?—No. It was originally the action of the Munster Dairy School. The idea originated with Dr. Sullivan, and was taken up and warmly supported by men of great public spirit in the district. It is now in the hands of the Department and working on a larger scale.

3792. I suppose we shall hear a great deal about this when we go down to Cork?—You will hear the agricultural side of the question.

3793. Is the output very large?—The butter-making industry is enormous in the province of Munster, but it has changed its character. There is less done in the farm dairies than formerly, and more done in the creameries; but there is still an immense amount done in the farm dairies.

3794. (Mr. Muck).—The improvement in butter is in connection with farm dairies?—Some of it. In the Munster School they teach how to make better creameries and also in the dairies.

3795. (Chairman).—How do you distinguish between creameries and dairies?—That is a question that is under discussion at present, as to the exact definition; but the creameries are generally large co-operative institutions, where a large amount of cream is brought together and separated by machinery, and the butter is made up. At present the hand separator is being largely adopted by the farmers, and is taught at the dairy schools.

3796. Cork is the great market for that?—Yes; it is a very good centre. The technical instruction school is going on in Cork, and increasing in the number of its pupils; but I don't think it is so easy a matter to produce immediate and startling results in the majority of technical and industrial subjects as it is in the case I mentioned of butter making. If it takes seven years to train a tradesman it must take a very long time to

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train a nation in industries. Therefore, I think it is specially uphill work to develop industries in a country like Ireland, where the population is going down; so I think allowance must be made for the fact that results are not magically rapid.

3597. Do you think the numbers of people availing themselves of technical instruction and benefiting by it are increasing?—Yes; I think that the number is increasing, and the percentage attendance of the people is also increasing, which is a very important factor.

3598. What are the particular branches of technical instruction which are most taught in Cork?—There are a great number of them; but I think you will get more thorough information on that subject from some of the other witnesses. I would be anticipating there. I wish to say that I think the Department and its officers impress people as being very whole-hearted in their work. They seem to be very keen and enthusiastic about their work, and this has created a very good impression on the majority of people.

3599. Are there any other institutions in Cork besides the Munster Institution in which they are doing this sort of work?—That was the first, and, I think, the greatest of them all. There are new institutions being founded by the Department. There is an agricultural school at Glencolmilly, but you heard about that from the Bishop of Ross.

3600. (Mr. Brown).—There is also itinerant instruction in butter-making?—Yes; I went round to some instructions myself to see the itinerant instructor at work. It is some years ago.

3601. You are aware that they have been gradually at work for the last four or five years?—Yes.

3602. That has extended the effect of that branch of instruction very much?—Oh, very much; and it had its effect in another way. A good many years ago, now, when a dairymaid went home from the Munster Dairy School all the neighbours used to flock in to see her at work, and in that way the effects were very good. Instruction extended itself automatically.

3603. It was not only the person who actually attended the school, but her neighbours who benefited?—All her neighbours benefited.

3604. Do you think it has, as a matter of fact, extended into the small farms?—Yes; to a very great extent.

3605. And penetrated down to a poorer class of tenants?—Yes. One thing which helped it is that at one period the price of bad butter fell to a very low point, and that had a beneficial effect, as they all tried to mend their hands, but could not do so unless the necessary technical instruction was available.

3606. I suppose the important thing about a better market is that the butter should have a regularity of quality?—Yes. In the markets the butter is classified. The uniformity has told against the market. A greater degree of uniformity is possible with creameries and factories than was practicable when the supply of butter in fairs is furnished by farmers all over the province. Some equally good butter might have more salt in it, and might differ in colouring, and those things affect the buyers.

3607. Creameries can remedy that?—They can make it all the same exactly.

3608. (Mr. O'Leary).—Do you say the uniformity has told in favour of the trade?—Well, perhaps, in favour of the trade, but against the Cork Butter Market. The Cork Butter Market dealt chiefly with the farmers' butter.

(Mr. Brown).—The creameries are able to market their own butter.

3609. (Mr. O'Leary).—It has worked against the Cork Butter Market as an institution, but in favour of butter-making and butter export over the coast?—It was a necessity, when other nations went in for the creamery system, and the uniformity which came with it, and the factory system, it was necessary for Ireland to do that also; but now they have established a new department, known as the lump butter department; and in that butter is brought in by the farmers, and sold in an unfinished state. It is bought by the merchants, who blend it, and fill it in packages themselves, keeping it of a uniform colouring, and selling and grading.

3610. (Mr. Dryden).—The old Canadian system?—Yes, and the Normandy system.

3611. A very poor system?—It is not the best system perhaps.

3612. (Chairman).—I suppose the fact that it operated to the detriment of the butter market created some opposition to the creamery system among the

butter merchants?—It may have, but there is not very much opposition. I think they generally recognised that it was inevitable. There was a great deal of difference of opinion as to the advantages of creameries. Some maintained that it was not so good for the cattle and for the calves, that the calves that were reared upon the buttermilk were better than those reared on the milk that came back from the creameries.

3613. All the good must have been taken out of it by the separation?—Yes, and it was not so fresh, and it was mixed up with all the other milk, but when the milk is handled in hand separators and the milk given fresh to the calves the result is better.

3614. It has really operated in two ways, this improvement in butter-making. It has produced small farms and also established this great industry on a firmer basis?—Yes.

3615. (Mr. Dryden).—I suppose a farmer would get a better price for good butter than he would get for inferior butter?—Yes, he will get a very much better price.

3616. So the loss to trade, if there was a loss, was a gain to the farmer?—In the case you speak of there was no loss. The butter still continued to come to the market, but instead of being second or third quality it was first quality.

3617. (Mr. O'Leary).—It was not manipulated in the market in those days?—No, but now there is a new demand in the market where the butter is sent in in an unfinished condition and bought, and manipulated after it passes through the market.

3618. (Mr. Brown).—How do you mean unfinished?—The buttermilk is only just washed out of it. Then the factories wash it again and salt it.

3619. (Mr. O'Leary).—In fact it is a development of a new division of labour, the preliminary stage being done on the ground so that the farmer has to bring to market not the milk or the cream, but the butter just made?—Yes.

3620. Then the finishing stages are done economically, and perhaps better, by people who devote attention to it, and perhaps use better appliances?—Yes, but the great gain is the uniformity in the product. In fairs passing through the market from 100 different dairies there will be a difference in quality and selling favour and size of the package, whereas a merchant in England would look to buy 100 firms of identical colour, salting, and size.

3621. This stands alongside the creamery system where the creameries are carrying out the whole operation themselves?—Yes. Now there is a new division in the market for creamery butter, but it has not caught on to any great extent yet. They prefer marketing it themselves.

3622. (Mr. Dryden).—How do they deliver that butter freshly made?—It is sent in packets and boxes very quickly. It will be made overnight, or perhaps early in the morning, and sent in and sold that day and manipulated at once. The people who deal in that class of butter have the staff ready to test it immediately, and if a large quantity comes in they will stay up late at night to have it finished. It is a system that was absolutely impossible before we had the railway.

3623. (Chairman).—I suppose there is a fair amount of custom through the parcel post?—No. It is done on a larger scale than that.

3624. (Mr. O'Leary).—The improvement to which you referred as following on the establishment and work of the Munster school was, of course, an improvement before the passing of this Act, which you have referred to as an illustration of the benefits that may be derived by such work?—It was an object lesson in the enormous advantages possible from technical instruction even before the Act came into operation.

3625. Can you say whether the action of the Department and the direct encouragement they have given the creameries, and the instruction that they have been the means of fostering in newer methods of manufacturing in this particular department has operated similarly, and at least kept up the improvement in the trade?—Well, the Department and the dairy school gave instruction in the creamery system, and also in the dairymaking system, because there is a great deal of difference of opinion among traders in Munster as to which system is the better

and will survive in the long run. It is quite clear you cannot have creameries in parts of the province; in the mountain districts and portions of the land which have become depopulated it is impossible to have a creamery system, and the other system must perforce survive, and therefore the Department encourages teaching in all classes.

3832. In your opinion the work the Department has been doing in extending into the creamery region, as to speak, without letting go any hold on teaching in the dairy region will probably have equally satisfactory results to those which you describe in the case of the Munster School?—Undoubtedly they will improve the creamery butter as well as the farmer's butter, but there it, I say, a considerable difference of opinion as to which system will survive. The teaching of the Department has undoubtedly effected a great improvement in both.

3833. There are in Cork a great many trades and businesses that are characteristic of what is a provincial capital. Let us take one, say house-painting and decorating. Let us take that simply as a typical case of a specialised trade which we find in its best development in central towns—do you know anything as to the steps the Department have been taking so as to encourage an improvement in the training of apprentices in such a trade?—I have no special knowledge in that respect. I am not a member of the local Board.

3834. In the schemes that have come before you as a member of the Technical Instruction Board have you formed any opinion as to the case that should be taken to adapt the specific schemes to the requirements of each locality for the time being?—Yes. I think that they are always willing to fall in with the views of the locality.

3835. Having conferred with the locality as to the sort of instruction that was likely to benefit somebody in the locality, the Department, as a rule, fell in with it?—Yes.

3836. When they did not fall in with it what happened?—I am not on the Technical Board in Cork.

3837. No, but the Technical Instruction Board here. Say the Galway Committee did not quite agree with the Department as to what was best for Galway, then the matter would come up for discussion at the Technical Instruction Board. Suppose the Department and Galway had not come to an agreement when the scheme for Galway came up to be discussed at the Board, the Board would be informed of the points of difference?—Yes, but the Board would not be the parties to adjust the difference. The difference would be adjusted before the matter would be finally adopted before the Board.

3838. The difference would be adjusted in the end, probably between the Department and the town?—Exactly.

3839. But any difference that there had been, if it was of a serious character, would, no doubt, come within the cognisance of the Board?—Yes, we would know there had been some friction between the two. I am on the Board only three years, and there has not been much friction of that character, except that things are not settled down in Dublin exactly.

3840. Apart from that which is still apparently a difficulty to some extent, you have not had any reason to be particularly struck with outstanding cases?—No, by no means, and it would be rather difficult for our Board to deal vigorously with them. The settlement would be more likely to occur between the Department and the local Board.

3841. In fact, you don't think it would be a good thing that it was in the end left to the Board to settle up differences of that kind. You would think it would be healthier to settle it themselves?—I think they would settle it themselves.

3842. (Mr. Brown).—When you refer to schemes I presume you mean the schemes adopted by the local bodies in Ireland which come up for consideration?—Yes.

3843. These schemes having been initiated by these local bodies?—Yes.

3844. It would be a great interference with these local bodies if the Board itself were to initiate the scheme. Would you not, yourself, as a member of the local body, regard it as an interference?—I suppose I should.

3845. The initiative is with them, and the sanction is with the Board?—The initiative is, I fancy, between them and the experts.

3846. They may have the benefit of the advice of the experts, but they need not follow that advice if they don't like?—No.

3847. But, as a matter of fact, they usually follow the advice of the expert of the Department?—Yes.

3848. But they are in no way bound to do so: at all events you cannot see any advantage in the Board itself initiating these schemes which at present come up before them, having been initiated by the local bodies themselves?—No, I don't see any advantage in it. I don't think the Board, constituted as it is, and meeting so seldom—which is as much as could be expected from a Board coming from all parts of the country—I don't think they would be the right persons from whom the initiative should come.

3849. As a member of a local body, I may tell you we would very much resent such interference?—Yes, I am not surprised.

3850. Has the quantity of butter passing through the market increased or diminished?—It has diminished considerably since the creamery system was established.

3851. But the quality has improved?—The quality of the butter made in Munster has largely improved.

The Committee adjourned.

June 9, 1904.

Mr. G. J.
Dwyer, J.P.

FOURTEENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—MONDAY, JUNE 25TH, 1906.

At 18, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KENNETH DIGBY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. FRANCES GRANT OGILVIE.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MILES.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Dr. W. J. M. STARKIE CHAIRMAN.

June 25, 1906.

Dr. W. J. M.
Starkie.

3043. (Chairman).—Dr. Starkie, you are one of the Commissioners of National Education?—I am Resident Commissioner of the National Education Board.

3046. And also I think you are a member of the Committee on Education which is constituted under the Department's Act of 1899?—Yes.

3047. Now, I think you had already submitted to you by the Secretary a note of some of the questions which have been raised in the course of the present inquiry, and you have been asked to come here and to state in reference to these points and any others that might arise, your views. The first point is the statement which has been made to the effect that the present system of education in National Schools is not of a sufficiently high standard, and does not enable children to take full advantage of the instruction given by technical and agricultural instructors; that when they come to give children technical instruction it is found they have a good deal of work to do over again which ought to have been done at an earlier stage?—With regard to that charge—

3048. I don't call it a charge, a statement?—I don't say that you make it a charge, but it has been a charge that has been often levelled at our Department. I might say I have always found some difficulty in understanding exactly what it meant, if it is intended to be a charge against the Irish Department, as distinguished from others. In other countries, talking to inspectors, I have found that they make exactly the same complaint. In England and Scotland it is a very general complaint among those connected with the Technical Schools that the boys and girls entering from the primary schools are insufficiently educated. They don't, however, blame the Education Department, but say that the children leave school too early and forget between the ages of twelve and fifteen what they have learned. I believe that in urban centres in Ireland the same explanation holds. Children leave school in the 5th standard at eleven or twelve years of age, and go into factories. A couple of years afterwards it occurs to them that they would like to better their condition in life, and they enter a technical school with a view to doing so, and then it is found that what they learned in National schools they have already forgotten. This seems quite natural; but, unfortunately, such an explanation does not solve the whole difficulty. I, on my part, am perfectly willing to admit that the education given in primary schools is not high enough: most educational departments would say the same thing, but I can say it of my own Department in Ireland with the full conviction that it is true. There are many causes militating against the success of primary education in Ireland which I don't know it is necessary to go into, but I might mention a few of them. The first is that the primary schools in Ireland are solely primary, that is to say, that up to the present there does not exist what is called in England and Scotland a higher primary type. Anyone who has inspected the Scotch schools, as I have done, knows that in recent years a large number of what are called higher primary schools have come into existence. I visited a very excellent one in Edinburgh. It is selected by being in 7th and 8th standards of the ordinary primary school, and when it grows to a certain size, it is separated from the primary school. When I was in Edinburgh last, I think it was about to be

located in a new building as a higher primary school quite separated from the primary school. I found that the children in that school had been transferred from the ordinary primary school. They did not pass through the whole of the primary school; they left it, I think, at twelve, which, no doubt, is the right age, and they entered upon a higher course of instruction: some of them were learning French and some Latin; but at any rate, the fact was that they remained at school until they were sixteen, and it is very easy to understand that children who have gone through a continuous course at school from three until sixteen are better fitted to enter a technical school than if they had left school at twelve and wandered about the streets for two or three years. I have always considered that a higher primary system is one of the most pressing needs in Ireland. We have been urging it upon the Government unsuccessfully for many years ourselves, as we passed a resolution in 1902 in favour of a higher primary system. In the Report for 1903—I don't know whether this Commission have got our reports—

3049. We have not got the 1903 Report?—In the 79th Report we go fully into this question of higher primary education. There is one paragraph I might quote; it really touches the question I am discussing:—

"It has been the subject of comment for some time past that the work of the technical schools which have been opened throughout the country has been impaired, because the pupils, who come mainly from the national schools, have not received such an education as would immediately fit them for taking full advantage of the curriculum of the technical schools. The Right Honourable Sir Horace Plunkett has on many occasions complained publicly that the greatest impediment to the success of his efforts in establishing technical schools, on a sound and permanently successful footing has been the defective primary education of the people. The Municipal Technical Institute of Belfast brought under our notice on two occasions in the year 1903 the disadvantages arising from the absence from the courses of instruction provided by the Board, of adequate provision for instruction in Art, Elementary Physics, Chemistry, &c., and recommended how impossible it was for that Institute to produce satisfactory results on account of the inefficient training of the pupils that enter its classes from the National Schools."

3050. What is your general answer to that paragraph which seems to imply that there are certain things not taught in National Schools, which might be taught there?—It is not so much that the subjects are not taught as that they are not carried far enough.

3051. There is a limit to the extent to which you can carry them in National primary schools. N.B. I suppose, one of the great problems of education how far you can carry them?—Yes; if you are dealing with children only up to 15, it is perfectly clear you cannot give them a very sound knowledge of science; you can only give them the mere groundwork, teach them the methods of thought that are valuable in science, train their intellects to be fitted to acquire scientific knowledge.

3052. Some of the witnesses put it in rather a different way; they complain of the small percentage of children who, as compared with England or Scotland, come to the National Schools at all?—I could give

fifteen or twenty reasons why primary education is not satisfactory in Ireland. No doubt, the irregularity of attendance is a very important one. The attendance is better in Ireland this year than ever it was before, 67 per cent, but in England and Scotland, I believe, at present it is 86 per cent., that is a great difference. In certain parts of the country the attendance is very good. For instance, in Dublin, Belfast, and other urban centres such as Carlow, the attendance is fair enough, but I have found places in Donegal, Mayo, and Galway where the attendance is not over 40 per cent.

3853. And, therefore, there are a large number of children not equipped with even the rudiments?—Certainly; I constantly find in inspecting National Schools, especially in backward localities, that there are children who don't go to school until eight or nine, and in the third standards there are many boys and girls of thirteen years of age.

3854. (Mr. Dryden).—Is there no law dealing with it?—There is a compulsory law, but it is not universal. In the urban centres the law has been taken up, but in many rural places it is not operative. There has been very strong opposition in many places, and even where the compulsory law is in force, my experience is that it has often had very little effect on the attendance. In some places it has lowered it. The magistrates frequently don't convict, the fines are quite insignificant, and the parents prefer to pay the fine. I hear they say they can pay it out of the children's wages.

3855. (Chairman).—That is a general question, rather out of our sphere. What we are concerned with mainly is this—we are asked to report upon the position of the Department with regard to other Departments, especially those charged with educational functions. It is with the relations between the Department of Agriculture and the Commissioners of National Education that we are concerned rather than with any difficulties in the general system. Now, it has been suggested that arrangements should be made between the National Board and the Department by which means and equipment provided by Technical Instruction Committee should be utilised for the systematic and compulsory teaching of children in the upper standards of National Schools in which such subjects as manual instruction, woodwork, drawing, cookery and laundry work should be taught. What have you to say to that?—We have been in very close relations with the Department since it was established, and the Consultative Committee recommended some years ago that technical schools should be used for the instruction of children attending National Schools, and we applied—I think it was in 1903 or 1905—to the Treasury, and asked them to allow us to give a maximum fee of 5s. in the case of children going to the technical classes in cookery, laundry, woodwork and ironwork, but it met with the usual fate, —it was refused. Quite recently we made arrangements with the Department that wherever they have a central Technical School the National School children should be allowed to go to it, and we have made provision that the number of hours they spend at the technical schools should count as part of the attendance at the National School; in addition to that, we have provided that in the National Schools cookery and domestic economy should also be taught wherever the central classes are not available. It is perfectly clear that the Department cannot cover the whole country; they cannot provide for the teaching of cookery in rural places to any great extent, but in urban centres the rooms in the Technical Schools would be available. As to compulsory attendance there, I don't think it would be possible. The teachers of National schools are not very much in favour of their children's leaving the school during school hours. They say it disturbs the order and discipline, and throws the three-table out of gear. They prefer to have the teaching done within the four walls of their own school. So the arrangement now is quite an optional one. The Treasury allow a 5/- fee in the case of cookery or laundry, and we have our staff of ten organisers and a secretary who instruct the National Teachers throughout the country in cookery and laundry. Of course, the teachers are also taught these subjects in the Training Colleges, and they take them up, or will take them up, in their own schools. Since 1900 cookery has been a compulsory subject in National Schools, whenever the teacher is trained, but compulsion over here means something quite different from what it means in other countries. Although cookery was compulsory, it was taken up in only a few hundred

schools on account of the difficulty of providing equipment. In Ireland one of the great difficulties in the way of developing education is the lack of local aid. We used to send down lists of materials for cookery to the schools, the materials costing 12/6, but it was represented to us in many cases by the teachers that it was quite impossible to raise so much money; and for that reason, although we have trained over 2,000 teachers in cookery, it was taken up in only a very small percentage of schools.

3856. Then any instruction given in the matter at present is given by teachers in schools?—Certainly. I think in this way the teaching is much more likely to be successful.

3857. The other arrangement more or less broke down?—Yes.

3858. And you then entrusted it to the teachers themselves?—No. It was our original idea. We have explained that in our 70th Report. In November, 1901, we made proposals to the Government for the establishment of centres for the instruction of children in the highest standards of national schools in cookery, laundry and other subjects requiring special appliances or equipments, and for the payment of suitable instructors, etc. These proposals were not entertained, and as no funds were available from which grants for equipment could be made, we handed over the control of these branches to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, in accordance with the advice of the Consultative Committee. There were, as we said in the Report, many objections to this arrangement, but we had no alternative. Since then the Treasury have given us a fee of 5/-.

3859. (Mr. Sweet).—5/- per head?—Per head for the children taking up the subject for a certain time in each year.

3860. To enable the equipment to be provided?—Yes, mainly; we shall not ask how the money is spent but material costs something, materials cost something; if there is anything over, the teacher can put it in his pocket.

3861. (Chairman).—Since this new arrangement do you think things have improved?—The new system begins on the first July; we are paying a fee for whatever was done during the past year, mostly in convent schools. I am glad to say nearly all convent schools have taught cookery. This is a very important fact, as they have on the rolls of attendance over 100,000 children. As to the smaller schools, we are anxious to encourage the teaching of this essential subject in them as far as possible.

3862. Is there any indication that it is becoming more generally appreciated?—Our experience is that there are many subjects the parents don't take an interest in; they often say singing is no use, they cannot get any money out of it. They object to drawing; they ask what is the use of drawing. In the case of drill they have been known to say, "You want to turn us into soldiers," but cookery they all appreciate; I think it is a subject that all understand the value of.

3863. I think you have dealt practically with the third head, the teaching of domestic economy in National Schools?—Domestic economy apart from cookery, that is the theoretical part, is compulsory now in every mixed school—in every school taught by women where there are two teachers. Perhaps I might hand in the programme.

3864. Yes, it is a very important question?—I will hand in the most recent programme, the programme for instruction in National Schools for the school year beginning the 1st July; on page 16 there is a very full course in domestic economy, and we are just publishing what are called notes for teachers in connection with the programme, which contain a very full syllabus on domestic economy and hygiene; these are quite new.

3865. That is a new departure?—Well, domestic science has been in our programme for a very long time, but it has not been taken up. To discuss the reasons why such subjects have been neglected would necessitate an explanation of the causes of the unsatisfactory state of primary education in Ireland. One of the chief reasons is the size of the schools; where you have one teacher trying to teach children from three to fifteen it is impossible to teach much more than the "three R's."

3866. (Mr. Mills).—And perhaps a sixth?—Perhaps a male; they have the extraordinary idea in this country that male teachers are the proper teachers of

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male infants; that you "fermalise" the race if you put a boy of three in charge of anybody but a man. They really maintained that last year all over the country; and yet there are no sights more ridiculous in the world than that of a grown man teaching infants. The girls' schools are in many cases infinitely better than the boys' schools, because the boys are invariably deficient in mental discipline, having been deprived of suitable training in their early years.

3857. Does this programme apply where there is more than one teacher?—Yes; we cannot get much beyond the three Rs into a one-teacher school, and perhaps a little singing, drill, and drawing. In Ireland there are 5,500 of one-teacher schools out of 5,500; that is the crying evil. In Scotland, where the population is larger, there are only 3,500 primary schools.

3858. (Mr. Brown).—Are these schools under the National Board?—Certainly, exclusive of the Christian Brothers' Schools, which are generally much larger. About thirty years ago the National Board embarked on an extraordinary career of extravagance in multiplying their schools while the population was going down from six millions to 4,500,000; they have increased their schools by 3,000 in the last thirty years.

3859. (Mr. Ophio).—I think you said the total number of schools in Scotland of all kinds was 3,500, as compared with 8,500 in Ireland?—Yes.

3870. (Chairman).—In your two-teacher schools do you rely upon the teaching of domestic economy?—Yes, if there is a woman teacher. The question I wish to put is this—What can one do with a country where 5,500 out of 8,500 are schools where no efficient teaching can be done outside the lowest rudiments? and still I am told by people who call themselves authorities on primary teaching that the best type of school is a school with an attendance of 24 to 30 pupils.

3871. Do you think any useful agricultural or horticultural teaching can be given in primary schools?—I must say that our experience in the National Board has not been a very inspiring one. We have had agricultural model schools under the Commissioners' control, agricultural schools under local control, agricultural classes, school farms, and school gardens ever since 1877. This system of teaching agriculture, I believe, was recommended by the Devon Commission, and a very great deal of money was spent by the National Board upon it, but the results achieved were extremely small, and the Treasury set their face against such expenditure; in fact, killed it. They insisted from 1880 down that all these places should be suppressed, and in the end, in 1893, nothing was left except school farms and school gardens. The school farms were a complete failure. I was very glad indeed that they were suppressed. They were sometimes up to 70 acres, and the children were taken out on certain days to dig and plant, and our experience was that they learned extremely little. They learned to work mechanically without grasping any of the principles of agriculture or any of the sciences underlying it. The same thing might be said, but to a less degree, about the school gardens. Indeed they might be said to have been fairly successful. The children were taken out of school into these very small plots and taught to plant flowers and work of that kind, but all the same they were, as a rule, quite ignorant of the reasons for anything they did, any of the sciences underlying it, and the consequence was that in 1893 the Commission on Manual and Technical Instruction condemned the whole system. I suppose you have seen their Report. The passages on agricultural instruction are extremely caustic. When the Department of Agriculture was founded the teaching of Agriculture was handed over to them. We confined ourselves to endeavouring to encourage the teaching of the science underlying agriculture in the schools. For instance, we said:—"In most rural schools"—this is in the Appendix to the Report for 1903—"the programme provides alternative courses in object lessons and elementary science, but in most of the rural National Schools it would be desirable that courses embracing the principles of horticulture and agriculture should be adopted." On page 22 the Commissioners think it necessary to remark that by the courses in elementary science they do not wish to train electricians, agriculturists, &c.; but they wish to give all pupils useful instruction, and the possible future electrician or agriculturist such a knowledge of the great natural principles underlying

his profession as will enable him to pursue it with success in after life. The great end teachers should endeavour to secure in connection with elementary science is to produce the scientific habit of mind, and to impress the leading scientific principles upon the nascent intelligence by observation, and simple experiment on the part of the pupils, and by plain expository and practical illustration on the part of the teacher. As a help to instruction in Science II, "every school should, whenever possible, have a small plot of ground as a garden." If this is not feasible, garden boxes should be placed in the windows, and be planted with the simplest flowers, which could be used for illustrating the lessons. The gardens and boxes would, moreover, make the schools more cheerful and attractive to the children, and would aid largely in the development of artistic taste and a love of Nature. In the present programme we have gone a good deal further. We have actually a course in the principles underlying agriculture, plant life; it is a course for object lessons and also in connection with elementary science. We say that in rural schools a certain time should be given every week to observing the phenomena of the weather and facts connected with plant life. I don't think in National Schools we can go further than that: a National School is not a place to teach agriculture.

3872. You run the risk of making them go up the back-book by heart?—We had no bitter experience of that. Before 1903, when we were under the abominable system of results, we had a text-book in agriculture, and examinations were passed in it. There were large fees paid—4/- or 5/- a head—and the little boys in the Belfast streets were better able to answer on the text-book than anybody.

3873. What you want to do with a boy of that age is to give him certain facts rather than an amount of knowledge packed away in his mind?—Everything depends on the teacher. If the teacher takes an interest in plant life he can make his lessons interesting. I have heard extremely good lessons by lady teachers who brought plants into the school. The children seemed very wide awake and keenly interested in them. But what I find in many rural schools is that the teacher does not know the difference between one plant and another. People call every tree a hick in some parts of the country. The teachers whose minds have been trained on a system of making up the heights of mountains and lengths of rivers are not very good teachers of object lessons, which require a great deal of intelligence. If the local authorities, the managers of schools, take an interest in this subject, they can get it taken up in the schools in a way that we cannot. The only way in which we can encourage it is by giving a fee, and the moment you give a fee unsuitable people will try to get it; but if the local manager took an interest in the subject, and encouraged his teacher to take it up, a great deal could be done, and in many places a great deal is done by managers who take an interest in gardening. The Agricultural Committee, I think, might make a small grant to the schools that have plots. It is very easy for us to ask the Treasury for a 3/- or 4/- grant; in fact, Mr. Dale, in his Report, suggests that, but I have pointed out the danger of giving fees.

3874. With regard to the co-ordination of primary and secondary education and the work of the Consultative Committee set up by the Act of 1899, we have had a number of suggestions made that little has been done by that Committee. It is stated that the Committee have not been called together very often, and that its action has not been attended with very great results?—I may say at once that I don't believe that there will ever be proper co-ordination in this country until there is one educational authority. I have stated already, in the address I wrote on this subject for the British Association, which I might hand in, that a central authority was an absolute necessity, and that a perfect system of co-ordination could never be established without it. But on the other hand it is not so easy to get a central authority, it requires legislation that is certain to be the most bitterly opposed by various bodies, and so it seems to me we must make use of the powers that we have. With regard to the Consultative Committee it is perfectly true that it has met only five times in six years, but my experience of a committee of that sort is that you

can pass resolutions in five minutes that will take five years to carry out, and the reason why the Consultative Committee has not done more than it has done—I don't admit for a moment that it has not done a great deal—but the reason it has not done more than it has done is due not to the Consultative Committee but to the absence of funds. The Boards of which I am a member have made several recommendations, for instance we have recommended higher grade schools, we have recommended scholarships for pupils attending the primary schools in order to carry them to higher primary schools; we have recommended inspectors for the Intermediate schools; we have recommended—well I need not go through all our unsuccessful recommendations, most of them are mentioned in the First Report of the National Board, but what I say is this, what is the use of a Consultative Committee meeting and wasting its time if its recommendations are not listened to? I consider that the five meetings held have been largely waste of time, although they have only occupied five days in six years, because the recommendations we have made have been almost invariably refused. There are insufficient funds for education in Ireland at present, and no possibility of adding to them. The Development Grant, which represents a vote in England and Scotland for educational purposes has been sequestered. The Scotch were wise enough to earmark that money for education, but in Ireland we were left to the tender mercy of politicians who found it convenient to pass a Land Bill by means of an education grant, and who have devoted the surplus to steam dredges or light railways, or piers, or Arklow Harbour, but with regard to education we are told the grant is earmarked for the flotation of Land Stock, and education can get nothing further. We are informed by the Treasury we must raise a rate over here since the Development Grant is earmarked for other purposes, and they say they will not increase our grant, because they were assured when the Land Act was passed, and the Land Stock floated by means of the Education Grant, that Irish primary education was sufficiently endowed, and Irish education boards could not be trusted with any more money. Such has been the fate of the grant intended by Parliament for encouraging education in Ireland. And what is the position now? The Treasury are a very clever set of people, and they have got an extremely good logical case. They were told in 1902 that Ireland was sufficiently supplied with money for education, and that it would be waste to give any more, and consequently they allowed this money to be used for the floating of Land Stock. Now Land Stock has been floated at a terrible loss in such a condition of the money market that practically the whole of the Development Grant before long will be expended in this operation. And now when we ask the Treasury for higher grade schools or building grants we get this answer, that the Exchequer will not sanction any new expenditure that is available. We are not allowed to build a school in Ireland, building has come to an end for the last year, although, as I desire you have heard, the condition of the schools in Ireland is a disgrace to the Government. No civilized Government ought to permit such a state of things to exist as exists in this country. I spend a couple of months every year in inspecting schools, and really I am ashamed of my country when I see the abominable state of filth and degradation in which our children are brought up. We are told by the Exchequer that these school buildings must be put on the rates. But that is a Government question; we are not concerned with rates; we cannot raise a rate; the Government on the other hand tell us they cannot proper rates, they could not pass it in the House of Commons. Then the Treasury say, "You must go to the Development Grant," but the Treasury know perfectly well the grant is practically exhausted. Meanwhile our inspectors condemn these buildings, and say no children should be allowed into them. The managers write up to us and say, "Give us grants, we cannot raise the money locally," and I am perfectly certain they cannot. Now, what can we do in the face of our Inspector's report? We can only write down and say that we are very sorry the Treasury have stopped the building grants. They ask what is the meaning of our Inspector condemning their buildings if there is no money to repair them? Such is the

position of affairs with regard to all education grants in Ireland at present. We are sent from post to pillar. We are sent from the Treasury to the Development Grant, from the Development Grant to the rates, and from the rates back again to the Exchequer. Such is the disgraceful position in which Irish education is, and whatever good the passing of the Land Act will have done—I dare say Mr. Wyndham's name will be remembered as a great benefactor of the land, but he will certainly go down to history as far as National Education is concerned, as the person who has stopped its development for a generation.

3875. We are not so much concerned with the general question as with the relations of the Board to the Department. One of the matters which has been put strongly before us is that there is a great need of funds for building, and for adapting existing buildings to the purposes of technical education. I suppose what you have said would apply to some extent to that?—Certainly. May I finish with the Consultative Committee?

3876. (Mr. Mickel).—Before you leave that point is the practice of the National Board in advising the building of schools, that used to be in existence five or ten years ago, completely paralysed now?—We cannot build any schools now; we were stopped last August; we must not make any more grants; the sword was put to our throat, and we were told "unless you accept our scheme," (the scheme they proposed to us, which was a scheme for dropping all building grants after five years), "unless you accept our scheme you won't get anything"; we said we would not accept it; we could not possibly stop building grants after five years; you cannot say in the case of buildings that you don't require any more, or you don't require any money for repairs. So we refused their scheme, and they won't allow us to get anything. With regard to the Consultative Committee, I think it has done a good deal. It has led to the arrangements for science in the Intermediate Schools; I don't know whether you had these points before you already from the Department.

3877. (Chairman).—I think you had better give your own evidence?—I mean to say the Consultative Committee has done a good deal in arranging co-ordination between the Intermediate Board and the Technical Board in respect of the inspection of science in secondary schools; it has also led to an understanding between the National Board and the Technical Board as to the teaching of cookery, etc., that I spoke of a while ago, in the central schools, and many points of that kind, but I think it is very probable that if there had been no Consultative Committee, all this would have been done just as well. As anybody who has been in official life knows, most things are done by private interview between heads of Departments, and if we had to depend on the meetings of the Consultative Committee, very little would be done, but of course they are supplemented. Sir Horace Plunkett is a great friend of mine, and I have had numerous conferences with him on educational matters; it is not to be understood that I never met Sir Horace Plunkett except five times at the Consultative Committee in the last six years. If there had been no Consultative Committee, all this co-ordination would have taken place.

3878. But still the existence of the Consultative Committee is a recognition of the desirability of that?—I think it could be very much improved; it ought to meet at stated times, at least once in every quarter, and at other times, if desired. I think it ought to send its members to all the Boards that are affected. I think that each Department ought to send a statement of what it is doing with regard to new educational measures, so far as they would be likely to affect any other Department, and again I think that the Inspectors of the Departments might be encouraged to know each other, so that they might make recommendations. I don't think they do at present, but that is one of the great drawbacks.

3879. The Intermediate Board has no Inspectors?—That brings me to the great obstacle to the successful working of the Consultative Committee, viz., the absence of Inspectors on the part of the Intermediate Board. The representatives of the National Board and of the Technical Board on the Consultative Com-

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mittee can get full expert advice on every subject, but the representative of the Intermediate Board is working in some; he knows nothing about the schools, since his Board is a more expanding body. Although an Act of Parliament was passed in 1893 empowering it to inspect schools, it was never allowed to appoint permanent Inspectors. It was allowed temporary Inspectors for a couple of years, but it was never allowed to appoint permanent Inspectors, and therefore so far as the Intermediate Board is concerned the Consultative Committee is practically useless. There is another point about the Consultative Committee which I think should be mentioned, but I don't think it could be allowed without an Act of Parliament. I think the 1893 Act placed the centre of gravity in the wrong department. On the Consultative Committee there are five members; the Chairman is the Vice-President of the Agricultural Department; Mr. Gill sits on it as representative of the Agricultural Board, and the Technical Board is also represented; that is, the Department is represented by three members out of five. The National Board, of course, is a very much more important department than the Agricultural and Technical Department; that is to say, it is dealing with 750,000 children and a grant of £1,450,000, and the Intermediate Board is also very important, as dealing with 400 secondary schools, but both these Boards are only represented by two. I sit on the Consultative Board and the National Board; I am also a member of the Technical Board, so I myself don't feel the disadvantage of that very much, but I think my colleagues on the National Board and the Intermediate Board do not take much interest in, and know very little about, the Consultative Board; they say they are represented by only one member on it; they say it is Sir Horace Plunkett's committee; consequently its constitution can hardly be considered satisfactory.

3880. Do you think that is one of the reasons why its work is comparatively small?—I do think it is one of the chief reasons.

3881. You would keep a Board in the nature of a Consultative Board in existence, but would rather alter its constitution?—If I had my own way I would have a single authority; failing the single authority, I think the constitution of the Consultative Committee should be altered.

3882. We have no authority to report that the whole education system should be under a single authority, we are dealing with a single department?—I do not think the loss of the Consultative Committee should be in the Department. There is less of what is pure education under the Department than under the other two Boards; the other two Boards are very much more important.

3883. (Mr. Dryden).—Would you increase the number on the committee, and in that way avoid the difficulty you mention?—A large committee is an unsatisfactory thing, but I don't think it would be much harm to increase it to seven.

3884. (Chairman).—You think there is room for work of that kind?—I think so, with the alterations that I suggested before, that is, by giving the Intermediate Board inspection and carrying out those small administrative details; they could be very easily done.

3885. (Mr. O'Connell).—That is all within the power of the committee at present?—Oh, yes.

3886. If there were seven members, so that there were two from each of the other boards, it probably would not matter that the Chairman was Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture?—You see, if you look at the Act of Parliament, it was really contemplated that the Chairman should be in Parliament, and that is the reason he was made chairman, otherwise there was no reason why the Vice-President should be chairman.

3887. (Chairman).—The Act is framed on that assumption?—Yes.

3888. (Mr. O'Connell).—The ideal committee from your point of view would be one with two members from each of the three Boards concerned, with as Chairman a man who was essentially a representative of Irish education in some aspect in Parliament?—I maintain that the constitution passed in 1893 was an unsatisfactory one; but I don't mean to imply that I consider it necessary the Chairman should be in Parliament; that

is a political question with which I should not care to meddle.

3889. Is not the Vice-President the only member of the Department as such?—I think the representatives of the Agricultural and Technical Boards are members of the Department, too.

3890. They are elected by the country?—I have no doubt, but they belong to the Department.

3891. You also would be a Department man in the same way; you are a member of the Technical Board?—I am not put on as a member of the Technical Board, but as a member of the National Board.

3892. (Mr. O'Connell).—At the same time, apart from the Chairmen, there are two members from the Department of Agriculture, but each of these is elected by a body which is not part of the executive of the Department?—Quite so, I did not mean to imply for a moment when I said the Department was represented by three that they were members of the executive.

3893. You do not regard it as a disadvantage that on the Consultative Committee there should be those reserved for people who are not executive officers essentially, but are members who represent the public interested in the matter?—Quite so; I am thoroughly in favour of that.

3894. And any additional representation of the other Departments might with advantage be on similar lines?—Certainly?

3895. The difficulty would be in arranging such lines?—I was chosen by the National Board not necessarily as being the executive officer. It is quite open to them to choose anybody else.

3896. But, as they have only got one member, one can see that it would be only reasonable, from a practical point of view, that they should send an executive officer. If they had a second member it would probably be desirable that they should send one who represented the outside interest?—Quite so.

3897. As a matter of fact, has the voting weight really mattered very much at any of the meetings of the Consultative Committee?—Oh, no; that is the reason I guarded what I said. I have not myself experienced any disadvantage in that way; but I think my colleagues on the National and Intermediate Boards feel that they do not know enough about the Consultative Committee, and have very little voice in it.

3898. Has any such possibility of improving the work as you have just put before us in these few suggestions been considered in the Committee?—They were not considered by the Committee, but they were considered by a Committee very like the Committee; that is, Mr. Long suggested before he left Ireland that the Intermediate Board and the Department and the National Board should nominate representatives to discuss how co-ordination might be brought about between the various Irish systems to a greater extent than has been the case, and this Committee met in my office in December and considered the matter, and drew up a Report which was sent to the Government.

3899. What strikes me is that of the points you have mentioned all except the change of the constitution of the Committee could be effected if the President and the Committee were agreed on the matter?—There is the question of the Inspectors of the Intermediate Board, which I consider the most important of all.

3900. The quarterly meetings and sending on minutes and the interchange of ideas as to new work, all that could be done, and a conference of Inspectors, so far as Inspectors exist, that could be done; but probably that is a matter which is one of gradual growth, because that sort of thing depends as much upon personal acquaintance as official instructions, and that is a sort of thing that cannot be forced, though it could be encouraged, and encouragement could be given to that by the two Departments who are fully qualified enough to have Inspectors. The other two factors, supplying the Intermediate Board with Inspectors and any possible reconstitution of the Committee, are matters beyond its control?—Yes.

3901. But do you think there is a reasonable probability that the Committee and the Chairman might act on those other points?—I think so. I think the reason they have not been carried out in the last few months is that the Consultative Committee felt they were so hampered by the absence of Inspectors on the part of the Intermediate Board that really it is very

have no meeting. We have met and made recommendations, but, so far as they involved new expenditure, they are mostly not carried out.

3002. (Chairman).—You have no staff of any sort?—That is the great objection that Mr. Dale made, that we have no permanent staff for collecting detailed information; but I don't think Mr. Dale is quite right there. I don't think it is necessary the Consultative Committee should have a permanent staff. If the Intermediate Board had inspectors we should have all the staff required, because in a sense the three Departments are the staff of the Consultative Board, and by meeting there is established a connection between the Primary and Intermediate Schools, which is far and away the most important piece of co-ordination required in Ireland.

3003. Is it in the bringing together of persons in official positions who can influence their Department?—Yes, but we must have information, and the Intermediate Board has none.

3004. Short of a single educational authority, the multiplication of the staffs for a Consultative Board might be a source of danger.—I see the danger of that. If you had such a staff, no doubt, you would have the difficulty of the relation between this staff and the other three Departments.

3005. (Mr. Micks).—Your chief drawback is the want of inspectors of the Intermediate Board?—Yes.

3006. That is provided for in the Act?—Yes.

3007. Why have you not got them?—I am unable to say.

3008. Have the Intermediate Board tried to get them?—They certainly have. They have written reports in which the most informal language is used with regard to the Irish Government.

3009. They are public documents?—Yes, but there is another side to everything. The question really is not as simple as it appears. When the late Irish Government refused to inspect them it was not simply because they had a double dose of original sin. They represented that the expenditure on the examinations of the Intermediate Board is a great deal too high, and there is not the slightest doubt about that. For examining these unfortunate children the cost is nearly as great per head as the whole cost of primary education. It is over £2 a head for examining them, and the cost of seeing that they don't crib at the examinations is 10s. a head.

3010. (Chairman).—Is that owing to a double dose of original sin?—I am afraid all children must have a double dose of it in respect of this weakness. We have always said in reply to the Government, "We ourselves disapprove of the examinations; it is for you to bring in an Act of Parliament to abolish them; it is no use your telling us that our expenditure is so great that you cannot give us inspectors because they would increase the cost of administration by £5,000 a year. You know this when you brought in the Act of 1900, which did not provide for the abolition of examinations, but at the same time provided for inspectors." We say, "As you know all this in 1900, why did you allow any mention of inspection to appear in the Act?"

3011. (Mr. O'Leary).—I should like to have your view on a matter that we put to Father Finlay as to whether the schools were prepared for a change from examinations, as the basis of distribution of grants for Intermediate education, and the adoption of the system of making these grants dependent upon inspection?—Whether the schools are ready for it?

3012. Yes, and whether they would receive it with satisfaction?—I think that at present the time is much ripe for the introduction of inspection than it was in 1900. In 1900 the schools had no experience of inspection, but, since then, the Department, I am glad to say, have succeeded in their inspection of the Intermediate schools to a very remarkable extent. I think the officers of the Department have shown very great tact in dealing with the heads of secondary schools, who are sometimes rather difficult. They are suspicious of a stranger coming in and watching their methods of instruction. I think it has been made extremely easy for the Intermediate Board to introduce inspection if they get the right men.

3013. With regard to getting the right men we have heard a great deal from one point of view, and another as to the getting of men by the Department of Agriculture, and for technical instruction purposes. The difficulty of securing men who are familiar with the ground would not be as great in connection

with Intermediate schools as it has been with the Technical Department?—There was very little technical knowledge in Ireland, and very little scientific knowledge, and, consequently, I suppose it was necessary to inspect men from other countries, but with regard to inspection of classes or modern literature, it will be quite possible to get Irishmen—is that what you mean?

3014. Yes, that is the point. Whatever difficulty there may have been, in that respect, does not stand in the way in this case?—It does not; but I wish to say again I think the inspection by the Department has been worked extremely well. I can speak from my own knowledge in this matter, because I went round the country inspecting schools with Mr. Dale, and we invariably questioned the head masters with regard to their relations with the Inspectors of the Department, and I never heard a word from any head master that was not favourable to the system of inspection.

3015. That applied to secondary schools?—Yes.

3016. (Chairman).—Although you have this mixed system of inspection and examination, yet you say inspection has worked extremely well?—Yes.

3017. (Mr. O'Leary).—There is only one more point I note, that is with regard to the Evening Continuation Classes?—The charge that has been brought against us with regard to the Evening classes is that our rules have been drawn up in a form that is not very suitable to centres of industry. My answer to that is that they were never intended for industrial centres. There is in fact a differentiation of functions under the Department and under the National Board. We discussed that matter at the Consultative Committee in 1903 I think it was, and we arranged then—July 27th, 1903—that the Continuation schools proper should be under the Department, and that our Evening Schools should be called Elementary Evening Schools. As can be seen from the programme that we published for these schools, the work is mainly elementary. We aim really at filling up the lacunae in the primary knowledge of the boys and girls. Where the attendance has been very irregular in the schools, or the children have not gone to school until very late, they may think it desirable to go to evening schools after thirteen years of age. What we provide in our evening schools is an opportunity for supplying the shortcomings in their primary education; consequently our rules contemplate a school and not a class. The rules in England have in contemplation classes in different subjects; they pay by the subject, I think, and the number of hours given to it. A boy will go to an Evening school in such a subject as geometrical drawing; he will attend perhaps for 22 hours and then go away. We don't contemplate any system of that kind. In our rules we insist on 70 meetings of two hours each in the year, and we expect the boy should attend fairly regularly. We pay on him if he attends 35 hours out of the 70. In respect of schools like Mr. Forth's school, in Belfast, we have had a certain amount of difficulty, but I have stretched the rules to breaking point to accommodate Mr. Forth. The boys there come on for a few hours in the year to make up a subject, and we find that very difficult to fit into our system, but we have tried to encourage them. Such schools ought to be under the Department, and I believe the reason they are not is that the Department could not get money from the Treasury. But I believe that difficulty is now removed, and in the session beginning in August they will be able to take over these schools in industrial centres, and we shall have nothing to say to them. That is my answer to the statement that Evening Continuation schools are not suitable to industrial centres; my answer is that our Evening schools are not Evening Continuation schools.

3018. As to rural centres do you think that the present arrangement requiring 70 meetings of two hours a meeting makes it possible for the average rural locality to run a school of that sort?—In practice, at any rate, it does. I don't find they have any difficulty as they have a good deal of latitude; they can meet four times in the week, and they can work of their 70 hours in a very few months; if the 70 meetings had to extend over eight months there might be a difficulty. In many parts of Ireland children won't attend in the summer, as they are engaged in

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other occupations. They have never complained to us that they found any difficulty in obeying the rules.

3015. Those who obey them perhaps don't find much difficulty?—These schools increased from 23 to 1,200 in five years.

3020. And the grants?—The grants before 1900 were extremely small; I really forget what they were, but I don't think they amounted to more than £12; they were extremely small; the figures are mentioned in the Report of the Manual Instruction Commission, but since then the Treasury have given as grants that, as well as I remember, obtained in England—17/6 has been the maximum grant.

3020a. The point of difficulty is one which is common to rural and urban districts, that seventy meetings of two hours means, if it is three evenings a week, a session of twenty-three weeks, and if two evenings a week, of thirty-five weeks. For most schools thirty-five weeks is in excess of what most places find it possible to run their evening schools for in the country, because of the summer employment, and on the fewer occasions of the necessity of using summer evenings for recreation; so, practically, one is thrown back on the twenty-three weeks' session, and that means that in order to carry on such a school, local managers have to arrange for three evenings of two hours each, and to secure something like a fair attendance of pupils that is the minimum. The point that has been put is, that the requiring of so large a minimum prevents the formation of such classes in many places where it is extremely desirable they should exist?—All I can say is that that has not been represented to us, and if it were represented to us we would certainly consider it. We were very anxious to develop these evening classes, and it may be said that in numbers, at any rate, we have been fairly successful. Last year, no doubt, there was a fall. We have asked from our Inspectors the reason for that, and found it is what was to be expected, that the people in country places got kind of tired, and that the teacher who has been working day or five hours in his school in the morning does not care to do the same class of work in the evening. It is rather hard work, and it is the National teacher who generally teaches in these schools.

3021. There are two points in that which I wanted to get at. First because of the irregularity of the attendances in primary schools in Ireland is an excuse of anything of the kind in Great Britain, it is more necessary to provide for continuation work. You have restricted the term "continuation work" to what we may call supplementary provision for elementary education. It is more necessary to provide that after children have left school here than elsewhere. Therefore you should have a greater proportion of schools of this type than exist in other countries, and anything which would tend to discourage the formation of such schools would require to be carefully avoided. One thing is that both for teachers and pupils three evenings a week of two hours each is a pretty severe strain, and if the strain were less the number of cases in which it was met might be greater. That is, if it were possible to diminish either the number of meetings or the two hours to, say, an hour and a-half, because there is a good deal of time lost in coming and going it might be of advantage. Is there any strong reason against that?—We pay, as you see from the rules, for a smaller number than seventy. We pay now for forty-five meetings, *pro rata*. Of course that is a reduced fee, and, again, we don't pay the highest fee unless they do two additional subjects; but as to the number of meetings we act largely on the advice of our Inspectors, who may make recommendations with regard to these evening schools. Of course, there is nothing irrevocable in our rules, and if it was represented to us that this was considered a hardship, or the number of meetings was too great, we should consider it favourably.

3022. In this matter it is extremely desirable that there should be communication between your Inspectors and those other bodies, because it has been felt in other countries that Inspectors, whose duty was largely in connection with day schools, did not enter into the spirit of the thing with regard to evening schools. There is a great deal in that. The inspection of evening schools is most unpopular among our Inspectors. I got an extra fee of ten shillings for such night work, but that does not pay a man for driving in a wet climate like Ireland, on a dark

night in winter, stumbling into ditches, and having extraordinary experiences of that kind. I quite agree with you that this inspection is unpopular. That is, of course, a question the Consultative Committee ought to discuss. In 1903 we had a very full discussion on that matter with regard to the evening code, and we did relax the rules very considerably on the representation of the Departments.

3023. With reference to the teachers and the attitude of instruction, I observe you gave very clear evidence as to the importance that the matter and method of the instruction given in the primary schools bears, and that that importance is much greater than the mere getting up of advanced work in specific subjects of science?—Yes.

3024. In fact the attitude of the teacher to the work is a matter of primary importance. That is so in a day school. It is even more in the evening schools, where the children are older, and it is necessary to attack them from the wider experience they have gained outside?—I quite agree with that.

3025. I should like to learn how far there is anything to be done to increase the stock-in-trade, so to speak, of the teachers of National Schools in regard to these two aspects of the work, whether there is anything corresponding to the work with which you may be familiar in Scotland in the way of starting holiday courses for teachers, in their methods of teaching drawing or nature study work or manual training?—In 1900, after the result system was abolished, we appointed a very large staff of instructors, organisers, as they are called, in these various subjects, and we spent in the five years in giving special instruction to teachers in elementary science, drawing, singing, manual work, sewing, and needlework £240,000. The figures are given on page 8 of the 71st Report. In fact, I may refer the Commission, in answer to Mr. Ogilvie's question, to the first eight pages of that report, in which we give a history of the steps that we took since 1890 for the improvement of the general education of National teachers. Unfortunately, in 1905, the Treasury stepped in and stopped most of the business; their argument was that in 1900 we had asked for these organisers for only five years, and when the five years came to an end they ceased. But they allowed us to keep on a certain number. We have three in Science, we have five in Kindergarten, we have ten in cookery, we have four in needlework, and we are going forward with an application to the Treasury for an organiser of drawing. We are carrying out throughout the country exactly the kind of supplementary instruction of National teachers that you speak of.

3026. You are satisfied that the need for this work still exists?—Certainly.

3027. And you are getting from the Treasury authority to carry it out?—To a certain extent, but not to the extent we did during the five years beginning in 1900; and, in addition to that, the Treasury allow us to pay the travelling expenses of teachers to attend lectures in technical schools and we are encouraging this as much as we can.

3028. Between the two things, the direct work you are still able to do by grants from the Treasury and the possibility that teachers have in their own hands for taking advantage of the instruction provided by the Department's technical instruction, do you think that there is sufficient provision being made now?—I think if the teachers took full advantage of the technical instruction classes, there are quite sufficient provisions, but, unfortunately, the *vis inertiae* of human nature is so great that they may say, "Oh, we can get on very well as we are; we have been trained, and don't require this class of thing"; and it may be rather difficult to get them to attend in many cases.

3029. The only other element is the element of protection in the matter of grants, and the possibility of doing good work without interfering with their other occupations on more than a certain number of evenings?—Yes.

3030. These grants for buildings used to be given in Ireland until a comparatively late date?—They were stopped absolutely in 1905, but they have been in a state of suspended animation at various times for the last fifteen years.

3031. Were they not stopped altogether in England about 1873?—No doubt, but then you have got rising powers; there is no parallelism between the two countries. You have done more building in England

since 1870 than you did in the whole of your past history, in fact, all the buildings worthy of the name have been erected since then. But supposing the Treasury had told you in 1870 to go to the rates, and if you were not able to pass a Rating Bill, in what condition would you have been ever since?

3535. I quite recognise that the question of the rates is a difficult one, but I wanted to make sure that the building grants in question were those which corresponded to the grants apparently stopped in England since 1872, and that the further building that has gone on in England is quite independent of any Government Grants.—Yes, we have been told so, at all events, a hundred times by the Treasury.

3536 (Chairman).—Is the answer of the Treasury that you should have recourse to the rates?—Yes, or the Development Grants.

3537 (Mr. Bowen).—I suppose you are aware that there is a strong feeling in many parts of Ireland that the teaching in the rural schools should be such as to interest the people in their future occupations?—I should say that the people ought to be interested in a manner that ought to be applied to every school, whether rural or urban.

3538. I am speaking now chiefly of the rural schools?—I should say the education given in the rural schools is of the most desecrating character; there are no people I have seen pity for as the children going to these schools.

3539. But you agree that these children should be interested in the life they will have to lead in the country in which they live?—Quite so.

3540. You are aware there is a strong desire that some practical instruction should be given in horticulture in connection with school gardens?—It is rather a dangerous question; if by practical instruction is horticulture you mean anything like what was given by the National Board, until it was stopped in 1860, I should be entirely against that.

3541. I don't mean that; you have indicated that the existing teachers are untrained for that purpose, and would not be capable of giving such instruction?—I am willing to say the existing teachers, meaning by that a very large number of them. Of course, there are exceptions; at any rate, they have never been encouraged to do it.

3542. Is there any reason why instruction of a practical nature should not be given to children in rural districts by the Inspector of the County Committee?—Oh, nothing; I would be thoroughly in favour of school plots in connection with the schools if the instruction were given in these school plots by competent instructors; our failure always has been that we have depended solely on the National teacher, who has so much other work to do.

3543. What has been the objection to that being done heretofore?—Want of money.

3544. In cases, first of all, in which the garden exists in which the County Committee has offered to give the instruction free?—As far as I know, they have never offered it.

3545. That is not quite the case. I know of one county that has been continuously asking?—Asking what?

3546. Asking the Department with whom they communicate?—Was it my Department?

3547. The Department of Agriculture?—Ah, well, the answer has been that the Department cannot interfere with primary schools.

3548. That, of course, applies to technical instruction given in primary schools, but it would have no application at all to instruction in agriculture or horticulture?—If the application is made to my Department, I can say we would accept it with alacrity.

3549. Would the Consultative Committee be the proper body to approach as representing both Departments?—The Consultative Committee has got no powers.

3550. Except you arrange it?—Let application be made to the National Board and we will consider it, and I can promise you a favourable reception for it.

3551. I think application was also made to the National Board by an organization of school teachers, who were extremely anxious for some arrangement?—I don't remember it, but probably if the application was made it was found that difficulties were raised on the score of legality.

3552. I want to know where is the illegality. I can find none for this class of work?—I am not qualified to speak on that.

3553. I gather from you that so far as you are concerned your Board will place no difficulty in the way?—Certainly, I think it would be a most excellent arrangement. After all it differs very little from what the Department have already done with regard to giving instruction to National school children in technical schools. What difference does it make whether the children go to the technical school or a school outside their own school?

3554. Yes, and as present horticultural instructors have plots in various places all over the country?—We make provision in the rules for that. We say that the time given by children in attendance at central classes, classes for cookery, woodwork, &c., will count as part of the school time. It was put in for that purpose.

3555. What I am now suggesting could only be of limited duration. It would be impossible for one instructor to reach all the schools in the county and it is only by way of experiment rather than anything else, because to make it effective similar instruction should be given in all the rural schools. Do you see any way of effecting that?—In all the rural schools?

3556. I mean in the majority of rural schools?—The majority of the schools in Ireland are rural schools, more than 6,000, and they are mostly wretched little shams of schools, and it is very hard to reach them. The right thing to do would be to have a plot somewhere and convey the children to it, to have a central plot connected with one of the larger schools, but it is a very difficult thing, dealing with 6,000 schools, to give instruction in all of them.

3557. Through the County Instructors it would be only possible in a limited number?—Yes.

3558. Even in that limited number you would be in favour of it?—I should be in favour of extending it to all, but there are certain practical difficulties.

3559 (Mr. Gifford).—We had brought before us considerable evidence as to the difficulty of providing buildings for technical schools, and I find in the minutes of the Consultative Committee this passage upon which I should be glad to have your views. "The question arose as to the desirability of stilling certain District Model Schools as technical schools. The Committee were of opinion that where a District Model School was not at present fully utilized and was suitable for a technical school, it might usefully be handed over for the purpose of technical education under a scheme administered by the Department, the latter to contribute wherever necessary to the cost of building a new school for the use of such pupils as are now attending the Model School." I have not found any evidence that since the date of that resolution of 1901 any action was taken upon it?—Thereby hangs a tale. That proposal was passed, I think, at our very first meeting. As a matter of fact, it was proposed at the National Board in consequence of that resolution that a certain Model School should be handed over to the Technical Board, but unsuccessfully. Most of us know that the Model School question has been a burning one for very many years, all sorts of denominational questions are raised by touching the Model Schools. The Model Schools are supposed to be un denominational, and they are managed by the Commissioners, and so they have not got very many friends. But the friends they have are extremely strong, and there is a great opposition to handing over the Model Schools, so matter how unsuccessful they may be. There are a few in the South of Ireland that are very successful, for instance Athy, Kinsale, Kilkenny, and Waterford up to the present have not been very successful. In Galway the difficulty in doing anything unless the Model School question were treated as a whole. If it were treated as a whole in connection with higher grade schools it might be possible to do something with these Model Schools, where there is no possibility on account of the character of the population of their being frequented.

3560. There are instances of schools that are very badly attended?—Athy, Ballinaboy and Dunsany. Some of those schools that are unsuccessful are in

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omises where a Technical school would not be successful.

3558. (Mr. Micks).—Are they in need of a Technical school in Killybegs?—I cannot tell, but the model school is very unsuccessful there, there is accommodation for 515 pupils, and there is an attendance of 51. The Board of National Commissioners have been recommending a scheme of higher grade instruction in connection with national education for four years, and until the Government has made up its mind on that question they don't care to touch the Model Schools. In the 70th Report in our answer to Mr. Dale's report we have three pages on Model Schools, 7, 8, and 9, and we treat the whole question of the Model Schools there, and the expenditure on them. I think it probably would be possible to deal with the unsuccessful Model Schools as a whole. We have failed twice in dealing with them individually. I have discussed the matter often with Sir Horace Plunkett, and I don't think he was of opinion that the Model Schools

in many places would be of much service in connection with technical education.

3559. (Mr. O'Connell).—Since 1900 they have found it was not going to help them?—We have allowed the Technical Education Committee to make use of some of the model schools, for instance in Galway, in Cork they use it, and I dare say we would be willing to extend that; and in Waterford, if they asked we might allow them to use a couple of the same.

3560. (Mr. Brown).—I thought the Aiky Model School was closed?—I don't know of any Model School that is closed.

3561. They are badly in want of a building too for a technical school?—I don't think you owe anything to allow you to use it.

3562. No; I don't think they did, but I am sure they are very badly in want of buildings for technical instruction, but there might be some objection to using the Model Schools?—There might.

MR. PATRICK JAMES KENNEDY, J.P., EXAMINED.

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3563. (Chairman).—I think you have come here as a member of the Council of Agriculture?—Yes; and also representing the county committee of Manilla.

3564. The Council has appointed you to give evidence?—Yes. I may say, sir, that although appointed by the Council to give evidence I received no mandate as to the nature of the evidence which I was to give; for the views which I express I alone am responsible.

3565. At the same time it would be desirable if you told us something about the general feeling of the Council of Agriculture. However, you will speak on your own account, as I understand you?—I have had no means of ascertaining their views.

3566. You have written a statement which evidently has been very carefully prepared, and therefore I hope you will follow your own counsel?—(2) Relations of Department to Board and Council.—The official head of the Department should either have a seat in Parliament to directly defend his office or be a permanent official under the Chief Secretary. I favour the latter, as it would expose the Department to less of those attacks from purely political motives such as it has suffered from in the past six years.

3567. I understand your view to be that you would rather have the Department organized under a permanent official, under the Chief Secretary. Do you think it necessary that there should be a direct representative of the Department in Parliament?—Well, no; because the party opposed to him in politics would attack his Department on party grounds which I think is a thing to be avoided.

3568. You would rather have the Chief Secretary speaking for the Department in Parliament, and a permanent official here, not going in and out with the party?—Quite so, like the Vice-President of the Local Government Board. You say, speaking for the Department; I should like to make him responsible for the Department as distinguished from his present position with regard to the Board of National Education or the Intermediate Board, for both these he speaks, but he does not hold himself responsible for their action.

3569. Do you mean that the Chief Secretary should himself take part in the decisions of the Department, that matters should come before him and be dealt with by him as being the head of the Department?—Except in a very general way; at present he does not interfere with the work of the Local Government Board, but holds himself responsible for what the Local Government Board do.

3570. (Mr. Micks).—He sees all the important papers?—Yes, to a certain extent.

3571. (Chairman).—What I understand the practice to be as regards these Departments is this: the Chief Secretary is by statute the President of each; practically all matters of importance come before him, though he himself does not take any part in the general decisions of the Board?—I don't think he knows anything about the Education Boards except to read the typewritten answers put in his hands in the House of Commons. No effort should be spared to make the Department stand well with the country people in Ireland, and this is impossible so long as popular ac-

pages write it down in a country where the rank and file swear by the newspaper writings which they read. I am in favour of having the patronage of the Department in the hands of its official head as being exposed to interested influences from outside has elected and unpaid bodies.

3572. That is the permanent head?—Yes. Every one knows who has passed through the House of Commons how undesirable it would be to place Government patronage directly in the hands of its members.

3573. That is members of the House of Commons?—Yes. Some people have claimed that as a right for the Board of Agriculture to have a voice in its nomination of the officers, they are merely elected unpaid members of the Board, and to give them the appointment of permanent officials would be equivalent to giving the members of the House of Commons the appointments to the Civil Service. At the same time, for reasons aforesaid, the Department should be most careful not to give offence to popular ideas in making such appointments where compatible with official efficiency.

3574. I suppose you have in your mind the desirability of appointing natives?—As few Scotchmen as possible. With this reservation of authority to the Department, I am in favour of giving absolute power to a policy and its initiative to the Board of Agriculture in place of the mere negative power which it at present possesses. As to the Council of Agriculture, I would be in favour of giving it more real power than it at present possesses. I would go so far as to say that when on due notice its majority condemn a certain policy that policy should not be pursued by the Board or Department, and as far as practicable its suggestions should be given effect to.

3575. You would be in favour of giving it more real power than it at present possesses. Its only real power is to appoint the members of the Board of Agriculture?—Or offering an opinion which may not be acted upon, it is merely a talk shop, a debating society, I would not give it power of initiative; I would give it negative powers; I would give the power of initiative to the Board but not to the Council.

3576. (Mr. Micks).—Does not that last line, "and as far as practicable its suggestions should be given effect to," mean initiative?—It is initiative but I did not make it absolute. At present the Department claim that their suggestions are given effect to; we say they are not.

3577. (Mr. Brown).—In what instances do you say they are not?—I heard the Vice-President himself state that in some cases they were found to be impracticable. He quoted at the last meeting of the Council of Agriculture a whole list of suggestions made, and gave some that he had found on further consideration not to be practicable.

3578. A small number of them?—Yes; but there were many others. He was my authority.

3579. They were dealt with by the Board?—Well, at any rate they were not acted upon.

3580. (Chairman).—Would it not be a little difficult to make it a universal rule, you must have

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year proceedings arranged on a different form with more notice, otherwise you would have a hasty decision given by the Council of Agriculture, which would be binding on the Department, and the Department would have no means of having it reconsidered—I do not propose to give absolute power of initiative to the Council, I do to the Board of Agriculture, but where a policy has been brought before them for their consideration and they condemn it, I say that policy should not be persisted in until they could be converted to the other view.

3981. You would give them something in the nature of a veto?—That is it.

3982. (Mr. Dryden).—Has there ever been a case of the kind when the Department has persisted in proposing a matter that has been condemned?—The Department have not asked their opinions on many subjects because it was not necessary they should ask them.

3983. (Chairman).—The other day there seemed to me to be a rather good instance at the meeting I happened to be present at myself, where a question arose whether or not a certain contribution should be made to the Dublin Exhibition?—Yes, to the International Exhibition.

3984. The majority of the Council seemed to think it was not desirable to spend money in that way?—I think the Department preferred to have it negatived and throw the responsibility on the Council.

3985. We won't try to penetrate into the mind of the Department, but what I wanted to get at is this: the Council expressed a decided view, there was a considerable majority?—Yes; thanks to the fact that a certain prominent gentleman seconded the motion. At one time had the question been put it would have been carried the other way.

3986. What do you think the practical effect of that resolution is, because technically it has no effect at all, it is a mere expression of opinion. Would it be easy for the Department to disregard a resolution of that kind?—They are not legally bound by it, but it gave them an excuse for refusing the request that they should make a large grant in aid of the International Exhibition.

3987. It strengthened their hands?—It strengthened their hands and gave them a decent excuse, for they had not in fact the funds.

3988. Assuming the majority were right, is not that rather an instance in favour of the present system?—That was through the courtesy of the Department; they were granted that amount of power; if it did not suit the Department to have the question negatived they would not have put it to them.

3989. I wanted to get, if I could, your own view. You would practically give the Council of Agriculture a veto on proposals of that kind?—Yes, a veto to negative a proposal of that kind, but if a member of the Council brought forward a motion to make a grant even though the majority of the Council carried it, if the Board and the Department saw good reasons for not granting it I would leave the power with the Board and the Department to veto it.

3990. (Mr. Micks).—I don't see how that would work. Should so important matter be taken up by the Department until it had obtained the permission of the Council. You say after due notice when a majority of the Council condemn a certain policy that policy should not be persisted in; you don't wait the ordinary work of the Department to wait until it gets the approval of the Council, but if they find a certain course has been taken you would wish to have the power of saying it should not go on any longer?—I go on the perception that silence gives consent, and if nobody rises in opposition to any policy of the Department it can be taken that nobody objects to it. I don't mean that they should bring down every question.

3991. No, only a veto on a continuing policy of which they disapprove?—Yes. Now the question of draught stallions has been several times debated, and some people think the Department should have done more to encourage them. Supposing the Department were to do something to further encourage the Irish draught stallions, and a motion was carried condemning that policy, it should be acted on, that is what I had in my mind.

3992. (Mr. Reeves).—Is that the only instance you

have in your mind?—I have many instances, but being a busy man I could not compile them all. I am giving you my experience of five or six years.

3993. That resolution was only passed at the November meeting?—It was discussed often before.

3994. Then there was a resolution at the following meeting proposing to condemn the Department for not having established a stud in a few months?—They took seven years to take any practical steps in the matter.

3995. They propose to register any sire of the draught horse type. Have you any in Meath?—No, that is not a question we are particularly interested in. Carlow is the county in which the question was raised. Mr. Hanlon raised the question.

3996. The difficulty is to find the animal?—Some of the best horses ever bred in Ireland were bred by an Irish draught stallion. I have known such a horse to go for £300.

3997. You don't find them now?—No, because they have helped to kill them with their hairy shins.

3998. They are only allowed in Dublin?—They come into Meath. Two-thirds of the great have to go to agricultural horses, which must be Shires, for want of anything else. We disapprove of encouraging small farmers to breed thoroughbreds which they must sell at a loss as year and a-half olds.

3999. That is a regulation of the County Committee?—Yes, in the interests of small farmers, because they could not afford to keep the thoroughbreds sufficiently old to sell at an advantage.

4000. (Chairman).—Now let us go on to the constitution of the Board and Council?—I am not in favour of any alteration in the present constitution of the Board and Council. I consider the retention of the present system of a nominated one-third on both bodies as most desirable at least for some years to come. If properly exercised, as I believe on the whole it has been, the power to nominate one-third enables the Departments to bring in a large number of the best business men in this country—men, many of whom are not politicians or elected members of any public bodies, and whose great practical experience of agriculture and sound business capacity could not otherwise be placed at the disposal of the Council and Board of which they form a valuable asset. The result of my experience is that the introduction of politics into every phase of local public life in Ireland is one of the great drawbacks on our local public bodies. I do not wish to be misunderstood. I am aware that a large number of our local public men who hold strong political views are also excellent business men, but I am aware also that many of them are not, and that many men who are distinguished by their inability to successfully manage their own affairs are elected by large majorities on our public bodies simply as a result of the advanced views which they propound in their public speeches.

4001. (Mr. Dryden).—You are evidently not looking for election?—I have had too many of them. The evil effect of their election is two-fold. Firstly, because a man who cannot mind his own affairs is not likely to successfully manage those of the public, and secondly it deters some really good business men from joining local public bodies—even where they might secure election—where they find disposition on the part of members to play to the gallery on abstract questions rather than deal with hard matters of a purely business character. The effect of all this is that in Irish commercial circles it is considered a weakness in a business man to be mixed up in public affairs. From all this, I argue that it is in the interest of the work of the Department, Board and Council, to keep their movement clear of all things political and sectarian, so as to secure the co-operation of all that is best in this country for the promotion of the common good and prosperity of the whole community.

4002. (Chairman).—You would agree that it is a matter of great difficulty to keep the movement clear of all matters political and sectarian?—Most difficult; many men think as I think, but very few would care to say it; it is not a popular thing to say.

4003. (Mr. O'Leary).—You think the present method of adding to the elected element of the Board and Council certain nominated members tends towards that?—It tends to bring in men who otherwise would not have a chance of getting there.

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4004. And so strengthens the Council whose pure election could not be relied upon to strengthen it—Decidedly. Considering the immense difficulties which had to be contended with, I believe that, on the whole, the Act has worked well. Those difficulties were and are greater than may appear on the surface. In Ireland prejudices die slowly, and however radical they may be in their political views, the Irish agricultural people are profoundly conservative in their views of every-day life. They view with distrust anything new in farming, and not without reason, because in the past it was no uncommon thing for the sons of better-class farmers to return from agricultural colleges half educated and to proceed to practice their imperfect knowledge with disastrous results to themselves and much discreditation to their neighbours. Plenty from the Albert College, when it was under the National Education Board, did more harm than good to the country.

4005. Up to what period?—Up to the period the Department took charge of it, from all I heard of it it was a laudable concern, and the people that came out of it knew very little.

4006. You don't think the Department, when it started in 1905, had very much to build upon?—No; what I mean to say is that everything was done there in a very primitive way at Glenties.

4007. (Mr. Michel).—Is that from any publications or reports that you have got that opinion?—No, it is more hearsay and from my observations of the methods employed by people who came out of it; it is a general feeling in Ireland that it has done a good deal to injure education in scientific farming.

4008. (Chairman).—Your own recollection must go back very well to the time before the establishment of the Department?—Yes, there was a steward in my neighbourhood out of it, and if I were to pursue the methods he pursued I would be in the bankruptcy Court, and his master was there in the end; he did not go altogether there, but he had to assign his interest in the place.

4009. (Mr. Brown).—There was a strong feeling that the education was not only ineffective, but injurious?—Yes.

4010. (Chairman).—Now, then, let us come to the results after 1905?—Moreover, the work of the Department had to face the strong political bias previously referred to, backed up by two of the most popular agencies in this country, namely, the popular newspapers and the shopkeepers. To use no stronger language, I have entire distrust in, and no sympathy for, the dishonest and frequently misinformed criticism of certain newspapers on the Department's work. The Department incurred the wrath of the shopkeepers by its support of the co-operative movement, which has done so much to save the small farmers from the extortions of the country shopkeepers.

4011. (Mr. Michel).—How do they interfere with the shopkeepers at all?—They sell things 25 per cent. less than the shopkeepers sell them for.

4012. Who?—The Co-operative Societies worked through the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

4013. Are you sure that they sell under that system what the ordinary shopkeeper sells?—They sell seeds and sales and manures, and machinery, and I have known them to sell lump oil and coal, anything which can be dealt in in a large way. Then there are kindred societies, though perhaps not under the same management, such as co-operative stores for selling ordinary groceries. I don't say the Department has anything to do with them, but there is a relationship more or less between the two bodies that when a shopkeeper comes to look at it he classifies the whole thing as his opposition.

4014. (Chairman).—I suppose it is the same kind of feeling that was very well known in England twenty-five years ago between the co-operative stores and the shopkeepers; every candidate for Parliament was asked whether he dealt at the Co-operative Stores?—I don't know that, but I can well understand it.

4015. Assuming that to be the state of things, is that the kind of feeling you are referring to here?—Certainly, the co-operative movement has done a good deal for this country, though it is very unpopular with the shopkeepers. For my part, I see no difference between a tenant-farmer being forced by his landlord or by the shopkeeper with whom he deals, and to whom he is often bound by chains of credit, but the shopkeeper is a man of influence with the electors, and the landlord is not. The former commands votes by his

credit and free drinks, and the newspapers by his advertisements, and is accordingly unduly represented on many of our public bodies, to the rates of which he contributes comparatively little, as his valuation is insignificant compared to that of the farmer. A man who would be valued at £20 on a public body and premises would have more influence than a man valued at £200 in the farming class.

4016. (Mr. Michel).—The farmer does not go in for free drinks?—I am sorry to say he does; I mean taking them. While I give credit to the Department for honestly trying to do their best, and while I particularly appreciate the disinterested and truly patriotic services of Sir Horace Plunkett, I must say that I consider they made many mistakes, and were guilty of not a little extravagance at a time when, like many a young man succeeding to a great property they seem to think their money would never run out. As first chairman of the Meath County Council, and a former M.P. for Kildare in one Parliament, and Westmeath in another, I have had much correspondence with Government Departments, and I must say that I found the Department of Agriculture, &c., one of the worst business offices I ever came in contact with. They were constantly showing ignorance of the legal procedure affecting their own work. Here are a few examples:—They first issued a pamphlet of suggestions in which they had done that Rural District Councils could appoint Committees under Section 14 of the Act. I challenged them for their authority, and they had to admit they had none. They next advised County Councils to appoint two County Committees, one for Agriculture and one for Technical Instruction, with separate banking accounts for each. Acting on my advice the Meath County Council refused to appoint more than one Committee. Other Councils followed the advice of the Department, and when the Local Government Board auditors came round he sat upon them. This enabled us in Meath to co-operate with the Urban Councils of our county; they advised my Council to co-opt on their own Committee appointed under sub-Section 1 of Section 14 of the Act, members of the Urban Councils in lieu of a contribution from them. The Meath County Council did so in my absence. At the end of the year, when the scheme came before the County Council, I challenged the proceedings as being illegal, as the urban representatives could only be appointed under a joint scheme by the urban authorities on a Joint Committee, under sub-Section 2 of Section 14, and had no right to sit on our Committee under sub-Section 1, the membership of which is limited by our Standing Orders. They were promptly put off it.

4017. (Chairman).—Who were put off?—The urban representatives. The urban authorities continued to contribute without representation, but their districts participated in the benefits of our scheme. I knew they were doing wrong, and told them so, but having got off their representatives I considered the purity of their money was their own affair. All this was done with the knowledge of the Department, but some months afterwards they appeared to waken, took legal opinion, and issued a circular laying down the law exactly as quoted by me above.

4018. They did wrong but repented of their wrong?—They did, but after they had shown a good deal of bad example. Subsequent to this what was my surprise to find on attending a meeting of the County Committee an Inspector of the Department engaged in assisting the Committee in framing a scheme for the following year which included the contribution by the Urban Authorities to our Committee, appointed under Section 1 of Section 14, which had been already condemned by the circular of his own Department.

4019. What time are you speaking of?—About July or August, 1905, they made their suggestion about co-optation. In 1904, I objected and got off the urban representatives, and they continued to contribute for the remainder of the year ending July, 1905. In April, 1906, the Department issued a circular which I have got in my pocket, dealing with this, and pointing out the illegality of the proceeding. I have had a constant struggle with my County Committee to keep them within the law and within the Standing Orders of the County Council, and to have them remember that they were not an independent body, but simply a Committee of the County Council, and bound to observe the rules of their parent like other

committees. In all this I felt that the Committee was backed up by the Inspectors of the Department, who more or less ignored the County Council, and did not appear to care a brass farthing about the Standing Orders of the County Council so long as their own regulations were complied with. All this was very injudicious, because the continuance of the working of the Act depended on the County Council from year to year, and I only induced my Council to take up the Act on declaring that we would retain complete control over the County Committee. The County Scheme came up every year for consideration by the County Council, when we have a field day on them, our present chairman, Mr. John Sweetman, being a strong opponent of the Department. In this county it is a thankless job to endeavour to defend them. The smaller and least informed of the ratepayers are up in arms against the 4s or 5s addition to their poor rates voted for the County Scheme, and here I may say that it is those whose information happens to be least who are more strongly of opinion that they have nothing to learn from the Department's Instructions. I cannot myself say that we have derived much tangible benefit in this county. The Live Stock Scheme, however, no doubt, benefited some small farmers, but would benefit more were it not strangled by the red tape of the Department. For example, the right stamp of old Irish draught horses has not been encouraged. The type of bulls required by the Department is of a standard more suited to breed prize stock than to meet the every day demand of a small farmer's holding, and the rules of the Department are so stringent that we cannot get farmers to apply for a sufficient number of bulls to exhaust the number of premiums offered.

4020. (Mr. Dryden).—You use the word "prize stock," what do you mean by that?—They send in a number of what they consider experts into the show in Dublin, and they go about and mark off a number of bulls as suitable for obtaining premiums, but they overlook a number of bulls equally suitable for ordinary country work, but which they do not consider sufficiently highly bred for the purpose. We hold three numbers of those bulls that could be bought for £10 or £20 a head less would better suit the farmer.

4021. Would they get better stock?—No, there is a difference between thoroughbred stock and what is more adapted to ordinary agricultural purposes, that is, the thoroughbred stock bought in prize yards have to be kept carefully, kept in a way which the small farmers cannot afford; he has to have his cattle hardy and big and well developed and able to live out. Some of those very cattle never see the interior of a house in winter, while nine-tenths of the cattle Ireland has out in winter and are exposed to all kinds of hardship, and the little fine-bred thing which one of the prize bulls gets is not able to withstand the hardship.

4022. What you are saying is that the bulls or cattle of any kind that obtain the prizes are the worst. What the Department ought to do is to put the farmers in a position to breed the best cattle, not the worst?—Yes; it is all a question of degree, there is comparative and superlative.

4023. I have seen some of the cattle they reject, and I think you would reject them yourself?—They select a class of bull which is good enough to get prize bulls. Again I say we don't want that.

4024. Oh, yes; you do, because prize bulls are the best bulls?—It all depends on the way they are rated out. A herd of mine lately showed me two calves, one was a fine well-developed calf, the other a puny calf. "There," he said, "there is a fine one got by a second-class bull," an ordinary country bull, that was the big calf. "I will never go to a shilling bull again, because look at the calf I have." They call the Department's bulls "the shilling bull"; there was the greatest difference in the world between the two calves. It is all very well in theory, but in practice it does not work out. I don't say you should not have a well-bred bull, but there are degrees in breeding as well as in everything else.

4025. You don't know anything about breeding when you are giving a prize to the bull?—I am told these gentlemen take up a catalogue and see so-and-so's bull, and pass over it as not being well known.

4026. I have had experience in this for forty years; it is the best stock you are after?—You don't understand what I mean. I mean the Inspectors in the Show

are very much guided by the names of the owners who own the stock. June 25, 1895.

4027. Then they are not fit for their business?—I did not see it myself, but I am told by a man on whose word you could rely, Mr. P. V. Stone, of Meath. He called my attention to that kind of thing going on in the show. Mr. F. J. Kennedy, A.C.

4028. (Mr. Brown).—You don't speak from your own judgment as regards the bulls that were rejected; you are not able to give specific instances of rejected bulls that were as good for the purpose as selected ones?—No; but I believe it is a fact that a bull which would not be quite as highly bred would suit the purposes equally well.

4029. (Chairman).—Do you mean to say that they aim too high in the Department?—They aim at having the very best bulls, whereas what would be more desirable for the people would be to have bulls not so well-bred but more of them?—Yes; but I would have them all pure-bred, but I would not go in for such a fine class of bulls.

4030. (Mr. Brown).—If they are to be all pure-bred, is it not only a question of selecting the best according to form?—Some of these bulls never grow to any size at all when they come to the country.

4031. (Chairman).—You think it is right to have pure-bred bulls; you would have a hard-book and questions of pedigree considered, and all that?—I believe in pedigree bulls myself, but men who are more competent to give an opinion than I am think by careful selection you could get bulls that would improve the stock of the country even better than pedigree bulls. For instance, bulls from Lincolns and Longfords have been tried and are better than pedigree bulls.

4032. What I want to get from you is intelligent criticism of the work of the Department, and I want to understand what you say. I want to know whether your criticism of the Department is that they overdo the thing rather as regards the requirements of the very best class of bulls?—That is so; a cheaper class of pedigree stock would do equally well.

4033. But still you would advocate their going in for pure-bred bulls?—Yes.

4034. Then I don't quite see where the criticism comes in, for if you have pure-bred bulls that means going in for the prize bulls?—There is a question of degree in pure-bred stock. Go into the showyard, and there are bulls fit to be sold to get prize stock, whereas others are only fit to be sent down to mate with cross-bred stock.

4035. If you say you only go in for pure-bred stock, surely that is putting it as high as the Department do?—No.

4036. They would not refuse, I suppose, a short-horn bull with a proper pedigree and character? (Mr. Brown).—It is more inferior in quality.

4037. (Mr. Nichols).—Is the objection raised that people are afraid to take the high class prize breed because they are delicate, not hardy?—Yes; you cannot get everything done the way you want it done. It is all very well to tell a small farmer that if he kept the calf the way he should it would have prospered; but when he has not done so you have to accommodate yourself to the habits of the country. I remember once going to a man who had two bulls, for one the charge was 60 guineas and for the other 22 guineas. I bought here the 22 guinea one, and I honestly believe he suited the purposes of the country people about better than the 60 guinea one, and they were both thoroughbred.

4038. (Mr. O'Connell).—Your point is that in pure-bred bulls the second class is as good as the first class for many purposes of the country?—Yes.

4039. (Mr. Dryden).—A second class bull is never as good as a first class bull?—No, that is obvious, but for certain purposes you must accommodate yourself to the circumstances of the people, and what would do very well in an agricultural college would not do so well on a bleak country hillside.

4040. (Mr. Brown).—The inferior bull will not do better than the first class bull?—Surely, and he will develop better under worse conditions; you will have plenty of others saying the same.

4041. (Chairman).—Now go on with the poultry and butter-making schemes?—The poultry and butter-making schemes, particularly the former, have worked well, and with benefit to the country. I have said the type of bulls required by the Department is

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of a standard race suited to breed prize stock than to meet the every day keep of the small farmer's holding, and the rules of the Department are so stringent that we cannot get farmers to apply for a sufficient number of bulls to exhaust the number of premiums offered. For example if a man takes a premium bull at Enfield he has to pull him by the nose to Trim, 12 statute miles, to have him examined by an Inspector at the end of the year, or he won't get his premium again. What I held in that the Inspector should go round the houses, with the double object of seeing the handling of the bull, and seeing the conditions under which the bull is kept. It would not pay a man to go to Dublin and pay £40 or £50 for a bull for the sale of £15 for one year; the only thing he has out of the bull if he gets the three £15 is that he gets back the price of the bull.

4042. (Mr. Brown).—Bulls are not at such a price as that?—You will find they are. They are sold at that owing to the artificial system employed by the Department of marking certain bulls as premium bulls, those that are not marked you will get for £20, or £30, but let the words "Premium Bull" be put on its earboard and it puts £30 on the price of the beast.

4043. What would you suggest in place of inspection?—I am not objecting to inspection; the exact point I was on was the local inspection for the following year, and out of that we want to talk about what the bull cost a man to keep him, and it was necessary to get a second and third premium, but in order to earn that he must hand the bull eleven miles; he should be inspected at his residence and by surprise visits. We have the greatest difficulty in Meath in getting people to take these bulls; we have 20 county electoral divisions, and originally we offered two premiums for each, but we could only get 23 taken.

4044. Is it not partly due to the want of enterprise on the part of the people?—Partly due to red tape.

4045. There are other counties where there are 50 premiums taken up?—More populous counties.

4046. (Mr. McKee).—Did you ever bring this before the Department?—It has been brought before them now; they asked for suggestions as to the live stock scheme for the coming year, and I put it in. I think it is an old case of mine.

4047. (Mr. Brown).—Were they not inspected at

On returning after luncheon.

4048. (Chairman).—Now will you go on?—I want to offer an explanation of the evidence I gave before lunch with regard to the selection of the bulls. In answer to a question I was made to say that I favoured second class bulls, by that I did not mean to convey that I favoured the worst class of bulls exhibited in a show, or a bull in any way defective or incapable of doing what was expected of it. I meant medium class bulls, not quite equal to getting prize stock bulls again, but which would be good enough for its purposes and might cost less.

4049. (Mr. Dryden).—I put it in another way—that you would prefer the Inspectors should lower the standard somewhat?—Yes, and the price.

4050. You would buy an inferior animal?—That is just the point I want to correct. I don't mean that we should select an inferior animal.

4051. (Mr. McKee).—You mean one bull might get very good cross-bred stock, but yet not be good enough to breed thoroughbred stock from a good cow?

(Mr. Dryden).—The bull that won't breed one way won't breed another; there is nothing in that; it is only a question of the standard of excellence that the Inspector has in his mind, and if the bull fails to come up to that he will pass it—I did not mean that they should buy in any way an inferior animal that was not fit for the purpose. I mean a good medium class.

4052. (Mr. Brown).—I find I was making a mistake about inspection; they were not inspected at the farms, but in the case which was in my mind the inspection centre was so close to the farm that it might have been actually on the farm?—Yes, I was right in that.

4053. The Inspectors have places as near as can be arranged but not on the farm?—I am glad the committee know that.

4054. This was what was in my mind; originally there were bull shows or exhibitions of bulls held in each county, that has been dropped, and all that is

the farms last year?—I know they had to go to Trim from my district.

4055. (Mr. Dryden).—I understood they were inspected at the farmer's houses?—Not in Meath; the question turned up during the past year at our committee about a man whether he would have the premium, that was Mr. Congrave, near Kesh, because he had not sent his bull.

4056. (Mr. Brown).—I think you will find that now the bulls are inspected at the place where they are kept?—I remember a letter was read from the man asking where he should send the bull, and on that I raised the whole question that it would be desirable to send down an Inspector to the houses. I know that is within the past six months.

4057. (Chairman).—Is it worked there by Inspectors?—Yes; we have an itinerant instruction, and we have egg stations and things of that kind still. We have a poultry instruction. Perhaps the best thing I could do would be to put it in the poultry scheme (produced).

4058. I think we have it already; you say it would well?—It worked very well, but like everything else, it worked well because we had a good instructor. Every theory depends upon the person who puts it in operation; why the poultry scheme succeeds with us better than anything else is largely due to the fact that we have a good instructor, and it is suitable to the wants of the people too.

4059. Has it penetrated down to the smaller class of tenants?—Yes; you know it is a great boon to poor people to be able to get a setting of good eggs for a dozen at a time when ordinary setting eggs are selling at 1s 6d a dozen.

4060. That you say has worked well?—Very well.

4061. And it has been appreciated by the people?—Very much by a large class.

4062. As the people sufficiently, if I may say the word without offence, intelligent to take advantage of these schemes?—Some of them are and some of them are not; with some it is not so much want of intelligence as want of thrift and want of will to do the right thing.

4063. Do you find an improvement?—A decided improvement. The poultry and butter-making schemes, particularly the former, have worked well, and with benefit to this county. The butter-making has not come so much under my notice.

required now is that the bulls brought to some convenient centres?—These centres are not always convenient for the ordinary districts.

4064. (Chairman).—You have finished about the poultry and butter schemes?—Yes. Our schemes for instruction in agriculture and horticulture have been failures owing to our inability to obtain or retain instructors who could secure the Department's approval, and we have had the discreditation of experimental plots laid down by an instructor who had departed before the seeds came up. That actually happened. It is part of all our schemes that we should have experimental plots; we had that, and we employed an instructor, and he got a better post in South Africa or somewhere, and left us, and we were not able to replace him for a very long time; and for a very long period since the Act was passed we had no instructor at all, and it really turned the whole thing into a farce—the idea of acquiring experimental plots, with seeds and manure, and when the seeds came up nobody to explain the cause or effect.

4065. (Chairman).—That happens everywhere, you cannot keep the same man for ever.

4066. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you would not have a foreigner; you had to wait for the home manufactured article?—We missed no objection at all; if he came from New Zealand we would not care, but nobody came.

4067. Did you advertise for one?—We did; we spent a small fortune in advertising; it is one of our complaints against the Department that they have favoured other counties; they supplied other counties with instructors and passed us over.

4068. I suppose they thought you were too well off?—No, we were not a favoured nation in Meath.

4069. (Chairman).—To some extent you have returned poor for evil?—The best scheme we have is that for prizes for the best-kept small farms and cottages and gardens. This was the first county in Ireland

to adopt such a scheme, which was drafted in the first instance by me. The only drawback is that so few of the small farmers and labourers avail themselves of it. Almost the same set compete every year, so that we have to exclude prize-winners, who are left to compete in a championship class for themselves. We have a local competition in every county division. We have three or four classes: one for labourers' gardens, another for farms up to twelve acres, and another for farms up to fifty acres, and the fourth class is a champion class for the whole county, in which only prize winners are entitled to enter.

4070. (Mr. Brown).—Do they compete according to the county electoral division or the rural districts?—No, the county electoral divisions; we have twenty competitions in the county, and a good many compete for the all-Ireland winners.

4071. (Chairman).—Does that scheme create much interest in the county?—Almost the same set compete every year. Those who need improvement most cannot be got to enter, and the same applies to almost every class of instruction. Apathy and ignorance are rampant among the most backward classes of the community, who consider it a degradation to admit that they have anything to learn. This applies particularly to our courses of instruction in domestic economy, which are attended by people who least require instruction, and those we would like most to bring in—the poorest and most ignorant—cannot be induced to attend. This tends to make the Instructionists devote most of their time to better-class cookery instruction, whereas our object is to teach these things only which are within the reach of the poor man's purse; that is a thing I have had a good deal of argument about with the teachers, about keeping down the standard; they are inclined to make jellies and nice things like that, and not to attend to the bacon and cabbage and brown bread; we cannot keep them to that. People who could benefit by the brown bread operations don't come in.

4072. (Mr. Dryden).—They will come in later.

4073. (Mr. Dryden).—Still I suppose you would be willing to admit that the fact that a farm is well kept has a very good effect on these people?—I think it is very good, and it is one of those things we have had to fight the Department about, because the scheme did not come from them. We have built as many labourers' cottages in Meath as proportion to our taxation as any county in Ireland. We are the fourth highest valued county, and have built the fourth largest number of cottages, and we were the first to start a competition for small farms of the labourers' class, although we are credited in every part of Ireland as being nowhere who should be got rid of.

4074. (Mr. Brown).—That scheme has existed all over Ireland—I remember a man asking in the House of Commons why such a thing could not be started, and I was going to tell him we had it for two years.

4075. (Chairman).—Do you think the poorer people are beginning to appreciate this more than they did?—I am afraid not.

4076. (Mr. Mills).—Here they mean to provide the materials for such cookery as is taught?—Such a cookery as we would wish to be taught, because it is provided in our scheme that no material is to be used which is not within the reach of the poorest man; we are most exact that that should be kept to, and the answer they make is that that class of people don't come in to them.

4077. (Chairman).—Where do they hold these cookery classes?—Practically all in the National Schools.

4078. They provide the places?—Yes, we have cookery ranges; out of our own pockets we locally provide ranges in some of these schools.

4079. (Mr. Ogbie).—The question of where the class is held has often a good deal to do with the kind of people that can be got to come into it. I know of some parts where, with a view of getting poor people such as you have in view to come to the class, the class has been arranged in a cottage just such as you mean; the Instructionist is satisfied with a class of half-a-dozen, and has arranged to hold it in a woman's cottage and definitely directed to the sort of work that would be done there. It is found that they would come to that when they won't go to the school—I know what you mean, but it would be very difficult to do that with two Instructionists for a whole county.

4080. (Mr. Mills).—Mr. Ogbie means the class should be held?—Yes, but a class limited to six or seven.

4081. (Mr. Ogbie).—Suppose your Instructionist is going to hold a meeting in a schoolroom after school hours, the day may have a class in the earlier part of the day when she would have half-a-dozen women of this type in a cottage?—I agree with you; it would be a good thing; it has not been tried. The Instructionist may tactfully go round to cottages, but it is not provided in the scheme.

4082. When tried that way it often has the attention of a little bit of society, and I suppose they don't depart immediately after the Instructionist leaves the room?—No.

4083. Mr. Dryden).—The Instructionist would require to have a good deal of tact not to offend the feelings of the pupils?—Yes, there is a good deal of trouble in the whole thing.

4084. (Mr. Brown).—Do you not find it spreading?—I think the Domestic Economy Instruction is fairly good, but we have too little of it to leave any lasting benefit. For example, we have two Instructionists for the whole Co. Meath, and that is really nothing for a big county like Meath.

4085. (Mr. Dryden).—How long have you been working the scheme?—For five years, anyway.

4086. That is a very short time?—The Act is, I think, six years in operation; it was about a year after we started. We were one of the first in Ireland to start all these things. The Technical Instruction given in this county consists of Domestic Economy and Manual Instruction. The latter is of little use, because the young boys out of primary schools have not sufficient general knowledge to enable them to grasp the theoretical part of the instruction. I consider that the system of Technical Instruction ought to be abandoned in rural districts except through the medium of our primary schools and of continuation classes under some. Here I may say that the want of co-ordination between our primary and technical systems caused nothing short of a public scandal in my own parish, where the School Manager was induced to provide cooking ranges to give effect to the Domestic Economy programme of the National Education Board. Just as the thing was well started the latter Board eliminated the Cookery classes from their programme, leaving it to the Department to provide such instruction. The latter refused to recognize the certificate which enabled the National Teachers to teach Domestic Economy, and as there are only two Instructionists in Domestic Economy for the whole County Meath, they never reached Enfield, where our cooking ranges remain idle, a memorial to the want of co-ordination in Irish Education, and most discouraging to those of us who put our money in them. We provided the ranges, and I just wish now to refer to the evidence which I heard Dr. Sturkie giving here. He glanced over that very nicely; he said they dropped it out of their programme because the necessary appliances were not provided; that they handed it to the Department, and now they are taking it back from the 1st of July; but he did not tell you that he refused to continue it in schools except Current schools, even where the necessary appliances were provided. Our schools and some others in the County Meath were provided with the necessary cooking utensils out of local subscriptions, and they would not continue the course of instruction, so that as far as Dr. Sturkie's evidence goes, he did not tell you the whole state of affairs.

4087. (Chairman).—After the 1st of July you can resume again?—Yes, I hope the utensils are there still. For the promotion of Agriculture generally it is not easy to see what can be done. No large system of tillage could be carried on in many parts of the county owing to the scarcity of labourers, which has become more marked since the growth of labourers' cottages, which have destroyed the old feudal system which attached labourers to the farm and master under whom they lived. I said before, and I say now, that in many cases when a labourer enters a district cottage his great ambition is to cease to be a labourer, at least in the ordinary sense, under authority and discipline and keeping regular hours. He prefers taking contract jobs; so much the worse for agriculture and the labourer. The former cannot be carried on unless by regular labourers, and the latter is often in want between jobs. If wages were better he might return, but current prices will not permit of that.

4088. How much land is attached to a labourer's cottage?—Originally there was only half an acre

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allowed, now there is a statute acre. All the cottages built since the Act of 1892, with a few exceptions, have been supplied with a whole acre, and many built before that had an additional half acre added. We have an enormous number of labourers' cottages and have about half the number of labourers we had before we built them. The one acre plot permits him to work between times, and he sets up a little jobbing, perhaps, and uses it as a basis for his operations. I know a man who lives in a labourer's cottage built on a division of land of twenty-five acres which he had taken for eleven months' grazing.

4089. (Mr. Dryden).—What authority controls the labourers' cottages?—The District Councils elected by the labourers are supposed to control them. It is the system of a man choosing his own landlord; it practically means the labourer elects his own landlord.

4090. A good many other people want to vote for him, too?—The labourers are so numerous they can return anybody they like.

4091. (Mr. Reeves).—It has not led to any increase of tillage?—It has not. The number of labourers available in Meath since the building under the Labourers' Act is not anything like what it was, that is, the number of labourers available for regular farm work; you will get men once in a while, but they walk away from you when it suits them. I had a man I took on two months ago at twelve shillings a week; he has taken some rivers to clean from a Drainage Board, and he informs me he is going to the drainage at the very time I require him for hay-making. You cannot carry on any large system of tillage unless you are sure of having labourers all the year round, and the fact of labourers having rural district cottages does not attach them to farms as previously. Many of them are road contractors. I am not finding fault with that, but when people argue that it is the want of labourers' cottages that is interfering with tillage, they are quite wrong; the growth of labourers' cottages has gone to kill tillage. I hold that every farmer should provide on his own farm accommodation for his labourers; the money should be lent to him on the same terms as for land purchase. Every farmer should have a number of cottages; then he would have the selection of his own staff, and the labourers would be properly housed.

4092. (Mr. Nichol).—That was the old law?—Yes, but it was not compulsory.

4093. Was it not compulsory under the Act of 1891?—Yes, but it was not compulsory on the Commissioners to apply it.

4094. They did in a considerable number of cases, but when the notifications were sent down to the District Council they did not enforce them?—I am told there was only one cottage built under the Land Act in Ireland.

(Mr. Nichol).—Oh, no, there were many; I know one case where the landlord thought the new cottages was worse than his own house, and went into the labourer's cottage, leaving his own house for the labourer.

4095. (Mr. Dryden).—What is the custom as to the manner of engagement of the labourers, is it by the week, or how?—He is paid weekly wages, but he has a general idea himself that he can come and go when he likes. He would think nothing of stopping at home in the middle of a week's haymaking.

4096. Suppose you hired him for so many months?—That is the case of where you have your own house; you have a ploughman or herd hired for a month or six months, but the ordinary man that comes to you is bound by law to give you a week's notice, but he never thinks of doing it. This thing of men not attaching themselves to one farm but going about on jobs is the great cause of want of employment. These men go to where they get the highest wages in the summer and busy times of the year, and wonder there is no one to take them in the slack time. They would not stop in the summer in a place where they would be kept in the slack time. In districts I know no man need be idle if he would only attach

himself to a given farm all the year round, and the only men who are idle are those who would not keep constant employment. In my own district there is never a man idle, winter or summer.

4097. What would be the average wages a man like that would get?—There will be degrees, according to quality, like the bull—like a week is the pay of a young fellow from 20 to 25, who is fit to go with a horse, and a good man can get 12s, a man who is capable of being left to himself at any job, will get 12s a week, that is immediately where I live, but often three miles makes a tremendous difference. I have a farm, besides a bog, where I can get a man at 8s a week; every three or four miles the wages vary, according to the supply I require. (Appendix No. LXI.)

4098. Has the amount of wages he gets any effect on his staying on the farm?—Of course it has, if wages were better he might remain; the current prices will not permit of that, that is the price that farmers get for their crops; there is no margin. At the present prices you can graze quite as cheaply as you can till.

4099. That is the reason so much is in pasture?—Yes, it has been a constant grievance in Ireland for 300 years. There was a law passed in Ireland at the beginning of the 18th century obliging 5 acres out of every 100 to be kept under the plough, so Lady tells us that it was as having a grievance at the beginning of the 19th century as it is to-day, and will be as long as Ireland is the fertile country it is.

4100. Wherever the man who tills the land gets the most money, there he will go?—We have instances where the labourer who owns the half acre has laid it down in grass, and won't till it, and yet they complain of bigger men not breaking up their farms, and the very men who could till a great deal more than the working farmers who have sons who could work, but they are as much inclined to lay down land as anyone else and taking grazing land at eleven months. It is more or less out of philanthropy that a man tills anything now to give employment in districts where employment is wanted. Smaller men, who work with their own hands, do till. The only other remedy remaining are subsidies, and subsidies is a policy of feeding the dog on his own tail. Subsidies must come out of rates and taxes and they in turn come out of the land. We in Ireland had subsidies at the end of the 18th century, and it increased tillage enormously, and drove up the population enormously, with the result that when tillage no longer paid we had a famine.

4101. (Mr. Reeves).—Was it not the effect of war prices that ran up the tillage?—The subsidies had a good deal to do with it. There was so much granted for corn grown and brought to Dublin by the Irish Parliament, and that increased the amount of tillage and increased the population greatly, and when we had Free Trade of course tillage no longer paid, and the potato failed, and the population was there who had not the price for the corn or the potato, and we had the famine. Much of the second class land of Ireland might be tilled with advantage, particularly by the small farmers, but it can only be tilled with a profit equal to that in other countries, when our farming population learn to devote to it the same industry and the same number of hours per week as do the peasants of those countries. It is not so much want of knowledge as the will to apply it with some of our peasants require. In a word—selfishness and temperance are the pass words to Ireland's future prosperity.

4102. (Chairman).—On the whole, Mr. Kennedy, looking to the state of things since the legislation of 1890, would you say there has been an improvement or not?—Oh, yes; it is work in the right direction. It is not easy to see what you can do, but it is work in the right direction.

4103. You would not be for checking that or throwing anything in the way of it?—Certainly not.

4104. You think it is capable of improvement in many respects, but you would not be for assuming what has been done?—No, sir; I would not.

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4105. (Chairman).—I think you are a Director of the firm of Morrough Brothers and Co., of Douglas, Cork?—Yes.

4106. Are they woolen manufacturers?—Yes.

4107. Also a Director of the Irish Lace Co., Graffonstreet?—Yes, sir.

4108. What have you to say about the needs of fur-

ther development of technical instruction?—Well, Mr. Chairman, in my opinion the Act of 1890 has been very little use as regards urban industries. The Act, of course, has been very great use for rural industries, but according to the Act they are not allowed to teach the process of any trade or employment. Now, technical instruction, so far as I can

see in the cities is very little advantage to the youths of Ireland so long as they cannot get employment afterwards. I may give you one instance, which is better perhaps than anything else. There was a very smart young fellow down in Cork who attended the Technical School there, and he was so proficient in wood-carving that he was given the order to carve the eulast by the Cork Corporation when presenting the Freedom of the city to Mr. Carnegie, when he laid the foundation stone of the Free Library, that was really a credit to anybody; but that young man can get no employment in that way, and he is a day labourer on the quays in Cork. Now the present system of agriculture in Ireland I might say is almost all grazing, and it is not capable of employing the population of the country, all the people, anyway. The consequence is that you have a system of emigration from Ireland that you have not in any other country in the world. The increase in the grass lands from 1851 to 1904 is something about two million acres, that is, tillage land turned into grass land. Now to employ the population that cannot get employment on agriculture; in my opinion we want more manufactures in Ireland; there is an opening for manufactures by the fact that we import at present about thirty-five millions pounds of manufactured goods into Ireland, and even if twenty millions of that were made in this country it would make a total change in the face of the whole country.

4106. What do you suggest then?—My suggestion is that there should be a Board of Industries; at present under this Act there is a Board of Agriculture and Industries and Technical Education, but as an Industrial Board they did nothing practically as far as Urban Industries are concerned.

4110. When you say they have done nothing, what do you mean?—Nothing has been done for the furtherance of manufacturing in Ireland under the Department in urban industries apart from rural industries.

4111. Do you mean in the way of actively supporting the manufactures, assisting them to come into existence and carry on for a time; or do you mean in the way of instruction. I thought the first part of your evidence was rather directed to this, that the mere teaching how to do a thing is of very little use if the person taught has no opportunity of doing it.—That is one point.

4113. What he wants is the opportunity of putting his knowledge to practical use?—So as to be able to get employment for himself. My idea was that there should be a Board of Industries, something like the Board of Agriculture, but composed of successful manufacturers, of men of commercial standing, who would be able to give reliable information to any parties desiring to start a new factory in the country. These men would understand thoroughly everything in connection with machinery power and also whether there was a likelihood of this proposed industry turning out a success, and if there was a market for the commodity in the country, because I hold that it is to supply the needs of this country should be the first object of any new factories established. To do that there is one difficulty, and that is the difficulty of capital, because no new industry—I have experience myself of the woollen industry—I don't know of any new industry that can afford to pay a dividend immediately or even for the first four or five years after its establishment, because in Ireland we have to compete with the wealthiest and most up-to-date manufacturers in the world, and it stands to reason that a native industry could not possibly compete with the well-established and fully grown industries of other countries. My idea then was that this Board, composed, as I say, of successful manufacturers and men of commercial standing, should have a certain amount at their disposal which they could, if they thought the proposed industry was a right one and likely to succeed, and that the men who were about to undertake it were the right people, that they should be able to finance two-thirds of the capital at a low rate of interest, spreading the repayment of the principal over a number of years. Of course Banks won't do that. Banks won't advance money for a long period, they require their money at short dates. And the next thing for carrying on an industry successfully is that you should have the right people to teach the workers; those foremen should be treated as technical instructors, and their salaries or wages should be paid for twelve months,

while they are teaching the people who would be employed in this new industry.

4114. They would be both teachers and managers of the business?—Yes.

4116. (Mr. Micks).—You said they would be working at a loss for four or five years?—They would.

4115. Then why do you say one year?—I mean for technical instruction.

4116. Do you think it could be completed in a year?—It would. Take our own factory. We brought over from Scotland a manager and the very best foremen we could possibly get, and then we taught about 288 people down in our own district.

4117. Will you tell us how long you were doing that?—We were able to turn out the first-class finished stuff in twelve months; we commenced with twenty looms, and we have eighty-two looms now.

4118. (Chairman).—This was an ordinary business industry?—An ordinary business industry.

4119. (Mr. Micks).—Will you tell us at about what date you increased your looms?—The third year we doubled our looms; of course, then, the increase after that was not so rapid.

4120. Now you have four times your original number of looms; how long was it until you reached that point?—About ten years.

4121. And if it is not an objectionable question, from a judge point of view, at about what stage did they begin to be remunerative?—We paid no dividend for the first five years.

4122. (Chairman).—That is the case of an industry, started and carried on successfully, though of course at a sacrifice at first, without State aid at all?—Quite so.

4123. (Mr. Dwyer).—Was there an increase of capital when you increased the number of looms?—Oh, yes, we had to increase the capital.

4124. (Chairman).—Where should the capital come from which is to be financed?—From the same place as they got the money for the land, a Government loan. There was another proposal which I think might perhaps be an alternative, that is that instead of providing the capital the State might guarantee a certain percentage on the capital for a certain number of years. That is supposing there was a million capital wanted for new industries in Ireland, that could not possibly be spent in one year. Perhaps not for four or five years, but the State would perhaps guarantee 4 per cent. on that for 10 or 15 years. They may not require a guarantee for more than five years, or perhaps two years, but you won't get the capital guaranteed under ten or fifteen years.

4125. (Mr. Micks).—It would not be guaranteeing the capital, but the interest on it?—Yes.

4126. (Chairman).—What would be the security of the State for this advance?—In the case of a direct advance of capital, my idea was that one-third of the capital should be subscribed by the parties who proposed to start these industries themselves, and the State would give two-thirds, and that two-thirds should represent buildings and machinery, and the State then would have the first charge on the whole. For instance, suppose an industry required £30,000 to start it, these parties applying for a loan should have £10,000 of their own first, and that should be sunk in buildings and machinery before the State would advance any money, but it would be under an agreement that they would advance it as soon as it was done, and as soon as £20,000 was spent on buildings and machinery they would get £30,000, so they would have £20,000 for working capital and £30,000 sunk in buildings and machinery.

4127. Would you propose that the State should take any part in the management of the business?—No, except that the accounts should be audited by a Government auditor.

4128. (Mr. Micks).—Would they have any power according to your proposals of preventing anything in the nature of gross mismanagement or jobbing?—Of course the Articles of Association would be drawn up in all these cases; it would be the case of a limited liability company with mortgage debentures, which the Government would have, over the whole place, and, as debenture holders, they would have special rights, and the articles would give them a certain control in case the business was not being properly managed.

4129. (Chairman).—What limits would you put to this power; it would not be proper that everybody should have the right to call upon the State to advance him two-thirds of the capital to support a particular

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industry?—My idea was that there should be a Board of Industry, which should have the duty of recommending what industries should have capital advanced to them; it should be a new industry, in the first place, not one competing with industries at present worked with private capital, and that on this Board, which would be partly nominated by the State and partly by Chambers of Commerce, there should be men of probity, who would have no interest themselves in those industries, but would recommend the State to advance two-thirds of the capital, they having thoroughly investigated the whole matter before-hand, seeing that the men who were about to take it up were the right men, that the industry had an element of success in it, and that there was a market for the commodity in the country.

4130. Would you place any limit on the maximum amount the State might advance?—You might put a limit of £20,000 to £50,000.

4131. I mean the total limit that might be devoted to the purpose in the course of one year?—I don't think you could possibly start industries in this country which would absorb more than half a million of money in the year, or if you did, it would be very slow work, because industries are things of very slow growth, and require to be handled cautiously to grow, not to launch into big things at once; but you must increase as the demand for the commodity increases.

4132. Have you any particular industries in mind that might be advanced in this way?—There were a great many industries in Ireland at one time, but unfortunately by adverse legislation they were crushed out. The woollen industry, which flourished at one time to an enormous extent, was proscribed; the exportation of Irish woollens was prohibited by the 16 & 17 William IV. under a fine of £200, and the forfeiture of the goods. When that industry was suppressed, 20,000 people engaged in the woollen industry in the North of Ireland had to emigrate, and 10,000 from Brandon alone. The Cork and Waterford glass was famous; it was unrivalled anywhere, in fact, the old Cork and Waterford glass at the present day is as valuable as old silver. The exportation of glass was prohibited by 19 Geo. II., and that crushed it. The very factory we have now at present at Dingles was a sail-cloth factory turning out 172,000 yards of sail-cloth in a year; that was crushed out by County-Duff English sail-cloth, which was imported duty free. There were thirteen cotton mills in Ireland at one time using half a million pounds of cotton; that industry is gone, crushed out by adverse duties. The duty on mixed linen and cotton goods exported from Ireland to England on £100 value was £20 15s 10d., while the duty on the same goods coming from England into Ireland was £0 12s. 5d. There was an enormous sugar refinery business in Ireland at one time; in Cork we had three; there is not one now. The duty put on refined sugar going from Ireland into England was £8 6s. 10d. a cwt., while the duty on refined sugar from England into Ireland was £1 15s. 11d. In the case of starch made in Ireland, on a cwt. the duty into England was £4 12s. 1d., and on starch from England to Ireland the duty was 6s. 5d. Wrought silk, silk goods, leather gloves, lace, embroideries, copper, brass, and iron-work were strictly prohibited from being exported; all other goods going from Ireland to England were charged from 30 to 50 per cent., while there was 5 to 10 per cent. on the same class of goods coming from England to Ireland. Now, Anthony Froude, who was not supposed to be very friendly to Ireland, speaking of Irish manufactures said: "With their shipping destroyed by Navigation laws, their woollen manufactures taken from them, their trade in all its branches crippled and hampered, the single resource left was agriculture." Agriculture went on very well in this country for a number of years; meantime all the industries were either crushed out by deliberate legislation or by excessive competition, and while the Irish industries were crushed by such legislation the English manufactures at the same time were helped in every possible way by protective duties even against the goods of Ireland, and then when the Irish industries were crushed and the English industries well established, Free Trade came in which simply gave the English manufacturers another advantage in cheap food for their workers, but ruined the principal industry we had in Ireland, wheat-

growing. The area under wheat went down by 18 per cent, the consequence was that the agricultural labourers who, in 1851, were 3,973,000, declined to 1,180,000, or a falling off of 1,870,000.

4133. (Mr. Dwyer).—In what period?—From 1851 to 1904. The people engaged in manufacturing industries in 1851 were 930,000, and in 1904 they were 370,000, or a falling off of 560,000.

4134. (Mr. Mick).—These are taken from the census returns?—They are; and in textile industries alone, in 1851 there were 660,000 people employed. In 1904 there were only 118,000, or a falling off of 572,000. Of course you know the population of the country has gone down by 3,750,000 by emigration from 1851 to 1904. Now, the effect of this adverse legislation and undue competition is still with us. When industries are once crushed out and the people have gone away who were accustomed to that kind of work, if the restrictions are taken off afterwards in years to come, to try to revive those industries is a very difficult matter. The skilled workers are gone, hardly any to be taken into account in manufacturing just as in individuals or in cattle. The youngsters in England have the business bred in them; they go into the mill with an amount of hereditary instinct in the particular branches; their fathers and mothers and grandfathers and grandmothers have been in the mills, and they require very little training to make them proficient in their business, and it will take many years in this country, even if we have factories established, to get that hereditary instinct in the people.

4135. (Chairman).—I don't suppose there are any two opinions either in England or Ireland as to the character of the legislation by which the industries of Ireland were deliberately crushed out, but what we have to look to is the prospect of establishing a better state of things—is it feasible, or is it not, and in what direction would you look if your ideas were given practical effect to, in what direction would you look for a real chance of substantial improvement?—There is one industry, sugar grown on beet; there is no country in the world that can grow beet better than Ireland. Experiments have been tried down in Cork by gentlemen who have taken an interest in this question, one especially, and the Department overlooked, I believe, this gentleman's plot of beet, something like two acres, and they pulled the roots themselves and had the saccharine matter pressed, and their report was that there was 50 per cent. more weight of roots and 10 per cent. more saccharine matter than in the Belgian or French crop. Then a consumption of 135,000 tons of sugar in Ireland at the year, and the pulp is splendid cattle food, so that you would be helping the agricultural industry and the other industry at the same time, and you have a market for the commodity here. The starting of a moderate-sized factory would cost £60,000, and the prospect of a dividend, of course, would be made for a couple of years, and people won't put their capital into a thing if they don't think they will get an immediate return; you cannot get shares taken up in factories unless there is an immediate prospect of a dividend; you can start very little industries in this country if you are not prepared to do without a dividend for four or five years.

4136. That is very interesting evidence of yours, but we must not lose sight of the fact that what we are concerned with is the method and operation of the Department—do you suggest that in any particular way the authority of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction might be enlarged so as to meet the needs you have pointed out?—The only way I can see is by adding a Board of Industries in addition to the Board of Agriculture and the Board of Technical Instruction, but that Board would have to have more power, more to do than those other two Boards have. The other two Boards, as far as I can see, are simply advisory Boards, they have no real power in the matter; they simply come together occasionally, and everything is put before them and they say yes or no to it.

4137. They have power in the control of expenditure?—If I read the Act correctly they have power to advise the Department on any matter submitted to them; if it is not submitted to them they have nothing to do with it.

4138. (Mr. Bress).—No expenditure can be made without their consent.

4139. (Chairman).—They have a power of vetoing amendments which is much more extensive than advising.

4140. (Mr. Brown).—That makes it necessary to submit the schemes to them—I need hardly tell you if a number of gentlemen from different parts of the country meet at a Board, and put a thing out and dry before them, they cannot get at the ins and outs in a day. My idea is that any member of the Board might submit a scheme, and it should be printed and sent round to all the members a fortnight before a decision was come to so that everybody would have an opportunity of thinking it out and discussing it, but so get it out and dry.

4141. (Mr. Ogilvie).—At any rate the power you propose would be powers different from those in the Act laid down for the existing Board?—Yes; that is one of the changes I would suggest.

4142. (Chairman).—The change you suggest is to strengthen the existing Board and to enlarge their powers very much—to give them power to recommend the advance of money for the purposes you have indicated?—Yes, but the Board of Industries should be composed of men thoroughly acquainted with the work and not drawn haphazard from different parts of the country.

4143. How would you get these men?—My idea is that the Government would have a certain interest in the advancing of the money that they should have the nomination of one-third, and two-thirds might be selected by the Chambers of Commerce in the county, who are composed of business men, and not by County Councils or Corporations, who are not business men as a rule, and, especially as it is not an agricultural matter, it is a business matter.

4144. You are aware of the strong criticism that has been presented to us of the constitution of the Council of Agriculture and the Boards of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, because of there being a certain nominated element upon them: It is suggested they ought to be wholly elected. You would not elect your Board by popular suffrage, you would have it appointed by Chambers of Commerce?—The Board of Industries would be a purely business Board, and, therefore, should be selected by business men, and there would be no use in having the Board unless you had business men on it, men commercially trained and manufacturers, who know the pit-falls and the difficulties of starting manufactures.

4145. Do you think such men would be likely to be elected?—Oh, certainly by the Chambers of Commerce.

4146. But if they were elected by a more popular suffrage?—I don't think they would, unless you made the qualification for a member that he should be a manufacturer, I would have more faith in the Chambers of Commerce.

4147. Where you have a special qualification, it becomes difficult to adopt the principle of election?—Yes.

4148. (Mr. Micks).—How are the Chamber of Commerce framed; take your own one in Cork?—Simply the merchants of the city who subscribe to the Chamber.

4149. Do you admit anybody but a trader?—We would admit anybody, but no one generally applies for membership except people engaged in trade or commerce.

4150. If such a scheme were adopted, you would, no doubt, have applications from other people?—Yes, but I would make the qualification for membership of that Board that a man should be a manufacturer or of well-known commercial training.

4151. (Mr. Ogilvie).—What does "well-known" mean?—It would be very easy to have a rating qualification; in the case of members of the Dublin Harbour Board they require to have a valuation of £50 on business premises, and some members of the Board require to be owners of shipping, and others are representing merchants; but they all must have a certain rating qualification that would, of course, if the rating was set high enough, ensure a good class of men on such a Board.

4152. (Mr. Micks).—In order to carry out your scheme, you would want in some way to make a qualification in addition to that of subscribing members of Chambers of Commerce?—Yes, a rating qualification.

4153. (Mr. Brown).—I thought you were making the point that at present there was no qualification at all required for a member of a Chamber of Commerce. He need not be a commercial man?—He need not.

4154. (Mr. Micks).—Therefore I ask would you elect such a person unless he had a rating qualification?

—Suppose there was a Limited Liability Company, with three or four directors with a valuation of £200; any of those men would be sufficiently qualified.

4155. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I am afraid anything of that sort would require very great limitations and restrictions, because in any business a rating qualification of £200 might not mean very much of a business, whereas a very large business might be conducted in an office the rating of which was perhaps £100?—Not a manufacturing concern.

4156. No; but you included commercial?—If you made the same qualification as the Dublin Harbour Board, £50 would cover that.

4157. In the end you would have to fall back upon the efficacy of the judgment of your Chambers of Commerce, and as your Chambers of Commerce are not hedged in by any specific qualification that would hardly be a sufficiently reliable basis for the election of the Board which it is to be entrusted with so great powers of expending money as you have indicated?—I think you might rely on the Chambers of Commerce of Ireland.

4158. But as soon as the Chamber of Commerce becomes a body that is going to have power to manipulate a few millions of other people's money they might not be able to stand the test of their constitution?—That was my reason for mentioning that the Government should nominate one-third, for the Government would be financially interested, but not without very good security.

4159. In an ordinary business, where the business had gone on for four or five years until the returns, which had been compromised by their schemes in the first year or two, would become sufficient to recompense people, in any of those reported businesses I suppose we should expect to find after the first few years that there would be a return coming in to restore the capital that had been expended—so that the idea?—You mean in the case of a guarantee. My idea is that the first couple of years the whole guarantee might be necessary, the next year not more than 2 per cent, after that 1 per cent, and then not at all.

4160. (Mr. Brown).—Did you ever know a case of guaranteed interest where it was not required for the whole time it was possible to have it?—The interest guaranteed would not be sufficient for a person to have their money in it unless they expected to get something better eventually. In the case of guaranteed railways the guarantees have worked themselves out in some cases.

4161. I think they are rare?—The reason they are rare is just this, that they are generally made in very poor districts. They are made for the purpose more of making communities than of giving dividends. They very seldom get a guarantee for a line except in a poor district, the Kerry and Donegal Railways.

4162. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I wanted to get at whether your conception was that the interest which lagged, and must necessarily lapse, in the preliminary years of any new work which is being started in this way, would be made good to the fund in the next few years or was it to be a dead loss?—That is a matter entirely for arrangement; that might be made a condition.

4163. (Mr. Micks).—If it was beginning to pay after the fourth year they would have to meet the instalments for the repayment of principal and interest?—That would be so.

4164. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You are a Director of the Irish Land Depot?—Yes.

4165. Is that business, as a manufacturing concern, I suppose there is always a prospect of difficulty arising from competition from abroad?—There is great competition from abroad. There are several countries now trying to copy the Irish land, and especially the French. That is a little unique industry in its own way, that was started by Lady Aberdeen thirteen or fourteen years ago. At that time there was very little doing in the lace industry in Ireland. Lady Aberdeen made herself responsible; she guaranteed the capital of £25,000. At that time the amount of lace bought in Ireland was about £2,000 a year. A few years after Lady Aberdeen guaranteed that, business improved, and we formed into a Little Limited Company with a capital of £7, seven shares of £1 each, and personally we went security to the Bank for the £25,000 which Lady Aberdeen guaranteed originally, and we have secured Lady Aberdeen of the guarantee. Since then that

June 25, 1906. Lace Depot has paid a quarter of a million of money in wages for lace, and to give you an idea, last year, in a district in Mayo, with an area of 72,000 acres, you can imagine the progress of the district when the valuation is only £4,000.

4166. (Chairman).—What part of Mayo are you speaking of?—The North-western, near Belmullet. We established eight schools in that district, and we paid those people last year £3,500 in wages. That is an illustration of what may be done by a guarantee.

4167. (Mr. O'Connell).—That, of course, is an illustration of a type not quite what you have been contemplating in the other case; still it illustrates the advantage there is in a preliminary guarantee. This business has now been running on for a number of years, and is run on a sound commercial basis?—Yes.

4168. It must tend for itself practically now, and doing so in the face of any foreign competition that may arise. How far have you any knowledge as to the relation between the probable wages of lace workers in France, which you mentioned as the principal competitor, and of those in Ireland, because after all that probably would be the point upon which the permanence of the industry would depend?—The permanence of the industry depends more on the designs and the class of work; the aim of the Irish Lace Depot is to have the best possible designs and the very best possible work from Ireland, and so long as that is kept up we defy competition. They have not, up to the present, produced anything like the lace produced in Ireland, especially the crochet lace.

4169. So long as they don't copy your designs successfully, and in an equally good class of work, any question of relative wages scarcely comes in?—No; our girls earn about 14s. a week.

4170. (Mr. Meek).—That will be the best?—No; some earn more. But this association is worked something on the same lines as I propose the Board of Industries.

4171. That would not be about the average?—It is, sir; the Board managing the lace depot are a board of gentlemen working without dividends' fees or any other expenses for the last 15 or 16 years. I come up myself once a fortnight from Cork to give a day there; their profits cannot be devoted to any purpose but the furthering of Irish Industries; we pay no dividend.

4172. (Chairman).—Is it fair to ask you, supposing you did pay dividends, would the profits justify it?—We could pay 500 or 600 per cent.

4173. (Mr. O'Connell).—On your £71?—Before the Department was established we paid all teachers in Ireland that were teaching lace; we provided all school houses; we gave them all the designs; we gave them the very best designs from the Schools of Art, and registered those designs, and we got skilled workers sent down to start the work; we opened markets in England and on the Continent, and we paid in bonuses to the workers in addition to their wages £3,000 in the last ten years.

4174. I suppose after the workers become expert in the work, the people you refer to as teachers become practically organising foremen, each in their own area?—What we did was we sent a teacher down for 12 months, and the class was formed into a co-operative class, so that they got the entire amount of money amongst themselves; there was nothing paid for supervision; generally the class was supervised by the parish priest or clergyman of

the district, or some lady, and they got the proceeds of the work amongst themselves.

4175. Can you give us any idea of the probable earnings per week of lace workers in France?—I have no idea.

4176. Even supposing they were content with a smaller wage there, you rely on the designs and the class of work here in Ireland, and the fact that lace being an article of luxury, people will pay considerably dearer for a first class article than at very much less price have something a little bit worse?—We go in for the very best article; once you make lace a new article of wear it goes down.

4177. (Chairman).—As a matter of fact the girls at these schools, Bangor and Gooma, and other places, are earning a great deal more than the men are; do almost a man would get in 2s. a day?—Yes; we are working in connection with the Congested District Board Schools; we take all their work.

4178. These schools I mentioned are not connected with the Congested Districts Board?—No; they will be our own schools.

4179. (Mr. Meek).—Have you a list of the schools managed by the Lace Department, by the Congested Districts Board, who supply you, and by the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Oh! that we do very much with the Board of Agriculture Schools. We get most of the work from the Congested District Board Schools. I will get that information for you from Mr. Martin.

4180. Will you give us the amount of your expenditure in sending teachers?—That has practically stopped since the Department started; they have taken over the Technical Instruction as part of their work.

4181. That is the reason I wanted to get the return from you under the three heads?—We do still pay several teachers in different parts of the country; not later than last week we arranged to pay a teacher in the country where the Department failed to pay.

4182. (Mr. O'Connell).—I suppose it would be hardly safe to judge from the success of the lace work when that a similar success would follow other trades?—I have not the least doubt that if reasonable aid and instruction were given to the people they are quite apt to pick up any industry as the lace industry.

4183. (Mr. O'Connell).—I did not mean that; I meant the lace industry is, so to speak buttressed by the fact that it provides for a luxury in which you are perfectly safe to get the fullest value for design and class work; whereas an industry that caters for the provision of a necessity does not have the same advantage from the point of view that we are looking at now.

4184. (Mr. Meek).—You said yourself it was unique?—Yes, of course it is; the only thing is this, that the few industries that are successfully working in Ireland at present are able to compete once they are on their legs with any industry anywhere else; in the woollen industry, which is just commencing to prosper, we have practically turned the English trade out of Ireland, but it took 15 years to do it.

4185. (Mr. O'Connell).—Can you compare the wages paid in the woollen trade in say, Sassen, Scotland, Yorkshire, and Ireland?—The wages are about the same; they are all paid on a scale; it is piece work, and depends on the proficiency of the operator, but is where an industry that is a long time established has the advantage over one that is not long established, because people get more proficient in their work. Of course we have to pay the foreman a little extra for coming from Scotland.

4186. You dispense with him after a while?—No, not unless he leaves himself.

Mr. J. O'Connor.

Mr. JOSEPH O'CONNOR examined.

4187. (Chairman).—I think you come from Myleskown, Naas?—Yes.

4188. You represent the Cattle Traders' and Stock Owners' Association?—Yes, sir.

4189. Is that a local association, or does it extend all over Ireland?—It is confined more or less to Irish people engaged in the cattle trade; it is called the Irish Cattle Traders' and Stock Owners' Association; it is non-political, and it includes everyone interested in the live stock industry of Ireland. It is now amalgamated with the Horsebreeders' Association; they have one secretary, and they are in co-operation with another; their objects are more or less the same.

4190. Are you an officer of the Association?—Oh, no.

4191. Mr. Brown says you have been Vice-President of this Association?—Well, I was, in the early days of it.

4192. You wish to say something about the scheme of the Department for the improvement of the breeding of live stock in Ireland?—Would it be in order to read in a paper which I wrote on the matter (see document)?

4193. Tell us what you think is important?—Of course what governs my suggestions is that this country is now more or less competing with a very great opposition from foreign importation as regards the limited article, and it was with a view to offer some practical

suggestions to improve the condition of the country by breeding more stores and of a better class.

4194. And these are the conclusions you came to on that question?—Yes, sir.

4195. You say: "Having carefully considered the matter, I have come to the conclusion that the following suggestions would succeed in procuring an all-round improvement if carried into operation in a determined way. All bulls throughout Ireland should be registered and licensed, and no one should be allowed to keep a bull unless it passed a special inspection by a committee of a District Council or some other competent authority, and was declared eligible so far as soundness in health and appearance, and up to a good standard of quality and usefulness, though not necessarily a pure-bred. No half-bred Polled Angus or half-bred Hereford should be eligible, but Short-horn Graded Crosses should be allowed under the above conditions."—That is the substance of the suggestions I made.

4196. That is, all bulls throughout Ireland should be registered and licensed?—The bulls that are called premium bulls are already registered. I am speaking of the balance. I want into the question the year this was written, and there were only 732 premium bulls in Ireland as compared with 17,800, which are more or less required. There is about a million young cattle bred in Ireland every year, and, allowing thirty or thirty-five cows to each bull, that would be about what it would work out at; and even allowing for those farmers who keep practically good bulls, this means the country is drifting into a degenerate bad class of animals, and the impression that the Department, with their 730 or 800 pedigree bulls can make, will not have any effect. The real root of the evil is these ill-bred animals allowed through the country. And I also point out that in the creamery districts, and districts inhabited by farmers who supply milk, those people take no practical interest in the class of calves they breed, and don't care what class of bull their cows are served by, and those come in as a regular injury and direct loss to the country. A country cannot prosper while this state of things is allowed to exist.

4197. You think more stringent measures than an increase in the number of premium bulls is required if you are to get a real general improvement in the breed of cattle?—I would like to see the efforts of the Department carried out on the general lines, as they have been up to the present, but that they should be a bit more generous in the amount given to premiums. A good many of the premiums are not taken up in parts of the country, owing to the fact that they are not sufficient in the money grant.

4198. You mean the premiums ought to be larger in amount?—More in amount. In our country—Kildare—there are twenty-one premium bulls allotted, and they have not all as yet, in any year, I think, been applied for; there must be a reason behind this that they are not applied for. I consider there ought to be an inducement offered by the Department that any farmer taking up a premium bull as a permanent bull that he should have a possible prospect of profit in the matter; he should not be asked to do it for the good of his neighbor, and at the price they have been costing. I say distinctly that it is a loss to anyone who has done so, more or less a loss, especially until the Department were good enough to have it extended to two-year-olds and three-year-olds. Here is a case in point: a man gave £45 for a bull at the show, and he was disqualified the second year, he did not get the premium the second year; that man had to stall-feed this bull and sell him at the market price, and that will work out at about half what he cost. I give £35 for this bull when I obtained that cow £45. That man, who followed out the directions of the Department, lost, and he never will have one again. It is not worth his while to buy or breed up a bull if he does not get a larger premium; I may it ought to be made more inviting, and the premium ought to be made at least £30 for the first year and £15 for the second and £15 for the third year.

4199. You say there is not enough was made of the premium bulls as they are now, but do you say further that these ought to be a greater number of them?—In addition to that what I mean to say is, that there ought to be other measures taken to license the remaining class of bulls that are not necessarily pure-bred, and stamp out the bad ones, and any person in Ireland who kept a bull should have his breed, as distinguished from being registered, and have another class of bulls distinct from the registered premium bulls.

4200. Then you would have a licensing authority that should have power to refuse a licence to a bull, and it should be an offence to use that bull?—Yes, otherwise you will never get on. At least, the milk of ten thousand cows goes to supply Dublin; not one of those dairy people has the slightest interest in his calves; I know a man who has eighty of the best dairy cows you could see, and he sold the bull that served them all for £7 after he had done service. They ask some of the dealers going down to Limerick: "Send me down a bull." "What class do you want?" "I want a £10 one." He wants the milk, and has no interest in the calves; and I am sorry to say, after all the fattening things that have been said about creameries, I think they were more of a curse than a blessing to the country.

4201. (Mr. Dryden).—What does a man do with such calves?—Simply sells them. At our last fair in Nixa the first animals shown were 300 of these ill-bred calves that came from the dairy districts.

4202. (Chairman).—Prof. Campbell told us that there were far too many calves?—It would be better if they were set free to as regards the good of the country. To get at them in the proper way is to prevent the evil, not to have them badly bred; it is really a curse. Anyone attending the fairs will plainly see this. I am quite satisfied that in the course of five or six years, if my suggestion was carried out, it would mean a profit of £5 a head or five millions to Ireland, if these bad bulls were stamped out.

4203. (Mr. Dryden).—I wonder that anybody would buy these calves?—It is miserable to see them.

4204. What class of people buy them?—The farmers who have nothing else to get.

4205. (Chairman).—I think everybody would agree that it would be a very desirable thing to substitute, for these miserable bulls, bulls of a better class; have you considered how that could be worked out in practice. Here you have an enormous number of bulls of an inferior class, yet there are an enormous number of cows, and you must provide bulls somehow; have you considered how it could be carried out. How you could enforce this licensing system?—We have fallen in with a proposal that came from the County Kilkenny with regard to the breeding of a dairying class of cows. What I was working out in my own mind was that the Department would have a farm or some piece of land on the principle of a farm, which would support a breeding herd of cattle, or allow people to have their cows up to a certain standard sent to these premium bulls of a good class at this farm, and that some independent Inspector belonging to the Department, with a Committee, say, of the District Council, who would be above being influenced by local people, should co-operate in some approved scheme and have these bad bulls stamped out, and not allow anyone to keep them, and people would soon understand that if they had not a better class than they were having, they would not be allowed to have one at all. The necessity would make them have more sense.

4206. (Mr. Micks).—Who would you make responsible for stopping the breeding with inferior bulls. What branch of the Government would you put it on?—I would let the Department take that matter into consideration and use whatever power they had, and obtain additional power if necessary.

4207. (Chairman).—It would be a very big problem?—Yes; but that is what it comes to, for it is really alarming. I have a practical knowledge from going to fairs, and it is becoming deplorable. You have no idea what it is coming to.

4208. Do you see that now in the local fairs; do you think cattle are improving or deteriorating?—Anywhere that the premium bulls are in practical use there is no doubt there is the greatest possible improvement, but you don't see it, it is so small; the numbers are so small compared to the numbers of the others, it is only like a speck in the ocean; the others crowd them out. What makes it the more difficult for people to improve in the country is that all these well-bred young ones that come from those good districts that have kept up their reputation for good cattle are taken to England and Scotland as stores, and this country has to fall back upon the second-hand ones. In Tipperary, around Tompleshore and Thurles and Limerick Junction, they have kept up the breed of these young cattle perhaps better than anywhere else; portion young Rossmore and part of Kilkenny, and parts of Carlow, Longford, and Wexford. What the farmers do there as a practice, they take a young

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bull calf from their best cow and rear that calf to serve their cows the following year, and then get it sold as a store bull, and make a yearling serve their purposes every year; they have kept up the grade of cattle by that method. I would also wish to impress on the members of the Committee that a good many of the expert authorities of the Department think that my introducing that question of having graded short-horns would be a means of bringing to impure breeding. I respectfully say that is not so; in my personal opinion it only applies to the Hereford and Aberdeen Angus as a cross; you can improve with the greatest possible advantage from the short-horn. A graded cross short-horn animal will breed as good in two or three crosses as if from the pure-bred.

4200. (Mr. Dryden).—Some of these are very well bred, but they are not registered!—In Tipperary and Limerick a great many farmers prefer their own short-horn bull to the premium bull; they get stronger calves, more flesh on them and more developed; that only applies to the short-horn breeds. There is only one cross of the Polled Angus or Hereford that is a success. You cannot pursue that any further, because after two or three crosses they are freaks; they are not animals at all. It is quite different with the short-horn; consequently I recommend for all round purposes the short-horn as the best class of cattle to have for Ireland. Anyone that likes to have others for one cross they are all right; they are grand fattening cattle, but only suitable for fattening purposes; they are failures as milkers.

4210. (Mr. Micks).—You will get some very good milkers among the Angles!—Very few; you might get an odd 10 per cent.; they are nearly all failures as a cross.

4211. (Chairman).—It really becomes a question what are the best means for increasing the number of well-bred bulls and diminishing the number of inferior ones. Is there anything you would suggest that the Department could do at once that would tend to that result?—I would not be very anxious or keen to suggest to the Department any particular method at once, but that they should take it into their serious consideration.

4212. You would not make it an offence at once to use one of these bulls?—No; I would recommend the Department to take it into their consideration and form some scheme on compulsory lines, that is what it must come to if the improvement is to be made permanent. You must compel people to do what would be good for themselves.

4213. One suggestion you made was for increasing the premium!—Yes, sir.

4214. Have you anything to say with respect to what Mr. Kennedy said of encouraging the use of a somewhat inferior class of bull?

(Mr. Micks).—That is, your second cross?

(Mr. Dryden).—No; he proposed always a registered bull. This gentleman says it is not necessary to have him registered or pure-bred, but on some farms they have bred their cattle so long that for their purposes they are more suitable than anything you can import, and the man there prefers to use his own although he is not registered. I have no doubt that is correct!—Of course you have to go back to the pure-bred if you run too far away; that is, to go back occasionally, but that only applies to the short-horn; there is only one cross of the other breeds that are any use; they are practically no use for any farming purposes, milking, or general purposes, except for fattening purposes.

4215. I am afraid you would have a revolution if you passed a law to compel these men who have no interest in their calves, and only want the milk, to use a certain kind of bull!—That is where the serious part comes in; that is the man who is doing the harm, who sends his milk to the creameries and waits for the money to come back at the end of the week, takes no interest in the calves, and they come down to our fairs and spread all over the country.

4216. (Chairman).—It might be met by people breeding their own bulls in the way you have described!—Decidedly; if the people were to know that they would not be allowed to keep a bull except he were up to a certain standard it would naturally follow that they would not run the chance of being prevented having one by having an inferior one.

4217. (Mr. Dryden).—You say this man has no interest in his calves!—He wants the cows freshened, as it is called: every cow to milk probably must have

a calf once a year; anything he gets out of the calves is so much extra.

4218. He is not working for the calves, he is working for the milk!—Quite so.

4219. Unless you compel such a man by law he will always use the cheaper bull!—Decidedly. I was speaking to a man who has thirty calves, and he intends to sell them as springers, and he told me he sired his heifers with a 65 bull because he did not care about the calves. These calves are bought by farmers at from £2 to £3 10s. each, and the farmer is handicapped at the very start; he has nothing to fall back upon, and he has no alternative but to buy what he finds for sale.

4220. What would they be worth if he had calves by a better bull? would they be worth any more?—I don't think so.

4221. It is just like blindfolding a man!—Quite so. 4222. (Mr. Micks).—You say they are wretched-looking calves when you meet them in the farm;—nearly they will give more for a good-looking calf than for a bad-looking one!—When a cow calves, sired by one of these bulls, it very often will have a better-looking calf as a yearling, but they are wretched as they go on being reared.

4223. I thought you said when you saw them in the fairs they were wretched-looking!—You cannot distinguish them as such calves.

4224. What age are the calves when they are sold in the fairs?—A week or a few days old, and up to three months; it is essential for the calf's life to get at least two or three feedings from the mother's first milk.

4225. (Mr. O'Griffin).—As to the panel for licensing, your idea was that there should be a local committee with perhaps an inspector of the Department for each district!—Quite so, or Electoral Division.

4226. How many Electoral Divisions are there in Ireland?—Twenty-one in Kildare. My reason for suggesting a Committee of the District Council was that the people of the district would know the requirements of the district. In parts of Ireland you would not want to have a pure-bred short-horn, there they would not have them.

4227. (Mr. Brown).—Would you expect a local committee to condemn people's bulls?—Unless they had an independent Inspector from the Department. I would not depend on them.

4228. If they could over-ride him, he could only advise them!—Let the local committee advise as to the claim for the locality, and let the Inspector have the power as to the standard. The reason for suggesting a District Council Committee was so that it would not give offence to any particular county; let them select the animals, but let the Inspector have a decision as to the quality.

4229. I suppose you know that the total amount which may be earned in premiums has gone up from £24 in 1901 to £60 now; it is possible to get £15 for four years!—That is an explanation; I am afraid that does not always apply.

4230. As long as the bull will pass if he is taken care of it is possible to get four premiums!—There have been complaints made of the Department refusing to give a certificate to these animals in the second year, when they are what is called allowed to drift into store condition they lose their appearance in the eyes of some of the Inspectors, and are disqualified.

4231. I don't know that that has happened with us, and in the same period the price of bulls has gone down to some extent!—Yes, I may point out to you that the reason of that is because the premiums being extended to 2, 3 and even 4 year olds the supply lasts on to a longer time. When I spoke strongly of the matter it was more or less applied to when bulls were making a larger price; it was ridiculous to ask a farmer to go in and give £40 or £50 for a premium bull and take all the risk and responsibility of following out the rules, and perhaps he refused a premium the second year.

4232. As it is now with a possible £60 and with the price of bulls going down you would hardly think it necessary to increase that, for the more you increase the premiums the fewer bulls you would have for the same money.

(Mr. Dryden).—The premium is quite high enough. (Mr. Brown).—I want to know if Mr. O'Connor is now of the same opinion, his attention being directed to the fact, that it is possible to get up to £60!—My

opinion is greatly modified now. I was speaking about the year old, the element of disappointment occurred in the first year. I would rather suggest that a man should get £20 for the first year and reduce it to £12 10s. each year after.

4233. (Chairman).—That is a matter for discussion—You follow what I mean by it I would make the first year limiting.

4234. This is just the sort of question which can be very advantageously discussed between the Department and interested persons in County Councils!

(Mr. Brown).—Mr. O'Connor's ideas have been to a certain extent adopted by the Council of Agriculture, and resolutions to that effect were passed on the last occasion as to the extermination of the bad bulls.

4235. (Chairman).—It is an instance of a question which may be discussed with the very greatest advantage, and it is not for us to say what the best way of doing it is!—Another matter that I would urge on the Department is to be more energetic with regard to stamping out the warble fly, that is a great pest and injury to the country. There is a loss of over £500,000 a year in hides alone, and most determined energetic measures ought to be taken. I don't think it requires such a length of time to hammer into their heads the great gain to the country in the cattle question it would be to have this done and done effectively and taken on at once; it is not a thing that requires such a lot of experimenting; they ought to be more determined to get on with it and take some steps. I have always found the greatest courtesy to any suggestion that came from our committee to the Department, but still I am not satisfied with the progress that has been made in this particular case.

4236. (Mr. Brown).—You would not think it would be desirable to put any scheme into operation unless the results of it were practically assured beforehand? Certainly not; but I think it is not a very difficult thing at all to solve. If the cattle were treated between the 25th of April and 25th of May, when all the warbles are visible on their backs, with some particular dip, by some of the scientific people connected with the Department, that would not injure the beast, and kill these flies, while they are there, and if in August a second application was made to kill those eggs that are considered to be the germs of those warble flies. But there is a great difference of opinion about these eggs, and some people go so far as to say that the cattle swallow them, and they come out through their system.

4237. I suppose you have seen the Department's leaflet about smearing the cattle's backs for the fly.—The Department are very well-intentioned and does everything in a small way, but unless they make it compulsory and apply all over, what good will it do, if you banish the fly and your neighbour does not do so. I want it stamped out, and in the course of five years you would not have a fly in Ireland. Make it compulsory as in the case of the sheep web.

4238. Would it not be absolutely necessary to know that the treatment would be successful?—There are so many things that have been tried, McDougall's Dip is considered successful.

4239. (Mr. O'Brien).—The Department has not power to make this compulsory. I think they ought to have the power.

4240. You think they ought to have extended power in such matters!—Certainly.

4241. So that instead of advising people to do a certain thing they could compel them?—If it is admitted there is a loss of £500,000 in this alone. If the Department had extended power and put them into operation, and it was proved that after five years all

that warble fly pest was banished the Department would be able to show that they gained £200,000 a year, and people would be saying then that though they were a well-paid body of officials, they had succeeded in stamping out this pest.

4242. (Mr. Driscoll).—Supposing you had no warble fly, could you afford to give that much more for cattle?—Decidedly, the butchers would give that much more, they look to the condition of the hide. We supply the contractors for the Carragh occasionally, and often have thirty, forty, or fifty hides per week, and we find it results in that much of a loss—on an average 10s. to 15s. per hide. If you see a beast after being skinned it will be all marks of jelly and offensive stuff where these warbles are in the backs of the beast; the very choicest portions of the meat is affected. I would respectfully ask the Department, whose objects are to improve the industries of Ireland as regards agriculture, that they would urge upon the Government to give the preference of their custom to the home-grown article; they ought not to allow the Government to buy foreign meat for the troops; it is a very inconsistent thing for the Government to equip a Department to promote the agriculture of a country, and then at the expense of the people, who pay rates from the staple industry of the country, to buy foreign meat for the troops; I am speaking of the Army contracts.

4243. (Mr. Brown).—You are speaking of the question of their having changed the specifications from home-bred meat to home-killed?—Which allows in all the foreigners.

4244. When did that change take place?—Three months ago.

4245. (Chairman).—That is the action of the home Government, not of the Department!—Certainly.

4246. The Department is not content with the home Government!—I don't know that, but we would ask that the Department should make strong representations to the Government by saying, you ask us to raise the standard of an industry, and you yourselves won't give your custom to the people, who pay rates and taxes. It is very inconsistent on their part; they go and buy from strangers; it is like a man improving his own family of what they should be naturally entitled to. I think the Department ought to be asked to subsidise the Winter Fat Stock Show in Dublin; the Royal Dublin Society have never been warm-hearted friends of this Show, but we in the country look upon it as the most educational centre for all Ireland to have an exhibition of the best finished animals and the best class of roots, which have been the feature of this Show, but, being in an unobscure part of the year, it is not so attractive as the Horse Show, and so it is not a financial success with the Royal Dublin Society. The Department ought to subsidise this Show, and make it the Show of all Ireland. At this Winter Fat Stock Show it is the time of year that all agricultural products are in the best order to be shown; it is a good market for the cattle, a real education for any country people who wish to come up, and the Department ought to ask at least two members of each County Committee, to pay their expenses, to come there to instruct themselves, and if it is not made inviting in that way a great many people are too indifferent to come, but there is no place at which a Show can be held to such advantage as on the Royal Dublin Society's premises, and it should be made the Show of all Ireland, and the Department should subsidise it and give extra prizes; they have reduced the prizes this year, and are letting it simply drift away; it was only by a great deal of pressure they were induced to keep it on at all; they don't want to be troubled with it, it was never in favour with them.

The Committee adjourned.

FIFTEENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—TUESDAY, JUNE 26TH, 1906.

At 18, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KENELM DOUGHY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

MR. FRANCIS GRANT O'GILVIE.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MECKE.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

MR. WILLIAM MARTIN CORBETT CRIMINED.

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Mr. W. M. Corbett.

4247. (Chairman).—You come from the King's County?—I am a member of the King's County Council, but I am representing the Agricultural Council for Leinster. I am one of the two for Leinster.

4248. Then may we take it you speak not only for yourself but for the Council?—Unfortunately I have not had an opportunity of getting the opinion of the majority of the Council.

4249. Then you have not any distinct mandate?—I have not decidedly any distinct mandate.

4250. Are you chosen by them as their representative?—One of the two representatives.

4251. We may take it you are fairly representative of the general opinion of those who sent you here?—Yes.

4252. I think the main thing you wish to speak about is as to the powers of the Department and its constitution?—Yes; it appears to me from reading the Act that the Department consists really of the Chief Secretary and Sir Horace Plunkett and whoever he wishes to consult, as far as I can see from reading the Act of Parliament, and that really Sir Horace Plunkett constitutes the Department.

4253. Where do you find that in the Act of Parliament?—

(Mr. Mecke).—On the appointment of Sir Horace the Department would come into existence?—The Chief Secretary is the President. Then the Vice-President, and whoever he wishes to consult, constitutes the Department really.

4254. (Chairman).—Here is the 6th section:—"The Department may, with the consent of the Lord Lieutenant and the Treasury, appoint or employ a Secretary, two Assistant-Secretaries, one in respect of agriculture and one in respect of technical instruction, and such inspectors, instructors, officers, and servants as the Department may require."—Yes, but they have the appointment of all those. My idea is that the Agricultural Council is fairly representative, but I think it would be better if the Board of Agriculture had more power than they have.

4255. Not the Council of Agriculture?—Not the Council, the Board.

4256. With regard to the Council of Agriculture, do you think they ought to have more power?—I think if the Council of Agriculture was all elected in place of being one-third nominated, it would be better and inspire more public confidence.

4257. Have you, in your experience as a member of the Council of Agriculture, known any case in which the elected members of the Council, as a body, have differed from the nominated members; or has there been any line of difference between them?—I cannot say that I did, but there is very little confidence unfortunately in the county I come from, very little sympathy between the Department and the Local Committees.

4258. I am talking of the Council of Agriculture now?—No. I cannot put my finger on any point where they took opposite sides.

4259. Then what are your reasons for thinking that the practice of nomination works badly?—I think it would inspire much more public confidence if they were elected. I think that is the great mistake with the Department at present. They have not the confidence of the people.

4260. I am talking not of the Department but of the Council of Agriculture; I only want to know what your reasons are for thinking it desirable that the nominated element in the Council should be done away with?—I know the selection in the county I represent was not a happy one at all events. The very gentleman who was selected was a large land agent. That was the selection in the county I represent. I am speaking on that account.

4261. You wanted to say something about the Board?—Yes. I think the Board is too small as at present constituted, and I think it would be better if there were four members for each province instead of two, as at present; and that the four were elected. That would be my idea. At present we have a gentleman very representative certainly of the County Dublin, and another from Westmeath, but King's and Queen's Counties and all that side of the province had no one to represent them on the Agricultural Board.

4262. You would like to increase the number?—I would like to increase the number to 15, four from each province, to get more in touch with the tillage farmers than at present.

4263. You would still leave the appointments in the hands of the Council?—Yes, in the hands of the Provincial Councils.

4264. But you would increase the number?—I would increase the number.

4265. (Mr. Mecke).—Would you do away with the nominated members of that Board also?—I would decidedly. That would be my own personal idea. I cannot speak with authority from the Agricultural Council, but of all the members that I have spoken to with one exception, that was their idea.

4266. (Chairman).—I will again ask you the same question: have you known any subject on which the elected and nominated members of the Board have differed widely?—No. We have no means of knowing really what transactions take place at the Board of Agriculture.

4267. Do you think the minutes ought to be published?—Decidedly; I think they ought. I think the Press ought to be present.

4268. (Mr. Brown).—There was a resolution to that effect proposed at the last meeting of the Council?—Yes, but it only consisted in as far as they thought it ought to be published.

4269. That was what the Council thought?—The idea of a good many of the Council was that the Press ought to be present.

4270. The resolution of the majority of the Council was that the proceedings should be communicated?—Yes, but they did not agree to communicate the whole of it to them, and to let us know all that passed there.

4271. The Council did not ask to have the entire proceedings published?—The Council as a whole?—Not as a whole, but it was proposed, and I think it ought to be published.

4272. It was proposed but not carried?—It was not carried.

4273. The resolution actually carried by the Council was of a limited character, that an epitome should be published?—Yes.

4274. (Mr. O'Gilvie).—But Mr. Corbett's personal opinion is that the Press ought to be present?—Yes, the Press ought to be present.

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4295. (Mr. Micks).—How would you get over the difficulty that there are a great many matters brought before a Board like that which it would never do to make public, such as the intention to buy a piece of land in the district or neighbourhood?—I am looking at it from the point of view of how do the County Council and Joint Committee of Asylums make publication. I think it is for the advantage of the district.

4296. (Chairman).—Have you considered whether there might not be certain questions which it might be inadvisable to make public?—It is possible there might be some, but I think on the whole it would be an improvement on the present mode.

4297. (Mr. Ogilvie).—In your County Council the Committee meetings are not open to the Press?—Some of the Committee meetings only are not open.

4298. The committee meetings of the County Council are not all open to the Press?—No; the Finance Committee is not, but the meeting of the Asylums is always open to the Press and the County Infirmary.

4299. But the point is that whenever any public body like the County Council has any business to transact which it would be undesirable to publish, that business is taken up in committee in the first instance, and comes up for approval, of course publicly, ultimately, but all the preliminary stages are taken in committee?—Decidedly; they are at the Finance Committee, but that is the only Committee that has a *Star Chamber*, if I may express it so. All the meetings of the Council are public.

4300. Have the County Council no Joint Committee meetings other than those of the Finance Committee that are not open to the public?—No.

4301. (Mr. Brown).—If matters are referred to a sub-committee for any particular inquiries such a committee meeting would not be open to the Press?—You mean in the ordinary course of business. All ordinary meetings are open to the Press except the Finance Committee's meetings.

4302. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Suppose the Public Health Committee were considering the relative advantages of different sites suitable for a hospital, and the prices they were likely to have to pay for these sites, would the meetings at which that business was discussed be open to the Press?—I cannot say. I have never been on any of these Public Health Committees.

4303. Would you think it judicious that County Council business of that kind should be conducted at meetings open to the Press?—On the whole I think it would be better to have the Press present. I understand the point you are driving at is that if the people get wind of the fact that a given site was selected the prices would go up. I can see that. That of course would be a stumbling block in the way.

4304. There would necessarily be some business that would come before the Board of Agriculture that it would be quite inadvisable to have carried on in the presence of representatives of the Press, business more or less of that type?—Well; how would that be best arranged?

4305. (Mr. Brown).—By the Board only publishing such portions of the proceedings as were not of the character?—Yes. That would meet the case.

(Chairman).—That is very much what the resolution of the Council of Agriculture comes to.

4306. (Mr. Brown).—Don't you think the Board could be trusted to say what would be given to the public and what could not be given, or what it would be better not to give to the public?—Yes, in those cases; but in the ordinary course of business. We don't know what is going on. We hear it in a rumour about why afterwards.

4307. (Mr. Ogilvie).—What you really want is—More information.

4308. That the minutes of the Board should be published; and sufficient publication would be secured if the minutes of the Board's meetings were published?—Yes.

4309. (Mr. Micks).—Such minutes as would not be injurious?—Such as would not be injurious to the working of the Department.

4310. (Chairman).—Does that complete what you have to say about the Agricultural Board and the Council of Agriculture, before we come to the Board of Technical Instruction?—I think it would be better for me to leave the Board of Technical Instruction out altogether, because I was not a member of that Board for the last two years.

4311. You mean of the local Technical Instruction Committee?—I was not, although a member of the County Council. But I think we have not finished about the Agricultural Board. My idea would be that it would be better to have sixteen members, and I think they should have more power than they have. It is the Department really that appoints all the officials and all the persons connected with it. I think it is that Board that should be really the working Board and have this patronage in their gift.

4312. Do you mean the appointments of inspectors?—Appoint inspectors and all the officials.

4313. (Chairman).—I just want to know how that would work out. The members of the Board reside in different parts of Ireland?—Yes.

4314. There would be a lot of business which would be everyday business; would it be practicable to get the Board together often enough to transact that sort of business?—I think it would.

4315. (Mr. Micks).—Whenever there is an appointment?—I say at other Boards whenever there is an appointment, there is sure to be a full committee.

4316. (Chairman).—For appointments you think it could be done by the Board having more frequent meetings than they have at present?—That is according to the amount of business it would be required to transact. If they are required to meet, I think they should be called together whenever there is a meeting urgently required.

4317. How far would you carry that?—There might be very important appointments which it might be proper to call the Board up for, and there might be small things that it would be hardly worth while bringing them together for. It is an awkward thing to give a Board functions of that kind which it is difficult for them to discharge for various reasons?—That would be my idea. I think they ought to have the appointment of all these officials, and it would inspire a great deal more confidence through the country if they had.

4318. Do you think they would make, as a matter of fact, better appointments and appoint more efficient people than they are appointing now?—I think they would appoint people who would be more agreeable to the country at large, possibly better men.

4319. (Mr. Ogilvie).—More useful to the country at large?—Yes.

4320. (Chairman).—Suppose you are trying to find a man who is best adapted for a particular post; do you think it is better to call into consultation a large number of people or only a few who are conversant with the matter?—I have implicit confidence in the Board selecting the best man. I have no doubts they would be anxious to do so.

4321. Do you think they would be able to ascertain who the best man is?—I think they would be in just as good a position as the Department.

4322. (Mr. Brown).—I don't know whether Mr. Corbet's attention was directed to the evidence of members of the Board who said it would be most undesirable that they should have the appointments?—I don't agree with them.

4323. Do you think you know better than the members of the Board who have been transacting the business?—What I am driving at is, there is not sufficient confidence in the Department at present, and there would be much more confidence in the country if the appointments were made by the Board, even if they were the same men.

4324. (Chairman).—Why is there not sufficient confidence: is it that the people who are appointed are said to be inferior people? or for what other reason, I want to know what the reason is that there is not, as you say, sufficient confidence?—There is a great deal of friction between the Department and the County Council of the King's County, and it went so far that there was a resolution passed not to strike the rate of a penny in the pound.

4325. I am on the question of appointments. I suppose we are all agreed that it is vitally necessary to get the best men?—Decidedly.

4326. What I want to know is why it is that you say it would be better to have the appointments in the hands of the Board?—There is a great feeling against the appointment of Lord Ilkerrin, the butter inspector, and there is a great deal of ill-feeling against the appointment of Mr. Porter to do at 2500 a year what other officials were doing at 2300.

4327. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you are aware that Mr. Porter was a transferred official?—Yes; but were the Department bound to take him?

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Coelec.

4308. Absolutely so. That was stated by the Vice-President at the Council—Sir Horace Plunkett did not state they were bound to take him.

4309. (Mr. Michs).—There is no doubt about it!—Well, what about Lord Darnley? I am satisfied with Mr. Brown's answer about Mr. Porter, but it has not been published.

4310. I think you must have misunderstood it!—Well, these around me misunderstood it too. With regard to Lord Darnley there is a great difference of opinion. One county believes in him just as strongly as another county does not.

(Mr. O'Grice).—Section 22 of the Act says:—“There shall be transferred and attached to the Department as officers thereof such of the persons employed under the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council or any other Government Department and in or about the execution and discharge of the powers and duties transferred by or in pursuance of this Act to the Department as the Lord Lieutenant may, with the sanction of the Treasury, determine.”

(Mr. Brown).—And he determined in that case.

4311. (Mr. O'Grice).—I understand the difficulty in the particular appointment to which you have just referred is that in your part of the country there is a strong feeling that the wrong man had been appointed!—Yes.

4312. Suppose the appointment had been made by sixteen members of the Board of Agriculture, it is at least conceivable that they might have appointed the same man, because we have it otherwise recorded that there is in other parts of the country just as strong a feeling that the best man has been appointed!—Possibly.

4313. Suppose the same man had been elected by the Council of sixteen, do you think the fact that he had been selected by them would make him more palatable to the country as a whole?—My own personal opinion is that some better merchant should have been appointed.

4314. But do you not see a possibility in a case of that sort, where the relative merits of two men had been keenly canvassed between two parties on the Board of Agriculture, that the possibility of friction between the party who had carried the appointment and those who had strong opinions against a certain appointment, would be even greater than it is where they had not necessarily been forced to take sides!—I would not think so.

4315. Your experience of other public business does not give you any lead in that way!—No. I don't think so. We had some very sharp contests between the Council and ourselves, and I don't think there was any feeling afterwards. Some people thought the best man did not get it and some thought he did, and some of them were won by very narrow majorities.

4316. And the work of the men had not been in the least degree prejudiced by these preliminary taking of sides!—No. I think it had not.

4317. (Chairman).—Your fifth head is the position of County Committees!—Yes. I think most power should be given to the County Committees then at present, and I think it would be a great advantage if it could be so arranged that there were experimental plots through the counties.

4318. (Mr. Michs).—What powers would you give them in addition?—There were two experiments in our district and the County Committee were not consulted. One is corn growing and the other tobacco; and I understand there was a large shed erected at a cost of £600 for the tobacco factory, and there were no tenders invited.

4319. Where was that?—Near Mount Belm in King's County.

4320. (Mr. Brown).—That was the Department's experiment. Have you no agricultural instructor?—No; we had one, but when the resolution was carried not to strike the rate of a penny in the pound he was transferred to another county, and we have not one.

4321. Have you tried to get one?—We have.

4322. (Mr. Michs).—You struck the rate afterwards!—Yes. It was carried by a very narrow majority, to strike the rate; and it was a near thing this year also.

4323. (Mr. Brown).—Of course you know that when you have an instructor you can have experimental plots wherever the County Committee select, and as many as the instructor can reach on!—I understand.

that, but where the experimental plot was this year the local Committee had no knowledge of it at all.

4324. It was not their money carried out this. It was the Department itself!—I think it was not fair not to ask for competition for the erection of the large shed.

4325. We don't know anything about that!—It has been stated to me by those who ought to know.

4326. (Mr. Michs).—Was it done by the Department itself?—Done by the Department.

4327. Not through a contractor at all!—I cannot say whether there was a contractor. There was a very large firm in Tallamore supplied the goods in erect the shed, but none of the local traders had any chance to compete for it.

4328. (Chairman).—You don't know about it of your own knowledge!—I don't know it of my own knowledge.

4329. (Mr. O'Grice).—Your only objection to the action of the Department has been in connection with the building of the shed. As far as the experiment is concerned, you don't claim that the Local Committee could have helped very much in the tobacco culture?—Not in the growing of the tobacco.

4330. Not in the manufacture!—No.

4331. (Chairman).—Now, as to the schemes for the stock!—I think all the ones serving should be passed sound. I think they should be examined. I think as long as horses that are not sound are going through the country and serving we will have unsound horses in it. I think all those serving should be passed sound. I think there could be a good deal of money saved by the Department. Farmers are good judges of the most suitable horses, but very often go to the wrong one, not knowing that they are unsound. I would exempt the thoroughbred horses standing at a fee to produce racehorses, but all the other horses that are not sound should not be allowed to serve.

4332. (Mr. Brown).—Would you suggest the same thing with regard to bulls, as Mr. O'Connor did?—I would not altogether agree with Mr. O'Connor about the bulls. I think a bull that is passed as eligible for nomination should be on the register for four years at least.

4333. That is so at present!—For three, I think.

4334. No, I think four!—But they are very often struck off. Provided they are healthy and fruitful; if they are good enough to be selected as a yearling, I think they should remain on for four years. They are very often knocked off when they are not fit up for show, but are kept in a useful state in the country. I really think when they have sufficient merit as yearlings they ought to remain on the register afterwards.

4335. (Chairman).—Whatever happens to them?—No; provided he is fruitful and healthy.

4336. You must examine him every year to see if he is healthy!—I think if he was examined as a two-year-old, I would not examine him for merits, but whether he was fruitful and healthy. It was a very good mistake that was made by the Department, only giving premiums to yearlings, because the good ones are long bought and shipped as two-year-olds to Buenos Ayres.

4337. That is altered now?—It is altered. They get the premium for one year and then for two-year-olds.

4338. (Mr. Brown).—The first years the premiums were only for yearlings and female for one year. Next year it was extended to two years, then to three, and now to four!—I agree with the policy of giving a yearlings and encouraging people to keep them in the country.

4339. Therefore you agree with the action they have taken?—Decidedly, it is increasing it. I think there is another grave mistake made. I think when they are selected at above all those bulls should be put up for public auction, because the instant they are selected a salesmaster knows how to get his share of the £25. In my opinion, if he does not get the whole of it, I think they should be put up for public auction, and the really good ones would get large prices and the medium ones would be also bought. When they are selected in these sale yards one of the conditions should be that they are put up for public auction at a reserve of £20 or 25 guineas.

4340. Might not that have the effect of deterring owners from entering?—I don't think so. The really good bulls would get large prices, and it is the medium and inferior ones that get through now, and a man would have to give £25 or £30 for a bull that is not worth it.

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4341. They were not so high this year—I saw one, bid for by a neighbour. I think he offered £55 for one small yearling and did not succeed in getting it.

4342. That would be a regulation that the Royal Dublin Society should make—I think the Department could make it in any of the sale yards selected for nomination.

4343. You mean the Department could make it a condition, "we won't select this bull unless you put it up for public auction?"—Yes.

4344. There would be a deadlock then—I think not. The opinion through the country is they are not getting them cheap enough at all, that since the Department started to give the premiums it is the breeders are getting it and not the owner of the bull.

4345. That has arisen largely from the increased demand for high-class bulls since the Department's operations began; would not that account for it?—I am afraid they are getting too much at present for that. They are keeping them there. They know that people with institutions are anxious to buy them, and will not go home without them, and they are getting really too much for them.

4346. (Chairman).—I don't know whether you heard or read what Mr. O'Connor said yesterday as to the great need of having more bulls and better bulls throughout the country, and that the necessity arose from the stock bred by inferior bulls—I agree with that decidedly.

4347. How would you go to work to remedy that?—A good half-bred bull would be a great advantage to the country, where there are no pure-bred bulls.

4348. Half a loaf is better than no bread—I have seen bulls that the Department refused to select, and I have seen very fine cattle by them.

4349. Would you lower the standard of the Department? would you have a second class bull as well as a first-class bull?—No. I would like to have them as good as I could get them, but I would like to be in such a position that the owners of the bulls could not say, "I won't sell unless I get £70 or £80 for that bull." I think when they are selected they ought to be put up for competition.

4350. Are you in favour of legislation preventing an inferior bull, a really bad-bred bull, from serving at all?—Decidedly, I would be in favour of that, and unless something is done in that way I am afraid you will have a great deal of very bad cattle in the country.

4351. Could that be done? could it be carried out in view of the enormous number of inferior bulls that there are in the country?—There are an enormous number of them in the country.

4352. (Mr. Brown).—And the owners of those would look on it as a hardship?—Decidedly.

4353. And you would require a very large staff of inspectors to first examine the bulls and then prevent breeders of the Act?—It would be very hard to carry it out, but at present there are a great deal of cattle coming from the south and west that are very inferior, coming up as calves about a month or two months old, when it would take a very good judge to know whether they are well bred or badly bred. You cannot tell at that age very well. They sell them cheap.

4354. You would not think that the money it would cost to carry out such a scheme as that would be better spent in bringing in more bulls?—Where would you get them? The supply is limited at present.

4355. But it is increasing?—It is, but there are only seven premium bulls in the King's County.

4356. How many do you offer?—The full number is taken up, and always has been.

4357. (Mr. O'Connell).—Can you give an estimate of the bulls, not premium bulls, but bulls of a fairly good standard in the King's County that are available?—I could not. It is a long narrow strip of a county.

4358. Is it a considerable number?—An enormous quantity, and some very fine bulls are coming in when they are fat. They are three-quarter or half-bred bulls, very fine animals.

4359. We have it there are about 750 premium bulls altogether and 17,000 bulls in Ireland; and judging by what you know in your own county how large a proportion of that 17,000 would you suppose were really bulls that would require to be eliminated if things were as well as they ought to be?—I think two-thirds of them are below the standard.

4360. (Mr. Brown).—Then we should be rather short of bulls?—Yes. There is where the difficulty comes in.

4361. I suppose in the first instance you would suggest it is only the very worst should be dealt with? The very worst?—Those of a really bad type.

4362. (Chairman).—Do you think the Department have done good on the whole by this system of premium bulls?—I think they have, but I saw some hardships connected with it. I saw bulls bought at large prices as yearlings, and the second year they could not get a premium at all for them though they were very successful sires.

4363. (Mr. Micks).—Why did they not get a premium?—They were not fed sufficiently highly.

4364. That would be a valid reason?—It would be a disadvantage to the beast, but they would look a good deal better. I know of one, and the inspector asked the owner why he did not feed him, and the reason he gave—and I know it to be a fact—was that if he fed him sufficiently well he would not serve cows.

4365. The inspector thought he was run down too much?—Well, he admitted him. I suppose he was one of the best bulls that ever were bought under the scheme. He was passed.

4366. It was like the striking of the rate, a threat?—It was a threat, but there were other bulls that day that were not passed, two year olds. I think they should be passed when they are sufficiently good as yearlings.

4367. (Chairman).—Do you see any difference in the character of cattle at fairs in your county, as compared with what they were five or six years ago? The more cattle are a little better for feeding, but it is hard to get heifers for future cows. I think they are not so good. They fatten faster, but they are losing sight in my opinion of the milking strain. The more cattle are improving.

4368. (Mr. Atkins).—Better for beef but worse for milk?—Yes.

4369. (Mr. Brown).—Is not the shortness a fair milker?—Some of them are.

4370. At any rate it produces better milkers than the Pollard Angus or the Hereford?—I think they are the best of any of the pure breeds.

4371. (Chairman).—Are there many Herefords in Ireland?—Not in our county. Two thirds of our nominated bulls are shortness, and I think in the near future they will all be shortness.

4372. (Mr. Brown).—The first cross of the Hereford is good, but after that they are inferior?—That is so. They are very good for feeding.

4373. (Chairman).—Are the small tenants willing to take their cows to the premium bulls any distance?—They won't go very far. There is a prejudice against them. They think the calves are harder to rear than those produced by a good robust native bull.

4374. Do you agree that there are too many calves reared, as some witnesses told us?—I do not. I think the more reared the better for the country at large.

4375. Whatever the quality?—Oh no; there is an expansion down in our side that if you are going to buy a calf to rear to buy the best calf you can get irrespective of price.

4376. Then you depend on the breed, not on the appearance of the calf?—Not the appearance of the calf, but if you would see the dam and know the sire.

4377. Do you think the smaller people are taking more pains and learning more about this kind of thing?—They are breeding them better, and I think feeding them better also in our district.

4378. You think there has been an improvement?—There is an improvement decidedly in the rearing of cattle.

4379. Have you anything else you wish to tell us?—Nothing else.

4380. (Mr. Brown).—Have you any horticultural instructor in the King's County?—We have not.

4381. Do you teach dairying?—Yes, and we have a poultry instructor.

4382. How are they working?—I cannot say much for the dairy instructor. I was not on the Committee. A strange thing happened on the appointment of the Committee. All the elected members of the County Council were put on the Committee of Agriculture, and none of those that were elected.

June 26, 1904. I chanced to represent the Tullamore District Council on the County Council, and therefore I was not elected.

4383. (Mr. Micks).—You are the chairman of the District Council, and, therefore, are ex-officio, and not elected?—Yes, not elected. In the cattle scheme I think it would be a great improvement to improve the scheme to £20.

4384. (Chairman).—Mr. O'Connor said the same thing yesterday?—Yes, the first premium, not the others, and keep the cattle as long as they can in the country.

4385. Would you give your reasons for that?—It will induce them to buy the best class. What is done by the Committee below is they give the right of purchase to those who they consider will bring home the best bulls irrespective of what you

pay for them; and really £20 is not much when you give £40 or £45 for a bull, and it costs £1 a week to feed him.

4386. (Mr. O'Giltie).—You want as far as possible the purchase price down?—To get a return as long as possible.

4387. (Mr. Brown).—There is no danger if you increase the premium of raising the price of the bull? I think those gentlemen who have the selling of them would expect to get the £20, if it was not put up to auction.

(Mr. Brown).—That is my theory, that the more you raise the premium the more you raise the price of the bull.

(Mr. O'Giltie).—But then Mr. Corbett's auction comes in.

The Committee adjourned.

SIXTEENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27TH, 1906.

At the County Council Chamber, Courthouse, Cork.

Present:—

SIR KENNEL DUFFY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

MR. FRANCIS GRANT O'GILVER.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Very Rev. Canon Denis J. O'Riordan, P.P., Kingwilliamstown, examined.

4383 (Chairman).—You represent, I believe, the County Committee of Agriculture for Kerry?—Not the Committee of Agriculture; the Committee of Technical Instruction. I can give you some idea about agriculture, but I am only representing the Technical Board.

4385. What is the number of members on the Committee?—I cannot tell you exactly, but it is something about 30.

4390. Are there many co-opted members as well as elected?—No; I don't think we have got co-opted members. I am an elected member.

4391. (Mr. Brown).—You mean elected by the County Council?—Yes.

4392. (Chairman).—I think you wish to give evidence as regards technical education in Kerry?—Yes, sir. The first point that I wish to put before you, gentlemen, is the difficulties we are under with regard to having two Boards in Kerry in charge of technical education: the Congested Districts Board and the Department. We have six poor law union districts in Kerry. One of these is entirely congested, and the remaining five are partly congested and partly non-congested. When the Department started its work in 1900 we were all very eager to avail ourselves of the opportunities afforded to us for the first time, but when our Committee met we were at once confronted with the fact that we had two distinct Boards having different sets of officials and different instructions and different methods of procedure, and each of them charged with the performance of the same work of technical education in our county. Those of us who were living in congested portions of the county were unwilling to get any scheme in form until these Boards came to a working agreement among themselves, so that the Congested Districts Board should hand over its powers and funds to the other Board. In 1902 we found an agreement had been come to to that effect, and accordingly we put a scheme in operation in 1903-04. The Congested Districts Board contributed its portion of the grant for that year, but at the end of the year we were informed that the Congested Districts Board would contribute no longer, and later on we were informed that they would work their own scheme in the County, and since then we have been working our scheme for the congested and the non-congested portions of the County, as we had been in the first year in the hope that some time or other these Boards would come back to their original agreement. This has led to three consequences. First, we have the not very pleasing spectacle of two Boards with two different sets of officials and different instructions discharging the same duty in our County, sometimes simultaneously in the same poor law union district, sometimes in the same parish. Then, I need not point out to you that it has hampered our work a good deal. We have charge of a population of 125,000. 85,000 of that population is in congested districts. We are working not only the rural districts, but the urban district of Lisowal also. The population of the congested portion is really larger than that of the non-congested portion, but we get a grant only for the non-congested, and we have to use that grant for the congested and the non-congested, and are doing so in the hope that sooner or later we can come back to the original agreement. The third consequence that the development described has led to

of the Department were only available for the non-congested districts, and we have got permission from the Department to use the funds for the non-congested and the congested both, and when we have asked them for an additional grant on account of our having charge of these additional 85,000 people the Department won't give it.

4393. Could you give an illustration of the duties which you say are exercised by both these Boards?—Yes, I can.

4394. It will bring it home more to one's mind if you could give a practical instance?—Of course, all we can really gather as to the working of the Congested Districts Board is from the annual Report. We have no means of knowing what they are doing except from the Report. In the Report for last year I find they have a crochet class at Cahirciveen. We have been assisting a similar class there. That is the same parish, the same village.

4395. (Mr. Micks).—Do you think the same class is being paid by both Boards?—Not the same class, but work of the same character in the same union. For instance, what the Congested Districts Board have been doing is this. They have been giving instruction in weaving and dyeing at Glenbeagh, in the union of Cahirciveen. We have been assisting a hosiery industry in the same union. They have had a crochet class in Cahirciveen. We have been assisting in the same village. Different instructors are at work.

4396. Is it in the same building, do you think?—I am not sure, but I have an idea it is not.

4397. (Chairman).—The lace-making would be in the congested districts?—That is one of our subjects for the Technical Department.

4398. (Mr. Micks).—As a matter of fact, was not the Congested Districts Board lace school there long before the Department started?—That is a question I could not answer.

4399. I think you will find that it was so?—If they continued to hand over their powers to the Department, as they did the first year, and the equivalent money, it would be much more economically worked through the one Committee than is possible when working through different staffs and with different officials.

4400. It would have been done in the same way as the agricultural work was done?—Yes, they have handed over the agricultural work; why not do the same in this case?

4401. That would be the abolition of the Congested Districts Board?—As a matter of fact, they have handed over to our Committee all the agricultural work; why would not they do the same with this?

4402. Do you know that the powers of the Congested Districts Board for the development of industries are larger than the powers held by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Well, they have had carpentry classes at Glenbeagh in the Cahirciveen union. We are teaching the same work through our manual instructors.

4403. But the Congested Districts Board can carry it out and finance it; are you aware of that?—I was not. If they handed it over in 1903-1904—

4404. Are you aware they have power to finance it and to run it as a commercial undertaking?—Those are not run as a commercial undertaking. They are simply sending round itinerant instructors for carpentry work.

4405. I am speaking of the lace?—If they wish to

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Very Rev.
Canon Denis
J. O'Riordan,
P.P.

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Very Rev.
Census Depts
O'Brien, &
Co.

keep these classes there we don't object, as we have no itinerant instructor in that work.

4406. I did not know why you started a special law class there when there was one existing already?—I want just according to what I saw in the Report.

4407. Why did your Committee start a second class when there was one existing before?—We did not start it. There was a homery school working by the Oshesheen Current independently of any Board out of their own private funds. That school, too, took up law-making. They were then entitled to a capitation grant from us, as they were under the control of our Committee.

4408. In what building is this class held?—In the convent building, but what I want to draw your attention to is that the instructors of the Congested Districts Board are itinerant instructors, and that we have our set and they have their set.

4409. As regards the law?—No, not as regards the law, but the general work.

4410. (Chairman).—I should like to point this out. In the 18th section of the Act of 1899 there is this provision:—"No money placed at the disposal of the Department by this part of this Act shall be applied in or in relation to a Congested Districts County." That provision was in the original Act. It was repealed in 1903. You are aware of that. In 1903 the law was altered and you were free to pay your money to a Congested District?—I was under the impression that the alteration in the law consisted in this, that before the Act came into force we had no power to levy a rate over the entire union, which was partly congested and partly non-congested, and we got that power in 1903.

4411. It says the application of the money. I don't know whether it extends to the levying of a rate. You levy a rate all over the county, but you were prohibited up to the passing of the Act of 1903 from applying any money to the Congested District?—I understand you, but the principal complaint we have to make is that the original arrangement that was made between the Congested Districts and the Department with regard to those classes in which the itinerant instructors are engaged was not adhered to, and we want that they should revert to that original agreement, and not have two different sets of itinerant instructors going through the county at the same time.

4412. (Mr. Miché).—Have you a copy of that agreement?—No, I have not, except that it worked in 1903.

4413. Was it a formal agreement between the two bodies?—They paid us nothing.

4414. This is from the minutes of the Board of Agriculture:—"Letter from the Congested Districts Board of the 20th January, 1903": "was that the original agreement?—No, sir. This is a letter stating that the balance of the contribution towards agricultural and technical schemes had been paid from the Department of Agriculture. That amounted to £227 odd. That was sent to our Committee by the Department. That is payment for what we undertook to do in 1903-04."

4415. (Chairman).—That was carrying out the previous part of the section?—There was an agreement come to that the Congested Districts Board were to contribute their quota of the expenditure, and they did.

4416. (Mr. Miché).—In what year was that?—In 1903-04.

4417. That was after the repealing Act?—It may have been.

4418. I thought you were referring to something long before that?—At the end of 1902 they informed us that they had come to an agreement, and it was in consideration of that we passed the scheme they paid for in 1903-04.

4419. (Chairman).—What I think we are more concerned about is to know what is being done?—We were paid by the Congested Districts Board for 1903-04. They have refused payment since, and we are getting a grant which originally was based only on the non-congested portions of our district, and we have now to work for 80,000 people more in the congested districts besides without receiving anything from them or from the Department for that work.

4420. (Mr. Miché).—That is agriculture?—No; technical instruction.

4421. (Mr. Brown).—It would require legislation to alter that state of affairs?—Has the law been changed with regard to sending itinerant instructors?

4422. (Chairman).—It is generally material to us to know whether it requires legislation or does not. At all events you can see the awkward position we are placed in, whatever the law is.

4423. What we want to know from witnesses like yourself is whether you find the law, if it be the law, as pressing hardly upon you, and whether you think it ought to be amended?—I have given you our population and the extensive area. We think that the law is pressing very heavily on us, and that it ought to be changed.

4424. (Mr. Miché).—I quite understand that about agriculture, but not about technical instruction, because the Congested Districts Board don't take up technical instruction?—They are sending round a domestic economy instructor. We have them employed and want another one very badly. They are sending round an instructor in carpentry. We are doing the same. Both are working on the same line and in the same subjects in the same union.

4425. One question of interest will be who began second?—Whoever began second or first we are placed in a very awkward position.

4426. Of course your instructor does not go into the congested districts, and the Congested Districts Board instructor does not go into yours?—The very opposite is the fact.

4427. Though they may both go to the same union they won't go into the same area?—Just the very opposite. Our instructor goes into the congested districts where the other instructor is working.

4428. The congested districts man does not go into the non-congested districts?—No, but we go into the congested districts. We have to do it. You cannot draw the line as they are so mixed up. The five unions are partly congested and partly non-congested, and the sixth is entirely congested.

4429. That case you mentioned about having two law schools in the little town of Cahoonree is an extraordinary case?—As there are no itinerant instructors with us it would not interfere very much with us to have two classes in the same town.

4430. It is a curious case, though?—The second point that I wish to bring before you is this. We are supposed to be the consulting committee, and the money that is allocated for the County Kerry is supposed to be spent at all events after consultation with the County Committee. Now, sir, we complain that the Vice-President has taken up a domestic economy school in Kallumey, which is principally used for the training of domestic servants, and he has never consulted us. We have no idea of the amount of money he is spending on that school. There is an idea that it may be portion of the money allocated for Kerry.

4431. Is that a Congested Districts Board class or a Department class?—It is a Department class. We say that the money he is using may be money allocated for the County Kerry. We don't know how much it is, and we have never been consulted or told that it is not conducted at the expense of the funds provided specially for the County Kerry. That is to say, we don't know, for we have never been told.

4432. Has any change been made in your funds because of the establishment of that class?—No, but we are under the impression—of course it is beyond our ken—we are under the impression that the funds from which that school was worked before the Department took it over may have come out of the funds allocated for Kerry.

4433. (Mr. O'Brien).—An impression like that is not sufficient to go upon. It is quite clear that the Department must have a good many central institutions available for the whole county, and each of these must be situated somewhere?—This was not a central institution, and if the Department consulted us, the local body that ought, at all events, to have equal local knowledge, we could tell them how the money could be spent a little better. For instance, through want of funds we have now to dispense with the services of the only Art Instructor we had, but there is one thing I am sure the Vice-President does not know, that on Saturdays that art instructor was actually holding a class in Tralee and was instructing the National teachers who had been trained in Dr. Stacks's Training College.

4434. That may be a very good thing, but it does not affect this question whether the class for training domestic servants was established at the expense of

funds intended for the County Kerry; if so, then it was a County Kerry establishment, and your Committee would naturally be expected to be consulted, but if not there is no reason why you should be any more consulted than about the facts at Glenservint. We have no means of knowing where the funds come from. I only give you the bare fact—that it was subsidised by the Department when it was not a central institution.

4425. (Mr. O'Meara).—It is about the affairs of your own county you think they should consult you?—Yes; we think it is a fair demand we make that we should be consulted. If we found out it was a good practical thing we are not going to object.

4427. (Mr. Micks).—Was that school in existence before the Department started?—I think it was. The Department subsidised it for some time, and now they have taken charge of it altogether.

4428. (Mr. Brown).—Of course you are aware that the funds allocated to each county are fixed by the Board of Technical Instruction?—We get very little taught into their funds.

4429. Did you ever inquire from a member of the Board—the Bishop of Ross for instance?—The Bishop of Ross is a man I have a very great respect for, but I am not going at the same time to agree with all he says. The Bishop of Ross is concerned about his own part of the country. If I asked him he possibly might try to find out for me.

4430. But it is all published in the Department's printed reports—I am aware of the amount we get, but the principle on which that allocation proceeds—that is what I mean. However, I give you the fact. It is a matter for yourselves.

4431. (Mr. Micks).—Your point is that there is a technical instruction school in the county that you ought to be consulted about?—Yes, and we have not been consulted. The next point I wish to bring before you is this. We have a population of 125,000. They are scattered over an extensive area. The scanty means of the people don't permit them to travel beyond their own districts. We have a number of schools in various centres in that area. We have ten girls' and four boys' schools. Now the schoolhouses are suitable buildings. They would be handed over rent free to the use of the Department. Your teachers have given proof of capability in the discharge of, at all events, some technical subjects: because I may mention, en passant, that one of the schools actually won the gold prize medal at the St. Louis Exhibition for point lace out of the entire world. Now, those schools have started industries of their own. The money earned in those industries is distributed among the workers and increases the home comforts, which are very scanty in some of the workers' homes. Those schools could be made centres, not alone of great educational activity, but they could also be made contributory to the very scanty comforts in many homes in these districts. The girls' schools I am speaking of. The boys' schools could be made not only good primary schools, but they could be also, by sympathetic management and encouragement and guidance, made good secondary technical schools, to which scholarships might be available. We complain that we cannot get the Department to utilise these schools.

4432. (Chairman).—These are primary schools, I understand?—They are technical schools independently of their primary character.

4433. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—What schools are they?—Kilberry, Keenane, Cahircross, Castleblinn, Dungle, Lottorel, Rathmore, Linnaw, and Milltown.

4434. Under what management are they at present?—With regard to the primary schools, they are under the management of the National Board. They are under no management with regard to the technical classes. They have started them out of their own limited funds. Take one school. In the Kilberry Mary Convent they are teaching lace making and underwear-making. They earned in one year £450.

4435. This is a National School?—No; the Convent of Mary Technical School. They also have a National School and an industrial school in connection with their Convent.

4436. The technical school is, so to speak, on the top of the other two?—It is a distinct school from the primary.

4437. But the pupils will pass from the primary into the technical school?—Yes.

4438. At what age?—Generally I suppose thirteen or fourteen. That school, the first year they were starting in, earned £420, which went in wages to the poor girls. Last year they earned £300, and that went in wages also. If that school were utilised by the Department it would be the means of bringing comfort to homes where comforts are very scant, besides doing good technical work that is under sympathetic guidance and treatment. They happen to have an industrial school, for which they are subsidised, and the result is that in that industrial school they are teaching, in addition to the hosiery work, laundry and dairy work and poultry instruction.

4439. (Mr. Micks).—These are children sent in under a magistrate's warrant?—Yes, in the industrial school. Then if you go to the Cahircross Convent, they started the technical school simply through pure charity, to assist the people. It happened to be stationed in that part of the world, and I don't believe you could see surpluses in any part of the world than you would see in some parts of it.

4440. (Chairman).—Have the Department power to interfere in industrial schools?—No, that is a distinct thing from the technical school.

4441. You were mentioning an industrial school just now?—That convent has three schools—the primary, the technical, and the industrial school. I am talking of the technical side. In Cahircross they have started knitting. I have been told that they had to borrow the money to buy the needles. For the last three or four years we are asking the Department for an equipment grant of £50 in order to buy additional machinery for them, and we cannot get it, though we passed any amount of resolutions. What is true of each of these schools is true of all the others, and we regard their non-utilisation as a grave loss.

4442. (Mr. Micks).—Is their answer want of funds?—To be candid with you, some of the members of the committee are under the impression that want of funds is not the reason why the grants are not given.

4443. (Chairman).—Have you any correspondence or documents which would show the line the Department is taking?—The point is this, that we cannot get them to utilise them.

4444. I want to know why?—They never tell us why, I think. All we know is we have been asking for a grant for that very poor district of £25, and we cannot get it. And the boys' schools could be utilised also, and it would save expense in school buildings, because the buildings are suitable and would be given rent free, and the teachers have at all events displayed an aptitude and by sympathetic and generous treatment they could be made extremely useful.

4445. (Mr. Brown).—Are the boys' schools Christian Brothers' schools?—Yes.

4446. Are they primary or secondary schools?—They are primary schools. There is one working under the Intermediate Board at present, but only one.

4447. (Chairman).—Have you studied the Reports of the Department?—The only thing I am concerned with is the practical working in my own County.

4448. You are complaining that certain schools that ought to have assistance don't get it?—I am.

4449. What I want to know is whether you have examined the Reports which are published every year and seen what funds they have at their disposal and how far they can be applied for this purpose?—With great respect, I think the proper persons to ask that question of would be the Department themselves, and if they make any statement that we don't approve of we can supply an answer.

4450. I think you are the proper person to put the question in, as you are making the charge against the Department. Have you studied yourself that they have money at their disposal?—I don't make myself explicit. I am complaining that it is a grave loss, from an educational and industrial point of view, that these schools are not utilised by the Department. Why they don't do so is beyond my ken.

4451. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Have you taken the precaution to read the statements they may have made in their general reports for the information of the public?—I have. The general statement, so far as I am aware, is want of funds, but if you ask me about these funds, then you are taking me beyond what I could, satisfactorily to myself, answer, for I do not

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Canon Deane
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think that the reports of a Body over the judicious expenditure of whose funds there was practically no public control, and no independent audit, are worth a very careful study. The next point I have got to put before you is this. The unanimous opinion of our Committee is that if the present advisory Board was entrusted with the same powers that the County Council have the machinery would run very much better and the output of work from the Department would be very largely increased without impairing either its efficiency or usefulness.

4452. (Mr. Brown).—Does that mean the Board of Technical Instruction?—The present advisory Board of Technical Instruction. If that advisory Board, instead of being an advisory or consultative Board, were entrusted with powers similar to those which the County Councils have—

4453. (Chairman).—You mean the Board referred to in section 13?—The Board of Technical Instruction shall advise the Department with respect to all matters and questions submitted to them by the Department in connection with technical instruction?—Our County Council elects members who form the advisory Board with the Vice-President. I believe if instead of being advisory or consultative, they were entrusted with the same powers of administration which the County Councils have, in my opinion, the machine would run very much smoother and the output would be very much increased.

4454. (Mr. Nickle).—Do you mean you would rather have an elected Board to manage things than a Department with an advisory Board?—We elect the advisory Board at present.

4455. (Mr. O'Brien).—No, you don't; you elect the Council of Agriculture. That is the body to which members are sent from all the counties?—Have they nothing to say to technical instruction?

4456. There is another Board under that, elected by them?—What I mean is this, that the Councils should elect a Board on the principle they are doing at present, which instead of being consultative or advisory should have the same power as the County Councils themselves have.

4457. (Mr. Nickle).—In other words, full administrative powers?—Yes.

4458. (Mr. Brown).—How many members would you suggest for each county?—That is a matter of detail. I only go on the broad line of public control.

4459. (Mr. O'Brien).—There are three different Boards or bodies to which your committee might refer. The "present" Board might be one of three things. There is first of all the Council of Agriculture, which is elected as has been described. Then there is the Board of Technical Instruction, a smaller body, and the majority of the members of which are elected by the Council of Agriculture, and then there is the Consultative Committee of Education, which is a different body altogether. I take it from your last description that you refer to the Council of Agriculture?—Perhaps I have not made myself intelligible. What I mean is this: that these should be some Board in conjunction with the Vice-President, that his present powers of nomination should be done away with, and that that Board, entrusted with the same administrative powers which the County Councils have, that it should be elected by the County Councils. There was just one other point I was asked to put before you. The County Councils financial year ends on the 31st of March, like all other public bodies. Now we find this fact very inconvenient. The Departments technical

scheme ends on the 31st of July, their agricultural scheme ends on the 30th September, and their livestock scheme ends on the 31st of December. Sometimes, I assure you, we have quite enough to do to find out what year we are in.

4470. (Chairman).—You know the reason of that?—No, all I say is it places us in this awkward position, that we have to keep a sharp look out to know what year we are in.

4471. The 31st of March is the end of the financial year with the Government generally?—Yes, and I think they ought to try to remedy it.

4472. (Mr. Nickle).—And it is near the next day?—In my part of the country there is very little not paid. Most of them have purchased their farms out and are doing very well.

4473. (Chairman).—The Act of 1890 came into force in 1900. Do you think there has been on the whole an improvement, or not, in technical instruction?—Most decidedly. That was the very first opportunity we ever got in Ireland. We were only too eager to avail of the opportunity.

4474. Your criticisms have rather gone to this, that enough use is not made of it?—My criticisms are confined to those points I have put before you.

4475. You would not want to go back to the state of things before 1890?—Certainly not. Besides it is our motto, and you will be glad to hear that all these things are making the country very much more contented and peaceful.

4476. And there is an amount of instruction set so on given now which was not given before?—There is, undoubtedly. For instance, our domestic economy instruction, we have not enough of them. They are going round giving lectures in the country districts in cockery and habits of thrift and cleanliness.

4477. Do you attach very much importance to that?—I do attach very much importance to it.

4478. Do you think there is an improvement in the homes of the people?—There is a great improvement. There will be more even in a short time. We are only starting it now.

4479. Six years, after all, is a short time for a change of this sort?—My belief is this: to use an old saying, Rome was not built in a day. We have to commence at the foundation. In my parish a great number of my people purchased their holdings about sixteen years ago. It is now that they themselves can see the substantial improvement that is caused in their position.

4480. You have not come here to speak about agriculture, but would you apply what you said just now to agriculture?—I have not come here to speak about it, and have only a general knowledge, but I will tell you how the case stands at present so far as I know. The farmers are getting opportunities of improving their stock without any expense to themselves, and they think that is a very good thing, and they are working that arrangement for all it is worth. Now, they have not got an instructor in agricultural methods up to this in Kerry. For instance, an agricultural instructor should go round, say at the beginning of the tillage season, and tell them the use of measures in tillage, and take demonstration plots up in the parishes and let the farmers work them. Improvement is my motto, and we are only too anxious to co-operate, but we are pulled back all the time.

4481. You are quite in sympathy with the movement in that direction, but you would wish to accelerate the pace?—Yes, by removing the impediments which I pointed out, and which block the way.

MR. WILLIAM ROBERTS, J.P., expanded.

Mr. W.
Roberts, J.P.

4402. (Chairman).—I think you represent the Committee of Agriculture for the County Cork?—Yes. I have been asked to come and give evidence as to the working of the Committee.

4403. I think your first point is as to the power of the Board of Agriculture?—That part of the subject is to be undertaken by Mr. McDonald, Chairman of the County Council. I was asked to speak of the working of the scheme of the Department in the county. That is the principal thing I take up. Mr. McDonald's only suggestions, I think, are as to the Board of Agriculture and the County Committee. Mine will be principally as to the work the County Committee are doing under the Department.

4404. Will you say what you wish to say on that subject?—We took up all the schemes under the Department in the county, and we have in the

county two agricultural instructors. They are paid by the Department; of course we have to find all their other expenses. And we have two instructors in poultry in the county and two dairy instructors, and an instructor in horticulture and bee-keeping. They work in the county under the County Committee and the Department. We have started in the county under the agricultural instructor and the horticultural instructor, some demonstration plots. We have fourteen horticultural plots. They grow different vegetables which we think the cottagers in the county ought to take up. In fact we ran a plot something on the lines on which the agricultural labourers should work the half-acre plots in connection with the cottages, and our instructor at certain times of the year gives lectures on the growing and planting of different things.

4455. What do you say about the working of all that machinery?—The people are commencing to take to it. At first it was very hard to get them to take to it, but they are taking to it more than at the commencement. I happen to have on my own place one demonstration plot, and I am sorry to say the farmers as a rule don't take it up very much. It is the young people who do. I think it would be better to have the plots in connection with the schools if possible. It is the young people we want to get at more than the grown-up people.

4456. You want to give them a taste to see the importance of it?—Yes. I find you can get the young people to take it up.

4457. What is your demonstration plot?—It is both horticultural and agricultural. The agricultural part is the different seeds, grass, and clover seeds, and some pot experiments and manuring.

4458. Do you find the young people take an interest in that?—They are commencing to take it up more than at first.

4459. How is that instruction given? Is it at particular times?—The instruction at certain times of the year, in the early spring and winter give lectures in the district.

4460. Are the lectures well attended?—They are fairly well attended in some districts, but there is one thing; if there could be a change made, there should be more notice given, and have a lecture on the plots, which I think is where they should be given, more than in the towns, to show how the thing works out on the plot. They should give notice, too, that at certain times they would visit the plot and give lectures on seeds, &c.

4461. (Mr. Brown).—Would not that be for the County Committee to arrange?—Yes.

4462. There is nothing to prevent you as soon as the plots begin to grow, and later on, when they were about to be cut, giving lectures there?—Yes; I think that would work better than a lecture in a room.

4463. (Chairman).—Is that done now?—I have not seen it done anywhere, but I am suggesting it.

4464. (Mr. Brown).—It is being done in our county this week. There are meetings of farmers at different plots, and the instructor attends and gives lectures?—That is not done in our county.

4465. (Chairman).—That is one of the ways in which you think the system of instruction might be improved?—Yes, and also if it could be got in connection with the schools.

4466. I should like to hear what you have to say on that. We have heard a great deal on the subject; do you mean the primary schools?—I think if there could be a sort of horticultural plot in connection with the schools, and worked some way with the schools, it would be a very good thing.

4467. (Mr. Brown).—Have you made any effort to get that done?—My plot is not far from the school. I have made one or two suggestions, but the teacher did not exactly take it up. I don't know whether they are allowed by the Commissioners of Education.

4468. (Chairman).—The question is whether it can be done in school time. That is a matter not for the Department, but for the National Board?—Yes.

4469. (Mr. Brown).—Have your Committee made any representations to the Board of National Education and the Department?—I don't think they have done either, but they have made some suggestions.

4470. (Chairman).—You would like to see that benefit more widely distributed?—That would be the principal thing. We want to get at the young people.

4471. (Mr. Brown).—Would the County Committee be willing to give the services of the horticultural instructor for the purposes of instruction on certain days to such national schools as he could reach on?—I could not say.

4482. Instead of having itinerant lectures, you think it is time to begin the giving of systematic instruction to the young people?—I think so.

4483. (Chairman).—You represent the Cork Agricultural Society?—I represent the County Agricultural Committee, and also the County Cork Agricultural Society. We have taken up the poultry scheme very much. We have fifty egg stations in the district, and the demand for the eggs and poultry since they were started seems increasing every year.

4484. Are the breeds improving?—They are improving very much in some districts. I happen to have gone over the county for the last two or three years to see the poultry, and I noticed last year an improvement. It is very hard to get the people out of

the old fowl yet, but they have some very good fowl running through them, and keeping young cockerels would improve them still more.

4485. (Mr. Brown).—Are they going in for laying fowl or for table fowl?—In West Cork they go in for the laying fowl. In my district we worked the poultry scheme four years. In the first year I don't think you could get for ten miles around thirty pure-bred poultry. After the scheme had had its first year's working I offered at any place so much for the best pullets or cockers from the eggs supplied from the station. The first year I got about seventy entries from people around. I asked the Board of Agriculture if they would, instead of buying a lot of poultry from England, assist the people here and buy poultry in the district. The Department gave me power to purchase some of the poultry, and I did, at very fair prices for the Department. The people, when they saw they got such good prices, went in the second year a great deal more all over the county for the eggs, and the second year I also said I would try the experiment on the improvement in the district, and the entries for the show ran up to something over 300. I asked the Department again to purchase the poultry, and they did allow me to purchase. They sent a man specially down to purchase poultry, and they sent to the western districts of Mayo and Galway, too. Then the County Committee started shows in the different parts of the county, and they were able to get very large entries this year, where four years ago we could not get one. That showed the poultry had improved. It is the market principally we want for the poultry. The markets are very bad.

4486. (Mr. Brown).—Are they not getting better prices for the pure-bred poultry?—The highest price I gave for pullets was from four to five shillings each. The usual price would be nine pence or ten pence a piece. So that was a great change.

4487. (Chairman).—That is an industry that is very important to the poor people?—It is very important for the labourers in the west. The egg supply also has greatly increased. That scheme in the county has worked very well under the Department's rules. Turkeys have improved in the same way. There is the cattle scheme, which, of course, is the most important of all. We set aside funds every year for seventy-two premiums for pure-bred bulls. For the first few years the bulls could not be got, but we have been increasing every year. I think in our first year we had something less than thirty bulls. We could not get more. This year we have sixty-five pure-bred premium bulls, so we have very nearly got up to our number. They are principally shorthorns. We have a few Aberdeens Angus. One of the suggestions before you from the County Committee is as to the purchase of bulls. In some parts of the district no farmer in the district purchased a bull.

4488. (Mr. Brown).—Is it by county electoral divisions you give the bulls?—We could not get enough bulls at first. We started to put so many in each division. There were some divisions in which no one applied for a bull. There was nobody well off enough to purchase them. Then we put a second, third, and fourth bull in the district.

4489. (Chairman).—I suppose you would like to see the number of bulls increased?—Yes; if the County Committee got power to purchase bulls and place them in districts where there are no bulls.

4510. Some witnesses have advocated the registering of a rather lower type of bulls, not quite pure-bred, in order to increase the number and neutralise the effects of the large number of very inferior animals still in use?—The County Cork Committee are not in favour of half-bred bulls, but they make a suggestion that at the schools now held by the Department—the Munster Institute and the Connally School—they would get good dairy cows, and put a shorthorn bull on them and after a few years they would be able to breed a milking strain of shorthorns which would be very nearly thoroughbred.

4511. (Mr. Brown).—On that question of the bulls, I think the proposition that was made was that some step should be taken to get rid of the really bad bulls, not for the purpose of subsidising half-bred bulls?—It would be a very great thing, and that would be the wish of the County Committee, if you could get rid of the bad bulls and the bad stallions which are ruining the country.

4512. How do you suggest that could be done?—It would be very hard to do. The only possible way would be to have a register and prohibit the use of any bull that was not on the register. That would

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be the only way to do it, and the same should apply to stallions, but it would be a very difficult thing to do.

4513. Perhaps you would be of opinion that the money would be better spent in getting in more pure-bred bulls?—I think after a while they would get out of the bad bulls, and would take to the good ones.

4514. (Mr. Micks).—Might it not be easier to start it at the beginning, and say a man would not be allowed to keep a bull for stallion purposes, or a young bull for serving purposes, unless he could satisfy the authorities that they were fit to be kept?—Yes; that has been my opinion for years. I have given that evidence before.

4515. That would not be interfering with existing bulls, but interfering with the supply coming on?—Either that or if that were too expensive after two years the good bulls—

4516. If you could get enough bulls in the county you could stop the worst to begin with, and gradually fine down until you had only those that really ought to be kept, and that a man should get a licence to keep an animal for serving purposes?—That would be the proper way to do it if it could be done. The reason I say that is that after a while the bad bulls would be removed. The farmers that send a good cow to a premium bull if they have a bull calf a great many of them are keeping that calf, which would be of course an improvement on the old stock. It would be shaped better and might be improved year after year, but the principal thing is if the County Committee could get power to purchase bulls and place them in districts where they have some at present. The ratepayers in some districts are grumbling they are getting no good from the grant. They are too poor to purchase.

4517. (Mr. Brown).—Even with the loan from the Department?—Yes. They are not taking it up, even with the loan. Some of the County Councils at the last meeting said they would oppose the rate next year, because they could not get any benefit from the grant.

4518. They get a loan of two-thirds and the premium pays one third?—They get two years to pay the two-thirds.

4519. The first year's premium would pay the first one-third?—You have to pay one-third in cash when you get the bull and you don't get the premium until October or November. You would not get a bull suitable for a premium for less than £40 or £50. There are very few of the poor farmers can afford to pay £10 in cash. It is very hard to get them to take it up in some districts, and these are the districts in which they want power to place the bulls. I believe the Department have placed bulls in part of West Cork this year, outside the County Committee.

4520. That would be in congested districts?—Yes.

4521. (Chairman).—Do you think farmers are beginning to appreciate more the importance of breeding from pure-bred bulls? In a dairy country where milk is the principal object there is a great tendency to use the inferior bulls?—There is of course, but wherever the premium bull is placed there is a great demand.

4522. Do people take the trouble of sending their cows any distance?—They do. I have known them to send three five or six miles.

4523. I am speaking of the small tenant farmers? The small man would. I did where a man has two or three cows he is generally one of the first to look for a good bull for the cows, and if they have a good calf the small men keep the bullers; they cannot afford to keep the bull calves.

4524. What I wanted to get at, is whether this new system is really extending to the poorer classes, the smaller tenants?—It is not in some parts of the country, except in West Cork, where Dr. Kelly takes a great interest in it. He has a good many poor tenants in his district, but if there is a part of the country where there is not a farmer that takes an interest in the working of the scheme, that place is neglected. They want somebody in the district to push it forward.

4525. Has it got to this, that a man sees his neighbour feeding by it and is inclined to do it himself next year; do they catch it from each other?—They do, as far as I know. I have seen it in all my district.

4526. You think there has been a great deal of improvement in this?—I think it is more noticeable this year in the country than it was yet. I don't believe in the creameries, and I think young cattle are not as

good as they used to be in the old times. Young cattle are not in the condition, and don't do as well from the creamery milk as they used to do in the former years. The farmers do not put enough of the stuff into the milk to make up for the fat taken out of it, and the calves are not as good.

4527. (Mr. Brown).—They will hardly ever get back to the old system where creameries existed?—I don't know many have gone back to hand separators and given up creameries.

4528. Is not the point to impress on the farmers the necessity of supplying the fat?—That is the principal thing.

4529. The agricultural instructor's lesson is directed to that?—Yes, he always explains that.

4530. There is no use in talking at the creamery, because we cannot alter that and go back?—It would be very hard to go back. We have no creamery at all in our district. They mostly have hand separators. There the milk is a great improvement on the creamery milk. You have it fresh and you have a new milk. In creameries you never get milk from the same district for your calves. It is a mistake every day.

4531. You have experience of a hand separator yourself?—Yes.

4532. And of feeding your calves with separated milk?—Yes.

4533. And I suppose you find when you supply the fat the calves do very well?—They do splendidly. I give linseed and cotton seed and Indian meal.

4534. It is the Department's mixture?—Yes; I tried all kinds of feeding stuffs, and I find they do very well on them. I have just as good calves as when I was rearing them. The horse scheme is taking up very well, too. A great many mares attend the show to get nominations. We have not enough money to give as many as we would wish. That was taken up by the Royal Dublin Society for a long time before the Department of Agriculture came into existence.

4535. But these were not so many nominations available as now?—The Royal Dublin Society was only giving £200 for the County. Our Committee last year gave £870 for nominations to mares. The Royal Dublin Society grant was £250 for several years, and then £200 for a couple of years before the Department was started.

4536. Do those mares generally go to the thoroughbred sires?—Mostly. We have agricultural horses, but very few. Not more than one-third go to the agricultural horses.

4537. What are they?—Shires.

4538. (Mr. Micks).—Near the city?—The shires are near the city.

4539. (Chairman).—Do you give a good account of the working of the scheme?—The farmers take it up very much. They all apply for it. I have seen at the show in Cork something over 100 mares for 20 nominations, and 50 or 60 of them would be quite good enough to get a nomination if they were available.

4540. Is there any other scheme that you well wish to draw attention to?—We have a wine scheme, but all the premiums for hares have not been taken up. We have no sheep scheme at all.

4541. Then I gather from your evidence generally that you have seen a great deal of improvement of late years in all these matters?—This year the improvement was more noticeable. The people are beginning to take an interest in it. There are a great many shows in the County Cork, and the entries seem to be increasing. The cattle are better than they used to be a few years ago. The question of mares is taken up also. Our Committee take up the Fertiliser Act, and our Secretary has got a lot of samples of very bad stuff as manure, which he sent to be analysed. A few were prosecuted and fined, and, no doubt, there is an improvement. They are afraid to sell the stuff they need to sell.

4542. (Mr. Brown).—Have you any prosecutions for the adulteration of butter?—No; we have none.

4543. (Chairman).—In these matters do you and yourselves of the service of the Inspector; he would be your witness?—The Secretary of the County Committee goes round to different parts of the county and takes samples and gets them analysed, and if they find we have a prosecution. We found the salt foods that were being sold were bad, selling at 10 shillings a cwt. when they were only worth six or seven shillings.

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4544. Have you any criticism to make on the action of the Department?—As far as the Cork County Committee has taken it up; the first year the County Committee threw up the scheme altogether. I think they were the only county that did not take up the scheme; but ever since we have started I think the County Committee and the Board of Agriculture have worked very well. I believe if we get all we asked for at first the Department would be wiped out. I represent the Cork Agricultural Society also. The Department gave them a grant of £2,760.

4545. What is its make up?—It is a Voluntary Society. We have something over 800 members. In 1904 we applied to the Department of Agriculture for some assistance. There was a building fund. Erecting the buildings of the Society cost about £6,000. The Society had to pay five per cent on that money. £4,500 was the amount of the debentures, and nearly £280 a year was the cost on the Society. It was very hard for the Society to keep up under that heavy debt, and we applied to the Department of Agriculture for assistance in the matter. In 1904 the Department gave us a free grant of £2,700 on the condition that the Society would collect £2,000 to the county, that would pay off the debentures of the Society altogether. The Society went to work and succeeded in collecting something over £2,000. The Department handed over the £2,700. At that time I happened to be President of the Society, and our members were between 600 and 700. Now the members of the Society are very close on 900. We are bound to carry out this scheme in connection with the County Committee of Agriculture, and on those conditions the County Committee of Agriculture gave us a grant for the year of £280 to work the Society. Our share in every way has increased, and we have increased in numbers. That heavy debt is now off the Society, and now that it is able to do a lot of good in the county, and bring forward the scheme of the County Committee.

4546. I suppose you attach great importance to the shows as spreading the knowledge of what is going on throughout the country?—I always attach great importance to the shows. I think they do a lot of good in the district. At present the County Committee are giving grants to I think five local shows besides the County Show. They give grants of £200 a year to Shows altogether. That £600 includes the Poultry Shows under the County Inspectors and the Butter Shows under the County Inspectors, and Prizes for the best kept Dairies in the District.

4547. Have you anything to say about the system of District lectures: are they working well?—The people attend the lectures very well, those on poultry and dairying especially; but of course the dairy shows in each district are for 12 pupils. That is a great improvement on the old way of only staying a few days in a place and not holding classes.

4548. (Mr. Brown).—Does the Poultry Inspector hold classes also?—This year they are holding classes in picking and trussing. The Agricultural Society have taken it up and give prizes for showing to people trained in all parts of the country. That makes the instructors in our district work up and see that their people are getting on.

4549. (Mr. O'Brien).—Have you been able to secure good instructors?—Yes; we are very lucky in the county with our instructors; in dairying and poultry especially we have good instructors.

4550. And you are able to keep them?—Yes.

4551. You have not been losing them?—No; we have kept them up to this. I am afraid we shall lose one now, our very best man.

4552. (Chairman).—Are you able to tell me something about the agricultural classes in the county?—Yes, this year is the first time we started classes.

4553. I believe Cork is the only county in this part of Ireland that has these classes?—I believe so. This year we had classes in the winter; two classes in the week in this room, and two classes in Macroom, and two classes in Malinbeg. That is six classes each week for 22 weeks in the winter months. There was an average attendance of 29 pupils in each of the classes, and there were applications for the examination of 70 or 80 boys who attended the classes.

4554. Who were the instructors in these classes?—Mr. Thompson, who was paid by the Department of Agriculture. He gave the whole of the classes. They were very well attended during the time.

4555. In various subjects?—Various subjects, and surveying also. He always took them out in the country on certain days, and had surveying and practical work.

4556. (Mr. Brown).—Did they do as well in the city as in the country districts?—From the report of the Inspector Macroom gave the best results.

4557. This is our experience, too; they do far better in country districts?—In the best attended classes their twin fairs was paid, and they got their luncheon in Cork. In fact, they were paid to attend the class.

4558. (Chairman).—They come in every day?—Yes.

4559. (Mr. O'Brien).—Do those who attend belong to the class of people whom the classes were intended to meet?—Yes; they had a sort of examination into what the boys intended to do.

4560. (Chairman).—Before they were admitted to the classes?—Yes.

4561. (Mr. O'Brien).—Who settled what boys were to be admitted?—There was an examination here, and the Department sent down a man and examined them, and of course the Secretary of the County Committee was asked as to what district they came from, and what their people were engaged in.

4562. And whether they were the sort of people who were likely to benefit from this instruction?—Yes.

4563. Was it the general feeling among those who took an interest in the classes that the classes did really meet the object?—We have given instructions on the County Committee that members of the Committee in the district where the boys attended from should see that boy or visit his place a few times before the next classes to see whether there was any result from the teaching. I have gone to two or three in different parts of my district, and I see they are carrying out some experiments on seeds and manures in the places. We suggested that to see whether next year it would be worth while for us to take up the classes again.

4564. At present there is no comparing of notes on this job. You can, however, give us your personal experience, and that appears to be quite satisfactory?—That is all. The Committee at the end of the year before we form a class again will have a return from all the County Committees in the different districts as to whether the boys forget all he has been doing here.

4565. (Mr. Brown).—Do you find any of these boys anxious for a more advanced course in the second year?—I have asked two or three whom I have seen. They did not mention exactly that they wanted to come again. In fact, I think they think they won't be taken on a second year because we did not put it to them. It would be better for them to go to a school such as Clonsilla for the second year.

4566. (Chairman).—You think this preliminary examination does enable you to select the people who want it most?—I think it would be the only way to do it, because if not you would get in boys who would not be suitable at all.

4567. (Mr. O'Brien).—The result of how far they have taken advantage of the work would form some guarantee in selecting the comparatively few who would benefit by a local course at Clonsilla or elsewhere?—Of course it would.

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4568. (Chairman).—I think you are the Dean of Cloyne, and you propose to give us some information with regard to the classes of technical instruction at Temple?—Yes; I was requested by the local Urban Council, who had some communication from your Committee for observation, and they referred the matter to me as being chairman of the local Technical Education Committee. In a hurried way I just put these notes

together, but they represent broadly and substantially what I would like to say to the Committee.

4569. With regard to the attendance at the classes given in woodwork, carpentry, joinery, and building construction, you say that has been small?—By the wood work we understand wood carving, and I would leave out that word, but with regard to manual work in carpentry, joinery, and building construction, the remark that I

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have made there in those nice applies; that is to say, the attendance is on the whole very poor. The people don't seem to take much interest in the matter, and although they have been addressed publicly on the subject, and we visited several of them privately, we could not induce them to shake off their indifference in the matter of making the sacrifice necessary to attend evening classes.

4570. Have these classes been going on for any considerable time?—We have been going on for the last four years.

4571. And the attendance has not improved?—No; it has rather gone backwards. I should say in a town of 5,000 inhabitants one would expect that there would be a much larger number of young fellows who would take an interest in the matter.

4572.—You say you made an exception about the wood carving?—I have included that perhaps wrongly under the general term of art. It includes wood carving, modelling, and drawing. These classes have been attended very well on the whole, but I fear very much that the class of people who attend them are not exactly those who were intended originally by the Act of Parliament. A good many educated ladies and gentlemen who attend in the evenings go there just for their amusement, and to learn them for the purpose of decorating their homes or making presents to their friends. That accounts, I think, to a large extent for the fact that the art classes are so much better attended than the others.

4573. Attended by people for whom they were not originally intended.—I should think so.

4574. You say you have no evening classes in commercial subjects?—No. We had evening classes in the beginning in commercial subjects, but they have completely lapsed. It is one of the classes that I would like most to see flourishing in places like Youghal. We did everything we could to induce people to come. On one occasion the local committee invited the attendance of the principal business people of the town in order to render with them to know whether they would be willing to shorten their time of business by an hour in the evenings, with a view to allowing their assistants to attend the evening classes. I am sorry to say that after invitations to the number of about 30 were issued, only two of the business people attended, and, of course, nothing came of it. I understood an additional effort will be made next season to revive the commercial classes—book-keeping, shorthand, and typewriting.

4575. Now, have you any account to give us as regards domestic economy, cookery, and laundry work?—Yes. We have in Youghal over 300 girls who are engaged in the lace industry—the famous Youghal lace industry—and the crochets work. Several of these girls are very young, just beginners, and we receive a visit periodically from the instructresses in cookery and laundry. Now it so happens that the class is a very satisfactory one, and I attribute it all to the fact that these girls, the young girls, are to a large extent under the control of the nuns. They work in the convent in the work room there, and I think the nuns have to bring considerable pressure to bear on these girls in order to induce them to join these classes and go on with them. Still the thing has been a success. The lady instructress comes there five or six weeks every year, and the girls stand for the regular number of attendances, and the thing is, I consider, in that way a success; but I am very much afraid that if these little girls were not under the control of the nuns, if it was left to themselves, they would hardly do it; and, as it is, they complain very much of it because it takes them away for a couple of hours from their ordinary work.

4576. (Mr. McKee).—Household work?—No, but the making of the crochets and lace. They go to the convent work room to carry on this crochets and lace work.

4577. They complain of being taken away?—Yes, from that work.

4578. (Chairman).—Remuneration diminishes their earnings?—Of course.

4579. (Mr. O'Neill).—The laundry classes have been taken in the day time?—Yes, and cookery also.

4580. (Chairman).—Do you attach much importance to this teaching in domestic economy?—It is of immense importance. I should say that it is for our women what the teaching of agriculture is for the man, the very life and soul of them and the foundation of all social prosperity.

4581. Has it been going on long enough to enable you to judge whether there are any real results from it?—No, not hitherto. We are hoping to have a class taught

by a certificated nun—a Loretto nun who has been trained and certificated—and there are regulations going on with the Department with the view of opening classes for outsiders, ladies in the town, and others, who may wish to join, but the negotiations have not been completed as yet.

4582. You spoke of an instructress. Did you refer to an instructress imported?—Yes; a regular instructress imported by the Department.

4583. And that has worked satisfactorily?—It has worked satisfactorily, but we would prefer that the instruction instead of being concentrated within five or six weeks, should be extended over the whole year, in order that the girls might continue their crochets and lace work, and not be obliged to sacrifice the little wages they might earn.

4584. And for that reason you are training one of the nuns?—Not in that context. The Loretto Convent has the trained nun.

4585. That is really the only branch of technical instruction of which you can give a satisfactory account. Then I am sorry to say that the other branches I have referred to have not been a success. The difficulties we have to contend with are—thinking over it in my mind—first, the people know absolutely nothing about technical instruction; and, on the old principle, the ignorant sniffs up, knowing nothing about it, it is a foreign region to them, and they have no ambition about it. Another cause is the fact that they don't realise the ultimate value of it. They say it brings a nothing to them. The young fellows won't sacrifice the evenings after being hard at work all day either in business places or workshops. They much prefer going there in the evening and smoking their pipes to going for a couple of hours to a technical school.

4586. Have you any suggestion to make?—There are two things. One idea that struck me I can say is quite a hopeless one. If there were sufficient funds at the disposal of the Department, and they could legally do so, I would be for giving prizes for attendance and proficiency in evening classes, and in that way I think it would be made more attractive to them. I see that the Agricultural Committee here in the city have very liberally to my mind attended a number of young men to learn the agricultural lessons given here by paying their railway fare and giving them a free dinner. That expenditure, I believe is being disputed by the Auditor. I happened to meet him the other day, and I don't know how it is going to end. Any way, I heard a strong opinion expressed by a member of the Committee that the funds had been placed at the disposal of the Committee to do the best they could for agriculture. In the same way, if portion of the funds for technical education could be set aside to mark their approval of regular attendance and proficiency obtained in the instruction, I think it would be a very good use to make of the fund. We have got in Youghal a small industry, art metal work. It was started by one of the priests there, a canon, Father Ahern. He got a teacher from England, and half his salary is paid by the Department. It is under the Department. An inspector comes there regularly. He has started this work. It is a small affair, but I should think that considering the talent and the talent of the young fellows, if it could be sustained and put on a firm basis and its force secured it might come to something important. I understand there is a similar school in the north of Ireland, established by Lady Montgomery, in the County Tyrone. I have heard it is a success, but owing largely to her personal interest in the matter. I may say the same of Father Ahern in Youghal. He is the heart and soul of the whole thing as he is of many other things besides, but the fault I find with it is that it is not thoroughly established. It ought not to depend for its existence on the existence of one man. If Father Ahern were to cease to be connected with that industry it would lapse. He provides a market for the articles and puts the young fellows. They earn five shillings a week. It is a hard struggle. He has advertised the thing and is in communication with business people in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and round about, and he sends them articles to these people, and really, for young fellows only beginning, it is astonishing to see the beauty of many of these articles they have turned out, of metal, hammered out very nicely. The six or seven young fellows we have there seem to take a great

factor in it, but its existence is very precarious. I think we should have a larger contribution from the Department for the purpose of providing a superior class of teacher, and also it ought to be considered whether we could not obtain through the influence of the Department something like a regular outlet for the little products of the class.

4597. (Mr. Micks).—Marketing it?—Yes.

4508. Have they stock on hands or do they sell these pretty well?—Sometimes the stock remains on hands for a while. Then they sell to these local commission through the country who get up *feisannas*, who sometimes write for prices of this class of work, and they are sold in that way. They are also sent to those to sell as best they can.

4332. But it is rather uncertain, the sale!—It is rather uncertain. I am afraid of it. He is only a curate and can be removed by the will of the Bishop at any time, and if that were done I don't know what would happen to the industry.

4590. In the other classes is there any special instruction given?—Yes. Some of the young fellows attend art classes, modelling, drawing, and design.

4591. Are the metal designs done altogether by ourselves or are the pupils able to do any designs?—
Mr. Hanson, the art master, finishes the designs.

4592. They have not reached the stage when they could design?—Not quite, and the teacher we have not helps along in that way too.

4591. You have another industry there, do you not?—Yes, and brick works.

4504. Has anything been done to improve the specimens of pottery?—Nothing at all.

4525. They are very crude designs!—The son of the gentleman who has the pottery is attending the evening classes. He is a very young fellow, and perhaps something may come of it, but up to the present they are as they were twenty or thirty years ago.

12566. (Chairman).—Another suggestion you have to make as to the improvement of technical education is the necessity for more assistance through the payment of fees in many schools?—I have come to that conclusion on very serious reflection. I think if one young lad from twelve to fourteen could get an inkling, just a mere elementary course of information in technical instruction in some shape or form, I think their appetite for it would be whetted and their eyes and fingers would be trained to some extent, and then when they grow up to be artisans or engineers there would be much less difficulty in inducing them to continue attending evening classes. I know there is a great practical difficulty in connection with it. I have made a little effort myself in connection with a country school of which I am manager. We get twelve or thirteen boys within the age I have mentioned, from twelve to fourteen, to attend the school after school hours.

5587. (Mr. Mink).—The Clagmont school!—Yes, the main National school. The teacher went out there since we were and the young fellows, I was surprised at their credit, although they are tired after their day and hungry for their dinner, nevertheless they took it for an hour or an hour and a half, and the attendance is very good. Indeed, some who had left the school returned during the afternoon to go with their companions. It is an existence had for a very short time. There have been but twenty or less given, and it amazes me to see the beautiful little objects of art those boys have turned out. That is a good training for them, and they love it and are prepared to make that sacrifice. I am afraid my session is not quite regular. We cancelled the school hours just a little. I am afraid the Commissioners of National Education when they see that will be down on me. We let them out a quarter of an hour sooner, not to keep them too long. I am sure if these lads were living in a town where the working classes were in existence they would be only too glad to continue the instruction already got; but the green fellows of nineteen or twenty have never got a taste for it, and they are not prepared to enjoy the work.

4568. (Chairman).—Do you agree with some witnesses who said that there is more difficulty in arousing interest in these things in towns than in the country?—I believe there is a good deal of truth in that. There are more attractions in the towns. I speak of afternoon classes. The difficulty

In the country of craning classes is the distance they would have to go and the bad weather. June 27, 1906.

45396. (Mr. Ogden).—I think we have been informed that the new regulations of the National Board permit of the recognition as part of the school time spent in some such ways as this—I have not seen the amended scheme, but shall be very glad indeed to hear that.

4600. Is there any fee for admission to the evening technical classes?—A nominal fee of two shillings.

4601. In some places it has been tried with some success to induce people to return regularly by offering to return the fee to those who make 50 or 60 per cent. of the attendance; have you had anything like that?—No. I don't think it would have much effect. A couple of shillings is not much to set back.

Q002. Not for each class?—No, for the whole thing. If they attend two or more classes, I think it is 2c. 6d.

4003. Upon how many evenings of the week do these classes demand their attendance?—The most would be two in any subject.

6604. But the average pupil would be taking more than one subject, perhaps?—Yes, some of them attend two classes.

6608. Suppose a pupil was taking on some work which the teacher wished him to take, would the demand made upon his time be in excess of two or three evenings a week?—No. The classes are held regularly on three evenings. If they were to go in, of course, for wood-carving or drawing they would be obliged to make a still greater sacrifice if they were already engaged in manual work or building something large.

4606. But the average pupil in building construction classes would probably be a young joiner or mason.

4607. You would not ask him to come up to class more than two nights a week?—No.

4508. They grudge that!—They do. We only got a few last, but there are not many of that trade with us at present, and we found it very difficult in the beginning. We found the tradesmen were quite opposed to us, on the ground that we were going to educate handy men to injure their trade, but their prejudice has, to a large extent, died out.

9609 If the building construction class and the carpentry and joinery class are to be of real benefit to technical instruction and to the industry, you would have to aim essentially at the training of those who were apprentices in the trade.—Just so.

0550. There cannot be a large number, and therefore you would not expect to have a large number attending the class, although the class itself might be an extremely useful one from an industrial point of view—I dare say it is intended primarily for that class, but I see an advantage in others who were never intended to be carpenters or masons getting this training, because once the hand and eyes are trained, people are fit for a great many things, and that would be true principally in the country. These dozen ladies I spoke of who were getting lessons in connection with our elementary schools, I don't see why one of those young fellows would not put a plain roof on a pig-sty by and by, or make a common gate, or perhaps a wheelbarrow, without needing five or six miles for a carpenter and having him fix it.

Bill (Mr. Brown).—Or leaving it undone?—Yes; and even in the town there are odds and ends of things that could be done without trespassing too much on the rights of trades people, and I say, therefore, for those reasons, that even outside the classes of apprentices, others would benefit very much. Training in anything is good, even if not made use of for its own specific object.

4612 (Mr. Ogden).—The classes you describe as building construction, and carpentry and joinery are quite as much intended to be educative classes generally as far as technical instruction in any particular trade.—That is my view.

4613. And it is regarding them in that light that you expect them to appeal to a larger constituency than the mere tradesmen?—That is so. That would be particularly true in a small place like a country town of 5,000 inhabitants, where the number of regular apprentices is necessarily limited.

4514. In the Art classes, art metal work and all that sort of thing which for the present are manufactured successfully, there are two points of view. One I suppose you would admit, that those classes have a definite value as one method of getting across

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to the minds and faculties of the people, in this education such classes are merely as a section of liberal education—*Præparatory*, occupying their evening time and keeping them away from dangerous relations, not only from a scientific, but also from a moral point of view.

4615. That value you have evidently secured?—Yes, to a small extent. The number attending the metal classes is small, though.

4616. But taking all the Art Classes together?—Yes.

4617. With regard to the metal work class, and those that are producing more or less trifling articles in the class, there the training is not aimed at producing objects that are essentially the business of the men to produce, but these objects are by-products of extra work; the classes are not aimed at an industrial result, I take it?—Metal work only; they sell it.

4618. I mean you are not preparing these men to spend their whole time making this metal work?—With regard to that we don't know. I could not tell you. I would be too delighted if there were a prospect of ultimate success; if one or two of these smart fellows would take up the whole thing and make themselves the centre of the work, and employ men. Then it would add to the industries of the place, and thus help a work that is very badly needed in Yeoghul. But that is all in a state of uncertainty.

4619. I should think that the prospect would depend very largely upon two things, the selection of the type of object they were to construct so as to get a market, and the designs. I am glad to hear that the designs you are using at present are the combined results of the practical teacher and the Art master?—Yes.

4620. And that the pupils themselves are improving their knowledge of Art so that they will be able to appreciate the good and not spoil them by some trifling mistakes?—That is so.

4621. Has any care been taken to look to what class of objects it is easiest to start a business of this kind with?—I don't know that they have had anything particular that way. I tried to induce Father Ahura to come up here as a gentleman who could answer for that better than I can. They have been making various classes of jugs, and they have got designs.

4622. (Mr. Miché).—Some from Tyrene, I suppose?—Yes.

4623. (Mr. Opilvie).—Consider such a market as Cork, a place where a lot of people had now and again with pockets burning, and wishing to take away something that would mark local interest. They go round the shops, and there is not much to be seen but Cornamara pigs and bog-eek paper-cuttings, which probably were not made here at all. How about making objects that would displace those things?—We have had articles of this class exhibited here, and some purchased; but of course we cannot supply many shops with the number of lads we have engaged in it, and the way they are handicapped.

4624. So the absence of articles of that kind here would indicate that what had been made had been sold?—Practically they have been sold hitherto.

4625. And if any one of those young fellows were to devote his attention to developing an industry of that sort, there is every prospect that he would find a market?—Yes. I need not tell you that hammered metal work is dear, and if people go in for shoddy they can find articles in Germany at one-third the price that we can turn them out at, and articles that are very handsome to look at.

4626. You want to have every man mark his name on the article and that it is made in Yeoghul, and to have that properly advertised, so that an American would be willing to pay ten shillings for the real thing instead of five shillings for the shoddy?—This has been condemned by those who are in favour of a revival of trade and industry in the country. I could not give you a guarantee that if these articles were produced on a large scale they would produce a sufficient return. I could not say that.

4627. (Chairman).—You wish to say something about agriculture?—Well, we have no rural committee. The local District Council is supposed to take an interest in these matters, but they don't take very much interest in it. Anything that has been done in that way has been done by the individual exertions of the priests down there, and we have endeavoured to get a succession of lectures on all sorts of topics. We had a very successful lecture class there taught by one of the instructors. She took up a dozen young ladies, and established a regular school such as was described by Mr. Roberts. It was very successful. We had a competition, and it

excited a considerable amount of interest. I was very much pleased to see the interest the people took in it, but I am afraid that it ends about there for the present. These young girls who are very nicely educated in our local classes, and were very happy to learn, were then sent and had to stick to this business for five days a week for a month. Of course, the friends and relatives came and look on, but those were the regular pupils, and they learned a good deal. But then, you see, when they have succeeded in passing the month at the day school they go home and fall back to the old thing again. They have no appliances at home—separators and the proper kind of dairy and the proper sort and does—such as are recommended—and I am afraid that until a better state of things supervenes—at all events, it is well to have the knowledge. We have a succession of lectures on different things connected with farming and poultry lectures. My own conviction, and the conviction of a great many whom I have met, is that they absolutely teach nothing. It is not the fault of the lecturers certainly. I was present at a great many of their lectures, and thought them most interesting and useful, from the gentlemen who visited our district, but the farmers don't take any interest in the matter. I believe when we used to have those lectures that the farmers attended because they were pretty hard pressed by the priests to go there, and that was the beginning and end of it. I am very much afraid that dissent lectures such as we have had experience of is money thrown away, simply because there is no interest in the matter, and they don't make any effort to carry it out. They cannot learn. I give up a farmer after forty years of age. The old ideas are too rooted in them. The farmer says, "I should like to see a man who could teach my son to farm better than I can." It requires an infinite amount of patience to wait for the time when new lights will be accepted. But we here depends on the youth. I would leave the old fellows alone. I was greatly delighted when the Art Agricultural Committee started the schools of science here. There are three local centres—one in the city, one in Macroom, and the other in Mallow—where they bring up young fellows from different parts of the country, teaching them in a house-like way for some days for two days in the week. They pay their travelling expenses, and give them a free dinner. I went about the parish, looking up for candidates for these schools, and succeeded in getting nine. They had to pass a simple little preliminary examination. Three succeeded, and the month has been very good since they went back. They are nice intelligent young fellows, very anxious to carry out on the farm what they learned here, but with the present recurrences of the day, and the very, very slow progress, I am afraid it will take a very, very long time before there is anything like an appreciable reform of our agricultural methods. I understand there is about £200,000 a year to be expended on agriculture. It is not half enough, considering that agriculture is the staple industry of the country. If instead of having three centres for the County Cork, such as were instituted here by the Committee, we had a dozen, and it were at all possible to have a little plot of land attached to each, and get our young fellows to be them a great deal of good would be done, and in a short time; and I would confine it to young fellows between seventeen and twenty-six. Beyond that age I would not give much for it.

4628. Unless it was brought home to them that it would improve their produce and style, and be to their pecuniary advantage?—Yes.

4629. Then as to horticulture?—I look upon that as most important. I consider that a very important element in the success of our country people if they could be induced to take it up. I am afraid that, like the other matters of technical education, they are very slow in seeing the advantage of it. I happen to know the content of a field connected with a country school, and I gave a corner of it to the Committee, and they were at the expense of fencing it, and providing appliances and seeds, and sending down the horticulturalist. The farmers fought shy of it. They look over the fence, and never think they have anything to learn there. It is quite close to our national school, and I have asked the teacher to send in the grown boys and girls to listen to the horticultural instructor, and what he has got to say.

4630. Do you find the children take an interest in it?—Not much.

4631. (Mr. Miché).—It is devoted to flowers, vegetables, and fruit?

every sort of thing. And they have been very successfully produced. It is an excellent little plot, and the product of it is first-class.

4632. You are in the neighbourhood of orchards on the Blackwater?—We are a long way off from that.

4633. (Mr. Brown).—Would you approve of having school gardens or plots in the neighbourhood of schools on which systematic instruction should be given?—Of course I would. This plot is quite close to the school, and could be utilized for that purpose.

4634. If you had a sufficient number of horticultural instructors?—That is the trouble. We have one man who seems to be a first-rate feller. He has the whole County Cork, and he told me he had sixteen plots in the county. The man is worked to death, travelling day and night, paying flying visits to each place, and just saying a few words to the local man who is working it. I don't know how he stands it. We should have six or eight of those men to develop horticulture.

(Chairman).—The supply of these men is not unlimited at present.

(Mr. Brown).—They are turning them out at Glasnevin.

4635. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Did I understand you to say that it was the older children—boys and girls—whom you had asked the teacher to send to the plot?—Yes, during the play hours.

4636. And that they did not take much interest in it?—No; but the farmers round about don't, but the little ones will. I was amused in passing by their places to see the childish way in which they have been trying to imitate what they saw on the plot. The young people are our only hope.

4637. You had some assistance about growing early potatoes from the Department?—That, I am very happy to say is likely to become a great success. This is our second experience this year. It began last year, and though the work was imperfect in some ways, as being a first experiment, it was such as to encourage a further experiment. The Department have been good to us in this way. We got six demonstration plots. The Department supplied free seed and free artificial manure. This year we have ten, and some of the farmers, seeing the success of last year—while, after all, was only a comparative success, because the farmers are quite unaccustomed to it—this year I think between the demonstration plots and the volunteers we have twenty-two or twenty-three farmers who have gone in for the thing. The thing is a decided success.

4638. (Chairman).—That is a branch in which you have made progress—I have no doubt that it has come to stay, and the farmers see that money is to be made by it better than any other way.

4639. Even than the older way?—They see that. The other day Mr. Russell, a gentleman from the Department, showed me a telegram he had from Glasgow that 150 new potatoes were at 12 shillings a cwt, and to send all he possibly could. It so happens that the situation and the soil and the climate down at Youghal are very suitable for these, and I hope the Department will see its way to continue just a little longer nursing us until the thing has caught on well.

4640. You don't find much fault with the Department except that you want them to increase their operations?—I should like that, and I would suggest to the Department that as we have a very large number of very nice labourers' cottages, nearly kept, that they should just encourage the labourers by giving a few samples, by giving free seeds for one or two pairs to the labourers, up and down, and it would add very much to their income.

4641. To have plots attached to the labourers' cottages?—Yes. They have only half-acre plots, but very few. If the new Bill passes, they will have considerably more, and for the encouragement of the labourer it would be a good thing if a few labourers' cottages were selected for these demonstration plots.

4642. You don't despair of seeing a considerable improvement?—As far as the early potatoes go I think we are on the eve of a revolution with us.

4643. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The nursing you would desire from the Department would take the form of continuing

the services of the expert to teach the farmers until they get a better knowledge of what is necessary?—That is precisely what I mean. I would hope that in two or three years the farmers would not require further nursing, and would be able to find their own market. At present we are in a state of infancy. These gentlemen kindly correspond with the Glasgow merchants, and get all the information for us, and superintend the packing of the potatoes, and send them off.

4644. (Chairman).—Is he an Irishman?—No, a Scotchman; a very good fellow; an admirable fellow.

4645. Does he get on with the people?—Splendidly.

4646. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Presently some of the more likely of the young men who are engaged in that will be able to undertake the work of organizing the potato trade?—I should think so. If we could make sure of getting good seed every year it would be a great matter, because in that part of the country we are a bit helpless in that way. We must get a bit of help for a few years. Sometimes the seed is not turned out satisfactorily. If we could make sure of having the early seed around it would be of great importance.

4647. (Mr. Atcher).—You think £100,000 is too small for agriculture?—We can only look to what has been done with £10,000, and see how little has been done.

4648. Do you think there is enough on the industrial side?—With regard to that point, I think if the Department had the means and could see its way to organize local industries it would be of great importance in attracting young folks to the technical schools, because it would give them a prospect of turning their knowledge to account. At present we have not anything at all of the kind through the country.

4649. You think the organization of industries would be desirable as well as the affording of technical instruction?—Most desirable. Our people are flying away in thousands and tens of thousands from the country. They fancy they are going to an El Dorado in America, but come home sick and heart broken, a great many of them, and wishing they had never gone. But still there is the attraction. If these young girls were occupied with industries, and with honours in their kitchens, the moment they saw they could earn five or six shillings a week, it would be a great means of keeping them at home. I believe a large proportion of our lace and market girls would have gone away to America a long time ago had it not for these industries. Last year we paid £5,400 in wages.

4650. Would it not be necessary to provide young men, whom these girls could marry, with industry and labour?—Certainly.

4651. You would like to organize an industry for their employment?—Yes.

4652. It is the growing of vegetables or fruit or town industries?—That is so. There is a project as I understand that has not been quite dropped, although I have seen nothing about it lately, of starting a central fruit and vegetable market in the City of Cork. It would be a great stimulus to us, because if we go in for encouraging the people to cultivate fruit and vegetables, they have no way of making sale of them in the small town of Youghal. If we had a large market here that would attract the buyers from about it would be a great means of helping them. The first thing they ask is when we urge them to plant trees or grow vegetables, "what will we do with them when they are grown?" and there is great force in the objection. I visited the other day a large garden kept by a large farmer in the County Waterford. He showed me a fine prospect of vegetables. "What are you going to do with them," I said. "I don't know at all," he said. "The boys of the country will come and pay a visit to them. There is no means of disposing of them."

4653. The experts of the Department will very likely be able to give an opinion how to market them? I don't know that they have undertaken to give an opinion on that point.

(Mr. Brown).—The market for the common vegetables must be local.

On resuming after luncheon.

June 29, 1906

Mr. G.
Georgeson,
A.P.

Mr. GEORGE GEORGESON, A.P., examined.

4654. (Chairman).—You belong to the County of Cork?—The City of Cork.

4655. And you have, I believe, been nominated by the Fish Curers' Committee to express their views on the subject of a new Fishery Board?—Yes, that is so.

4656. Will you kindly tell me what your views on that subject are?—For a number of years past, at least 12 years, the people in the business have been agitating and asking for a separate Fishery Board for Ireland. When I say separate Fishery Board I mean a Board representative of the Fishery Districts of Ireland, formed on lines similar to those of the Scotch Fishery Board in Scotland. There is a Fishery Board in Scotland whose sole business is to see after the executive and administrative business of sea fisheries throughout the country.

4657. (Mr. Micks).—They have nothing to do with salmon?—Salmon fisheries are under their control in a sense. One of the inspectors of salmon fisheries is from time to time invited to the Fishery Board, when there is anything concerning them or the salmon fisheries coming before the Board.

4658. (Chairman).—What is your idea then?—My idea and the idea of those engaged in the business, when I say those engaged in the business, I mean the great majority of those engaged.

4659. (Mr. Micks).—Commercially?—Commercially—that is in order to establish the two great fish curing businesses, which are mackerel and herrings, we ought to have a Board to take charge of everything connected with fisheries instead of the existing arrangements. In addition to having a Board we want to have either a Government brand or a national trade mark to help the marketing of the goods, and establish them on a better, sounder and firmer basis than at present, which will secure for the curers a market.

4660. Such brand or mark guaranteeing that the fish are as represented?—Just the same guarantee that the Fishery Board for Scotland provide for those engaged in the industry there.

4661. How far would the use of the brand extend in Ireland; you would provide a brand and let such people as wished use it?—Precisely as in Scotland. It is not compulsory. I would not make it compulsory at all. This matter was brought before the Vice-President in 1900, by a resolution passed by the Limerick Chamber of Commerce, and in response to that resolution the Vice-President replied in something like the following terms:—"Dublin, 7th November, 1900. In reply to the resolution passed by the Limerick Chamber of Commerce for a Fishery Board on similar lines to the Scotch Board and the adoption of a Government brand; with regard to the first point, the constitution of the Scotch Fishery Board was, of course, before the mind of the Government when the Act constituting this Department was drafted, and as the element of popular representation wanting on the old Fishery Board is thoroughly provided for in the constitution of the new Department, I fail to see the necessity of further legislation for the constitution of an independent Fishery Board. In order to secure as large an element as possible of the interests of the Irish fisheries, both inland and marine, the Department has formed an able advisory Committee on Fisheries, and has been fortunate in securing the experience of men whose experience of fisheries and fishermen shall be the best guarantee that nothing in the interests of the Irish fisheries can escape attention. With regard to the second point referred to, the establishment of a brand, all I can say is that we have inquired into the matter fully, and it does not seem that the public advantage to the interests concerned is such as to compensate for the heavy expenditure which will be necessary to carry it out on a sufficiently extensive scale." The advisory Committee which was to do for us, or at least do for the fishery business what we expected, and to watch over its interests, have met I think once in about over three years. At any rate I am safe in making this statement, that they met recently in the month of April, and they did not meet for three years previously to that.

4662. Is that an elected or a nominated Committee?—A nominated Committee.

4663. Do you know who are on it?—I forget the names for the moment, but there is certainly no person on it who is a representative of the sea fisheries interested.

4664. No person having any commercial interest. No person having any commercial relations with fisheries. And as to the complaint about the heavy expenditure, it could not possibly be such heavy expenditure as is suggested by the Vice-President, for this reason, that we in Ireland do not contemplate having the same staff as the Scotch Board has, in case the staff for the Irish Board could only grow as the industry grows.

4665. The scientific staff is already paid out of other funds?—The existing staff is paid.

4666. Do you want branding machinery only?—What the trade really want so far as branding is concerned is they want some person who will be, we may call him a general inspector, who would be an officer of appeal and be able to organise the business, and then three or four or half-a-dozen sub-officers as the business increased, and the officers, of course, ought to be competent skilled men who would not only be able to do the branding of mackerel and herrings, but any other fish that might afterwards require to be marketed for the purposes of the country.

4667. (Mr. Micks).—Is there any curing of herring south of the Shannon?—There are no herring curing stations of any importance except Dungannon and Ennisk.

4668. Then your reference for the southern part is as regards mackerel?—Yes, but of course there is no reason in my opinion why herring fisheries cannot be prosecuted successfully. It has been stated, I know, that the reason why the Fishery Board for Ireland was discontinued in 1830, when the bounty system ceased, was because there were no fishing centres at which the industry could be prosecuted. I dispute that entirely.

4669. Are you aware of your own knowledge that herrings are not with in large numbers off the coast of Kerry and Cork?—Wherever it has been tried it has been under very exceptional circumstances—but wherever they have tried to catch herrings with appliances and boats they always get some. It has been stated that in Scotland the herring fishing is a permanent one. That may be true as far as some districts are concerned. But take the County Firth, the upper reaches of the Firth of Forth, and other places, there have been forty, fifty, or sometimes eighty years before the herrings returned, for the reason that they had no boats to go further out to sea to catch them. With regard to Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, and Wick, the boats are not there, and the appliances are more up-to-date, and therefore they are able to go for the herrings. If the old condition of things continued it is probable that Scotland and its herring fisheries would be where Ireland and its herring and mackerel fisheries are to-day.

4670. Do you propose a brand for mackerel as well as for herrings?—Yes. For instance, with regard to dried fish certain districts want them.

4671. How would you provide a brand for the dried fish?—By stamping the tail of every fish.

4672. As regards mackerel, you would brand the barrel; and what would the brand denote: would it be affixed according to the number of fish in the barrel or only the weight?—I think if I showed you how the Scotch fisheries do in that particular respect—

4673. I know what they do as regards herrings. The same would apply as regards mackerel. The market is regulated more or less according to the size and quality.

4674. Three hundred to the barrel being the largest size?—A very good size.

4675. Then would you go down to 500 or 600?—I do not think it would be desirable to brand anything beyond 500. The objection that the Department, through some of its officials, raised to this question of a brand was because the industry did not require it, and they gave as the reason that they had acquired of all the principal curers in those places was brand; but the principal curers in those places were either Englishmen or Scotchmen. We had very few native curers, and it was only reasonable that the Englishmen and the Scotchmen would like to preserve the business as much as they could.

4676. And sell under their own names?—Yes. The great object of the brand was that it should be a national trade mark.

June 25, 1896.

Mr. G.
Garrigue,
J.P.

4877. You could adopt the national trade mark as a brand?—Easily.

4878. What is the project in contemplation as to the national trade mark in case some of us may not know?—I don't know, but I know there will be a national trade mark adopted under the Act of last year. I don't know the particular mark.

4879. There is in process some scheme for registering a national trade mark for the various products of Ireland?—That is the trade mark I suggest.

4880. You think that would be a fitting mark for the herrings?—I see no reason why it should not take the place of the Government brand for Scotland.

4881. How would you grade the market?—I would grade them under 250, under 300, under 350, under 400. Nothing from 400 to 450 would be separated.

4882. That would be a guarantee of the number: could the fishery inspector guarantee the number?—They could guarantee the number in the same sense that the Scotch officers guarantee the quality. For instance, if the inspector had 100 barrels presented to him for the trade mark, he would open perhaps ten barrels.

4883. Would all the fish require to be re-packed?—All these ten barrels. I would submit there ought to be a very minute and careful inspection, and of course, in addition, he should examine the package, and that is one of the strong points, in my judgment, of the Scotch Fishery Board. They insist, as matter whether the barrel is presented for branding or not, so long as the barrel is not of regulation size and does not conform to regulations, it is confiscated and destroyed, and we wait that in Ireland as much as anything.

4884. Leaky barrels are a great cause of injury to the Irish trade?—Yes, and small barrels, light of weight, militate against the trade.

4885. Is it your idea that by the establishment of a board the small curers can get a market which they cannot now get?—They can get a market much more easily.

4886. The goods would be guaranteed, though the name might not: as regards herrings you would follow the Scotch method?—Yes, but I don't think the Scotch Board is sufficiently representative. The Scotch trade has been calling out for more direct representation.

4887. Of the working members of the trade?—Yes, but otherwise the Scotch Board works very well. Its chairman is more or less a permanent official.

4888. The number of herrings landed in Scotland is not one-third of the total number exported?—That is explained in this way: on the west coast of Scotland no herrings are guaranteed. They are just the same quality that are caught in Donegal in the summer months; but in the autumn months there is a quality caught in Donegal which is brandable, not unlike the Shetlands. That explains to a large extent why the proportion of herrings caught and cured in Scotland appears small relatively to the total catch.

4889. The fat summer herrings could not be branded?—Because they are not keepable.

4890. None of the herrings cured in England are branded?—No. As far as England is concerned, Yarmouth and Lowestoft are the only places of importance.

4891. But the catch there is enormous?—Yes, but only of recent years has anything been done in the way of exporting them.

4892. Is there any question of branding there?—No. I have heard no question of a brand, because the herrings caught there are of a very uniform size, and it is only of recent years that there has been anything in the way of export. Up to ten years ago they were almost exclusively sent into Ireland and marketed for importation; but for pickling purposes for America or Germany very little was done, but it is now being done extensively. The demand for this Fishery Board for Ireland, and a brand or trade mark, is almost unanimous among the trade.

4893. (Chairman).—Do you mean that this Board should take the place of the Department?—No, under the Department.

4894. (Mr. Mills).—Instead of having an advisory Committee you would have a Board?—There is not one of the advisory Committee who represents the deep sea fisheries, and they only meet once in three years. At least they did not meet for three years up to April last.

4895. There are some judges of horses on that Committee?—I have no doubt they are better judges

of horses than of fish. With reference to that letter which I have read from the Vice-President to the Limerick Chamber of Commerce, the Chief Inspector was sent down, and he reported that the reason the branding was not desirable was because a certain number of fish-curers had been asked if the brand was necessary, and they reported it was not necessary. I am quite safe in saying that not 2 per cent. of the native curers received any notification of that. There has not been very much complaint so far as the lack of funds goes, but I think there is a feeling that it would be desirable, as far as the fishery interests are concerned, if those of the Congested Districts Board and of the Fishery Board would be amalgamated, and both could be put under one control. I think there is a strong feeling in that direction, that the fisheries of the Congested Districts Board should be worked by this Fishery Board, which the people connected with this industry ask should be appointed.

4896. (Chairman).—The fisheries on the west coast of Ireland are mainly within the Congested Districts Board Districts?—Some of them are.

4897. (Mr. Mills).—Do you propose to amalgamate the fishery work of the Congested Districts Board?—I think there would be certainly instances of overlapping if the Fishery Board would not have control of the Congested Districts Board districts. I don't see why the Congested Districts Board Fisheries would not be under the control of the Fishery Board.

4898. That would be virtually closing up the Congested Districts Board?—Well, I don't know.

4899. Would you propose that the new Board should have the same trading powers, for instance?—Yes, distinctly.

4900. The Congested Districts Board sometimes act as fish merchants?—Yes. In other words, that this Fishery Board would be able to do what the Department is now doing, and the Congested Districts Board has done and is doing.

4901. And take the powers of both jointly?—Yes.

4902. And it should be representative?—It should be representative.

4903. In what way should the members be elected?—I think the County Councils and probably also the Chambers of Commerce ought to nominate a certain number of the Board.

4904. Would they be honorary or paid?—An honorary Board, just as in Scotland. I think the chairman ought to be paid. It is a remarkable fact that almost every country is trying to copy the Scotch Board, because it is the best we know of. It is not perfect.

4905. They have not put the operations of the Congested Districts Board in Scotland under the Scotch Board?—I think you will find that the Congested Districts Board in Scotland has no initiative or administrative powers as far as fisheries are concerned, not like the Irish Board. Anything that is done in that way is done by the Fisheries Board.

4906. They don't do anything in the trade way?—No, but they assist financially. They offered to assist financially, but the chairman says that fortunately there is sufficient enterprise among the trade in Scotland, even on the west coast, but I do know that when it was started they did offer to subsidise some curing firms.

4907. (Mr. O'Shea).—In view of the working of the brand in Wick, Franchurgh, and Peterhead, can you give us any light as to how it would be likely to work out in Ireland, and to what extent it would be taken advantage of?—From my knowledge of these in the business in Ireland I think there would be no pro rata very much larger proportion of fish branded here than in Scotland. In Scotland the proportion of the business is very much larger than in Ireland, and, therefore, we have many firms which are very extensive, but rarely ask for the brand. They use their own name. They are very old firms, long in the business, and their names are well known, and the brand favourably looked for; but I think pro rata there would be a greater demand for the trade mark in Ireland than in Scotland.

4908. What extent would that demand amount to; what proportion in Scotland is it taken advantage of it?—Do I understand that suppose we had between mackerel and herrings 100,000 barrels cured per annum, do I understand and you would like to know what proportion of those would be tendered for branding?

June 27, 1905.

Mr. G.
Georgeson,
J.P.

4709. No. You told us that *pro rebo* there would be a greater proportion branded in Ireland than in Scotland?—That is my opinion.

4710. In order that we may get the thing with some definiteness what is the proportion branded in the ports I have named?—In Scotland this is the list for the last five years (produce *Net*).

4711. Take on the east coast?—The west coast fish are never branded. You may take about one-third branded last year, and one-half for the previous years.

4712. Then you think that in Ireland the probability is that if a brand were established there would be more than from one-third to one-half—I believe two-thirds would be branded in Ireland.

4713. (Mr. Michs).—The Scotch curers who come over to Ireland would not brand?—No, and as a matter of fact the Scotch and English curers are gradually leaving the Irish coast, the southern coast. They are going north. But I think you will probably find that the same conditions will obtain in the north as in the south. The herring business in the north is practically in the hands of Scotchmen at present.

4714. (Mr. O'Neil).—The herrings that go from Yarmouth are known as Yarmouth herrings?—Yes.

4715. And they are sold and bought on the reputation of Yarmouth herrings; on the known fact that that they are pretty uniform?—Yes.

4716. How far is there any marking of place of origin on Irish herrings at present?—There are only two places, Downings Bay, and Burtport. If a buyer in America wanted Downings Bay herrings, which are summer fish, he would ask for Downings Bay. If he wanted Burtport he would specify for them.

4717. (Mr. Michs).—Or he would take Downings Bay winter?—Yes.

4718. (Mr. O'Neil).—You think the brand would be necessary to assist the growing reputation of these ports in addition to the name of the port?—I think they would establish the reputation, and give the local merchants an opportunity of entering business which is denied them at present. They cannot hope to compete with firms in Scotland who come over to Downings Bay and Burtport with experienced managers, who have been in business for 30 years, and can cure exactly according to the taste of Germans, Russians, or Americans. If we had a brand and competent officials say small merchant could go in and get the brand and sell the fish on the strength of the brand, and could compete with other merchants.

4719. Are you ripe in Ireland for a brand; are you satisfied that all the herrings that would be branded would be such as to maintain and increase the reputation of Irish herrings?—I have no doubt at all if we had a brand. For two years prior to 1830 it was found to be so beneficial as the statistics prove that the increase in exports was something marvellous, and when the brand was withdrawn from us we went down altogether and practically died.

4720. My point is this, that suppose a brand is established there must be certain herrings that fall below the standard for branding?—I think not. I know in the case we have referred to, the only case in which the brand would not be applied would be in the summer Downings Bay herrings, which are what we call "Machies," because they are not keepable. Even Downings Bay herrings have been branded, and if a fleet of boats could only be induced to come to Downings and prosecute the fishing, I don't see why it should not be made a permanent fishing instead of sporadic as at present.

4721. If all the herrings were to be branded I don't see the advantage of branding them, as compared with marking the port of origin, if they have been sufficiently on the market, and have a reputation?—Then there would be no chance for the small man with the 50 or 100 barrels. Suppose you applied your ideas to Scotland?—

4722. You need not suppose that?—That is the only analogy we have.

4723. Branding is really the protection to the trade as against unscrupulous buyers, who would say, "we got so many barrels of herrings or mackerel from you and they are not as represented at all. They are cured in Valentia, Dingle, Kinsale, or somewhere else, and there are so many bad herrings in

the barrel." If the seller had got a brand he would say, "My herrings have been passed by the Government Inspector." The brand is the protection of the seller, the fish merchant has, against assertions which are untrue?—It would not follow that they would always be untrue. For instance take the brand in Scotland. There are perhaps only about three per cent. of all the herrings branded in Scotland to which exception has been taken, but the brand is a precaution for the seller and the honest buyer, but, unfortunately, all men are not honest.

4724. (Mr. Michs).—It is a *prima facie* recommendation?—Yes, it is.

4725. Have Scotch fishermen reported any complaints that have been received from abroad as to the way in which herrings are over-packed or under-packed with salt?—I can speak with a good deal of confidence as far as mackerel curing is concerned. There is not a merchant of any importance in America who is not anxious to have some guarantee that the fish which he gets and the packages sent from Ireland will be of a better quality and higher standard than received.

4726. (Mr. O'Neil).—I asked you whether they were all brandable and you told me they were. Yes, when cured sufficiently. If you had a Fishery Board the character of the Irish mackerel in America, and Irish herrings in German markets, as well as America, would be very much enhanced.

4727. (Mr. Michs).—Of course the character of the Irish herrings is as good as it can be. Practically the whole Irish catch is sold in one Irish hand before it is shipped at all?—You refer to—

4728. To Donegal?—A great many who can see well a barrel. They are consigned.

4729. Now, as a going concern, the Donegal herrings are sold in Ireland; they are bought on their character. These are herrings that are as brandable owing to their being so far and good?—I think you will find a very considerable proportion are consigned to be sold on their merits, and they are so far on the market.

4730. Not in recent years?—Last year I know there were.

4731. (Mr. O'Neil).—Then what you really ask the brand for is to secure that people who get lower herrings to deal with shall deal with them properly?—Yes.

4732. And the object of the brand is then by giving a guarantee that the herrings have been properly prepared for the markets to exclude from the market unfit herrings which have not been properly dealt with?—That is the great object of the brand, so that the good and respectable curer and buyer will be protected against those who are not.

4733. Curers or buyers?—Both. It is a well known fact that there are certain packers whose goods are of very much better quality than others, and when the seller in Scotland visits these doubtful ones he very frequently has to reject parcels because they are not in his judgment according to the standard.

4734. My difficulty has been that you told me some time ago that all the herrings at present prepared for sale in the South of Ireland were brandable?—Yes.

4735. But you have just told me that the brand was to exclude a person which is not so prepared as to be brandable?—It does not follow that those which are not brandable could not be made profitable if the people were sufficiently educated.

4736. At present there is a certain proportion that discredit the remainder or tend to discredit the remainder?—Yes.

4737. That portion is not at the present moment a brandable commodity?—Not as far as the present moment goes.

4738. (Mr. Brown).—You have just said that the Board which was to take the place of the Airsby Committee would be elected partly by County Councils and Chambers of Commerce?—Yes.

4739. How would you place the elections in the hands of County Councils; there are thirty-two in Ireland?—Only the County Councils which have fishery interests, Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, and Cork.

4740. You would have each of these counties select one representative?—Yes.

4741. What about the Chambers of Commerce?—That might be perhaps unworkable; if you had a

representative from each County Council and each Chamber of Commerce.

4742. You mean every existing Chamber of Commerce?—No, I would fancy a Board of twelve would

be quite large enough, and if six or eight were nominated by the County Councils and Chambers of Commerce probably others would be nominated by the Government.

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Mr. GEORGE CROSBIE, examined.

4743A. (Mr. Crosbie).—I, gentlemen, represent the Cork Industrial Development Association.

4743. (Chairman).—That is a voluntary association?—Yes. It is a purely voluntary association which is mainly for the purpose of advertising Irish industries. It has a very small fund at its disposal, only about £150 a year, but it has succeeded principally by push in making itself known very well all over the country. The result of this is that a great many people are under the impression that we have money with which to start new industries, and we consider that though we were not able to do anything in that way we have got some evidence to give which might be of interest to you and useful to you; and for that reason they asked me to come here, as I was also a member of the Committee of the Technical School in Cork for two or three terms.

4744. Was that recently?—Within the last two or three years; and I have some views of my own which I hope I won't keep you too long in detailing. First of all we are of opinion that Ireland is in a very different position from England, that the Department in Ireland is conducted purely on lines that suit England very well, namely, that it is purely an educational Department. Our view is that it should be something more.

4745. You mean purely educational as regards technical work?—Yes, we think there ought to be outside of that Department, and independent of it to a certain extent, a Board of commercial men who would devote themselves more to fostering industries than merely teaching. Take our technical school in Cork. It has only two trade classes, engineering and bookmaking. Of course, it teaches chemistry, which can hardly be called a trade class. To my mind, as long as you merely teach carpenters and masons their business you won't add to the trade of the community.

4746. (Mr. Mick).—You won't add to the earnings?—To the revenue of the community. They have sheet-metal classes and a cooking class and music classes. Our view is that from the point of view really of the factories we cannot suggest a way how the employees of factories could be brought into a technical school, but I would like to read you a list of what I jotted down in the room what the factories in Cork are. We have in Cork a fax mill, a calico mill, and what ought to be a very important industry here, a bleach mill. There is some peculiarity in the character of the water here that is very valuable for bleaching. We have tread mills, soap making, cordage making, bacon curing, butter factories, coach building, cabinet making, cloth factories, leather making, dairy mills, creaming—that is, meat and vegetable canning—pan and sweet factories, and from my experience of the schools, except, perhaps, the chemistry classes—and I cannot suggest a way how these things could be taught in a school—there is absolutely nothing in the school that bears on any of those trades. Of course, they have engineering and book making. We make nothing in the engineering line in Cork at all, though I am informed, on a very reliable authority, that coal and iron are to be had in Cork as cheap as they are in many of the English ports where the iron industry is successfully carried on.

4747. You mean that there is coal and iron in the country?—No, but we can buy coal in Cork as cheaply as they can buy it in Wales—I don't say in all parts of Wales—but in a great number of the manufacturing centres they pay more for coal than they do here in Cork.

4748. (Mr. Mick).—What price per ton by ship's cargo do you pay in Cork?—I don't know; but the household coal is from 19s. to 21s. My authority is the managing director of the Passage Dockyard, who knows what he is talking about. I have seen it stated that his firm can buy coal and iron in Cork as cheaply as they can be got in most of the shipbuilding ports of England and the North of Ireland. My idea, therefore, is that a branch of the Department should be formed of purely commercial men, with certain funds at their disposal, which they would be in a position to lead out for

the purpose of buying machinery pretty much as on the west coast of Ireland money is advanced for the purchase of boats and nets.

4749. (Chairman).—How would you discriminate between the persons to whom this money would be lent? Would you confine it to particular trades, or have it general?—I would treat every case on its merits.

4750. You would not confine it to new industries?—No; I would absolutely leave a discretionary power with that committee, because you talk of improving the position of one trader as against another. Now take the boot classes they have in Cork. There is but one boot factory in Cork. The class is made up entirely of the operatives of one particular factory. Is not that giving them an unfair monopoly over everybody else, the people who don't use machinery and have to make boots by hand in competition with them? If you go into these things you will find it is very difficult to do anything.

4751. I only wanted to find out what your idea was?—I would absolutely give a free hand to the Board to be appointed. Of course, one of the great difficulties you have in Cork is that people have lost confidence in all local enterprises. They won't embark in them. I will give you a very fair instance which occurred a short time ago in Cork. The powers by which the Cork tramways now run were got by a previous company. A number of local gentlemen went to the Corporation and got power to run a tramway line. I think the capital they wanted was £115,000. Incidentally it was a very fortunate thing for Cork that they did not succeed in getting that. But a certain number of people in Cork undertook to take £200 worth of shares in the company, but they hedged their promise round with so many conditions that the promoters actually had to abandon the making of the tramways. These very same people within two or three years after, to my own knowledge, lost thousands of pounds in cycle ventures in England. They were quite prepared to embark over £10,000 in a cycle company at Coventry, and it burst, and they lost their money. Of course, there is a certain justification for people in Cork not embarking in these limited companies, because, first of all, they have never, in my experience, made a factory run successfully. You can take over an existing enterprise, and turn it into a limited company, and carry it on successfully. That is done every day, but it is almost impossible to start out and create an industry by a limited liability company, because, of course, the people who go into it have not any particular knowledge of the trade, and they are at the mercy of the managers, who, generally speaking, have to be brought here from other places, and are not interested particularly in the locality they come to. Therefore, my view is really to try to encourage all the men going to the technical school to become employers, and then if you have these people imbued with that idea they will work very hard, and their ambition will be touched, and I have no doubt in the world that if they get a small capital they would very soon make their presence felt in the community. A short time ago I had to do some business for my firm in Germany, and, naturally, I made some inquiries there as to how things were carried on over there. My mission took me into probably the most successful part of industrial Germany, a purely Rhenish Catholic country, and it has become very successful in a very short time; that is Bavaria. One of the things which struck me most forcibly was their education, which I think is not very well understood over here. We hear a lot about their technical education, but we hear very little about that portion of their education which to my mind is very remarkable, their primary education. The primary education first of all is carried on up to fourteen. That is compulsory. Then from fourteen to sixteen the boys are also obliged to attend night schools, and what they are taught there is drawing and book-keeping. To my mind the thing that has utilised most against us here in the want of ordinary knowledge of book-keeping.

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The effect to my mind of this training in book-keeping is that it has been just as much accountable for the fact that nearly all these young industries in that portion of the country are run and owned by men who originally worked at the bench as their technical education. It is very different when you come to train our young people. In consequence of being connected with this Development Association more than one manufacturer has come to me for further capital or advice, or one thing or another, but I can give you an instance of three of such people. They were with me within a very short time. One man in Cork employs ten men, and up to last year he never kept a bank account. He was a mere working man. He never could tell from year to year what he made. He did not know really that his tools and benches and his premises had their financial value, and he was in this position that when he came to pay his men on Friday or Saturday he had not got the ready money, but he had articles to sell, and he had to go round to different shops and take anything they could give him for them. He admitted to me himself that if he had any training in book-keeping and ordinary commercial practices he would be today a wealthy man, because he has to sell from time to time at a very great sacrifice to meet pressing demands for wages. Another man I knew myself, not in the County Cork, but in a neighbouring county, ran a small tweed mill. He had also a hardware establishment and a saw mill. When he got broken, undoubtedly because of his business methods, the debts due to him when he closed, though he must have done a considerable trade, only amounted to £7. While he was in business he had never taken stock and never made up an account, and he never knew how much he made in any year. Another, not belonging to the County Cork, employs over twenty men. This man is one of great enterprise; a very good workman himself. He has sent his son away to have him trained in his trade. There has been twice as much within a very short time spent on this concern as the money that had been advanced to him from a certain source, and the source shak down on him, and he was in a very bad way. He has been in trade for forty years, and he admitted he never knew in any one year what he made or lost. What has been advanced all along as commercial education is very different from my opinion of commercial education. My business took me recently into six newspaper offices in Germany, and several factories, and I never met a man in any of those places who could speak a word of English to me. A lot of people advocate that our commercial training ought to be in modern languages, political economy, and a variety of other topics. I would not in our schools encourage boys to become book-keepers or clerks. We have too many people here of the clerical kind. If you put an advertisement into a paper you would get replies from 100 to 150 more or less competent people as clerks. What our industrial population lack is an ordinary knowledge of book-keeping.

4752. You have them taught not to become clerks, but to manage their own businesses?—Quite so, and the teacher I would put in charge of them would not be a pedagogue such as you can get all round here, but I would put there to teach them the hard accountancy of some large establishment, who knows little about theoretical book-keeping, but who understands how to keep books. Then, as I say, this Board should be in a position to advance small sums of money.

4753. Where is the money to come from?—That is for you to find out. What I want to show you is that Cork suffers a considerable injustice owing to its lack of technical funds. First of all, there are £55,000 a year available for technical purposes. That is distributed on the basis of population. It is extremely hard to expect us to run a music school and cooking school and shorthand classes, all of which I consider are pure luxuries. The cooking class is really the business of the National Board. It is a very useful thing, and so is charity, too, but it would be just as justifiable to hand the money over to charity as to spend it in teaching cooking, teaching a, b, c, in other words. Shorthand is, as I say, one of those things that are taught in all primary schools, and music—the law said about it I suppose the better. We have in Cork those various institutions that Belfast has not; but, in addition, Belfast has the factories, which are really the technical schools of any place, and it is very hard to expect us to do with a proportionate grant that such a place like Belfast can ac-

complish. With regard to what could be done in starting industries, I know of two things that came under my observation that, to my mind, should be of great use to the community. One is in connection with the poultry and egg trade. The capital involved in it would be extremely small £500 at the outset would be sufficient, and if the Department took up that without at all breaking the present law as it stands, they could do an immensely good job, to my mind.

4754. (Mr. Miles).—I think they do something in that way?—What I mean is in the distribution of poultry appliances. I don't mean supplying high-class poultry, but appliances for keeping poultry.

4755. (Mr. Brown).—Is not that essentially the work of a co-operative society?—I don't much believe in co-operative societies. I believe what should be done is to give the individual a chance, advance him a certain amount of money at certain interest, and then depend on him. If he is a capable man and serious to get on he will probably do a great deal better for you than a co-operative society, which is more or less a limited liability association, each individual member having a very small stake in the thing; and you are not likely to get very much good out of that. Another is a thing in connection with the building trade, which is a new thing altogether, and it would cost about £500, and make a considerable reduction in the cost of building.

4756. (Chairman).—I don't quite understand you say advancing to a building trade to the extent of £500?—This is a certain man who has an idea of bringing over machinery here for the purpose of doing a particular thing.

4757. Would you make it to some particular man?—A man who came to myself and asked me if I would embark on this thing as a private speculation.

4758. You would have the Government to advance him £500. Suppose another man came next day, would you give him £500, too? Why should you give it to one man and not to another, or if you give it to the other why limit it to £500, and where would the funds come from?—What I would say to you is this: that if a man came to you with an idea, and showed you it was possible to work this thing, then you actually ought to be in a position to advance this money to him, and then if a second man came to you you could say "that industry is already in existence; you have come too late."

4759. Would not the second man have considerable cause of complaint against you if you had advised someone else?—What I have laid down is that the amount should not be advanced to a man to spend as an advertising purpose or for any other purpose, but to buy plant on which you could have a lien.

4760. (Mr. Brown).—You would be giving that man very serious advantages over other persons in the trade?—You have got to take that into account.

4761. (Mr. Miles).—You would rely on the direction of the administrative body?—I certainly would, because, as I have been trying to maintain, our industries are different from the Scotch. Our banks are different. A bank here will only advance money on adequate tangible security.

4762. Quickly realisable?—Yes. On the other hand Scotch banks act in a different way altogether. I wish the Government to not on exactly the same principle as the Scotch banks.

4763. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Would you explain why, we will say not an Irish bank, but some other corporation or persons having capital at their disposal, might not embark on such business as the Scotch banks, and just do this very thing?—I think I can give an explanation of that, the number of people in Ireland capable of running a mill is very limited. If a man fails, for instance, in a twined mill there are not people ready to take it up and carry it on again. The general rule has been that when a man failed in an industry it did not realise very often within one-fourth or one-fifth what it originally cost for the premises and machinery. What I say is that in any other country the money sunk in premises and machinery is more valuable than it is in Ireland.

4764. (Mr. Brown).—Is it not really as their business capacity that the money is advanced?—Quite so; but after all, does not the same thing apply to a fisherman as it does to a fishing boat. You are not in a position to advance money to every man on the west coast. Suppose every man on the west coast applied to the Government to buy fishing boats and nets for him, where are you then? Is it not the very same

4464. Can you make any distinction between the two, except that one happens to be something that every man on the west coast knows something about; whereas what I suggest here enables you to deal with fifty or a hundred different industries.

4465. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The one thing that prevents private people from taking it up, you have explained, is that there would be no purchaser for the mill and for the machinery, whereas there are purchasers for boats—Look at the risk you run.

4466. But that is an insurable risk?—What is the depreciation of a boat?

4467. (Mr. Micks).—Then there are a vast number of boats lying up unavailable?—Yes, that is so: what is the life of an ordinary boat?

4468. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It is calculable?—It is, provided you remain always with sailing boats, but, as will probably happen within four or five years, you will have all these boats equipped with motor engines or condensed altogether and have steam trawlers; where is the Government security then? On the whole, it would be as well for the Government to have the money sunk in machinery. It would be giving employment and help the revenue as much as the money sunk in fishing boats does.

4469. (Mr. Micks).—You regard it as an obligation on the part of a Government to try to make the people under them as prosperous as they can?—Yes. I refer you to Sir Horace Plunkett's book, which points out why the Government should come to our assistance. They succeeded in preventing us from becoming a business people, and we inherited the curse that that brought on the country, and we ought to be treated in a very different way from any other part of the United Kingdom. I would confine all these advances to very small sums. My own information is that £10,000 invested in Cork would give a very quick return; but the results of having one or two industries started in that way and run successfully would have a very beneficial effect in another way. At present all our brilliant men are being yoked up by the Civil Service. They have an easy method of earning a living there. They go, too, into the professions at considerable cost. All this money is lost to the country because they all disappear. They go into their office in England, and so far as Ireland is concerned we have no further interest in them at all. If there was any prospect of men here striking out for themselves, as many of us believe there is a bigger prospect around Cork than there is in Canada or California or the Argentine. If it was properly availed of, I have no doubt that in a short time you would find their knowledge to get into these Civil Service employments would cease, and these people would employ themselves at home and would do infinitely better at home than abroad. Then with regard to the Department, we expect, perhaps, a great deal from it. I think they might very well do as Germany has done, send abroad what they call industrial detectives to find out how things are done in other countries, which to my mind has not been done here. I would offer a very substantial reward to anyone who brought forward a new idea. Cork was at one time a great centre of glove-making. There are two glove-makers, descendants of the old Huguenot community that came over here. The latter were the best workmen in the world, but they starved in Ireland; so if they starved in Ireland it is not a very unaccountable thing that the rest of the community starved. These glove-makers are old-fashioned conservative people, just like the poplin makers in Dublin. They claim to have the secret of dyeing hosiery for gloves. To my mind it would be worth the Department's while—while these people are struggling on—to offer if they can show they have a secret a considerable sum of money to disclose that secret. It would be a small thing, in the cost of maintaining a school. The Cork School of Art—I speak under the correction of Mr. Fletcher—costs about £5,000 a year to maintain, if not more.

(Mr. Fletcher).—I cannot say myself.

(Mr. Micks).—I would not bind myself to that either, but to my mind I think the Department's business ought to be as the previous witness put before you, to see that the goods coming into Ireland are what they purport to be. For instance the Department have come to us very often to know what they can do for our association. Our one answer to them was, "Provide the people who are sending over—we would point them out to you—the people who are sending over goods represented as Irish which are made in other

places," and they have never taken any notice of us in that particular. They ought to see that what comes into the country is what it purports to be.

(Chairman).—They would want rather more powers for that.

4470. (Mr. Micks).—You would wish they had powers if necessary?—Decidedly. Denmark is supposed to keep a very vigilant eye on everything leaving the country, with the result that Danish products being more than Irish products, and it is largely because of the confidence the public have that what leaves Denmark leaves it with the Government's approval as genuine. We want to have for our products something like that. There is just one other little point I would like to touch on with regard to fruit-growing. Of course I would not personally know a gooseberry from a strawberry, but I think it is an extraordinary thing that under our Labourers Act we are entitled to spend anything up to £150 on the building of a cottage, yet the various guardians are not entitled to spend five shillings or six shillings in equipping these little plots with fruit trees. One of the things that have killed fruit growing in Ireland is the tendency of the people to steal fruit. That has resulted from the fact that it is only the well-to-do people that keep fruit; but if you give the labourers of the country the poorest in the country—a proprietary interest in fruit I have no doubt that the stealing will cease and the fruit will be regarded as property. In these labourers' cottages you often see beautifully-grown plots of flowers, and my contention is that a man who can grow flowers can grow fruit. If each of these cottages, in addition to the pagenette and hen-houses attached to them, had a very small sum of money voted for the planting of fruit trees it would certainly be a very great advantage.

4471. (Mr. Ogilvie).—There are one or two things I should like to ask you about with regard to your suggestions and observations on the educational work that is being done in Cork. I think I understood you to say you would emphasize very strongly the necessity of an elementary knowledge of book-keeping and of the most ordinary procedure in commerce being an essential part in the training of every tradesman or person who carries on a manufacture?—Yes.

4472. You mentioned a number of factories in Cork for which the school is doing nothing. I understood you to mean that for the bulk of these things you do not see that this school could do very much?—I say that it is for the Department to find out how these things could be done. I don't profess to be an expert.

4473. Wherever the school could do for them it would be well to see done?—Yes.

4474. The assistance of that sort of thing might be, as far as you conceived it, more effectively done by some other methods?—Yes.

4475. I did not quite agree with you, if I understood you properly, as to the criticism of the building construction. It seemed to me that the work that is done in the training of the carpenter or mason in the workshop or shed does go a little way to make him a tradesman, and if you are going to have enough of men fit to be freemen, they must have instruction in drawing, calculations of price, and so on, which could not under ordinary conditions be given them otherwise than in the school?—I never proposed for a moment to do away with these classes. What I say is that there is a lot of money spent in that direction, and unless the community is prosperous the result of the training will be, if you make a man an excellent carpenter, he won't remain in Cork, because there is no work for him here.

4476. You must have men capable of building houses in Cork?—You must, but that teaching rather tends to the emigration of men.

4477. Take plumbers. You have got a health congress on just now here. You would not suggest that there ought not to be money spent on teaching plumbers' apprentices the principles of sanitation?—Certainly I am not against that, but I mentioned incidentally that these classes were being done in the school, and they are, to my mind, not adding to the earning capacity of the community.

4478. (Mr. Micks).—The plumbers and builders here?—They are not bringing money into the country. They are not reproductive. They are earning money for themselves.

4479. (Mr. Ogilvie).—If you don't have in Cork a plumber who is qualified to do the plumbing work of the place you have got to send money out of Cork

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to get it done!—Perhaps that may be, but industries would bring money into Cork, and consequently these various trades.

4780. (Mr. Micks).—The master plumber would bring money into Cork by employing plumbers to work under him?—Yes, but, at the same time, do you think that because of the plumbers' classes in Cork and the carpentry classes there is more employment for carpenters and plumbers in Cork than there was.

4781. (Mr. O'Leary).—I should be sorry to think that there was not!—The building trades in Cork are in a very bad way.

4782. Don't you think one cure for that is to make it better by making it cheaper: the less intelligent a building trade is the dearer it is?—That is true, but at the same time the difference between the trained men and the untrained men is so little in the cost of building a house—I would not say untrained, but untechnically trained men. It is not because of the

want of effective builders, but because of the want of these other things that they are not better.

4783. Do you mean that you would deprive the young plumber in Cork of the opportunity of learning anything that is valuable, that would make the work economical?—I think you rather misunderstood me. I never for a moment proposed to do away with these classes. The classes that I consider are not technical are shorthand, cooking, and music.

4784. Well, of course, if Cork feels it can afford the luxury of a music school that is all right!—Yes, but it is pretty hard times on the community.

4785. (Mr. Brown).—Is not shorthand part of a commercial education?—I would not think so. This is an ordinary clerk: do you think he would get anything extra because he knows shorthand?

4786. Undoubtedly shorthand is an additional qualification?—Yes, but unless a man is continually at shorthand he would forget all about it and be very slow doing it.

The Committee adjourned.

SEVENTEENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—THURSDAY, JUNE 28TH, 1906.

At the County Council Chamber, Court-house, Cork.

Present:—

SIR KENNEL DIGBY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

MR. FRANCIS GRANT O'GILVIE.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

SIR GEORGE ST. JOHN COLTHURST, Bart., M.P., examined.

4767. (Chairman).—You are, I believe, chairman of the Governors of the Munster Dairy School and Institute?—Yes.

4768. I think you propose to give us some account of the origin of the school?—Yes. I thought if we divided the period; if I gave an account of the inception of the school up to 1835 Mr. Bailew could carry it on. The institution now known as the Munster Dairy School was originally started in 1835 under the name of the Munster Model Farm. It was started by a sum of £4,400 granted by the Treasury out of the reproductive loan fund, and supplemented by a sum of £200 collected locally in the County Cork. As far as agricultural education went it had turned out an absolute failure; so much so that the Departmental Committee appointed by the Treasury to investigate school farms under the Commissioners of Education advised its abandonment in 1875. In 1879 the Commissioners of Education advertised it for sale, and tried by every means to get rid of it.

4769. Was it under the Commissioners of Education?—Yes, from its foundation. In 1830 I happened to be chairman of the County Cork Agricultural Society, and the late Dr. Sullivan, President of the Queen's College, Cork, brought the question before us at a meeting. He dwelt the efforts that had been made to start it, and the hope that had then been entertained, and he called upon us to see all our efforts to preserve the school, and not allow it to be abandoned, and he always insisted that our loan should be the amount locally subscribed added to the reproductive loan fund, and that we had a fair ground to intervene. It was proposed by Dr. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Longfield, that a committee be appointed to consider the present position of the Munster Model Farm, and see what steps should be taken to get the Government to hand it over to some local body for the purpose of agricultural education, the following gentlemen to form the Committee:—W. H. Crawford, R. P. Fitzgerald, and Dr. Sullivan, together with the President. The Committee as once entered into negotiations with the Education Commissioners, who were represented by Professor Baldwin, the agricultural examiner, and after a series of interviews a local committee was formed to assist the Education Commissioners in the management, and to try to re-start it on a new basis. Mr. Bailew was appointed honorary secretary, and I may say in connection with this he was honorary secretary for about five years, and then retired from ill-health, and then again came on for another period; and his practical experience and his knowledge have been of the greatest possible service to the Committee and to the public at large. The school, as I said before, had practically ceased to exist as an agricultural school. It was merely used as a farm with the building, and the accommodation which was intended to be used for agricultural students was utilized for the purpose of a boarding house for the head master and fourteen pupil teachers who were taught at the model schools in Anglessea Street, Cork. They were driven out there every evening, dined, and slept there, and were driven back to work in the morning. It was merely a lodging place for them.

4770. There was no connection between the Munster Dairy Institute and this place in Cork?—None whatever. On going into the question, and in conjunction with Professor Baldwin, it was obvious to us that the South of Ireland, being mainly a dairy country, the

great want in agricultural education was a systematic training of young women in the most approved methods of dairying, and on May 2nd, 1880, a proposal was made that two seasons in the year were to be held for dairy-maids. The details of that were being worked out, and on the 15th the first advertisement of the starting of the school on the fresh basis was issued. On the 10th of May we received a letter from Sir Patrick Keenan, who was the Resident Commissioner, indicating to us that the Commissioners disapproved of and objected altogether to the introduction of the dairy maids into the schools. A committee was appointed, consisting of Mr. Bailew, myself, and Captain Barfield, to wait on Sir Patrick Keenan. We met on the 18th and discussed the matter at length, and one of the reasons he gave for objecting was to ask where could he lodge the pupil teachers who were at that time engaged in the model school in Anglessea Street. After a long interview with him, pressing the point as hard as we could, we retired and wrote him the following letter on the 27th of May, 1880:—

"Dear Sir,—Our Committee, feeling that the admission of female pupils as boarders is indispensably necessary for the success of the school, and being most anxious to co-operate with the Commissioners in removing any difficulties there may be, we make the following proposals, hoping they may meet your approval: 1st, that the pupil teachers be altogether removed from the establishment, and that the school be kept, as its name implies, as a purely agricultural one. For that purpose we, the local committee, guarantee a sum of £100 a year, for three years, to assist in providing the necessary accommodation for them; 2nd, that resident female pupils be admitted for the months of January and July, and that we guarantee their board and undertake their moral and religious supervision during their residence, the Board placing at our disposal all the resources of the establishment.—Yours faithfully,

"GEORGE ST. JOHN COLTHURST,

"D. H. P. SAMPFIELD,

"RICHARD BARTER."

In reply to that letter the following answer was received:—

"Office of National Education,

"Dublin, 1st June, 1880.

"Sir,—I am directed to acquaint you for the information of the local committee connected with the Munster Model Farm, that the proposal made in your letter of the 27th ult. has been accepted by the Commissioners of National Education, subject to the approval of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, to whom a communication on the subject will be addressed without delay.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"JOHN R. SHERIDAN, Sec.

"Richard Barter, Esq."

I may say that previous to this statement the Financial Committee had been formed, whose duty it was to collect subscriptions, because we hoped to get up to the sum of £500 a year, in order to supplement the funds which were placed by the Treasury at the disposal of the Commissioners of Education, and to pay for veterinary

June 25, 1905

Sir George
Cochran,
Bart., &c.

lectures, lectures in agricultural chemistry, and to supplement the salary of the superintendent by £50 a year. Arrangements were then made that the school should be opened for a season of dairy maid on the 28th of June. On the 25th of June we received a communication from Professor Baldwin, stating that the Treasury had vetoed the project, and that they called on the Commissioners to dispose of the buildings and school as had been arranged. I was then directed to proceed to London, and endeavour to obtain an interview with the Secretary to the Treasury. I went over, and, thanks to the assistance of Messrs Shaw and Colclough, the two county members, and more particularly of the present Mr Justice Johnson, who was Irish Solicitor-General and member for Malvern, he obtained for me an interview with Lord Frederick Cavendish, who was then Secretary to the Treasury, and, having had the whole matter before him, Lord Frederick Cavendish undertook to withdraw the opposition to continuing the new departure, but insisted at the time—I am now speaking from recollection of the interview—he trusted that it was to be regarded as an experiment solely, and that the future financial support of the Treasury would depend entirely on whether this experiment turned out a success or a failure. Of course, in the meantime, all arrangements for opening the school were put a stop to. However, the following letter, dated 7th July, was received from the office of the National Board:—

"Office of National Education,
"Dublin, 7th July, 1905.

"Sir,—With reference to the subject of the re-constitution of the Munster Model Farm on a new basis, I am directed by the Commissioners of National Education to inform you that they have had much pleasure in receiving from the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury their sanction to the arrangements submitted for their approval. In accordance with the directions of the Commissioners, I transmit the following extract from the letter from the Secretary to the Treasury, conveying their lordships' sanction:—

"As my lords now understand the scheme, the responsibility for the management of the farm will rest as before with your board, the local committee being at liberty to apply their own scheme, and bearing whatever additional cost it may entail beyond the sum already provided in the estimates. Their lordships, therefore, presume that the returns from the farms which are applied in the estimates in reduction of the amount required to be voted will not be reduced by the new arrangements. On this understanding they will not withhold their consent to the experiment, but as they still hold to the policy of the gradual abandonment of the system of maintaining these model farms out of public funds, they can only assent on the express condition that no increase on the present charge upon the estimates is required in respect of the Model Farm; and they reserve the right to withdraw their sanction to the continuance of the experiment if they should have reason to think that it is not succeeding. They desire, therefore, to be furnished each year at the time that the estimates are submitted to them with a report showing the progress of the scheme. With regard to the accommodation of the head master and pupil teachers of the Model School, who are at present lodged at the farm, my lords accept the offer of the local committee to contribute £150 a year for these three years towards the expense of housing them elsewhere.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"W. H. NEWELL, Secretary.

"R. Barker, Esq."

Finally, then, the school was reopened on the 16th of August with a season for dairymaids, and it is, I may say, the first dairy school that has ever been started in the United Kingdom. At first only nine attended. There was an extra session given in October, and only six attended. However in November we thought it desirable to appoint a ladies' committee, whose duty it would be to supervise the arrangements for the girls boarding at the school, and give instructions in plain cookery and needlework, and household management. That committee have remained working on, first under the Munster Dairy School Committee, and then under the Government, from that time—that is 1888—up to 1905, when the Department took over the school, and the popularity of the school is, I think, to a large extent due to the efforts made by

them, and the supervision they carried out. They collected funds to carry out their own work, and the immediate result of that appointment was that in January Session of 1891 the number of applicants exceeded the number that could then be accommodated.

4791. What accommodation had you then?—Up to about twenty-one then. Of course it has gradually become increased. As we found it filling we gradually got more room. In January eighteen girls were then for six weeks in 1891. In July twenty-one attended. In 1892 twenty attended in January, and sixteen in July. In 1893 when we were able to get more accommodation, twenty-eight attended in January and twenty-six in July, and in 1895 a new departure was made with the consent of the Commissioners of National Education. We asked as the demand for admission had become so great, that instead of having the January and July Sessions we should have six months of the year, and have three sessions of two months each, one of the objects being that if any of those attending chose they could have a continuous attendance of four months instead of six weeks, as previously, and in order to induce them to stay on for the second session, which we regarded as most important, the local committee undertook to pay their board for the interval between the two sessions. In 1894 the attendance was in the winter term twenty-nine; spring, nineteen, and summer, seventeen. In 1895 it was, winter, twenty-seven; spring, fifty, summer, thirty, being the full amount that we could then accommodate. I propose to stop here and let Mr. Beamish take on the statement, because I had to go abroad in 1896, and was away for three years; but in reference to the male students the number was small. We could only give them a partial education, but as far as it went it was useful. In the five years up to 1903 there were just under fifty attended, and out of those fifty twelve were successful at certificate examinations held to give five places at Glanerin. That is to say that a boy who secured that secured an agricultural education for eight months with board and lodging.

4792. I don't quite understand what was the proportion between male students and female students?—The number of male students was very small. The best term we had was eleven.

4793. Was it a mixed school?—No, it never was mixed. They were there at different times of the same year.

4794. As at Glanerin?—Yes. The good that it did was that it enabled twelve out of about forty-eight boys to succeed, as I have described. I think my twenty completed. Twelve of those gained those five places that gave them their board and lodging and an agricultural education at Glanerin for eight months. We have always considered that it was more or less of a training school to enable them to go on and compete for those places, and as a rule any that went up that way, through their diligence, nearly always gained them. It is rather curious that in 1895 the first dairy school that ever was started in England was started at Chester, and in order to manage that they applied to us for a girl who had been trained in our school, who went over there, so that as far as the dairy teaching is concerned, we may claim to be the pioneers.

4795. I suppose it was exceptional that the girls got a post of that kind as teachers; were you training them as teachers?—No; we were training them for their own work.

4796. You started also this Cookery and Laundry Class?—They were managed by the ladies, managed so as not to interfere with their dairy work, but there was also a certain amount of time that hung on hands. It was not in any way compulsory, but the girls took to it very kindly, and it was one of the great causes of the popularity of the school.

4797. Could you just tell me this?—Where can we find what the authority of the Commissioners of National Education was in respect of this school; is it in the statute what was the nature of their authority and what power they exercised?—They exercised a supervising authority. Except for the local funds that were subscribed the Treasury bore the power. They sent down an estimate to us, and we made recommendations.

4798. How far did they interfere in the management?—Practically speaking after the first two or three years they left it more or less in our hands, under the supervision of the Agricultural Examiners

4799. Had you to get their sanction for expenditure?—Yes.

4800. Then this sum of \$4,500, was that treated as a capital sum and laid out in the purchase of land?—We had nothing to do with that. That was in 1853. They had all gone to make the buildings of the schools, that and the same of money locally supplied.

4801. You had nothing but the actual building?—No, no endowment, until my friend here extracted an endowment from Mr. Balfour. Mr. Beaumont reminds me to show one of the difficulties that existed at starting. There was a deputation appointed to interview the Bishops of both denominations, and we succeeded in obtaining their cordial approval, the want of which to a certain extent would account for the failure of the previous school.

4802. That was when you re-started it?—Yes. We secured the first prospectus and paid for it, and in the first prospectus there was a statement stating

that the educational arrangements had met with the cordial approval of the Bishops of both denominations. When the Commissioners of Education came to issue the next one in 1861 that statement was left out. We understood, and they said it was outside the question. We then said that unless it was re-inserted we would retire, because we had pledged ourselves on obtaining support from the Bishops on the condition that this thing should appear in the prospectus. The Commissioners of Education then gave in and the statement appeared in the prospectus. I only mention this as one of the difficulties as a result of which I think if the local committee had not been there the thing could not have been carried on successfully.

4803. (Mr. McDonald).—Were you not on the deputation that went to meet the Department in Malvern?—I was, but we have not come to that yet.

MR. LUDLOW A. BEAUMONT, examined.

4804. (Chairman).—Would you kindly continue the narrative opened by Sir George Colthurst?—Sir George Colthurst has described the steps taken to found the school. I will first quote the evidence of a distinguished English agricultural authority as to the effect—

4805. Perhaps you would state your relation with the school?—I am the honorary secretary. I have been honorary secretary for fourteen years. Professor Sheldon, writing in the "Mark Lane Express," in 1896, said:—"Were it not for the good which was obtained from the Munster Dairy School the condition of Irish butter-making would be in a worse plight than it is." We have had a great deal of evidence from our local people as to the good results it had on the butter-making in the Cork Butter Market, which was at that time the largest butter market possibly in the world. In 1890 the Commissioners of National Education decided to appoint one of the Dairy School staff as an itinerant instructor provided his expenses were defrayed from local sources. These expenses were paid by the Committee of the Dairy School during 1891 and 1892. In 1893 we took it from the Commissioners of National Education, and merely sent out the ordinary notices. We had no special interest ourselves in it. I may mention this to show the effect of the local Committee. We were doing our ordinary work, getting pupils for the schools, and we did not take special pains with this itinerant work. In 1893 there was no application for an instructor. In 1894 there was one. In 1895 and 1896 there were not any. In 1897 we took it up as keenly as we could, and as the result of much trouble and correspondence, and with the assistance of the two instructors that were then appointed by the National Board we had twenty-two districts in 1898. In 1899 we had eleven districts, and held three butter shows in districts in which the instructors had lectured. We paid the prices at those shows, and the expenses connected with them; and in 1901 there were twenty-five districts lectured in, sixteen of these being outside the County Cork, and 166 dairies were visited. Three Butter Shows were also held, the expenses being again borne by the Government, and the whole trouble of organizing lectures and shows being undertaken by them. After this year the management of the itinerant instruction passed into the hands of the County Council. We were done with them. It went into the hands of the Department, but they handed it over to the County Councils. The difficulty of getting districts to take this up is very much greater than would appear. To begin with, one had to write to prominent individuals in each district. One had to go to considerable trouble, and very often go considerable distances. On one occasion we held a Butter Show in as remote a part of the country as Castleown-Beare Island, in Bantry Bay. Then I come to deal with the experiments that have been carried on in the farm. The details will be gone into, most of them, by the High Sheriff of the City, who will, I believe, give evidence after luncheon. In 1891, 1892, and 1893 there were experiments on the applications of various kinds of manures to potatoes. These were organised by the late Dr. Sullivan, President of the Queen's College,

Cork. I think the results then produced do not differ very much from the results obtained lately. In 1888 there was an experiment on the feeding of milk cows, of which the High Sheriff will give full particulars. In 1886 and 1887 there was an inquiry into the quantity of water which should be allowed to remain in well made butter. We spent £30 on that alone. From 1890 to 1893 we had experiments with various kinds of barley carried out at the farm, and the results were published by the Government. This was stopped by the Department, without any action, and this is one of our grievances. In 1899-1901 the prevalence of tubercle in cattle all over the United Kingdom was brought to our attention, and with very great difficulty we succeeded in getting the National Board to allow cows at the farm to be tested for tubercle. It is only fair to say for the National Board that the amount of money they had at their disposal for these things was extremely small, but after a great deal of correspondence with the Treasury they succeeded to send down Colonel Stiles, their head Inspector of Veterinary Science, to carry experiments out, and the result was rather remarkable. There were thirty-four cows tested; twenty-nine reacted, one was doubtful, and four did not react. On a post-mortem, conducted under the supervision of Professor McWeeney—

4806. You are speaking of the farm in the nineties?—It would be about 1890. As a result of the post-mortem, of the twenty-nine reacting cows nineteen were tuberculous, one was doubtful, and nine were free from tubercle. The four cows which did not react were free from tubercle. Of the put in into percentages: of the cows that reacted 65.52 were tuberculous, 3.44 doubtful, and 31.03 free from tubercle. It was then suggested at the time that this test by tuberculin was open to fraud, that cows were to a certain extent loaded with manure by a first injection, and that if they were re-tested three weeks later they would not react. As that was of great importance we asked the Department to order that a certain number of them should be re-tested within three weeks—

4807. Are you speaking now of the Department's regime?—No, the National Board. Of twenty-three cows which had previously reacted eight did not react on the second inoculation, so that those cows would have been passed free if sold, subject to re-testing, although they were undoubtedly tubercular. It is much to be regretted that the Department stopped the further testing of the cattle.

4808. (Mr. Brown).—The Department?—I cannot tell you. It was stopped by Mr. Carroll, whether he was acting for the Department or the National Board. It was when they were passing from one to the other.

4809. (Mr. Miles).—Would it be in continuation of the policy of the previous action of the Board of National Education that they probably found in action?—Now, I must ask you to go back a little. That is an account of the experiments we underwent to carry out. In 1886 the Committee commenced to agitate for what has been the bone of contention between us and the Department, that is the establishment of a farm on which to teach agriculture to male pupils.

June 25, 1904.

Sir George Colthurst,
Bart., &c.

Mr L. A. Beaumont

June 25, 1886.

Mr. L. A.
Wanish.

We have always felt that the arrangement, as described by Sir George Colthurst, was perfectly absurd, when applied to the teaching of male agricultural pupils, when you brought in in August and turned out in December, when they were supposed to have been taught agriculture. You have only to state the terms to see the absurdity. In 1855 the Committee commenced to agitate for another farm on which Agricultural Education could be given to Male Pupils, and having failed with the National Board of Education, direct application was made to the Treasury for a Grant sufficient to enable such a School to be established. In 1857 the Treasury, though they refused to grant funds sufficient to start such a School, made a special Grant of £2,000 to the Committee. This was rather a big point. This was carried on by Dr. Sullivan. We applied for £5,000. The Treasury declined to give it. At that time one of Mr. Goschen's schemes for reducing the number of public houses was on. It was not passed by Parliament, but a certain sum of money was available. That available for England was given to the County Councils just established. We had nothing of that sort here, and they were cutting about for people to take it. They said they could not give £5,000; they would give £2,000. We said we would be very glad to get the £2,000, but would not take it as an answer to our application for money to start the school. They said we were peculiar people, refusing good money; we said we would take the money, but did not in any degree waive our claim for further sums for the establishment of the school for males. Their final answer was that we might take it without any other condition than that the money—capital and interest—should be spent on agricultural education of some sort, and on these conditions we took it. In 1854 the Educational Endowment Commission, which had visited Cork, and inquired into the working of the Munster Dairy School, recommended that a scheme should be framed. This is the scheme which is very often spoken of as a charter. But the Educational Endowment Commission, which had power to issue what they called schemes that had the power of charters, recommended that a scheme be framed by which the Committee of the Munster Dairy School would become the Governors of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute—this is the first time the name Institute comes in—with a common seal and very extended powers of dealing with any funds placed at their disposal for agricultural education, which, under the provisions of the scheme, could be voted by certain stated public bodies. This scheme was signed by the Lord Lieutenant on the 21st of May, 1854, and has, we believe, the force of an Act of Parliament. In 1854 and 1855 deputations were sent respectively to the Chief Secretaries, Mr. John Marley and Mr. Gerald Balfour, asking for the establishment of an Agricultural School in connection with the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute. Both Chief Secretaries promised to carefully consider the question, and Mr. G. Balfour added the advice that the Governors should wait for the establishment of the Board of Agriculture, which was then practically promised, which Board "would have to act through local bodies, such as they represented."

4320. (Chairman).—That was before the Local Government Act was passed?—Yes.

4321. (Mr. Michs).—Before the Bill of 1871?—This was in 1855. During all this time the Governors and their predecessors, the Committee of the Dairy School had, in a great measure, supervised the working of the school, and paid the salaries of the Lecturers in Chemistry and Veterinary Science, and had augmented the salary of the Superintendent by £50 a year, and had borne the expense of prizes at the end of each of the School Sessions, and had found funds for Butter Shows in various parts of the district, besides providing the necessary clerical work for dealing with the entries of pupils and the organization of courses of Dairy Bazaar Instruction, a business necessitating a great deal of correspondence. The Governors and the Committee had again and again pointed out to the Commissioners of National Education the necessity for a larger outlay if the education of the school was to be raised to a proper level; the want of trained foremen, if really useful experiments were to be carried out at the School Farm,

and the necessity for the erection of suitable farm buildings if the stock were to be kept to the best advantage. The Commissioners of National Education had replied that they had not funds available for such a purpose, as there was nothing for it but to wait until the long expected Board of Agriculture should be established. Up to this time (31st December, 1855), 1,050 individual Dairy Pupils had passed through the School, 229 Male Agricultural Pupils, and 83 Dairy Managers, or in all, 1,422 pupils. In the same time the Local Committee collected £4,796; and the Ladies' Committee, 1855; total collected, £5,321; and if from this sum be deducted the £400 contributed by the R.D.S., it leaves the sum collected locally at £5,461.

In 1900 the Department was created, and on 2nd January Mr. Plunkett (now Sir Harace), the Vice-President, had a long interview with the Governors at the School, where they again brought forward the question of an Agricultural School for Males. In reply, Mr. Plunkett stated, "That he hoped the Governors would have practical control of the new farm it was then sought to obtain, subject to the supervision of the Agricultural Board, but that he was not prepared to commit himself to any course at this stage." Subsequently, the Governors requested a Deputation from the County Cork Agricultural Society, the Chamber of Shipping and Commerce, and their own Body, which waited on the Cork County Council on 16th March, and asked for a Grant in aid of the funds necessary to enable the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute to provide Agricultural Education for males as well as for dairy pupils. The deputation was well received by the County Council, who unanimously passed the following resolution:—"That the Council approves of making a yearly grant of a sum of not exceeding a sum equal to a rate of one farthing in the pound on the rateable value of the several rural districts in the County of Cork in aid of the maintenance of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, on condition that such a scheme shall be framed as will provide a sum of £4,000 a year for the keeping up of the schools connected with such Institute." This grant was practically equivalent to £1,950 a year. In a letter dated 16th January, 1900, but which should evidently have been dated 19th March, Mr. Plunkett having been informed of the action of the County Council, and having received a rough estimate of the cost of maintaining the two schools, wrote:—"The Governors have advanced a big step towards a Munster Institute, as it should be; I think the other County Council will now fall into line. As soon as their action can be approximately forecast, we must set about drafting a scheme. We are working at it now. I don't see why your rough estimate should not be followed, if a scheme can be agreed upon." Some one had told him that the scheme was had put forward was too expensive, and I wrote him and asked him was it true. "I mean that you do not ask too much, in my opinion, of the Department. Of course the Dairy School must be kept up to its present state of efficiency, and, with the help of the Governors, I am sure further developments may be initiated by the Department." On 5th May, Mr. Plunkett again wrote—"I don't see why the Munster Dairy School Governors should not look out for a farm, though they cannot, of course, negotiate for one." So for the relations between the Department as represented by the Vice-President, and the Governors had been of the most friendly kind, and they fully appreciate his evident wish to help forward the project, which first started by the late Dr. W. K. Sullivan, about 1855, had been again and again brought before the Government and the Public, viz.—the establishment of a School in Munster for Male Agricultural Pupils. So consistently had the necessity for such a school been urged upon successive Chief Secretaries, and so thoroughly had the idea been received by them, that when it was found that in the Act constituting the Department, provision had been made for a sum of £18,000 to be spent in providing additional lands, buildings, etc., in connection with the Munster Institute, it was generally felt by all interested in the question that at last provision had been made for starting the school we had so long sought for. That this view was shared by Mr. Plunkett is shown from his letter to the Cork County Council, as follows:—

"To the Secretary of the County Council of Cork.

"Sir,—I beg to call the attention of the Cork County Council to Section 25 (1) (b) of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, which places at the disposal of this Department a capital sum of some £10,000 'for the purpose of purchasing and stocking additional land, and providing suitable buildings, fittings and appliances in connection therewith, for the Munster Institution.'

"By Section 16 (5), the Department is empowered to prescribe the conditions under which this money shall be applied.

"The intention of these provisions is, as is generally understood, to enable the Department to add to the existing Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, which is best suited for the teaching of Dairying and Dairy Farming, a farm and buildings adequately equipped for the efficient teaching of the theory and practice of Agriculture in all its branches, as applicable to the South of Ireland. The practical aim of such an extension is to provide the sons of Munster Agriculturists with a training which will fit them to work their own farms on the most approved methods, or to undertake in the capacity of stewards, or otherwise the management of other farms or of estates. Upon this Department will be devolved the responsibility of preparing a scheme for giving effect to this intention.

"The Act does not come into operation, and no funds will be available before 1st April, 1900. But, as before any scheme for utilizing the above Grant can be determined upon, certain questions will have to be considered by the County Councils of the Province concerned. I am desirous of eliciting their opinion upon these questions as early as possible; in the case of other projects presented upon the Department, I am unable to commit the rate-paying bodies thereto to be effected until the full machinery of the Act has been constituted, when the Provincial Committees of the Agricultural Council on which these bodies will be represented will advise the Department in connection with such matters; but the Munster Institute, together with the Royal Veterinary College for Ireland, is placed in a special category, being made the subject of a provision in the Act, and having a definite sum of money granted for its purposes. I am thus enabled in their case to take steps which, I trust, will place the said Department, when it is fully constituted, at a position to get to practical work on these two projects without unnecessary delay.

"The points which it is most important to consider at this stage would appear to be:—

"1. The locality in which the farm to be acquired should be situated, so as best to subserve the needs of the Province.

"2. The extent to which the Councils concerned will be prepared to contribute from their rates to the up-keep of the property to be purchased, and the buildings to be erected, and to the working of the scheme.

"3. The choice of locality is affected, but not altogether determined by the existing farm and premises of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, now under the Commission of National Education, and about to be transferred to the charge of this Department. Here, owing largely to the unselfish and unremitting discharge of their functions, under their charter, by the Board of Governors, an immense amount of useful work has been economically performed. Its excellent teaching of Dairying and Dairy Farming at the existing School might be continued on the same lines, and further developed to meet the increasing demand by pupils for such instruction.

"Whether the 'farm, buildings, and appliances' now to be added, should be situated near the existing premises, or in a more central portion of Munster, is a matter for discussion amongst those chiefly concerned, but in arriving at a decision on this point, it should be always borne in mind that the farm buildings should be so situated as to be easily accessible to the majority of the Governing Body, otherwise the local interest, which it is essential to maintain if the Institution is to prosper, will be wanting. There are certain advantages in proximity to a city, where facilities for higher scientific studies might be available to students of the Institute. But this advantage may be outweighed by the greater

convenience to the majority of agricultural students, and the smaller cost and greater choice of farms which might be expected in the case of a site in a rural district. The quality of the land selected should not be uniformly very good or very bad, but mixed, with a medium average. A position, admitting of reclamation, and illustrating the proper after-treatment of land reclaimed from bog or mountain might be a desirable addition.

"2. The task of formulating this scheme would be greatly facilitated where the County Councils concerned determined that it is on to which, as contemplated by Sections 15 (5) and 39 of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act, they ought to contribute. Representation on the Governing Body of the proposed Institute will be given to contributing Bodies in proportion to the amount of their contributions. The charter of the Board of Governors of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, who were the custodians of the existing farm and premises, and who are a body corporate, provides that the constitution of that Body may be so altered as to include representation from other Bodies contributing to the maintenance of the Institute, and enables the Institute to extend its educational scope in the manner contemplated. The new Governing Body would thus consist of the Board of Governors of the Institute enlarged by representation from the contributing Bodies.

"When the views of the County Councils are obtained on the above questions, the Department will endeavour to draft a scheme which, while retaining to itself a control proportionate to its responsibility, will give full play to the local control and co-operation which it will expect from those Bodies without whose aid the Institution cannot effect its purpose.

"I need scarcely add that I shall welcome and consider any general suggestions in reference to the whole subject of this communication with which your Council may be good enough to favour me.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,"

From the foregoing it will be seen that up to this time the Vice-President encouraged the Governors to believe that he was quite in favour of the plans sketched out by them for the improvement of agricultural education in Munster.

4822 (Chairman).—That refers to the male school? This all refers to the male school. But this need was soon to change. In September, 1900, Professor Campbell was appointed Assistant Secretary in regard to agriculture, and in September the honorary secretary was summoned by telegram from Professor Carroll to meet Professor Campbell. Professor Carroll had been an agricultural superintendent under the National Commissioners, and he was installing Professor Campbell. At the interview it was stated that a special meeting of the Governors had been fixed for the next day in Cork, when Professor Campbell was to be present, and when it was expected he would discuss with them the details of the proposed scheme for an agricultural school. I may say that when we were discussing this thing we did not ask for too much. We had put forward a very rough draft of what we thought would be required. Before the interview closed Professor Campbell promised to examine the scheme, a copy of which Professor Carroll had provided for him.

4823 Had the Act come into operation at that time?—Yes.

4824 Then Professor Carroll at this time was representing the Department?—No; Professor Campbell was wholly representing the Department. Professor Carroll was showing him the ropes, so to speak.

4825 (Mr. Mickel).—He had been an officer then?—He had been a National Board officer, and practically represented us.

(Sir George Goldhurst).—And had been the manager for a summer session.

(Witness).—The following day Professor Campbell came down and met the Governors who had been summoned, certainly on very short notice.

4826 (Mr. Brown).—What was the date of this?—The 6th of September, 1900; and on being asked as to the scheme he said he had not read it. Of course that is a small thing, but it is one of those things that annoy people. It was at a time when people were very busy in Cork. The Governors had been summoned from all sorts of distances specially to meet Professor Campbell,

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with a view, as they thought, to discuss this scheme with Professor Campbell. I had seen him the preceding day in Dublin. I happened to be on holidays, and he found me out unfortunately on Bray. I asked, "Have you read the scheme?" He said, "I have not; I shall read it on the way down." He came to that meeting, and said he had not read the scheme, and he lectured them on immediate instruction. That night have been perfectly sound, but it was not common courtesy. The interview consequently produced nothing but a feeling on the part of the Governors that the meeting might as well not have been held. During the following winter several attempts were made to induce the Department to set about providing the long-expected school, and at length, in May, 1901, it was arranged that delegates from Munster should meet at Mallow to determine where the proposed school should be placed. Up to this time not the slightest hint had been given to the Governors that the Vice-President had changed his views as to the desirability of setting up an agricultural school for males. The surprise of the Governors, as well as the public generally, may easily be imagined when Mr. Plunkett announced, at the conference on May 16th that it was not the intention of the Department to establish such a school. I have already quoted his letters where he agreed with our scheme, and that the want of money required was not excessive. Delegates came from every part of Munster, and we all came down with the one object before us, each party wishing to prove that their own district was the proper place in which to put the school. The idea of there not being a school never occurred to us in the faintest possible way. By an accident our President, Sir George Colthurst, Sir Horace, and myself happened to be all staying the night before in the house of another Governor. The evening passed in the usual way, and about eleven o'clock, when we were going to bed, Sir Horace Plunkett suddenly said he had changed his mind. To say we were staggered would have been inadequate. Consternation is the only word I can use. We went to the Mallow conference, and Sir Horace, at considerable length, explained his views that the country was not sufficiently educated to avail themselves of such a school as we proposed. Professor Campbell followed, and said essentially that our school was a school to teach land apportion and balliffs and all the rest of it, although you may note that in Sir Horace Plunkett's letter to the County Council he laid down as one of the principal objects of the school that they should teach farmers how to farm their own lands, and also act as balliffs and managers of estates. That particular point which Professor Campbell made appears singularly absurd. You might just as well object to a dairy school because the bulk of the pupils who enter there went afterwards to be dairy maids; and that was one of the great secrets of the success. It was found when a girl was properly taught she could practically command her own price, and was certain of employment. Now this sudden change of front on the part of the Vice-President, without giving any notice to the Governors, was, in their opinion, distinctly unfair, and was calculated to shake their confidence in any future dealings with the Department. They consequently left the Mallow Conference with the same feeling of dissatisfaction that was felt after their first interview with Professor Campbell. From the date of the Mallow Conference up to the present the Governors have never met Professor Campbell officially, though he has been often at the Munster School, sometimes on days when the Governors' meetings were being held, he has never during this time attended a prize distribution at the schools. When Professor Carroll represented the National Board he always either attended or sent an expression of regret. From this time forward what may be described as a policy of pin pricks began. The arrangements for the carrying out of various details connected with the School were gradually interfered with by the Department, though without any distinct statement that all management was to be concentrated in Dublin. So annoying had this become that at their meeting on 24 January, 1902, the Governors passed the following resolution, viz.: "That the hon. secretary, having brought to our notice the terms of the advertisement issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction on 23rd December, 1901, relative to the January Session of dairy pupils at the Munster Dairy School, and his letter to the Department on the subject, we desire to express our agreement with the remarks contained in the Hon. Secretary's letter. We also desire to point out that the action of

the Department in inviting applications from intending dairy pupils after the season had been fixed, and after applications had been refused by the Governors, places them in a very false position, and we further mention that such a complete change of procedure without previous notice to the Governors, renders it more than ever necessary that the position of the Governors in relation to the Department and to the Munster Dairy School shall be forthwith clearly defined." This resolution was conveyed in the following letter, addressed to Mr. Gill, and written on 16th January, 1902, which stated: "As far back as September 9th I wrote you on the subject, and your reply was that the Department could not then give the information asked for. Since that time the tendency to centralise details of the management of the school has increased, and it therefore becomes necessary to ask the Department to be good enough to state definitely whether it is part of their policy that the Governors shall continue to act in quote Mr. Plunkett's words, as 'the custodians of the existing frame and premises,' and are to have a definite voice in its management. If the Department have other plans in view, it will save much trouble and friction if they will clearly state them, as the Governors are now prepared to continue collecting funds to provide prizes for pupils, salaries to teachers, and expenses of letter sheets, etc., in connection with the Munster Dairy School if all the details of management are to be carried out in Dublin. The Governors will be glad to receive a reply at the earliest convenience of the Department. I may point out that no reply other than a bare acknowledgment have as yet been received to my letter of 23rd and 28th December, 1901." In March, 1902, at length the Department replied to the question of the Governors as to the position they were to occupy with regard to the school and the Department. The substance of that letter, as far as the Governors were concerned, was that they were not to have anything to say to the detail management of the school in future, but could, if they wished, become an advisory committee.

(Ominous).—That would be the letter that states the Department's views as to the relations between yourself and the Department.—Yes. This is the letter:—

"Department of Agriculture,
Dublin, March 11th, 02.

"Dear Mr. Beauchamp,—I am now in a position to reply definitely, so far as circumstances will permit, to your letter of the 20th ult., requesting some statement as to what position the Governors of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institution will occupy with reference to the re-organised Munster Dairy School."

I draw the attention of the Committee that as to whether we were to work the details of the school or it was done from Dublin, was never answered. They answer the major portion and drop the minor.

4317. This, I understand, is the official answer of the Department to the questions raised in previous letters?—I think you will find it only answers one, and does not say whether they are going to control it from Dublin.

"You begin by complaining that the Governors have, so far, absolutely failed to obtain a definite answer to this question from your officials, and by explaining that you have been requested, in consequence, to write to me directly in the hope of getting from me, personally, information which you could not obtain by communicating with the Department in the regular way. Let me remove at once a misapprehension standing under which the Governors evidently labour as to this point. So far as there has been any delay in formulating the proposals of the Department on the particular question you bring forward, that delay has been a necessary and an intentional one, the Governors were duly apprised that it would take place and I am personally quite as responsible for it as any other officer of the Department. On the 23rd of September last you were informed in an official letter that the Department 'would, before taking any definite steps in the matter, inform the Governors in due time of their intentions with regard to the extension of the school and its future management,' and these words were specially added, 'the Department, however, will not be in a position to make this communication on an early date,' so that you were very clearly told that the Department would have to take some time in deliberating this question.—All that was really their policy they would have left as ab-

fully alone until they had made up their mind.—“I would ask you to note, moreover, concerning the Dairy School, that it is only in regard to this particular question of the future functions of the Governors that the Department, since the Mallow Conference, have reserved their judgment. You have been informed of the intentions of the Department as to the future of the Dairy School. You were informed at the Mallow Conference, in my memorandum on Agricultural Education, in your own conversations with Mr. Gill, and in several communications dealing with the actual working and development of the school. The Department took early steps to begin the extension of the School outlined at the Mallow Conference, and the proposed plans were submitted for the Governor's consideration. These extensions of the building and farm will involve the expenditure of a very large part of the capital sum of £20,000 provided in the Act.” This was the first information we got that they were going to expand it on the Muster Dairy School. “In the meantime the work of the school has been going on without ceasing, and increasing in its importance. I am glad to learn from your Annual Report in last week's papers that the year you have been working under the Department's auspices has been the most successful in the history of the School.” You see the Vice-President is not above making a small point. It was one of the most successful years, but it certainly was not due to anything the Department did. On the contrary, it was done in spite of the very greatest trouble. I can speak from personal experience. If they had not pinned themselves on this I would have said nothing. It was natural to expect that in the change to a new Department there would be great trouble. We made arrangements with people who consider themselves very important, and don't like to be put off, and we would constantly get a telegram that the instructors could not come, and we had to arrange it at best we could with the injured parties. The letter goes on:—

“Then you perceive that whatever hesitation the Department may have had in the delicate and somewhat personal question of the respective functions of the Governors and themselves, there has been no bar or stay of any kind to progress—rapid and substantial progress—in the practical work of developing the school, and developing it in a direction which is quite in harmony with the views of the Governor.”

“As to this question of respective functions the Department of the Department to suspend judgment, and to refrain from formulating a definite conclusion. It is explained by the complexity of the conditions with which the question is surrounded, and by our sense of the unwisdom, as it seems to us, of stereotyping at too early a stage, and while it is not quite necessary to do so, arrangements of such a kind. The impatience of the Governor on this point, however, is very natural, and I propose in this letter to do what I can to make our attitude towards the question clear.”

“There are two distinct points of view from which the question can be approached. Firstly, that of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the Governor and the Department respectively, and under your Charter and our Act; and, secondly, that of the greatest public advantage. I may assume that both parties equally desire that this latter consideration shall predominate in whatever final settlement of the matter is arrived at.”

“A careful perusal of the two documents in question—the Charter and the Act—will show that, being drafted at different times, they were designed to deal with wholly different conditions; and that the principles of administration underlying them are altogether dissimilar. The Governor stepped into the breach, in days of Governmental neglect, to safeguard the interests of Irish Agriculture, especially the Dairy Industry, so far as was possible for a number of gentlemen, resident in and around the Southern capital, with limited means, to perform such a task. Of the services they rendered I have already given public testimony, which it is unnecessary to repeat here. But the way in which they used their powers under their charter deserves notice. By the scheme the chief administrative duties in respect of the Institute were vested in the Board of National Education. These duties were delegated to a single officer who was already charged with the supervision of all the practical educational work in connection with agriculture throughout

Ireland.” I may mention that was Professor Carroll. JULY 28, 1906.
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“The Governor happily, and very rightly I think, ignored the nice division of functions under their charter, and practically ran the institution. The official records may not support any suggestion that they exceeded their authority, but that is what actually took place when the Governor entered upon what was to them a labour of love, and placed the interest of the country before the strict legality.” Of course it does not matter very much, because every body was satisfied, but I think Sir Horace Plunkett is not quite right even there. He says we practically ignored the National Board and ran the School, and as the National Board never found fault with us we did not matter. These are the words of the scheme:—“With the concurrence of the said Commissioners and subject to the terms of any agreement between the said Commissioners and the Governor, the Governor may exercise with respect to the present school the same powers which are conferred upon them with respect to future schools, but without that concurrence the powers, aforesaid, shall not extend to the present school.” I take it we had that concurrence. It was never objected to.

4338. (Mr. Michel).—The officer was in residence, too!—Yes, we paid part of his salary, and Professor Carroll constantly visited it, and if any change was made we invariably wrote for their consent, and sometimes it was not given, so that Sir Horace Plunkett is not quite right. The letter goes on:—

“Now, as you are aware, a wholly different situation has been created. A central Government Department is in existence with new funds, large powers, and comprehensive functions, embracing amongst other things, a special mission to organize agricultural education in all its branches. The constitution of this body is broadly democratic, and is designed to combine central supervision and control with local effort, in such a manner as to ensure the greatest administrative efficiency. The local effort has to include large contributions from the rates, with its corollary of administration through local authorities.”

“It thus became the duty—the Governor will agree with me in regarding it is the most important duty—of the Department to think out a scheme of agricultural education applicable to the whole of Ireland, and not only had the scheme to be considered in relation to the new administrative machinery by which it was to be worked, but, what was still more important, it had to be co-ordinated with the existing educational systems of the country. To extend the survey of the situation as between the Governor and the Department, the former body had drafted a scheme of their own for higher agricultural education for the South of Ireland, which the Department would have been only too glad to accept if after a full study of the new circumstances created by the legislation of 1898 and 1899, they could have seen their way to its adoption. But we found ourselves faced with the necessity of elaborating a general scheme, which was to fulfil the two difficult conditions of working in with the local authority, and having a proper relation to our educational systems. The scheme, described in a memorandum by myself, has been widely circulated in pamphlet form, in the Department's Journal, and in the Annual Report. It has been subjected to simple criticism, and as we are in a position to say that the country means to give it a trial, this scheme which the Governor should have in their minds, at least in broad outline, in order to fully understand the situation with which I am dealing, not only differs from that of the Governor, but approaches agricultural education in a wholly different way. If the Department are right in their views, it is no reflection on the wisdom of the Governor, whose scheme was drafted before the new order of things to which I have alluded had been brought into existence by the Irish Local Government Act of 1898, and the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act of 1899.”

“In the circumstances I have described it is not unnatural that, in what is necessarily a transitional stage, the present relations between the Governor and the Department should have given rise to some friction needing the utmost consideration for the feelings of the Governor on the part of the Department, and some regard for the difficulties of the Department on the part of the Governor. It is also proper that the future relations between these two bodies should not be hastily determined.” No one

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can across them of haste. The letter continues:—
"Any attempt to formulate these relations as to the position of the Governors under their Charter, and at the same time to safeguard the statutory position of the Department, would set up a system of dual administration which would under the new conditions appear almost ludicrous. By the Charter your administrative functions seem to be limited to the local subscriptions—a vanishing quantity—and the interest of a certain sum of £2,235 12s. 6d. some £34 a year." Sir Morton completely overlooks the grant of a fourth in the pound by the County Council.

4319 (Chairman).—What became of that rate?—That was re-absorbed.

(Sir George Colthurst).—Absolutely collected, but never applied.

(Mr. McDermid).—It was absorbed by the several districts back again. It was left lying with our Treasurer until the scheme fell through that they collected it for, and it was returned to the several districts.

4320 (Chairman).—Then you never got it?—No. It was subject to the scheme being carried out.

(Sir George Colthurst).—It was absolutely levied. It was not a mere empty statement.

(Witness).—The letter goes on:—"The Department will be responsible for the expenditure of over £3,000 a year at once, and probably a good deal more later on. In the correspondence which you sent me much is made of a desire expressed, I think, before the Department started—by myself, that the Governors should continue to act as heretofore for the present, and of a phrase in which I characterized them as 'the custodians of the existing farm and premises.' I cannot recollect in what context I used the expression, which may or may not have been accurate. Certain it is, that my chief desire has been throughout to consider what functions in connection with agricultural education the Governors can, under the altered conditions, discharge so as to continue to give the country the advantage of their knowledge, capacity, and zeal for the public good, without endangering the essential element of efficiency by setting up an unworkable system of dual administration.

"This end, it appears to me, can only be insured in one way, I doubt whether it would ever be possible to arrive at a satisfactory and workable division of purely administrative functions between the Governors and the Department. Such a division could not be attempted at present, because much that concerns the final scope and full purpose of the Institute will depend upon the action and needs of the counties arising out of our scheme of agricultural education, which only two of them have been able to take up so far. Nor would it be practicable if the Dairy School is to be in any sense a national Institution, maintained almost entirely from the funds of the Department, and sitting itself to the new conditions created by the legislation of 1888 and 1893. The Institute, for instance, will no longer undertake permanent instruction in Dairying. Though the instructresses will continue to be trained at the School, the work of directing their movements, when trained, must be handed over to their respective County Council Committees appointed under the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act. The course of instruction will have to be regulated with due regard to the demands of the counties for Dairy and Poultry Instructresses; and the selection of the pupils for all these courses must obviously be under the Department's control. The farm again will have to be used as an Agricultural Station. In fact, the Institute, in order to do the utmost amount of good, will have to be utilised in connection with the general scheme of the Department's work throughout the country. Nothing can be clearer in these circumstances than that, while the management in the early stages ought to be as plastic as possible, efficient control in administration by the body principally responsible is now essential for the full development of the school which has hitherto depended upon the fostering care it received from the Board of Governors.

"This being so, it follows that the exercise by the Governors of precisely the same functions as they have hitherto exercised is not now practicable. How should their functions be altered to meet the new conditions? The view of this Department is that they should become advisory rather than executive. If the Governors accept this view—if they will, acting as

an advisory body, by their counsel and advice assist the Department in the large development in agricultural education, in which the Institute is to play an important part, it is the belief of this Department that they will find themselves in the long future exercising an even more widely beneficial influence than that which they have exercised in the past. I need not anticipate the objection that the Department might not act on the advice it sought; in undertaking to do so would be the assumption of its responsibility, and a virtual reversion to dual administration. It is shallow criticism which ignores or minimises the reality of advisory assistance to a Department which may be credited with a desire to faithfully and efficiently perform the great task for Ireland which has been entrusted to it. Nor is it necessary at this stage to anticipate any definition of the matters in which the advice of the Governors shall be sought and given, and to suggest the intervals at which the deliberations of the Governors should take place, and the form in which they would be conveyed to the Department. The first thing I would ask the Governors to do is to say whether they agree generally with the views expressed in this letter. If they do not, then it is for them to suggest the future relations between the two bodies, which would, in their opinion, best fulfil the main purpose which I have assumed to be our common duty. If they agree with my proposals, the best way to give practical effect to them would be to allow the Department to invite the assistance of the Governors from time to time as the new work progresses. When the concurrence of the Governors was known they would be asked to meet either in full session, or as a sub-committee, as they might elect, and a representative of the Department could attend whenever the questions submitted to the meeting were likely to need official explanation.

"In conclusion, let me say that, as is the case in all our work, the spirit in which the task is approached is far more important than the formalities which are resorted to for the sake of order. I have in this letter reflected what is the feeling of the Department towards the Governors, a feeling partly due to gratitude for their past services to Ireland, and partly to a sense of their potential influence and usefulness in the greater task which lies before us all. If during the transitional stage there has been some friction between the two bodies, I would ask the Governors to attribute it to the difficulties incidental to our relative positions. I would express a hope that the feeling of the Department towards the Governors may be reciprocated. In that case, I anticipate a co-operation between the Government and which will be agreeable to both, and for the advantage of the country.

"Yours truly,

"HORACE PLUNKET."

The Governors having carefully considered the letter thought it advisable to take Council's opinion as to their legal position, and accordingly caused a statement of their case to be laid before Mr. H. D. Connor, K.C. His opinion is as follows:—

"In my opinion the views put forward by Mr. Plunkett's letter cannot be accepted by the Governors, and are not in accordance with the legal rights of the Governors under their Charter and the Act of Parliament, which rights they are not only entitled, but as Trustees for the Institution, bound to maintain. Whatever difficulty there may be in carrying their rights into effect, and upon a reasonable construction of the Act of Parliament I see no difficulty, the duty of the Governors is to obtain for their Institution the benefits provided for it by the Act. Section 16 states that the money, etc., shall be applied for the purposes following:—15, 1 (5) says: that £10,000 is to be applied for the purpose, etc., of providing land, buildings, and appliances for the Minister Institution. By the definition section (30) the Minister Institution means 'The Minister Dairy School and Agricultural Institute.' To find what this Institution is (to the exclusive use of which this £10,000 is allotted by Act of Parliament) we go to the Charter and find (Clause 1) that the Institute is 'The Institution for the promotion of Agriculture in the Province of Munster, to be established and to be maintained or aided by the Governors in accordance with the provisions of the scheme.' By Clause 2 the Governors are to be a body corporate by the name of 'The Minister Dairy School and Agricultural Institute.'

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with perpetual succession, and so forth. We start, therefore, with this indisputable fact, that the £30,000 is to be applied to this Corporate body, and for no other. The Governors of this body are the persons to manage and apply all endowments, including and from public sources (Clause 12), for the purposes mentioned in Clause 14, the only limitation being that any expenditure by the Governors upon the 'present school' shall be made in accordance with the agreements for the time being subsisting between the Commissioners (now the Department) and the Governors, and subject to the approval of the Commissioners. There is no necessity to go in detail through the Charter. Suffice it to say that the Governors are given very ample power, and that provisions exist for altering the terms of the Charter (Clause 34). Parliament, when passing the Act, did not say, as words could do, allotted the sum of £10,000 to the Institution, and for its purposes, subject only to this, that the expenditure of the £10,000 was to be subject to any conditions which the Department may require. The position of the Governor, in my opinion, is this. They are absolutely entitled to have the capital sum applied in the manner mentioned in the Act for the purpose of the Institute, and when so applied are entitled with reference to the property and appliances so provided, to exercise all the administrative duties mentioned in their Charter, and are not bound, nor even, I think, entitled to abrogate, their position under this Charter, and assume the position of an advisory body, with no particular functions, and no legal rights whatever. A sum of money having been definitely assigned by Parliament from the funds put under the absolute control of the Department, and devoted to the purposes of the Governors as a Corporate body, and the Department has no power to take it away from them, I think that a respectful communication should be addressed to the Department referring to Mr. Plunkett's letter, and stating definitely that the Governors cannot accept the propositions contained therein, referring to the delay that has taken place, and desiring a definite answer within a reasonable time as to whether the Department are prepared to cease the £10,000 to be applied for the purposes of the Institution or not, and if they are so prepared requesting to be informed what are the conditions which the Department require as to its application. It is for the Department to state their conditions, and until they do so it is impossible for the Governors to proceed. In my opinion the Department have no right to hold the money, and decline to state the conditions under which it is required to be applied, and if the Department does refuse, I think that a mandamus should be applied for to compel the Department to apply the money as provided by the Act—a refusal to formulate conditions being equivalent to a refusal to apply the money. I take it as clear that the Governors are the persons to indicate the particular mode of application within the matters mentioned in the Act, as if it was the Department that was to pronounce as to the mode of application, the provision as to conditions would be simply meaningless. It would be absurd to say that a person was to apply a sum of money as he liked, and to add that the application was to be subject to conditions formulated by himself to himself. The Department should be asked to obtain the opinions of the Law Officers as to the construction of the Statute and Charter as to the point at issue. The great thing is to bring the Department to a definite issue upon which a decision can be obtained.

(Signed) "H. D. Connor.
"March 26th, 1902."

As Mr. Plunkett had expressed a wish that if the Governors could not fall in with his views, they should suggest an alternative scheme, they, on 15th June, forwarded to him such a scheme, as follows:—

"Ashgrove, Quenstown, 15th June, 1902.

"Dear Mr. Plunkett,—In your letter of the 11th March you wound up by saying: 'If they (the Governors) do not agree (with the proposals contained in the letter), then it is for them to suggest the future relations between the two bodies which would, in their opinion, best fulfil the main purpose which I have assumed to be our common object.'

"Our Governors have had, at their last meeting, this portion of your letter again under consideration, and they think that, pending the decision of the Law Officers of the Crown, relative to the Governors' legal posi-

tion under the terms of the Act constituting the Department, it may be advisable to put forward briefly (our suggestions for the future management of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute.

"But before going into details I wish to point out that the scheme constituting the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, as drawn up by the Educational Endowments Commission, contains special provision for the addition to the governing body of Governors, elected both by public bodies and by the Commissioners of National Education, whose duties relative to agricultural education have been taken over by the Department, and that the evident intention of the scheme was to provide for a gradual widening of the influence of the Institute by giving representation to all those who contributed towards its funds.

"The scheme must have been within the knowledge of the drafters of the Bill constituting the Department, as shown by the reference therein to the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, and previously should have been known, in some degree, to the Chief Secretary, who was responsible for its introduction into the House of Commons.

"Had he shared the view expressed in your letter of March 11th, page 4: 'That the Charter and the Act being drafted at different times were designed to deal with wholly different conditions, and that the principle of administration underlying them are altogether dissimilar,' it would have been easy for him to have made arrangements either to abolish our scheme or to modify it in any direction he thought fit.

"Instead of doing so, however, he not only left our scheme untouched, but specially introduced into the new Act a provision that a sum of £30,000 should be set aside for the development of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, of which we are the Governors, and I may add that the Chief Secretary (Mr. G. Balfour) had previously mentioned to a deputation from the Governors that when the Department of Agriculture was established it would certainly act through bodies such as ours.

"It is therefore, we think, not unreasonable to assume that the intention of the Act of Parliament was to continue and develop the existing state of things, as far as the Governors were concerned, and it was anticipated that the newly constituted Department would assist in increasing the usefulness of the existing Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute through its Governors, and not so would be the case if your proposal as to our future position were acted on—to place our Governors in that most impotent of positions, viz., one where they could only offer advice when called on.

"I now beg to put forward, on the part of the Governors of this Institute, the following suggestions for the future management of the Munster Dairy School, viz.:—

- That the existing scheme creating the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute be accepted as far as practicable in creating the managing body of the Munster Dairy School.
- That under its provisions the Cork County Council be invited to appoint Governors, in proportion to the amount granted them by the rate, viz.: Two Governors for every £2200 contributed yearly towards the maintenance of the Institute and of the Dairy School.
- That the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction appoint a representative or representatives, to act on the Board of Governors, as provided by the scheme.
- That the Department shall provide the balance of the funds necessary to carry on the work of the Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, and in consideration of this fact they shall have the right to vote any expenditure of money on the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute.
- That if necessary application be made to the Commissioners of Charitable Bequests to vary the terms of the existing Scheme constituting the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, so as to enable it to give effect to the foregoing suggested plan for managing the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute.

"If the Department can see their way to fall in with these suggestions, we believe that they will thereby be, in a great measure, embodying the principles so clearly laid down in your address to the

June 28, 1904. Third meeting of the Council of Agriculture, viz.—
 "Local initiative, local contribution, local administration, with central supervision and control"—a principle with which we entirely agree.

"I remain,

"Yours faithfully,

"(Signed), L. A. BRAMWELL.

"The Right Honourable Horace Plunkett,

"Vice-President,

"Department of Agriculture and Technical

"Instruction,

"Upper Merrion-street, Dublin."

Mr. Plunkett, however, did not see his way to adopt the suggestion, and replied as follows:—

"Dublin,

"7th July, 1902.

"DEAR MR. BRAMWELL,

"The Department has now been able to consider your letter of the 15th ultimo. Our legal advisers have not yet dealt with all the points that arise in connection with our recent correspondence, and the legal aspect of the question must therefore wait for consideration a little longer."—"I might point out in passing that I don't think we have ever received the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown.

(Mr. Meade).—You mean the legal advisers of the Agricultural Department?—Yes; and acting on Mr. Connor's advice we asked the Department to consult the law officers, and asked Mr. Plunkett himself, and he promised to do so. I was told in a semi-confidential way the purpose of the advice, but we never received any official communication. The letter continues:—"Your letter, however, mainly deals with an alternative proposed for the administration and annual upkeep of the Institute. As to that proposal I regret to say that the Department cannot approve of it. Let me point out that the situation is governed by financial as well as administrative considerations. For the proportion of the funds which the Department may contribute to the upkeep of the Institute, they cannot part with their responsibility, and their responsibility in this respect extends equally to the funds contributed directly from their own endowment and the funds raised from the rates for the purposes of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act by local authorities. As regards moneys contributed from other sources than these, such as the income from the Governors' endowment or any subscriptions or moneys received by the Governors, the Department are prepared to allow the Governors full freedom to apply such moneys, subject to their approval, as provided in the scheme of the Educational Endowment Commission. With respect to the funds contributed by the Department towards the maintenance of the Institute, the Department will, while themselves applying such funds, be prepared, as I have already explained, to consult with the Governors in an advisory capacity. In my previous letter I dwelt upon the importance of the function the Governors could fulfil, in their advisory capacity, for the Institute and the Department I regret that you do not accept my statements upon this point, which were dictated not only by the intentions, but by the experience of the Department in working with advisory bodies.

"As soon as the legal questions are fully cleared up the Department will communicate further with the Governors. In the meantime it would much assist the Department if the Governors would inform them what amount of the Governors' endowment they propose to spend upon the School during the next school year, and to forward for the consideration of the Department their suggestion as to the special objects to which they think it most advisable to apply this money.

"I am,

"Yours faithfully,

"HORACE PLUNKETT."

We said we would not go any further in that particular. I would also point out that what is stated is not quite correct. Proposals were laid before them to give the Department a veto on any expenditure, so that they could interfere at any moment. The County Councils dealing with agriculture administer subject to the veto of the Department. They draw up schemes and initiate the expenditure of money, portion of which the

Department find. So there ought to be no difficulty in putting the two bodies on the same footing. In April of the same year the Honorary Secretary met Mr. Plunkett and Mr. Gill in Dublin, and discussed the question. Mr. Plunkett practically repeated what was made in March. Another letter was written in September, 1902, asking to be allowed to manage the school under the Department for one year as a trial. Then there was a letter from Mr. Gill, dated 21st November, 1902, as follows:—

"Sir,—Referring to the last letter of the Governor, relative to the proposals of the Department which were submitted to them through you, and referring to the interviews on this subject, which took place between you and the Vice-President and the Secretary of the Department, I am desirous to acquaint you for the information of the Governors with the views of the Department on the points at issue as they now stand. The Vice-President's letter of March 11th states fully and clearly the general attitude of the Department towards what is therein described as the definite and somewhat personal question of the respective functions of the Governors and themselves, which is the only question of real difficulty with regard to the future of the Dairy School. As the proposal submitted since were simply suggested means of giving effect to the intention and spirit which that letter expressed, the Department would request the Governors kindly to re-read the letter in considering the present communication. I am to recall and emphasize the fact that the Department, in recognition of the great services rendered by the Governors to agriculture and dairying in days when there was no special State Institution in Ireland to aid them in this, has been selected throughout in this matter by an earnest desire to secure for the Minister Institute a continuance of that counsel and help from which it benefited so much under the auspices of the Board of National Education, and that all their suggestions on this point have been aimed at providing a means by which such co-operation should be effected consistently with their own duties towards both the Institute and the country.

"It is, indeed, this consideration and return for the position and feelings of the Governors which have alone inspired the efforts the Department have made to reconcile their own responsibilities with the situation, and to get over a difficulty which must be obvious to every man of common sense.

"They regret to find at the end of two years no corresponding recognition on the part of the Governors of the position of the Department."

We had written on the 5th of September, 1902, to the Governors, relying on the assurance given to the Honorary Secretary by the Vice-President that the Department would endeavor to meet the views of the Governors, would propose to give the proposals made a serious trial; but one proposal which they could not see their way to fall in with is that by which it is proposed to transfer them into weekly advisory board without any power of management whatever. They would not consent to occupy such a position as the acceptance of this particular proposal would place them in, but all we asked is to be the medium of carrying out the management of the school. Then practically we declined to act as an Advisory Committee. We left. We resigned.

4821. (Chairman).—What was the date of your resignation?—1903. The first distribution of prizes at which we were not present was on the 4th of March, 1903.

4822. Was there a formal act of resignation?—Yes, we wrote to say that we could not act.

4823. Was there any transfer of trust funds?—No. Such trust funds as there were belonged to us, and are in our hands still. We are the Minister Dairy School and Agricultural Institute. We see that, and not the Department, so long as our claim stands.

4824. Is really true on the legal effect of the Act?—Yes.

4825. That is a legal question?—Yes. 4826. You don't know the view the law officers take?—I do in a sort of way; but I was not allowed to send it round to the Governors. Still, I suppose, there would be no objection to stating it. As well as I recollect there is a question as to the power of raising up the £25,000. That is one of the things we object to so strongly. I am afraid I must trouble you with still another. The meeting in March, 1903, was the

first prize distribution at which we were not present. We had previously sent to say we could not accept the advisory scheme, and we left. We remained managers of the Munster Dairy School, but we declined to act with the Department any longer.

4827. (Mr. Brown).—Was there a resolution of the Governors?—There was a formal letter. Of course we had a division on it. The meeting was held on the 20th of December, 1902, and the resolution that was carried was "that the Governors decline to accept the position offered them by the Department in the terms of their letter of the 21st of November." That resolution was carried by six votes to five.

4828. (Chairman).—Does that close the chapter—is that the state of things up to the present?—Yes, up to the present.

4829. Since then it has been administered by the Department without your intervention at all?—Without our intervention, but we endeavoured to intervene on the subject of the expenditure of the £10,000. The spirit in which the whole of this thing has been carried on has a good deal to say to it. I want to draw attention again to Mr. Campbell. At the distribution in March, 1903, Mr. Gill presided, and Professor Campbell was there. Professor Campbell is reported to have stated:—"It has been considered desirable in work, such as butter-making, that a written examination is not sufficient, and that it should be accompanied by a practical examination, and, accordingly, for the first time such paper had been substituted to a practical test as well as the test in theory, and the results of the practical examination has been joined to those of the theoretical one in awarding prizes, etc." That is a statement of the new improvements. Our remark is that the Professor is evidently not, even yet, fully acquainted with the method of teaching formerly pursued at the Munster Dairy School, as will appear from the following extract taken from the Report of 1895, which describes the steps adopted to test the practical knowledge of each pupil. We had fully before us the danger; in fact, we had complained—and on the strength of that altered our system—of the danger of giving purely theoretical examinations without being certain that the pupils knew their practical work. Good girls at home work often came out worse than they should at practical work. The extract referred to is from the Report of 1895 as follows:—"Each pupil is allotted five cows for two days; these she has to milk, and special marks are given the way she does. She has also to take complete charge of the milk of the cows, which is kept in a separate dairy, specially set apart for the purpose, for the specified time, and is allowed to treat the milk and make the butter as she pleases, careful note being taken of the quantity of milk she obtains from the cows, and of the remaining quantity of butter. A sample of the butter is sent to the Head Inspector of the Cork Butter Market, who examines it and assigns it a comparative mark. This mark, added to the marks given by the Superintendent for the way the other processes are carried out, constitutes the test of the practical work of each pupil, and these again added to the marks for theoretical work give the relative position of each pupil in the class." The Governors venture to think this plan, started as far back as 1895, was considerably more efficient in testing the practical knowledge of the students than Professor Campbell's practical examination now established at the Munster Dairy School, as he says, for the first time. We might fairly expect that Professor Campbell would have taken the trouble to find out what we have done. At the same time Mr. Gill made an extraordinary speech which I hand in. It is so worked and created such ill-feeling, that, considering he is second in command of a large Government department, it raised the question of his fitness in the most marked way. Referring to the ladies' committee and ourselves, without making any further comment, I will just read an extract from the evening paper of the day, showing the way it struck the general public:—"The very vigorous and colloquial remarks of Mr. T. P. Gill, the Secretary of the Department, at the recent distribution of the prizes in the school are naturally enough the subject of comment in the *Annual Report*. That is the way it struck the man in the street."

4830. (Chairman).—We should be sitting here a very long time if we read all the newspaper comments on both sides!—The comment was, of course, quite called for. He listened to the Ecurhouse, who had learned nothing and forgotten nothing, and said that we had overlooked the fact that the Department had been created and County Councils brought into existence, and

so on, and that we said things were to go on all the same. Yet we were the first body in Ireland to go to a County Council, and to go to our own County Council and get £1,000 a year from them. And I don't think any other Council has given it to any other body. We then in May, 1904, wrote to Mr. Plunkett, asking him what was he doing with the £10,000. His answer was written on the 24th of May, 1904:—

"Sir,—In reference to your communication of the 13th inst., I must express my regret that our views as to the extension of the Act of Parliament with regard to the conditions on which the sum of £10,000 for the Munster Institute is to be applied do not agree. The Department have carried out a part of that intention at a cost of more than half the amount specified by enlarging and equipping the existing school after consultation with the Governor. If the Governors will co-operate with the Department there ought to be no delay in acquiring additional land.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"HONORABLE FRANKLIN."

It struck us that that practically said we had consented to the expenditure in that particular way of the £10,000. He practically throws it in our teeth that we were consulted, and he does not say that we disappointed, so we wrote him on the 1st of July, 1904:—

"Sir,—I regret I have been unable to reply to yours of the 24th of May earlier. I think you must have overlooked the correspondence which passed between my Governor and the Department when you infer that the expenditure of more than half the £10,000 on the existing Munster Dairy School buildings was undertaken with the consent of our Governors."

"I find that on 24th May, 1901, or ten days after the Mallow Conference, I wrote in reply to a letter from the Department dated 21st May, 1901, in which they stated their intention of spending a portion of the £10,000 on enlarging the existing Dairy School buildings as follows:—"They (the Governors) consider the establishment of such a school (Agricultural School for Males) to be so important that they should not like to see any portion of the £10,000 specially set aside in the Act for the Institute, expended on any other object, at all events until arrangements had been made for starting the school (Agricultural) in question. When this has been done, the difference between the capital outlay necessary for the purpose, and the £10,000, could be expended on the existing Dairy School."

"Again, on 9th May, 1902, in returning and approving of the plans for the alterations at the Dairy School, I wrote:—"That they (the Governors) wish it to be understood that they do not agree to the cost of these alterations being taken out of the £10,000 specially set aside in the Act constituting the Department for purchasing and stocking additional land, and providing suitable buildings, fittings and appliances in connection therewith."

"You also mentioned in the interview I had with you and Mr. Gill, on 27th May, 1902, that in the opinion of the Law Officers either of us could prevent the expenditure of the £10,000."

"Later, when I went with Mr. Gill and Professor Campbell to the Munster School to consider some suggested alterations in the new buildings, I again stated that the Governors did not consent to any portion of the £10,000 being used for the purpose."

"This objection was again repeated on 14th January, 1903, so that from the moment we received any intimation of the intention of the Department to utilize any portion of the £10,000 in enlarging the existing Dairy School, up to the present time, my Governors have steadily and clearly objected to the money being used in this way."

"You have yourself admitted in a public letter to the Cork County Council that the object in setting aside the £10,000 was to establish an Agricultural School for Males in the Province of Munster, and this, coupled with the correspondence I have quoted, makes the suggestion contained in your letter of 25th May, that its expenditure is a totally different object has involved our consent, distinctly untrue.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"LEWIS A. BOUTER, Hon. Sec.

"The Right Hon. Sir Horace Plunkett, Vice-President Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction."

June 25, 1905.

—
Rt. L. A.
Boutcher.

June 28, 1906.

Mr. L. A.
Barnes.

4831. (Chairman).—What do you say is your position at present?—We say our position is that we consider we have got a vested right in that £10,000; that we have the right, in conjunction with the Department, to say how it is to be expended.

4832. That is to say that you have the right, if you choose, to utilise this money in establishing a male school?—I am afraid we cannot go as far as that. The £10,000 was given in our view unquestionably, and Sir Horace Plunkett admits it, for the purpose of establishing a male school. It does not use the word male, but it was generally understood all over the country that that was the object.

4833. Must not the application of the £10,000 be governed by the provisions of Section 15 of the Act of 1899?—Of course it must.

4834. "The money placed at the disposal of the Department by this part of this Act shall be applied for the purposes and in the proportions following." Then, applying to this £10,000, it says: "A capital sum, which shall not serve with the like concernance"—that is the concurrence of the Agricultural Board—"amount £10,000 shall be applied for the purpose of purchasing and stocking additional land and providing suitable buildings, fittings and appliances in connection therewith for the Munster Institute." That limits the application?—You must remember the Munster Institute is not the Munster Dairy School.

4835. (Mr. Brown).—It includes it!—It may also take in the male school.

4836. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—The Munster Institute is destined to mean the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute!—Even in the old dairy school there was an inefficient section for males. We contend that the £10,000 was to get a separate farm, with buildings for that separate farm.

4837. (Chairman).—I understand your complaint is that the section may not provide enough to carry out your ideas, but the words put a difficulty in your way?—I don't think so.

4838. Do not the words as they stand put rather a difficulty in your way. What I have read is that the Act of Parliament gives a definite and strict application of these funds, and also a definition of what the Munster Institute is!—It is for the purchase of additional land. That additional land has not been purchased. I contend that the additional buildings are in connection with the additional land.

4839. "Purchasing and stocking additional land?—You must first get the additional land."

4840. You would not call stocking additional land establishing a male school. You would not use those words!—If you got a school to teach male pupils you must have stock.

4841. Purchasing and stocking additional land?—You must have additional land if you want a male school. The school at present is only barely capable of teaching females.

4842. However, there is fair room for difference of opinion?—I would rather not say that.

4843. (Mr. Mick).—At all events there is a difference of opinion!—There is. I don't wish to take up the position of the thirteenth jurymen.

4844. (Chairman).—You quoted what passed between you and Mr. Gerald Balfour in 1895 as soon almost as the Government came in. We knew from Mr. Gerald Balfour that he had then an idea of establishing a Department, but afterwards he thought it would be better to proceed with his Local Government legislation first and establish the Agricultural Department afterwards. That produced a very great change in the situation as soon as you had established all these local bodies!—Certainly it did; but we were carrying the local body with us. We were the first people that took advantage of the change in the local bodies.

4845. I quite follow that!—But to come back again to that change. There can be no question about the words "additional land." That is quite clear, whatever question there may be as to stocking and building that the £10,000 was for the purpose of acquiring additional land, where has the additional land been acquired, and stocking it, if the land is not acquired it cannot be stocked.

(Mr. Brown).—The money is there still. The whole of the money is not expended.

4846. (Chairman).—That is not the only purpose!—The only point on which I think there is room for doubt is whether the buildings are the buildings on the present school farm or on the new farm. You must take to a certain extent a common-sense view. There

is £10,000 allotted for these purposes. If you take £5,000 and spend it on erections in the existing school, as Sir Horace Plunkett has done, you have then only got £5,000 for your additional farm and its stocking.

4847. (Mr. Mack).—Your view was that the existing building was altogether for girls, and that you would need additional and separate buildings altogether!—Yes. It is one thing to read a document literally, highly, but you must take into consideration the feeling through the whole country. We were at it for years and years, and we doubt the school for male pupils was a menace to anybody who listened to us. It began with the Sullivan in 1886, who knew more about Ireland than most people, and we have been trying to follow in his footsteps ever since.

4848. (Chairman).—I suppose the real meaning of the action of the Department—I am not saying whether it is justifiable or not, I am not expressing an opinion—the real meaning of the action of the Department is this, that when they came to deal with the matter they considered it would be better on the whole that the Munster Institute should still be confined to males and Glasheen kept for men!—No doubt that is the point; but it is only since they came in that it has been confined to females.

4849. Yes, but on the whole they thought it was desirable to have it separate!—We were coming in accordance with them. We think there is good work to be done in a dairy school or two dairy schools, but we consider there is also work for a male agricultural school.

4850. That is a matter in which there may be a difference of opinion; that is a matter of policy!—A matter of policy; we maintain it is better to teach twenty or thirty boys well, and keep them there for two years. We sent round numerous dairy inspectors. They did good, and created a certain amount of interest, but nine-tenths of their hearers went back and did us before. On the other hand, we caught thirty or forty and kept them for a period nearly as long as two years would be for an agricultural pupil.

4851. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—May I ask how far the establishment of an agricultural station and school at Clonsilla, which provides for a one year's course, has satisfied the demand you had in view?—We know nothing about the Clonsilla School. I had not time to go and see it. I wrote to the Superintendent about it, and asked for our information. He said it had only been running for eight months, and there was no report. It seemed to me a very sensible plan.

4852. We have had in evidence that previous has been made there for the accommodation of thirty pupils, and the course is to be a complete year. The farm is one of mixed tillage, and the fees have been granted in accordance with a scheme which you have lately advertised!—I am aware of that. I think it is a sensible idea.

4853. Does the establishment of that school go to, if not all the way, to meet what you had in view all these years?—It is in that direction, and also I must point out that if that school is to be taken as the answer to our request, we should have been at least consulted about it.

4854. I have not the least knowledge whether it is or not, but I merely wished, as we had you here, to ask how far that sort of thing meets your views!—We wished for a much more ambitious school for the new work they do there, and more advanced work. Professor Campbell made a great thing that this place suggested was to be so very expensive, and it was only to teach balliffs and land agents. At Bandon, one of the most advanced agricultural schools, they have a school for labourers, and it works all right. There is no necessary separation between the two ideas. There is no reason because you teach a man to use a plough you should not teach him the difference between an albanois and a common hyacinth.

4855. (Mr. Mick).—What exactly do you consider is the position of your body, apart altogether from the £10,000. The second section, sub-section 1 (b) hands over the powers and duties of the Commissioners of National Education to the Department. Is it your contention that you are exactly in the same position towards the Department as you were towards the Commissioners of National Education?—Yes, in a great measure, I think, roughly.

4856. And that you still, under the 25th clause of the scheme, claim to still have the same powers as at there, the power of control!—Yes; but of course it is subject to these provisions.

4857. Subject to any restrictions such as the National Board might have imposed?—Yes; I maintain we are in the same position.

4858. Then how do you explain your retiring from the discharge of your duties under the scheme?—We found it impossible to go on. We were not allowed to do that very thing.

4859. It seems, according to your contention, that you still have the powers.—But they have got the money, which is the real answer.

(Sir Geo. Colthurst).—What we felt was this. Supposing we kept on, there was dual control. Finding it was necessary for the good of the school, if they had the power and insisted on administering without us, it was far better to let them do it. We don't wish to injure the school in any way. It was far simpler for us to withdraw.

(Witness).—It is "subject to the rules and regulations of the said Commissioners," we must read "the rules and regulations of the Department."

Mr. Wm. McDONALD, A.P., examined.

4862. (Chairman).—You are chairman of the Cork County Council?—I am, sir, for a very short time.

4863. What is the number of your County Council?—I think 52.

4864. Then will you tell us about the working of the Committee of Agriculture?—I am one of four appointed by the County Council on the Council of Agriculture. I attended all the meetings of the Council of Agriculture, and in my opinion there was very little done at those meetings beyond hearing the Vice-President's address, which could not be criticized or discussed, and the election of provincial committees. That was our chief work all the time I attended.

4865. That is one of the powers which the County Councils have?—Yes, to elect him. The Council of Agriculture have power to appoint committees for the different provinces. That was the principal work I saw done at the Council meetings that I attended up to the last one.

4866. We have the minutes of the Council of Agriculture before us, we have the record of the subjects discussed. With regard to your local committee?—I come at that later on. I want to deal with my position as a member of the Council of Agriculture first. When the Council meets only once a year I think there ought to be earlier notice served on the members of the Council, and such notice ought to be served on the County Councils, whom we represent on the Council of Agriculture, so that they should have an opportunity of considering any matter of importance to the district they represent, and instruct us to bring such matters before the meeting of the Council of Agriculture, because, as a matter of fact, the last time I got such short notice on account of our Council here, not having their meeting at the time, and on account of the retirement of two of our members, Messrs. Howard and Lenehan, we had to appoint successors. Those were not appointed, and there was a short notice sent out. The notice was delivered to me on the 28th of April, a Saturday. The following day was Sunday, and if I had a notice of motion to send in it should be sent in by the Monday, which would be impossible because there is no post on a Sunday in my district. There ought to be longer notice, and it ought to come to the County Council.

4867. (Mr. Brown).—That was because you had not been appointed in time by your own Council?—Yes.

4868. If there had been anybody to send the notice to you would have received it perhaps a week or a fortnight before?—A week before. That was only on the last occasion. In any case the notices are too short, and I think they ought to be served in time. A member of the County Council might have a question on money or something else to mention at the Council of Agriculture, and he might instruct me or somebody else to bring that before the Council.

4869. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—Is there a general arrangement as to the approximate date of the meeting?—No, it varies.

4870. (Mr. Brown).—Always in the month of April, except when there is a second meeting?—There was one last year in November.

4871. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—If it is about the spring is there anything to prevent the County Council taking steps even apart from the definite date being announced?—Oh, no.

4860. (Mr. Ficks).—Has the Department made any rules or regulations?—They would not allow us to interfere in any detail.

4861. They did not make any formal rules or regulations?—No, except that he distinctly said he would not allow us to have anything to say in the details.

(Mr. Brown).—It broke all before any rules or regulations were made.

(Sir Geo. Colthurst).—There is one remark I would like to add. I would like to place on record the opinion of everybody connected with the school as to the great debt of gratitude we owe to the late Dr. Sullivan, the President of the Queen's College, because, as you saw in my evidence, he not only started the scheme to reconstitute the school, but he at all times up to the day of his death gave us the benefit of his vast experience and great scientific knowledge, and I think everybody connected with the school, as well as the public, will feel we owe him an inestimable debt of gratitude.

It could be brought under the notice of the County Council, but members of the Council have no knowledge of the working of the Department or of the Board of Agriculture. The latter body being appointed by the Council, in my opinion full information of the proceedings of the Board should be conveyed to the Council at their next meeting in the shape of minutes of the Board or any other way. As a matter of fact, as a member of the Council, I know nothing whatever about what the Board has been doing. For instance, the three farms that have been established—West Cork and Athlone, and another in the North of Ireland—we did not know that they were working at all, and when I inquired with regard to the local one I was told there were advertisements on the paper for students. I did not think that was a proper way to convey to a member of the Council the work that portion of his body had been doing and disposing of public funds.

4872. (Chairman).—There might be some questions affecting financial matters which it would be difficult to make public?—I am not advocating the admission of the Press to these meetings, but I think the Council ought to know as much as the Board. It is the Council who appoints them, or the majority of them.

4873. (Mr. Brown).—I think a resolution has been passed to that effect by the Council?—I am not aware. It is quite possible without its being known to me.

4874. (Chairman).—Does that apply both to the Board of Agriculture and the Board of Technical Instruction?—I think so.

4875. Would you apply it to both?—Yes.

4876. You would want to have some information of what is done?—And as an instance in favour of the opinion I mention the fact of the subsidy to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. That came before us for the first time at the last meeting of the Council, and a good many of us were so astonished at it that it was eventually decided to defer it for consideration until the next meeting in November. Further than that, not alone had the Council no information on the subject, but four members of the Board declared that they did not know that these grants were being made to the Organisation Society. The Most Rev. Dr. Kelly was one, Mr. O'Neill, Chairman of the Dublin County Council, Mr. Lough, and another gentleman whose name I don't know. So, of course, when four members of the Board did not know of this disposal of public money, I am not surprised at all that a member of the Council who did not know of the proceedings of the Board, should have no idea of it. I think it an extraordinary thing to hand such a large sum to a society which, as far as the County Cork is concerned, was rearing no benefit from it. These grants were made by the Department. The Vice-President, who advocated the advantages of agricultural co-operation through this organisation, said similar societies were now working in England and Scotland, and in reply to a question put by myself whether these organisations were in receipt of State aid from the Board of Agriculture in England, he informed me they were only assisted by the sympathy of the President of the Board of Agriculture. I thought that was a striking contrast that in England, where this co-operation was existing, they would get sympathy only. In England, where they have more money at their disposal than we have, that in Ireland we were

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giving £12,000 to bolster up a society that I knew was an absolute failure as far as this county was concerned. It tried to start some creameries here, and they have started one or two. Whether they are a success or not I don't know. If they are a success how much of the public funds are going to support them. That is a matter we don't know, and I don't think a society such as that, that is not responsible to anyone, should be handed over public funds to use as they like. The only excuse that the secretary or organizer, or whatever he was in connection with this society, gave before the Council within my hearing was that the reason they were in difficulties was because their previous secretary embezzled £300 or £500 of their funds. If they were not capable of controlling their secretary it was a poor encouragement to give them over £17,000 or £18,000 in instalments of £3,000 or £4,000 a year to work up the organization with.

4877. (Mr. Mickle).—Who made that statement?—Mr. Anderson.

4878. He is the only secretary they ever had?—Well, some person they had in that capacity, he did away with £300.

4879. (Mr. Brown).—That had nothing to do with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—One gentleman stated he knew a Co-operative Society which had been a failure, and another gentleman said it was due to the fact that the secretary had embezzled the funds. It is possible I am mistaken.

4880. (Chairman).—Well, you think there ought to be more information given of what passes at the Board?—Yes, and if the Department wish to promote co-operation they have their own officials and the County Committee which are in touch with the country, and more likely to have influence with the people in the country than any other society. As a matter of fact, the people of the country are very slow and suspicious to avail of any organization society that goes for the purpose of starting creameries, because in the fixing of their rents they imagine it might be used against them in the Land Courts, as proximity value has been a great element in fixing rents, and proximity to a creamery is often brought forward when placing the value of the land on the occupier. For these reasons I think co-operation, at present, as far as the Irish farmer is concerned, is altogether too previous. Later on the chances are that the people, when they settle down and avail of the present change in the tenure of the land, will be more inclined to avail of external assistance, and probably learn to assist themselves in some respects, too.

4881. Have you anything to say about the constitution of the Council of Agriculture being partly elected and partly nominated?—I have no objection to that. I don't see the harm there is in having some co-opted members as well as elected. It is a good thing to have a sprinkling of both. I am also a member of the Technical Committee here. Towards the end of the year 1902 the first scheme of technical instruction was started in County Cork. The Committee in charge of the scheme were then entitled to a sum of £4,500, funds which had accumulated from the sale of £4,500, funds which had accumulated from the sale and the Department's contributions for endorsement since the year 1900. When the Committee applied to the Department to lodge this sum to their credit the latter informed them that such could not be done, and that until they could actually be in want of funds (which meant that until the sale should be spent) they could not contribute anything at all.

4882. (Mr. Brown).—Was not that a universal system?—Well, I don't know whether it applies to any other county, but if it does I don't think it is fair to the county. Though this sum was nominally to the credit of the County Committee, it was actually in the hands of the Department, and they were having the advantage of the interest accruing therefrom. This the County Committee objected to, and asked the Department to allow them the interest accruing, but their request was refused. The County Committee considered it their right to get the interest on this large sum of money, which should have been lodged to their credit at the beginning of their work. The system now in vogue by which payments of the Department's annual contribution towards the working of the schemes are made is that when the Committee are in want of funds they can apply to the Department, who will allow a certain sum on account of their contribution. The County Council at the beginning of the session advances one-ninth of the rate, but the Department will give nothing until the scheme is actually in operation and

until the money is wanted. This is hardly fair to the County Council, who pay their rate without any condition whatever, and it ought to be made mandatory upon the Department to advance one-half their contribution at the opening of the school year in the month of August. Then let them contribute the remaining portion in two quarterly instalments—one in February and the other in July following. This arrangement would give them an opportunity of withdrawing a sum of £225 annually until the close of each school year to provide against any irregularity on the part of the Committee. It may be argued by the Department that they would then have no participation over the working of the scheme, but have not they the Reports of the Local Government Auditor, who is bound to deal with irregularities? This matter has frequently been kept upon the Department by the Committee without success.

4883. (Mr. O'Leary).—Do I understand you to say that the Department ought to pay half of their contribution at the beginning of the session?—Yes, or the equivalent of the County Council's contribution. They pay one moiety, and the Department ought to pay a similar sum, and then the local committee would have a sum at their disposal for working expenses without having continually to apply to the Department.

4884. But the expenses are very little until about August?—There are some expenses.

4885. But the big share of the expenses does not come until you are paying salaries which would not be at the beginning of the session, but about the middle?—That is so. The want of proper accommodation for the holding of classes is a very serious drawback to the work of committees generally throughout the county. With great difficulty schools have been found in many districts to serve for technical classes, but in most cases these schools are unsuitable. They are not covered, they have to be specially adapted for use, and extensive works have to be paid for them. In fact, the convenience of the classes in some districts for some time on year depends upon the whim of the landlord, who, if he pleases, can refuse to re-let at the end of the school year, the Committee having no power to lease a building. A fund should be provided from some source for building technical schools.

4886. (Chairman).—Is that what felt very much here?—Oh, yes. We have no accommodation at all for technical schools, except in the city, but I am not dealing with the city, I am dealing with the country districts. We have to put up with rooms in which we have no fixed tenure. We might be told to leave them after expending some of our own money on them. In allocating their contributions towards technical instruction in County Cork the Department set out the payments as follows:—For year from 1st April, 1900, to 31st March, 1901, £2,000; for year from 1st April, 1901, to 31st March, 1902, £2,500; for year from 1st April, 1902, to 31st July, 1903, £2,500. In these allocations it can be seen that from 31st March, 1903, to the 1st August, 1902, no contribution was allowed, and at the rate of £2,500 the Committee were thus deprived of a sum of £253 6s. 8d. on account of the Department thinking fit to alter the period of their allocations from the financial year to the school year. This fact has repeatedly been brought to the notice of the Department.

4887. (Mr. O'Leary).—Did the change from £2,000 to £2,500 anything to do with it?—Not a bit, only the change in the dates. The payments used to be made in March and April before, and then they changed to August.

4888. Can you tell me what it was from August, 1900, to July, 1904?—I cannot give the exact sum, except £233 6s. 8d. on account of the change of date.

4889. (Mr. Brown).—You consider you have lost three months?—Yes.

4890. (Mr. O'Leary).—I don't think it follows. The expenditure is by the session, and the grants that you received, although received within the 1st of April and the 31st of March, had to be spent upon a whole year's work?—Yes, but we had the money in 1900 in April, and we hadn't it until August afterwards.

4891. Then it would be the interest on some money you would lose, not the money itself?—We lost £233.

4892. That I cannot quite see, because the money was to cover the whole of the year's work, and it was simply a change in the date of the payment, not of the amount?—Well, we lost that three months.

4893. You got £2,000 in effect as a contribution towards the work done in the year that ended about 1st of January, 1901?—Yes.

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1904. For the year that ended about the next year £2,500, for the year that ended about the next £2,500. The dates of payment were altered, but you were getting that money in respect of the year's work.—Our scheme had expanded immensely in the meantime.

4922. (Mr. Brown).—I thought you said the first scheme was in 1902. How was the £2,000 expended in 1901?—I have not the figures here before me now. This was a matter of constant communication with the Department, and we got no satisfaction.

4923. You have not the answers they gave—I forget the answers, but I could send for the secretary. It is within the recollection of some members of the County Committee that between the years 1900 and 1902 a controversy took place between the Department and the County Committee with reference to the form which the County scheme should take. The Committee drafted a scheme in the year 1900 which the Department refused to sanction. The matter was settled by the County Committee agreeing to give the scheme drafted by the Department a trial, with certain qualifications, which were brought about by Mr. Rich, the Inspector at the time, only for whose assistance I have no doubt the Technical scheme for the County Cork would never have been started. He was the greatest acquisition and assistance to the County Committee in giving them advice, and the knowledge he had, and also bringing the Department to make the concessions the County Committee demanded. He has left us since. He has gone to a better employment under the London County Council, which is better for him probably than being under the Department here in Ireland. The Department's scheme has since been continued, and the lines upon which the scheme was formulated have never been altered. The work in the County, however, assumed proportions which even to the minds of the Department must be considered very extensive, with the result that now, without deviating in the slightest from the lines laid down by the Department in 1902 and 1903, the Committee have had to reduce the extent of their work because the funds placed at their disposal cannot meet the still increasing demands. There was a resolution passed at the meeting of the County Committee by Mr. Sheehan, which was carried:—"That inasmuch as the Committee are unable to approve of a scheme within the income at their disposal, although they have (a) reduced the Ten Domestic Economy Scholarships by over thirty per cent. (b) discontinued one Art Scholarship and (c) two Science Scholarships out of three bursaries or assistance (one of which has been retained), (d) reduced the salaries of the various local secretaries by fifty per cent., and effected other retrenchments, and as the scheme for the County was originally framed in 1902 by the Department, and has been worked up to the present time on the lines laid down by them, that as the Department now refuse to make an increased grant, which is absolutely necessary for the working of the scheme for the school year 1906-7, this Committee regret that after the most careful and earnest consideration of all the circumstances they feel constrained to decline to undertake a scheme entailing financial obligations which they will be unable to discharge. The Committee would very much regret being coerced to discontinue, even temporarily, the Technical Instruction schemes in the County on which the Department's Inspectors have several times favourably reported, but the responsibility for such must be placed solely and entirely on the Department for refusing to finance a scheme of their own creation. About £182 was all they were short, and the Department refused to grant that. I mentioned the generosity of the Department towards the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and immediately on the next representation, I believe, they consented to give the £182.

4927. (Mr. O'Leary).—So that is all right now?—I think that was granted.

4928. The scheme itself has been a success?—A great success in this country as far as technical education is concerned. It is working very well. We have a technical institute in Queenstown, and I think the headmaster is here, and I think, as far as he is concerned, he is doing his best to make it a success. It is largely attended and thoroughly well equipped, very nearly one of the best in the British Empire. With regard to the rural parts of the country, of course they have not the same facilities and opportunities, but they are working very well—all the technical Committee are.

The Department must therefore be held responsible

for the position in which the Committee now find themselves, and they are in duty bound to lead assistance. These facts have already been pointed out to the Department, and they have referred in the case of the City Committee, to whom they have allowed a contribution of £700 or £800 a year out of the Development Fund in place of the withdrawal of the Equivalent Grant, and they have been asked if it is possible to place a sum from the same fund at the disposal of the County Committee, but the only reply was that they were allowing more than the Committee were, in the strict sense of the allocation for the whole country, entitled to, and that they hoped increased funds would be available from the new regulations to be issued in regard to attendance grants. The system of organising classes on the part of the Committees cannot be said to be very successful, inasmuch as the work has to be done by the teachers, whose duties in this respect are hampered by the fact that they cannot have sufficient time to devote to such work. Take, for example, a cookery class of six weeks' duration. The instructress would only have Saturday available to visit a district. She would leave the centre at which she would be engaged on a Saturday morning, and reach the district, where it would be proposed to make arrangements for the following course about midday or later.

4929. (Mr. Brown).—Would not that be done by the local committees?—In some districts there are no local committees. The cookery instructress goes into a parish a dozen miles from her home. She must look for lodgings, and must see the parish priest to get permission to use the school.

4930. Is it not usual several weeks before the instructress visits a district to form a local committee to do that work for her?—No, that is not the practice.

4931. (Chairman).—She has to make her own arrangements. Make her own arrangements.

4932. Why could you not get the local people?—They are too remote. They would not come together to work it in some places.

4933. (Mr. O'Leary).—The people in the place?—They would not.

4934. (Mr. Brown).—If the clergy of the district were invited?—That is exactly what we do. We leave it to the clergy, and only for them it would be an absolute failure.

4935. If you asked these seven weeks before the instructress came to form a local committee, and told them what was required, would they not do it?—In some places they would. One parish priest told me we did not want instructresses, we had instruction enough. I knew another parish where the parish priest was favourable, but they were not able to get a local committee, but the instructress interviewed the parish priest, and got the loan of the school, where she had cookery and laundry lectures, and did very good work, and had a very large attendance of girls.

4936. (Chairman).—Are the parish priests generally ready to give assistance?—They are. I never knew but the one exception.

4937. (Mr. O'Leary).—Any difficulty like that is obviously incidental to the starting of a new system. Next time there probably would not be any of those difficulties?—I think there will always be difficulties in country places. You must always go and apply to the manager if you want a school. There is no other house available except the courthouse, and if the magistrates come to sit there the cookery instructress cannot have her class.

4938. Would not a letter meet it?—A letter from the Secretary here would get an answer from the parish priest, but at the same time the difficulty of getting a place for carrying on the lectures will always exist.

4939. (Mr. Brown).—Don't you usually get them in the National School?—Usually in the National Schools, but the National School may not always be available. Some priests would not give their National Schools.

4940. Are there many you do not get?—I know of one school that would not be given. It is in the courthouse she had to lecture. It was a new school, and very well equipped, and the manager did not dare to give it.

4941. There was only one instance of that?—As far as I know there was only one instance. I only represent one portion of the county.

4942. (Mr. O'Leary).—That is just the sort of difficulty that local organisation is supposed to meet, if difficulties of that sort cannot be got over by local efforts of committees, statutory committees, or voluntary committees, or by other instances, the difficulty would hardly be got over at all. It is not a sort of a difficulty for which

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you look to the Department for assistance?—If there was a spare house there that we might take up.

4912. If there were not a spare house then you should depend on the school or some public place like it. That is just the sort of local arrangement that should be in the hands of the local organization as distinct from a central organization in Dublin?—If it was managed through the County Committee here, but beyond that there are no local committees, and we failed to establish them under the County Committee for agriculture.

4914 (Mr. Brown).—Supposing you did not visit any district in which there was not a committee formed, I think you would find they would form local committees. Is there so little interest taken in the work of technical instruction in these localities that it is impossible to form local committees?—Quite so. The people that would be capable of forming a local committee would not take the trouble of getting together, and only for the priests generally it would be a matter of failure as far as these are concerned.

4915 (Chairman).—If you get a place, will you secure a fair attendance?—The attendances are very good at all the classes. At least one that I visited and signed the books for there was a very large attendance of girls, and they took a great interest in their work, both in laundry and cooking. Miss Julian was the instructor, and a capital instructor she was. She has been in Kinsale recently.

4916 (Mr. Brown).—Do you make any suggestion for getting rid of the difficulty?—No. I don't see what I could suggest.

4917 (Chairman).—I suppose the more interest there is taken in the thing the more likelihood there is that the difficulty would be got over when people see how important it is! Yes. The question of co-ordination of subjects between the National Board and the Department ought to be settled. Everyone knows that there is a quarrel of some kind or other between them, with the result that neither is working in conjunction with the other in any branch of instruction, thereby creating a great waste of public money. Take for instance manual instruction, as taught to National School boys by the instructors of the County Committee. To any sensible person it is easily apparent that to teach literary subjects for five or six hours a day to young people is decreasing upon their mental as well as their physical capacities. Some manual work should be introduced into the curriculum of such a school and instruction given during the daily work in, say, manual instruction or experimental science. The former subject has an interest for any pupil. It enables him to use his hands and his eyes, and to produce something which would train his hands as well as his brain, and be a much needed relaxation from the usual literary work. It would be an encouragement to the boys to interest themselves in school work. The same system as regards domestic economy subjects could be applied to Female National Schools. Now, what is the result of the difference between the National Board and the Department?

4918 (Mr. O'Connell).—What difference?—They don't allow the pupils to leave anything except the National Board curriculum during school hours, and we would not be allowed to interfere with them in any way. The County Committee are not permitted, under any circumstances, to give instruction to National School pupils during National School hours. Boys in a country National School are usually left out of school at 3.30 or 4 p.m. The County Committee then hold Manual Classes for their benefit from 4.30 to 6.30 p.m. A great many boys would probably be living three or four miles distant from the school, and if they attended the Manual Class they would have to go without food until 7.30 or 8 p.m. in the evening. It is very hard to ask any boy to devote two hours after school hours to manual work, and very few will continue to attend the latter after the first two or three lessons. The two Departments should be compelled to work together in such respects as this, and a great deal of money could be saved to the country if they did. An arrangement might easily be come to as the distribution of funds.

4919. Your purpose would be not if the National Board allowed the time spent at manual training under proper conditions to count as part of the attendance at National Schools?—Yes, they will not credit the National School boy with a full attendance if his time is taken up with anything except National School work.

4920 (Mr. Brown).—I suppose any difficulty which exists at present is created by the Act itself?—I am not aware of that.

4921. What is stated that the expression technical instruction shall not include instruction given in elementary schools?—I heard that mentioned, I think.

4922. In other words they have no power as the Act stands at present to give technical instruction in elementary schools?—Yes, I heard that mentioned before.

4923. Would you also be in favour of rural districts of having school gardens in connection with the schools, and of giving instruction in horticulture?—Certainly I would.

4924. In a similar way to manual instruction?—I think there ought to be such experimental plots attached to every National School.

4925. And instruction should be given there in the pupils?—Yes.

4926. Practically as well as theoretically?—I think so.

4927 (Chairman).—What sort of technical instruction has been most successful. Take domestic economy, for instance, do you think that has been worked well?—It is working very well as far as it has come under my observation, and it is very necessary because payment to be taught very badly in the country districts. They don't know how to cook or to manage their domestic affairs at all.

4928. You attach a great deal of importance to that?—A great deal of importance, and it has been most necessary and very successful, and all the classes have been attended very well, and the people are getting more interested in it, and those who would be useless for the instruction of the people, that is the priests, are very anxious to have it continued and extended.

4929. Do you think you have competent and efficient teachers?—Oh, yes, they are appointed by committees, and have to have certain qualifications. They have so many years at Kildare Street, or some such institution as that, and they have to hold diplomas to comply with the requirements of the Department. They are all very successful and giving great satisfaction. We have not had to dismiss any one of them. We have had several retirements from young ladies getting married, and then we have to fill their places.

4930. That part of the work is doing well?—Doing very well.

4931. Then will you go to the Committee of Agriculture?—It was on my motion first that the County Council have moved in co-operating with the Department for agricultural instruction, and the first year it was a failure. It was rejected by the County Council. It was brought in again next year and passed by a majority. I am more or less not quite satisfied with the way that the agricultural instruction in the country is going on, that is as far as the management of the Department is concerned, but that has been stated. First they would not sanction having anything at all but a yeasting hall. We opposed that, and brought a bill of two years old that was doing good service in the country would be more likely to benefit the country than a yeasting hall. However, the Department have come round to our opinion, and are satisfied to give not only a premium to the year old or two year old, but intended to continue it so long as the bull is serviceable. Professor Campbell was asked with regard to the stock bill they had at Glanerin, how long he would continue him, and he said for the next ten years. That was not his view when he came here first.

4932 (Mr. Brown). Was not their explanation that they wished to get new blood into the country?—I did not hear that explanation. There were plenty of breeders in the country who could get new blood into the country without doing away with good two year old and three year old bulls.

(Chairman).—However, whether right or wrong, that was the view they took, that that was the right way to begin.

4933 (Mr. Brown).—You surely don't say that there were enough bulls raised in Ireland to meet all the requirements of the country?—I am sorry if I conveyed anything like that, but I say that the bulls that were serving in Ireland were two, three, and five-year-olds, and having a good record, should have a premium, and be sent through the country, and would be more useful than the yeasting bulls.

4934. If yeasting bulls were only subsidised it would mean the purchase of new bulls?—They refused to subsidise anything else.

4935. That has been altered now?—Yes.

4936. (Chairman).—They seemed to think that was the right way to begin and to extend it to three years and so on?—They also sanctioned, in two exceptional cases, in the District Councils of Mallow and Cork, to let the District Councils buy bulls subject to their inspection, and place them in the districts. They have refused to sanction that, and I think that was a mistake, because I think it a great advantage to have the District Councils empowered to purchase bulls for their respective districts and place them where they would be wanted.

4937. Do you know for what reason they refused?—I could not tell you. Another rural district that I am connected with was moving in that direction, but we found they refused to sanction it except in Mallow and Cork.

4938. (Mr. Brown).—The District Councils are not statutory bodies?—They got special permission in Cork, and subsequently in Mallow.

4939. Was that perhaps before the County Council adopted the scheme?—Oh, no, recently.

4940. What year did the District Councils buy bulls?—Two years ago; the Cork District Council went to Perth and bought eight bulls and placed them over the district. The farmers in some places where a good bull would be most wanted won't invest £30 or £40 in a bull, and keep him, whereas if he got so much for keeping him he would keep him there for the benefit of the district.

4941. How did this come to be done through the District Council and not through the County Council?—A special application the District Council moved in the matter and got permission. Sometimes giving premiums to bulls before they are purchased enhances the price of the bulls to some extent, though there are exceptions to that, because at the most recent sale I was at there was a bull without a premium, and the owner got more for him than for a bull with a premium.

4942. You mean provisionally selected, eligible for a premium?—Yes, and I heard Mr. Boardman in his evidence mention about the test for tuberculosis. I am surprised the Department have not followed the example of the Americans. They won't leave a single bull go into America that is not tested for tubercle, and here we give premiums to bulls of all ages, and have no test whatever, and the chances are that a great many, though apparently healthy when bought as yearlings, are propagating tuberculous all over the country.

4943. (Mr. M'Gee).—Is it considered a disease that can be transmitted?—Oh, yes.

4944. You are sure of that?—I am sorry to say I am personally sure of it. I got one bull myself that was full of tubercle, and I was not able to get a second calf from him. I bought another bull for a public institution that I am connected with, and it is reported that he is dying of tubercle.

4945. (Mr. Brown).—Those are not premium bulls?—No, but they were bought from breeders who supply premium bulls. I also advocate that on those farms the Department have under their management—they are practising it at Glasnevin—they should raise bulls from selected good cows, and bulls they have tested, and have those there for sale, and distribution among the County Committees, and the same way with regard to horses. As far as I know all they have done in the way of horses is, I believe, they have purchased a few stallions and sent them into this country, but I am not aware that they are a success at the stud, and at any shows they were at they were not thought worthy of a prize, whether they are not giving sufficiently high prices for these horses, or buying a class of horses not suitable for the district. I saw one of them, and I considered him entirely too light to send into a country district for the purpose of breeding hunters or useful strong animals, except weeds, which are altogether unsuitable to this country and unprofitable. And with regard to the nominations given to mares I think the judges in those cases ought always to name the horse that such a mare is fit to go to, because sometimes at these meetings one mare might be a strong heavy mare of good points, and suitable to go to a light horse, and there might be a light well-bred mare, and in the opinion of the Inspector or Judge a strong horse would best suit her, and instructions ought to be given to the owner to go to such a horse, and not leave it to his own judgment

to select whatever horse he liked, because in that way you would help to improve the breed of horses. Jan 26, 1905.

4946. Would you say they should determine whether the mare was to go to an agricultural heavy horse or to a thoroughbred?—I certainly would; it is a mistake to put a light mare to a thoroughbred horse. Mr. G.
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4947. The owners might object?—If they did, let them do without the nomination. It is not tending towards the improvement of horses to have a lot of light weedy mares, and to send them to equally light horses, but to, in the opinion of the Inspector or Judge, the class of horse those mares should be sent.

4948. Would you say the premiums ought to be divided, and a certain number given to mares fit to mate with stallions for hunters, and a certain number to those suitable for agricultural purposes?—I don't know.

4949. (Chairman).—That is just the sort of question that might very well be raised by the Advisory Committee?—Yes; those were some of the instructions sent to me with regard to the Committee of Agriculture.

4950. Does not all that show that it is very desirable to have some such organization as you have now—a Department and a County Committee, and Local Committees and Advisory Committees, where all these questions can be raised and discussed and settled in the best way?—Yes, as long as the Department agree to the suggestions made by the Local Committees.

4951. (Mr. Brown).—Did you ever put that suggestion before them?—I did not ever put it before them. This was a matter suggested by myself at the meeting.

4952. Then you have sent it up this year?—It has gone in the minutes, I suppose.

4953. Don't you send up each year in answer to the inquiry from the Department suggestions as to the working of the next year's scheme?—I think so, but I was not in attendance at any of those meetings. I attended that meeting specially. With regard to the Organization Society, I should like to read a reply that was given by Mr. Gill in answer to an application for assistance from Brandon, where they started a Hosiery Industry, and the Department refused to assist them:—

"Department of Agriculture
and Technical Instruction for Ireland,
Upper Merrion Street,

Dublin, 30th May, 1904.

"Sir.—Referring to your previous letters relative to the proposed establishment of an industry in the town of Brandon, it is evident from some of the remarks contained therein, that your Committee are under some misunderstanding as to the function of the Department in relation to such a project. It does not appear to be fully understood that it is no part of the duty of a public Department to take the place of private enterprise in the promotion or establishment of industries, or to take part in financing such undertaking when proposed. The Department's function is to second the efforts of private enterprise by furnishing, as far as practicable, the means of training skilled hands for the practice of the industries which may be started, and to aid the initial efforts by supplying, for private enterprise, all the information and expert advice in their power which can assist the judgment of those prepared to enter upon such undertakings. Already in connection with the project which your Committee have been considering in Brandon, the Department have assisted them with information and advice of an expert character. They have had a visit from an Inspector, who has conferred with them, and from an expert, who was specially instructed to place his knowledge at their service, and whose report has been specially communicated to them. The Department are prepared to continue to furnish further assistance of this character.

"With regard to instruction for the training of skilled hands for an industry which may be undertaken, the Department will be prepared, on certain conditions, to approve of aid being given for such instruction. When an enterprise on which the local promoters have made up their minds, is definitely set on foot, the practice of the Department is to provide such instruction indirectly through the

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Urban or County Technical Instruction Committee. Through these Committees, and in connection with local schemes of Technical Instruction, they have approved of funds being specially applied to the payment of instructors or instructresses for the learning of the hands during the initial stages of an industry in the premises in which the industry is being carried on. The Cork County Committee for Technical Instruction are in possession of funds which may be applied for this purpose. The conditions upon which the Department would be prepared to approve of a grant being made from these funds to provide the instruction in question are, first—that the County Committee should recommend the grant, and be prepared to make it; and secondly—that the Department should be satisfied with the general lines on which it is proposed to establish the industry, and provide the instruction.

"In your letter of the 10th instant, the resolution quoted by you, of the Brandon Industrial and Development Association, expresses the hope that the Department 'will assist the promoters of the project to find a market for the Brandon Hosiery.' The finding of a market for the products of this industry, being an essential part of the commercial enterprise, is not directly within the province of the Department. The Department may and do assist in finding markets for an Irish industry in general, but this is very different from finding a market for the products of a particular undertaking, especially when that undertaking is in a line of business in which are engaged other Irish concerns, where all arrangements for sales are made by the proprietors themselves. The Committee should, therefore, in the light of such expert advice as may be available, carefully consider a question of such importance as finding a market before embarking on the project.

"It should not be overlooked also that in a town at no great distance from Brandon—namely—Tralee—as an industry of the character which your Committee proposes to establish has for a considerable time been working with great success, and finding an extensive market without any extraneous aid.

"I am, sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"(Signed), T. P. GILL,
"Secretary."

"R. H. Greenfield, Esq.,
"South Main Street,
"Brandon, County Cork."

Brandon was not taken up altogether as an enterprise except for the purpose of teaching the people to knit, and make it pay also if possible. They applied to our Technical Committee for some funds, and of course we could not give them, but that was the reply of Mr. Gill, and as regards the allocation of funds to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, I understand that this Society is a private enterprise dealing in butter, and is in commercial competition with other private concerns, such as the Cork Butter Market.

4964. (Mr. O'Connell).—Is it Mr. Gill who says this?—No, I have finished, Mr. Gill, it is a remark of my own.

4965. (Mr. Brown).—You appear to be under the impression that the Agricultural Organisation Society is a trading society of some sort—I don't know much about it, only I know that they tried a long time ago in connection with our Agricultural Society to get our support, and we refused to have anything to do with them. I was speaking to Sir George Colthurst about a creamery they had out at Moore Abbey.—

4966. Do you know they are a society formed with the object of promoting co-operation amongst farmers?—So I understand.

4967. I don't know whether you heard at the meeting of the Council of Agriculture the explanation given by the Vice-President as to the payments that were made in the early days down to 1904 to the Organisation Society?—They came to £5,000 a year.

4968. Did you hear his explanation that these sums were in payment to instructors who were actually at work for the Organisation Society, Agricultural Instructors, and who were taken over by the Department, or at least whose services were availed of by the Department, they not having instructors of their own?—I did not hear that, and I would be surprised, because I think the Department could get plenty of

instructors without taking over the instructors and by that body at all. In fact all the instructors I came in contact with were taken from Gloucester.

4969. They were not in existence at the commencement of the Department. They have been educated?—What qualifications had the instructors of that society to educate the people. I doubt it very much.

4970. I think you said that a statement was made by Dr. Kelly and Mr. O'Neill, that they had no knowledge of the grants made, are you quite sure of that?—I am quite sure Dr. Kelly stated it, and Mr. O'Neill to me, and Mr. Lough stated at the meeting he knew nothing about it.

4971. These were private statements to yourself—Private statements to myself. I mentioned that I was not surprised I did not know anything about it when there were so many members of the Agricultural Board that did not know anything about it. There is a very successful creamery started at Thurles by the people of the district—a co-operative creamery—and I also heard it stated that this Organisation Society went down to start a rival one. Now what would be their object except to destroy the existing one?

4972. (Chairman).—Do you know that as a fact?—I have it on the authority of Mr. Duggan, a member of the Council. He mentioned it to me in Dublin.

4973. (Mr. Brown).—Are you sure it is not a proprietary creamery that is there?—It is co-operative.

4974. One is the property of the farmers of the district, and the other is that of a private company?—It is the property of the farmers of the district.

4975. And the Organisation Society, you say, proposed to start a rival creamery?—Mr. Duggan, who is a member of the creamery, mentioned that fact, and said they had no right to do it.

4976. (Mr. McKee).—Would it have been a proprietary creamery, owned by some Joint Stock body instead of being co-operative?—It is co-operative, worked by the people of the district. I remember being there and meeting Mr. Duggan, who is interested in it, and he explained to me the working of it, and the great success, and also he was in favour of co-operation, and he supported the contribution of the Department at the last meeting, but still he condemned it for this particular move.

4977. (Chairman).—On the whole what do you say as to the working of the agricultural schemes for the county, are they working well?—They are working very well, but they are costing too much. I saw the estimate for this year, and thought it an extravagant one with regard to the expenditure on the different Departments.

4978. (Mr. Brown).—In what direction?—All the Departments, salaries and office, the itinerant instructors both in poultry and butter-making, their travelling expenses, and all the administration of it I think is extravagant.

4979. Are not the expenses gone over by the local committee?—They are. I don't attend them very regularly, but I got that estimate.

4980. (Chairman).—Do you think they are extravagant in the sense that their expenses are too high for what you get for your money?—I think so; we don't get value for the money expended.

4981. (Mr. O'Connell).—Not the salaries, it is the expenses?—The travelling expenses and other expenses connected with the office, the estimate was alarming.

4982. (Mr. Brown).—Whatever the estimate may be the County Committee won't allow any more to be expended than they thought was proper?—Some members of the Committee thought the salaries were excessive and tried to keep them within limits, but did not succeed.

4983. Of course the Agricultural Instructor is paid by the Department direct?—Our Secretary's salary commenced at £100 a year, and he has £200 at present.

4984. (Mr. O'Connell).—Who raised his salary?—The County Committee.

4985. Your point is that the County Committee does not have sufficient care of the ratepayers' money?—I did not go to the meeting to support an increase of salary, although he is a particular friend of mine, but I heard Sir Horace came down specially to support it and intended to make a speech, but the then chairman, Mr. Lenahan, refused to hear him.

4986. Apart from any Departmental encouragement the persons meet at least in the matter of encourage-

game are the County Council?—I agree with that; I am a member myself, but don't attend very well.

4977. When is the next election?—We have taken in a lot of members from the Agricultural Society and others, co-opted members.

4978. You have a County Committee of eighty-three, of whom fifty-one are county councillors, that leave thirty-two non-county councillors?—It is optional—the county councillors don't attend at all except very few.

4979. Then it is the people who are not responsible to the ratepayer, who are spending the money freely?—I think so.

4980. Is not that an unwieldy number?—We had a smaller County Committee, but then all the committees were changed to have a committee of the whole Council.

4981. (Chairman).—Is yours a committee of the whole Council?—Yes, and thirty-eight besides added from the different agricultural societies.

4982. (Mr. Griffin).—Then what is everybody's business is nobody's business?—I quite agree; I have not attended myself except on one occasion, when I

took these minutes which I have read for you to-day, and I have not had time to attend at the Technical Committee.

4983. I suppose the County Council is yet but a young institution, and there must be chaos to you as chairman some signs of improvement in the feeling of responsibility in those matters?—As far as the County Council itself, as a Council it is working extremely well, but when it comes to committees they don't attend.

4984. The County Council has control of these particular arrangements for delegating business—do you think that they will realise that it will be better to do something else?—I think it is quite possible with regard to that committee that before the next sitting of the rate for agricultural instruction the probability is they will revise that committee.

4985. The blame, I suppose, for this bad result lies with the County Council itself, and not with the Department?—Oh, no, I am not blaming the Department for that at all.

4986. You don't want the Department to send a mandamus to reduce the rate?—I don't think so.

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Mr. W.
R. Dwyer,
&c.

*On returning after luncheon,
Mr. R. H. BEAMISH continued.*

4987. (Chairman).—You are High Sheriff of the city of Cork?—Yes.

4988. We had the whole account of the questions that have arisen between the Department and the Governors of the Munster Institute detailed to us this morning, therefore it will not be necessary to go over that ground again; but I think Mr. L. A. Beamish said you would speak as to certain experiments carried out at the Dairy School?—Might I perhaps state just at the commencement that the experiments were really carried out as the result of personal experience in Sweden and Denmark. What I am giving you now will not be the result of study in books, but it is the result of starting from nineteen to twenty-six at work myself personally on this subject in Sweden and Denmark, and I have reduced it to writing to read it:

The Governors of the Munster Institute were fully alive to the fact that Germany, Sweden, and Denmark were seriously competing with our Irish farmers in dairy produce, and they were not only sending over butter in ever-increasing quantities and lower prices, but that by the scientific means at their disposal the quality of this butter was, if anything, raised while the price fell. They also recognised that as the production of good and cheap butter involved the economical feeding of herds and the application of the latest scientific truths to both byre and dairy, the whole existence of Irish success was dependent upon a thorough investigation of these subjects. The naturally mild climatic conditions of this country had tempted the farmers to rely too much upon the extensive farming of the land, and as no knowledge existed by which the country was enabled to produce a better uniform in flavour and texture from animals judiciously fed—but rather a better sometimes, and from certain farms of the highest quality, though from others of the worst possible description—thereby presenting to the English consumer an article which could never be depended upon, while the yield was as uncertain as the quality which was made. The reason of the variability of the yield was chiefly dependent upon one cause—the ignorance of judicious winter feeding of stock, and consequently the universal desire on the part of the farmers to produce the largest quantities of milk during the spring, summer, and early autumn, when they were able to depend upon their grass alone. This want of uniformity in the quality of the butter produced, combined with the inability to produce regular quantities throughout the year, suggested the idea to the minds of the Governors to investigate the difficulties of winter feeding, and whether the make of butter could not be reduced to a more uniform quality. These two questions, if solved, would naturally place the Irish farmer in a position to meet his foreign competitors on equal terms. It was not recognised that the solution of these problems was by no means easy, as nothing was really known as to the best means of employing larger sums of capital and labour on smaller acres of land, which, if judiciously

and intelligently applied, would be of far greater benefit to the farming community at large. But in order to prove these advantages it was first necessary to systematise the feeding of the herds as they had already been systematised by our successful competitors; and experiments as carefully carried out as those of Germany or Denmark must be made, which, if successful, could be used for the advantage of the country. I may say, apart from theory, at Hohenheim they commenced it under Dr. Emil Wolfe. Then they went on to Denmark, and there had the advantage that we have not in Ireland, in so far that the smaller landed gentry were compelled to produce an income for their families and themselves by watching the increasing competition that was going on all round them—Denmark being a purely agricultural country, as ours is. The gentlemen farmers there took every means in their power for acquiring the knowledge necessary to keep up with the times, as it were; and I myself, being on these farms and in Sweden, have worked just at the revival of the Swedish industry. The Danes took from the Germans and the Swedes took from the Danes; but, seriously enough, the Danes are the premier. They are more successful in their agriculture, though the Swedes have had it nearly as long, but it was in these struggles, from 1821 to 1867, that I was on a very large farm. I had 300 cows under me, which is a very big thing; and our turn-over in our dairies would be about from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 of gallons in the year, so it was not the question of a small estate, it was a very large business, and we took these German experiments. I am not at all a scientific person myself, but I read up all they showed me, and practically put it to work in our houses. When I first came our farm yielded almost nothing, but before I left, in a year-and-a-half, we were paying 12 per cent on our capital. You must not take me to be a big man or a scientific man—it was only the examination of the scientific principles applied practically.

What the Swedes did was exactly what I was suggesting here that we should do at our dairy school, and what we endeavoured to do, as long as we were allowed to be there—and that was to have some system by which we could show the farmers that the actual production of the milk would be cheapened, whatever they afterwards obtained for it, and the lighter the cost of production the better we should be off. Denmark, above all other European countries, had combined science with practice in this respect, and had recognised the necessity of improving their terrible ignorance in farm economies. So terrible was their ignorance that I have been told that their cows in winter used to be starved, so that they had to be started out on to the growing grass. From that they have come to be magnificent judges of cattle. They set resolutely to work to master the various difficulties which arose. The result of years of labour gradually placed this country in the proud position of becoming the leading country for the production of a uniform butter of an excellent quality,

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Beamish.

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Equisdale

which has held its position in the English markets in the severe competition of later years. Consequently, the Government instituted a series of feeding experiments, and published the first results in the year 1883, a copy of which they now desire to lend us. A herd of cows represents a considerable proportion of the capital invested by the farmer upon his farm. Obviously, it is of vital importance to so regulate the feed as to obtain the highest economic result from such capital. If milk cows are inefficiently fed, or insufficiently protected in either very warm or very cold and wet weather, the result of such treatment necessitates a serious loss in the interest on the capital invested. That is where our temptation in Ireland has been greater than the Danish temptation. Our climate being naturally of a far milder character we have naturally tended more to secure than to our horses, and the consequence is that inefficient housing, either in summer or in winter, combined with too little food, has seriously impoverished the yield from our cows.

In order to guard against such loss it must be allowed that the methods of feeding employed must be so carried out that the animals are fed in classes—those yielding large quantities of milk being fed upon a standard of food different to others yielding smaller quantities, or nearly dry. Then some animals are by nature more valuable than others, and by nature yield larger quantities of rich milk—but this factor is not easily recognized unless means are afforded to the farmer of proving it.

We considered, in our large farm of thirty cows, that it was necessary to analyse the milk of each of our cows once or twice a year; to weigh the milk every week, and carefully consider, although a cow may yield 300 gallons of milk and another might yield 500 gallons, seeing what the net result of the value of the product was, the butter that came from the cow, and how it came; because, if you get a rich cow, with a comparatively lower yield, you are not working away the machine, and when you have an enormous yield with a lighter flow of milk it was not so commercially valuable, though it naturally follows that it pays the farmer better to retain the offspring derived from their best cows, and thereby increase the interest to be yielded on the same amount of capital originally invested in a herd of milk cattle.

Attention must also be drawn to the importance of giving the animals the food intended for them, and this is not so easy as would at first appear in dealing with a herd of cows.

In dealing with enormous quantities, tons and tons of food in the year, I found very quickly that if you told your foreman to give such and such a cow such and such food, when your back was turned it was not done, and I at once started two pupils under me, whose business it was to see that the cattle got their food. It is so easy to be in bed in the morning, and tell those who are working for you, that they are to do such and such things, but unless you do it yourself, or see that people are working for you in a correct way, your results are all wrong as regards experiments, because you don't know that the cow you intend to get the particular food has got it. It must also be remembered that the food must be so presented to the animals that it is consumed by them to their greatest advantage. I found in Sweden, where we were struggling to get the lowest cost of production, that when the hay was given to them in too great quantities they used to breathe on the hay and deteriorate it, and the herdsmen used to pull it out of the rack, and place it under the animals. I found this was expensive litter. And, I, therefore, only allowed them to get it in small quantities, and the racks were entirely cleaned, and that was also done with the straw, and I found soon on a large farm of that kind that if we weighed the straw and weighed the hay actually cut to them the result was a far better economic result than from taking it up with pitchforks. We got the older men to weigh these bundles, and it is a wonderful thing what an old man can weigh out. It showed us what we were doing.

When the Government first commenced their experiments they recognized that the waste in hay was great—due to the cause that it was placed before the animals in such large quantities that much was wasted by the animals' breath, and was finally consumed by the careless herdsmen in the litter beds, a costly form of litter—which raised the cost of milk production.

Unfortunately, the Board of Education was unable to recognize the importance of such investigation, and refused the Government to subsidize a foreman feeder, with the result that the experiments had to be given up.

4080. That is the National Board. At that time I was going out to the dairy school at five or six o'clock in the morning, walking out from Clark three or four miles, but I had my business to attend to, and could not do it, and I asked for a foreman at 35s. a week, and they would not give him to me. These experiments have since been resumed by the present Department of Agriculture, who either considered them of no importance, or else did not possess the knowledge requisite for this investigation.

As similar experiments were the foundation of the success of dairy farming in those countries, which we now our serious rivals it would seem injudicious to have abandoned them and the Government consider that some time has been lost upon this section of experimental farming.

The Government recognized the importance of raising young stock for dairy purposes or steers. They investigated the careful experiments carried out in this direction by Decent Fjord, of Copenhagen—experiments so valuable that the Danes were not anxious to publish the results outside their own country.

I, with the greatest difficulty, got their pamphlet, and as I can read Danish myself, I was able to see plans for these experiments, and plans were formed whereby the question might be treated. As there was no one in Ireland who could be of the slightest assistance other than the Department—and this only in a primary sense—as it must be acknowledged that my technical knowledge there was sadly deficient—the Government rightly considered that if they and the Department were to work for the general advancement of the country, every facility for carrying out, and to full control over the experiments indicated by them, should have been afforded, otherwise they could not have been in the position to verify accurate results. This, however, was denied to them by the Department, with the result that the Government were forced to withdraw.

The Government were also at work upon the question of butter-making. The uniformity in the quality of the Danish and Swedish butter was partially attributable to the methods employed in the ripening of the cream. The system involved a uniform type of acid, and depended upon the temperature at which the cream was set, both of which and the properties of the one to the other varied according to the season of the year. Important experiments in this direction were abandoned, and have not been again resumed at the Minister Institute under the direction of the Department.

I may tell you that at one time I was working from 100 to 150 lbs. of butter in a day with my own hands. I had to get up at three or four in the morning to milk my cream cows, and the instant the cream was up, under certain well-defined rules, the horses had to come there, and the men had to be in attendance there, and that a uniformity of quality both in the butter and cream.

The Manchester presentations raised the question of the proper percentage of water in butter. It was found in certain districts of Ireland that large quantities of water were introduced into the butter by means of a so-called "hot pickle," or "heating," and the analysis showed twenty-five to thirty per cent. of water in butter thus treated. It was asserted that this form of preservation was necessary in order to keep the butter for any length of time. The Government carefully investigated this question, and found conclusively that the keeping quality of the butter did not depend so much upon the quantity of salt supplied as it did upon the intimate relation in which it was mixed, and that the keeping quality of butter was not to be attributed to the use of "hot pickle," while the deterioration in the value of the butter due to the abnormal quantity of water which this system involved was strongly to be detected.

We were fighting against butter dry-salted in Denmark of very even quality, and not exceeding sixteen, fifteen, or fourteen per cent. I recognized the fact, and we all recognized the fact that if we were to send over hot pickle butter with twenty-five per cent. the consumer, who is a very shrewd man, whether labourer or gentleman, at once would notice the difference, and would not pay the same price for butter containing twenty-five per cent. as for butter containing fourteen per cent. If we did not produce the highest possible article in the country we were doing there as against Denmark, having been in both countries, one saw it perhaps more than quickly. They also fixed a standard for water, that is the Government of the Dairy School, for water in butter.

in 1856, which is generally recognised now as correct, though the Department has not arrived at any practical conclusion on the subject. I personally was examined before the Royal Commission on those prosecutions. We were fighting very hard against the farmers, who had a market for brominated butter, and did not like to give it up.

The Government felt that such was to be desired in the system of general farm work in Ireland. Our farmers have never been taught to recognise the necessity of intellectual thought or systematic work, and, therefore, these faults naturally extend downwards to the labouring classes.

The Government desired to introduce an intensive system of farming by which is implied the use of education necessary for cultivating the soil to the highest point of economic yield, the intimate knowledge of the growth of crops and of animals, and the duty, honest and wise attention to the thousand and one details of successful dairy farming.

One of the most successful farmers I ever came across was a Mr. Stenbeck in Sweden. He was a pupil on a neighbouring farm. He used to get prices in Paris for his fat stock, a rather remarkable thing for a Swede, and I remember asking him in what lay the success of farming, and his answer was characteristic of the man who had risen from being a very small farmer, "careful attention to every little detail of farm life, if you want a half ton of coal for your threshing get it the day before."

When once a farmer has been taught the intensive and economical methods of treating his land and herds, this knowledge is instinctively imparted to those under him, and if he once masters the truth that he need not fear to pay well for labour correctly directed, there need be no want of sufficient labour, but then he must direct such labour in the most economical manner; otherwise there at once arises a serious loss. In fact it is more prudent to abandon a high labour bill if the labour is not judiciously directed, and this has been and is the view taken by Irish farmers in general. The reason of our loss of labour here, and we are all extremely sorry to see it is going out of the country, is that we are coupling ourselves with the farmers, have not mastered the question of what has got to be done. I noticed on the contrary in Sweden, where we had a very high organised staff on the farm, that if you know your own work your men will carry it out; if you don't know your work, or take care of it, your men are slack, and if they are slack they are not worth paying, but it is your fault, not theirs.

The Government were anxious, when once the dairy section had proved such a success, to develop the education of male farm pupils. They always protested against the suggestion which the Board of Education forced upon them of the short terms of six months each, which were devoted to the boys, as they desired to procure Irish farmers' sons who would submit themselves to a period of at least two years' tutelage—little enough—in which to develop a method of hard, honest and systematic work, which would serve them well for the rest of their lives. Once a youth can be induced to recognise the value of such instruction, and the fruits to be gained by steady application on any form of work, he benefits by it immensely, but the time over which the lesson must extend had been found in Sweden to be at least two years—two years of strenuous labour. I may tell you that in Sweden they had extremely good methods of proceeding; they had their agricultural colleges, but they also had there a thing that is wanted in Ireland, they had men there scientifically educated, the smaller proprietors on the farms, and when their Government went into the question as to who should be allowed to keep a smaller school or more practical school, not up to the high standards of the experimental schools, for example, supposing I had proved that I was a reasonably good farmer, I should apply to the Government, and they would allow me to start such a school and take it under their sanction, and I would get farmers' sons to the extent of twelve the first year and twelve the second year, twenty-four in all, and I would keep them and feed them, they giving their labour for the food I gave them, and nothing more, and I would work them twelve hours a day. That twelve hours of continuous regular work did more to improve the character and thought of the pupil, apart from what he did, more than anything else, and we found in Sweden that two years was the least that we could do good in. We found

a great difficulty in Cork in first starting our dairy school, but when they once found the advantage of coming, then they were fully two years ahead. And having gained that knowledge we need not be so afraid of not getting our farmers. I think some of us here would have to put our hands in our pockets to start the thing, and get some of them in and even paid there, because if what we suggested and intended to carry out at our dairy school was correct, they would find their level just as the girls found theirs some years previously.

With these legitimate views of agricultural education before them—though often hampered in carrying them out through causes dependent upon conditions outside their sphere of work—the Government after mature consideration, did not believe that such co-operation as was offered to them by the Department was a sufficient guarantee to them that the future of the Munster Institute would be a success. It must not be assumed that the Danes pay less rent or less taxes than the Irish farmers for their land, therefore, what the Danes are able to accomplish must be open for us to learn and master, as we possess the additional advantages of climate and proximity to markets in our favour, when once the question of reasonable facilities of transport for our farm produce has been solved throughout Ireland. And I may tell you that the expression of some of the biggest of the Danish farmers was, "If we were only over in Ireland, and could speak the language, we could cut gold with a blunt knife."

The Government seriously believed, and still believe, that unless efforts are made in Ireland to so systematise the present irregular methods adopted in farming, the country will never hold its position as a large and satisfactory producer for English markets. Steps must be taken on the lines adopted by our successful rivals to acquire the knowledge necessary to economical development of the land, and it will be found that such development will arise provided greater and more accurate knowledge is mastered by our people, not by means of tentative experiments, half believed in, and badly executed, but made with the full faith that they are eventually to be relied upon for accuracy and information. Here we have got, if I may express it, a curved way of carrying out experiments. We go to work and we hardly believe in the result of our experiments. We have got to show people that for the money spent there is some result before the result has produced itself. We ought to be in a position of saying, "Such and such are our plans for the next five years, and we will give you—those that subsidise us by assistance—no result until we have proved it, and if we fail in our results we will have to confess it." We carried out certain experiments in pigs, and I remember some of our committee, two gentlemen connected with the matter, begged to have something about it in the report; it would be a wise thing, but I absolutely refused, and the committee eventually agreed with me.

4860. (Chairman).—Have you got any cases in your mind of experiments conducted in that way—have you any specific instances?—We had rather to contend against it before I came over from Sweden. I had been working there on these extensive experiments, and before that our results were crude at the dairy school; we did not work to the bottom of it; we had a charming man there, Mr. Smith, he is there now, but when he was told to give the cows certain food, I heard they were not being given, not from want of interest, but want of thought. And these crude experiments were only in order to fill something into the book to show we were getting on, but from that kind of thing you cannot get results to instruct our Irish farmers. We cannot do better than to humbly follow in the footsteps of our rivals until we acquire their methods so far as they have proved them to be successful, but we may rest assured that unless some radical changes take place in our present methods of procuring the necessary knowledge for our farmers, the best of our labourers will gradually disappear, and upon the walls of our Irish households will be found written in terrible letters the sentence passed upon the Babylonian king, "Mene, Mene, Tekel uphardin."

There is nothing so wasteful and purposeless in the allotment of public money as indiscriminate distribution, due to popular caprice which, often enough, has not the power of reason behind it. And I may tell you it is difficult to prove the thing; but having been connected with the way in which money has

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By H. H. Bennett.

been spent in poorer countries, Sweden and Denmark. I absolutely assert as a fact that our money has been absolutely wasted on a popular outcry by the Department in Dublin at present. Yet I greatly fear that from the apparent want of spaces in recent Irish agricultural progress, the distribution of the funds at the disposal of the Department indicates the absence of any settled or systematized plans of national development, but rather tends to indicate that immediate results, even if anonymous, are those which are looked upon by the Department. That is my opinion on the thing.

4991. I should like you to give me an instance—I would like to know what you have in your mind in making a general statement of that kind?—If six years had passed over Sweden, we would have an enormous improvement, say, in our winter-dairying; we would see the yield of cows, in the condition of our store cattle, in the knowledge that the farmers would have as regards their weighing machines as against their eyes; there is not that improvement here.

4992. (Mr. Brown).—Is the material you have to work upon precisely the same in both countries—I think so; I think we have more money than in Sweden; the money is here.

4993. Human material?—That is better here; I find the human material here distinctly better if you direct it correctly. I am chairman of one of the largest businesses here in Cork at present, a very large brewery, and what I have said here I have extended in principle to our men, and I find I can get wonderful results; the more I give personal attention to the work the better the results.

4994. You spoke just now of a great waste of money—I consider so when in six years we have got no further than we have at present. We have not absolutely established a percentage for water in butter, we don't know what winter feeding means a bit more than we did six years ago or twenty years ago. There is not more winter feeding going on here, and I maintain if we were allowed to have gone on with our experiments we would have gradually initiated our farmers to higher yields per cow on the same capital, and to better stock in every way, and if you go round the farms, I am sure you would agree with me that there is not any improvement here.

4995. What we want in such an inquiry is to get away from generalities to particular facts—can you lay your hand on particular items or cases in which you say there has been a great waste of money?—What I mean by that is this. Personally, I think if I had £100,000 a year to spend I would have shown more practical results in the homes and farms of the people among whom I spend that money.

4996. It is the absence of results?—It is the absolute absence of result all over Ireland; I can prove a case, I think. At the exhibition we were rather anxious about these experiments, pig experiments and so on, and I will give you an absolute fact about the experiments which you, gentlemen, must investigate for yourselves, because it is not an easy thing to prove. There was an exhibition held here in Cork; the Department were asked to carry out very important calf-feeding experiments; the farmers were to come in and see these and learn by watching all these experiments how they went on, and the different feeding for the different sections. First of all we found in Denmark in carrying out the calf-feeding experiments that individual calves of the same weight thrived differently, so we had experimental trials before so as to discriminate between calves that digested their food better just like human beings. You may take two human beings of the same weight, and one will do much better than the other. If you happen in choosing ten calves on one side, and ten on the other to get all those that did well on one side, and those that did bad on the other, your experiment is not true. The first thing is to get experimental trials and mix them up; that was not done. Then during the experiments certain calves died. Dessenfour, who is the most practically scientific man I ever came across, whenever a calf died in a pen of ten, or two calves died in one pen, he would bring the results of the two calves who died up to the day of their death, and then go on with the eight and average the eight. The wonderful Department substituted live calves from the dairy school instead of the ones that were dead, surreptitiously brought them into the exhibition; it was

stated in the papers and never contradicted. And when it was stated, what was the answer?—“Oh, we only took calves from the dairy school that had the same food as those fed on the experimental trials at the exhibition.” I call it an absolute waste of money, and putting the idea into the heads of the Irish farmers; if the heads do that sort of game the people are not going to learn much. It is part of the waste that I am all going on in Ireland now. You must excuse my being emphatic upon it; I am very busy about the first experiments being always correct, and afterwards the results are usually sent through the country, but if your initial experiments are not right you are doing no good to your farmers. That is a very good instance to bring before you. As to the waste in other places, I have not watched the Department; I have not much interest in it, I have not great faith in it; if I had been watching the Department, I am perfectly sure I could bring before you extensive instances that people who will carry out work of that type in that way must necessarily see the importance of the work.

4997. (Mr. O'Connell).—Is there not a danger of our condemning the Department on that incident by making a demonstration for an experiment. I am no doubt the Department have had much occasion to conduct operations for the purpose of demonstrating as distinct from purposes of experiment; I know nothing whatever of the conditions of Cork Exhibition, but from a scientific point of view, the last place I would think of conducting an experiment on feeding would be in an exhibition, but I quite realize the possibility of doing some good by a demonstration, and it is possible they may have been carrying on a demonstration?—It would have been very interesting if they had; if you had seen the cooking of the calves in that demonstration, it would have been better if it was not held at all, because any farmer would say, “I have better calves, fed better in my own byre.” I saw that.

4998. (Mr. Brown).—Do you mean all the calves were bad?—They were all badly carried out; they did not know what they should feed them on. I distinctly state the calves were not in a condition that they should have been, or a good feeding house would have had them. If we cannot do better than that, let us go back to our initial stage of teaching ourselves, and then apply the knowledge afterwards.

4999. (Mr. O'Connell).—You are quite sure the Department were not carrying out that demonstration for the purpose of giving an awful warning?—No, except to warn people not to come to them for advice.

5000. Everything depends upon how far an incident of that sort was properly labelled?—I may tell you this, that when the farmers heard of this I wish these statements to be proved—the farmers laughed at the whole thing; it was a glorious exhibition, I tell you, of inefficiency; it was in 1902, the papers called attention to this fact.

5001. You complained very rightly the faithfulness of putting forward results before they are completed—how far is that accountable for by the apathy of people in this country for results, even though they are stated to be provisional results, subject to correction?—Quite right, it will take time to be at the head of experiments of this important form in Ireland, it will take a man of an extremely firm character to refuse to report unless he is certain; if won't do to have tentative results, because they are often relied upon as conclusive results, and it will require a man of considerable strength of mind and power to be able to do it, and to say as Dessenfour said, “I don't give you my experiments until I choose to do so,” meaning that he wanted his experiments completed.

5002. What was his position?—He was practically the scientific head of the College of Agriculture; he was head of the experimental stations in Copenhagen.

5003. He was not responsible for results?—No, he was to the Government. So strong a man was he that when he wanted his laboratory improved, and the Government refused money to improve it, he brought certain members of the Government then, and produced some chemical abominations of a sort of a nature that they simply said it was a terrible laboratory, and he got his way.

5004. He evidently had more influence over the Government than most Government officials have here?—We want a continuous policy of experiments, not dependent upon a Government coming in or going

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Barnard.

cut, but that we know are going on, because it is a non-controversial question altogether, whatever Government is in. If six or eight years ago, as we were organised then, we had been given some money to do it, we would have produced better results than has been produced by the money expended in the last six or seven years.

5005. I would not for a moment throw any doubt on that, especially because we have had a very excellent demonstration of that sort of thing at Rotherham, where we had experiments conducted at the expense of a private individual; you dwell upon how much could be done if you had the spending of £100,000 as irresponsible individuals, that is to say, not responsible to Parliament, and free from the inquiring people whom the Department has to face, and I am not once a year but continuously—do you think that affects the case?—I may tell you how it affects the case, and why we were compelled to resign. We were perfectly ready to submit all our plans to the Department, any form of experiment; we did not wish to dictate to the Department in the slightest, but we would have said, "If you approve of the experiment, we have thought it out carefully, and a good deal more in detail than you gentlemen can do. If you approve of these experiments, give us a grant, which, whoever will be there, will be continued, and we will give you the results afterwards, if we are allowed to carry it out under your personal supervision." They would not allow us to do that; they were going to dictate to us how we were going to carry out these experiments, but as the result has proved, they did not know much about it, because they have carried out more themselves in the way I am dealing with it.

5006. I want to find out how far you appreciate the possible difficulties the Department had to face in meeting such a request; we have heard something about the Agricultural Organization Society; do you think there would have been any reason for a similar complaint about the Department farming out its operations, for which it ought to remain directly responsible, if they had transferred a considerable sum of money in the form of a blank experimental cheque to another body?—Yes, but the Danes carry out their experiments under the Government. They had several farms that they chose in Denmark, whose owners they were quite satisfied were bona fide, all they wanted was bona fide work. The details of the work were carried out by these Danish gentlemen farmers under Fjord, but in experiments of this kind you must have certain people who are keen on their experiments; it is not a Departmental work; it is a work of individual idiosyncrasy; if you get a man that is absolutely absorbed in his trial you say that is correct, and he is going on correctly. The results that would have ensued by the Department allowing sufficient money with which to carry out these experiments under the direct supervision of the Governors would have been better, and have shown themselves where now there is not so much to show.

5007. I am very anxious to set at your point of view, because it has got a curious reflex in some criticisms we have been hearing to-day, even on the work of the Department. The usual complaint made with very much appearance of justification is, that here six years has gone by, and Ireland is not yet regenerated. I take it that you would say the regeneration of Ireland is a long experiment on which you, the people, are not entitled to ask for any result short of fifty or sixty years?—No, that is not so. The results of these experiments does not extend over a very large period of time; the result of successful experiments may take from two to three years; I want people to be silent for from two to three years.

5008. Five or six years?—Even in certain cases they may be five or six, but in two or three you may get certain feeding experiments carried out. It would take five or six years, I am sure, for improving our milk cows. There are an enormous number of questions apart from what I have brought up to-day. I maintain that we want to get people at the head of our experiments that are honest and keen about their success.

5009. I quite take that, but I want to have it applied to the other case. Might not the Government say, "We want to get at the head of our technical instruction and agricultural instruction people who are keen and honest and will work for the long run not to produce an immediate result in two or three

years." I don't want to say that is a sound argument; I only put it as illustrating the difficulty the Department may have to face in looking up for five or six years money for experimental purposes in the hands of a body for whom they could not at any and every moment answer in Parliament or elsewhere!—Quite so, and if they had done that they probably, at the present, would not have the present inquiry put on them. I don't say that the money has not been, perhaps, as carefully expended as they could, I am not going against their bona fide, but we have been waiting for five or six years to see the results; if that had been more judiciously spent in bringing out the results, the continuation of the results that we consider to be important, we would now be reaping the reward of this apparent silence for the last few years.

5010. Could they have survived to this time without giving any information?—I think so; I don't mean the whole of their money; I am only talking of the experimental portion, the £100,000. It is not that I want the whole £100,000 to be expended in experiments; in our dairy school we asked for £5,000 a year, and we would have done good work for it and given you splendid results.

5011. (Mr. Brown.)—You spoke of the waste of money due to private outcry—do you allude in that to the Department being, to a certain extent, controlled by public opinion?—I allude to it in this way. We have done it ourselves here, we have got an Agricultural Society, a very excellent one; I maintain myself that the mere fact of going down to look without sufficient knowledge does not conduce to our education. We go up one year and say, "We want a grant," and are refused; we go up the second year and bicker away and get our grant. And I think if that grant had been perhaps withheld we would have grumbled here, but nothing more would have been done. If on the other hand we had that money, a little money placed in our dairy institute or any other institute which was doing careful experimental work, the head could come forward and say, "Now, gentlemen, though we were ratheriggardly with regard to your demand, now our experiments having been completed elsewhere, we are ready to give you the help you want."

5012. Generally speaking, you think the Department is too much under popular influence?—I think so, that is my personal opinion.

5013. That is the very opposite to the views presented to us—the complaint is that they are not sufficiently under popular influence?—My idea is that they are extremely prudent, that everywhere, and you must give way somewhere, I don't think it is done under a system.

5014. (Mr. Gifford.)—You have not had an opportunity of playing the game they have got to play?—I would not play it the way they did it.

5015. (Chairman.)—You said just now that you had not paid very much attention to the Department's work—have you considered at all the variety of their operations, and the extent of their duties?—That I can quite understand; they are serious duties.

5016. You had not considered that before making the very strong statements you have made?—I am as strong in my statements despite the fact that they have had enormous difficulties, and an enormous range over which to travel.

5017. I have not succeeded in getting from you many cases?—If I knew I was going to be called upon for them I would have brought up the cases.

5018. You rather invited it, because you made a general statement, and I asked you for instances?—I gave you the calf experiment.

5019. I admit that that is a distinct matter of which we can hear the history, but still I have not got anything else?—No, but looking round this part of the country, and speaking to our farmers, I don't see progress; I see the opposite; labour is diminishing, the cattle are not improving, that is my own personal experience, and I cannot give you more than I see myself.

5020. We have heard several witnesses who have been strong in their criticisms of the Department, but when asked whether they saw any general improvement since the Department came into operation, expressed themselves in strong terms in the affirmative?—You may see improvement, but I want to get the highest interest on my capital that I can.

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Dunstable.

5021. You must take all matters into consideration—the habits of the people, for instance—I find the habits of the people improve as you improve yourself. There is no question but that is a principle in life wherever anyone is, and I maintain strongly that the Irish character is affectionately following one if you know how to tell them what to do, and they have not improved because their leaders have not shown them the right way—I mean the Department—I am very strong on that.

5022. Yes, that is perfectly clear, but I wanted to get at the foundation of your statement—We don't see the improvement in the country.

5023. (Mr. O'Leary).—Then you don't consider your own argument, that things like experiments require time in order to produce a result, and that the time has not yet come when it is fair to look for a result?—I may tell you there was one gentleman sent over to Denmark to investigate these difficulties. As a rule, when I went through the Danish dairies they always stated that when English gentlemen came over there, not knowing the language or where to look for the difference, they went back with very little knowledge. That was proved by one gentleman who was closely connected with the Department, and after his visit to Denmark, on which he was to report on what he saw with regard to the dairies, he came back to

me and he held his hands up. I said to him, "Have you not seen everything?" I was very enthusiastic about it. His answer was, "My dear Danish, I don't really consider they are very much better than we are ourselves." That anyone who could sit me over there could make such a statement surprised me that I simply held my tongue; the truth was I had not a knowledge of the language, and did not know where to look, because the wearing of the hats and the packing is a highly scientific process, apparently very easily carried out by the dairymaid; he really had not the knowledge with which to see for the information, and those are the type that have come back to teach us.

5024. Have you not read the appendix to the report of the Recome Committee?—No, I have not.

5025. You have not read the account of the Danish system?—I think I just glanced through it.

5026. I was only going to ask you, for my own benefit, what you had to say about it?—I don't think I have sufficiently read it. I saw one of the reports; it only struck me roughly; my opinion was that, that they got hold of certain generalities, which is quite a different thing; you may see how the cream is sold, but there also a statement and one detail about selling cream that the Danes have got and we have not.

Mr. FRANK COFFEY, Johnstown, Glounthaire, Co. Cork, examined.

Mr. Frank
Coffey.

5027. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Irish Cattle Traders' and Stockowners' Association?—Yes.

5028. What have you come here to speak about?—The principal item in the improvement in stock generally, and how it could be secured. For years we have been drawing attention to the deterioration of our live stock, and urging in the strongest manner the necessity of improving. So far our efforts have not met with anything like the success we would desire. Now we are strongly of opinion that any suggestions coming from such a body as the Irish Cattle Traders' Association should have more than ordinary consideration, both with the Council of Agriculture, as well as with those interested in stock-raising, as we claim to have a more intimate knowledge of what is required than 95 per cent. of the stock-raisers of this country, who appear to be hopelessly blind to their own interests and best interests; they seem to think that the methods of the past will be sufficient to maintain them in the future, apparently ignorant, or at least not realising, that we have now to compete with a huge foreign trade, which has not only come to stay, but also to develop. It does us best to take our best markets from us, and unless we alter our system and apply the same earnestness that our competitors do in the preparation of our live stock, I am convinced we shall be beaten, and the greatest of our industries taken from us. It must be brought home to our stock-raisers, and particularly to the small farmer, that proper breeding and developing of young cattle will amply repay for the extra attention it requires, as well as for any reasonable outlay that may be entailed to prepare it for sale. The improving and handling of live stock from the calf upwards calls for our immediate and most serious consideration. I consider it of vital importance, as on it hangs the very existence of the country. Cattle are the lifeblood of the land, without it the land cannot have a viable existence. Therefore, it is incumbent on us to strive to find the means of improving and bringing them up to the present day requirements so as to enable us to hold our own against foreign competitors, as well as to supply our English and Scotch customers with the best class of stock cattle, and leave them no excuse to go elsewhere for their requirements. I quite realise this is a difficult question to deal with in a wholesale manner, still I am convinced we can do something, and what we would respectfully suggest is that stations should be opened in large dairying districts for the breeding of stock to take the place of those which come under the heading of premium stock, which I know will not become general enough to benefit the country, as farmers are prejudiced against pure-bred stock on the ground that they are pampered and overfed. Many also are deterred from applying for premium stock, giving as a reason that the regulations are too exact-

ing. This system must of necessity be always open, that is, the premium system, to grave rats, and I closely examined into I am sure it will be considered anything but perfect. What I mean by that is that the premium service leaves the ball open to an amount of contagion which he will disseminate amongst the other herds of cattle, that is, in those of abortion and other sundry diseases which are connected with dairying cattle particularly. The following is an outline of what I consider the best way of meeting the circumstances: I am of opinion that it will go a great way to do away with the prejudice which exists against the pure-bred stock, and encourage many to go in for a better class of stock than they are at present using. If the Department, or any part of the Government could take up in the large dairying districts a farm, and that they would take from that particular locality cows which had a reputation for good milking and health, and that they would pay the farmer, we will say, on an average for a good cow £20, she becomes the property then of the Department or of the Government, or whatever organisation would take it up, and I am giving you as an illustration this farm of forty-five cows, it is only a generalisation; it could be worked out, I am only trying to focus attention on the necessity for this, that the Department may take it up as somebody else, and try to organise or develop it in a more perfect manner than I can do. As I said, the best cows would be taken from the locality in which the farm was worked; it would give greater confidence to the surrounding districts that these are cows of their own breeding, and not specially treated. Then, after the acquisition of the cows, to buy a valuable bull; I am assuming he would be £100, and be mated with these forty-five cows. For the feeding of these forty-six animals I am allowing £500, £13 per year; I am also allowing that the spreading would be forty calves. I am allowing 15 per cent. for mortality. The feeding of the forty cows and the insurance would cost £200, that makes a capitalisation for the stock alone and keeping them for a year £1,250. Then we come to the next bit of that. After fifteen or eighteen months the offspring of that band would be twenty-five bulls and fifteen heifers. I am also allowing for five cows that particular instance to have missed. Those twenty-five bulls I would put down at a premium value of £20 each at fifteen or sixteen months old, and the fifteen heifers would be worth £15 each. The milk of the forty cows, allowing 300 gallons per day for a period of 270 days, would come to 81,000. The four best cows when sold to the butcher at £15, 20 per cent. under their original cost, would represent £5, and taking my bull forward for the following year of 40 per cent. under his cost price, £20, then we take the forty cows and write them down 15 per cent., that

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Colley.

little else for twelve months leaves you a margin of 2450 for contingencies; I think such a system as that would be very much preferable to the premium ones; it would be more generally availed of, and would inspire greater confidence. I think you would have a better herd, and the cows would cost very much less.

5039. How would you get it widely enough diffused throughout the country? I want to breed an improvement in the large dairying districts—you can never generalize it—it is peculiar to whatever the largest distribution takes place. Limerick is a very large and important county; it represents more than half (unless as a distributing centre; Cork is another large distributing centre, and when calves are sent out the country people have no option but to buy this half-bred stock. You don't notice it in the young animal; it takes twelve months or two years to show. It is from the yearling forward, and the people of England and Scotland who get this and manufacture it into the finished animal suffer very much from not having the proper foundation to go on.

5040. (Mr. Brown).—The first thing you would do would be to substitute half-bred pure-bred bulls?—They would be the first cross of the cow, but they would be second half-bred.

5041. Still they would be half-bred?—Undoubtedly.

5042. It would take two years before your bulls would be produced?—Yes. It would be two years from to-day.

5043. Even then you would only have according to your calculation, twenty-five bulls?—But this was only in a small way, this is only figuratively speaking, and only referring to 100 acres of land. I don't mean to say that it should be confined to one station. I should say we would have twenty stations.

5044. (Mr. O'Leary).—In a County like Limerick?—Oh, no, sir, for the big dairying districts.

5045. (Mr. Brown).—How would you confine it to the dairying districts?—Because the calves are sold from there and not kept. The men sending away calves are not so particular as to their breeding as the local people who develop their own calves.

5046. Is not that the real evil that these people who part with their calves early don't in the least care how they are breeding?—Quite so.

5047. (Chairman).—Any bull will do?—Any bull would do.

5048. (Mr. Brown).—I don't quite understand how your system would meet that difficulty?—In this way that there is a great inquiry going on at present among all classes of farmers to acquire better stock. They won't touch the Department's premium bull, and they won't go to buy a thoroughbred bull. They object to him as pampered, and in addition the cost is too large.

5049. (Chairman).—Why won't they take a premium bull?—They consider the restrictions too exacting.

5050. (Mr. Brown).—What are the restrictions?—A man gets a bull to-day, he has to carry out certain regulations. The inspector comes along, and whether really or imaginarily, this man is afraid all his life of an inspector inspecting what he cannot keep.

5051. Are you afraid he would not get a premium the second year?—I have heard in the last fortnight of two such cases.

5052. Have you seen these bulls yourself?—No, but I have known of cases where I interested myself to get men to take a premium bull, and when the printed regulations about the bull came they said "It is too much," I have to pay my £25, and have to pay insurance and next year I may be disqualified, and where would I be then?

5053. How do you account for every premium that is available being taken up, and several applications for each premium?—That may be in some counties.—Wexford is an excellent county, and they may be more alive there to improving their stock than others. I don't say all Ireland is backward, and won't take up the premiums, but I say there are cases in the largest all-distributing county which we have to look to most for improvement.

5054. There cannot be anything very serious in these restrictions when you find all the premium bulls taken up in other counties?—There have not been taken up in this county. My own experience at the shows is that we could have a better and cheaper bull than the premium bull. They are lacking in vitality.

5055. Do you mean a half-bred bull or a pure-bred bull?—I am speaking of the first cross.

5056. Do you mean the half-bred bulls are better?—I do from a commercial point of view, and to go among the country, and as the quickest means of improving your stock. Even now to get calves to-morrow morning I would have the first cross before I would have a premium bull. He would have more vigour and vitality in him than a premium bull.

5057. Are there not a great many of these half-bred bulls being produced at present in the country by crossing premium bulls, or other pure-bred bulls with half-bred cows?—I can only speak for my own district, the South of Ireland, and the thing I am advocating will be a great benefit to the country. As an illustration you would never get a down pure-bred animal to be a brother's animal in London, he won't be qualified, a half-bred will nearly always beat him at the London show. It occurs every year at the Dublin Show.

5058. (Mr. O'Leary).—Do you intend to convey that in this scheme the twenty-five bull calves would be sold and kept as bulls apart from any premium system?—They should be taken up without any special encouragement, and I have no doubt they would be a great many districts, but as you refer to that, I would have them hallooted for, I would not have them sold; there would be a regular demand, and the people that would supply cows to the Department approved of by the Department that they would be hallooted for. I think from my own experience I would not hesitate to say that this thing would be taken up, and when it would become generally known what these cattle were, and what their calves would develop into, it would inspire a great amount of confidence with the people, who would cheer our country, and we would command a very much larger price. I wish to improve very strongly about the hallooting for these cattle. The better calves might be turned into the Department's own work or any other Corporation that may take it up. I think it would be very simpler than the premium system.

5059. Or it might be something in addition to it to meet the special requirements of special districts?—Yes, and of course this would be in the large dairying districts, where they distribute the young cattle under a year old. There are certain parts of Ireland where the people are doing far more than I am advocating, but of course they are alive to the necessity of purchasing good stock and developing it themselves, and see that it pays them; but we want to come into another part of the country. I might mention rather particular instances where there is a huge distribution of calves—West Limerick.

5060. (Mr. Brown).—What is there that would induce these farmers who don't care what bulls they use at present to pay £25 for bulls to serve their cows. A man who has a number of dairy cows and does not want to keep the calves, he does not care how he produces them. I want to know what would be the inducement to that man to buy a cross-bred bull at £25, and keep it for the service of his own cows?—Inasmuch as at present we are impressing upon them that their cattle are growing yearly less in value, and unless they depart from that system and produce better cattle the trade will be wrecked from them, that has brought them to an inquiring state of mind, and they are ready to follow up our suggestions if we can only put them into reasonable shape.

5061. You can buy cross-bred bulls at present?—You cannot buy a reasonable cross; I don't approve of the cross-bred bulls at present. If you take the heads of cows generally through the country you will find 60 per cent. of them are not the animals to produce a good bull off; they produce a good heifer; but when you come for a fine, good cross-bred bull, when you want him nearly a thoroughbred, with all the vitality of the common herd, this is the only way you can get at it.

5062. (Chairman).—I suppose you travel about the country a good deal?—I have a great deal of experience; I go practically from Dublin south, all through the King's and Queen's Counties and County Kildare, through the winter months Limerick is my chief district. I farm nearly 700 acres, and I carry out experiments on my own farm.

5063. We have got you here, a man of experience, and we want to obtain a little information from you?—I am enthusiastic in trying to develop the agricultural interests of the country, pure and simple. I have been here to-day very much against my own personal convenience, but simply because I thought I might do some good. There was a small little experiment of my own which I carried out last November, when I

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bought thirty-six cattle at Mallow; I weighed them after coming home, on the 5th of November; they were treated reasonably; the semen was rather favourable for cattle; they got a little hay and a good run of grass, and, on the 16th of January, when they were brought into the yard for weighing I was very pleased with their appearance, but when I came to weigh them I was alarmed to find that, instead of weighing as they did in November 270 cwt., they weighed only 250 cwt.

5054. How was that?—They should have been better treated. The treatment I gave them was not sufficient, although I thought it was ample. I had twenty-three bullocks bought on the same day in Limerick; they were a higher-priced cattle, and I was more careful to feed them a little better. I put them loosely in sheds, and gave them an additional feeding of 4d. a head per day of extra feeding above the cattle I had let out on the hay. As a consequence of that these cattle weighed 33 cwt. more.

5055. You learned something from your experiments?—I did. These little things might be taken up.

5056. (Mr. Brown).—Of course you are aware the Department are insisting on farmers the necessity for what you are demonstrating there?—They have a turnip experiment going on in my place; I allowed them it perfectly free, but no one has come to see what the instructor, a most amiable, painstaking young man, is doing, no one has come; he has brought some of the farmers in to see the experiment.

5057. (Chairman).—They won't come?—He has not asked them.

5058. Did they know of it?—They did, but they may have been shy.

5059. (Mr. Brown).—Are not these experiments carried out under your County Committee?—I can only speak from this little incident of my own; I am only giving it as an illustration, and not at all in a complaining way.

5060. (Chairman).—Did no people come and ask you about your beasts—did nobody benefit by your experiment?—Unless I gave it verbally; to every man that came I showed this book fifty times over, but I am not the Department; I am not a public instructor.

5061. I only wanted to know how much interest was taken in this?—None whatever; it would have been lost in my locality, the farmers are too poor. I have been carrying on experiments in manures in which the farmers take a great interest; it has made my place abate. Mr. Ledlow Petrusch complimented me the other day. Going back to the turnip crop what I would have wished to have done in this particular case was that this young man should have sent to the farmer, or someone it through the parish priest or minister, or some public authority. We are carrying out such and such experiments, and I would be most anxious you would come and watch these experiments, and when they are fit to weigh come back again to us.

5062. Do you think they would come?—All would not come, but we must press them.

5063. (Mr. Brown).—Don't you think it would be a good idea to have meetings of farmers on these experimental plots?—Absolutely.

5064. Fixed meetings where they could meet the instructor and hear from him an account of the experiment?—Quite so.

5065. Is not that entirely a matter for the local committee?—I never followed what the Department or the committee are doing; I am only speaking from absolute experience of what I think would be a good thing for the country.

5066. You are quite right, but whose business is it to do it?—I should say the Government.

5067. Is it not the local committee that should call the meetings?—No, it is the young man; he has been very successful, and was received very well; I know what a farmer is, he is so suspicious.

5068. (Mr. Collins).—The Department is supposed to work through the County Council and local committees; they are supposed to have taken at the disposal for conducting experiments and showing the results of experiments to the interested public, or public that ought to be interested in their case, and the local people are the people who are supposed to secure the attendance while the instructor presents the material for them to study. It looks almost as if there had been some hitch in the local organisation in your neighbourhood?—No, that is universal; plots are put down and a post is put up, but there is nobody invited.

5069. (Mr. Brown).—That is not universal at all. They are invited in counties, but it is done entirely by the local committee?—Why not bring persons to hear on them.

5070. (Chairman).—I was going to ask you whether you think, in your experience, there is a perceptible improvement in the breeding of the cattle and one to take?—No, sir. We think there is great deterioration; and not alone deterioration in the quality, but an actual abatement in the general treatment of them. Everything seems to be left to nature, and as instance given to it. I really feel it almost humiliating to see some of the market returns from England, where our cattle are described as "flesh; starved."

5071. What do you attribute that to?—To the sad farmers shirking labour. The whole thing can be brought back to the question of taking of your men and working.

5072. Do you think the better cattle go to England or Scotland?—The Scotch are more keen on getting the better class of animal than the English. The English are particular about the dairy cattle. I don't think they are such keen judges as the Scotch. The worst amongst calves has also been very great. The my opinion to myself is that it is owing to the want of proper treatment in the winter. In Limerick we fed the animals are treated luxuriously during the summer; immediately it comes to the 1st of November, the season turns in, and the dairy cows are put from very good treatment to extremely bad treatment—that is, they get very strong hay, and they are not actually housed during the winter months. They are put in paddocks, places totally unsuited to an animal carrying a calf, and the more advanced the calf is becoming the less attention to the cows. I am very strongly of opinion that when the calf is born he is predisposed to every form of disease.

5073. Has nothing been done to remedy that?—The Department should take up half-a-dozen cows, whose calves had died, and commence to feed them from the 1st of November.

5074. We are not very much concerned with the actual treatment of these things. What we want to know is whether the people are getting to learn, or to be taught by the action of the Department, what they ought to do in such a case?—I don't think so. Were the Department did was to get over a very great credit, Prof. Nossal, and his treatment may be applied, but the farmers could not follow it. What you want is something practical, and there is no means of getting at them without illustrating it from their own experience.

5075. (Mr. Brown).—Don't you think keeping the hygienic clean has something to do with it?—It is a good way, and better feeding; but if it could possibly be brought home to them the extra expense, expense of keeping an animal of that kind, and that they would be more than compensated by the improvement in physique, and the yield in milk will be greater self richer. I have estimated the cost of feeding an animal liberally would be 50s. I said that to a farmer with thirty cows; he said, "How on earth am I to make it?" I said, "You will have an enormous decrease in the mortality; your calf will have a greater physique; you will be able to get 2l. for him; your yield of milk be the first six weeks will be over so much."

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5076. (Chairman).—You come here to speak mainly on the question of afforestation?—I do.

5077. You are a member of the Irish Forestry Society?—I am the honorary secretary. I am the first of four witnesses, and you were good enough to say you would take my evidence here, as I live in Cork, and the three other witnesses will treat with other aspects

of the subject—one in Galway, and the other in Dublin.

5078. Now, will you take that part of the subject you wish to deal with?—The personal qualifications of the present witness are as follows:—He has studied the subject for twenty years, both the theory and practice; he has for many years written on the subject for the

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Press, also pamphlets, etc.; he has visited State forests in Saxony and elsewhere on the Continent, also on the Gulf Coast of America; he has planted various trees in this country, also prepared plantations specifications and reports; he has been frequently consulted for advice on the subject, and his work included surveying, land valuing, farming, and the management of landed property; he has an intimate knowledge of Irish land, land tenure, and land laws, and has had long and friendly intercourse with the peasantry in the West, South, and East of the country; he has also been hon. secretary of the Irish Forestry Society since its commencement, being prominently concerned in directing its policy; and, lastly, was unanimously nominated by that body to place the following evidence before this Commission of Enquiry, leaving other points to be treated by other nominated witnesses. I would start by assuming—no doubt quite a safe assumption—that the Commissioners are prepared to recognise that a prima facie case has been made out in favour of State afforestation. It will, therefore, be sufficient to quote very briefly from the Report of the Departmental Committee, appointed in 1902, to enquire into British Forestry, for the purpose of indicating the conclusions arrived at by that Committee, namely, presuming that the substance of that report was adopted by Mr. George Wyndham, when Chief Secretary for Ireland, as applying generally to Ireland:—

In paragraph two the Report states:—"It will be found in our evidence that experts of high authority have recorded the opinion already expressed in many reliable publications, that the world is rapidly approaching a shortage, if not actual dearth, in its supply of continuous timber, which constitutes between 80 and 90 per cent. of the total British timber imports. The great area of waste lands in these islands, which might be afforested, and with regard to which some valuable evidence has been led, thus becomes a matter of grave national concern. No individual effort is likely to cope with such extensive afforestation, not only because British Forestry, as now practised, is inefficient, but because of the capital required, and time during which it remains sunk before producing income, and the lack of all security on private estates for continuous good management from the time that the forest is formed until matured timber is placed upon the market . . ."

Paragraph twelve states:—"It is the common verdict that timber of the kind and quality imported in such large quantities from the Baltic and similar temperate regions can be grown as well here as anywhere. In fact, it is a matter of common knowledge that European 'red wood,' and 'white wood,' so highly esteemed for structural purposes, are yielded by the Scots pine and the Spruce, two of the commonest trees of British woodlands. That foreign is so generally preferred to home grown timber is no way due to unsuitability of soil or climate, but it is entirely due to our neglect of cyclical principles . . ."

Paragraph seven states:—"Regular forest book-keeping is rare in Great Britain but we believe the various estimates of profit obtained from the cultivation of timber, which have been laid before both inquiries, to be substantially correct. These show that excellent returns, even with indifferent management, have often been obtained from plantations formed on land of little or no value for any other purpose."

Paragraph nine states:—"We believe that we are well within the mark in assuming that land quite capable of producing high class timber employs only one shepherd per thousand acres, if used as a sheep run, while all the evidence on this point goes to show that similar land when under timber gives employment to at least one man per hundred acres, and this without taking account of the labour requisite to remove and work up the timber. The possibilities, therefore, of forestry as a means of furnishing remunerative labour to an increased rural population are great."

The foregoing sufficiently proves on the most incontrovertible authority, first, that afforestation on an adequate scale is urgently required; second, that the State alone is competent to deal with the matter; third, that the Home Countries are able to grow suitable timber of first quality; fourth, that land of "no value for any other purpose" can produce "excellent returns" if planted; fifth, Forestry will provide remunerative labour to an increased rural population. Turning to the Review Committee's Report of 1905, which is substantially the *facta* of the Irish Department of Agriculture, we find it specifically stated at page 23:—"That this (Forestry) is one of the most important of all the directions in which, with the aid of the State, the wealth of Ireland may be increased." In another part it is referred

to as "the great work of reforesting Ireland." And finally, by turning to the Act of 1899, constituting the Department, we learn that the Government of the day adopted this view, and made suitable provisions with that object. Section 30, Sub-Section 1, states that "the expression," "the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries," "which is the burden of the whole Act" includes the sowing, improving, and developing of Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairying, the breeding of horses, cattle, and other live stock and poultry, home and cottage industries, the cultivation and preparation of flax, inland fisheries, and any industries immediately connected with and subservient to any of the said matters, and any instruction relating thereto.

In view of these precise and forcible statements it is pertinent to inquire how the Department has carried out their mandate with regard to Forestry. The Legislature in their wisdom has in Section 30 given it priority of position to everything except agriculture and horticulture, and yet it is the one and only subject which, until very recently, was altogether neglected by the Department, and even then it was only owing to the pressure brought to bear from outside by the Forestry Society that this, for the most part, ill-considered, and wholly inadequate action on the part of the Department was taken. The neglect and delay cannot be condoned by the insufficiency of the time requisite to enable the Department to "get into harness" as apart from the undoubtedly prior claim that Forestry holds to some of the other specified subjects, no Joint Stock Company existing, for example, would give the staff more than one or two years at the most to get over the preliminaries, and realise the first dividend of return, and the Department professes to be established on a business footing. I would like to interpolate here that, the Irish Forestry Society being a body largely composed of Forestry experts, several of them with long Indian and Continental experience, are unanimous in condemning the action of the Department in forming a School of Forestry at Avondale. Their grounds for doing so are that the money so expended might be more profitably spent at this juncture in sending one or two approved candidates to the Scotch or English or German Forest Schools for thorough training. That the instruction given at Avondale is inadequate, and in any case is premature, as few, if any of the pupils of the Avondale qualify can possibly obtain employment in Ireland in State forests—which is practically the only prospect open to them here—for at least ten or twelve years hence. That Avondale with its comparatively high class deep loam and is not a suitable locality in which to train men whose life work is supposed to be on the boglands and bare mountains, with a wide range in altitude, and atmospheric conditions, and where only conifers can be planted, and planted for slow, steady growth, and not for forced and rapid growth, as must necessarily be the case in the richer soils and sheltered situations, and more equable climate at Avondale. In this connection it is as well to remember the apposite fact that it was a Wicklow-trained forester who advised the Congested Districts Board to plant Knockree Bog, situated on the bleak, exposed coast of County Galway, with what wholly disastrous results everyone knows, and anyone with the proper training would have easily foreseen. But to resume my argument, events subsequent to the passing of the Act of 1899 have proved that the Legislature was right, and the Department wrong, in their respective attitudes towards the subject of Forestry. To take one example; in the year 1903 two events, namely, the passing of the Land Act and the great storm of that year, called clamorously, but in different ways, for the vigorous and intelligent action that only a properly constituted Bureau of Forestry was competent to provide. The Land Act, in the first place, set a premium on the wholesale destruction of timber by the owners before they parted with their land, and speeded the way for the tenant purchasers to extend and complete the destruction, and in the second place made it imperative that waste lands, useless for agriculture, should be at once acquired by the State, if they were to be acquired at all, before they were parcelled out and conveyed to the tenant-farmers for ever. The Forestry Society urged that provision should be made for this in the Act, and the Legislature made it, but the apathy and indifference of the Department frustrated to a large extent the intention of the Legislature. Again, the great hurricane that passed over the country left in its wake thousands of acres treeless. The immediate result was that the market for home timber was glutted. No action was taken by

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the Department, not in the absence of a fully organized and developed Forestry Bureau could be taken, to find markets for the unfortunate owners, who as private individuals possessed no influence, information, nor opportunity to do this for themselves. Nor could they obtain the benefit of free inspection and reports by competent specialists, nor the free grant of plants, nor advice to encourage them to replant. These luckless owners were suddenly confronted by an almost unprecedented situation, and had no powerful friend to succour them, and now there are thousands of pounds' worth of timber lying rotting on the ground, surely a sufficient reason that no re-planting has been undertaken by the sufferers.

As one other instance, in passing, of the scores of things that might and ought to have been done, but were neglected, is the holding of a systematic investigation into the question of the larch canker or peewee wilt, a systemic disease which, if taken in time and at this early stage when comparatively little larch is grown here, might be eradicated in Ireland, although in England and Scotland it is so disseminated that Foresters there seriously contemplate ceasing to grow this valuable building timber, with what beneficial results to Ireland can be imagined. Whether or not this fell disease could be eradicated by drastic measures analogous to those provided for in the Contagious Diseases Animals Act is a fit subject for enquiry, and the idea offers at least a working postulate not to be ignored. The Departmental Report on British Forestry, already alluded to, deprecated too much haste in instituting schemes of afforestation, but the peculiar circumstances in which Ireland is placed, both by the operation of the Statute Laws and economic laws, require that while education in Forestry should not be lost sight of, it must for the present hold a minor place, for the primary and urgent need above all others at present is, that provision should be at once made for the acquisition, by purchase or otherwise, of suitable waste lands as they become available, either for immediate or deferred utilization; after that, that a start should be made in judicious planting on a moderate scale, and after that, again, that education should be taken up. England and Scotland offer no precedents in this matter to Ireland, and therefore the recommendations of the British Commissioners must be modified to the extent indicated. For example, in Scotland two-thirds of the population are town dwellers; that country has a wealthy land proprietary; its estimated annual revenue, directly and indirectly, from its sporting resources is £2,000,000 (the annual rental alone of 2,125,000 acres of deer forest is £250,000), which sources of revenue has practically no analogy in Ireland; and generally that while in that country the national character is further developed and hardened into a definite pattern, the Irish are "a people still in the cradle." We cannot, therefore, afford to follow the lead of these countries too slavishly, at all events, in the matter of afforestation. The recent and belated action of the Department in adopting a suggestion of the Forestry Society, and employing a Scotch forestry specialist of the highest repute to prepare a series of pamphlets on practical forestry for gratuitous issue, calls for every commendation, and much more might be done in a similar direction to educate and interest the Irish public in trees and their preservation and profitability. Some rather rapid notices have also been issued for posting on Police Barracks, exhorting to the preservation and planting of trees, which is good in intention, although bad and perfunctory in performance. Mr. Campbell, in his evidence before this Commission, stated that the Department had been informed by the Estates Commissioners that they had only a comparatively small extent of available waste lands in their hands, and he indicated that it would be necessary to obtain compulsory powers of purchase before anything could be done. On the contrary, the vast bulk of the lands being sold under the Act of 1903 is not sold to the Land Commission under Sec. 6, as was evidently Mr. Campbell's impression, through a misunderstanding on his part of the recommendations of the Forestry Society, but is the subject of a direct deal between the owners and the corporee under the provisions of Sec. 3, and, accordingly, waste lands so dealt with would be disposed of before the Estates Commissioners had cognizance of the transaction. On this account it would be necessary to approach the owners direct, and, the Society anticipating this, has been making extensive inquiries and collecting information primarily for another purpose, with the result that they possess absolutely reliable information

that at least 50,000 acres of suitable waste lands in twenty different counties could, if necessary, be acquired at once for the specific purpose of planting from the owners without any compulsory Act. When the time comes, we can give the exact situation of each block of 1,000 acres upwards, and it may be added that there are no grazing or other subsidiary rights to hamper the title.

5079. (Mr. O'Brien).—Does that apply to the whole 50,000 acres—it applies to the whole 50,000 acres.

5080. (Mr. Bruce).—Would you have any objection to get the Committee a list of those 50,000 acres?—I could give it to you for the Commissioners' private information; we have been collecting it for another public purpose which I am not at liberty to explain at present. I now beg to offer the following suggestions for utilizing the material actually lying to hand, and I contend that existing statutes contain ample powers for putting these suggestions into immediate practice. Apart from the utility of waiting until Parliament passes further enabling laws, particularly in view of the urgency of the case, I have regard to the fact that under the 1863 Act land is passing in fee into the hands of the occupiers at the rate of about half a million acres a year—there is the suggestion that the cry for further powers is not due thereon in the eyes of the Commissioners to limit them to the reprehensible inaction and almost hostility of the Department to the subject of afforestation.

What we urge is that at least a start should be made having two essential conditions; first, that the policy adopted should be carefully thought out beforehand and be sound, adapted as far as admissible from the long-extended Continental systems, and when adopted it should follow the line of least resistance—gives these two conditions the ratio of that program a not so material, and in any case it must be characterized by extreme caution in the military and therefore experimental stages. As the purchase or acquisition of waste lands in the circumstances is of paramount importance, and it has been shown where these lands are to be found when required, it only remains to be shown where the money can be got. There are at least three sources, viz.:

1. The funds—both revenue and surplus—of the Department.

2. The revenue and capital in the hands of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, derived from the Irish Quit and Crown Rents.

3. Raising money from private sources on a State Guarantee.

I don't treat the third section at all, as one of the other witnesses will speak about it.

5081. (Chairman).—I think that would take us outside our reference, raising money from private sources on a State guarantee. What we are dealing with is the action of the Department—I understand that, and as a matter of fact I don't make any further reference to it.

5082. No, but I was enquiring whether we could go into that question at all. If you can show that the Department ought to have spent their money buying up lands for the purpose of forestation, that is another question?—I think I can almost guarantee that the evidence will be quite within the reference of the Commissioners, as I kept that specially before me.

Forestry has a clearly defined claim on the funds of the Department, although the exact annual amount is indeterminate. Taking the claims, however, at £5,000 per annum, which is not excessive, practically the whole of this sum has been accumulating since the Department started. There ought therefore to be a portion of the surplus funds amounting to £20,000 estimated for forestry. I am aware that the sum of "Forestry" has been charged with the £11,000 or so paid for the Avondale estate, but such a debit charge is not to be taken seriously, as I do not hesitate to say that the motive which led to the purchase of the late Mr. Parnell's property, excellent as those may have been, had not in their original conception the remotest relation to forestry. The bulk of the estate in any case has been re-sold to the tenants, and the cost of the forty acres planted in nursery stock, and used as a "Forestry School" is at the present juncture, and for the reasons already given, as much wasted money, and is, moreover, a serious menace to an established and profitable Irish industry, at the

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crop of half a million trees upwards cannot be grown to maturity at Ardara, and must therefore be disposed of as nursery trees in competition with the existing private nurseries. The other source from which funds may be derived is the revenue operated by the Crown Lands Act of 1839 to 1894 with special reference to the revenue and capital yielded by the Irish Quilt Bents and their redemption. According to the last annual report of the Commissioners the annual revenue from Ireland was £332,790, and for the eight years ending on the 31st March, 1905, the capital sum received for the redemption and purchase of those was £218,775. Section 52 of the Act of 1839 provides for the utilisation of these monies in the purchase of any lands in fee-simple, and section 113 in payment of the "costs, charges, and expenses," attending the management of the said possessions, and including the salaries (under section 12) of necessary officers, etc., which might be stretched to include a statutory corporation such as the Department. Section 34 of the same Act enables the Commissioners to sell or lease any lands to any "body corporate." If the whole history and traditions of the Woods and Forests Department did not preclude the idea, the obvious conclusion would be to hand over the organisation of Irish forestry to them, as their original Act contemplated. But in that case the matter would not come within the purview of the present Commission. We have, therefore, two Departments of State, the one possessing sufficient power and money, but not the confidence of the Irish public for reasons that need not be entered into, and the other power and money to a lesser degree, but which does on more or less all subjects, but that of forestry, enjoy popular confidence. In other words, it would enable the Woods and Forests Department to discharge its undoubted obligations towards Ireland, and to do so through a channel that was more in consonance with Irish ideas. This leads me to my next point, which is, to urge that a Bureau of Forestry should be at once organised and placed under the control of a small joint committee representing the Department of Agriculture and the Woods and Forests Department, and that sufficient funds be contributed by these Departments in such ratio as may be decided upon to provide for capital expenditure, and for the annual expenses of the bureau and staff. This appears to me to be the most workable and desirable method, but there is an alternative, which is that the Woods and Forests Department might under the terms of their Act, occupy the position of capitalist and employer, while the Agricultural Department, being a corporate body might, under section 12 of the same Act, act principally in an administrative capacity. What is said here only relates to the financial aspect of the subject. Assuming for a moment that the funds of the Woods and Forests Department were not available for any reason, this would not necessarily alter the character, but only the extent, of the application of my proposals, and these latter would have to be modified in the same ratio as the proposed contribution of the Woods and Forests Department bore to that of the Department of Agriculture. In order to arrive at the probable amount of money required at first, I have made the following calculations, taking a period of five years as my basis, that being a convenient decimal unit, and also for the reason that it is better not to start with too large ideas. I have kept in view the fact that, according to their last report, the Commissioners of Woods and Forests submitted to England for investment there the sum of £15,556 realised during the year (with the probability of increasing in the future) by the redemption and purchase of Irish Quilt Bents, and our contention is that this capital sum, being derived from Irish land, ought to be invested for the benefit of Irish land, and not be spent for the maintenance of English churches, and English pleasure gardens, among other things. I should also premise that my illustrative estimate contemplates the acquisition of 2,500 acres per annum during the first five years, which could, of course, be greatly extended from the first, or subsequently. This land might at first be purchased in blocks of 1,000 acres each, spreading the system as far as possible over the following districts, viz., West Cork and South Kerry, Conamara and West Mayo, County Donegal and elsewhere, i.e., where the waste land is suitable and according to our information can be at once acquired, and the rural population is most in need

of the incidental labour during the winter months. The cost of planting larger blocks would be relatively cheaper, but the extra expense entailed by 1,000 acre blocks would be compensated for by the advantages accruing to a more widely distributed population, and by the stimulative effect resulting from a greater number of settlers. Pursuant to the foregoing, the purchase of 2,500 acres at a cost of 2s. per acre equals £500 per annum, at twenty years purchase equals £50,000, 2,500 acres at 2s. per acre for drainage, fencing, and planting. (In the ordinary course it could be done for less, but I provide for extra fencing, housing, &c. for the smaller (1,000 acre) blocks), £12,500. Amount of capital invested annually for next five years, £15,500. N.B.—It should be noted that on the evidence of all the authorities this is an absolutely safe investment for capital, carrying interest, and being ultimately returned intact with profit. Annual expenses of central bureau, head inspectors, &c. (say) £2,500.

I might remark here that while there is much bogland that is unsuitable for planting, owing to the character of the crust, insufficient drainage, positionality of the mast clay to the surface, and other reasons, there are large areas that could be profitably planted with one crop of the coarser pines, which, in twenty years, would mature as pit props, yielding £1 per acre per annum for that period in addition to the earlier thinnings. If the "turf" or "peat" was then required for firing by the neighbouring farmers, the areas could be utilised in this way or again planted. Much bogland now derelict, but containing large deposits of peat or turf for use in the future, could thus be made in the meantime to yield its quota to the National Revenue. This is in addition to the high-class commercial timber which would have to be grown on the higher lands. With regard to the proposed staff of the Bureau and their duties, I cannot do better than make the following quotation from a report I and other members of the Irish Forestry Society recently prepared for the Committee, on the suggestion of a number of members of Parliament and other public gentlemen, and had the honour of submitting it to the Chief Secretary in the month of March last. The report recommends that—

The Bureau should be under the immediate charge of a Chief Inspector, aided by two or more Assistant Inspectors, with a subordinate staff of working foresters and clerical staff, as circumstances hereafter may show to be desirable.

The Inspectors should be properly qualified foresters, with a practical knowledge of the principles and methods adopted on the Continent of Europe, and a thorough knowledge of the forestry conditions prevailing in Ireland, together with an intimate acquaintance with the Land Laws and Land Tenure in Ireland.

The Bureau would be charged, *inter alia*, with—

(a) The co-ordination, consolidation, and control of all forest questions, and business now coming before the Department of Agriculture, the Land Commission, the Congested Districts Board, the Board of Public Works, or other Government Departments.

(b) The management of existing Crown lands suitable for afforestation, and the acquisition and administration of additional areas of wooded or waste or barren lands suitable for planting, as opportunities for purchase or lease may arise, and as circumstances may direct.

(c) Forestry instruction, higher and secondary, including the education and training of the various grades of foresters and workmen to be employed, with a further system of instruction designed to reach those who are unable to attend Forest Schools—say by popular lectures at country centres, distribution of literature, and as advised.

(d) The preparation of schemes of management, or the working control of such wooded lands, or waste lands proposed to be afforested, which may, from time to time, be acquired by, or assigned to, the County Councils or other public bodies.

(e) The advising of public bodies or of private individuals who are desirous of planting new areas, or of improving the yield capacity of existing woodlands, but who do not possess the necessary technical knowledge to ensure the best results.

(f) The carrying out of experiments in the growth and requirements of various trees under different

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conditions, and the testing of home-grown timber as regards quality, durability, &c.

(g) To deal with the question of advancing money to private individuals for the purpose of economic planting at a low returnable rate of interest.

The Forestry Society . . . believes that the best interests of forestry will be served by asking that the beginning should be a moderate one. A comparatively small grant will permit of the gathering together of the reins to direct future work, while dealing promptly and energetically with those questions demanding immediate settlement. It should, however, be understood that if in a year or two years' time the Bureau has justified its existence and proved its utility, the annual allocations would be increased to permit of the development of the work it is instituted to carry out.

5083. (Chairman).—You advocate the separation of forestry from the work of the Department of Agriculture and putting it under a separate organization?—To the extent suggested here that the Department should have a certain power of veto or a moiety of the responsibility, and whether a moiety of the expenses or not should be changed to the Department.

5084. I suppose you are aware of the enormous claims made on the Department's funds for all sorts of things?—I am very well aware of it.

5085. Do you consider forestry is a matter requiring special qualifications, that it would be better if should have a separate Department of its own rather than be thrown in as one of the many subjects with which the Department has to deal?—I feel it ought to be a Department of its own, but in America and France it is a sub-department of the Agricultural Department, or a Bureau, as they call it.

5086. The woods and forests in England are separate. I don't think the Agricultural Department has anything to do with them?—The Irish Woods and Forests Department is not a separate body.

5087. If I followed your paper correctly, you appear to advocate a combination of the Woods and Forests and the Agricultural Department?—That a Bureau should be started—call it a Bureau for the want of a better word—controlled by a small committee, two representing the Agricultural Department and two representing the Woods and Forests Department.

5088. (Mr. O'Connell).—You know that the Woods and Forests Department runs itself the Forest of Dean: what is your reason for departing from that precedent?—I don't quite follow you.

5089. The Woods and Forests Department does itself manage a forest Crown land; you would take no notice of that as an example; you pass that by: what is your reason?—We say that since 1859 they had power to establish forests in Ireland, and have not done so, and, as a matter of fact, during all that time the larger bulk of the Irish revenue and other resources has been sent across to England and spent in various ways, amongst other things the maintenance of English churches and pleasure gardens.

5090. The reason for suggesting a management separate from the Department upon whose funds you are to draw is that the Department, which has the capital and the name at present, has not shown itself very much interested in Irish forestry?—Fairly.

5091. It is not that they are incapable of carrying it out?—By no means; they are well able to carry it out.

5092. (Chairman).—You think they paid more attention to other matters than to forestry?—They have paid more attention to other matters; the only thing they have attended to in Ireland is the collection of the quit rents and remitting them to the Treasury in England.

5093. That is the Woods and Forests; I was talking of the Department?—Oh, I beg pardon.

5094. I imagined your view was that the Department of Agriculture had too many other things to do?—I am afraid they are not sufficiently interested in the subject, although the Act gave them a certain mandate to do something they have done nothing.

5095. (Mr. O'Connell).—Of course you are aware that it is very difficult to know what is the best thing to do for forestry. The Forestry Authorities have been discussing the matter for a good many years, and have presented several possibilities. I don't speak of Ireland specially—I mean throughout Britain. It is not yet a matter upon which there is that certainty that is desirable before a large amount of capital is embarked in it. I think the only thing that is certain in Ireland is that if the present opportunity of getting

land at a reasonable value is not seized now it will never occur again.

5096. And given that the land is purchased at the moderate price at which it is possible to secure it now you see a prospect of a second return?—Absolutely. I quoted from a reference in the English Report on Forestry, which was absolutely unanimous in supporting that idea.

5097. You referred particularly to purchasing blocks of 1,000 acres, and so on; we had some evidence put before us as to the desirability of money being advanced to encourage the planting of portions of estates that are being sold just now. Those portions would be less than a thousand acres on any particular estate. Would you contemplate the grouping together of detached portions, within easy reach of each other, to make your ideal block?—Not altogether; for this reason—that the larger the block the cheaper the relative cost. If it is broken up into a number of smaller blocks, the fencing, for one thing, would cost considerably more, and the watching would be more expensive, or the supervision.

5098. Then, in your opinion, the residue left in the hands of the landlord after the arable and pasture portions of the estate is sold, that residue is not so certain to pay if it was afforded, so would a larger block of apparently less likely land?—What extent has you in your mind—as it 100 acres or 200 acres or perhaps more?

5099. I understood from the tenor of the evidence that it would be about 100 acres, so that within a limited area there might be something like 1,000 acres in the total?—Yes, if they are close together there is no reason why they should not be worked together, except the reason that they cost more to work. As a matter of fact, I have here a return which Lord Gough, His Majesty's representative at Drogheda, sent to me of some forests I visited at Herelinst, in Sligo, some years ago, and I was asking him for particulars. It is a communal forest, worked for the general good of that place. The forests are, more or less, broken up, but they have not the difficulty of fencing, as the woods are protected by the statute laws of that country, which are very strict. In this country they have to be fenced on account of the ubiquitous trespasser.

5100. In Saxony and the Germanies, a considerable quantity of revenue is derived from the sale of firewood; would that source be available here?—I think it would, essentially. I think a great deal might be done in giving free grants of firewood to the tenants whose systems of grazing rights on mountains have been taken up.

5101. I hope I am quite right in understanding that your 50,000 acres are quite clear of grazing rights?—Absolutely free. In the return I took special note of that.

5102. You are thinking of other parts of the country, where there are grazing rights, and these grazing rights might be purchased by a promise of free firewood?—Yes. But that is a question of fifty years hence, and we have enough land to go on with for some time; all we asking is that a start should be made on proper lines.

5103. In the early years of the forest the work of a market for firewood and small waste wood would have an appreciable effect on the balance-sheet?—I don't think so. I know in all the woods I have had to do with in this country there is no difficulty at all in getting rid of all the waste timber lying about. When we fell the timber there is a large amount of branches and things that are no use as timber, and we give the countryside the free run of the place, and in a few days' time it goes. There seems to be a big demand of that class.

5104. (Chairman).—You can see the effects of the storm of 1903 still?—It is all over the place.

5105. (Mr. O'Connell).—Why has not that gone away?—I have no doubt the proprietors would be glad to see the bulk of that timber removed?—I am sure they would; but they would not be glad to see the country people coming in and disturbing the game.

5106. Don't you think they might find seasons of the year when they could let them come in without detriment to the game?—I suppose, after the storm, they kept them for a couple of years in the hope that they would sell, and the logs got so waterlogged that they were not good for anything. I suppose the branches and little things are taken away.

5107. (Chairman).—I know a place where the storm would have only been too delighted if he could have got people to take the timber away?—There was an earlier storm, I am thinking of 1896 or 1905, we had eight or nine thousand trees blown down, but it was

thirteen miles from the nearest railway station, and the country people get the run of the timber at a nominal sum, £d. or 6d. a tree, and took a large amount of it; but still there is a lot lying there, and may be lying there still.

5108. (Mr. O'Grady).—Have you had any experience of Scotch forestry work?—I have, to a certain extent.

5109. Do you find that where the part under forest is very much like the afforested portions of Ireland, do you find the people there remove waste timber?—The people there are better able to pay for it.

5110. You mean they pay for it?—They pay a certain amount, and take it away.

5111. You are sure of that?—A good large stick for 6d. as it stands.

5112. They would, at any rate, be prepared to take it for nothing; all the waste small timber that is useful only for firewood could be got rid of without paying?—I am afraid I don't quite follow you. You could never get a local market for all the timber.

5113. I would like you to put the thing to your own way, but this is the thing I want to get at: in the Saxon Forests and the Yongs all the waste timber can be got away without the timber authorities having to pay anything for the removal of it; if a forest is to be worked, there is a good deal of waste stuff to be removed in the earlier years, and all that that be cleared away here without expense?—It certainly could be cleared without expense in this way, but there is always a demand for thinnings for rails and posts, or a "stick" for a roof; there is always a demand among the country people, and they will pay something for it.

5114. If you had 50,000 acres, a large portion of it would be portions of the country not densely populated—there is not a population available for work waste of that sort?—No, there is not; but, of course, under the conditions that I am thinking of there would be local industries started. The bulk of the waste timber would be used for making pulp for paper, and things of that sort, and matches.

5115. That, again, would turn on your having a great deal more than a thousand acres in one block?—I am only speaking of five years, which is nothing in the history of a forest.

5116. In order to start a wood-pulp factory, you would have to draw upon many thousands acres of timber?—You would. It would not do to think of it as using the wastelands in the earlier years. From twenty years onwards there is a remunerative price for timber for pulp.

5117. But up to twenty years is just the time there is the greatest amount of thinning and cutting away of small lots?—It pays to take it away, because there is a demand for it.

5118. That depends on your proximity to the pit?—Or proximity to the sea, which is practically the same thing.

5119. (Mr. O'Grady).—You had all these things in your mind in coming to the conclusion that this would be a paying business and a sound investment in the direction of refunding capital, at the same time as making good what had to be paid for interest during the life of the forest?—Yes, absolutely. It is said—"How can you keep the people from stealing the timber?"

5120. (Mr. O'Grady).—I would not worry about that?—Very well; there is a very good answer to it, at all events.

5121. I was rather interested about your criticism of the Irish Woods and Forests, because it had not been my impression that they did cart the money out of Ireland in the wholesale fashion you describe. I have a recollection of their spending a good deal of money for increasing the Phoenix Park livery?—They spent £3,000 odd. They got very good value. We should not complain if they multiplied the amount by a hundred.

5122. Have they done nothing else than the little portion I happen to know of: you have made a study of their operations?—I have; in the report for the period of which you are speaking just now they spent £3,000 upon a little strip of ground on the banks of the Liffey, and they spent about £1,800 for the redemption of a head-rest at the Curragh; that is all they have spent in Ireland for eight years back; they had their office in Dublin and that sort of thing, but I am speaking of the expenditure of capital.

5123. (Mr. O'Grady).—I suppose, in order to establish forests on a really proper scale, you would require very large purchases of land; you would require the acquisition of a very considerable amount of land?—Our idea is that the bulk should not be less for

economic reasons than 1,000 acres each, but then, before purchasing the 1,000 acres, regard should be had to the possibility of extending them up to 50,000 acres if need be.

5124. You would purchase 1,000 acres in one place, capable of extension?—Yes, but only for the reasons stated. This is not a sound economic reason, but it is a concession to the conditions under which we have to work at present in order to extend the operations of the afforestation scheme further over Ireland. If we could afford to ignore that consideration, the thing would be to buy up 5,000 acres, say, in Kerry or Donegal, but then people in other parts would get no benefit from it.

5125. We have just heard a witness who told us that that is the sort of thing that spoils work here. You must train the people to see that the result of good work cannot be looked for under a number of years?—I am afraid you must take human nature as you find it.

5126. I am afraid the operation of the recent Act is not in all respects favourable; it has led to a great amount of destruction?—It has led to a vast amount of destruction, not only on the part of the landlords before they sold, but afterwards; it is not a universal bad thing, but it is a very general practice of the tenants to cut down the timber on their holdings. Our little Society are doing their best to educate public opinion on that subject, and we intend to work through the children as much as possible, as the existing generation is rather hopeless.

5127. It has been suggested to me that there has been a great deal of prejudice done to trees growing by the selection of unsuitable kinds of trees for planting when planting is done: has any illustration of that kind come before you?—Oh, yes; it is almost invariably the case, with only a few exceptions in the whole of Ireland, that the trees were either not the proper trees to be planted in the particular ground, owing to exposure or soil, or they were planted too closely together. Owners have to be planted very close to produce the best timber, but the practice in this country has been to over-plant them.

5128. Beeches have been planted where elms should have been planted, and where beeches won't grow?—Yes, the beech and ash won't always produce equally sound timber in the same ground.

5129. Have you seen many cases of the erroneous selection of trees for planting in Ireland?—The only case within my knowledge where sound forestry principles were adopted was the case of Lord Powerscourt's property in Wicklow; all the other instances I have had to do with personally have been instances of planting done in an ill-considered way.

5130. It has been suggested that one possible method of utilising the ability of such officers as you contemplate, the Forestry Inspectors, throughout Ireland would be that, apart from the duty of looking after particular forests that were being planted under direct supervision, they might advise anyone as to the method of planting to be adopted in areas which, although too small for remunerative forests, were still such as ought to be planted for shelter or ornament?—That ought to be part of the duties of such inspectors. In France the State will take charge of any wood over 354 acres in extent; they will superintend it even although it is private property.

5131. (Mr. O'Grady).—Then you don't think it would be a satisfactory thing to educate a man in forestry and send to give him sufficiently sound knowledge as to the requirements of trees other than conifers, although 90 out of 100 trees in Ireland are other than conifers?—I think an Inspector should know his business, and if he does, he must have a sound knowledge of the habits and characteristics of all trees, both the deciduous and the broad-leaved trees and the conifers.

5132. With regard to the purchase of the Arundale Estate, you have there an estate which affords considerable variety of possibility in the matter of tree-growing, and, when to the ground already secured has been added a portion directly illustrative of numerous difficulties and methods of treatment, you would have a fairly commodious area, have you any observations to make on that statement?—Except that I know Wicklow very well, and I know that the man who cut down good timber in Wicklow won't necessarily be able to grow good timber in Mayo or Galway.

5133. But in the case of a forest school it is not of the first importance that a man should be able to grow good timber of all sorts on the spot; he is not there

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long enough to see it in its successive stages; he has got to go from place to place to see the stages—He has to extend his knowledge.

5134. Therefore it is not essential that the position of the Forestry School should be absolutely in the centre of forests of the precise type that are to form the bulk of the students' work afterwards?—I think it certainly would be essential that part of the land that Forestry Schools are on in Ireland should be bog-land or analogous to it, and in that part we have none of it.

5135. Do you know the Forest School at Nancy?—No.

5136. You may take it from me that that is the school in which a large proportion of the Indian Forest officers are trained?—Yes, I know that.

5137. There are woods within fifteen or twenty miles of that which are very largely deciduous woods, and a little beyond that there are coniferous woods; there are no Indian woods; it would follow from your argument that if a man was to be properly trained for Indian Wood service he must necessarily be in a Forest School which has Indian woods in its vicinity?—Not altogether; my argument hangs together; the class of man who it is proposed to educate at Avondale is the class of man who is a specialist only in one respect, and that is that he must be able to plant trees in the bogs in Ireland; it is not proposed that he should be an all-round expert; that he should be just a foreman.

5138. A man planting, surely he does not require a two-years' course at a Forestry School?—In Germany the very lowest foreman gets at least a two-years' course; the course extends in some cases over eight years for the higher class training; excessively stiff it is.

5139. (Chairman).—Do you know the King's County bogs?—I do.

5140. Could they be planted advantageously?—I think generally speaking you can do it, but there are some bogs that won't grow timber under any circumstances; they seem to be poisoned. I have seen timber grown on bogs; in one part nothing would grow on it and in other parts you could grow coarse timber. The great thing is to experiment with them.

5141. (Mr. Brown).—There is one paragraph as to which I would like a little explanation: what is the body that you say "on all subjects but that of forestry enjoys the public confidence"; and later on you say "would be more in consonance with Irish ideas"?—The Department; I am contrasting there the Woods and Forests Department and the Department of Agriculture.

5142. I read it that that portion of the paragraph referred to the Woods and Forests; and what is the change that would be more in consonance with Irish ideas?—The change is the Agricultural Department.

5143. (Mr. O'Leary).—The "Woods and Forests" are to be the landlords, the men who have put the model into it, and the Department of Agriculture is to be responsible for the management of the forestry system?—Yes, the administration; I would go further and say they should contribute something towards it; what the amount of that should be is another question.

5144. (Chairman).—The "Woods and Forests" are to find the money and the Department to manage it?—The idea at the back of my head was that the Woods and Forests should supply the capital and the Department the current expenses.

5145. (Mr. Brown).—Have any of these blocks been brought before the Department, these blocks up to 50,000 acres?—Oh, no, they have not; this is the first mention of them here; it is only within the last week or ten days we got the information.

5146. Has the Department ever refused to purchase any specific block?—Oh, no, never refused any.

5147. You don't mention any specific case in which they have refused or neglected to purchase a suitable block?—The Department's sins are more sins of omission than of commission.

5148. (Chairman).—You don't think they have been happy in the experiments they have made?—The few experiments they have made in forestry have been most unfortunate; the Avondale School is wholly premature; at least ten or twelve years hence there might be some reason for it; at present there is no prospect of the pupils in Avondale finding employment in Ireland in ten years; the only result is that they will drift off to England and Scotland.

5149. (Mr. Brown).—On the other hand, if we begin planting at once we would have to bring over Englishmen and Scotchmen?—I don't think so; there are sufficiently competent men to do planting in Ireland. I have just been planting nearly 200 acres within twenty miles of this place with a lot of Irish labourers; they had one strike, but we had no trouble; they look to it like ducks to water.

5150. (Mr. O'Leary).—You don't want two years' training to teach a man to plant?—No, but you want two years to train a man to look after men planting. I think there are enough Irishmen of that class to mind a start.

5151. After all, it does not want very many if you have a fair staff of good foremen; the Inspector could go round and give general directions on the ground?—Precisely; I only mention £1,200 as the expenses of the business after including the salary of Inspector and headmen and everything.

5152. I think your estimate is a very good one?—It is a very small beginning, but I have always found if you have too large ideas at first you do nothing; as the Scotch say, "You must creep before you gang."

The Committee adjourned.

EIGHTEENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—MONDAY, JULY 2ND, 1906.

At the County Council Chamber, Limerick.

Present:—

SIR KENELM E. DUFFY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON NICKS.

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. JOHN TAYLOR, C.R., Secretary.

Very Rev. WILLIAM CARMY, P.P., Abbotstown, examined.

July 2, 1906.

Very Rev.
William
Carmy, P.P.

5153. (Chairman).—Would you kindly tell us what you wish to say—I have no note as to the nature of the evidence you wish to give?—To begin with, I would just simply say I am going to say very little about the whole thing, for I had not time to prepare it, but what I would say is this, that there is, to begin with, throughout the whole county, a great deal and against the way in which the thing is managed, and there is a number of people through the county who say it is all lost money. Well, I would not say that so far, but I certainly say it requires a great deal of remedying, because I think that things are not done so well, and the first thing that ought to be done would be that some initiative should be given to the committee. They ought not to be totally in the hands of the Department, as they seem to be. They have no way of doing things themselves. They cannot initiate anything, and they are bound to take, as far as my experience goes, whatever is dictated to them by the Department in Dublin. I don't think that ought to be so. What I would think with regard to it is that each committee, to begin with, ought to have power to initiate some scheme suited to their own county, and even in each county there should be things that could be applied to one part of the county and could not be worked in another. For instance, of course the east of the county, and the greater part of it, is all grazing and pasture land. That is so, but in the west of the county it is pasture land also, but at the same time my idea would be that more of the land should be given to tillage. There should be a prize given for the cultivation of, say, one acre of land every year in every ten acres up to fifty, or perhaps 100. If the farmers had fifty or 100, there should be prizes given, and also, I think, in order to encourage it some grant ought to be made that would do it—some grant given there as a prize for cultivating land. Then with regard to the technical part of it I should think that there ought to be some central place in lieu of all these different instructors. If there was some central place put up—in Dublin.

5154. In Dublin?—Or, I don't mind, any part of Ireland, a sort of training college for these; and I think, as far as most of the technical instructors are concerned, they are doing very little good. I see here that in the County Limerick in 1894-5 there was given to manual instructors £338. Well, I think it would be very much better for the county if that was applied to something else. I would say that would be almost money lost. I don't think these people do very good whatever. It may be a good thing to have them in large centres, but in the poorer country places they have done very little. With regard to technical classes for girls, there is one session in which they are allowed, and I think it ought to be extended to two or three, because I think the little they learn in one session is not quite up to the mark.

5155. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Where are these classes?—There are only two in our county; one in Newcastle West, and the other in Abberton. And then there is a grant of £2 per student allowed for this, and if they go in for a second term the teachers get nothing for the second term. I think two or three terms or seasons ought to be allowed them in place of one. I should say also that children over fourteen years of age in the National schools who have got over the seventh grade ought to be allowed to join

the classes and the grant of £2 per head ought to be allowed for them.

5156. (Chairman).—Would you have that general for all children over fourteen years of age, or only for those supposed to be fit for it?—Those who have got over the seventh standard in the school should be allowed to go in, but there is a rule laid down that if enrolled in the primary school they are not allowed to attend those classes. The time is very limited, so many hours in the year, but I think that would not interfere with their progress in the National school, and therefore they ought to be allowed. There is one thing more that I would say, that for all these things the great thing would be financial aid being given for industries on the lines of that already given for agricultural industries. I don't know that I would say anything else. The first thing I wish to insist on is that the committees in each county would have more power of initiating schemes. The next thing I would say would be that in place of itinerant instructors there would be some place got up in a central place to give instruction to a number of people and let them come out and go into the various districts to help the industries or revive the industries dead and gone, or to initiate new industries. Above all, this I would say, that some person ought to be sent into every county to instruct in agricultural business. That is very important. The technical business itself is important, of course, but with the exception of the land in the county outside the city itself there is very little, I think, to improve the condition of the people except in the way of industry.

5157. I don't quite understand what you say, that the committees have no power of initiative—have you any particular matters in your mind when you say that—could you give me an instance in which you think the committees tried to exercise power of initiative and have not been able to do so?—I know only that I have a case in my mind, and more than one, but I have one case especially, where we elected a person as a poultry inspector, and she was a qualified person and unanimously elected, and for some reason or another the Department would not have her.

5158. You had the power of initiative in that case, but the Department, who have the power of appointing, thought that this particular person was not qualified?—Yes.

5159. They may have been right or they may have been wrong—I am not discussing that now, but still that is hardly a case in which there is not power of initiative—there is not a power of carrying out what they wish to do?—I have not got experience of it in any way. We did not do it like that. We tried to keep within the rules. I was down in Waterford the other day and there were a great number of people there who came from all parts of Ireland, and Mr. Fletcher stood up. He had a scheme of his own and read it, and as far as I could understand all the people there had nothing to say to it. I did not see the good of taking us down to Waterford. We were allowed to talk, no doubt.

5160. That was a meeting to adopt a scheme which was discussed a great deal, and approved of by the Treasury?—I don't think it was.

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5161. (Mr. O'Grady).—That meeting was not a meeting called by the Department, but a congress of people interested in education?—Yes.

5162. And the purpose of the meeting was not to hear Mr. Fletcher or anybody else, but that those who had been taking part in the work of technical instruction might confer with one another and discuss the matter?—That was the object of the committee coming together, but Mr. Fletcher went down there nevertheless and read this thing out for us, and gave us to understand that no matter what we did this thing should be done.

5163. I think, perhaps, there was some misunderstanding about that, because Mr. Fletcher's business there was simply, as I understand it, to take advantage of the fact that so many people who were interested in administering technical education throughout the country were together, to take advantage of that fact, and explain to them a programme of grants which had been approved of for the purpose of giving further encouragement to technical instruction throughout the country. What he was to explain was not a scheme for a particular committee, but a method of giving other grants in aid of technical instruction which the separate county committees would be at liberty to utilise in framing schemes for their own particular areas, the object of his explanation being to make perfectly clear to them how full was the provision that was now being added, and what was the nature of the provision. It was not in any sense a matter of laying down a scheme for the separate counties, but rather of explaining provisions which had been made by Parliament for giving further grants which counties might utilise in adapting for themselves their existing schemes?—That may be so, but so far as I could understand the matter of course there were great numbers going down there that would like to say something about it, but they were not allowed. Each county ought to draw up their own scheme and try to work it according to the needs of the county.

5164. Is it not the case that what you expect to do now in making arrangements for the next year is that the committee shall draw up its own scheme and submit it to the Department, the Department making their inspector available, if you wish his services, to help you in preparing the scheme. In preparing any new scheme you will have the advantage of this programme of grants as an additional thing available for using public money to develop technical instruction in your area. The time for the county authorities to initiate is the time that is coming. They are now going to consider all the money available and propose to the Department a scheme for technical instruction within their areas. You propose that scheme to the Department presently and they will consider it—is not that the position?—I dare say that is the position, but they say this with regard to the thing I mentioned about the acreage under tillage—

5165. So far as this scheme to which you are referring just now is concerned, it appears to me there has been a misconception. Mr. Fletcher's business there was on behalf of the Department to make clear to the people there assembled the additional advantages which they were offered in the way of grants, advantages which the local authorities will be in a position presently to utilise in framing wider, more ambitious and more costly schemes within your areas?—That is not the impression it made upon me. What it seemed to me was he stood up and gave his views. Some people put questions and he answered them, and as far as I could see it left the impression on my mind that no matter what the congress thought, his scheme was to be carried out.

5166. (Chairman).—Suppose that instead of this being the action, as you allege, of the Department trying to force schemes upon County Councils, taking away their initiative, suppose it was a meeting to explain to the people how it was that after a long controversy with the Treasury they had got very favourable terms for the new scheme, and illustrating the position which resulted from the correspondence between the Department and the Treasury—if that was the case it would rather alter your opinion?—Oh, certainly, but the impression left on my mind was what I say.

5167. (Mr. O'Grady).—You are quite right in the impression that the scheme which Mr. Fletcher was explaining was a scheme that could not be altered as the result of the questions or answers at that

meeting. That was absolutely right. The point is that there was a scheme in respect of which the separate counties were going to make a fresh demand on public money for technical instruction—and county will have to make its own arrangements?—Is it so. One more question that I forgot. The money proposed to be used in this country was £1,700 in one year. I should think if there were some permanent industries got up in three or four parts of the county, and having this money divided between them each year, and then going on to the next place it would have done very much more good.

5168. (Chairman).—My question was rather directed to removing what seems to me to be rather in the nature of a misapprehension about this particular meeting in Waterford. As to the itinerant instruction, you say you very much prefer some central training. Would you have a central training college, and how would you bring it home to the small tenants, the poorer people, if you did not send itinerant instructors about?—I certainly say they should come, but let this centre be formed. In the county I would get up four places. These are one at present at Newcastle for a manual instructor. He is kept there for a year. I would say get up in three or four parts of the county centres for these industries, and let an industry be got up in each that would suit that part of the county.

5169. Do you say that itinerant instruction is not being much used in this county?—It has been used and has done a certain amount of good.

5170. What sort of itinerant instruction has done the most good?—The needlework and cookery and laundry. I think these things have done good.

5171. What is called by the name of domestic economy—you attach great importance to that?—I do. If they got three sessions in place of one, and let the same girls continue for three sessions, and let the grant of 52 per head be given for them.

5172. You wish to develop that rather than repeat it?—Yes.

5173. That is a very important suggestion: what do you say about vineyard instruction in poultry-keeping?—I certainly say it would be of great use. We have no experience in Limerick, for there is this drawback there. We think we are very badly treated by the Department, if this lady had the only qualification that she could have got.

5174. That was a case in which they did not accept your assistance?—The County Council are determined to fight it out.

5175. With regard to itinerant instruction in dairying?—Dairying, which is very important in the part of Ireland, is improving, and will do a certain amount of good, but there is very little room in the County Limerick for it now, because these creameries have done away with it.

5176. All your milk goes into the creameries now?—Yes.

5177. Now as to manual instruction for boys, do you think its results were good?—I don't think it did any good throughout the country. It may have done some little, but not £250 worth of good.

5178. Do you think the reason instruction has failed, so far as it has failed, is due to the instructors themselves, or to the fact that the people do not take sufficient interest in it?—The instructors themselves do their work well, but the people themselves do not take sufficient interest in it. It is very hard to get up a class for every term. If the few that will take to it were made perfect it will do all the good in the world.

5179. Do you think people are beginning to take more interest in it than they did?—I would not say that. I think it is about the same.

5180. (Mr. O'Grady).—You said you thought that pupils over fourteen years of age in National schools who had got beyond the seventh grade should be allowed to join the classes—does that refer to classes like needlework, domestic economy, and so on, or to the manual classes?—Needlework, laundry, and cookery. The three that go hand in hand.

5181. Does it also refer to the boys—do you also wish that the boys should be allowed to have manual training?—They should, of course, if we are to continue the manual instructor; but I think he ought to be got rid of.

5182. Do you think it a desirable thing for boys of fourteen or fifteen to have, in addition to the finishing off of the primary education, some instruction in dairying and manual training?—Certainly, I think so.

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Very Rev.
William
Conry, P.R.

and it would be an education to them if it did no more good.

5193. I am afraid I interrupted you when you were going to say something about financial aid to industries?—I should wish to have that done to all industries; and I think until that is done you cannot get up local industries all over the country.

5194. Would you say all industries or only industries of a particular kind; you could not possibly subsidise everything?—If there is a little industry started in a centre, that should get some aid.

5195. Would you draw a distinction between old industries which were being revived, like the woollen trade in some places, and locomaking?—I would prefer the old ones, and where it would be possible or useful to start them in other places where they have never been. The people of Ireland have not got sufficient training yet to begin to start without some aid in the way of money.

5196. How would you advance the matter—on what kind of security?—That would be a difficulty that seems to me not, but at the same time a chance should be given. They should charge a little more per acre for it than they would on the land, because buildings alone would be accountable in the case of industries, and they would not be of the same value as land, at least they would not continue so long. But what I

would wish to impress on you is with regard to the village. I believe it would be a great advantage if village was increased throughout the country. I had a letter a month ago from a man in Wicklow, and he told they got up a society there, near Bellingham, and he said that a farmer who had only one labouring man before they got up this society to encourage tillage has now six men.

5197. In what way was assistance given there?—One acre of tillage is equal to three acres of the best pasture. That is, one acre of tillage, and employing a man, can be made to give as much as three acres of pasture land, and would find as many head of cattle as three acres of the best land, and that would mean so much improvement, and it would alone compensate.

5198. I did not ask whether you yourself were on any of the committees?—I am chairman of the County Committee.

5199. The committee consists of sixty persons?—That is the rule.

(The Secretary).—Sixty-five.

5190. (Chairman).—Of whom 28 are members of the Council?

(The Secretary).—Yes.

5191. (Chairman).—The others are outsiders?—Yes, nominated members.

Mr. MICHAEL MURPHY,

Dromelby, Co. Clare, examined.

5192. (Chairman).—You are a representative of the Council of Agriculture, appointed to give evidence before us?—Yes. I was appointed by the Clare County Council a member of the Council of Agriculture three-and-a-half years ago, and have attended four meetings of the Council of Agriculture during that period. Resolutions were submitted by the Department for the consideration of the Council. After full discussion on the resolutions submitted, as well as other important matters, dealt with by notice of motion by members of the Council, the resolutions were either amended, withdrawn, or unanimously adopted. At these four meetings the greatest harmony existed between the Department and the members of the Council of Agriculture. The relations between the Council of Agriculture and the Board of Agriculture are most harmonious. At meetings of the Council I never heard of any difference between members of the Board and the Council of Agriculture, until the meeting of the Council held on the 15th of May, 1906. It was then for the first time ascertained that the Board of Agriculture, with the approval of the Department, had contributed towards the funds of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Association a sum of £17,000, without the knowledge of the Council of Agriculture. I mention this matter, it being the first time the action of the Board and the Department were strongly commented on by the members of the Council. The matter being adjourned for further consideration by the members of the Council to their next meeting, I refrain from further comment. Nothing better than closer relation should exist between the Department, the Board of Agriculture, and the Council when such payments were to be made, especially such money being intended for the purpose of addressing agricultural instruction in Ireland. The Council of Agriculture and the Board of Agriculture, as well as the Technical Board, work in harmony together; the two latter, being two Boards, properly constituted, the majority being elected by the representatives of the different County Councils of Ireland, the other being the nominated representatives of the Council. Ireland being an agricultural country, the Department should take action to have agriculture taught in the primary schools in the rural districts of the country, and thereby give the rising youth of the different counties an opportunity of learning the most up-to-date system of performing agricultural operations. I should say schools with an average attendance of about 140 pupils should be chosen. This would be the teaching of agriculture within the range of every youth in the country. The Department expend a considerable sum of money on financial instruction on lecturing on agriculture in the country. I would suggest that the Department should give more practical proof of the value of their lectures by practically showing the farmers from demonstration plots on a large scale, later on all over the several rural districts, how to cultivate according to their lectures'

instruction. I am of opinion these lectures are almost useless without giving practical proof of their work. Mr. Michael

A series of veterinary lectures has been delivered by Inspectors of the Department. I would recommend that the Department should send down their Veterinary Inspectors to the centres in which they previously lectured, and have the farmers of the locality collect these calves and have them inoculated as a preventative against black quarter, which is very prevalent throughout Munster. At another period of the year they should attend at some centres for the purpose of treating cattle against a prevalent disease in Munster, known as abortion in cattle. Both these diseases cause great loss to the farmers of Munster. The Bull and Horse-breeding Schemes are working fairly well in the county of Clare. The bulls imported into the county up to the present, with few exceptions, are not of the best quality, and require to be improved in future. The Horse-breeding Scheme has been availed of, and on the recommendation of the County Committee of Agriculture, they have introduced the half-bred sire and draught horse into the county. The Manual Instruction Classes in the county are well attended, and it is expected some benefit will accrue from same, as there are two very capable Manual Instructors in the county. The Department lay emphasis on the success attending their farming pursuits in Glanerin and the other agricultural stations in Ireland. This is not to be wondered at, as they have the best land, the most up-to-date farming implements, and the most competent agriculturists. I would suggest the Department would take up some small, poor quality farms, like the average farms, and see the result. I understand the Department seems to begin their work from the farms worked by them. It would be well, on a small scale, to try some operations on poor farms—I mean farms on which there is poor land. The Department should take greater interest in the down-sloping of the South-Western coast of Ireland, by providing, if possible, better boats and conveniences for the poor, helpless fishermen off the coast of Clare, Kerry, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford. These poor hard-worked men deserve every consideration from the Department. The Department is working six years in Ireland. Its methods were new to the farmers, and I may say the Irish people in general. Up to the present it has done some good, but the good accomplished is not equivalent to the money expended during the past six years. A good deal more is expected in the near future from the working of the Department, which I expect will be achieved by closer connection with the public bodies in Ireland, and especially with County Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction throughout the country. I am of opinion the Department's Consultative Committee are not conversant with the requirements of the different counties in Ireland when approving of the different schemes, and should be more representative.

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Mr. Sticks
Mossell.

5193. You live in Clare?—Yes.

5194. Tame question of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society stands over until the next meeting of the Council of Agriculture, and will be discussed then?—Yes.

5195. What did you say about the agriculture taught in the primary schools—how far would you have agriculture taught in the primary schools?—I would have it taught in its initial stages in the primary schools. My idea in recommending such a course is that the ordinary farmers' sons would not have access to these central Colleges, and it would be well then that it should be taught in its initial stages in the primary schools.

5196. Would you have plots attached to the primary schools?—Small plots in connection with the different schools in which the teachers would be qualified to teach agriculture.

5197. Would you have it taught by the teachers of the schools—primary schools, we know, are not under the Department?—I know that of course. Provided the teacher was qualified to teach it, I would give him the preference.

5198. It would not do to carry that too far. If you teach these young pupils it generally ends in their learning text-books which do them no good?—Yes; that is the danger.

5199. Still you think they ought to get the taste for it?—I think so—I believe so. My reason for suggesting it is that when a boy is educated at one of these first-class agricultural colleges, I dare say he won't turn again to agricultural pursuits in Ireland, and it would be well that those who remain in Ireland would have some knowledge of the up-to-date system.

5200. What you want to do is to teach the poor people, and raise the level of the smaller tenants?—Quite so.

5201. On the whole you give a rather favourable account of itinerant instruction in your county?—Yes.

5202. Are the lectures fairly well attended?—They are very well attended. In my district, in the western part of the county, they are very well attended, and I believe they are throughout the country in general.

5203. What do you attach most importance to in that teaching?—All the schemes are working fairly well, but a great deal of benefit has not accrued up to the present from the schemes. We expect a great deal more. It takes a long time.

5204. Do you think the people are getting more interested in it, and taking more advantage of it than they did before?—The domestic economy classes are well attended, both at the convent in Ennis and the convent in Kilmuckish. The girls attend there, and are generally very successful.

5205. What do they do afterwards?—They go home again, and some of them go to America.

5206. Are you doing much with poultry in Clare?—The Clare people don't look up to poultry very much, but nevertheless it is being introduced into the county, and there are new breeds of fowl.

5207. The men don't take much to it, we are told?—Yes.

5208. You say you have not enough high-class bulls?—No. There is great complaint against the breed of bulls imported into Clare—that they don't develop themselves properly. They are rather small.

5209. (Mr. Brown).—What breed are they?—In the first years the Shorthorn, Hereford, and Fallow Angus bulls were included in the scheme. Then the Herefords were knocked out. They were perfectly useless. Some of the shorthorns are very good, and some very bad. They were imported by the Department from Scotland, and sold afterwards to the selected applicants for premiums through the county. Some of those bulls were perfectly useless. The applicants were not inclined to pay the high price for the bull. They average £30 or £34 apiece, which is a fairly good price for bulls for the County Clare. Some of them turn out more weedy.

5210. (Chairman).—Have you anything to suggest about that?—That the Department should take steps to provide better-bred bulls.

5211. (Mr. Brown).—In other counties the persons who get premiums have to purchase their own bulls?—They have to purchase them in the County Clare, too. The Department purchases for the applicants, and sends them to the applicants.

5212. In most other counties the applicants themselves select their own bulls?—Yes; and some of the applicants in Clare do select their own bulls, but the majority are sent down by the Department.

5213. Were the bulls selected by the applicants better than those purchased by the Department?—All the bulls that were selected by the applicants were selected on the recommendation of the Department's inspectors, and some did not turn out very well. Some that were selected turned out very well, and some very good bulls.

5214. Have you an agricultural instructor in Clare?—Yes.

5215. Has he any experimental plots?—No, he has over seven experimental plots for potatoes, different varieties. They are not very large plots. The county is very large, and he is doing the best he can.

5216. How long have you had him?—This is the second year we had in Clare an agricultural instructor. The first year unfortunately the instructor died, and we were without one for the next year, but the present is very successful in the county.

5217. (Chairman).—Has he the whole of the county?—Yes.

5218. There is very little land in Clare under the Opened Districts Board?—None at all.

5219. There the whole of the fishery is under the Department?—Yes.

5220. Do you think more is wanted there than they are now doing?—I think so. The man who deals along the coast is very poor. These men are provided with very bad boats and gears, and if the Department could assist them, I think it is very much needed. The Department, I think, only contributes to mending pieces, to an existing pier at Lisacunnor, and that is in the northern portion of the county. Then there is the coast all along to Quilty, Killyard, Kilmoe, and Loop Head. Salmon is fished in the Shannon, and there are some other fish taken in the deep Shannon outside. If the Department could see their way to assist them it is very much needed.

5221. (Mr. O'Grady).—You are very much alive to the necessity of doing something for the agricultural education of those who are to be farmers in a small way?—Yes.

5222. We find in some counties a part of the scheme which the Department has encouraged is the formation of short winter courses for a few weeks and at a time when youths of from 17 to 21 can be spared. They bring them up either to stop in a centre or allow them to go home by an evening train, and keep them for, say, five or six weeks, and give them a course of instruction in agricultural subjects. Is there anything of that sort in Clare?—No.

5223. That would get at the kind of man you have in your mind?—It would.

5224. There is another direction in which the Department has been moving. We saw at Glanville a farm where they gave facilities for instruction at very low rates to young men of the same kind who can come away from their farms for a year. They are a sort of apprentices, and get the whole year's teaching at fees of from £3 a year upwards, including their keep, just to prepare them for small farms?—I am aware such a scheme is in existence.

5225. And that the Department are entitled to establish them at different centres?—I am perfectly aware of that.

5226. Is that scheme sufficient, coming on top of the winter course scheme—is that sufficient when fully developed to meet the requirements of the class you have in mind?—I should think so, after the winter course being over.

5227. If you had demonstration plots, small plots of any kind attached to the larger primary school, and if the winter course arrangements were developed on a sufficiently large scale, and then agricultural schools for agriculture were worked out as the Department has planned them, you think that would make a fairly complete system?—I believe so.

5228. We find that sometimes a thing that does very much to bring home the results of the demonstration plots to farmers is being carried out in certain counties where the local committees arrange to have the farmers brought together to have a sort of demonstration by the instructor on the plot at intervals, so as to show them exactly what the things are, as distinct from lectures in a room?—That is my idea.

5229. That is being done in other places?—I am aware it is.

5230. That is the sort of thing the County Committees have in their own hands?—In Clare the plots are very small. They are only used for testing different seeds and new varieties of potatoes. You could

not designate them as demonstration plots. My idea of plots would be on a larger scale than those, and to designate four or five centres. We could not have a lecturer at every centre, and then they should be on fairly poor land. I would not go in for cultivating the very best land, but would try to show that ag-

riculture is successful, and bring it home to every man's door.

5231. These different methods of attacking the problem are all very well considered, and when they are fully developed and in operation they ought to meet the wants I—I think so.

July 9, 1906.
Mr. Michael
Meehan.

The Right Hon. LORD EMILY examined.

5232. (Chairman).—You attend here on behalf of the County Council of Limerick?—Yes. I am appointed with the Chairman of the County Council of Limerick.

5233. You wish to speak about the methods adopted by the Department for carrying out the purposes of the Act?—I desire, first of all, to protest in the strongest possible manner against the resolution by the Government of Sir Horace Plunkett in any official capacity whatsoever. In Ireland it is not advisable that even our nearest official should light the torch of religious discord. Sir Horace Plunkett, who is practically a government within a government, recently wrote a book which has profoundly hurt the Catholics of this country, and, indeed, Catholics all over the world. Let us suppose—which is, of course, a gigantic supposition—that in Scotland a Catholic wielded the well-nigh unlimited power at present wielded in Ireland by Sir Horace Plunkett, and that he should permit himself to write from the Catholic standpoint such another book as the book written by Sir Horace Plunkett reflecting on the religious belief of the majority of the Scotch people, reflecting on their Church and on their ministers of religion, and reflecting on their schools, would the Scotch people stand it? In Canada recently an excellent but somewhat indiscreet soldier made certain remarks disrespectful to Canadians. His services were not considered indispensable. Sir Horace Plunkett's book at all events, is not the fittest to be recommended for the propagation of that shy grower and tender and sensitive plant—the union of hearts. We were in Ireland—I was a Home Ruler—we say some time or other where Home Rule; and in those days should a prominent Catholic official (now) Protestant, which I should most deeply and bitterly regret, but should he do so he will, at all events, have a convenient precedent. Again, was it not understood that the office Sir Horace Plunkett holds necessitates a seat in Parliament? No constituency, however, is so much as to do his recreation. He is rejected in the north; he is courted in the south. Neither north nor south will have him at any price. He runs with the southern and harks with the northern hounds. It is only then that Sir Horace Plunkett makes the discovery that the office he holds does not necessitate a seat in Parliament.

5234. I suppose you are aware of what Sir Horace Plunkett has said about that?—I did not read his evidence.

5235. It is a pity you did not. Let me draw your attention to the statement made by Professor Campbell, Chief Agricultural Inspector of the Department: "I may say we don't consider Limerick a progressive county. It appears to have bred a class of people who don't go in for home dairying or home industry of any kind." The Limerick merchants are as progressive as any merchants in Ireland; but there is a necessity whatever to whitewash the Limerick merchants. Now, the schemes formulated by the County Limerick Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction are as follows:—A scheme of technical instruction with five itinerant instructors and schools working for capitation grants, in needlework, cooking, laundry, and manual instruction; a scheme of horticulture and bee-keeping, with one itinerant instructor; a scheme of cottage and farm prizes, and a live stock scheme which includes horses, eight mare shows, cattle (twenty shows), and swine—a well-filled menu for a progressive county. Besides, we made provision, here allowed a sum for the appointment of an agricultural instructor, salaries, expenses and expenses, £350 a year. I have been told by the Department's Inspector that we probably could not have one for twelve months. It would thus appear that the non-progressive County of Limerick has progressed ahead of the progressive Department. A very condensed summary of the Limerick cattle scheme will at once dispose of Professor Campbell's criticism and strikingly illustrate how the County Limerick farmers are

able to manage their own affairs without the grotesque interference of the Department. County Limerick is essentially a dairy county, and the Limerick County Council have always insisted on the absolute necessity of the selection of cows for service by premium bulls. The Department attempted to force on the county a scheme to the effect that any cow, no matter what breed or quality, provided it belonged to a farmer, labourer, or artisan, was entitled to the service of a premium bull. In February, 1904, the committee, inquiring on their view, drafted a cattle scheme of which the following is the summary:—1st. Cows to be selected by three judges, one appointed by the Department and two by the committee. 2nd. Number of nominated cows for each rural district—I won't trouble you by reading that. 3rd. That it be an instruction to judges in considering shapes, &c., of the animals to take the milk-producing qualities into special account. 4th. Special prizes for best cows in each district. 5th. Nominated cows to be put to the approved shorthorn bulls. 6th. Produce of nominated cows and approved bulls eligible to compete, and on judges considering them of sufficient merit to be entered in the herd book. 7th. No limitation to valuation of farmers competing at these shows. Only selected cows might be served by premium bulls according to this scheme. In the reply of the Department acknowledging the receipt of that scheme we read:—"Referring to the committee's resolution as to the selection of cows for service by premium bulls, the Department, as they pointed out in a previous communication dealing with a similar resolution, regret that they are unable to agree to the incorporation of this proposal in the general cattle scheme." That was in 1904, but in the dairy scheme of the Department for 1906 the Department incorporated all the suggestions contained in the scheme of the Limerick County Council of 1904. That dairy scheme now is the dairy scheme of the whole of Ireland. The Limerick County Council were, therefore, over two years in advance of the Department. Such an author as Fleischman wrote that "the capacity which had been originally developed in herd or breed for giving large quantities of milk might be very quickly lost again. Therefore, a proper selection of breeding animals must first be intelligently made and a careful superintendence of subsequent breeding, rearing, and feeding must be exercised, while attention, care, and every other precaution must be taken in reference to such circumstances as might exert an influence on the milk yield." And again he says:—"Bulls for breeding should be regarded as especially valuable when they have had for their ancestors cows with favourable qualities and good milking yields." Experience proves that the cross of the shorthorn and the ordinary cow, if sold within a year of its birth, will be sold at about £1 less profit than the calf of the ordinary bull and cow. The cross matures slowly. The profit may be looked for when the calf becomes a two-year-old. Then we come to another point. The Department is very erratic. It is perpetually "You must not do this" and "You must not do that." Then they are always threatening us with the Auditor. The Department decrees that no instructor must be appointed under the live stock scheme in his or her own county. The same rule does not apply to appointments under the technical scheme. A Limerick woman may not be a poultry instructor in Limerick, but she may teach poultry or laundry, and manual instruction may be imparted by a native of the county. The Limerick County Council appointed an instructor in horticulture. They also selected eight demonstration plots. They allowed funds as follows:—Salary of instructor, £104; expenses, £60; demonstration plot, £46—total, £210. The Department, in full war paint burling on top of us, communicates with the instructor we have appointed, prescribes what manures, vegetables, and flowers and fruits we must put in our plots, and even the very quantities—3 stone nitrate of soda, 1 oz. of locks, 1 pint of bread

Lord Emily.

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Lord Ebury.

beans, 2 of peas, 1 packet of wallflowers, and 2 dahlias. They threaten us, as usual, with the Auditor. The letter is signed E. P. Gill, the very same gentleman who, with much protestation, asserted that "he did not hesitate to say that even apart from the functions of the Council and Boards there was not any Department in the world which consulted with and took into account the opinion of the people concerned in its working and the suitability of the work to the circumstances of the country to the extent to which it was done by this Department." They even prescribe two dahlias.

5235. (Mr. Oylife).—Where is that quotation from?—The "Froeman's Journal." In the report of Mr. E. P. Gill's evidence. The Department may be vindictive, too. We appointed our remarkably able secretary on the 21st of April, 1903. At a meeting of our committee, an unusually large and influential meeting on the 25th of December, 1904, we unanimously resolved to give our secretary an increase of £50 per annum in his salary. The work had greatly increased, but meanwhile we had directed our secretary not to carry out the Public Bodies Orders Act, and the Department refused to allow our secretary a larger sum than £25. They wrote that he had not sent in the accounts properly. He obeyed us, and was fined £25; that is what it looks like. Now, there are one or two remarks I would like to make in reference to Dr. Sturges's evidence. He referred, I think, to the disgusting state of some of the National Schools.

5237. (Chairman).—He spoke strongly about it. And, further than that, he referred to the difficulty of inducing the Board of Works to build any extensions to National Schools. I applied for an additional grant for my school for a cloak room and lavatories. I offered to pay my share. I offered a playground, free of rent, twice as large as the present girls' playground. Let me acknowledge the courtesy of the Board of National Education and their readiness to help me, but of all impossible Boards, and by far the worst, the Board of Works blocked the way. Eventually we had to erect a new building ourselves. To teach cookery there must be a room; not do singling lessons materially help the children who are struggling with their arithmetic. Nothing does drill. Cleanliness cannot be comfortably inculcated without a decent place to wash in, and decency is outraged when the same hole in the ground must suffice for infants of four and grown up persons of 16 or 17 years of age. There should be women inspectors as well as men inspectors.

5238. "We have nothing to do with National Schools, you know, except in so far as they come into relation with the Department"—There are at present women inspectors of boarded-out children, and I should like to see women inspectors as well as men inspectors in the National Schools.

5239. Well, we really have nothing to do with that. I want to refer to the question of itinerant instruction. To my mind, the system works fairly well, but only fairly. That is to say that these itinerant instructors, instead of giving only one course, should give three or four courses in the same locality. Take, for instance, manual instruction. We had a course of manual instruction in our schools. We had there no less than five carpenters' apprentices and two carpenters. We had an attendance of about twenty. It was a very well attended class. Then, after about six weeks, the manual instructor goes. What advantage was it to these people? Absolutely none. If we had had three other courses within a reasonable lapse of time, the advantage to the locality would have been very great. The same remark applies to all itinerant instruction.

5240. You think itinerant instruction has been to some extent beneficial?—To a certain extent.

5241. What is the kind of itinerant instruction that, in your opinion, is most suitable to the people?—For men, undoubtedly I would say manual instruction. That is my impression.

5242. Are the classes fairly large?—The classes at Tervoe are very large, indeed. We had the largest average attendance of any class in the County Limerick. I prefer to teach the young people to teaching the adult population. We find that in a great many cases the adult population come there in order to see what is going on—not really to receive information, but to amuse themselves.

5243. We were told the other day that a farmer after forty years of age was not likely to profit much

by instruction?—Yes; I should like this instruction to be imparted in the National schools.

5244. They are rather young in the National schools to begin with anything like technical instruction, are they not?—I should not have thought so. The cookery and needlework—they are not so young for that. Take manual instruction in our schools. I would also like to teach the children horticulture, but we have great difficulty about that. The clash between the National Board of Education and the Department comes in there.

5245. That is not the Department's fault?—I don't think it is the fault of either of them.

5246. (Mr. Oylife).—It is the fault of these being two?—Exactly; but, of course, you see that the men in the National Board to which you tell me I may not allude

5247. (Chairman).—No; the point you are touching on now affects also the Department, as throughout the co-operation between the Department and the National Board as regards this?—What I was going to say was the difficulty of teaching the children horticulture is that you cannot find assistant teachers sufficiently well trained in horticulture to teach the children. On the other hand, if you go to the Department you must have the adult population with the children, which is destructive. There is a difficulty. If you have purely and simply a National Board school, and you try to give that education there, you find you have not got the teachers. If on the other hand, you apply to the Department, they say—"You must admit adults as well as the children," which the Board won't allow, except as a concession. I mean it is against the rules.

5248. (Mr. Oylife).—You are aware that the National Board have got a system of instruction, including needlework for girls and cookery available in the National schools, and they recognise that is the grant. The point you wish to draw attention to is that the teachers available for National schools are not themselves qualified to give the instruction that is necessary, and that the National Board themselves regard as desirable?—I won't say are not qualified. They may be technically qualified, but they are not practically qualified.

5249. That is what it comes to. They may have paper qualifications, but their information and experience are not of the type that lend themselves to the use?—Yes, in certain subjects the qualifications are proper qualifications.

5250. You would see no objection to co-operation between the teachers employed under the various Departments which would make available for instruction in National schools the services of a teacher who might be employed otherwise in teaching adults?—I think I may say that would imply a control over the general body of managers at present would not approve of.

5251. Taking horticulture—in how many National schools would you find a teacher whose heart was set chiefly in horticulture to make him a satisfactory instructor. Suppose that the County Council had at their service a good horticultural instructor you think it would not be satisfactory that that instructor should devote a certain amount of attention to looking the senior pupils in National schools?—I think it would if he were under the control of the local manager.

5252. While he would be giving that instruction he would be under the control of the manager?—Yes, but I object to the Committee in National schools.

5253. Yes; but you see no objection to their actual being for the time being made the servant of the manager, and giving his instruction in that capacity?—Quite so.

5254. Taking that particular course to which you refer where you say there were about twenty persons attending the course in manual instruction, you say five were carpenters' apprentices?—Yes, and two carpenters.

5255. The instruction there given was in the handicraft of wood-working?—Yes.

5256. These men would be working at the bench all day?—Yes.

5257. The instruction that the instructor was able to give there in the five months' course was not sufficient for their advancement?—I would not say in their case it was not sufficient for artistic advancement, but I do say it would be

judicially better if they could have had three more courses. The course was not a five months' course; it was only a two months' course.

5252. That is to say, they would have been taught their trade better?—Yes.

5253. What you want to see is that they would get a better opportunity of becoming expert workmen?—Decidedly. We divide our classes in this way. We have different groups working in the same room at the same time. For instance, an agricultural labourer might come off the road who could not do the same work as a carpenter.

5254. Your desire to have three or four courses is rather in the interests of the agricultural labourer, whom you desire to make a handy man?—Yes.

5255. You are not keen on teaching the carpenter his trade?—Oh, no, but you need exactly the expression

that I wanted. We want to make the labouring man a handy man. For instance, suppose I am an employer, a farmer, and a gale has gone out of order—instead of calling in the local carpenter, and paying enormous wages for a small job of this kind I want a man sufficiently handy to do it himself.

5256. You don't anticipate any trouble from the local carpenter?—Not in such a small trade as that, but if he went on to build a house I would anticipate trouble, but not in a small job.

5257. Do you think he would draw the line at a four house?—Take a man who is a carpenter and who has his hands full of work, he would not be bothered with petty jobs.

5258. He might not have his hands full of work?—Then he would be a rather bad carpenter.

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5259. (Chairman).—You are speaking on behalf of the joint Agricultural and Technical Instruction Committee of the County Council?—Yes, and I may say as far as we can judge there seems to be very little evidence in the Department throughout the country.

5260. You are speaking for your own county?—I am speaking for my own county, and I think without any difficulty I could add for the country as well as for the county.

5261. Well, we are going about the country and will hear what is said, and shall have to form our own judgment on that?—Very good, but I venture to say I am correct in what I say all the same, and I should say also there is little evidence in Sir Horace Plunkett owing to the unfortunate book he published; but all the same I should wish that we should always have something like the Department in Ireland, but in order that the Department shall insure public confidence you must change the Board of Agriculture. I speak from the point of view of agricultural instruction first. You must make it an elected board.

5262. Elected by whom?—Elected, I should say, by the County Council, and I should give that board not an advisory power as it has at present, but a real power. It is merely an advisory board at present—a sham board to my mind.

5263. Surely it is more than an advisory board?—It is not much more.

5264. (Mr. Dryden).—It bids the control of the money used in these schemes?—As a matter of fact to my mind—I may err in that particular—but to my mind the real control is vested in the Department, and not in the Board of Agriculture.

(Chairman).—As all events it has power whether it chooses to exercise it or not. It has actual control of expenditure.

5265. (Mr. Gollive).—The Board of Agriculture told us that they had the power and felt they could use it?—Have they the power of appointing officials?

5266. (Chairman).—No?—I think the appointment of officials necessary to insure public confidence.

5267. What I questioned was your statement that they had only the power of advising?—I said first an advisory power. My point all along is to insure public confidence, and I say that unless you have public confidence no Department will succeed in Ireland no matter what it is.

5268. (Mr. Dryden).—Nor anywhere else?—Nor anywhere else. Therefore, I say you must have an elected Board of Agriculture, not a nominated board, elected by County Councils. I shall go on to speak of what I consider the faults of the Department with regard to agricultural instruction. The Department is in existence for six years, and so far it has only turned out twenty agricultural instructors.

5269. (Chairman).—Are you including in those the twenty that have been trained here and have come from outside?—Those who have been trained here, and those who have come from outside. There are only twenty agricultural instructors at present working at itinerant instruction in Ireland, and I would not be surprised if partly the cause for that is that the examinations for scholarships in the College of Science are somewhat too stiff. Now with regard to agriculture in general too much money is, in my opinion, spent on horse-breeding and cattle-breeding, and too little on agriculture. For

instance, while over £1,000 in Clare is spent on horse-breeding and cattle-breeding, very little practically is spent on agriculture. What I should say would be that the Department should allow the farm prize schemes to be considerably increased, and that the money spent on horse-breeding and cattle-breeding should be decreased. With regard to itinerant agricultural instruction, take a place like the County Clare, a large county, how can the Department or how can anybody expect that one agricultural instructor in the County Clare could do practically the whole agricultural instruction. In order that the agricultural instruction should be of any value in such a large district there should be at least two agricultural instructors, and in any case I don't believe in lecturing, lecturing men of thirty or forty. The spending of money on such lectures is money thrown away.

5270. (Mr. Dryden).—How would you instruct?—First I should converse with the young. I should, if possible, have the attention of the young people in primary schools turned in some way either through school gardens or plots to agriculture. Lecturing is in the present state absolutely no good. I would suggest experimental plots of a very much better nature than they are at present. We have experimental plots in Clare, and if you ask the Clare people in general about experimental plots they will tell you nothing is done. If you ask how agriculture is affected by them in the County Clare, it is not affected. If you ask how this should be remedied I should say first, experimental plots properly carried out. In addition to that, I should to every county in Ireland, if you want to have agriculture brought home to the people, it should be done under my scheme, where the attention is directed to this agriculture in the primary schools; second, you should have experimental plots in the various districts; and third, you should have agricultural colleges in every county in Ireland, otherwise the farmers will only smile when you say these should be an increase of tillage in the country.

5271. Could you make clear what is the difficulty in respect to these plots?—I could not make clear what is the particular difficulty, but I say this, that the people are simply getting no benefit from them. The instructor himself told me that they were not properly carried out. Perhaps that may be the reason, but I don't believe that is the reason. I believe there is a more fundamental reason than that, that the people don't take a great deal of interest in them.

5272. (Chairman).—Why?—That is a hard question.

5273. (Mr. Dryden).—Is that the reason that the experiments accomplish nothing?—I should be inclined to say that is one reason, and that is a great reason. I don't believe that the experimental plots will by any means convince the people that their own methods are not the right ones. The only method will be to teach the young, to get the young men into colleges and show them how the thing is done. When they get back into their own districts the people round will see that everything is properly carried out. It is useless to think that agriculture will be improved in Ireland except you have agricultural colleges all over the country.

5274. (Chairman).—A beginning has been made in that way, has it not?—A very small beginning. There are three agricultural colleges for Ireland, Clonsilla,

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Athlery, and there is another. I think the best of teaching is given in these colleges, and the men who go there will be trained agriculturalists.

5282. Do you think those colleges can be looked to to reach the mass of the people—must they not rather in their very nature be for a comparatively few?—
Here is my answer. That in other countries I believe they are brought within the range of the great number. If they are distributed well. If you have an agricultural college for each county, and if ten, twelve, or twenty boys are sent from the various parishes through scholarships, an interest will be taken in agriculture, and it will be brought far and away better home to the masses of the people than at present.

5283. You rather complain of the pace at which things are going—you think they ought to go faster, but are they not going in the right direction?—If a thing will happen in 200 years, you don't think that is very immediate.

5284. We are not talking of 200 years. You have only had it six years at present?—But according to the pace we are going.

5285. That depends on circumstances. Can you go at the pace you desire?—I believe money is spent on other projects which are useless, when it could be devoted to agriculture, for which the Department was founded.

5286. There has been a great deal of money spent on agriculture; you say there ought to be more?—A very small sum comparatively has been spent. They have large sums at their command. It is a fund to teach agriculture, and it is not doing it.

5287. You mean it is not doing it to the extent to which you would wish?—Yes, that is it.

5288. (Mr. O'Connell).—The Clonsilla school and the one at your door here in Athlery are meeting the kind of thing you want?—That is my idea.

5289. And the lowest fee there is £3 a session, including maintenance, so it is within fairly easy reach of those for whom it is intended?—I should say certainly that would meet the need.

5290. (Chairman).—Then as far as it goes you approve of it?—As far as it goes I approve of it.

5291. But it does not go far enough?—It only goes a very little length.

5292. Suppose these colleges trained people who go to different parts of Ireland and carry with them the knowledge they have got there?—I assure you if you depend on those three colleges for teaching agriculture in Ireland it will only be in 500 years you will teach agriculture.

5293. I don't think anybody can depend on these three colleges, but is it not a beginning in the right direction?—That is a beginning in the right direction.

5294. (Mr. O'Connell).—And it is a beginning which is being extended fairly rapidly. Having started Clonsilla last year, the Department started Athlery this year. I suppose you would not contemplate a public body starting places until they had a reasonable prospect of having them taken advantage of?—I should expect that the Department, founded to teach agriculture especially, would give its mind altogether, or to a large extent at all events, to agriculture. I fail to see how the Department is doing that. They are spending, as I said before, a great deal of money on horse-breeding and cattle-breeding.

5295. Would you mind keeping to this point for a moment. They started a farm at Clonsilla on terms that you recognize as very reasonable. Do you know any people of the type who ought to go there who were refused admission because the place was full?—I believe myself that young fellows in the County Clare never heard of Clonsilla.

5296. Whose fault is that—has your committee taken proper steps to make known throughout the county the facilities that the Department have been providing?—I believe that if Clonsilla school is a success at all it must be supplied by the neighbourhood of Clonsilla.

5297. But the point is that it takes some time for the benefit of such work to become known. The Department would claim, I suppose—I don't know that anybody ever raised the question before—the Department would naturally claim that it would have been unwise of them to spend a large amount of public money in advance of the possible utilisation of it; you yourself did not know the terms on which boys were admitted to Clonsilla?—I understood that if they were colleges at all they were meant to bring the teaching of agriculture within the reach of the

masses of the people. If some such arrangement was not made it would be absurd to start them at all.

5298. That is precisely what they would say if they were doing: "Here we have Clonsilla, and then we have Athlery; as soon as we have these filled if we demand in its existence we will multiply these as fast as possible"; do you think it would have been wise of them to have and stocked a farm, assuming it is possible to get instructors, which is not possible. It is their own fault to a great extent.

5299. (Chairman).—Why is it their own fault?—First of all they should have supplied colleges to teach instructors, and if they make the examinations too hard they cannot get the instructors in Ireland.

5300. (Mr. O'Connell).—In order that a man may be of any use as an agricultural instructor in any part of Ireland he must have had a fair education in agricultural matters?—Yes.

5301. The normal course of study for a man who was adequately prepared for it would be something like three years in the college where he would be learning agricultural affairs; in order to reach such a standard of education himself that he would be qualified as an instructor, he could not do it in less than three years?—I dare say, but I don't think they get that term. I believe it was a year or two years.

5302. Oh, no. The College of Science continues a three years; you would not expect that the agricultural community in Ireland should depend for instruction upon men who only had one year's instruction themselves in agriculture?—What I would imagine, at least I fancy the agricultural instructor who are going round had a fair education both in ordinary subjects and practical agriculture.

5303. You would be quite satisfied for the County Clare with an instructor who, in addition to having what you call a fair education—which I take to be something less than the present standard of admission to the Royal College of Science—a man with an education and with a year of special agricultural training?—I am not quite qualified to pronounce on that, but I dare say that a year's good instruction in agricultural work would fit a man for such a post.

5304. Then all I can say is that I am afraid the benefits such an instructor would be to a county would be worth very little indeed. That is the point, not so far as one can learn, if an instructor is to be really valuable he must have had an adequate training himself?—Certainly, but I think that in a year or two he would get an adequate training.

5305. Does a year or two mean three years?—No, but with regard to that special point I am not qualified.

5306. I would like to get exactly the view you came here to express. Perhaps you would allow me to ask you if then is it that it is of so great importance that the country should be supplied with instructors that you would rather have instructors with one or two years' training for what they were worth, and would risk the future of Irish agriculture upon the benefit that would be derivable from such instructors, rather than wait until an adequate supply of well-trained freshmen as agricultural instructors could be available for the country?—I should like to say that I have some experience of what those gentlemen who are thoroughly trained are doing, and I believe that the Department, with the assistance of those gentlemen, have made absolutely no effect on the agriculture of Ireland. If what I say be true, naturally what you say should be effective, because these gentlemen who have produced no effect on the agriculture of Ireland were trained three years; then according to what you say if they were only trained two years they would have produced less, which is practically nothing at all.

5307. That is where I was coming to: see where you have landed yourself?—I was anxious to land the Department. I don't wish to treat this as a joking matter, but I believe you could have more agricultural instructors in Ireland than at present, and the lecturing, as required by the Department, is done absolutely no good.

5308. (Mr. Eves).—You speak for the County Clare; you don't speak for other counties—I speak for the County Clare. I am not disposed further, but I think I would not be beyond the mark if I went further.

5309. (Mr. Dryden).—Could you explain why it is that these instructors are of no service; you say that they accomplish no good at all?—We are getting now of agricultural instruction. What I say with re-

gard to agricultural instruction now I confine myself to the County Clare, and I say the lecturing of the agricultural instructors is simply a farce.

5308. Why is that?—Because people come to listen and really take no interest. They will listen right enough and take no interest afterwards.

5309. Then it is not the fault of the instructor?—It is not the fault of the instructor. I never said it was the fault of the instructor.

5310. That is what I understood?—I did not mean to convey that. I convey an impression against the instructors.

5311. What you mean to say is that in the condition of the people, if they had an instructor, he cannot reach them?—Yes; the lecturing does no good. The people may, with the assistance of the agricultural instructors, do good in time.

5312. That would take a long time to work out; I am afraid you would get impatient for that. It takes a good many years to start with a lad and wait until he gets up to be a man?—It must take time. I don't believe that farmers of thirty or forty years of age will ever take an interest in lectures in agriculture.

5313. We must try to do something with these older people?—There is something else I have to suggest with regard to agricultural instruction, and that is farm prize schemes. I say if in each rural district you gave large prizes of from £10 to £11 then the people would find it to their benefit perhaps to take an interest in agriculture. That with the agricultural schools and experimental plots in time may do some good.

5314. (Mr. O'Brien).—You have a prize scheme at present?—A small prize scheme.

5315. (Chairman).—How does that work?—Fairly well, but we want a large prize scheme; but when these schemes come out and dry from the Department the Council are naturally anxious to take them as they come. I don't want to say that the Committee would not have power to change a scheme. They would have power, but when a scheme comes down from the central body the County Committee are somewhat apt to take what comes.

5316. (Mr. O'Brien).—It went up first from the County Committee and it returned?—Not always. It sometimes happens that the inspector of the Department comes along with his scheme and we get no notice. He reads it out to the committee. If any person on the committee objects and is able to carry the rest with him something may be done, but as a rule it is from the Department the scheme comes.

5317. (Mr. Bryden).—As a matter of fact don't the Department send the committee for suggestions?—Yes; with regard to that particular point I am with you.

5318. So the committee can make suggestions to the Department?—Certainly.

5319. And any scheme you desire on this particular committee can be originated here?—Not easily. With regard to the farm prize scheme there is so much allotted for the farm prize schemes throughout Ireland, and each county gets its own share. Our share does not reach beyond £300. If I had my way I would prefer to give £750 to the farm prize scheme and £250 to the horse-breeding.

5320. (Mr. Brown).—Would the whole committee go with you in that?—I hope they would.

5321. If they did go with you you don't anticipate any difficulty from the Department?—I anticipate this difficulty, that when a certain amount of money is apportioned by the Department, County Clare gets £250, and cannot get a penny more.

5322. The Department don't divide the money speedily between prize schemes and breeding schemes?—The instructor explained to me that that is what was done.

5323. It would be the Board of Agriculture, not the Department, which would do that—do you think it would be altogether desirable to have these large prizes?—I think it would be altogether desirable.

5324. Is not the tendency then for the prize to fall to a few people who specialise while the bulk of the people are left outside?—No, sir. At present take a rural district. If you don't give some such reward—

5325. What is the highest prize given?—I think £4 or £5.

5326. Is not £5 a substantial sum to earn by keeping your place well?—I will give you my opinion. I may be wrong in regard to the matter—

5327. We find the very keenest competition for prizes of the same amount?—No doubt there is a fair amount of competition, but if you want to improve agriculture to any extent, or improve it at all, you must give large prizes. Otherwise you won't teach the people. A rural district is not such a very large place, and if you give for the three different classes a large amount of money, I think that the competition will reach a great number, and furthermore, I should say that until the Department impresses on the Government the necessity of cheapening the means of transport for agricultural produce, all this talk about agricultural improvement is useless. You must have cheap means of transport if you want to have agricultural progress in Ireland. I think it is the business of the Department—I know very well they have some power, but not as much as I should wish—but I think it is the business of the Department to impress upon the Government the necessity of cheapening the means of transport. How this is to be done is another matter, whether by control of the railways or some other way, but it should be done. Now there is another matter with regard to the rule of the Department with reference to the poultry instructors and butter-making instructors, that such instructors should not belong to the county. I don't believe there is any benefit worth talking about in such a rule.

5328. (Chairman).—You don't think it is rather better in some cases that an instructor should come from a distance?—I don't think it is advisable that such a rule should be kept in force. In Ireland girls and boys are anxious often times to get employment in their own county, and if they saw a prospect of employment in their own county they would train for such a position. If they are dependent on the chance of getting a position in other counties, they are very slow to do that.

5329. You think they would be more willing to get taught if there was not that rule?—That was my idea. With regard to technical instruction I have the same thing to say. With regard to technical instruction, I don't believe that much good is done by that instruction except in domestic economy.

5330. (Mr. Bryden).—For the same reasons as you have given before?—For the same reasons. I have no objection to the instructors. I believe they do their business well. With regard to domestic economy, I know that it is capable taught in some National schools at present, but I think domestic economy should be taught to children from their very earliest years. I believe that the teaching of domestic economy is doing good, and with regard to manual instruction I deem it may result in some benefit, but it is not worth the money.

5331. (Chairman).—From your experience of the teaching of domestic economy, do you find many girls who have gone through these courses, improve their own homes?—The domestic economy I have experience of is merely training in cookery. I cannot say, but I know that the classes are well attended, and they seem to take an interest in the work, and the work, so far as I can see, is well done. My idea with regard to technical instruction is that it is best done in centres. Take the County Clare. If you want to have any technical instruction worth talking about you must have technical schools in the important centres. In Kilkish, Ennis, Ennistymon and Kilmac. In Kilmac, Ennis, Ennistymon and Kilmac schools should be provided for persons who want technical instruction, and the Department should give grants for the building of technical schools. I know at present they give grants for the instruction.

5332. Could you mention the principal technical schools in Clare?—To my mind there are not any technical schools worth talking about.

5333. Is that owing to the want of buildings?—No, but what are called technical schools are the Brothers' schools at Kilmac. There is a little manual instruction in the convent in Kilmac and in Ennis. It is technical instruction to some extent, of course.

5334. Do you think it wants developing a great deal?—A great deal more. Put technical schools in all the important centres, and give building grants for these schools, and then the subjects taught in these schools, I say, should be in connection with the in-

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industries of the neighbourhood, or the industries likely to be started in such a neighbourhood. A pretty large question you spoke of a while ago is with regard to the Department and industries. I don't think the Department are doing their duty with regard to those. I think they should subsidise, to some extent, industries in Ireland. They should be free with expert advice, and should be very liberal with regard to the training of hands, otherwise the industries in Ireland cannot be put on a level with old established industries.

5336. Old-established industries in Ireland?—Or out of it.

5337. (Mr. O'Grady).—You say they are not doing their duty—do you mean they have no power to do that?—I believe they are signally with regard to the training of hands.

5338. Have they power to do that?—They have power.

5339. Under what clause of the Act?—I heard Mr. Fletcher say that such a principle was admitted.

5340. Power to train hands?—Power to give money for the training of hands.

5341. The actual training process?—With regard to that point, here is what happens. There is a woollen mill started in Kilkenny with a capital of £25,000—

5342. We heard about that and we know the facts?—I think the Department, as far as my judgment goes, was very biggishly in the way they treated the Kilkenny factory.

5343. You are aware they have no power to spend money on the training in the practice of any industry?—Where £25,000 was subscribed by the local people they were only able to get out of the Department's funds £200 for the training of hands.

5344. (Mr. Brown).—£200 a year?—For a very little time; I think it was £200 altogether.

5345. (Mr. O'Grady).—You say the Department are not doing their duty, and I have to ask your attention to the clause of the Act which limits their duty by this: "Shall not include instruction in elementary schools or the teaching of the practice of any trade, industry, or employment?"—I know they have made an offer of £200, and I presume that offer was made according to their rules. I say their action with regard to the Kilkenny factory was signally to my mind.

5346. (Glasman).—That £200 ought to have been a great deal more?—Yes.

5347. (Mr. O'Grady).—You say that, without being aware of the objects for which they gave that £200? I heard Mr. Fletcher state in Cork in reply to Canon Doyle what the Department did, and it appeared to me not very satisfactory.

5348. They omitted doing something which was within their power, notwithstanding that clause in the Act?—Yes.

5349. You think they have not exceeded the power given by the Act so far as that particular case goes?—That was my point.

5350. And it is in that respect you say they have not been doing their duty as to industries?—I should say that I would not like to draw such a wide conclusion. The conclusion is wider than the premises, but in that particular case certainly I should say their action was not satisfactory. I have other institutions where gentlemen said the Department did not act satisfactorily so far as the starting of industries was concerned, but I believe the Department could, they have the power, at any rate they should have the power to give grants for the starting of Irish industries. The only other point I have is in regard to the county scholarships. I think the Department's scheme with regard to county scholarships is defective too, for this reason, that what is done is this: that boys are given various sums to come into secondary schools and spend a year or two years or three years there. This money is taken from the money that is supposed to go to promote technical instruction. Well, after a year or two, what is to prevent the boy from leaving the school and becoming a clerk or anything he likes?—There is no check on that.

5351. What check would you have?—For my part I don't see what check there can be.

5352. There is a certain check in the agricultural colleges, because they get a sort of undertaking from the boy?—I believe that difficulty arises all over. It arises in the London County Council just as here, and the only thing that is suggested would be that agricultural scholarships would be allowed. The only other point I shall trouble you with is the fisheries.

5353. Is your own parish near the sea coast?—Well, no.

5354. You know all about it?—I know to some extent. On the west coast of Clare, so far as I know, little has been done comparatively for the fisheries. One time, as a member of the County Committee, I suggested the Department should bring down an instructor to teach fishermen to make nets. We heard nothing more about that suggestion. On several parts of the west coast of Clare there are piers that are in a neglected state, and should be soon to be by the Department. Nets should be provided for the fishermen, or at any rate an instructor sent down to teach the people themselves how to make nets.

5355. Has there been anything of that sort done?—No; nobody has come down. There has not been a word about it. No doubt, to give the Department its due in this respect, a sum of money has been expended on the Liscannor pier, but there are several piers that are neglected, and by the improvement of them the fisheries would be improved. In Duncannon, County Waterford, I saw some steam trawlers doing good fair work, and I dare say if there was some steam trawlers off the coast of Clare it would help the fisheries along the coast.

Mr. MATTHEW KELLY, Croyne, examined.

Mr. Matthew
Kelly.

(Witness).—I am a member of the Clare County Council and delegated here. The County Clare is not congested. In 1891 the population was such that it would have been scheduled as congested. Mr. Rochford Maguire was then the member for the county. It could have been classified as congested in 1891, but it failed to be inserted in the Bill by the Members of Parliament. The population has since dwindled away. The population now of West Clare is 27,278, bordering on the fishery coast, with very small valuations and very small holdings. The Grand Jury passed several loans and borrowed monies, which are all paid off. I have here a table which shows the amounts received for the construction of piers and harbours in Clare:—

Liscannor Harbour.

Original amount borrowed, £1,586 *ls.* 10*d.*
This has been fully paid off by half-yearly instalments of 270 *ls.* 6*d.*

Half this amount was chargeable to county-at-large and the other half charged to the Barony of Croom.

The approximate annual revenue would be from £100 to £200.

Date of borrowing, 28th November, 1884.

Water Boat Slip and Breakwater.

Original amount borrowed, £231 *Os.* 4*d.*
This is fully paid off by half-yearly instalments of annuity of £12 *ls.* 6*d.*

Half of this was chargeable to the county-at-large and the other half to the Barony of Moyarta.

There was no revenue from this.

Date of borrowing, 13th February, 1880.

Seaford Pier.

Original amount borrowed, £352 *lvs.* 8*d.*
This is being paid by half-yearly annuities of 250 *lvs.*

Half this amount is chargeable to the county-at-large and the other half to the Barony of Bredan. The balance remaining unpaid of this loan up to 30th September, 1903, £105 *ls.* 2*d.*

No revenue.

Date of borrowing, 18th January, 1884.

Carrigaholt Pier.

Original amount borrowed, £2,543 *ls.* 6*d.*
This has been paid off by half-yearly annuities of £148 *ls.* 8*d.*

Half of this amount was chargeable to the county-at-large and the other half to the Bascry of Moyarta. Date of borrowing, 25th June, 1890.

No revenue.

Together with this by the previous Grand Jury they got a lot of ships in different centres, about ten of them, for canvas. Some of those have been disfigured upon. None of the ships have been working to the satisfaction of the fishermen. The Grand Jury engineers were inland engineers, and were not experts. They have not blasted the rocks or extended the piers in such a way that insurance companies would insure the basis for deep-sea fisheries or anything of that kind. The whole matter has been neglected all along. We have been striving on the Clare County Council to revive the fishery industry.

5355. (Chairman).—Those moneys were borrowed under the old Grand Jury system?—They are all paid off except the Seafield pier. There was no free grant ever given under the Marine Act to Clare. I applied for it as well as I could through the General Council of the County Councils in Dublin and before Sir Harcourt Pimblett, but we got nothing of that £10,000. There has recently been awarded a free grant of £2,000 for Lismacarty by the Act of Parliament.

5357. Did that come out of the £10,000?—No, a special Act of Parliament. There is a provisional order got under the County Council for Ballinapier pier. We voted £300 and the Department was to give £200. That is very well for that side of the country. The upper portion of Clare is able to give it. From that on to Carrigrohilly it is more contested. There are several thousands of people living there, and the way they fish results in this that they cannot cure the fish properly because they have no sheds, and they have no Government land to show them how to brand, and when these fish go to New York they may not be bought at all. We have no Government expert there to teach the business of curing fish. All along these districts the people are very needy, and any amount of outdoor relief is given in the Union. It amounts to £40 a week. I have the list here from the Clerk of the Union, giving the people who are solely dependent on fisheries in the Kilrush Union.

5358. Could you give me an idea of the population of the Union?—About 13,000. The valuation is £45,000. That is the electoral district bordering on the coast. There are a very hardy race of people, and only for their health and hardiness they could not fish with their canoes. The rocks are not sufficiently blasted, and their nets are torn up sometimes. They get an odd net from Mr. Green, the Inspector of Fisheries. It is a life and death struggle for those poor people, and splendid mackerel are caught there—no better in Ireland; and now we have a railway, got up by the Grand Jury, for which we are paying in the County Clare a heavy tax, and with that railway I think that our fishing industry, if the fish were properly cured in West Clare, would make one of the best fishing industries in Ireland. The Americans come over to buy the mackerel, but when they are cured they may not be properly cured. I would recommend to have an expert sent down from the Fisheries Department, and to centralise a station on the west coast of Clare.

5359. Have applications been made to the Department?—Yes. We interviewed the General Council of the County Councils in Dublin. This is a letter from the Secretary of the General Council:—

IRISH COUNTY COUNCILS' GENERAL COUNCIL.

Offices: 10, Leinster-street,
Dublin, November 18th, 1905.

M. Kelly, Esq., M.L.C.,
Crigh P.O., Co. Clare.

DEAR SIR,—The accompanying resolution was proposed by you and adopted by the General Council some time ago.

The Board of Works have informed me that questions relative to the encouragement of the fishing industry are outside its province; also that its powers of aiding the construction of roads are confined to county roads, and do not embrace roads leading to the sea-shore. The Chief Secretary has also informed me that legislation in the direction indicated by the resolution is not at present contemplated.

It has been suggested that certain funds and powers for the purpose of aiding the fishing industry are vested in the Department of Agriculture, &c., and I have asked them for information on the subject.

Meantime could you inform the committee of some specific instances in West Clare where aid and encouragement are badly needed by the fishing population together with any suggestions as to the form such aid should take. The committee are anxious to have some definite information before taking further action.

As the committee will meet on Thursday next, 23rd inst., kindly let me have all the information you can before that date.

Yours faithfully,

A. KROEN NELSON,
Secretary.

They gave him all the information, but they got no answer since. A change of Government came in. 5360. What was the date of that letter?—November 18, 1905. The resolution was:—

"That this meeting of the General Council invites the co-operation of the Chief Secretary and of the Board of Works in the improvement of the Marine Works Act, and its extension in the course of the present session to West Clare and to all other parts of the Irish coast outside the congested districts, and that in view of the extreme urgency of this question, which is one of vital importance to thousands of our fishing population, who heretofore have received no encouragement in the prosecution of their industry, we call on the Government to deal with this matter without further delay."

5361. Do I understand that nothing further than that has taken place?—No, there was no answer. I asked Sir Thomas Esmonde, and he said to wait until we got a better Government into office, so I was glad to get an opportunity of coming before you. Together with that fishing industry all these other ships have been damaged by the rough tide. Some of them need repairing, and I would suggest one or two new ones where the population is very thick. I would also recommend you to take into consideration the great want of the kelp industry. It is a big item there. They do that, and they have no sheds for it, which results in loss to them. They get 24 a ton for it in the raw state from agents, who send it to Scotland, but they have not the proper way of manufacturing it. When it was started first they might get £10 a ton. They send it by boat and rail to Scotland. These were 300 tons left the other day. They bought it at 24 a ton, but if it was properly done it would be £10 a ton. The factories are in Scotland. I don't know the position of them. We sell it to companies.

5362. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Companies?—Kelp makes twenty-five different things, and it would be a very paying thing. We ought to get a grant from the Fishery Board or the Treasury to start a factory in West Clare, and we could, through the County Council, pay an expert to manufacture the business, and a good return of money would come to us. And then we are near the railway, and have the facilities for running the kelp on the railway, which is a big burden on us. We see kelp for £280,000, on which we have to pay 4 per cent. The rates are 6s. in the pound on this area. And we also recommend for the fishing industry that you ought to allow one or two men who would be interested in West Clare to meet the Fishery Board from time to time, as to the general views of West Clare, that they would have the power of selecting one or two who would sit on the Fishery Board in Dublin. This would facilitate matters on this very important question. One of the greatest industries in Ireland could be developed in West Clare by the kelp and fishing industries. And to help in the matter, I would suggest to you to recommend that one or two members of the Clare County Council, who would be bordering on the sea, should be put on the Fishery Board to arrange discuss and debate matters from time to time with them about the fishing and kelp industries. It is a very big question, as I dare say now you understand, and I hope you will give us that concern, and treat us fairly, and give us something in West Clare. I went seven years ago to Sir Horace Pimblett, and we used

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Kelly.

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Mr. Mathew
Kelly.

to get money from members of Parliament like Major Jamieson to buy nets for these poor people, and from the Boards and others. I hope you will accede to the request of the Clack County Council. We are very poor about there. I am a merchant, and deal with some of them, and I know how poor they are. I am sure you will give us the committee, or allow one or two from the Clack County Council to sit on the Fishery Board.

5363. (Chairman).—We have no power except to recommend?—That is what I want—that you should recommend.

5364. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Have you represented to the County Council the desirability of inserting in the scheme of technical instruction some provision for instruction as to nets and in the methods of curing fish?—Yes, as in Scotland.

5365. Have the County Council put that to the Department as a desirable thing to have that inserted in the scheme?—They are waiting for this report.

5366. But when the County Council are asked by the Department to send up suggestions for technical instruction they should send up at once the suggestion that in their scheme they should have net-making?—The Department are not asked for that now. The County Committee in Clack have not made resolutions about the matter.

On resuming after luncheon.

Very Rev. T. Latt, P.P., Croon, examined.

5367. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Limerick County Committee of Agriculture?—Yes.

5374. I believe you have not handled in any hands of evidence, but no doubt there is something that you wish to say?—Yes, I was asked to give my opinion of the Department. It is that with the best intentions I don't think the Department has realised the most pressing needs of the country. I will illustrate that in this way. People sell their cattle at inopportune times. They are forced to do that. Horses are sometimes pining on them, and they sell their horses, cattle, or other produce at times when they realise less for them than they would later, and one of the things necessary to prevent that state of things are agricultural loan banks. If you had agricultural loan banks where you would get to share off pressing needs money at a fairly low rate, and could keep your cattle until such time as the market would be more favourable, it would be a great advantage. People sold cattle last March for almost the price that they brought them for the year before. Those agricultural banks would meet a number of needs of that kind.

5375. That is a very important point. I should be glad to hear what you have to say about it?—Take the case of mares—it is very little now supplying the county with mares if you have not good ones. This county is very good for producing horses, but there is a bad breed of mares. I should say small farmers with a rating of from £30 to £40, should be lent by the Department two-thirds of the money for these mares, and pay it back again by easy rates of instalments, with the condition that the parties supplied with such mares could not sell them.

5376. So that the mares should be a security for the loan?—Yes. They could get other security besides.

5377. Do you think there would be any difficulty in their getting other security?—I don't think so.

5378. Personal security?—Yes. Take the loan bank in the city that I was acquainted with formerly. There was sometimes a difficulty, but very little difficulty, and there were very few bad debts. It would have another advantage. You have scarcely any tillage now for the reason that the parties have not money. The time when money is least in circulation is tillage time. If they got loans for that too you would have more of the country under cultivation. Another thing that I think the Department might well turn their attention to is to get up small mills for grinding. Formerly when you had those mills you had hewn and pollard in the country. Now the flour comes in made with the result that you have no hewn or pollard, or it is of an inferior kind.

5367. You should grow them to put that clause in?—I was trying to do my best to work up the general council of the County Council.

5368. You think it would not be sufficient to develop the industry of preparing help, and to say that help must be sold in an analysed and sorted condition—you don't think that would be sufficient without the factory?—The first thing ought to be the first part. If a poor man was shown how to work it would benefit him.

5369. There is not much risk in getting that help there, but there might be a great deal of risk in the factory part?—We could take an example from Scotland of how they wipe their.

5370. (Chairman).—What do they do with the help now?—It is on the beach, and the strand, and away, where.

5371. (Mr. Ogilvie).—But they have no factories in all these places?—If there was one factory in West Clack it would be a great benefit.

5372. At present it is sold to Scotch merchants?—Yes, they utilise in many ways. It is valuable stuff. I am sure if you consider the question properly now you will be doing a great deal for West Clack.

5369. Do you think the small mills could hold their own against the importers?—I think they could with very little help from the Department.

5365. Are you contemplating water mills or wind mills?—Wind mills.

5361. The water power does strike one very much as a thing that could be more utilised?—Certainly; the water power of the country is going for nothing, but there are numbers of mills quite idle. In the district I come from near Croon there are plenty of mills which are idle and could easily be turned to good account.

5362. There have been attempts in certain parts of the country to fit up those small mills. In a place I was in in Donegal there were several?—I believe there are some, but they are few and far between. If you had those agricultural loan banks they could help industries in many directions, but without that you will always have the poorer class of struggling parties selling their cattle or selling their horses or produce.

5363. What rate of interest do you think might be charged on loans by a bank of that sort?—3½ or 4 per cent.

5364. Would you have a system of repayment of capital by instalments?—I would have it paid easily as in the loan banks here. Keep it at 3½ per cent. and let them pay the capital at a certain time.

5365. (Mr. Micks).—Short loans?—Yes.

5366. Has that been found to work well?—Yes, it works well in the cities. Whenever you have loan banks, where you have a poorer class of the people and often less security you have few bad debts. Now, turning from the agricultural to the technical part, technical instruction would do a great deal of good, but yet it would not give the value here in the county for the money expended on it, and the reason of that is because it is from the schools that give technical instruction and also anything like domestic economy like cookery—it should grow from the schools.

5367. Do you mean from the primary schools?—From the National schools, and the Department should in some way agree with the National Board, that there should be certain instructors going about as there are itinerant instructors of cookery and domestic economy. Instructors should have a certain district, and visit one school one day in the week and another school another day, and take up the schools of the district.

5368. Do you advocate generally localising teaching as against itinerant teaching?—Yes. They should have certain districts. That would save the expense of travelling and moving the students about. It would also give the children in the schools a far greater interest.

5369. One of the difficulties that strike me is that you would require a great number of trained in-

stratagem?—You would require perhaps one or two more, but the results would be more satisfactory.

5390. Do you think you would get the people to come to those centres?—They do come. They come to the school, especially children, but where you have not the things in the school very few come, but where you have the things in the school the children who leave the school come to them.

5391. You would have this as part of the National school system?—I would have it part of the work. I would have the two combined in the same scheme.

5392. With this you ought to have co-operation between them if you can?—Yes.

5393. And you would utilize the National schools for the purpose?—Yes.

5394. Is there any difficulty in this part of the country in getting National schools for the higher classes, for the continuation classes?—No. There is no difficulty. It is very easily done, and it would save a good deal of money all round, the money spent on travelling and getting houses and things that way, and the only additional expense would be the salaries of the additional teachers.

5395. And it might help to some extent to diminish the difficulty about buildings?—Yes.

5396. Is that felt very much, the difficulty of having proper buildings for instruction?—Of course it is. It is generally some courthouse or place entirely unsuited except where the National school is utilized. There is another thing also which I think it would be the place of the Department to see about—the railway rates. The railway rates are undoubtedly a serious obstacle to the prosperity of the country.

5397. There is a great deal of evidence to that effect, and the Department, of course, has certain duties and powers with regard to that?—They are buried. Finally, I think also there should be more intimate relations between the Department and those committees in various counties. Of course the Department give them a kind of initiative, but they kill the initiative after.

5398. How so?—Take it, for instance, in this county. In 1904 this committee drew up a cattle scheme. The Department did not sanction it. It waited for two years, and now it practically this year recommends to the whole country the same scheme except in a less satisfactory form. If there were cordial relations between them that would not happen. It is too bad to have a cart-rim system.

5399. How does it work in practice? All you want is to start from the beginning of the scheme; the County Council has, of course, the power of suggesting what it wishes?—Yes.

5400. And in fact of presenting a scheme subject to the approval of the Department?—Yes.

5401. Does it exercise that power, do you think?—Sometimes the Council does try to get some scheme forward, but if it is discouraged, and sometimes schemes are thrown aside without any reason being given: local places have local needs, and it is only people intimate with those places could draw schemes suitable to them.

5402. (Mr. Brown).—Do I understand that the scheme passed in 1904 was that none except selected ones were to be served by provision built?—I could not go into details of the scheme now, but I only give you the fact that in 1904 the scheme was set aside, and in 1906 a scheme almost the same was recommended for the whole country.

5403. (Chairman).—It would be desirable if the secretary or one of the other witnesses will give us a statement about the scheme?—I was not on the Board when the scheme was sanctioned.

5404. You have given us your views upon that, and we will try to get the details from some other witness?—The reason I brought that up was to show that not only should there be initiative, but when a County Council does put itself to some trouble to draw up a scheme that the Dublin Board should well consider that before setting it aside. You have on this committee practical farmers and others who know the local needs.

5405. Can you give a particular instance?—I gave a particular instance in the cattle scheme.

5406. No other details of the scheme that you proposed and they declined to agree to?—The committee drew up the cattle scheme in 1904, and the Agricultural Department set it aside, and then practically

adopted the same scheme for the whole country in 1906.

5407. (Mr. Brown).—They adopted a scheme embodying some of the suggestions of the Limerick committee?—Very many of the suggestions. Still they set it aside in 1906 and would not have it here.

5408. (Chairman).—Perhaps the Secretary will be able to produce those papers?—Very likely. There are about £2,000 spent roughly in the county yearly, half from the rates and half from the Department; and if this could be utilized and set up these agricultural banks, it would be a great deal of good. Another thing, then, I think the Department each year should initiate these things themselves. They should by their skilled men draw up schemes and send them down to each County Council for their opinions.

5409. Is not that practically done?—It is not done; not in a systematic way.

5410. Are all schemes initiated in the locality?—Some schemes are initiated in the locality and some above.

5411. The Department is rather to suggest the right thing?—If the Department suggested some scheme and sent that down four or five months beforehand so that the committee could have a long time to consider it; one part of the scheme may suit one part of the county and another another.

5412. (Mr. Brown).—The scheme that is in operation for the current year, they have had it before them for the year?—They have only got it a certain time.

5413. Are your people invited at certain times of the year to make suggestions for alterations for next year's scheme?—Yes, but it would be more satisfactory if the Board of Agriculture drew up certain schemes and sent them on six months beforehand, and asked them to be revised.

5414. At the present time have not things advanced to this that one year's scheme is generally the basis of the next year's scheme?—Yes, but there is no initiative, and the schemes are run each the same way.

5415. Are not the County Councils requested at a certain period of the year, when about half or a little more of the year is past, to give their observations as to the alterations that ought to be made in next year's scheme?—Sometimes it is done, but not in a systematic manner.

5416. Do you mean the County Committee does not do it in a systematic manner?—Either the Board does not send it in in time or the County Committee does not do it. It is not being done. The Department, as I said, should draw up a certain scheme and send it down to the County Limerick, and ask their suggestions on it.

5417. About agricultural banks, are you in favour of the co-operative banks?—That is a very big question. I would say I would be in favour of agricultural loan banks.

5418. Do you mean conducted by the State?—Over which the State has control, just as in the case of the banks here in the city.

5419. You are aware that if loan banks were established by the State all over the country it would require an enormous sum, having regard to the needs of the farmers?—It would require a fair sum. There is £2,000 a year coming to this county. Start a loan bank on £2,000 or £3,000, and then leave £500 a year of the amount coming. As it got into the loan bank it would be far more advantageous than it is at present.

5420. You have not considered the question of co-operative banks which are working in other countries?—They might do some good, but the difficulty would be, would they be able to be established—could the people start them on their own initiative?

5421. You are aware that the Vice-President has been a very warm advocate of co-operation in that direction?—Yes, but it has not succeeded.

5422. Why is that?—I dare say it is partly from the poverty of the people and partly through other causes, but it has not succeeded.

5423. The people are not willing to adopt co-operative methods?—Yes.

5424. You are aware they have been very strongly advocated?—I am aware they have, and the system would be a step in the right direction if it could succeed, but if it could not it would be better to adopt the loan banks.

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Very Rev. T. Lee, M.A.

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Very Rev. T. Lee, &c.

5425. You know that would cause considerable expense!—No; I think not. You would only want a committee and secretary.

5426. The committee would not have any responsibility if the money was provided by the State!—They would have their characters at stake to run it, and only capable persons would be selected on the committee, and they know the man to whom the thing is lent.

5427. (Chairman).—Just go back one moment. I would like to read you a passage from Professor Campbell's evidence (reads question 1235, and answer). Is that, as far as you know, an accurate statement?—Yes. They are asked to make suggestions on the scheme of last year, but my idea would be that we should ask the Department, say six or four months before, to draw up a scheme and send it down and ask the opinion of the local boards on it.

5428. (Mr. Dryden).—Is not it exactly what is done?—It is not practically done.

5429. (Chairman).—I shall read further: "and as I shall show presently the suggestions made by the committee have not only been considered, but in the great majority of cases been adopted"; that is a statement by a person responsible for the practice?—Yes.

5430. (Mr. Dryden).—They have a scheme in operation. Then the Department asks the County Committees have they any suggestions to make for the

improvement of the scheme, and these are considered and, as I understand, usually adopted!—Sometimes an inspector is supposed to come down, and in work come down on a suitable day, and give his advice, and so on.

5431. That is a different matter!—You are asked only to give an opinion on the scheme of last year, but if you had a new scheme drawn up and were asked the opinion of the parties on it before it was adopted.

5432. To see how far you can draw up a better scheme?—They seem to be changing them every day.

5433. (Mr. Dryden).—Your point is that there are certain cases in which the Department has in contemplation a change in the scheme of the last year, and when you think it would be a decided advantage that they should make you aware of the contemplated changes before they asked your opinion on the scheme of the last year?—Exactly.

5434. So that your criticism only applies to cases where they have in contemplation alterations?—Yes.

5435. If you were justified in supposing, in the absence of any communication from them to the effect that they themselves contemplated any change, that no change was contemplated your point would be met, but your experience is that they do have changes in contemplation that you would like to know about before you put your mind to the old case.

Rev. J. D. FEENE, M.A., examined.

Rev. J. D. Feene, M.A.

5436. (Chairman).—You are the Vice-Chairman of the Tipperary Urban District Committee?—Yes.

5437. You are a Protestant clergyman?—Yes; the Cullen Rectory, Tipperary.

5438. What do you wish to say?—I should just like to make a few remarks. I have just a few headings, and I want to be very brief indeed. I am simply going to give my evidence from personal observation, and I want to say it is very easy to have destructive criticism on a public department, but I have not heard yet, as far as we have gone, any constructive substitute suggested for that public department, and I am commissioned to say from the committee that I represent that our relations with the Department in Dublin are most friendly, and, as far as we are concerned, that the Department has been most patient with us while we were organising that scheme and during the several years' work while we have been connected with the Department. Of course it seems to be the rule now to have criticism of all public departments. It seems to be the popular idea.

5439. Many of us have had that experience!—In perhaps five years to come this Inquiry Committee may have adverse criticism passed on them too.

5440. (Mr. Dryden).—We have had it long ago!—Of course history repeats itself, and we will always have the comedy of errors, but if I was asked what is the key-note to the situation I would say want of money, and if I was asked also where the fault lay I would say it lay in the Act of 1892. It came after the Act of 1889, and you should go higher than the Department if you want to find the fault. There is no doubt in the world that inadequacy of buildings and want of money are the two points that I lay great stress upon.

5441. (Chairman).—Inadequacy of buildings for technical instruction?—Yes. When we commenced the technical work we had no buildings in the town of Tipperary, and only for a particular educational establishment we would be without means of carrying on the work. My idea for a large town like that is to have an object lesson, to have some large building with "Technical Institute" printed over it, that people might see it and look at it as a practical illustration of the work. All the domestic economy, manual instruction, and science work should be concentrated in this one large building. Then about the itinerant instructors in the country, at the time we were able to get the National schools—and it is not easy to get the National schools—we found we got pupils at that time who were not the people we required very often. This is an agricultural country, and the pupils we required were going to their farming occupations and could not come in and learn domestic economy and craft of the instruction we provided. When I speak of want of money I speak first of the buildings and afterwards of carrying on the scheme itself to more

effective issues. One of the principal things I think required is more money for the scholarship fund. The Department said two years, and three for a smart boy, and we say three years, and four for an intelligent boy, to carry on effective work. Of course we had temporary buildings, but we think the ruinous of our scheme is temporary work; where anybody could point to a temporary building and say, "that is only temporary." The very idea of the word temporary means that the original designers of the scheme do not mean that it is to be permanent; and we had to utilize temporary buildings for manual instruction for years.

5442. How many schools have you to do with in Tipperary?—We have only practically one school in Tipperary, but that school has been omitted from our work and the work of the Department, and therefore I was not going to speak about it.

5443. (Mr. Dryden).—Your committee is a joint-committee of the town and the Urban District?—Both. That is why I speak about itinerant teachers. There should be a little more supervision for domestic economy and classes in the country by experts with local knowledge. We have a good deal of power as a committee, but we would prefer that these itinerant instructors or instructresses would come more frequently and see what is going on, and then they would have a good knowledge of the local capacity and the requirements of local places.

5444. You want organisers as much as instructors! I don't know that we want them to be exactly organisers, because we have a good deal of that in our own hands, but I think they should come down to see what is going on with full power. Of course there are a number of things that I would like to speak about that I cannot speak about.

5445. (Chairman).—You are speaking as a representative of the general opinion of your committee?—Yes. I have been appointed vice-chairman. I have been a member from the start. I think technical instruction has not sufficient bearing on the life of the people to equip them for industry.

5446. Just say what you mean by that!—Of course that is a very difficult question for me to speak about. My knowledge may not bring me sufficiently far to speak with credit on such an important subject, and I am afraid I shall have to leave that to experts. I think it ought to be more shaped and directed pointedly towards the preparing the people of this country for industry. Of course agriculture is the staple work of this country, and all should tend towards this work, and of course the national system is very important, to inculcate in the youth of the country some taste for agriculture. If you take up the grown-up people from the soil it is very hard to get them back to the soil again, and I think everything that will shape and tend towards pointing people's minds towards the staple industry, the agri-

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culture of the country ought to be done. From my own personal observation, I say some means ought to be devised for doing it. I don't think technical instruction is sufficiently connected with agriculture. Industry apart from agriculture is not at all so useful as it might be, and there is nothing to qualify that except building. The building construction classes I lay great emphasis upon. I think they have been a great success in Tipperary, and I call the class a success when the outcome of the class has been to give several young men a means of employment, I think, and a means of earning their livelihood. I think that points to a success, and the commercial class has been a great success. Through that class a number of young men have obtained employment in commercial life, as book-keepers, and also as typewriters; and the manual instruction classes have done good work in bringing forward young tradesmen in doing building construction and giving them a greater object in the evening than the actual manual work they did with their hands in the day; and I think it is a very interesting class and a class I have always laid great force on. Of course that can be continued for young fellows. In National schools now they are taught drawing to scale and a little designing, and afterwards when they grow up and take up trades they can continue that in the manual instruction classes. I think there ought to be a closer connection between the technical boards and the agricultural boards, because of course I think that the outcome of that is a separation, in the way that you have two committees, and if we wanted to ask a question we would have to ask a question of the Classes Committee, and if Classes wanted to ask a question of the Technical Committee, they have to write to them. Experimental science dissociated from any agricultural bearing is not as useful a factor as it would be if associated with agriculture. Of course the scholarships are very important, and there should be more money for them, more money as a stimulus for young fellows to come into secondary schools and get a better education, elevate their minds and lift them up, and give them by a better education anything that will elevate their position and improve their minds. Domestic economy has done a great deal of good in the country. It has taught neatness and cleanliness, and taught the people how to cook, but I think a great deal of supervision is required.

5487. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you noticed any improvement on account of this domestic economy teaching?—A great improvement. I notice myself the improvement. But as far as the poultry scheme is concerned, there might be a great deal more improvement than there has been, but before I say that I want to state that in connection with the training of girls in domestic economy our Committee think it would be more useful to give a certain number of scholarships for a public training, say in Dublin, or some such place, where girls can be trained as domestic servants and teachers; and there is a sort of overlapping. When the Committee would first we wrote to the National Board asking that representatives of the National Board should meet the Technical Committee, that there had been an overlapping. What happened after that? We had our full apparatus and teaching staff for domestic economy, teaching at an educational establishment in Tipperary. Shortly afterwards the National Board sent down a teacher to teach the teachers with another set of apparatus in the same room. Our teachers could have done that work. At least I think so. I think that was a pity, and that the whole force ought to be all utilised to work for the common good. I think we want an outlet. Somebody gave evidence here about the rates of transit. I know a number of people who have a great number of fowl but have no means of selling them except they send them to Dublin. I think it is a pity that there should not be some system of sending them across the Channel and getting a market for them to help the people. Of course that will cost money. You want money to

carry on the scheme effectually. I was at the Cork Exhibition, and the technical department seemed to have taken a great deal of trouble, but I don't think the industries were properly backed up afterwards. I don't say whose fault it was, but I don't think the revival of old industries and the bringing forward of new industries was properly backed up. I don't say we should suggest that the Department was at fault, but the Cork Exhibition did not seem to have any effect on the country.

5448. (Chairman).—What is your idea of backing up the industries?—Of course, money. The revival of an old industry requires considerable local aid. If the local aid is not forthcoming then, of course, help is not required. Then to bring forward these industries money is required to help the local people; also help to establish new ones, if found necessary.

5449. Take an industry which has been carried on in some other part of the country, do you see any difficulty in promoting an industry by the aid of public money which other people are carrying on elsewhere on their own account?—Competition is sometimes a very healthy state of things—why not so now?

5450. Already there is a great deal about that. I want to get a definite idea of what you propose?—Of course not too near, locally. If they were not, I don't see any reason why a number should not be started in the country.

5451. (Mr. Dryden).—Such an industry, for instance, as what?—In Wexford they have a hat industry which is very successful, and it is a thing I take a great interest in myself. We found by a paragraph in the paper that it was a failure at Lucan, and we dropped it. Then there were several others; for instance, a boot factory.

5452. (Chairman).—Do you propose the application of public money to start and maintain these industries?—Maintenance is another matter.

5453. I advisedly put in the word maintaining. I am not expressing any opinion. I am merely asking what is yours?—I think if they were started in a good earnest spirit, and the enthusiasm was worked up to that pitch that the people thought that the originators of the project and those who were giving the money were in earnest about it, I think they would take it up and bring it to a successful issue, and they would not have to suspend it afterwards. It would live by itself.

5454. (Mr. Micks).—Have you had any expert experience?—Not lately. I had when I was a young man.

5455. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You could not have public money to start your hat industry in Tipperary in face of the observation that you found it was a failure in Lucan?—That was the reason we did not persevere in it.

5456. But you do not exclude that from the sort of industry that you think might be built up?—Oh, no. The Lucan report, I don't think, would have weighed very much with me personally. It did with others. In fact I was very much disappointed when I heard the report read. My only object is to work for the good of the country.

5457. But if there was anything in the Lucan report, it would rather tend to discourage you?—Of course it would.

5458. And it would indicate that even though you had established the industry you could not continue it?—I don't know that I would argue that. If I thought the thing was feasible and might be carried to a successful issue it would not deter me.

5459. Even the fact of its failing?—Failing in one place.

5460. Failing in a place where it had been started and run on successfully for many years?—There were many causes that came in. I would have to look into the reason of its failure. I would not like to give you an answer straight off on so important a subject.

5461. I am taking it merely from you?—The observation was brought up to the Committee, and that was read.

MR. DANIEL O'LEGGAN, Lisdowry, examined.

5462. (Chairman).—You are representative of the Clare County Council?—Yes.

5463. And I think there are three points you wish to speak about—first as to the fisheries?—That

has been so exhaustively dealt with by one of my colleagues that I need hardly enter on it.

5464. You agree with what he said?—Partly I do, but he omitted some matters that would go a long

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O'Leagan.

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way to remedy the evil we complain of. I think one school in each province would be sufficient to teach the children of fishermen, or fishermen themselves, the art of net-making and fish-curing. Either that or an itinerant instructor should go round and teach them. They are not taught at present the art of curing or making their own tackle at all.

5455. (Mr. Ogilvie).—One school or one instructor?—One school for each province, or an itinerant instructor to travel round the coast to teach the fishermen or the children of fishermen.

5456. One in each province?—Yes.

5457. Have your County Council communicated with the County Councils of other counties?—I have been in communication with a couple of other counties, Waterford especially.

5458. That is the sort of thing you might make a joint application to the Department about?—That has not been done.

5459. (Chairman).—Do you yourself live near the sea?—I live within three and a half miles of the sea, and I am greatly interested in the fisheries.

5470. (Mr. Micks).—What part of the coast?—Ballaghalin.

5471. They have only canoes there?—There are about forty canoes, and I am interested in getting up a slip. We are constructing one-third locally. It has been passed provisionally by the County Council.

5472. (Chairman).—Do you think an itinerant instructor would be effective?—I think it is very badly needed. Some of the fish are so improperly cured that they cannot afterwards be sold.

5473. (Mr. Micks).—What do they do with the fish at present?—It is cured locally, and then there are buyers sent from all the centres, Cork and Dublin.

5474. Do they sell any of the fish in South Arann?—Any fish captured at Arann is sold in Arann and brought in by the Conqueror District boat to Galway. That is what we are trying to prevent. We cannot get fish in the local market. We have imported fish from Galway, and got fish from Dublin and Queensdown. We are paying 8s. a dozen pounds for plaice, and ordinary fish.

5475. (Chairman).—Suppose you increased the local fishing trade, have you any means of transit?—No, sir. That is a great drawback entirely, the want of proper transit. Where fish has been captured at Ballyvaughan it has to be transferred by carts to Kinnistimone, fourteen Irish miles, or by canoe to Galway.

5476. The next point is the breed of skomhorn cattle?—It is my opinion, and the opinion of several of my colleagues, that the basis on which the scheme is worked is entirely wrong. The first point is that the premiums are allocated before the bulls are sold, which we consider increases the price of the bull £15 or £20 more than he is worth. My view would be, that the bull would be first bought in the open market—have them pure-bred by all means—and it would be an incentive to every man to buy the best he could and put them in competition locally, afterwards.

5477. (Mr. Dryden).—What would a poor man do if he put his money into a bull and the Department refused to pass it?—The bull is worth the money all the same. He buys a bull for local requirements, and whether he gets a premium or not, he does not lose by it, but under the present system he does. There are bulls at the model farm in Galway kept by the Department, and a friend of mine got a premium and he went down there. There were six bulls. One was only fit to take away, and he was prepared to pay £45 for that animal, and if he got a premium of the others he would not take them. I have seen bulls bought in the open market very superior at half the price, and some of those bulls cost £35, £40 and £45, while if you go to a breeder who is not exhibiting his bull for a premium, you can buy him at half the money. I think the indiscriminate service of cows leads to no improvement in the breed of cattle. According to the rules laid down the first cow first served no matter what class the cows are. No rule is prescribed for having cows classified.

5478. Would you compel a man to buy another cow before he could get one served?—I would not, but I would recommend that the cows be inspected, that a limited number of nominations be reserved for people under certain valuations, the small occupiers getting the preference, and that any man valued at over £50 should provide his own bull.

5479. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You would have the cows of applicants for nominations who had a certain valuation?—Under £5, under £10, or up to £50. I would not give a nomination to anyone over £50.

5480. Suppose you gave ten nominations to people under £5, and there were fifteen applicants, someone would take the ten cows that should have the nominations?—Yes, an inspector of the Department should do that. I would not have a local man do it.

5481. (Mr. Brown).—What would become of those cows that were rejected?—There are other bulls for those in the locality, and perhaps a better class of bulls than the ones you mention.

5482. Not pure-bred?—No; half-bred as a rule from pure-bred originally, and in our local market we find those bulls are more than able to hold their own with the pure-bred.

5483. You mean the produce of them?—Yes, as calves or yearlings, and two-year-olds. I farm extensively myself. I speak from experience, and I think, furthermore, there should be some inducement for people having better calves to keep them in the country. There should be premiums offered for those. The best of our heifers are sold the same as our horses, and the best mares and foals are sold.

5484. You would apply that to better calves?—Yes, keep them two-year-olds. A small premium would induce a man to keep them.

5485. Do you think there is a perceptible improvement in the cattle in your parts of the country?—We have not felt it yet. I think they are not getting worse. The County Clare produces about the best class cattle in Ireland at present.

5486. Do I understand you to say that you think the premium bulls are too high a class?—No, but the prices are too high. The bulls are not worth the prices we pay for them. When you go up to Dublin you see bulls commended at the show that we would not take. Then are bought, because if you take one you get a premium. The bulls that are not properly brought out for exhibition are passed over, and I would prefer them, because they are not found.

5487. Then the quarry industries?—That is one of the greatest sources of wealth in our county if properly developed. The want of proper transit facilities, and co-operation between property owners, and the want of capital deter them. The Liscannor quarries are worked very successfully by an English company in flags and sets that are all exported, and the great difficulty is to get trained hands to work the quarries. They import a great many from England. They give local employment to about 300 men. I was speaking to the proprietor of those quarries, and his recommendations were that depots for flags from all Irish quarries should be secured on the Menap, Themas and Clyn, and these should be put under the control of the Department and the prevailing prejudice against accepting Irish flags in contracts would be removed by public opinion. We would not ask for any preference, but only to be treated on equal terms.

5488. Has any action been taken by the Department?—No, sir.

5489. Have they been applied to?—I am not aware that they have.

5490. That is a thing that you think might do?—I am sure it is. And one of the other great drawbacks is that there is no central establishment for carrying on repairs or machinery where it is extensively used.

5491. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Is the transit mainly by sea?—Yes; the Irish railways put on prohibitive rates. The quarries are few and a half mile from the sea.

5492. The sea carriage would be the obvious way of transit?—The harbour of Liscannor is so exposed that vessels will not come into it at all times of the tide. You can only get steamers there.

5493. It is not a harbour that vessels beach at?—Yes. There are a couple of good beaches there.

5494. (Mr. Micks).—With a heavy load of flags on board?—No. There should be a central establishment for repairs where machinery getting out of order should be sent with facilities of transit to and fro. If you have not that you have to keep a staff at a quarry that are not needed, or have a lot of surplus machinery idle. They keep their own stores, but they are practically idle most of their time.

5495. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Would not the quarry-owners establish a central place for themselves?—There is only one quarry. There is another quarry at Broadford, a slate quarry. That is at present unworked.

study on account of insufficient transit facilities. If we had a central establishment for repairs in Galway to deal with quarries in the West of Ireland, and if there was a line of ships subsidised to pay a visit to Lismore every fortnight or month, or six weeks, and one to Galway, and one to Westport; I know of no greater source of wealth than the quarries, except the fishing industry.

5505. (Chairman).—Are there any other minerals you could work?—I am afraid not. Iron ore exists, but not in paying quantities.

5507. Slate and flags?—Slate and flags, and I think the Department should be called upon to interfere and get these accepted by public departments in Ireland and England also. It is impossible to get these accepted, although the stones are better than the ones they take. They specify Norwegian stones and not a word about Irish.

5508. But what about private manufacturers?—They cannot succeed all at once. The Watsons have been trying to tender in London for years. The terms of the Board of Works contracts and the County Council

contracts in England won't permit them to tender. July 3, 1911

because Irish stone is not specified.

5509. Won't the County Council accept an Irish tender?—They are not specified in the terms of tender.

5510. Irish slate is not covered by the terms of tender?—No.

5511. (Mr. Micks).—Is there anything in the advertisements to exclude Lismore flags?—Irish stone is not specified at all.

5512. Is it not excluded?—But it is not specified, and architects will say, "We have not specified for this stone," and will put it aside as soon as you tender. The great difficulty is the irregularity of the Irish trader to complete their contracts, for want of proper transit.

5513. (Chairman).—There is no reason in the quality of the stone?—The quality of the stone is the best. Wherever it has been tried it has been found equal to anything else.

5514. You give that as an instance where you think the action of the Department would be useful?—I think it would be useful.

MR. P. J. FLEMING, CHAIRMAN.

5505. (Chairman).—You are the secretary of the Tipperary Urban District Committee?—Yes, the Joint Committee.

5506. What have you to add to Mr. Ford's evidence?—I will give you a short statement of the work we are doing first. The Tipperary (Joint) Scheme deals with Technical Instruction in a district with an urban population of 5,281 and a rural population of 18,896. It has five years' experience. Technical instruction is given in the Christian Schools, Tipperary, as part of the Intermediate course. The Committee assist this work as far as their powers permit. It is very valuable work, as the school is obviously the place for fundamental instruction, and there is no difficulty in securing attendance there. It is only necessary to remark on this head that more skilled instructors might be usefully employed, and that the results' fees for manual instruction are entirely inadequate if it is to be a permanently essential subject. (I refer to the Department Report, page 38.) Classes are held in the town of Tipperary for about three months in each year in building construction, manual instruction, domestic economy, and commercial subjects. Science relating to agriculture is taught in a Saturday class. Mineral classes in manual instruction and domestic economy are established for periods of six or seven weeks annually in different rural centres. Six £12 Scholarships are given each year to rural pupils to enable them to secure a secondary school education. As regards the classes, my unvarying experience is that a great and increasing difficulty exists in securing pupils of the right kind. We have met this difficulty in some cases by special work in organising and by various devices, but, as illustrations, it may be noted that a science evening class failed after two years through want of pupils, and in the present year entrance fees have had to be practically abandoned in the urban district.

5507. What was the subject?—Science.

5508. What sort of science?—Experimental science, or first year's course in the Departmental programme. In this respect I think that some form of prize-giving would afford a most useful stimulus to attendance, and enable us to select suitable pupils. The real reason of the difficulty appears to be that whilst fundamental work is very suitable for schools with a view to founding upon it subsequent specialist training, it fails to attract young men who have left school. These require something that shows a definite result in their daily pursuits. We have had some who took up the matter energetically enough at first, but found themselves at the end of two or three years "stuffed with knowledge for which there was no market and which led to nothing in particular. The Scholarships of the Royal College of Science give a certain opening, but there are only five, and five teacher-training Scholarships for all Ireland. The conditions in the countries from which Technical Instruction is adopted, and in which, are probably different. There the manual and scientific skill acquired would have a use in various industries. In our rural districts there are few such industries. Agriculture is the one important industry of our

district, but Urban Committees are not allowed by the Act to spend their money on agricultural instruction. A provision of this kind may be more justice in other countries, but is entirely out of place in Ireland where all classes are directly or indirectly dependent upon agriculture. In such a country the development of that industry would benefit all, and most urban communities would be glad to assist in providing continuous instruction in improved agricultural methods. The £12 Scholarships are regarded as most valuable, and my Committee would like to increase their number and the term for which they are held, but have no funds for this purpose. Indeed, since we are spending all our money at present, any development of our scheme is impossible except by the sacrifice of something which we are now doing. The inspectors are too good to be very helpful. This appears to be due to the fact that the staff of inspectors is too small. It would not be desirable to increase routine or formal work or actual interference with the work of Committees or Instructors, but it would seem advantageous to have a system of expert study of local conditions with, as a result, advice to Committees and Instructors as to the best method of applying their work in any given locality. There seems to be no reason why inspectors should not be appointed by competitive examination, as is done in most educational institutions, so as to secure some guarantee of uniform efficiency. The need for such a department as that with which we are concerned is, in Ireland, altogether an industrial one. All its work should have a direct industrial bearing and have regard to local conditions, whereas a general educational scheme is being applied rather uniformly all over Ireland with, necessarily, varying and indefinite results. The Department could hardly accomplish their educational work and also achieve the industrial regeneration of the country with the money at their disposal, and they have already accomplished some very important constructive work. But it seems self-evident that their work will only have full result if it is accompanied step by step with industrial development. The prospect of permanent technical instruction without any corresponding industrial development or any means of usefully employing the knowledge acquired, would be a disheartening one for all concerned. Though there may be difficulties in the way of artificial aid to industrial development, the special circumstances of the country require something of the kind, and in any case it is a necessary complement to the system of technical education now being adopted throughout the country.

5509. (Mr. O'Brien).—You speak of students who had been attending classes in experimental science being equipped with knowledge which led to no market. I should have thought that course was aimed not so much at giving a marketable knowledge as at making the student more ready to apply his natural abilities, and at supplying a good basis for any experience he may have in his industry. I suppose you have found no difficulty in the course prescribed in that respect?—No; first of all in that remark of mine. I did not refer to experimental science only but included it. The point was the fundamental pro-

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ciples of science are proper to be taught in schools, but as soon as you start a class for young men they require something that has a direct bearing on their subsequent occupations.

5510. The difficulty you have to meet is that after all you are catering for a comparatively limited population?—Yes.

5511. And therefore you are not in a position economically to sub-divide the topics of education you give them very greatly?—That is so.

5512. You must rather aim in the first instance at giving as sound a scientific preparation for practical work as you can so as to cover as many people as you can?—That is quite right, but we have not the practical work after.

5513. What practical work are they generally engaged in?—The best of our urban classes would be clerks in shops, some farmers and some artisans. Mostly, they took two years in the Christian Brothers' Schools in experimental science and then went to our schools in the third year, and then go to a shop.

5514. If they have taken two years in the Christian Brothers' Schools they have had all the extent of that course that is likely to be of advantage to them, and therefore on coming up to the evening school the best thing for them to take would not be a third year of experimental science, but the class that approached most nearly to what they wanted. You have classes in commercial work and building-construction?—Yes.

5515. You have not in Tipperary, but in the surrounding rural districts you have classes in dairying and agriculture?—We cannot touch agriculture; no, we have science relating to agriculture in the urban class for rural pupils on Saturdays; in the rural district we give itinerant manual instruction and domestic economy.

5516. But you could have agriculture there?—I understand the Act does not permit us, being a technical committee.

5517. But I thought you were a joint agricultural committee?—Yes, but the agricultural portion is in the hands of the South Riding committee; there is a certain amount of agricultural instruction available; the itinerant instructors are available for that district, but our point is, having provision for technical instruction and a laboratory, we ought to be allowed to devote it to advanced agricultural instruction. We have a Saturday class, and pay rural pupils their expenses of coming in there; they are all supposed to be farmers; the Department assist on one or two years' courses of science before they can take further agricultural training; we pay for the teacher and the scholarships, but at the end of that there is no provision whatever for further agricultural training.

5518. Would not the natural suggestion be that your committee and that of the South Riding should form a joint committee under section 14 (3), so that you could combine your forces?—I am afraid you cannot do that; you cannot take the two subjects with a joint committee; the County Committee had to be split for that reason; now they must have one com-

mittee for technical instruction and another for agriculture in each county.

5519. "Any two or more public bodies may, subject to regulations of the Department, appoint a joint committee for the purpose of this part of this Act with such representation thereon of each public body as, subject to the provisions of this Act, may be agreed upon or in case of dispute determined by the Department?"—If there is any urban favour in that joint committee none of the money can go for agriculture.

5520. The other money may and it can be spent in the most convenient manner?—I think the Department and their advisers have decided differently.

5521. (Mr. Brown).—I don't know that they have decided it cannot be done, but they may have decided that it was not expedient to do so?—The agricultural and technical work of counties up to a few years ago was governed in every county by a single committee elected by the County Council. I have heard that the Department were advised that, as urban money was very often included in the fund administered by them, a sub-joint committee should be elected for technical purposes only, including the urban representatives and as agricultural committee from which the urban representatives were excluded. We have been informed that we could not spend our money for any agricultural purposes.

5522. (Mr. O'Connell).—It simply points to this, that whether or not it is possible just now, it ought to be possible to have such a combination of forces between urban and rural interests as to secure the full development of both agricultural and urban instruction?—Yes.

(Chairman).—I think that opinion must have been based on the clause about the application of the money, sec. 15, the two things are kept distinct.

5523. (Mr. Brown).—There would be nothing to prevent the agricultural committee supplying funds for agricultural instruction in your urban schools if they thought it desirable?—There is nothing to prevent that.

5524. You might not be able to use your technical money for agricultural instruction, but if the two committees were agreed there would be nothing to prevent the agricultural committee paying money for a teacher?—Nothing to prevent it, but one committee is not likely to hand over part of their funds to another committee. The Department sent us an agricultural instructor free to our district, but they sent him at the wrong time of the year—in May, when the young men were very busy.

5525. (Mr. O'Connell).—Why is it not likely that one committee would hand over money to another?—It is hardly in human nature; they have plenty of employment for the money themselves. We applied for money for scholarships for boys that the agricultural teacher was teaching, and I cannot say that we were rewarded very warmly.

5526. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose there is a little jealousy between the Rural and Urban Committees?—That may possibly exist in some cases.

5527. (Mr. M'Call).—And I suppose you have not too much money?—No.

Mr. E. J. Leno, examined.

Mr. E. J.
Leno.

5528. (Chairman).—You are the High Sheriff of the City of Limerick?—Yes.

5529. You appear for the County Borough Committee of Technical Instruction?—Yes.

5530. Your first point is the question of the value of the Department to the country?—I think the Department has been of very considerable value to the country as a whole. I am speaking altogether of technical instruction now.

5531. You have many schools in Limerick?—I think we give aid to five, four besides our central institute, which can hardly in the full sense of the word be called a central institute having so many other classes outside; that is owing to the want of a properly-equipped building.

5532. Where is it carried on as a matter of fact?—We have two houses in George's-street. We first had one, and then took a second. They are very badly equipped, not at all sufficiently. We should like to have them a good deal better equipped, but we are waiting, thinking we might get a grant for building some day.

5533. Would you wish to have a new central building?—I think it would be better, properly designed for technical work, and then properly equipped for technical work. The equipment costs a good deal. I think a good deal more attention has been given of recent years to the industrial problems of Ireland since the Department became established. Public attention has been directed to the subject, and I think a great deal of good has resulted. I believe much benefit has resulted in the country, too, from the teaching of the Department with regard to small industries—I refer to agricultural districts. I think the teaching of the people in habits of industry and thrift has been of great advantage.

5534. You are referring to the domestic economy classes?—Yes, and such classes as wood-carving, basket-making, straw hat making, lace-making, I believe, have been attended to very considerably, too. I think these all teach very valuable lessons to the country people.

5535. Do you think the itinerant lectures have done good?—I fail to see what other means there is of teaching the people of the country, the area is so

large, and our population is so sparse. Although it is desirable to have centres, the distances would be too great for people to come. I think if they could be impressed with the value of education they would in some come. I don't think the value of technical education has filtered through the minds of the people sufficiently. The general condition of education is so low amongst the masses of the people that they do not see the value of technical education.

5536. I see you have been some observations on the condition of primary education with respect to the working of the Department?—I think the Department should be prepared to help small industries wherever the local conditions are favourable to the establishment of some industries, a loan in the way, say, of providing machinery and of teachers would be absolutely necessary before any industry could be started. One of the principal reasons why home industries (for which we have a home market and raw material) cannot be started is because there is no trained labour in the locality. I have several industries in my eye which could be economically worked here, but there is absolutely no trained teachers for them.

5537. Could you mention some of them?—Take the woollen industry. I see no reason why weaving could not be carried out in Limerick, there is such a large market in Limerick and the district, and there are no large weaving mills nearer than Douglas, Cork. There is a small mill here. Soap could be largely made here. A lot of raw material leaves the city every week which could be utilised in that industry. Boot-making should be carried on, but there is absolutely no trained labour in the locality.

5538. What is your idea as to the steps that might be taken by a Department for the promotion of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—It is a very big and difficult subject. I think local people should first ask the aid of the Department for what they consider best suited to the needs of the locality. The Department should make all due inquiries with regard to that industry or industries, the probability of their being successful, and advise the people with regard to markets and prices, and cost of production, and should lend them machinery if the industry was likely to be successful—certainly should give them the means of getting trained workers by supplying teachers, or run a trades class for a limited period, I should say.

5539. Have you thought out the question of creating a system of credit for making these advances. Do you think that could be done on a large scale with public money?—It should be done very cautiously, but I see no reason why it should not be done on a large scale if the State were prepared to do it. My experience is that the people as a whole are exceedingly honest in their commercial transactions. I am largely in trade, and that is my universal experience all over the South and the Midlands, that the people are very honest, indeed. They fulfil their commercial engagements to the letter. In cases of failure there are generally very good reasons in 99 cases out of 100 why they should fail.

5540. Do you think they could provide sufficient security for a loan of that kind for starting these small industries? I suppose, even the State would want a little security?—If money was lent on machinery I think the machinery would be sufficient security for any money lent on it. If on buildings the buildings would be sufficient. I should certainly very much like to lay stress on the want of trade classes. I fail to see how new industries can be established without obtaining competent and skilled people—I mean in districts where industries are not already running, and even where they are already running the want of trade classes to supply the skilled labour to the industry is very much felt, indeed. Where we lack is not producing work of a high character.

5541. (Mr. Dryden).—You would not expect these persons to teach industries until the industries are established?—That is a debated question, but I am in favour where people are prepared to establish an industry hands should be trained for these people. The experience of the Committee I represent is that technical education has not made as rapid progress as we should like. Our classes in the beginning were very badly attended, but every year there is a slight improvement on the preceding year, and some of us are sanguine enough to believe that when the people realise the value of technical educa-

tion it will be much more largely availed of. We find the trades' apprentices are not coming into our schools in at all the numbers we desired, and they are scarcely doing anything to send the apprentices into the technical school.

5542. Do you find any difficulty about the teachers?—We have been able to get a sufficient supply of teachers, but not locally. We have always to go outside the district for them. In connection with that, I think it is a very great pity that more of our people are not getting a better education, and that we should not be compelled to go outside for our teachers. We can get plenty of untrained labour in Limerick, more than we require; but if I required myself a skilled worker or a Departmental foreman I have either to import him from abroad or go very far away for him.

5543. What is your business?—A leather merchant, tanning.

5544. That is an industry that does not exist in Limerick so largely as it used to?—Not at all so largely, but I see no reason why it should not.

5545. You would like to have a number of State-aided tanneries started?—Certainly not; but I see no reason why there should not be a great many privately-run tanneries in the country if the Department did all I should like to see them do. We find that the pupils that attend best are drawn from the better class of people. They do not come from the people that need education most. We should like to see the workpeople availing of technical education. I do not think the work of the Department will make very much progress in the country unless the system of primary education is vastly improved, and it gets a more industrial turn. Experimental science and drawing must be taught in the primary schools much more extensively than it is before we can make any progress whatever with technical education. The children are not prepared at all to enter the technical schools. It was only this morning I had occasion to speak to an apprentice of mine. He was conducting some little experimental work, and I asked him how he was getting on at the technical schools, as I insisted he should go there when I engaged him. He told me that when he went there at first he was not at all able to follow what they were doing. I asked him was there any sort of experimental science work done at all at the primary school he was at. He had past the sixth standard. He told me there was none whatever. They did not keep any apparatus of any kind—no models of any kind, nothing whatever to give the pupils a little more knowledge of the things around them—no knowledge whatever of scientific matters. There was a very important matter in connection with our business that I approached the Department with regard to some years ago. Very soon after the Department had been established I asked them to endeavour to get the raw material for our industry better put on the market. The Irish tannery trade was a large trade at one time, and when that was the case the Irish hides were well taken off, because it was the interest of the tanners to see them well fayed, and they did so. I remember this myself thirty years ago, when I came to the business. Gradually the tanneries disappeared owing to the introduction of machinery in the making of boots, and the Irish tanner not being properly equipped to compete with the producers of other countries. The hides began to be carelessly taken off by the butchers, and they were all bought for export. They are still worse taken off to-day. We get hides from a great many countries, and I do not think there are any hides worse taken off than the Irish hides, which is a great loss to the country. Three or four hundred thousand pounds worth of hides leave the country every year.

5546. (Mr. O'Connell).—Alive or dead?—Dead.

5547. That is to say, the animals representing those have been slaughtered in Ireland?—Yes.

5548. And the value of the hides of the animals slaughtered in Ireland that go out of Ireland was three or four hundred thousand pounds a year?—Yes. We find our trade extensively handicapped owing to the hides being badly fayed. We could not sell our leather made from those hides at a proper price. I approached the Department to alter that state of things if possible. I have been doing that for years with no result. They did, in conjunction with the Dublin Veterinary Association, put on a man for some years, and he

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visited Limerick, but they never advised us that the man had been appointed. I think it would be one of the first duties of the Department to prepare the native raw material for Irish industries, and they have done and are doing the Irish tanning trade a grave injustice and injury by not endeavouring to spend a little money. I think it would cost £300 a year to put on a properly qualified man to teach the butchers through the country how to take off hides properly.

5546 (Mr. Dryden).—Is that the trouble?—Yes; they cut them right through and injure the hide to the extent of a penny per pound on the raw hide and 2d. per lb. on the finished article.

5550. If the butchers took them off properly they would receive a considerable amount more for the hide.—They would.

5551. I should think it would pay them to teach themselves!—If you knew the circumstances you would change your opinion. Take a small butcher killing two or three animals a year; the difference between a badly-fayed and a well-fayed hide does not amount to much; you get your apprentice, perhaps, at no wages at all, if you had a skilled man to take off the hides you would have to pay him 35s. or 30s., and the difference between the well-fayed and the badly-fayed hide on two or three beasts won't compensate you for the increased wages.

5552 (Mr. O'Driscoll).—What proportion of the slaughtering is done in the public abattoir?—Very little.

5553. So that any instructor would have to visit a large number of slaughter-houses?—He would.

5554. (Chairman).—Has your attention been called to the last report of the Department, on page 51 you will find a passage there about the faying of hides (wreck passages). So they are doing something!—That does not affect us; we don't see any improvement.

5555. (Mr. Brown).—Did your technical committee ever propose to make it a branch of instruction?—No, we have no funds for that in our technical committee. We should do it if we had any means we could devote to it. I consider any complaints affect only one industry in Limerick, but the small funds we have are better employed in affecting a larger number of people. What the Department has done is, in my opinion, very little. They should have done a good deal more.

5556. (Chairman).—They have just started it!—I hope they will continue.

5557. It seems out what you say that it is a very great need, and they seem to be more or less alive to the importance of doing something!—There is no possible chance of any great impetus being given to the leather industry of Ireland until the raw material is properly put on the market.

5558. (Mr. Brown).—Is the value of it much affected by the warble fly?—Not as much as by the bad faying. The warbles are very bad, but a greater number of hides are injured by bad faying.

5559. Is not the skin permanently injured by the warble?—Permanently by both.

5560. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—Taking your own business as a type, you speak of the difficulty of getting men suitable for foremen or general managers?—Yes.

5561. I suppose the number of openings for that sort of thing in Ireland is not very great?—Not in my trade.

5562. I am taking it as typical of the industries in which there are not large openings, the proper course for any young man who showed promise in such an industry would be to send him after an adequate primary instruction to Herolds Institute, Birmosney, or the Leeds College?—Yes.

5563. What is required for such men are facilities for a good general education in the industry?—Yes.

MR. FRANCIS HARTOGAN, C.B., examined.

Mr. Francis
Hartogan, C.B.

I am the engineer to several co-operative societies in Limerick.

5564. (Chairman).—You are an architect?—I am, and farmer and small landowner. We have no poultry scheme in this county, which is a most serious loss to the labourer and small farmers, because there is some dispute between the County Committee and the Department into the merits of which I don't propose to enter.

5565. The result is you have no poultry scheme?—We have no poultry scheme. I consider these County Committees too big and not fairly selected; they are selected on the nomination of the members of the County Councils, and I think the members of the District Councils should have a voice in the selection because they would then be far better able to look into the affairs of their own district. There is another thing we require also, we want to have elementary chemistry, such as Sir Henry Roscoe's primer, Sir Archibald Geikie's primer on Geology, and things of that sort taught at our National Schools as an aid to technical education. Manual instruction, with all respect to the instruction, is at the present time the crudest form of rule of thumb. Then, as far as the cattle-breeding scheme is concerned, the idea of the Department is to cross the shorthorn with the ordinary milking cow of the country. Limerick is essentially a butter-producing country, and what we want mainly in the western part of the county is to cross the ordinary breed of cattle not with a shorthorn that is

intended for fattening purposes, but any other variety of shorthorn that will suit for dairy purposes. The shorthorn being the result of cross-breeding brought out by excellent farming experts in the eastern shires of England, where the air is dry and hot, is a capital article for furnishing beef for the London market, but here in Limerick it has produced tubercle to an extraordinary degree. We have absolutely no means of protecting our inland fisheries, with the result that I think fishing will very soon be destroyed. When fish come up to spawn in the Dool and Maigue they are perched. I spoke to the Secretary of the Fishery Board sometime ago, Mr. Harford, "Oh," he said, "what can we do, we have no money to pay bailiffs." There is another point with regard to the creameries in the County Limerick, because Limerick has now become a creamery county, there are a good many farms that are too far away from them, and it would be a great boon if the Department gave us small loans to get hand separators, and also if they got a small apparatus for the school. Both the Rector and the Parish Priest in the town I come from are very anxious to teach elementary chemistry and experimental science, but we have no means of getting any money to buy apparatus.

5566. (Mr. Brown).—Is the National school?—In our National schools, because all technical instruction, if it is to be any good, should emanate from the finishing of the teaching in the National schools.

The Committee adjourned.

NINETEENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—TUESDAY, JULY 3rd, 1906.

At the County Council Chamber, Limerick.

Present:—

SIR KENNEL E. DOBBS, K.C., K.C.B. (*Chairman*).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OUELVE.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., *Secretary*.Right Hon. LORD MONTAGUE, K.P., *examined*.

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Lord Montague, K.P.

5667. (*Chairman*).—You do not, I believe, appear here as a delegate of the Limerick County Committee or of any public body, though you have been a member of the County Committee from the beginning?—That is so. I am a member of the County Committee, and a nominated member of the Council of Agriculture and a nominated member of the Agricultural Board.

5668. And have taken, I suppose, an active part in the work of the County Committee?—Quite so.

5669. You were present yesterday, and heard, I think, most of the evidence that was given?—I think I heard all the evidence given by the County Limerick witnesses, except Mr. Hartigan.

5670. Yes; that was after you had left. You wish to make some observations on some points which were raised yesterday?—Yes.

5671. Would you kindly follow your own course in doing so?—For the first three years after the Department was set up I was a nominated member of the Technical Instruction Board, and then I was asked to go on the Agricultural Board instead. I should apologise at the outset to the Committee, for my evidence, I am afraid, may be somewhat crude, as I did not intend to offer any evidence at the local inquiry here, being given to understand that I might be called upon perhaps at a later stage in Dublin to give evidence of a more general character; but after hearing the evidence yesterday there were some points that occurred to me in connection with our local schemes that I thought had not been thoroughly brought out yesterday, and I thought I might venture to offer my opinion as an individual member of the County Committee.

5672. And your more general evidence you prefer to reserve till a later period?—Yes; quite so. The main questions touched upon yesterday by the witnesses were the value of teaching by itinerants, and the relations between the Department and the County Committee, especially in connection with our livestock scheme, and the question of winter-dairying. As regards the diet, itinerant instruction, this, of course, at best is only a makeshift or preparation for more continuous and permanent instruction, but it is difficult to devise any substitute for it in thinly-populated districts, at any rate, in the initial stages. In my experience both the manual instruction and the dairy and laundry and needle-work courses have been very useful so far as they went, but I agree with the other witnesses that the courses are too short, especially in the case of manual instruction. This difficulty, however, can only be remedied by increasing the number of itinerants, which would cost more money. The County Council has hitherto raised a halfpenny rate. If that were increased to a penny the length of the course might be very much enlarged. To return to my experience, in my own village I found the manual instruction classes fairly attended, and the interest of the boys, especially the poorer ones, increased very markedly during the progress of the course.

5673. Can you give us the number attending?—I am afraid I have not had an opportunity of looking it up. It was from a dozen to a score. We had classes for young boys and boys in the upper classes of the schools during the day-time, and we had ar-

tisans' classes in the evening. The attendance at the boys' classes by day was much better than at the artisans' classes, but the artisans' classes increased as they went on. I think the success in this case was largely due to our having a most excellent instructor with a natural aptitude for teaching, who has since, unfortunately for us, gone elsewhere to better himself. From inquiries I have made in other localities in other parts of the county the impression produced on me in my own village was confirmed—namely, that manual instruction when taught by a competent teacher, is a valuable form of technical instruction, and has a definitely educational value in teaching habits of order, accuracy, and attention to details quite apart from the mere manual skill acquired or the knowledge of wood-work as a handicraft which is imparted. I have a saw-mill and wood-working industry, and I encouraged those employed in the saw-mill to attend, and I think they decidedly benefited by the instruction there, though, of course, they were already equipped more or less for that sort of work, but it gave them better habits all round. I quite see the educational value of the thing.

5674. Is it instruction which would be calculated to make them more useful in their own homes supposing they led the life of an ordinary tenant farmer?—could they learn to do repairs?—I think so. That very much depends on the particular instructor, what kind of things he gives them to do. Some of the boys made a ladder, a rough ladder, of course, and they made a number of wheelbarrows and things. They generally begin on those. They split timber if put to any serious work.

5675. But apart from that you attach considerable value to the educational effect?—That, in my opinion, is the greatest value of it, the principal importance.

5676. (*Mr. Brown*).—Has the Committee at any time suggested any substitute for the manual instruction?—There was a scheme considered, it was suggested by the Department. Well, it arose out of a circular sent round which the instructor showed us one day when he was here for day-trade preparatory schools. I think it was called, and the committee were rather taken with this, and they proposed to set up a trade preparatory school in Rathkeale or Newssale, one of the country towns, instead of manual instruction, and then when this was sent up to the Department it was found that the scheme was not really suited to the rural districts. I think the instructor had only just got the circular, and he had not thoroughly mastered the outline of it, and it did not prove to be well suited. At least the Department did not intend it for rural districts, and I myself thought it very doubtful whether it would be suited to country districts.

5677. In any case it could only reach a very small area?—Quite so; once you get away from the itinerant principle. I don't see how you can reach the scattered populations. I shall have a word to say about that later on as we are trying a modification of the itinerant principle of this county. I cannot, therefore, agree with Father Casey, that it has been a failure, though I recognise with regret that it has not as yet appeared itself to the majority of our committee as being worth the money spent on it. As I said before, the length of the course should be increased, I should say, to at least six months, and I

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may mention here that we are trying an interesting experiment as a modification of the itinerant system, having placed an itinerant manual instructor for a year at Newcastle West, and I believe the results there have been encouraging. It was while I was away, and I have not been able to visit the place, but Monsignor Hallinan, the parish priest of Newcastle West, lately stated at a meeting of the County Committee that as a result of his experience of this experiment, and of the manual instruction given there when the length of the course was thus increased, he had modified the unfavourable opinion he had previously formed on manual instruction as a feature of the county scheme. Monsignor Hallinan was to have given evidence here, but I am sorry to say he has been prevented from coming. I saw his remarks reported in the newspaper. I have not the opinion verbatim, but I think I have given accurately the substance. It was originally intended that this manual instructor should divide his time between Newcastle West, where he would reside, and one or more of the villages around. I think the scheme was at first that he should be dividing his time for three or six months between Newcastle West and one village, and then he should move on to another village, remaining at Newcastle as a centre all the time, and giving half his time to Newcastle. I think that would have been a very interesting experiment. I am rather sorry it was not carried out. I don't know why exactly, for I was away at the time.

5575. (Chairman).—What is the size of Newcastle West?—A town of about 5,000 inhabitants—a little country town.

5576. We have had some evidence that these classes succeed better in country districts than in towns, in some parts of Ireland?—Well, I have no experience of that; our experience in this county has been almost entirely of purely village courses. Newcastle West is almost the only place that you could call a town, but I should have said that it was better adapted to the country than towns. You can get other sorts of schools in towns. As regards the cookery, laundry and needlework, I agree with the other witnesses that this instruction is useful and appreciated. It is more popular in the country than manual instruction—everybody nearly wants to get this course for girls.

5580. It appears to be more popular than instruction in some other subjects. It seems to be better appreciated, and we have had a great many favourable opinions expressed about it from various quarters?—The difficulty here with us is that there are so many localities that apply for the services of the three instructors in those subjects that it is difficult to satisfy them all. This seems to me a strong argument for continuing the itinerant teacher. You could not possibly give an equal opportunity to all the different districts whether outlying or in the neighbourhood of a large town like Newcastle. There seems no way of meeting this demand except by increasing the supply, but it would be very important, I think, that the supply should be increased in order that those classes also should be made longer. We don't half over the ground; there are numbers of places in the county that have not yet had instructors at all; I have been clamouring myself in my neighbourhood of Fynes for a needlework course for more than a year, and I have not been able to get the instructors.

5581. (Mr. Dryden).—How many of these itinerant instructors are there in the county?—We have two in cookery and laundry; each of them do cookery and laundry, and one needlework.

5582. (Chairman).—According to the returns which I have before me, there are two manual instructors in Limerick, two domestic economy instructresses, and one "other teacher," total five, all on the technical side?—There are three domestic economy, two who do cookery and laundry, and one who does needlework, and then there is one on the agricultural side, horticultural.

5583. This is a return of teachers in manual instruction, domestic economy, and other subjects employed as whole time officers under County Committee administering schemes of technical instruction, and the total given is five. The needlework instructor, I suppose, comes under the heading "other teachers"?—I suppose so; I don't exactly understand.

5584. The return as prepared by the Department?—I don't know how they are analysed there.

(Mr. Dryden).—There is also one in horticulture. 5585. (Chairman).—And no other on the agricultural side—the horticultural instructor gives instruction in bee-keeping apparently. Take the County Cork, Limerick has five on the technical side and Cork has twenty-three instructors?—Yes; they have agricultural and poultry instruction.

5586. Ah, but this is only on the technical side?—Well, Cork is a good deal more than technical the size of Limerick, nearly three times the size. I do not altogether agree with the other witnesses as to the desirability of teaching any of these subjects in National schools, that is, manual instruction for boys and cookery and laundry for girls. Needlework, of course, is taught in those schools, cookery and laundry, or manual instruction, as part of the ordinary day curriculum, but I should like to see arrangements made by agreement between the National Board and the Department by which boys and girls on leaving school should get systematic instruction on those subjects in some convenient school. The only other subjects on which they are giving instruction by means of itinerant teachers are in horticulture, which properly belongs to the agricultural side, and I agree with Lord Enly that this instruction in some way or other should be brought within the reach of the schools, and the dual control of the two Departments undisturbed or harmonised. In this matter I have rather a different opinion to that I expressed just now about the teaching in the schools. I think that gardening is a most excellent subject for boys, and might well be included in the ordinary curriculum. If you had a school garden attached to the school or near the neighbourhood, it is very easy. If a teacher is giving instruction in horticulture there is no difficulty whatever; it is much better that he should take opportunities as weather and so on permit to send the boys out to the garden.

5587. Apparently the regulations of the National Board do afford facilities for that?—I think the history of the thing is this. There was a grant for school gardens until a few years ago, which was not. I am afraid, taken much advantage of, and then on the introduction of the new programme some time or four years ago that was brought to an end, and I was hit by it. I was just starting a school garden, and I got no assistance whatever towards it, and when I applied to the National Board they told me the grant had been discontinued. I thought that was a most deplorably retrograde step. I have just seen that in a recent issue of new instructions, or a new curriculum—I have not had an opportunity of studying it—that there is a sort of sketch which would admit of this, of horticultural instruction in school gardens being given under the head of "object lessons," but I don't think there is anything in that to show that any grant will be made for it. I hope that it may be given under that during school hours. It is not at all clear, so far as I can see, whether that instruction could be given by an entire teacher, and I think we want to utilise the services of the horticultural instructor in the county. At any rate, if it is not actually to give the instruction that is might be acting in consultation. Very often a teacher might be willing to take up this if he had a little guidance or instruction—the horticultural instructor would come round and make suggestions.

5588. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It seems to me quite proper under this regulation of the Commissioners of National Education that instruction of that sort, where it can be arranged by the horticultural instructor, should be made available in school hours. The minimum time constituting an attendance may include . . . (2) any time occupied by visits paid during school hours under arrangements sanctioned by the Commissioners to places of educational value or interest. The number of such visits for every pupil, however, be strictly limited, and should not exceed twenty visits of two hours' duration for any particular pupil?—That does not contemplate gardens exactly; it is more like field excursions.

5589. It could include systematic visits to school gardens, or demonstration plots for horticultural purposes. I should think there would be very few places of more interest in the neighbourhood of a school than such plots—it does not exactly suggest gardens, and I don't see why they should not have said gardens if that is what they meant.

5590. I don't know what they meant, but it is quite wide enough?—I don't think it would suggest that to any manager.

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5281. I expect the Commissioners had to use words that would be suitable for use in such cases, as would be available in towns as well as in country.—I don't see why they should not frankly have admitted gardens as a subject as is done in England. Mr. Ogilvie will know much better than I do, but I think it is a recognised subject. Gravel is given for it, and the instruction could be given during school hours.

5282. This permits the instruction to be given during school hours, which is one of the main things. If the instruction is to be given by the county instructor it would not appear to be necessary that grants should be given to another body.—It would be hardly possible that the county instructor should give all the instruction. I think that he might come in occasionally. He has to go round the different districts. He goes for a week at a time to one place, and then moves on to another.

5283. The idea that is suggested, and is partly in operation in other places, is that when he is at a village, advantage should be taken of the time he is free during the day to bring under his influence the pupils from the school who are old enough to benefit by such observation and instruction.—Quite so, and I would wish to have his influence brought in very much. He has eight districts in our county; he goes for a week at a time to each of these. What is to happen during the other seven weeks are the boys to be left to their own resources?

5284. What is happening to his plots during those seven weeks in any case?—It is on the land of the individual occupier, who binds himself to act under his supervision. You want some arrangement of that kind in the absence of the itinerant instructor. I think, to carry on the school garden during his absence. Obviously, the teacher would be the best person to do it if the teacher has a taste that way. I have got a practical gardener in the neighbourhood to give the instruction.

5285. I do not suggest that this is an adequate provision for the working of school gardens, far from it, but what I do suggest is this, that this enables advantage to be taken of each opportunity of instruction at the hands of the county instructor as can be arranged for, and it enables that instruction to be given inside the ordinary school hours.—It would be a great advantage, no doubt, but I think we want to carry it further. We do rather travel outside the Agricultural Department. When you get to a school you are getting into the domain of the National Board, but these matters will be arranged.

5286 (Chairman).—That is work for the Consultative Committee?—Quite so.

5287. (Mr. Ogilvie).—But we particularly want to find out how far what we have been just discussing is not a sufficient provision, and it is desirable there should be direct provision in connection with the grants for primary schools for the establishment of school gardens, and for satisfactory instruction in connection with them?—Quite so.

5288. And you think it would be a possible arrangement to have that instruction under the general supervision of the horticultural instructor for the county, but that must be supplemented by continuous supervision at the hands of someone on the spot?—Yes. I may remind you that the Consultative Committee was set up by the Act of 1890, the Act which set up the Department, and it may be considered part of the system, though it embraces other bodies outside the Department.

5289. And it is also directly within the reference to us. We have to consider the relations of the Department to other educational bodies?—Yes. I come now to the agricultural side of the work proper; I am not a practical farmer, but as a member both of the County Committee and of the Agricultural Board, I have taken an active part in the agricultural side of our county work. I specially interested myself in the live stock scheme, and I feel bound to say that though it is quite true, as pointed out yesterday by Lord Emly, that it took a little time to convince the Department of the special nature of our requirements in this matter in Limerick as the centre of the principal dairy district in Ireland, I think we may congratulate ourselves on having got the Department to start a Herd Book for Dairy Cattle in which scheme the main principles that we had been contending for, as stated by Lord Emly, were conceded. I should like

to add that the County Limerick scheme originated, I believe, with Mr. John Ryan, the Chairman of our Live Stock Committee. At any rate to him is due the principal credit of carrying it through. The main principle we contended for was the selection of the cows to be mated with pure-bred bulls. Lord Emly pointed that out yesterday. It is true, as I said, that at first the Department adhered somewhat rigidly to the general scheme of cattle improvement which was adopted by the Agricultural Board before I was a member of that Board, and which was based on the recommendations of the Department's Advisory Committee. But on our County Committee pressing the matter, the Department sent down their principal agricultural inspector, Mr. Gordon, to discuss the whole question with us at a special conference, and partly as the result of that conference the scheme for a Dairy Herd Book, mentioned above, was started, a somewhat similar scheme having been put forward about the same time by the County Kilkenny. In this matter, at all events, I do not think we have much cause for complaint, though I wish that the conference with Mr. Gordon could have taken place earlier. This scheme for the Dairy Herd Book is already in operation. At the meeting of the Agricultural Board last week, Professor Campbell gave us the figures, and informed us that a very good start had been made. Another charge of neglect is now made against the Department by some of our committee. I think it was alluded to once or twice yesterday in connection with the very important matter of winter dairying, and the failure of the Department to supply an agricultural instructor. I entirely agree with Father Casey and others who desire to introduce more tillage and to develop winter dairying in this county, especially in the West, but I must confess that our County Committee as a body have not taken up that question, or done their part in educating the farming community with regard to it, and the only complaint that I think we could make of the Department in the matter is that perhaps they hardly realised the great difficulty of inducing farmers to change their system, and the necessity for special treatment in this matter also, as in the case of the live stock improvement in view of the peculiar circumstances of the County Limerick. Not being a tillage county, it was natural, though unfortunate, that the advantage of an agricultural instructor was less speedily realised with us than in counties like Antrim, Wexford, or Cork, and if our committee had been more closely in touch with the Department and its officials, we might, perhaps, have applied earlier for an instructor before all the available men specially trained by the Department were snapped up. But it is obviously much easier to develop and improve tillage when it is already practised than to introduce it where the system in operation for generations is radically different. The one is a reform, the other is a revolution, and the general scheme for agricultural instruction in the rest of the country like the live stock scheme will have to be considerably modified to suit the peculiar circumstances of County Limerick.

5290. (Chairman).—That is because of the absence of tillage?—Yes.

5291. To use Professor Campbell's expression, in some parts of the County Limerick tillage is a lost art?—I am afraid it comes pretty near that—they only grow a few patches.

5292. (Mr. Drayton).—There is no disposition to return to tillage, as far as I can see.—It is very hard to change a system that has been in operation for generations; we shall have to try to induce our farmers gradually, and I think by introducing it gradually in connection with winter dairying is the best hope I see of encouraging tillage in this county. When we get our agricultural instructor I anticipate a decided impetus will be given to winter dairying. There is another means of improving the dairy industry, which is part of the scheme connected with the Dairy Herd Book, mentioned before, namely, milk records, to show the milking quantities of individual cows, both as regards quantity and quality. This, which is incidentally introduced with the Herd Book scheme, should be encouraged in some effective manner throughout the country, and such encouragement might be given possibly through the County Agricultural Instructor or the Inspector, who is to visit in connection with the Herd Book scheme.

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5603. Is it the intention that one of these cows having been entered in the Herd Book shall have the use of these premium bulls?—That is the Herd Book scheme, but I want to extend it further, and encourage all dairy farmers to keep records of their milk.

5604. No doubt that would be of great assistance?—But it seems to me that the Herd Book scheme would give the nucleus for introducing it, and we would be able to spread it through the assistance of the Department's Inspector, who comes round to see the milking records are properly kept and through the County Agricultural Inspector.

5605. I am thinking of the man who does not happen to have two or three cows good enough, and according to the scheme he would be deprived of the use of the premium bull?—To a certain extent, I am afraid I don't recall clearly all the details of that scheme of the Dairy Herd Book. Our scheme was modified more or less on these lines, but I think some other member of the County Committee or the Secretary, could offer more precise information.

5606. The scheme was, as I understood it, to have cows nominated, and only those that were supposed to be of a superior quality?—That, I think, in our county scheme, was the rule for certain selected bulls, but it was not the rule for the whole county; some of the bulls are serving all the cows brought to them, and certain selected bulls are serving the nominated cows. The Herd Book scheme, of course, is very rigidly defined.

5607. That is a different matter. I don't like to have a scheme suggested which seems to shut out the poor man's cow?—That was carefully safeguarded, I think, in our county scheme.

5608. (Mr. Brown).—In your 1904 scheme, the one that was rejected?—No; I mean the scheme ultimately adopted, which was more or less a modification of the other; the Herd Book scheme came in to supplement the other, but I think our scheme remains, and the poor man's cow is not shut out.

5609. But under the 1904 scheme proposed by the Limerick County Committee, which was not approved, we understood yesterday that that proposed to limit the service to these selected cows?—That has not been adopted in its entirety, but the principle of nominated cows has been introduced under the Dairy Herd Book scheme.

5610. The 1904 proposal would have had the effect of shutting out the poor man's cow?—If it was a bad cow; it would not shut it out because it was a poor man's cow, but because it was a bad one. I think in our principle the County Committee were perfectly right that you ought to go for a good cow; what you want is to improve the breed and encourage the small farmer to keep a good cow and bring it to the bull, and he will get his chance, and get it in more favourable terms than the others.

5611. (Mr. Dwyer).—But how would he get his cow; he probably could not afford to buy another cow. With my experience of breeding, I have this to say, that the improvement would be greater in the case of the poor man's cow, however inferior, if you allowed that cow to be served by a good bull, than in the other cases?—I don't profess to be an expert, but I have discussed this matter very fully of the time of our scheme with Professor Ewart, of Edinburgh, and he entirely agreed with our scheme.

5612. (Mr. Brown).—His stock must go on deteriorating because he cannot get a good bull?—The poor man will sometimes have a very good cow, nothing would be further from my intention than to neglect the poor man.

5613. (Mr. Dwyer).—It seemed to me yesterday when the evidence was given that that would be the effect of the scheme. I don't see how the poor man is to get another cow, but he would get a good one if you let him put that cow to the premium bull; he would have a better better straight off?—I think the Limerick breeders would say that the bull to suit the poor man's cow would not be a pure-bred but a cross-bred one, that would give him better results; that is the universal opinion in Limerick, and it is endorsed by many breeders I have talked to in England, and it was endorsed by Professor Ewart.

5614. It is right they should have their opinion, but I would not agree with it?—The opinion in Limerick is that the cross-bred bull gives a better result, and there is a very strong prejudice in many parts of this county against pure-bred bulls, from experience, from the failures, as we were told yesterday, in the

County Clare. Many of these pure-bred bulls are not fertile.

5615. That is not the kind of bull I am thinking of, that would be an inferior bull even though it had a pedigree?—A poultry instructor was part of our scheme, but unfortunately there was a dispute between the Committee and the Department about the appointment of the instructor. The Committee appointed a lady belonging to the County Limerick; she was examined by the Department in accordance with their rules, and the Department did not consider that she came up to their standard, and she was disqualified, and subsequently to that a new rule was introduced, making a change in the conditions of appointment, which applied to all instructors on the agricultural side, not only to poultry instructors, but to horticultural instructors, agricultural instructors, bee-keeping, and everything of the kind, I think, but there was no similar rule on the technical side, and as Lord Emily mentioned yesterday, we have in this county two ladies belonging to the county on the technical side, and I think it is not unusual that the Committee did not understand why they should not be allowed to have a native on the other side. The poultry instructor was not rejected on that account, but the County Committee thought that this rule was directed against them, that this was a new rule specially brought in to debar this lady. I am sure that as a member of the Agricultural Board that it had nothing to do with it, it had been considered long before this case came up. The principle had been adopted, and I might say in passing, I entirely approve of the principle, and should like to see it extended to the technical side. I urged on the Department that this rule should be applied to the technical side as well, and I share Lord Emily's feelings on that subject to this extent, it is not easy to see the difference, and why there should be one rule for the technical side and another for the agricultural. At any rate, that largely contributed to this unfortunate misunderstanding, and the result is that we have been without a poultry instructor for several years past, and this has been a very serious loss, I think, to the poor people. Mr. Dwyer was speaking of the poor man's cow, the poor man's hen has been absolutely neglected altogether, and that is the position of the scheme that was calculated to benefit the poor man, and I think it is a very great misfortune that it should have been blocked. I did not agree with the action of the Committee, and I may say, perhaps, I think if this lady had not happened to be a native and very indifferently connected with the county, perhaps there would not have been such a determined fight made about it. But it is a very serious loss to the county, and I was reminded of it yesterday by one witness, I think, from Tipperary, mentioning the advantage of poultry instruction and the need for some marketing facilities in order to enable the people to reap the full benefit of that instruction. That, I think, can be met best—I should say it cannot be fully met in any way except—by co-operative action. And there are, as I discuss the Committee are aware, some of those societies now started, poultry societies, which are doing excellent work and very flourishing. That is a branch of the work of the Organisation Society, of which you will hear, I fancy, a good deal more later on. We have in this county two poultry societies, one at my place, Foyan, which has been struggling for years past, and has just got its head above water, but it has been very severely handicapped by the want of poultry instruction. It has been a great benefit to the country around, and has raised the price of eggs 2d. a dozen, and the instructor certainly is an essential part of the development of that important industry. There is only one other matter to which I wish briefly to allude. I was very glad to hear Father Lee mention yesterday Agricultural Loan Banks, but I wish to point out that his information with regard to Co-operative Credit Banks on which he was asked a question by one of the Committee, is inaccurate. It is far from being the case, as he seemed to suppose, that these Co-operative Banks have failed to benefit the poorer districts in Ireland. As a member of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, I know something of the question, and though there are as yet but few in this country, the most remarkable feature in the system, perhaps, is that they have been most successful in the poorest districts, namely, the west of Connacht, where there are hundreds of such banks working well for years

part. The Organisation Society have lately started three or four of these banks in this county, two of which are in my neighbourhood; all these are doing well so far. I quite agree with Father Lee that agricultural credit is a most important means of developing the country, but I am not in a position to give the Committee any facts or figures. The Organisation Society will be prepared to give full information on that subject at a later stage of the inquiry.

5616. (Chairman).—I think it will be very important that we should have full information?—That will probably be more conveniently given in Dublin by our secretary.

5617. Mr. Brown suggests that as we are going through Galway, Mayo, and so on, it would be a useful thing for us to have local information if any is available?—That could be easily arranged from our office in Dublin.

5618. (Mr. Brown).—Would not a copy of the last report of the Organisation Society give us the names?—Yes, and it would be more convenient, perhaps, for you to have it before you go to the West.

5619. (Mr. Burke).—I think you are no longer Chairman of the Organisation Society?—No; I ceased to be Chairman last autumn.

5620. Was it in your time that some effort was made to start bacon-curing in Tipperary?—There were long negotiations going on about it, and I may say there was a very strong feeling in the neighbourhood amongst the farmers in favour of making the attempt themselves, whether they could do better for themselves than the bacon-curers already in the trade. We took every opportunity of explaining the matter very fully to them, and pointed out all the difficulties, which are considerable; it is a very much larger undertaking than co-operative dairying. We put all

the difficulties fairly and squarely before them, and up to a certain point they seemed determined to go on. I am afraid that some of our friends here in Limerick thought the Organisation Society had been pushing the matter on the farmers, that the suggestion had come from above and not from below, but that was very far from being the case; it was a most thoroughly spontaneous and very remarkable movement.

5621. A local movement?—A local movement; they wrote up again and again to Dublin urging us to send down any information we had about what had been done in Denmark.

5622. Do you remember in what way it came first before the organisation?—I could not tell you the details. All that information can be given when the evidence that will be tendered by the Organisation Society comes before you.

5623. If you don't remember it clearly, that would be the best plan, I suppose. There is said to be a good deal of coal in the County Limerick round Loughill. Are you aware of the real facts?—Other than that there are seams of coal close to me which have been worked in the past. I am not a geologist or mineralogist. I believe it is not strictly to be called coal—it is culm, thin seams, and of poor quality.

5624. Is it anthracite?—I don't think it would answer that description. Also in the neighbourhood there is a good deal of iron ore which has been investigated occasionally by mining experts, but I think the opinion was given to us that the iron ore could not be worked on the spot without coal, and it was hardly good enough to bear export.

5625. And the coal there would not suit?—No, I believe it would not, and I doubt whether there would be enough of it.

Very Rev. ANDREW MURPHY, Adm., examined.

5626. (Chairman).—I believe you are Chairman of the Limerick County Borough Committee of Technical Education?—Vice-Chairman; the Mayor is Chairman of the office.

5627. Then you speak for the County Borough Committee?—Yes, I have been selected by the committee to give evidence for them.

5628. Then will you just take your own line?—I should like to follow largely the lines of the written statement sent by the Limerick County Borough Committee. In the first place it strikes me that a great deal of the criticism to which the Department is subjected on the score of want of practical success attending the technical instruction movement in Ireland is hardly fair to what I believe to be the excellence of the intentions of the Department in the matter. I have always felt quite satisfied that the men who are really responsible on the technical side for the work of the Department—of course I have no personal experience or knowledge of the agricultural side—but I have always felt that these gentlemen have been educated by the very strongest and most earnest and honest desire to make the movement a success. They have adopted the policy of not allowing anything to be even begun or introduced tentatively into the country on any other lines except what they regard as the right lines, and consequently they have made a strong and determined effort to make technical instruction in Ireland rest on a scientific basis from the very start. The natural result of that has been that they have had to face the full force of the total want of preparation for that type of technical instruction in Ireland, and in addition to that, they have had to face the full force of the strong feeling of apathy on the part of the people towards scientific technical instruction, for which they are not prepared. Here in Limerick we have felt very heavily the two-fold difficulty. Numbers of young men have joined our classes, and in a very short time have left the classes on the ground that they could not understand what was going on. I think, perhaps, one single instance of that that I might mention would be interesting and perhaps quite sufficient as a type of the sort of thing I speak of. The head of one of the foundries in the city, a most capable man, attended some meetings of employers that we got up here, and at one of these meetings he made the statement in public that he had sent his own apprentices to our

classes, that they not only left the classes because they could not understand what was going on, but that they convinced him that they were right in leaving the classes, and that something should be done to prepare them before they went into the classes, that they went in and sat down, and the teacher got up before a blackboard and started giving a demonstration, and he might as well have talked Greek to them. The other difficulty was that even among those who were able to make some use of technical instruction there was a great, and, in my opinion, a perfectly natural feeling of apathy, because they could see no immediate results from it. Those who are more experienced in educational work may appreciate the ultimate advantage, but it is hard to expect an ordinary working man to appreciate the advantage to himself of the attempt at what you may call beginning his school life over again. I think it is only fair to the Department to state that those two difficulties existed in the country, and that the Department had to face them, and, in my opinion, they made it impossible for the Department to achieve any considerable measure of success on the lines which the Department adopted, and that brings me to the question whether we are to think that the Department were as wise in their policy, as I think they were undoubtedly honest. And I must say that for years past, ever since I became connected with technical work in the city here, I have strongly felt that the Department started on a very unwise and wrong line. I think it would have been incomparably better for the Department to have dropped all idea of introducing a strictly scientific programme of technical instruction for the existing generation of working men and apprentices whom they found when they came here. If, instead of taking up the South Kensington syllabus, the Department had drafted for the working classes and the trades a syllabus definitely meant for Ireland, just as they drafted a syllabus for secondary schools, definitely meant for Ireland. I think it would have been perfectly possible for them to give the workers interesting work—work that would interest them, and at the same time that would show them some definite and immediate advantage. Perhaps it might be objected to me here that the restrictive clause in the Act of Parliament preventing technical instruction from including the practice of a trade or industry

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would prevent the Department from doing what I suggest, but my feeling has been very strongly that the Department, instead of regarding that restrictive clause as an annoyance in their way, very cordially regard it as a very useful thing in itself, and instead of regarding it as a restriction which was to be minimised in its application, they did the very opposite, and gave it a very generous application to the country on the ground that they thought it was a better thing to keep technical instruction on a scientific basis rather than put it on what, in their view, was a lower basis. In that connection I think of something such as I say had been done, if it had been tried at any rate, I have very little doubt that here in this city, and I presume similarly in other centres, the work of the Department would have been popular from the beginning. The interest of the working classes would have been aroused. These men would have been got into the classes, and would have studied in the classes, and they would have felt almost from the start that they were deriving an immediate benefit from the classes. Unfortunately the Department adopted a different line, and the result has been that the work of the Department has not been popular, and it has not been regarded with anything like interest by the working classes and people, and one of the greatest difficulties—a difficulty that has sometimes appeared to the local committee as almost hopeless—is the attempt to arouse any genuine interest on the part of the people in the work of the classes. I have spoken to numbers of intelligent working men and got their views and explanations. I have heard the views given by them to others, and I find that they do not regard the work as practically useful. One of the most intelligent working men I know in this city said to me that he does not believe, and the workmen do not believe, that the introduction of the strict scientific basis of technical instruction for ordinary tradesmen can have any use except in some such places, perhaps, as certain portions of Germany, when instead of being a general practitioner in a trade, a man would be highly specialised in a particular part of it. These men regard the work as above them, and not immediately practical and useful, and consequently are exceedingly apathetic about it, and for my part, I think it was a very wise policy on the part of the Department not to come into this country determined to see what were the characteristics of the country and the ideals of the people, and to sympathise with them in their notions, whether they did in their minds or not, and to frame a Scheme which would catch the country and become popular, and if that were done, what on earth would there be to prevent the Department beginning with the younger generation and raising their standard by degrees, insinuating upon a higher standard according as more boys came into the scope of their work. That, I think, would have been a far sounder and wiser policy, and I believe if that policy had been adopted we should not have had more six or seven years wasted. In that connection, too, sir, I should like to say that we have in Limerick urged repeatedly on the Department that it would be a most important thing for them to establish a system of training scholarships for teachers of the ordinary staple trades, the building trades, carpenters, masons, plasterers, and printers, plumbers, tailors, painters, and blacksmiths, various trades that you find everywhere. We urged on the Department that they ought to establish training scholarships for the teachers of such trades, and the first time we brought the matter before the Department was in connection with a concrete proposal of our own. The tailors in Limerick asked us for a class, and we said to them, "Could you give us a man who would be able to teach the class?" They held a meeting and selected a man, a most admirable selection they made. This young man got testimonials from master tailors and others, his employers, and we sent on a statement of his testimonials, and asked whether the Department would approve of our establishing a class. We got the Department's approval and started a class.

5629. (Mr. Meehan).—Was he a native of Limerick?—Yes, selected by the members of the trade in the town themselves. At the end of the session we asked these master tailors in the town to examine the class, and they gave a very favourable report, and suggested that it would be most useful if this young man were to be sent to Thorndon's Academy in London to get a finishing course himself. Then we applied to the

Department for money to send him to Thorndon's, and we got a reply that they had no money for such a purpose, but would sanction our spending our own money on it. That led to a little controversy between the Department and ourselves, and we raised the question with them that we could not understand their saying they had no money for such a purpose as a teacher's expenses when they were admitting in the town a large number of scholarships for science and art teachers and domestic economy teachers, and we could not understand where the principle came in that excluded trade teachers. The Department yielded so far as to give half the expenses, and he came back with a first-class certificate.

5630. (Mr. Gynric).—Where did the other half come from?—From the local committee's funds.

5631. Including the Department's subscription is that?—They gave us no subscription, but part of the £55,000.

5632. Then was part, or, roughly, half from the rates and half from the endowment fund?—It was half from our total local income, which was made up of the endowment fund, which for us amounts to £1,200 a year, and then we had the penny rate, and at that stage we had the Equivalent Grant, and we had *locus*. You could not say it was taken out of the rates.

5633. When the Department said you could pay it out of your own money?—They meant the total income. We have always used our money as we find.

5634. (Mr. Brown).—How much is the local rate?—£290 a year. This particular point I urged strongly myself last year at the Technical Congress, which was held here in Limerick, and on that occasion Mr. Fletcher, on the part of the Department gave us a very sympathetic reply, but I am afraid we have not got anything more than a sympathetic reply. What I think ought to be done is to establish a system of scholarships for the training of trades teachers, and let them pick up young men of promise in the various localities. You should not look for high qualifications in these young men, but let these scholarships be allocated to the localities, and let young men be picked out, and I have not the slightest objection to any conditions the Department may reasonably introduce for the purpose of satisfying themselves that the localities select the right men, but let those men be trained either by a man brought to Dalkey for the purpose or let them be sent to the best school in England and trained there and brought back to teach. You would have local men engaged in the teaching in a very short time. And I think everybody must recognise with the strong and commendable *esprit de corps* that exists in the working classes, that would be a most tremendous lever for the Committees to have local men to teach and to show to the local bodies that their interests are considered and their own men are taken up and pushed forward. Everybody recognises that the funds in County Boroughs in Ireland for technical instruction, especially in the smaller Boroughs, are quite inadequate. The local trades bodies have the very greatest objection to allow a Technical Committee to introduce amongst them highly skilled tradesmen from outside as teachers, and the only condition on which they would allow it for a long time here was that the man should not be allowed to work at his trade in Limerick, he might come here to teach for two hours in the evening, and compel us to pay him a very large salary, whereas, if they had a man of their own like the teacher of tailoring, that man would be allowed freely to work at his trade in the city, and we need only pay him by the lesson, which would enable us probably to employ three teachers for the one we could otherwise employ out of our funds. I think it is due to the Limerick trades body to say that we have succeeded in the only case in which we thought it necessary to press the matter; we have succeeded in getting them to forgo that resolution of theirs, and allow us to introduce teachers into the town who might work at their trade, but I think it is a strong thing to ask these men to do; you bring into the town a highly skilled man, and that man might leave the employment of the Technical Committee and stay in the town, and we should have to bring in another man.

5635. (Chairman).—How many have been introduced in that way; any considerable number?—No; at the present moment we have only one on those terms in the town, a teacher of plumbing, and we are advertising for a teacher of painting.

5636. (Mr. Ogilvie).—May I ask you a question on the scholarship scheme for training teachers—as I follow you you want an extension of what the Department have been doing in the past year in the case of commercial teachers?—Quite so; they select men and send them away on exactly similar lines.

5637. You want to see that extended very largely?—Quite so.

5638. The methods they have adopted in that case meet your views?—I should not agree with the method of competitive examination.

5639. Was it competitive examination?—I think so, for the commercial scholarships. I would like to have a certain number of scholarships allocated to the locality; if we had through the scholarship actually a teacher here, I don't see why the Department should give us another scholarship when we had that man here, so that it would not be very expensive; it might be in the beginning, but it would settle down, and like everything else, the Department could raise their requirements as time went on. The commercial scheme is not the only one, I can refer you to another. In Cork, a man was selected from the School of Art in order to get a special training in enamelling; he was for a year or two months studying enamelling, and has now come back to Cork as a teacher.

5640. So the Department have been ground in that line?—Yes, and here they have broken ground in the case of the teacher.

5641. Your contention is that the expense of training such teachers should form no part of the expenditure incident to the local fund?—I think so, for the simple reason that I think the income of the local fund is not sufficient for the local needs. If we had ample money I should not have the slightest hesitation, or a right to draw on money, but if our income is very limited and not able to meet our wants, it is practically impossible for us to do it.

5642. It is not a question of principle but one of practice?—Yes; I don't think there is anything else on that point I wish to say, but I was anxious to make clear that I think the real cause of the failure so far to a very considerable extent has been that the Department did not look into the actual condition of things in Ireland, and come down to the level of what would be practically useful for the country and interesting to the workers, and then gradually raise the standard afterwards. The second paragraph in the statement of the Limerick Committee is one that I must say I deeply deplore to have to refer to at all; it is that from the beginning I have observed in a variety of ways, sometimes almost intangible, that the Inspectors of the Department have been striving to force on the local Committee their own views with regard to the policy of our work, through our officers. Now, I should like to make my meaning perfectly clear here, because I don't wish to hurt anybody's feelings. The Inspectors come down here to look after the work of our schools, to see to the efficiency of the teaching, to see to the regularity with which the work is carried on, so see that all the requirements of the Department are fulfilled, and to give advice and direction as to the number of students that would be allowed in a class, and a variety of other matters. For all that sort of thing, which is their legitimate sphere, I have not the slightest objection not only to their taking their own line, but taking their own line through the principal of the Technical School, going to him and saying to him—"This thing is going wrong, that thing is going wrong, and we must set it right." But it strikes me that on the question of the general policy of our work, we are the judges and not the Inspectors of the Department. At the same time, I think I can speak for the whole of the Committee, and say that any Inspector of the Department who on his visit here came to the conclusion that it might be well for us to drop a certain part of our work or take on some different work that we were not doing, and who would come before our Committee and put his views before them, would find himself received with the greatest respect, that I think I can guarantee. But that is what exactly has not even once occurred. We have learned that the Inspectors of the Department would like us to drop this or would like us to adopt that, but the Inspector has never come and said so to us or given us an opportunity of arguing the matter with him. The principal officer

of the local Technical Committee is in a very awkward position in dealing with the Department's Inspector.

5643. (Chairman).—Do you get a communication from the Department?—Oh, no, sir; if we got a communication that the Department suggested a certain thing I should not object to it, but the Inspector will come to the Principal and urge on him that certain things are desirable.

5644. (Mr. Micks).—Orally?—Orally. The principal has to try to carry out the behests of the Department, he is largely in their hands for further promotion, he is not an independent man, and no matter how excellent his intentions, it is practically impossible for the principal of the local Committee to refuse to try to do what the Inspector of the Department urges on him. The report of the Inspector of the Department is a matter of very great consequence to him, and therefore it is that he cannot argue the thing with him, and here is where the trouble comes when matters are brought in that way by the principal of the Technical Committee before the Committee. Of course he does not come up and say, "The Inspector of the Department told me this," on the contrary, he comes up as if it were the principal's own view; I don't say that he does anything positively to deceive the Committee, but that is the conclusion they come to, that that is his own view. He is their officer, the principal of the school, in whom the Committee have great confidence, he is the official adviser to the Committee, and the Committee have the greatest confidence in his views, and he puts forward a certain view. We in the Committee cannot know whether it is that man's honest opinion or that he is saying it there because he cannot refuse to say it; it puts us in an awkward position. This is not a new idea of ours in Limerick, it was strongly agitated throughout the whole country a couple of years ago, it led to a very warm discussion at the Technical Instruction Congress in Belfast in 1902. I have always felt a difficulty in knowing how far the Department itself is responsible for this action on the part of the Inspectors. I don't wish to say that I object to the Inspector having views and striving to put them before the Committee, but in the name of common sense, let him ask the local Committee to receive him at one of their meetings, if he wishes to lay his views before them on certain points, and he will be always most welcome.

5645. (Chairman).—As I understand, your complaint is that the practice of the Inspector is to hold communications of a more or less private and confidential character with the Principal, and not to approach the Committee directly himself by having an interview with them or communicating in any other way—you prefer to have direct communication with the Department or their representative?—Certainly.

5646. (Mr. Ogilvie).—These are not minor matters? No; they are not, there are some matters of very great importance.

5647. Don't you think you are bound to accept these as the view of the Principal and nothing more, because if they are other than trifling minor matters of little detail the Department might have very great objection to your considering for a moment that the views were their views; they might not endorse the communication made by the Inspector to the Principal, and if you were to accept the statement of the Principal as being by implication suggested by the Inspector, and as representing thereby the views of the Department, you might be doing the Department a very great injustice—I take your point fully, possibly you might allow me to say that I don't forget the point, but will return to it in a moment; but would you allow me to reply in this fashion. I was saying a moment ago that I often felt a great doubt as to whether the Department was responsible for these statements made by the Inspector to the Principal, but, to our utter astonishment, I think it was in the course of 1904, the Department summoned a meeting of Principals of Technical Schools to Dublin without the knowledge of their Committees. The Principal of the Limerick Technical School went to that meeting, and he informed his Committee on his return that the business done at the meeting was confidential, and that he was bound to secrecy with regard to it. I don't think that that type of action tends to improve the relations either between the Committee and the Department or between the Committee and the Principal.

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5545. Has that statement since been verified?—We know nothing except that the Principal made that statement in Committee to ourselves. I was in the chair when the principal made that statement. The principal is not the gentleman who is our Principal now, I may say, but he made that statement to the Committee, and questions were asked in Parliament about this, and the Department gave the usual type of answer that one expects to find given to a question in Parliament, which gives no information to the public.

5546. It did not state that the information was not confidential?—That particular question was not asked, but there were questions asked in Parliament with regard to this meeting, and the purpose of the meeting, and no information of any use to the country was ever given. That question was raised at the Technical Congress following in 1904; there was a very warm discussion about it; pamphlets were written on the thing and articles published in magazines, and the result was that the Department took the extraordinary course in 1905 of declaring that they would not sanction local committees paying the expenses of their representatives to congress unless the agenda of the congress were first submitted to the Department and received their approval. I thought that a most extraordinary attitude for the Department to take up, and one that rendered it very difficult indeed for the local committees to manage to have a feeling of confidence in the Department. However, that particular point was got over, and the agenda was submitted to the Department, the Association of Technical Instruction Committees yielded, and submitted their agenda to the Department, and the Department sent representatives to the congresses in 1905 and 1906.

5550. (Chairman).—It is an annual congress?—Yes. To come back now to the point. The Principal of the Technical Instruction Committee, to whom I referred a moment ago, who was with us in 1904, left Limerick during the summer holidays to get an appointment elsewhere. He resigned quite suddenly, announcing that he had actually got an appointment elsewhere, and before he left Limerick he told me himself that he did not feel he was bettering himself by leaving, but that he felt he was driven to leave Limerick because he found that he had got into wrong relations with the committee.

5551. Do you mean in respect of this particular thing?—Not any one particular thing, but the general policy and attitude. Little things were turning up from time to time. He thought the committee regarded him as not quite loyal to them, whereas as a matter of fact the committee were very sorry to lose his services.

5552. (Mr. Ogilvie).—But he was right in thinking that they did not think he was loyal?—The committee did not like what he did on some occasions; I felt the strongest sympathy for him, for he was placed in a very difficult position. Furthermore, if that is not sufficient, coming to the question of whether we regard the Department itself as responsible, I must say this. Last September we appointed a new principal, and before that principal was a month in Limerick he began to be moved by the Department's inspector with regard to very important departments of our work here. And I say this quite frankly, without the slightest desire to repudiate our principal or anybody else, when he told me of that I said to him that his predecessor here came to grief over that sort of thing, and if he took my advice he would keep as clear as he possibly could of it. Now I find that since that time more or less persistent efforts have been made in that direction with a number of members of our committee, and a certain element of division has been introduced into the committee by this very thing. Now comes the question of the Department's responsibility. Mr. Fletcher came to us for a consultation last December over our financial position, and Mr. Fletcher mentioned the very same point to us as the Department's programme, which were put forward through the inspector to the principal to be urged on the committee with his authority.

5553. So now you have it officially from the Department?—And furthermore, when Mr. Fletcher was here I complained bitterly, and not for the first time; I had to do so to Mr. Blair; I complained bitterly to Mr. Fletcher of this very thing; it has

always been my desire to avoid any friction or quarrelling with the Department, but I have not the slightest notion whatsoever of allowing the Department to do what they like just because it would be an undesirable thing for us to be quarrelling with them. I am always anxious to make representations privately, but as we are driven to speak out I could not let the present session pass without saying what I am saying, though I say it with great regret. I think I am bound to say so, because I believe it would be a great deal of good towards establishing harmonious relations between the Department and the Technical Instruction Committee all over the country if the Department laid down a hard and fast rule for the inspectors that things of that kind should be thrashed out with the committee directly, and that there would be no more of this, and the committee would no longer have the feeling that when their own paid officials and expert advisers make suggestions to them they don't know whether they are his own or are put into his head by somebody else. When we have a man as Principal of the Technical Instruction Committee he is there looking at matters from morning to night, and if he came to a conclusion on his own independent judgment that conclusion would deserve every weight from the committee.

5554. I have never heard of this difficulty before, nor have we come across anything similar in the evidence we have taken before. I should, therefore, like to ask you to say whether you are perfectly satisfied there is more in what you have described to us than a way of looking at certain procedure, which would be a perfectly normal one. I put to you what I conceive is the normal and proper procedure in such circumstances. An inspector visits a technical school, he sees the various departments and the work going on. It occurs to him that certain modifications might be desirable. In order to ascertain how far this impression is accurate, he discusses some of these things with the Principal. "Is there any reason why you should not do so and so; what is the particular advantage of doing certain things in a certain way?" In discussing these things with the Principal, his object would be to get more clearly in his mind the conditions under which the work was being carried on, and the possibilities of having it carried on better; his idea being to report to the Department. He does report to the Department, and says the work is being done in such a way, and he thinks it would be better if it were done in certain other ways. Then, so far as the inspector and the Department are concerned, these probably arouse some discussion on paper, or personally, if they happen to meet interviews, and in the end the Department satisfy themselves that some of the things he had in view would be good, and then they officially communicate with the committee to that effect. In the meantime, however, the Principal having had this discussion with the inspector, naturally carries these things over in his mind; also he may come possibly to a quite similar, if not the same conclusion, and he takes the earliest opportunity of meeting his committee to put them before his committee, so the fact that the Principal may put before the committee the same sort of ideas that a little later you get officially from the Department either by letter, or, as in this case, by an interview with the Assistant Secretary, might be accounted for in a manner that would be entirely credible to all the parties concerned. I put it to you, if you from your knowledge of the facts of the case, and following them step by step, have come to be perfectly satisfied that the explanation is not such as I have put as a normal procedure?—As you put the question to me, whether I am perfectly satisfied, I may answer you without the slightest hesitation that I am perfectly satisfied your explanation does not cover what I am referring to. No doubt whatever your explanation covers a good deal of ground, and, so far, I don't object. All I say is that when the inspector wants to force things on us—I don't wish to apply the word force—when an inspector holds a strong view about a thing, and is very anxious that the local committee would adopt that view, I wish he would come to the local committee and talk the matter over with them. I have repeatedly complained to the Department of this very thing all along, and find it still going on, and so modification, and I am personally satisfied the Department are doing it. No matter how excellent their views and intentions may be, and I started out

by saying that I don't believe the Department have any other motive except a most sincere desire to make the work of technical instruction succeed, but I do think that in certain respects the Department have not gone the right way about it, and it is my purpose to try to point out those respects, not with a view of finding fault with anybody, but to give an opportunity of having things remedied.

5548. (Chairman).—If I follow you aright it comes to a question of principle that there ought to be more direct communication between the Department and the committee, but you would not say that the inspector might not properly communicate with the principal on matters of school arrangements?—On matters of school arrangement, that is the inspector's sphere and the principal's sphere.

5549. But if there is any question of principle you say it ought to come between?—Between the inspector and the committee. I object to the inspector talking to the principal, and the thing coming from the principal to the committee.

5550. What I don't quite understand, if these communications have taken place between the inspector and the principal, why should not the principal say to the committee: "I have had an interview with the inspector and he recommends such and such a thing?"—I don't think the inspector would be at all inclined to have his name mentioned in that way; the inspector would object to have it considered that he is interfering unduly.

5551. Surely the principal of a school or a headmaster or headmistress would consistently come before the committee and say, "The inspector came here, the inspector is not satisfied with this, that, and the other methods; I have been thinking over what the inspector says, and I should like to make a change?"—Quite so, so long as it is a question of method.

5552. Well, it becomes a question of degree?—No, it is a question of the difference between the legitimate sphere of the Inspector and the policy adopted by the Committee generally with regard to their work. As I understand the portion of the 16th sec., sub-sec. a. (1) of the Act of 1886, referring to local Committees, and I imagine the Department interpreted it in the same sense, in my view that section shows that the Act of Parliament meant that money should be given to the local Committees in proportion to population, that the money should be applied then by the local Committees, and that the local Committees are the parties who have the sole right to initiate schemes, to change, amend, or modify them, and that the Department's function in this matter ought to be confined to advising. Of course the Department have the right of approval or refusing to approve of the scheme when submitted before them, that is exactly the point I want to get at, that if the Department want to give us that advice, which is totally distinct from advice as to methods of teaching or the nature of our syllabus, if the Department want to give us that particular type of advice with regard to our functions, let them do it openly and above board. The third paragraph in our report deals with the matter of money grants; that, unfortunately, is a very serious question for us in financial at the present moment. Since this document was sent to your Committee we have had some further communications with the Department about our own financial position. As we state here, that we are about to say in the session, which is now concluded—we are working a scheme with the full approval of the Department which is costing us upwards of £500 over our income. With regard to the further expenditure of £600, I don't wish to refer to that because it is exceptional. But the scheme itself will show an annual deficit in our balance sheet of £500. The circumstances are these—we sent up a scheme to the Department; I may say in 1903 we had a scheme approved of by the Department, and have been working it ever since with certain increases and changes in the scheme from time to time, and we have never done anything without the sanction and approval of the Department, so that every detail of our scheme has been at one time or another approved by the Department. That is not all; we sent the scheme as a whole to the Department in 1905, and our estimated balance sheet accompanying the scheme showed a deficit of some £310. I may say that we faced that deficit in the hope of soon being able to meet considerable sums under the new scheme for grants for evening classes, which has just been published, and also that we had to our credit with the Department

at the beginning of the session last year a sum of £1,300, so that we did not feel we were running any particular risk of bankruptcy in extending our income for one or two years by £200, after which we felt that we ought to be able to earn at least that £200 and set ourselves right.

5560. (Mr. Mills).—£1,300 was the surplus of non-expenditure in the first year?—Yes. When our scheme and estimate went before the Department it was returned to us with the full approval of the Department for the scheme, but with our deficit shown as £200 and not £210, because the Department cut off the amount of the Equivalent Grant, which we had included in our balance sheet.

5561. (Chairman).—You had taken that as an asset?—Yes, sir. Our view was that, when the Equivalent Grant was withdrawn, the total amount assigned to Ireland was £3,500, and when that amount was withdrawn by the Treasury, Government gave to the Department a sum of £7,000, and we took it for granted that one of the main purposes in giving that was to prevent immediate hardship arising from the withdrawal of the Equivalent Grant, hence we put down £200 in our estimate; we did not say that that should come to us in the old form, it might come from the Department under the £7,000 which the Department had received from Mr. Wyndham. Our idea was that we had a moral claim to get that money; it did not matter to us whether we got it from the Treasury or from the Department. The Department struck that sum out and yet gave us their approval for the scheme, and we started to work out our scheme with a deficit of £200. During the year we had negotiations of one kind or another with the Department about the financial condition; it was in connection with that that Mr. Fletcher came to us last December. I myself having had occasion to visit the Department several times during the year in Dublin, had interviews with them, and ultimately they agreed to finance us to the end of the present session, and leave us start the next session with our balance of £1,300 to the good still for equipment purposes.

5562. (Mr. Gifford).—They are going to give you from some source £488 instead of £278?—Yes, from some source.

5563. It is fairly obvious where it is coming from?—It is fairly obvious, but they don't specify, nor do we inquire; we are perfectly satisfied as long as we get the money. The Department asked us to send up our scheme for the coming session.

5564. When did they ask you?—Sometime in May. I think, it would be about the 30th of May. We held a series of meetings of our Committee almost daily in view of the scheme, and we could not come to any different conclusion than that every part of our work was defensible, and we sent the same scheme in having fully considered it, we sent it to the Department, which the Department had approved of twelve months before, even though it then showed a deficit of £200. Since then we got a letter from the Department refusing to sanction our scheme, and telling us that we must reduce our expenditure to the amount of our estimated income, a peculiar expression, unless it refers to the amount of income, it would be £1,900 odd, shown in our estimated balance.

5565. You estimated your income at £1,900; did that include something like the £488?—No, it did not include anything in line of the Equivalent Grant or from any other source from which we feel ourselves entitled to get money from the Department.

5566. What would be the estimated expenditure?—Something like £2,500, a difference of £500 or £600 between the two. Here is the position, as I apprehend it, our estimated income is made up of £3,250 which we receive from the endowment fund, the portion of the £25,000 set apart by the Act of Parliament, in addition we have £200 of the penny rate in the city, then we have a public hall known as the Athenaeum, and we get £300 or £100 a year profit by the letting of the hall, then we have the students' fees and grants that can be earned by the working of the classes.

5567. What are the fees?

(The Secretary).—£120.

(The Chairman).—Altogether the income is estimated at £1,900. When Mr. Fletcher advised us last December, and discussed this matter with us, he said that if we set up a legal claim to get the Equivalent Grant or an equal sum, that he would be bound to oppose it, because he did not think under the circumstances

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that we had a legal right to it, but if we set up a moral and equitable claim he had the strongest sympathy with us. Therefore I say why should the Department write down and ask us to cut down our expenditure to £1,900, when Mr. Fletcher himself admits that we have a moral right to at least £220 more. If the Department said—"Well, we will give you back that £220 and cut your income down to £2,200," then I could understand the position from the point of view of logic, but to tell us to cut down the technical work, of which the Department have already approved, below the level at which the Department admits we have a moral right to look for money, seems nonsense.

5668. (Mr. Dryden).—Has the answer been sent?—We did not use the word "nonsense," but we have written to the Department that until the Department explains to us why we are not getting certain moneys we do not feel ourselves in a position to regard £1,900 as the amount of our income.

5669. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Was the request of the Department that you should cut down your expenditure to make it square with £1,900?—Yes.

5670. It was not that you should arrange that your income and expenditure should correspond?—No, we don't know what our income is, there is no such thing as "estimated income," as they express it.

5671. (Chairman).—Supposing this £7,000 is not altogether within the control of the Department, the Department has to depend upon some higher authority; are they not justified in saying—"We give you a warning that you must make your expenditure correspond with the income of which you are sure, not with the income which is doubtful?"—That is exactly what I was going to say. I rather regret to say that, as I shall have occasion to mention presently, it is in the disposal of the Department, the sum of £7,000 a year has been definitely given to the Department.

5672. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It has not been definitely allocated?—No. The point I want to come at is this: I am speaking of this not from the point of view of siring our Limerick grievance, but to give you a plain, palpable illustration of how irritating circumstances are started between the Department and Committee which could be avoided. I see no logic in asking us to cut down an estimated expenditure of which the Department have approved your after year up to £3,500, asking us to cut it down to £1,900, when I don't believe the Department have the slightest notion of limiting our income to £1,900. Why won't they tell us what our income would be.

5673. Partly perhaps because they cannot. In our work here we have two different schools—a day school for boys and a day school for girls. One of the things we most need in Limerick is preparation for the work of technical instruction. In the day school for boys we have, roughly, forty-five boys, divided into two classes—first year's pupils and second year's pupils. They are taught by the following:—A Christian Brother teaches the literary work; a Christian Brother, who is qualified and approved of by the Department for the purpose, teaches manual instruction. A singularly highly qualified man he is, and everybody who has seen the exhibits from that school at the local exhibitions has been astonished at the work done there—that is, all the work done by the Christian Brothers. For science, drawing, modelling, and wood-carving the Technical Committee sends in its own teachers. The school is located in the Christian Brothers' premises, the finest school we have in the city. They have the full use of the laboratories and appliances for manual instruction, drawing, chemistry, and physics that are at the Christian Brothers' premises, and the teachers for technical subjects are the teachers the Department itself has approved. The Department has approved of having the school at the Christian Brothers, but I wish to say that they have approved of it temporarily, and the local Committee has declared its intention all through that as soon as something can be done for the question of the building grant, and we can have a suitable central institute, the Committee has declared its intention of bringing that school into the Central Technical Institute, but at present it is situated in by far the most suitable place in which it could be in the town. Furthermore, out of a total of 3,200 boys in primary schools in Limerick, the Christian Brothers have 1,500 in their schools; and, in addition, the boys from other schools can go in, and do go, to those schools. No objection has been made to this school by anybody

except the Department; and here is a thing that I cannot explain for the life of me, one of the things that has been urged on us since last October (and we take that school out of the premises of the Christian Brothers and bring it down to our own premises, which are simply two private houses in George's-street, unfitted and unsuited for a school, we can get from the Department three-fourths of the total cost of working that school. By starting in September in George's-street we can secure £400 for the work of the school, and they won't give us a penny for working where it is. We pay at present out of our own funds, but in the other case the Department will give us a direct grant of something like £400 a year.

5674. (Mr. Michie).—Additional grant?—Additional. Now you see we have got up £673, that we say we have a claim against the Department for, and, therefore, in my honest opinion, we have no deficit whatever. If the Department would allow us a grant on that school, and give us in addition the amount of the Equivalent Grant, we should have no deficit at all, and it seems to us an extraordinary position to say to us, after years of casual building up of our work in Limerick, "Cut it down by a quarter or more," out of what the Americans would call more consciousness. "And then you have a chance of building it up again on new lines." Unless the Department want to force new lines on us, that we have not at present, that is the only thing I can see. In this connection I wish to say that I think the charter of the liberties of the local committees consists in the power given them by Act of Parliament, to provide, initiate, and work the schemes for themselves, and that that power is given to them and not to the Department. As far as all money given by Parliament is concerned, every penny of it has to be distributed in proportion to population amongst the county boroughs, and then it has to be applied by the County Borough Council, or Committee appointed by the County Borough Council. Under those circumstances—though I am as far from wishing to make an attack on Mr. Wyndham as I was on the Department—I think by some extraordinary lapse on his part Mr. Wyndham has simply driven a coach-and-four through the Act of Parliament. He has taken away by a stroke of the pen the independence which the Act of Parliament gave and secured to the Committee. The Committee is created by the Act of Parliament, it is appointed by the County Borough Council, it is in no way dependent on the Department; the Department have a right of veto over the acts of the Committee, that is all. The action of Mr. Wyndham has been simply this: he says to the Department, "There is £7,000, and I give you certain large discretion in the distribution of that money." The Department come to us here in Limerick, and say to us, "You cut down your scheme to the limit of £1,900, and then, if you propose new work that pleases us, we will pay you for that work." I say that every sentence we get from the Department over and above the £1,900, we are getting on a footing which is absolutely different from the footing on which we were placed by the Act of Parliament. We are getting money only when the Department like our work. But if the Department dislike the particular work they have an absolute discretion to say, "We won't pay you for that," but they can never understand nonsense. "If you do such and such a thing we will pay you for it." I believe that the democracy of this country is far too intelligent to be hoodwinked for any considerable length of time by that sort of thing, but very soon democratic bodies throughout the country will see that an attempt is being made to fish away the independence they received from the Act of Parliament, and there will be an upsurge against it. I think the soundest policy in connection with the financing of the Department would be to stick to what the Act of Parliament said the first day—allocate a certain amount of money to every County Borough Council, and let the Department see that that is properly applied by them, but don't be having the County Borough Council in the hands of the Department for a third or a fourth of its income, because what might happen, and I see no reason on earth why it should not happen, suppose we agreed with the Department, and cut down our expenditure to £1,900—

5675. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You need not suppose that; you are not going to do it?—No; I have not the slightest intention, but supposing we did that, and we, by arrangement with the Department, got £600 or £500 more from them for some new work, what is to prevent the Department next year assuming exactly the same pressure on us with regard to another

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cover the instruction that previously was covered by what you call the Equivalent Grant. In these circumstances the £7,000 is not now required for next year in that respect. It is therefore available for some other respects, of which I know nothing. I should say the reply to the query put to you would be, "All we can do in the face of this new programme is to say that our estimated expenditure of £2,600 is in respect of work which has been either covered by previous things, which are continued, or by the previous grant in aid of technical instruction, which is not continued, but as we assume the discontinuance of that grant is represented by an equivalent in a probable increase of grants under the new programme we think that our grants, instead of being £800, would be £700," so you would bring your estimated expenditure up to your estimated income. You will observe the essential point of that proposition is that £7,000 for all purposes it previously covered is out of it altogether, and Mr. Wyndham's giving the £7,000 to the Department without tying it up in any way to the previous people must be supposed to be related to the giving of the new programme of grants, and therefore the £7,000 is available for some other purpose—I think you have made your point perfectly clear, but my answer to it would be this: we were in actual receipt in Limerick of what we call the Equivalent Grant; we built up our programme; we got that in a lump sum, not £50 for one thing and £30 for another; we got a lump sum the exact equivalent of our Corporation rate; we built up our work as a complete programme. You may remember I said in the beginning it would be impossible to specify the part of our income out of which we did anything, because this went into it as a lump sum. At the time the Equivalent Grant was withdrawn what I contended is that we were left in Ireland, as far as the Treasury was concerned, without the Equivalent Grant or any substitute for it. The Treasury maintained, rightly or wrongly, that the Equivalent Grant ceased.

5605. (Chairman).—Have you any substitute for it in this new scheme?—That is what I am coming to. Mr. Wyndham gave £7,000 out of Irish money, the Irish Development Grant to the Department in lieu of the £2,600 withdrawn. I hold we have a fair claim against that £7,000 for anything that we were getting out of the £3,000.

5606. (Mr. Mills).—That is Mr. Fletcher's moral point?—Yes.

5607. Was it not so stated by Mr. Wyndham in the House of Commons?—I think so. It was conveyed to the whole country that places in receipt of the Equivalent Grant would not suffer.

5608. (Chairman).—But I understand in place of that you have a new scheme which has come into operation that will give you the same advantages in a different form?—The new scheme may give us the same advantages, but that new scheme was not in existence when Mr. Wyndham gave the £7,000, nor was there anything approaching a certainty that it would come into existence. I quite see the logic of your position, but I don't think, as a matter of fact, dealing with the facts as they arise, that that is so.

5609. (Mr. O'Leary).—As they arise, the facts explained in Parliament were that the Equivalent Grant had been made good. The Government took up the position that the Equivalent Grant had been replaced by the £25,000, but, taking matters as they stand here now, and with regard to your view of next year's work. Under the old system you had a certainty of £278 a year. Under the system for next year you have an enlarged programme of grants which you would have to take a great deal of trouble to use fully in order to get a less grant than £278, plus year £208—I am not at all sure of the large amount of trouble. We might easily manage to get less.

5610. Under this scheme, I think, with a well-organised system, you have a gold mine in a town like Limerick, so practically I would say your finances are quite sound. That is why I am rather puzzled about the letter having been sent in May, and the scheme having only come up in June?—This is the letter:—

"20th June, 1906. Sir,—I have to inform you that the Department have given very careful consideration to your letter of the 30th ult., relative to the scheme of technical instruction to be put into operation in the County Borough of Limerick during the academic year 1906-07. They regret they are unable to approve

of the committee's proposals. The scheme as suggested by the committee would involve a very considerable deficit at the close of the session, and this deficit the Department are not prepared to meet as requested in your communication under reply. The Department, moreover, are not in a position to make the special grant applied for to enable the committee to proceed with the erection of premises for the purpose of a central technical school. It will accordingly be necessary for the committee to secure their financial position for the session in question with a view to bringing their expenditure within the limits of the estimated income, and in this connection the Department are of opinion that the Committee, being more intimate with the local conditions and requirements, should themselves decide the direction in which the necessary economies in the administration of the funds may be best effected."

5611. That letter was written after the publication of the new programme, so that you would be at liberty on receipt of that letter to revise not merely your expenditure estimate, but also your income estimate. They might have referred to that possibility—I don't think that very much indeed, and I feel very strongly that before the new scheme was accepted by the Treasury we had a moral claim on the £7,000, and I don't see how the introduction of that new scheme would modify it. I quite understand if the Department needs—which I hope they will not ultimately retain—a discretion with regard to the money of the County Borough, if they saw we were piling on a lot of useless work, let them object to it, but they have already approved of the scheme.

5612. You would prefer a moral claim to £778 to a real claim to £278?—I would rather prefer both.

5613. (Mr. Mills).—You think you are entitled to both?—I think we are entitled to both. I see no conceivable way in which we can be put out of our grants under the new scheme, but I say the Department, having in addition a discretionary use of £7,000, and admitting we have a moral claim to that, they ought to meet it. And I think they ought to meet our claim for the boys' day school.

5614. (Mr. Dryden).—Do they object?—Yes, in the most emphatic fashion, because they don't pay us anything. This was the first school of the kind started under the Department in Ireland, and they have never paid us anything for it, and drove them they have started three or four schools of the kind, and do pay for them.

5615. (Mr. O'Leary).—It corresponds very closely, I suppose, with the Christian Brothers' School at Our Lady's Mount, Cork?—No. The school I refer to is a single, narrow department of the work in the Christian Brothers' schools, which is directly under the control of the Technical Instruction Committee in the city. It was we established it, our members visit the school as freely as they like, we are entitled to inspect the school, examine it, and do anything we like under the written agreement with the Christian Brothers. That part of the school, though it happens to be located in their premises, yet it is as completely distinct a thing as if we had it in the building. It is not part of the Christian Brothers' School.

5616. (Mr. Mills).—Do the Department understand that you intend to remove it as soon as you build your new technical school?—They do. We have repeatedly informed them of that. There is only one other question with regard to the matter of the building, but I don't suppose we have anything very particular to add here to what you have learned elsewhere. There is one point which I think this Committee should consider—that is, whatever view might be held in 1896 when the Act of Parliament was passed, it might be the view of the Government very reasonably that perhaps this thing would not come to anything, and "why should you expend such a large sum of money on buildings?" On the other hand they might say the £25,000 would be sufficient for everything. Now, we have given a proof that the thing need not be a failure unless there is mismanagement, and in the second place that the £25,000 is not sufficient. "The Department are not in a position to make the special grant applied for to enable the Committee to proceed with the erection of premises for the purpose of a central technical school." That is because we tacked on to our proposals that we should be allowed to build a central technical school at a cost of £15,000, and looked to the Depart-

went to pay the interest and sinking fund on that at the rate of 5 per cent. We did not seriously think that the Department would agree to that this year, but we do seriously hope that the Department will put that and all other claims before the Government with a view to getting the Government to accept it, and make a provision for the erection of buildings.

5608. (Mr. Nicke).—Are you aware either from the Report or the Appendixes to the Report of the Department on what principle that £7,000 is expended?—I have been informed that the Department have made an arrangement or did make an arrangement with Mr Wyndham under which that £7,000 can be expended chiefly on new works. I think some such expression as that is used in the arrangement. That is a matter which might be interpreted broadly or narrowly by the Department themselves.

5609. It would necessarily be on Technical Education—Successfully Technical Education. In reference to what I said a moment ago, I think it was very distinctly understood that the type of scheme we were putting forward here is one that ought to be reason-

ably regarded and met by the Department against the July 8, 1906.

5607. Is there any separate schedule as far as you are aware in the Report of any Appendix showing the institutions that get their share of that £7,000?—I don't think so—I don't know of any.

5608. (Mr. Ophir).—I think it is only being arranged now. What you are to get for next year will be part of it?—That would not be the first payment under it. Possibly the payments made during the session ending this month may have been the first.

5609. (Mr. Nicke).—Do you know anything about how much is given to be distributed according to population for county boroughs?—£25,000 or £25,000.

5700. And then there is a sum of £25,000 or £25,000 to go to places other than county boroughs. That leaves a sum of £4,000 over?—I have not the slightest idea of what becomes of that.

5701. Do you get any of it here in Limerick?—No; we get none of it here.

5702. You have not a central institution here?—The central institution would be in Dublin. I am sure they could manage to spend that.

Mr. PATRICK VAUGHAN, J.P., examined.

I am Chairman of the Limerick County Council, and have been nominated by the County Council to give evidence.

5703. (Chairman).—You speak both for yourself and as a representative?—Yes. The County Council and County Committee for Agriculture and Technical Instruction of Limerick County are utterly dissatisfied at the proceedings of the Department in the county, and the general public, through the county are taking so little interest in the subject that I believe the County Council would not be justified in voting any more of the ratepayers' money for the purpose, unless some radical changes are forthcoming in the personnel and management of the Department. When the question was first taken up in this county in 1901 a very lively interest was taken in the subject by all classes in the county, but as time wore on, and the several suggestions of the representatives of the people were ignored, and the Committee set on by the officials of the Department, many dropped out altogether, while others continued giving a fair chance to the various schemes submitted by the Department, in the hope that something practical would eventually result. But now we have scarcely a quorum at any meeting, and were meetings falling through, the few that still continue to live on hopes of better times coming, are thoroughly sick of the thing, and unless, as above-mentioned some substantial improvement is forthcoming, and some regard taken of local opinion as to the requirements of the people, we shall drop the thing altogether. In regard to the Live-Stock Scheme for the county, we have been agitating the question of the Premium Bulls from the beginning, and our suggestions were ignored by the Department, though they have now actually based a scheme for the whole country on one submitted by us in 1903, but only a very poor edition of it. We proposed a scheme at that time which we considered best suitable to the requirements of the county, and which would, in our opinion, be the only real means of improving the breed of cattle in the county, which the present scheme, we believe, are not at all calculated to do. We desired to procure twelve of the very best pedigree bulls of the best milking strains at a sum not exceeding £1,000, which goes to show that it was not economy we were practicing; and that cows be propagated for service from the best milking strains to be provided through the county. That those bulls, instead of being owned by individuals, should be the property of the county, and that, in addition, a Herd-Book be established for the county to ensure that the breed would be of the best kind available, and the property maintained in the county. The Department not consenting to our proposals, we will adopt their schemes on the understanding that our recommendations would be considered later on. The question of the Herd-Book was at length considered, and set into operation; but in this great dairy cattle county of Limerick only thirty-six cows were deemed admissible for nomination by the Sir Orms of the

Department sent down to inspect. Now, we are still of opinion that our scheme is the only real way of improving the breed of cattle in the county, and as we are fully impressed with the idea that the existing schemes will never do so in this county, we cannot see the force of expending people's money in futile attempts. I might mention also that though there are practical schemes adopted for improving the breed of horses, there is still a waste of energy and money in doing so, inasmuch as there are no steps taken to ensure that the progeny shall be retained for breeding purposes in the county, and this very important subject should command the urgent attention of the Department. The subject of instruction in agriculture generally is very much neglected in this county, and we have no faith whatever in itinerant instruction. I and some other members of the Council submitted to officials of the Department a scheme of practical instruction by demonstration, and were told that the Department could not entertain it. We considered that the best way to educate the rural population in improved methods of agriculture would be by means of experimental farms in the county, where everything relating to agriculture would be demonstrated. The feeding and treatment of cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, and poultry, the rearing of young calves (which is one of the most important considerations for County Limerick farmers in view of the fatal diseases so singularly prevalent in this county), the experiments in seeds and manures, and everything connected with agriculture and products. Instead, we were sent down Scotch experts with lectures and pamphlets galore, and were inundated with lectures about the ravages of the gully and dolly-long-legs, all of which the poor ignorant farmers laughed at, and gave no attention to. As an instance of the practical usefulness of such experimental farms, I might mention that some five or six years ago I induced the Department to experiment with seeds and manures in my own farm, and the experiment was keenly scrutinized by the farmers of the locality. We found the result that six out of the eight different classes of manures applied actually robbed the land, while the others proved to be of considerable advantage, and the farmers went wholesale for them in the district, and have considerably improved their produce thereby. The struggles of the unfortunate farmers to live at present with high wages and rack-rents is such that there is nothing so really important as educating them in improving the methods of agriculture, and through stress of circumstances they have taken keenly to experimenting themselves without any aid from the Department, and have done more in that direction for the past three or four years than the Department with all its available funds and functions. Another very important subject has been completely ignored by the Department—so far as taking any practical steps to grapple with it—viz., winter-dairying. There is nothing, to my mind, so really important to the dairy farmers of Ireland than this subject, and why it cannot be dealt with in this county is unaccountable. Every country in the world has dealt

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with it successfully—Denmark, Sweden, Germany, France, etc., and the labor, I find, is Iceland; and here we are with all the natural advantages right up to the door of the finest butter markets in the world, and we have made no progress in the important question. The absence of general winter-dairying in Iceland is an incalculable national loss annually, as I will show briefly. Our better season at present is practically for six months of the year, and though our butter is now proved to be at least equal to that of other countries, we must dispose of it at considerable loss prices. On yesterday the difference between Irish and Danish was 11s. per cwt. One of the greatest causes for this is the absence of winter-dairying. Other countries supply a uniform article all the year round, and though it may be worked at some loss in winter, they hold the trade and the character. While we have to buy ourselves into the market at the beginning of the grass season at up to 10s. per cwt. below that obtained by foreigners, as those in the business don't care to disconnect their trade without getting corresponding advantages in money, though the commodity may be equal. If the Department, instead of expending theories on these subjects, and wasting money in paper-books experiments and instruction, would devote their attention in a practical manner in demonstration farms through the country, such as I have suggested, and subsidise properly-equipped creameries in certain defined localities, that the farmers could obtain remunerative prices for their milk, with an improved breed of cattle, they would very soon adopt it. The process may be slow and costly for a time, but it would be worth it all in the end, and we would not be left at the tail-end of the markets of Great Britain, though having the finest natural advantages of all. In this connection there is another important element to be calculated by the increased cultivation of the land which winter-dairying would entail. We would help to raise the tide of emigration of our fine young men and women from the land. I notice that severe criticism has been passed by the allocation of some £18,000 per annum to a society called the L.A.O.S. for purposes of organisation, and I am inclined to agree with them, though I have the highest possible respect for some members of that organisation, whom I know well. I am aware that this organisation was founded on the principle of self-help, and should be self-supporting. If it failed in its principles, then it did not command public confidence, and it is a manifest absurdity to give it the distribution of public funds in any capacity. Organisation should come directly from the Department in co-operation with the elected representatives of the people, and should not be left to outsiders who are not of the people in any sense, and whose motives, no matter how well-intentioned, are regarded with suspicion in consequence. Complaints have been made of this organisation interfering with existing trade and industry, and I believe in some instances with good reason, as I know some of those employed for the purpose of organising don't know what they are talking about, and have misled the people to their cost. Itinerant instruction in the rural districts in connection with technical instruction is worse still. This is a complete failure in the country, so far as any practical result is apparent, and we all regard the money spent on it as so much thrown away. Personally I was one of the last to give up hope in that direction, but after giving it more than a fair trial I am forced to the conclusions above-mentioned. I was persuading myself that something substantial would be the outcome, and that some industries would crop up as a result, but the people have no heart in the thing. After all, those little things being taught by itinerant instruction to the rural population are of very little practical value to a starving country. Fancy teaching us to cook when we have nothing to cook but the rough and ready fare of potatoes, meat, and vegetables. Indeed, we can cook these things well enough if we can provide them. Domestic economy is very good in its way, but scarcely in the best school-teacher in that respect just now amongst the majority of the farming class. Our landowners are quite expert enough, if they would only endeavour to make the holes water to bottom. It is, in a sense, amusing, but it has its tragic side. I just calculate that £2,000 has been spent in those absurdities, and we cannot after three years see one penny of advantage to the people. What a nice industry it would have established in each of

our towns with local aid for the every-day work of our poor people, like that excellent clergyman, Father O'Brien, has organised in Limerick. In my humble opinion those otherwise useful acquisitions could best be learned and disseminated at local centres where industries could be carried on beside them. Horticulture in itself has the nucleus of industry in it, but as at present carried on is useless for general good. No provision is made for transit or marketing, and it is too costly as a luxury to be lasting. The question of Technical Instruction, however, is too complex a subject for me to enter too much into. I only give the humble views of a layman who cannot see value for the money already expended, and I would much rather leave those who have studied the subject debate it. My forte is rather an agriculture, and I believe it is a subject which should command the first attention of any department, for everything, after all, depends on the land. Unfortunately the officials who have always been chosen by Government to deal with the land in Ireland are either ignorant or prejudiced, and the greatest blunder of all is to bring our Scotchmen to teach us. Why, we have never known a Scotchman to succeed in this country as an agriculturist. He either robbed the land or himself, and in most cases both. A Scotchman as a teacher to a County Limerick farmer is so absurd it cannot be listened to. The farmers who framed the Live-Stock Scheme for this county, have, in my humble judgment, more brains, intelligence, and practical knowledge than the whole volume of dreams together. There is a copy of the Live-Stock Scheme (produced) which we submitted to the Department three years ago, and they have now adopted one on those lines.

5703. You are an agriculturist yourself?—Yes.
5705. In what part of the county?—Drumcoghlin. I may mention that our secretary is available to give you any dates or figures with regard to the expenditure of money.

5706. You don't give a very hopeful outlook with regard to agricultural instruction. I don't know the reason, but you have only one instructor in horticulture in the county?—That is all.

5707. None in agriculture, none in poultry-keeping, and none in butter-making?—No, sir. With regard to the butter-making industry of Limerick, it is principally done at creameries. The Department has provided instruction for creameries, but it is hardly necessary to send down anybody for butter-making.

5708. Whether it is right, or whether it is wrong, it has not been very much tried in this county system of instruction?—No, sir, and since we suggested this matter of experimental farms in the county, which we think still is the most practical way to teach the farmers, we have not approached the Department.

5709. In other counties these experimental farms are carried on to a great extent under the supervision of the instructors. They could hardly say it on unless they had a local instructor. You haven't got one here?—No, sir.

5710. Therefore, as far as the Department are concerned, you could hardly expect them to carry on experimental plots unless there was an instructor?—That would be part of any scheme we proposed.

5711. You think it is a good thing in itself?—I think it is the best.

5712. I suppose you regret very much the fact that from one cause or another the County Council and the Department have not pulled together, and therefore the results are not what one could wish?—Yes. Our suggestions have very little weight with the Department in many of these respects, and therefore we have not put them for the last twelve months before the Department at all, but through the Council of Agriculture we put these forcibly before the Department, and they were ignored.

5713. What questions?—Particularly this question of experimental farms, and cattle schemes.

5714. Do you mean that the Department should start an experimental farm themselves in this county?—My own idea would be that the fund that would be raised by the county with the Department could be devoted in a great measure to the creation of such experimental farms.

5715 (Mr. Doyle).—How many would you have?—If there was one in each rural district it might not be too much to commence with.

5716. (Mr. Nichols).—Five or six?—Yes.

5712. (Chairman).—What size would you have them?—I don't think it would be desirable to have them very large; forty or fifty acres.

5713. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you thought out the nature of the experiments?—Yes; the subject of winter dairying could be carried on there, and that would educate the farmers how best winter dairying would pay.

5714. (Chairman).—You prefer that to any system of winter dairy (interim instruction)?—Oh, certainly; farmers will only learn through demonstration.

5715. (Mr. Dryden).—Has it ever been tried?—No,

except in those little instances of my own, which had extraordinary results. July 3, 1906.

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5716. (Mr. Brown).—You have no bear scheme in Limerick?—We have adopted a scheme this year; it has taken six months to supply us with two bears.

5717. That is owing to the scarcity of bears you were late in the field?—It seems to me it ought to be easy to get anything for money; it ought not to take six months. Mr. Shaw, of Limerick, has done immense good for the breeding of pigs in the county. We did not see the necessity of going into it until lately.

REV. P. CROWE, B.A., BOURNA, ROCHESTER, examined.

Rev. P. Crowe, B.A.

5718. (Chairman).—I believe you are the chairman of the North Tipperary Committee of Agriculture?—Yes. I have here a copy of our report for this year, brought out this morning, and I want to submit this introduction to the report:—Previous to 1905 a Joint Committee for Agriculture and Live Stock and Technical Education existed, but by the Order of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction the County Council appointed two separate and distinct committees to administer the Act, therefore our duty is confined to carrying out the various schemes for improving the breeds of horses, cattle, swine, poultry, etc., as well as for instruction in agriculture, horticulture, butter-making, etc. The work under each of these heads is set out in as clear and concise a form as was possible, and we trust that the Report will be carefully read, particularly by those for whom this work is chiefly intended, namely, the present generation of the farming community, both male and female. We are glad to be able to state that the interest of the public in the working of the various schemes is steadily increasing, and the various lectures and classes of our instructors through the county have been well attended during the past year. The intelligent application of improved methods of farming in North Tipperary is evidenced by the greatly increased tendency to use up-to-date implements; the early and more skilful tilling of the lands; the judicious application of artificial and natural fertilisers; the skill and care shown in the selection of the various seeds, and in the increased area under corn crops, particularly barley, in the North Riding. It is well to note that farmers can have their seeds tested as to their purity and germination by giving samples to the agricultural instructor. Artificial manures and feeding stuffs will also be analysed at a nominal cost. Our recently-inaugurated scheme of horticultural instruction promises to meet with rapid and great success, and it is most encouraging to find the universal desire that exists for fruit culture, vegetable and flower culture, as well as for forest tree planting. In this connection we wish the public to note that we have made arrangements to purchase all trees from the most approved nurseries at wholesale rates, and will distribute them amongst the farmers who require them at cost price. As an instance of work done I would read what the Horticultural instructor says:—"I have delivered three lectures each in Migne, Broom, Longmead, Rockeen and Holycross. The average attendance at the first three places was seventy-five; all seemed much interested in the subject. As a result of lectures and visiting there have been planted over 1,600 apples, pears, and plums; 2,300 small fruits; 800 cordons and trained trees for gardens; 10,350 forest trees for shelter belts; 200 flowering shrubs and creepers; 500 rhubarb, etc." Our live stock schemes are bound to be of universal benefit to the community if they will only utilise them to the fullest extent. The horse-breeding scheme is an unqualified success; our shows of mares are well filled with useful animals, and there are sufficient high-class registered steers well distributed throughout the county to meet the requirements of all accredited mares. We regret that the bull scheme is not availed of to anything like a full extent. With the rather remarkable exception of Berrigane and Burr No. 2 Rural Districts, we find a difficulty in getting a sufficient number of applications for bull premiums. A peculiar feature of this scheme for cattle improvement is that by far the greater proportion of premium bulls goes to the tillage districts, while the great dairying and

cattle-raising districts of Thurles and Nenagh have very few high-class bulls for service. It is noticeable that the winners in the cattle classes at the county shows in Nenagh and Thurles come principally from the tillage districts. Some of the winning farmers from the neighbourhood of Berrigane and Cloughjordan have secured very high distinctions at the Dublin and Cork Shows for cattle and sheep. The improvement of our breeds of cattle is a matter of the most vital importance to our farmers, and we trust that a much keener interest in this part of the work of the County Committee will be evinced in the near future, especially in the dairying districts. The committee have provided subsidies for pure-bred bears to be distributed through the county, and it is regrettable that they are not availed of at the present to any appreciable extent. The result of our poultry instructors' work is apparent all over the county. No one can fail to notice the remarkable improvement that has taken place in the quality of the various fowls reared by the farmers and cottiers both for egg-laying and table purposes. The many nondescript breeds that prevailed a few years since have now given place generally to some of the very best breeds that the world can produce. The poultry exhibits at Nenagh and Thurles Shows surpassed anything of the kind held in former years in any provincial town, both for number and quality. We have pleasure in noting that the splendid poultry fattening station recently established under the direction of the Department in Nenagh has given the greatest possible fillip to the fowl rearing industry in North Tipperary. We are confident that if the farmers' wives and daughters devote more time and attention to the rearing of fowl of all kinds, it should become one of the most remunerative industries of the farm. The farm and cottage piggery scheme inaugurated five years ago has produced extremely good results. The competitions are very local, and the Inspector had to express his regret that he had not more numerous awards to grant, so many competitors who did not secure prizes had won the prize-winners so close that they were undoubtedly deserving of special mention. We have given instructions that certificates of merit may be issued in deserving cases in future as well as prizes. The money devoted to this work has been well invested, and we trust the farmers and cottiers will compete in much greater numbers than hitherto. It costs them nothing to fulfil the conditions of the competition; on the contrary, by inculcating habits of neatness, skill, regularity, and thrift in the management of their holdings, they are bound to reap considerable profit. The butter-making classes have been well attended and have effected considerable improvement in the quality of butter in the districts where held. We wish to point out that all our instructors, agricultural, horticultural, poultry, and butter, are available at all convenient times to give advice to any person requiring same. It is well to note that the rural districts get the advantage of a portion of the work of the Committee of Technical Instruction through the classes in domestic economy, cookery, and laundry work, which are of incalculable advantage to the girls. A most important feature of the work carried on during the year was the series of highly instructive and deeply interesting lectures on Veterinary Hygiene and First Aid in the diseases of horses and cattle delivered by Professor Mason, M.C.V.S., under the auspices of the Department, and free of cost to the Committee. These lectures created an interest amounting to enthusiasm, and we trust that Professor Mason's services will be

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again at our disposal next season. One of the best means of disseminating useful information in connection with agriculture and live stock and their allied industries is through the medium of county shows. Since the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction was established many new county shows have been organised, and old agricultural societies that were in a moribund condition were given a new life. In North Tipperary two most important societies are at work, and under their auspices there are two very fine shows held every year, one in Thirlage and one in Beragh. These shows embrace exhibits in every branch of agriculture and live stock, while splendid horse and industrial exhibitions are also held in connection with them. These shows are subsidised by the Department in conjunction with the County Committee, and their success was apparent to the thousands of people who attended them from all parts of the North Riding. If men of position and influence living in Rural Districts would co-operate with the Committee in the working of the schemes in their own localities, their efforts would be more far-reaching and more productive of good results.

5734. (Mr. Brown).—How long have you had your horticultural instructor?—We got a lecturer about two years ago, and he stayed about two months and ran away; we were about a year looking out for another, and could not find him; this man came late, three of the best months of the planting season were over.

5735. He has done very good work?—We are working in order now. I may mention in connection with that business that we have five horticultural plots of only half a statute acre in the five different Rural Divisions of the North Riding; they are situated in such a position that they are seen by the neighbours and strangers.

5736. (Mr. Dryden).—You have egg stations?—Yes, under the supervision of the itinerant instructors.

5737. (Chairman).—They go about the different parts and give instruction in different places?—Yes.

5738. Is that successful?—Yes, wonderfully successful.

5739. Have you been chairman long?—Only for one year. I was Chairman of the Committee on Live Stock for some years.

5740. For the six or seven years the Department has been at work, do you think a good deal of improvement has been effected?—It is wonderful what improvements people have made, especially for the last year.

5741. Has it gone on advancing, do you think?—You might say the foundation is well laid down, and there are the grandest prospects of improvement for the time to come.

5742. You attach the very greatest importance?—I do to the practical working of the scheme.

5743. Do you consider the domestic economy part of it very important?—Most important; if you could put any one before another, it is very important. I might mention I got a session of six weeks for my own people out in the country for domestic economy; so pleased was the instruction there that she was most anxious to get back again; the people are very attentive, attending the lectures and benefiting greatly. She was able to give certificates to twelve, and the other four only failed through non-attendance.

5744. Do the instructors and instructresses give satisfaction?—They are doing everything they can to instruct the people.

5745. You think really the effects that are being made are appreciated?—No doubt at all.

5746. Has it reached the poorer classes; have they benefited by it?—Certainly; in order to avail more fully of the advantages of these various schemes around Roscrea, we have formed a local industrial committee to take charge of all the lectures and everything of that description in that locality for the future, so that we won't be leaving it to secretaries or anybody like that.

5747. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose it would be a great advantage if you were able to organise similar Committees all through the county?—Certainly, anyone sufficiently interested in the various localities.

5748. (Mr. O'Brien).—I suppose now when the people see it done in one locality, in a year or two they will begin to do it in theirs?—That is what we expect.

5749. (Mr. Brown).—You have not yet had any

classes for instruction in agriculture?—No classes as yet.

5750. I suppose you would look forward eventually to having classes for young men?—What we mean now is to have these Agricultural Colleges established scattered through the country where intelligent young men would be taken up and trained, and then they would be models to their neighbours when they got home.

5751. Besides that, there are in some counties that courses in agriculture?—Yes; we have nothing of that kind.

5752. You will soon, I am sure; you seem to be very progressive?—The farmers are so much interested in their own welfare, that we have a Bacon Factory in Roscrea with a capital of over £10,000 subscribed by the farmers around.

5753. (Mr. O'Brien).—How many shareholders?—3,183.

5754. They are all interested in the working of it?—Yes; farmers and members, they are all most interested in it.

5755. (Chairman).—I see you have instructors in everything except that you have not a separate instructor in bee-keeping; you have an agricultural instructor, one in poultry, one in butter-making, and one in horticulture?—Yes.

5756. I see the amount of the sales from your egg distributing station in 1905 amounted to 1,778 dozen, and in 1906, up to the 31st of May, to 1,263 dozen?—Yes. And as each person supplied in 1906 gave previously in 1905 to neighbours at least three dozens, the total number of dozens of improved eggs distributed in 1906 would be at least 3,000.

5757. That bears out what you said about the importance of the poultry scheme?—Yes. Our Committee then at the last meeting drew up a report making suggestions. "Resolved—That we are of opinion that itinerant lectures in Agriculture should be considerably curtailed and the funds applied to more extended work in the way of experiment and demonstration, and that the size of the plots should be considerably increased."

5758. (Mr. Dryden).—What was the Department's answer?—We have not got that far yet; it is only at last meeting. "That the difficulty at present experienced of obtaining plots for demonstration purposes in connection with National Schools should be met by the Department obtaining compulsory powers to acquire land for this purpose."

5759. (Chairman).—You attach importance to that?—Yes, in connection with National Schools. That the Department should formulate a scheme of encouragement and aid by way of loan, or grant, or otherwise, in the establishment of Agricultural Co-operative Societies composed of farmers and agricultural labourers, having for their object the manufacture of butter, the collection and marketing of eggs, and the fattening of poultry for market, the curing and packing of meat, vegetables, and fruit, flowers, &c.; and any other industry allied to agriculture. That the establishment of Agricultural Co-operative Banks or Credit Societies should be encouraged and extended. That we would suggest that the Department act in co-ordination with the different bodies having the direction of primary and secondary education, with a view to having practical agriculture taught under the best conditions to the children of the Primary and Secondary schools. Some system should be established by which small farmers and agricultural labourers should have the advantage of skilled qualified veterinary advice for their animals on a scale of fees suitable to their means. That the Department should devise a system, by which Irish calves for the English trade may be slaughtered in this country, and the flesh sent forwarded to the English market, as we are of opinion that this system should have some intermediate profits, as well as be a means of extending industries in Ireland, such as butter and horn goods, &c. That the Department should take steps to aid the County Councils to acquire waste and unenclosed lands for the purpose of re-afforestation, and that in the case of existing large woods and plantations which are detached from residential districts, they should be vested in the County Councils, as we consider a proper organised system of re-afforestation will prove one of the best means of providing employment for labourers in country districts, and to help to stop emigration. That in future when making appointments of experts and instructors by County

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Committee, that candidates for these positions should be examined by some regular system of examination, after which certificates of efficiency should be given by the Department to those who may pass, so that no delay or friction may occur with County Committees, when appointments are made, and that a representative of the Department should attend to give advice in the selection of suitable candidates in future.

5750. Had you any difficulty about the appointment of instructors?—We had some delay.

5751. I suppose that is owing to the difficulty of finding people?—A number of applications were sent in; the candidate that was selected was not qualified at the time. We are of opinion that the Department should be more frequently represented at County Committee meetings, so that the Committee would be in more direct and frequent communication with them. All bulls provisionally selected for premiums should have been previously submitted to the tuberculin test.

5752. (Mr. Dryden).—I don't see how that could be carried out, you could not test an animal unless the owner was willing?—If he was not willing we would not have anything to do with it; some difficulty comes in connection with that. That the Department should so arrange the bull scheme, particularly in poor districts, so that greater facilities for the acquisition of premium bulls should be given to small

farmers. Some members have suggested that some of the young men could be taken across to the fruit portions of England in vacation times and let them see these places and be able to bring that experience home. And another suggestion is that in future when labourers' plots are laid out they should be planted with certain small fruits.

5753. (Chairman).—All these are matters which you might very well discuss with the Department with the view of arranging the best thing that is possible?—Another point in connection with the various lectures, there should be some inducements to them to remain permanently, if they could be provided with a bit of land in connection with their residence.

5754. (Mr. Oglethorpe).—If you gave them a bit of land there would be some difficulty in getting them to move about the country as freely as they do now?—I think not.

5755. (Chairman).—That is a difficulty that occurs in every branch of the service; if you get a good man the difficulty is to keep him?—I say all this as a representative of the Committee and not as giving my own opinion.

5756. I suppose it expresses your own opinion fairly?—Certainly.

5757. And you are speaking in your representative capacity, too?—Yes, both representative and personal

On resuming after luncheon.

MR. WILLIAM McDONNELL, J.R., examined.

5758. (Chairman).—I believe you are President of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce?—Yes, sir. In bringing my views on the workings of the Agricultural Department before this assembly I have first to regret the very short notice given by them, as it does not allow me an opportunity of collecting facts and arranging statistics to prove them. I will, therefore, ask the Commissioners that if afterwards I should find something I may wish to add as supplemental to my present statement that they would kindly receive it as part of same, and place it on their notes. I will at once state my opinion that the Agricultural Board badly failed to do any service whatever to the trade and industries of the country. Unfortunately, on the contrary, they were a source of much injury to it—a feeling which, I believe, has for a long time existed, but of late begins to receive expression in many different quarters, and from the proprietors of many different industries. However, I shall confine myself to my own—the margarine and butter trades. I will first take the butter trade. When the centrifugal milk separator was invented it effected quite a revolution in the matter of obtaining cream, and gave an opportunity to establish factories where the milk was collected, the cream separated, and butter churned therefrom. These factories took the name of creameries at Shanagolden, Ballybrigan, and New into the new system of business, and we established creameries. Our firm were amongst the first to enter Falias. The butter we turned out obtained the reputation of being in quality as good butter as it was possible to produce, and it became a question not to whom we could sell it, but (the quantity being limited), who we could serve, and at prices even above Danish butter. We had been running, I consider, for a few years, when the Hon. H. Finliff (now Sir H. Finliff) started a society called the Irish Organising Society. I believe this body proposed to be an advisory society, and at first proposed their object was only to encourage farmers to join in co-operation, and to teach them the lines on which to do so. With this I would not find fault if they confined their efforts to places where co-operation may have been of use, say, in districts where farms were small, and farmers owned only from two or three to ten or fifteen acres, as, for instance, in parts of County Clare and the mountain districts of Cork, Kerry, or Limerick, but what did they do instead, though they had laid it down as an axiom that creameries should not unnecessarily overlap, and that distance of at least six miles should be allowed between them. They seemed to mark out where private creameries were placed, and immediately set to work to establish one of their creameries not six miles away, but absolutely so was the case in our creamery at Shanagolden, practically in the next field. Again at Bally-

brigan they erected one at Grange, a distance of two-and-a-half to three miles away. Seeing that our suppliers at Shanagolden were to contribute the members of the new society, we were compelled to sell to them, and at a price which was not more than about a third of what it cost to erect our factory. We had also to sell at Ballybrigan.

5759. (Mr. Oglethorpe).—What year was this?—I should say about eight or ten years ago. I really could not fix it. I gave you that just as an example. There is no doubt that this Organising Society sent their emissaries into all the country districts to tell the farmers that the owners of private creameries were taking profits which should not belong to them, and in this manner indeed the farmers to start in opposition. With this prejudice I submit Sir H. Finliff joined the Department, and I regret that his action since proves it, for instead of fostering the existing industries of the country, and seeing that at least they got fair play, he still approves of the action of the I.A.O.S., and I have been informed pays over his salary to support it still. With this possibly I have no right to deal, but it is also a fact that he has paid over large sums of public money for a like purpose, and here comes in a real grievance, for while it supplies means to set us has been acted against our firm at Shanagolden it has an effect also distinctly discouraging to capitalists to invest money in Ireland, as no person can tell the trade to be next opposed. The system went on, and very numerous co-operative societies were promoted. Some of them have been successful, but the greater number have been a failure, and, as a matter of fact, many of them have fallen again back into the hands of private persons. I will now consider while all this has been taking place what has been the effect on the butter trade of the country. As already stated when the creamery system first started the reputation of Irish creamery stood the highest for quality, and fetched accordingly the highest price on the market. When all these new co-operative creameries started their members came for the first time to deal with machinery, and as a consequence their total want of knowledge of its working had the only result to be expected, and, as a matter of fact, they flooded the market with bad butter, and which had to be sold for what it would fetch, obtaining also a bad name for Irish creamery butter which previously stood as high, and thereby pulled down the price of the best as well, with the result that though Irish creamery when first placed on the market commanded a price even higher than Danish, it has now to be sold, I will say, on an average of 10s. per cwt. under it. It is scarcely necessary to say the country sustains by

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this state of affairs a most grievous loss, and an injury which could have been saved had the Department acted with dispatch and a knowledge of the work they were appointed to fulfil. It is not easy to fix accurately what this loss in actual money amounts to, as there are no actual statistics in the country from which figures may be compiled, but averaging matters I am of opinion that the amount of butter made in the entire country in twelve months should amount to about 70,000 tons, half of which is made in the province of Munster. It is easy to see this means, say, 70,000 tons at 10s. per cwt., or £10 per ton, a loss of £700,000, or to the province of Munster a loss of £350,000 a year. Another matter in which the Department could render much assistance is the carriage of goods. I have not time to go into this matter, and must confine myself to stating that after the proper manufacture of the article, the placing on the market quickly, and in condition, is most important, as butter is a perishable article, and here again they do not seem to take the interest they might take.

Winter-dairying is another important matter, but one to which, I regret, the Department do not appear to have devoted any attention. Nevertheless, it is a fact that until the country can produce a winter supply of butter they cannot hope to compete successfully with countries which have done so, because butter being an article in which the public grow accustomed to a particular flavour, it takes time to educate them to change and take even a better article, hence when the supply of Irish comes in the winter, it takes a long time again in the spring to get them back to Irish; it can only be done at the sacrifice of price. Ireland is better adapted to winter dairying than Denmark, for while the fields in Denmark are white and covered with snow, our fields are still green. Where, therefore, comes in the difficulty—simply that the farmers find the food supplies at present available in the country not only unsuitable, but also too costly. I hold, therefore, if the large sums of money expended on inquiry into small industries, and the amount wasted on pamphlets, printing, and the sending of teachers through the country to cultivate what, after all, were only by-products when compared with this important one, butter, the staple industry of the country, were expended on inquiry as to the foods used, say, in Denmark, and farmers were encouraged and assisted to grow them in the country, the Department could point to useful work accomplished; but as matters stand I fail to see any permanent return to the large sums of money expended by them. I would wish to express the opinion that co-operation is not adopted to the manner of thought of our people, and while, as already stated, there are districts where a co-operative society may do useful work as a rule, instead of forming co-operative societies broadcast, and putting power separators into factories, the people were encouraged and taught the use of hand separators, it would be better for the country. Most of our dairy farms are large ones, and as such well suited to the hand separator system, I believe the hand separator system would provide the need for labour in the country again, of which the co-operative societies deprived it, and provide abundant food in the off of their dairies for the feeding of calves, pigs, fowls, &c., as was the case when each homestead made its own butter—that it would may the tide of emigration caused by the dearth of labour under the factory system. I believe the system to be one of the greatest causes of emigration. In conclusion, I would wish to state that our Chamber of Commerce had this subject before them for consideration a week ago, when they unanimously came to the following conclusions, and which I now wish to read and lay before the inquiry as a matter of their opinion:—

RESOLUTION.—That we view with much concern the attempt that is now being made to retain the services of Sir Horace Plunkett as Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture. Whilst we willingly admit his industry, we cannot close our eyes to the fact that in his zeal for the introduction of the co-operative system, he seems reckless as to the consequences to private industrial firms, and that he has countenanced and tacitly encouraged many things that were calculated to injure existing enterprises. In this connection we may mention particularly the attacks so persistently indulged in by officials of the Irish Agricultural Organisation

Society against people of the highest character in the Irish commercial world. Considering the way in which this Organisation Society was established by Sir Horace Plunkett, he certainly cannot be considered from the blame attaching to unscrupulous utterances of the sort, which were so hurtful and so unjust. It was his manifest duty to insist on the use of fair and honourable methods by those who had virtually become his subordinates. We believe that we give expression to the general opinion in Ireland when we say that the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society has no right to receive State support; the grants made to it by the Department are always in danger of being used to the detriment, rather than for the support, of Irish industries, and its present position, almost devoid of public confidence, proves how unsuccessful have been its efforts in the past. We, therefore, claim that the functions of the Department of Agriculture should not be discharged by that irresponsible body, but should be carried out by its own officials, and that another should not be added to the already too numerous Government boards. We hope the result of the present inquiry into the working of the Department of Agriculture will be a very thorough reform, and that we shall soon see it devoting proper attention to any objects which have hitherto been only imperfectly, or not at all, looked after. Among these we may mention:

1. Practical lessons in mixed husbandry and winter-dairying.
2. Systematic instructions as regards the housing of cattle, the rearing of cattle, &c.
3. Experiments to illustrate the advantages of certain foods capable of being grown in this country.
4. A scheme for the improvement and preservation of the breed of hogs, which should be no longer left to private enterprise.
5. The production by farmers of economic foods adapted to winter-dairying, and the promotion and encouragement of the cultivation of crops used with so much advantage in other countries.
6. A thorough investigation of the mineral resources of Ireland with a view to their development.
7. An earnest endeavour to improve the waterways of Ireland, and free them from the disadvantage of railway control; and a more complete supervision of railway working and rates.
8. The fostering of Irish manufactures, especially the woollen and wood industries, and the improvement of native raw materials for the purposes of Irish manufactures generally.
9. Having regard to the extensive deposits of rich anthracite coals in Ireland, and its undoubted suitability for the production of producer gas, now being used so largely for power purposes throughout Great Britain and Ireland, we consider it the duty of the Department to take the necessary steps towards connecting the collieries with the lines of railway, as the existing conditions necessitate expensive cartage.
10. That Limerick, being an excellent centre for the manufacture and distribution of cement, the raw materials being found in unlimited quantities in the district, we consider the Department should place a workable scheme for the manufacture of cement, including descriptions of, and estimates for, the most modern machinery, before the people.
11. That the Department should foster, and effectively protect, Irish produce and manufactures in home and foreign markets, and represent to other Governments the desirability of encouraging existing Irish industries by placing as many Government contracts in Ireland as possible.
12. (Chairman).—Do you think some of these things might be initiated by the people themselves; everything is thrown on the Department in these resolutions?—It is merely pointing out to the Department the directions in which they might possibly act with more advantage to the country.
13. For instance, it is said the Department should connect places where minerals are obtained with railways; would that be a function of the Department?—It would be very useful for the Department; the distance is a short one; it would not, I daresay, pay a company to start a line, but it is a matter which, if fostered by the Department, possibly might grow into such a thing as would pay.

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5762. (Mr. Miché).—You refer to Castlemore?—

5763. (Mr. O'Grady).—You spoke of having a very short notice of the meeting?—Yes.

5764. I suppose you had seen the fact that this Committee was holding meetings was announced in all the newspapers?—We saw that you were inquiring in Dublin, but we thought it was a usual thing for Committees when they were coming here to publish it in the district, and we got no notice in Limerick when you were coming.

5765. I think the announcements were addressed to all the local representative bodies?—I should say the Chamber of Commerce would be a representative body.

5766. Is the Chamber of Commerce out of touch with all other local authorities in Limerick?—Certainly not.

5767. Then the Chamber of Commerce was aware this Committee was sitting?—They knew it was sitting, but they had not notice when.

5768. They had the same notice, I suppose, that the other members of the public have?—I don't think the public have notice.

5769. A good many members of the public have taken steps to put their views before the Committee?—So have we.

5770. No one has yet complained of shortness of notice, and it is rather surprising to find that a Chamber of Commerce, who would be supposed to be in touch with what was happening in the locality, should be the first to find themselves in the dark?—I don't say that.

5771. Then you say it should be the duty of the Department to foster industries, especially woollen and linen; what do you mean by fostering?—Well, to assist them by advice or otherwise.

5772. How otherwise?—By funds.

5773. That they ought to provide funds for anyone who is going to establish a woollen industry?—Not to anyone, but in districts; but, say, the congested districts, where funds are not very available, and where the wool is, if a small factory started there they ought to encourage it.

5774. You draw the line at congested districts?—No, I would not.

5775. Then you would draw the line at districts where there are no woollen mills?—Where there are no industries I draw the line; it would be well to establish them.

5776. That is to say that public funds ought to be spent in providing capital for the establishment of industries in areas where these particular industries don't exist?—Yes, I think it would be very advisable where there are no industries, and assist them to be established.

5777. Where there are no industries?—Practically none, supposing the County Mayo.

5778. Do you think that a woollen industry would be likely to succeed in the County Mayo?—I should think it ought; it is a good deal of a sheep country.

5779. How many woollen mills would you expect to see in the whole of Ireland, supposing it were fully equipped with woollen mills, one per county?—I dare say it would be well.

5780. So that a woollen mill represents a kind of industry that is not very widespread, that is to say you don't have a very large number of them in any area?—No, I don't think we would.

5781. Then the question comes to be, what is the smallest area that you would regard as sufficiently supplied by one woollen mill?—Roughly, one in a county would be enough.

5782. Then it comes to be a matter of degree; you don't approve of even co-operative money being spent in giving aid at all to the establishment of a country where there is another one in the same rural district?—I don't approve at all of money being given to co-operatives in opposition to private industries.

5783. Is there any private enterprise engaged in wool in Ireland. Certainly there is.

5784. Then if you were giving public money, not merely through co-operative societies, but directly to provide capital for woollen mills, might not that be opposed by the wool people to be given in opposition to private enterprise?—Not if people had their own money in it and it was not sufficient to assist them; where there was no woollen mill I think it would be desirable.

5785. It would be advisable to establish with public funds a woollen mill in a place where people had

money in woollen mills, but had not enough in it?—Yes, where there could not be a woollen mill without assistance in a poor district.

5786. But it would necessarily be a district in which there was a reasonable prospect of success for a woollen mill?—Certainly not, the woollen mill would be only just one of the industries that may be taken up; there are a lot of them named there; I don't bind myself to the woollen mill.

5787. I merely took it because it was one, but what I don't quite get at is whether there is any distinction between the extent of the area that has got to be taken into consideration between the case of public money spent in woollen mills and co-operatives' money spent in establishing co-operatives?—There is a very great distinction, because the co-operative co-operatives here are exempt from a great many taxes that private individuals have got to pay, and I think it would be a very unfair thing to give the money of those private individuals to establish co-operatives against them. If the thing were general, if supposing that the Department did supply funds to private individuals as well as to co-operatives, it would bear a different aspect altogether. As a matter of fact, I may tell you that the Department did say that they were prepared to lend money for pasteurising. We happened to have a pasteurising plant in our factories, and to see whether they were willing to help private individuals as well as they were co-operatives. I wrote asking for a loan of money, and, as a matter of fact, I was refused, as I anticipated. I only wrote to be refused, and I was.

5788. Still you leave me in the dark as much as your Chamber was as to your meeting, perhaps more, as to whether you draw a distinction between that case and the case where the Department, as you suggest, would give aid to the establishment of a woollen industry to certain individuals where there are other individuals who have established, and are carrying on, a woollen industry in the next county at their own expense?—These other people in the other county if they wished to carry their manufacture further, and had not funds, they ought to be assisted as well.

5789. And if woollen why not a linen industry?—No reason.

5790. And a jute industry?—No reason.

5791. And a ship-building industry?—I see no reason why if any of these industries were languishing, I see no reason why it should not be the duty of the Department to assist them over, we will say, evil times.

5792. The difficulty about industries and manufactures languishing is that of determining whether it is external conditions or had management that is the cause of the languishing. I am rather getting more fogged than ever because you have put it this way. The Chamber of Commerce recommends the fostering of industries, and you deduce from that that if they are fostering one industry they must foster another, and if you are going to help one man to extend his business the same must be done with another. It would come to this that every industry in Ireland would require, and would be entitled to demand, and if this was adopted?—They may demand, but they would not be entitled to get it, because I assume there would be an inquiry, and it would only be in a case where it was advisable that an allowance should be made that it would be made.

5793. Don't you think an inquiry of that sort would be extremely difficult to carry out by a Government Department?—I don't see why; it is done every day with regard to land; there are Inspectors to go down and inquire.

5794. (Mr. Miché).—Are you aware it is done by the Congested Districts Board in similar cases?—I was not aware.

5795. (Mr. O'Grady).—The Chamber of Commerce recommends aid on a scale and to a type of work?—The Chamber of Commerce only gave a number of things to which the Board of Agriculture, if they were doing their duty, would turn their attention and select out the ones that it might be useful to help; that was the idea of the Chamber of Commerce.

5796. Of course the Chamber's view is stated very shortly in the resolutions, and we look to you as Chairman of the Chamber to explain precisely what that means, and the difficulty that obviously arises in interpreting it as there is in it so deep, and I confess I have not yet found any distinct boundary line; but still the point you put in that there must be an in-

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quity into the business before any public money is put into it.—The Chamber of Commerce never meant that the Department would take up all these things in globe; it meant that there were a number of things that might be helped if help was wanted by them, and, of course, before they would give the help asked for they would make the inquiries to which I refer, and an inquiry of the kind certainly should not be impossible, and would be the means for determining whether the Board ought or ought not to give the assistance asked.

5797. Has the Chamber any idea of how much capital would be required to follow up this procedure?—They did not go into it; it would take some time, I suppose; that was one of the reasons why, with the short notice, we could not do it.

5798. (Mr. Mills).—You mentioned just now that the factory system was one of the chief causes of emigration, did you mean the creamery system?—I meant the creamery system.

5799. Not any other factory?—No, not any other factory. Well, when I spoke of factories there I really meant butter factories, and I think any butter factory would, of course, be in the same position as a creamery.

5800. You mean by diminishing the amount of employment in the home?—Yes.

5801. And that, therefore, the young people would require to go elsewhere to look for work?—Yes; and I mean to imply that with the hand separator—I know, as an expert—a good butter can be made. The separator simply is a new means of getting the cream from the milk; you get it in a fresh state, and then you have an opportunity of treating it. In the old process, the cream takes some days before it rises, and when you take it off already a certain amount of acidity has set up, and in the way you could not treat it as well as if you set up your own fermentation, and got your cream with acidity, and ripened it to the degree you liked. The separator did away with that. It gave the farmer in his own home fresh cream, that was produced that morning, and he, if taught how to do it, could do it quite as well, and, perhaps, better, if a large farmer, with twenty or thirty cows, could do better than any creamery, because the old milks are mixed and carried four or five miles—they are injured more or less for butter-making—and I held then that the farmers, if they made their own butter, would make the good butter they used to make years ago; because, although it is post-poned very much now, I know the old Irish butter was as fine butter, and fetched higher prices in its day, than any other butter,

and I hold now that if they had the hand separator, and could make butter in their homes, they would produce as fine butter, and perhaps better, than is possible in any other way. Then, I hold that the people who have now nothing to do on a farm, except to milk the cows, would have other work to do, and in that way a number of hands who were discharged and had to leave the country may be brought back, as, at all events, those growing up may be held; and in that way I think there can be little doubt that if the butter were made in homes, it would be certainly better for the country to keep its population.

5802. Your Chamber of Commerce recommended that powers should be given to the Department, or some Department, for withholding or aiding the industries of the country?—Yes.

5803. Are you aware, in a general way, that so far as the congested districts of Ireland are concerned, the Congested Districts Board possesses a full power to do what they think proper in starting industries?—I was not aware.

5804. Then, perhaps, some of the members of the Chamber who drew the resolution were aware?—I cannot answer.

5805. You did not know then that the Congested Districts Board have power, as far as their scheme goes, to start and help all industries in congested districts?—No.

5806. (Mr. Brown).—I would like to ask you a question arising out of what you have said about butter-making in the home. I suppose you know that the Department, in conjunction with the County Committees, are giving instruction in home butter-making in almost every county in Ireland except Limerick?—I did not know it.

5807. You were not aware that they had dairy instructors giving instruction in home butter-making in other counties, and that the Limerick County Council Committee have not adopted that?—I don't much wonder at that, to be candid; because I think the gentlemen who come to give instruction would be more likely to get instruction from the farmers of the County Limerick.

5808. Supposing it was a lady who was holding the classes?—Lady or gentleman, I don't make any distinction.

5809. Have you any experience of these instruction classes?—A little; not much.

5810. Having had some experience of these instructions, do you say deliberately that the farmers of the County Limerick are better qualified to give instruction than they are to receive it?—Distinctly.

Mr. ALEXANDER W.

SHAW, J.P., examined.

Mr. A. W.
Shaw, J.P.

5811. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce?—Yes, sir, I am.

5812. Do you wish to add anything to what Mr. McDonnell has said?—If you kindly allow me to read a statement. I am the senior partner of W. J. Shaw and Sons, of Limerick and Cork (bacon and ham cures, &c.), and I have been in the trade forty-three years. Prior to the strike of the porkbutchers, in 1890, the South of Ireland bacon trade had been steadily forging ahead. This strike lasted for nearly two months, during which time the Danish cures got hold of the London market to such an extent that the Irish cures have never since been able to regain their old position fully, and here had to pay dearly for that portion of the trade which they have won back. In addition to this uphill struggle, the cures have been very seriously hampered by the persistent attacks made upon their honesty by officials of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. These gentlemen went about amongst the farmers, telling them that they were being robbed in the most barefaced manner by the bacon merchants, and that there was nothing left for them but to start bacon factories of their own on the co-operative plan. As long as it was understood that the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was kept up by the voluntary contributions of its members, no public protest was made against its attacks on the Irish curing trade, although I personally did protest once or twice to prominent members of it, and was lead to expect further treatment. Now that it has come out in this inquiry that the main portion of the income of this Society has for some years been drawn from the funds of the Department of Agriculture, I object, as a taxpayer, to providing a stick to beat my own back. The bacon cures have been anxious to see one of these co-opera-

tive bacon-curing factories started, as they believe it would justify them in the eyes of the farmers. The only result of the campaign of the Organisation Society so far has been to injure the supply of pigs to such an extent that the large factories are only doing about from one-third to one-half of what they are capable of. If the co-operative factories are ever built in any numbers in the South of Ireland the result will be, I believe, simply to drag down the standard of the existing Irish bacon trade. Had the Irish Agricultural Society tried to revive bacon-curing where it had died out, such as in Sligo, or to start it in some Western town, such as Westport, there would be ample room for them to show how beneficial co-operation is applied to bacon-curing was, and they would not happen to say extent the proprietary concerns; but instead of that they tried inefficiently to start factories at Tipperary, Ennis, Newcastle West, &c., towns in the heart of the haying districts of the existing factories, and in which the farmers got the benefit of the honest competition between the Limerick, Cork, Tralee, and Waterford buyers, and also the live shippers. While they have not succeeded in inspiring confidence in their propaganda, they have seriously injured the bacon trade by sowing distrust of the merchants in the hearts of the farmers, who have gone out of pig-farming altogether. In Roscrea, I have heard, the people have subscribed £10,000 to start a factory. Roscrea has always been a very heavily bought fair, and I noticed that the Department of Agriculture has acted very wrongly in using public funds for the purpose of spoiling the competition that existed there, as this will probably be the result if all the supplies from this district have to go to this co-operative factory, at a price to be fixed by itself. Working at the 1907

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moderate range of profit that they have been for many years past. I do not see how the proprietary concerns can be compared with the co-operatives. Denmark may be mentioned, to point out how wrong I am in saying this, but there were no proprietary concerns in Denmark whose goods had world-wide reputations when the co-operative factories were started there. When Denmark shut out the Danish pigs the Danish pig-keepers had nothing to do with them but sat cowering from themselves, and their Government, in helping, instructing, and subsidising them, was creating a new industry in the country—not interfering with an industry already in existence. The South of Ireland bacon-curers have spent close on £20,000 in twice improvement. They imported the finest hogs that could be purchased in England, and also purchased from the leading Irish breeders. The result has been that in some districts there is now a finer breed than can be had in England, and that there are keenly sought after by the leading English curers and pork butchers. In spite of all they had done, however, the distrust spread abroad by the emissaries of the Irish Agricultural Society has had such an effect that the Irish farmers here, as I have already stated, come out of pig-breeding to a very large extent, while some and tons of pig-feeders are shipped from Limerick to Denmark, to be consumed there by pigs, which realise 2s. to 3s. per cwt. less than if the pigs were fed and sold in Limerick.

5813. (Mr. Micks).—What kind of feeding?—Potatoes and bran.

5813A. And what have the Department done?—Nothing that I am aware of, except drafting a boar specimen, the carrying out of which was dependent on the County Councils. In some instances, Limerick County in particular, the scheme was not adopted until quite lately, and the only reason I can imagine for this is that the County Council represents the large farmers, who are not pig-feeders, and who are unwilling to tax themselves for the benefit of the small farmers and labourers, who are the pig-feeders. Surely this was a matter which required the prompt attention of the Department. To show the comparative standing of the proprietary versus the co-operative factories in Denmark, I may mention that three of the leading proprietary brands, viz., "I.D.E.," "Pink," and "Tip-Top" make higher prices in the Limerick market than any of the co-operatives, and they pay more money for the hogs in Denmark. The steady supply of pigs in Denmark is more important to the industry. In Ireland we only have a good supply during six months of the year, and during summer, when prices are highest, our trade is starved for want of quantity. In Denmark the supply runs pretty much the same all the year round, and by this means they are capturing our trade just the same as they did the Irish butter trade. You may be aware that at a meeting held lately at the Chamber of Commerce some plain speaking was indulged in, in reply to this the organ of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, which is called the *Homestead*, has made an attack on some of the speakers personally, but I am sure they do not mind that. But in order to prove their case, this paper, which we may now regard as the organ of the Department of Agriculture, makes the following misstatement:—"The *Homestead* of the 25th June: 'But why is it that the Danish farmers with their own bacon factories and with less trouble, and receiving lower prices for the finished product can pay the farmers a higher price for bacon pigs than the Irish curers do.' That is absolutely untrue. As a matter of fact, in Limerick the average price for Irish pigs is from 1s. to 2s. higher than the proprietary factories pay in Denmark, and from 2s. to 4s. higher than the co-operative factories pay there. I am sorry that the committee have not given me time to collect our figures. These things cannot be done in five minutes, and I would ask you to allow me to put an addendum to my remarks in a few days when I get the figures."

5814. (Chairman).—Yes, and you can send anything you please to the Secretary. With regard to the work done by the Department in providing suitable boars for the country, a case has come under my notice where six months ago the depot was paid and the preliminaries completed, but the man has not got the boar yet. As midsummer and midwinter are the two seasons when boars are most used, this man has now lost his summer's business through the dilatoriness of the Department. With regard to the *Homestead* misstatement, I have looked into the

matter rather hurriedly, but had not time to complete my investigations, but it may be taken as a fact that the Munster curers pay 1s. to 2s. per cwt. more for pigs than do the proprietary factories in Denmark, and 2s. to 4s. more than do the co-operative factories one week with another. Sometimes the proprietary factories pay very close up to the Irish price. When we are getting hogs at the same price as the proprietary concerns in Denmark we are perfectly satisfied that no money will be lost on them. In conclusion, I would recommend to your consideration the suggestions made at the recent meeting of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce, which I have referred to.

5815. You say it has now come out in this inquiry that the main portion of the income of this society, that is, the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, has for some years been drawn from the Department of Agriculture:—"I object as a taxpayer to provide a stick to beat my own back." I take it from that that you object to set up these co-operative establishments in competition with private enterprise?—Yes, where they are not wanted, where the competition is sufficiently keen as, for instance, in Roscrea, what is the need to provide further competition with public money.

5816. Then you do object to the principle of competing with private industries with the aid of public money?—Most certainly.

5817. You think that is thoroughly wrong and bad?—I do. May I qualify that answer of mine; what I meant to say was this, that public money should not be used for direct competition, but for indirect competition; for instance, a man making a little bit of woolen in the County Limerick could hardly be said to compete against a man manufacturing local wool in Athlone.

5818. Does it depend on the degree or extent?—It must necessarily depend on the degree.

5819. You would not mind it being done in a small way, but you would not like it in a large?—Athlone was a case where, from a small beginning, a large industry in wool has sprung up. I know Smith Brothers very well. If something was done further west to help in the congested districts, if a factory was started there it could hardly compete with Athlone. Smith Brothers have done a great deal to encourage spinning in Foxford; I know they sent their own men to teach the spinners there. I think to foster industries you must indirectly, as it were, compete in a small way.

5820. (Mr. Micks).—You suggest Sligo or Westport as places where you would not object to the bacon industry being tried?—No, or even in Tralee, outside the natural buying area.

5821. (Chairman).—In speaking of the boar scheme you say, "in some instances, Limerick County in particular, the scheme was not adopted until quite lately, and the only reason I can imagine for this is that the County Council represents the large farmers who are not pig-feeders, and who are unwilling to tax themselves for the benefit of the small farmers and labourers, who are the pig-feeders. Surely this was a matter which required the prompt attention of the Department." What do you suggest the Department should do in a case like that?—I could not formulate a scheme on the spot.

5821A. What was in your mind when you wrote this?—I say the County Council should do their duty.

5822. How could the Department make the County Council do their duty?—I think they can; they have done it, as a matter of fact; the County Council of Limerick has taken up the scheme for next year; I think the Board of Agriculture have been exceedingly apathetic about some improvements.

5823. In what way?—If the thing came their way, well and good, but they did not go out of their way in any way to foster the pig industry in the same way as the Danish Government have done.

5824. (Mr. Brown).—Has not their whole scheme been worked through the County Committees?—It has been delegated to County Committees, I believe.

5825. Does it not depend on the particular County Committee whether a scheme is worked or not?—I suppose so.

5826. I suppose you are aware that these boar schemes are working in other counties?—They are not working particularly well in other counties—in Munster generally they are not.

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5827. Is not that largely due to the scarcity of boats?—Yes, but boats can be had for money.

5828. But the farmers are not willing to pay very large prices?—I had to do nearly altogether with the expenditure of £30,000. I never had any trouble getting boats, but I had to pay for them; I bought a lot of boats from Lord Rosbery and brought them over.

5829. But thirty counties taking up boat schemes at the same time would make a difference?—They have been three years at it already, and the Board of Agriculture have been seven years at work.

5830. You say the farmers are going out of pig-feeding notwithstanding the very high prices that they get in competition—how do you account for that?—I account for it to some extent by the fact that the land is going more into grass. The farmer has not been encouraged to go with the times, to produce the best possible quality hog at the lowest possible price. On the question of pig-feeding the Board of Agriculture have done nothing to advise the farmer; I never heard of a lecture on pig-feeding being given in Munster.

5831. You have no agricultural instructor in this county?—I am speaking of Munster.

5832. Are you able to speak for the other counties?—I have a very large knowledge of Munster; I buy all over the district, and I buy in Connaught, too; my men are working over the whole of Munster.

5833. (Mr. Dryden).—I think you gave me a reason why the farmers were not producing pigs in the word "distrust"?—Yes, I do think there is a good deal in that.

5834. How did you ascertain that?—From the farmers talking to myself and my buyers and men and talking to the shopkeepers in the various towns they dealt in; Tipperary was a case in point.

5835. If the farmer got enough for his pig, would he not breed him in spite of any distrust?—The question is, what is enough? I have my ideas about enough and he has his; the competition is so keen we are barely able to live in my trade.

5836. I am on the word "distrust"; how would that affect him?—Because he was led to believe when the organisation was started we were wounding him.

5837. That is to say he did not know the value of his pig?—He never did, and does not at this moment.

When he gets 54s. or 55s. a cwt. he knows the weight of it, but whether 54s. is the market price of his pig he does not know; he only knows the bid; if I am 1s. under Denny he goes to Denny.

5838. (Mr. Mills).—They would be led to believe that the various buyers would agree among themselves at a lower price than was the right thing?—Of course they do.

5839. (Mr. Dryden).—I don't see how that would hinder him in producing a pig?—The price current in Limerick for the last three years would pay for him well.

5840. There must be some other reason?—Distrust to a great extent.

5841. It must be very different here from any country I was ever in before?—You are not living among Irish people; there is a considerable feeling among the whole southern Irish of distrust; they are the most suspicious people.

5842. It may be that the expression "distrust" is the proper word; I mostly wanted to get information about it?—The officers are keeping rubbing the thing; every other week there is something about it; the papers are glad to get in news; in their columns they reported all this, and the result was very serious.

5843. (Mr. Mills).—Are you aware of the work of the Congested Districts Board in aiding industries in the West?—I have a little knowledge of it.

5844. You know that their powers are absolutely unlimited; they may take such steps as they think proper?—I do; I have read the constitution.

5845. And you are aware that they have assisted in starting industries?—I am.

5846. Do you know that before they start and assist such industries they don't sit down and make a general estimate?—I was not aware of that.

5847. I mean they won't draw up an estimate for a whole country side; they will go into a particular case when it arises?—Quite so.

5848. But they won't endeavour to see how much the development of the whole district would take; would that be possible?—No, it would not be possible; you never know how an industry may spread; it may spread or it may refuse to go.

Sir Thomas Clieve examined.

Sir Thomas
Clieve.

5849. (Chairman).—Are you a member of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce?—I am.

5850. Perhaps you will tell us what you have got to say?—I am the Managing Director of a business known as the Condensed Milk Company of Ireland, Limited, whose headquarters are in this city, and having up to fifty branches throughout the South of Ireland. With the view of bringing under the notice of this Commission the injustice and injury that has been inflicted on some of the principal industries in the South of Ireland, I desire to present for your personal consideration the following:—In the first place, I wish it to be understood that I am in no way inimical to a Board of Agriculture, as I am convinced that our country has been sadly neglected in the past, with the disastrous results now universally admitted. It is, therefore, to be deplored that the result of the long-continued agitation (and conversion of the Government by honest conviction of our grievances) has resulted in placing in power a gentleman bringing over with so-called philanthropic notions, but it is to be regretted of such a description that I contend no man having the general interest of this country at heart could seriously launch forth as he has done. Take, for example, the butter industry of this country. Now, long before the Vice-President of the Irish Board of Agriculture became identified with any movement for the betterment of the industry, the late Canon Bagot introduced the centrifugal system of milk separation, resulting in the enhancing of the demand and increase in price for butter made under this new system. So highly was it regarded that centrifugal Irish butter fetched in the English market shillings more than the Danish or centrifugal butter made in any other country, and continued to do so until the Danes were taught how to produce "an all year round" supply, which resulted in their getting hold of the English markets and thus seriously handicapping producers in this country, who, from time immemorial, have been

producing for only six months' or so each year. The appearance of Sir Horace Plunkett on the scene about fifteen years ago was after the demise of Canon Bagot, and ultimately as chief of a society known as the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. The functions of this Society were that of an advisory body, who went broadcast throughout the country distributing pamphlets and circulars in the midst of proprietary creameries and factories, and harassing the people into the belief that if they started up dairies on co-operative lines that they would enrich themselves and raise the standard of Irish butter. In this unjust crusade many proprietary dairies went under, but the poor pictures that were portrayed were never fulfilled, inasmuch as the people of Denmark were being then educated on different lines, with the result that Danish butter was produced in winter equally good to that in summer, and the foothold was taken from which since they have never been ousted. Now, this gospel as long as it was preached by Sir Horace Plunkett as a private individual was tolerable, but when we were granted an instalment of justice by the creation of a Board of Agriculture it was expected by many that butter-making would be a leading plank in the programme of the new Board; but, after eight years, what do we find?—that the Board of Agriculture had delegated its duties and subsidised by thousands of pounds the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, who made no secret from the start that one of their objects was to oust all traders in agriculture and substitute instead co-operative societies, which were, as a rule, only so in name, being simply small Joint Stock Companies. It is regarded as unfortunate to traders and proprietors that Sir Horace Plunkett was appointed Vice-President of the new Board, as he was so strong on co-operation and the placing in at least the second place the industries long in existence before his advent as chief of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, that it is so

far as he could not direct himself of the opinions he had formed, and which he is credited with in supporting by voice and money his programme of co-operation before all others. It is truly a lamentable state of things that in the 20th century Great Britain would lend herself indirectly to the long-continued falling she had of destroying our established industries. In this last crusade we have no evidence to show that such was the desire of our Government, but why it is permitted, and that large sums of public money are handed over by the Department to sustain such an agitation, is truly beyond the comprehension of most men. In proof of the animus of that body known as the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society the following article, appearing in the organ of that Society last Saturday, speaks for itself:—

5353. (Mr. Mickel).—Is that the article Mr. Shaw used just now?—Yes, the same one. Now there can be little doubt but that this organ has been meeting financial aid from the Irish Department of Agriculture. In proof of the real want of interest that has been evinced by our Board of Agriculture British butter to-day commands by 12s. per cent. more than the best creamery butter produced under the co-operative system in this country. By way of illustrating the endeavours of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society to out the trader, they started in Dublin a private limited liability concern, known as the Co-operative Agricultural Wholesale Society, for the purpose of trading in measures, seeds, implements, and machinery, etc., and all the affiliated societies with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society were solicited and entreated, by every means within their power, to deal with them, and boycott the traders. I don't know how trade is progressing with them, but the Irish measure manufacturers, it has been stated, consented to pass a resolution to them on all measures distributed to co-operative societies throughout the country—in fact, Irish measure manufacturers, I believe, are obliged to refuse to supply merchants if their measures are required for co-operative societies. This is one of the many instances resorted to by methods of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society to usurp and destroy the business of traders, and discredit them in the eyes of the public. I do not cry out against co-operation if carried out on just lines, but I say that any movement endeavouring to injure established industry may, I suppose, have a free field, but I respectfully submit should receive no favour that a private industry should not also enjoy; neither do I think it reasonable or just that an organ, having ostensibly for its object the destruction of private enterprise, should be supported and run by anybody receiving financial aid from a Department, no doubt created with the intention to help our industries without exception. I could quote several instances of the speeches and language used by them employed by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society as propagators or organisers of the movement. The following extract is an example, vide *Limerick Leader*, March, 1905:—"At a farmers' meeting, under the auspices of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, held at Killybeggs, between Carlowcastle and Marrow, Mr. Russell, Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, delivered a loud and inspiring address. He explained the various advantages accruing from the system of co-operative dairying, and its conspicuous success were introduced by progressive and enterprising farmers. He dwelt with great emphasis on the prodigious profits realised by the owners of proprietary creameries. In conclusion, I state that Sir Horace Plunkett has recently commenced and continued to encourage the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in its crusade against private industrial concerns in the South of Ireland; and by employing the services of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and subsidising them with large sums of money, as admitted in Parliament, I consider that he has failed in his duty as a statesman, and he has forfeited the confidence reposed in him, and I am of opinion that the Board of Agriculture will never satisfy the demands of the country so long as such methods and means are employed in belittling and destroying the few existing industries amongst us. Further, the methods employed, I am convinced, are calculated to prevent private enterprise, and, I think, are responsible, to a great extent, in keeping locked up the many millions of money lying idle in this country that might be employed to such advantage in starting industries, and which would be a means of lessening the tide of emigration from our shores."

5354. (Chairman).—Do you say that these co-opera-

tive creameries are established in the immediate neighbourhood of existing private establishments, and that that is done with the intention of unduly competing with them?—I do; that is what I complain of.

5355. I can understand the object of co-operation being somewhat different—you can have parts of the country where it can only be developed in that way—I am not at all against co-operation on proper lines.

5356. A good deal depends upon the locality where the co-operative system is set up.—Yes. What I object to is if I have started a creamery, having another one put on the other side of the road, that is what I object to; but as far as starting them in outside districts, I may tell you I was a shareholder in some of those creameries.

5357. I have got before me at this moment the terms on which the contribution to the organisation was granted, and I find, amongst other statements, this:—"That the Department shall inform the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society of the district in which it is desirable to establish a new society, and the society shall not expend any money in organising societies without consulting the Department." If that regulation were given effect to in the way in which you describe, of consulting districts in which those co-operative societies are wanted, and where they would not interfere with others, your objection would be diminished—I would have no objection at all.

(Mr. Mickel).—What date was that?

5358. (Chairman).—The minutes of 15th February, 1906—it is the last proceedings.—Why do the Board of Agriculture want to have an Organisation Society; are they not competent to do that themselves?

5359. That is a question which they had better answer for themselves; I cannot answer for them. If that regulation were given effect to in the way which I have indicated, the force of your objection would be very much diminished.—It would.

5360. (Mr. Mickel).—Could you give us a list of proprietary creameries that existed, at any date you think fit, say, 1899, when the Department started, or any other date, and give the date of any co-operative creamery that was started in that immediate neighbourhood subsequently; mark a rough map with the two—I can do that. I have the greatest interest generally in the country. I have something like fifty branches, and we have eleven condensed milk factories, which I have not brought into this, and if you have a little time I should be very much pleased to let you look over our place. I employ here in Limerick over a thousand hands, besides in other places.

5361. (Mr. Beeson).—Do you know whether in this instance of the Organisation sending down representatives—they came on the invitation of the people of the district?—Generally a farm comes down, and an application may come from a few to send down a lecturer or organiser, but I think they are generally indirectly canvassed to do so before that occurs.

5362. By people on the spot?—Organisers are going round so much recently, but a few years ago it was carried on to a very great extent.

5363. You are not aware of any instance of the kind, you only believe that to be the case?—I think if I am given a month or two to get further information, I can get a great many instances; our time has been very short, and we really did not know what you wished to examine as to.

5364. (Chairman).—We were not aware, until a day or two ago, that the Chamber wished to give evidence. Over 200 notices have been issued to County Councils, County Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and other local statutory bodies, of the intention to hold these sittings, and further notices have been published in the Dublin and provincial Press from time to time of the dates fixed for these sittings; we have not issued notices to Chambers of Commerce, because one would not necessarily connect them with the inquiry. But all bodies with a statutory position had full notice.—It was only about a week ago I heard of it, and on these points you put I shall be able to give you information. I don't quite agree with Mr. McDonnell; there is a great danger if we are going to subsidise some industries, we would very soon get into conflict with our President. It would be very hard to exactly draw the line, but I had an industry introduced twenty-three years ago, and I never asked the Government for the value of one penny.

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Sir Thomas
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Sir Thomas
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5653. (Mr. Burke).—Do you think you would have got it if you did?—No, I don't.

(Mr. A. Shaw).—If I might say a word, I am instructed to mention that posterity it was not put in any of the Limerick papers or sent to any public bodies, except the original notice that sometimes in July this Committee would sit.

(Chairman).—I have a notice here that was published in the Dublin newspapers of the 21st of June.

(Mr. Shaw).—What newspaper?

(Mr. Taylor).—The Independent, and other Dublin papers.

(Chairman).—And also the Cork papers.

Mr. J.
Winearty.

5664. (Chairman). You are Chairman of the Limerick Board of Guardians?—Yes.

5665. And Chairman of No. 2 District Council of the Clare portion of the Limerick Union, and member of the Clare County Council?—Yes. There was one question that Sir Thomas Clare could not answer, that he did not know where the Society had established a creamery within a reasonable distance of a factory. In my parish there has been a place started by the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Association in Cratloe, not on the invitation of the people of Cratloe.

5666. I don't think that has anything to do with the Department of Agriculture, with which we are only concerned?—The present system as practised of street instruction now in existence for years is practically valueless, in fact it has borne no fruit.

5667. Does that apply to this county?—I am speaking of the County Clare; the Chairman of the Limerick County Council has given very good evidence, which I practically agree with. Personally, my opinion is not favourable to the Department as at present constituted and administered. I think the Board should be more popularly representative; with regard to the agriculture and live stock sector there is much dissatisfaction; practically no instruction is given in improved methods of agriculture and the raising of economic foods suitable for the feeding of milk cattle in winter. Much fault has been found with the selection of bulls, as the steers is not considered likely to breed good milk cows. Nothing has been done to improve the breed of swine and sheep in our county. With regard to the Agricultural Training Colleges in existence, the results have fallen far short of what was generally expected, and I share the opinion of many representative men in thinking that the money might have been more practically expended in the subsidising of farms, say from fifty to twenty acres, selected with discrimination in various districts throughout the country, and worked by the owners

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under the direction of the Department's experts in the most up-to-date methods. The belief is that these view farms would be a great source of instruction to the farming community. Bringing immediately under their notice a practical object lesson, farmers would soon see for themselves the advisability of dropping the antiquated or obsolete methods and adopting whatever changes they might consider most suitable for their requirements and advancements. Such farms would instruct the multitudes whilst the Colleges can only instruct the few. These Colleges create false notions in the minds of the students, and unfit them for ordinary labour on the farm. Much dissatisfaction is felt at the action of the Board in delegating its duties to an irresponsible body such as the I.A.W.S., and subsidising that body by the handing over of thousands of pounds of the public money while several deserving claims have been ignored and a starvation pittance doled out here and there. The handing over to that body of these large sums of money has taken the country by surprise, and the thanks of the people are due to the Irish Party for eliciting this astounding information. It is to be hoped that the result of this Commission will put a stop to this waste of public money, as if not all confidence in the Board of Agriculture will be forfeited. The question may now be raised why populous and isolated districts in our county of Clare are neglected, whilst much good might be effected by a Board in touch with the people. Take for instance the standing grievance of the towns and district of Scariff by want of railway connection with such towns as Limerick and Ennis. I contend that this is a subject demanding the immediate attention of the Board. The question of arterial drainage in the eastern portion of County Clare also demands the earnest and prompt attention of the Board. I accept full responsibility for the views I here state, knowing as I do that I am voicing the opinions of the people whose districts I represent.

Mr. H.
Landon.

5668. (Chairman).—You are a representative of the Kilmallock Branch of the Irish Creamery Managers' Association?—Yes, after ten years experience, I can see the Department of Agriculture are to a certain extent more of an obstacle in the way of the promotion of our main industries in Ireland than of helping them on, for which purpose it was first established. Take, for instance, the creamery movement, which is the only proper means by which the process of manufacturing butter is carried on at the present day, so as to retain our present position in the English markets; this movement is in no way getting any assistance from the Department of Agriculture, that is to say, its principle features are not looked after. In Ireland now we have the Department of Agriculture sanctioning the appointment of twenty-two instructors in butter-making which is a dying industry, and does not represent one-eighth of the whole butter output of our people. Contrast this with only six instructors appointed under the same Department to look after the creamery movement, which represents seven-eighths of the butter output of our people, and which is the only practical means of livelihood our people have to fall back on. To my

Mr. Macnam, Limerick examined.

mind the funds at the disposal of the Department is an absolute waste of money as it is presently expended. Why should not the Department of Agriculture take up the question of establishing an official quotation for the sale of Irish butter, and so enable both creamery managers and proprietors of creameries to see how markets stand each day, and have an idea of what to ask for their produce. The Department say such is not necessary, and if it is necessary for the Danes and our other rivals in the foreign markets why not our so-called Irish Department follow suit. They did not see their way to appoint a Commissioner to look after the interests of Irish produce generally on the English markets until they were absolutely compelled to do so, and I may say the Limerick butter merchants and creamery proprietors were mainly responsible for making Sir Horace Plunkett alive to this matter. Still, in the face of all this, our Irish Department can afford to pay away some thousands of pounds annually to subsidise an irresponsible body, whose duty is principally devoted to promoting creameries in some places where they are not at all wanted.

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5669a. I only just wish to say that a great deal of the evidence given this afternoon has been directed against the Irish Agricultural Society, of which I was President until last autumn, and of which I am still a member of the committee, and I am not in a position to answer the statements that have been made this afternoon, but I wish just to say that evidence will be before you later on from the society when we shall be prepared to go thoroughly into these charges,

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and I think we shall be able to show you that they are largely founded on misconceptions, and on inaccurate information. There is one instance I might just give which comes to my mind in connection with the charge that we have invaded the districts where proprietary creameries were in existence, that we planted them in an adjoining field or the other side of the road. It is not easy to deal with vague charges of that kind unless you get incidents with chapter

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and worse. But one comes to my mind, because it was mentioned by one of the witnesses who gave evidence here to-day, Mr. McDonnell, it was mentioned at the public meeting, and it happens to relate to my immediate neighbourhood, Shanagolden, a place on my property, and to a creamery of which I was a member of the original committee, and I believe I was the first President. Mr. McDonnell is reported to have said last week that a creamery had been started in opposition to that of his firm across the road.

(Mr. McDonnell).—Yes, quite so.
(Lord Monteagle).—I think, perhaps, Mr. McDonnell does not remember the circumstances as clearly as I do. What occurred—I have refreshed my recollection by referring to the gentleman who was manager of the creamery very shortly afterwards—was this. We had, after great efforts, aroused the farmers, quite apart from proprietary creameries or anything, after carrying on our propaganda for some months or a year. We had induced the farmers to start a co-operative creamery on my property at Ballyhahill, about four miles from Shanagolden. That creamery took root and got on fairly well, and the farmers were satisfied with it, and other creameries in the neighbourhood were established in other parts of the county. Just about the same time as we started the co-operative creamery the proprietary creamery was started by Mr. McDonnell at Shanagolden, and I kept back my people; they came to me again and again to ask me to help them to start a creamery at Shanagolden; I kept them back, and refrained for several years from moving at all in that direction, but when they saw others being started in the neighbourhood, they began to think that they would like to make the profit themselves. I am quite certain I said nothing about gigantic profits being made, and made no attacks on the proprietary establishments, but the farmers very naturally said, "Why should we not make these profits as well as the proprietor?" and I cannot see that Mr. McDonnell had anything to complain of in our action. That was long before the Department was started, or the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was started; I cannot see how he can say there was any thing unlawful in my action in starting a creamery in Shanagolden. One of the reasons that was frequently given me by the farmers, my tenants, and others, why they would like to have a creamery in their own hands there was that Mr. McDonnell or his firm were the proprietors of a margarine factory in Limerick, and they said they often thought all their butter was going to make margarine.

(Mr. McDonnell).—And a great deal of it was.
(Lord Monteagle).—Is there any objection to the farmers wishing to make butter instead of making margarine. I give this as one circumstance that came under my own observation. Mr. Shaw this afternoon referred, amongst other places, to Rathkeale as one of the places where the Organisation Society had tried to get up a bacon factory. This is what occurred in the case of Rathkeale—I was not present at the meeting, but I am aware of all these circumstances. Some local body there passed a resolution asking the Organisation Society to send down—I told our secretary that I knew the District intimately but did not think there was any prospect of starting such a large undertaking with any hope of success—and he went down and put the case, as I put it briefly, very fully before them, with the result that it failed at once. The Irish Agricultural Organisation Society on that occasion quashed what we thought an imprudent venture of this kind, and as I mentioned this morning in reply to Mr. Micks, our policy throughout with

regard to bacon factories has been to get before the farmers all the difficulties, and to tell them, far from pushing it on, that we thought it was a hazardous undertaking for them, a very big speculation, and we never encourage them to do it, though when we were asked by the farmers, when there was a spontaneous movement, we did not feel justified in refraining from giving them advice. If they said, "We are determined to do this," we thought it our duty to give them advice in the best way that was the policy of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. There may have been indiscretions in statements made by our individual organisers.

(Mr. Micks).—They did not start it.
(Lord Monteagle).—There was none started.
(Chairman).—I think in view of the evidence that had been given this afternoon it will be quite necessary for the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society to have an opportunity of giving evidence on their own behalf at a later date, but to avoid misconception, I should like to say this, we are not inquiring into the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society except to this extent. Our duty is, amongst other things, to inquire into and report upon the methods which have been employed by the Irish Agricultural Department. It appears there has been a grant made on certain terms by the Agricultural Department to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and consequently it seems to me relevant to this inquiry that those who object to the Department having made that grant because they object to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society should have an opportunity of stating their views. It is equally necessary that the Organisation Society should have an opportunity of replying to them. I wish to say that, for otherwise it would seem we were travelling outside our reference.

(Lord Monteagle).—You will understand I might have a good deal to say as regards the action of the Agricultural Board, of which I am also a member as well, as regards the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

(Mr. McDonnell).—I would like to remark that I consider Lord Monteagle's memory fails me mine; first, I think I have a good reason for remembering it, because it touched my pocket. I would ask Lord Monteagle to remember the facts better, because he is in error in the way he states the matter; in fact I think his statement proves my case. Lord Monteagle says my statement was incorrect in saying the co-operative people were about starting in Shanagolden, and I think you are astray also in stating that Ballyhahill was established at the time.

(Lord Monteagle).—Well, about the same time.
(Mr. McDonnell).—I think you said Shanagolden started first. The farmers came together at Shanagolden and declared their intention of starting there, and when we found that the people from whom we were getting our milk supplies were going to be our opponents, the consequence would be that we would get no milk, and realising the fact, we did the next best thing, we took what we could get for the factory; it was sold out, and in round numbers we had to take about a third of what it cost us to erect that factory. At the same time, I may say we were rather jealous of yourself, because you were the landlord of the property, and it was in your power to prevent these gentlemen from doing what they threatened to do and start in opposition alongside and deplete us of our supplies. That is the statement I made a week ago, and that is the statement I repeat now.

(Lord Monteagle).—It was not in my power, because there were any number of other sites that did not belong to me.

The Committee adjourned.

TWENTIETH PUBLIC SITTING.—WEDNESDAY, JULY 5TH, 1906.

At the County Council Chamber, Galway.

Present:—

SIR KENNETH DUFFY, K.C., R.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.E., Secretary.

Rev. Dr. CHAMBERLAIN.

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Rev. Dr.
Chambers.

5866. (Chairman).—You are the Chairman of the Galway Urban Technical Instruction Committee?—No; Dr. McCormack is Chairman. I am a member of the Committee, and I am Presbyterian Minister here.

5872. You are giving evidence on behalf of the Technical Committee?—Yes, but not taking all the points. I will just mention one or two of the things. First of all, I was connected with the Technical Board when it was first initiated in Galway for several years, and then, again, since it came under the Urban Council. Then I may say that, speaking generally, and in view of the difficulties of the situation, I am inclined to say that the Department has done excellent work; it is very easy to criticise and find fault, but it was no easy matter to inaugurate a scheme that would work smoothly in a poverty like ours. Then, I see there is very frequent reference to Sir Horace Plunkett. My opinion might not be worth much, but I would like to say that I consider him a candid, fair-minded, and patriotic man, and deserving well from his country. Of course, that does not mean that I agree with everything he has done, but, taking it all in all, I say he has done the work better than any man I know who could have occupied the position. Now this is all I want to say on general things. Turning to the agenda, you have before you, first, as to the reference to buildings. I think that a very important item in our programme. We have here been compelled to take an ordinary dwellinghouse; that dwellinghouse is under-ventilated, and it was not built for classes, nor ventilated for classes.

5871. Would you then describe what work you carry on there, and what accommodation you have?—I can describe the work, but don't know whether I would be able to give you an account of the accommodation or not.

5872. We know there have been a great many makeshifts?—Of course. The position is that it is an ordinary dwellinghouse in Doonick-street. That is the general position. It was built as a dwellinghouse, and it is easy to see that it is not ventilated as it ought to be for classes.

5873. (Mr. Micks).—Or lighted?—The lighting is pretty fair. It is not so bad. Some of the rooms are away up at the roof. If you ask apprentices who have been busy all day to work at carpentering, etc., they ought to be in an airy, well-ventilated room. It is not fair to ask them to go to a stuffy room, next the stable. And the same for other classes. Sometimes I have gone into the commercial classes, and the atmosphere was not at all what young people should be in.

5874. (Chairman).—How many have you to accommodate there?—I thought Mr. Lepper would have been able to give you the statistics. It is for 200 separate individuals, or perhaps 250.

5875. They attend in the daytime as well as in the evening?—There is an art class during the day, and there was a cookery class. I don't know that there has been during the last term. But the classes, as a rule, are at night. Two, three, or four classes.

5876. Could you tell us what these classes are?—In the Commercial Department there is shorthand and typewriting. These are duplicated.

5877. (Mr. Micks).—And book-keeping?—Yes, and I think arithmetic. Then, in the art classes, well, you

have the various drawing classes—including modelling and, I believe, fret-work. Then you have the ordinary classes—freehand and so on. Then in science, you have quite a number of classes. There would be chemistry and various departments of physical science. Then, in what is known as building construction, usually you have geometry, practical geometry, mathematics generally, and then building construction, manual work, and carpentry in several branches. Then there is the domestic side. You have cookery and laundry work, and dressmaking and knitting. I don't know whether I have gone over them all, but I am sure I did not come prepared on this point, but I expected Mr. Lepper would bring these to you.

5878. (Chairman).—Which of these classes is the most popular and the best attended?—One doesn't like just to say. The commercial is very well attended, and the art very well attended, indeed.

5879. Do they attract rather a higher class of pupils?—Yes, a considerable number of the higher class, but still a good many of the people of the lower class attend it. The science side has been creating considerable interest. Of course, it took some time for it to develop much interest. The domestic side is not as popular as we would like it. We scarcely know why. We have had very good teachers, but, somehow, we have not got the attendance at some of the classes we would like.

5880. On the whole, have you seen considerable improvement, considerable progress?—I should say so. I should say pretty much in the character of the people, and in the attendance, there has been a growing interest shown by the regularity in the attendance of the pupils. You could get any number at the beginning of the session through a little pressure, but they dropped off at Christmas. What we like is that they should continue during the whole session—and that is, a growing quantity.

5881. You would rather confine yourself to these more general questions than go into details?—If you ask me on any other point, if I know it, I will answer it. Then I would like to say, on the second point on my notes, I would like that the local committees would include persons of special qualification, and that they should include ladies on the domestic side.

5882. There is power given now, is there not, for the committees to appoint outside people?—That is perfectly true.

5883. How was that worked out?—As I was myself an outside person, perhaps—

5884. Notwithstanding your modesty, I should like to have your opinion on that?—We happened to be in the position in Galway of having a good many people who have very special qualifications, especially in connection with the Queen's College, and I should like that these would be co-opted to a considerable extent, because they could give valuable help. Take, for instance, myself. I graduated in science. That is thirty years ago or more. Well, science has changed in its bearings since that time, and I would not like to suggest that in reference to the science teaching I am a person qualified to determine much in regard to it; and I think it would be a very valuable thing were this possible, that we should have up-to-date men as the Committee.

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5885. I think everybody will agree with that, but the question is how to get them there—whether the Art Commission that these should be appointed—One way is by calling public attention to it, at any rate.

5886. What are the relative numbers of the people who are appointed from outside?—I think about half and half. I think, regarding No. 3, on which there should be no question, that in some way or other intelligent and trained ladies should be brought into close contact with the working of the domestic side, and it should be to a very considerable extent under their supervision.

5887. (Mr. Brown).—It is the practice in a great many districts to appoint a Ladies' Committee to attend to all the details of the classes. There is nothing to prevent them doing that here?—I suppose there is nothing to prevent it, but I was anxious that it should be brought under your notice so that possibly there might be more emphasis laid upon it. Then, of course, under the fourth point, there is an inefficiency of funds. I don't want to go into that generally, but in connection with this special point we all say out that there is not enough money. What I hold is that there are certain fundamental classes that must be in every Technical School. There should be a commercial side and art and science departments, and manual instruction, and classes for domestic economy. Well, now, if you take these on, and take the money required when we keep these going, there is a comparatively small sum left for the storeroom—these special things that in my community should receive attention. And I hold that in Galway, here, we have been greatly hampered by that, having to spend money on these fundamental things, so that we have but a very small margin to develop our work in certain other directions. Some of them are mentioned here. For instance, net-making. Then there was a very strong effort to move in the direction of higher class hosiery. Largely through Father Dwyer's interest the hosiery department was started in the town. At a certain point it would have been of the utmost importance if there had been a teacher of a higher type, for the industry just began. It would have meant something like £200 a year. It seemed to me a legitimate thing that we should be assisted in that direction.

5888. (Chairman).—Was this with a view to starting the hosiery?—The hosiery was started, and was doing very well, but it needed to be developed in the direction of a finer class, and the matter came before us, and we thought that it would be a legitimate thing for us to assist to the extent that we should bring in a qualified teacher, and that teacher would have pupils from the hosiery industry, and in that way we would have assisted in, and at the same time, helped the town greatly and helped the girls to get employment. That would have needed at least £50. We had not £50 to give, and the thing has fallen through. We wrote on the Department to regard it as a special case, to give half the £50 for one year. We were willing to try and scrape up the other £45. And they would not do that, and the result is the thing fell through.

5889. When was that?—Three or four months ago. We wanted to put it on the scheme for the coming year.

5890. (Mr. Micks).—Did they say they had no money?—I would not just like to say.

5891. Was it want of funds prevented that?—I would not say what they put in their letter as the special reason. I don't know exactly. But the letter regarding the hosiery could be got. I will speak to Mr. Lepper about it.

5892. What is the income of your Committee?—I think it is about £1,000 a year, including everything, including the grant from the Department, the urban rate and fees, and the Science and Art grant. There are representatives of the school who are better qualified to speak regarding the other things than I am. I would like to put in a word for horticulture. I don't like to see nettles growing in gardens, and I don't like to see gardens that might produce many things that would be for the comfort of the family producing only potatoes and cabbages, and I think if we move a little in that direction it would be an immense value. Of course there is no reason why we should not take the matter up; but the point is we have

not got the funds to do it, and I would like to bring that prominently before you. I know a good part of Ireland, and there is scarcely any department in which we are more deficient than in the matter of horticulture. The only other thing I want to say is that, as far as I see, one direction in which there has not been as much progress as there might have been in the work of the Department is that there is not the necessary preparation for pupils so that they may take with advantage classes in connection with technical instruction, and perhaps I may add there is a certain lack of perseverance on the part of the pupils. That is, they take a class or two and do not go to the end and get their certificates, so that they would be qualified as teachers. I have met some from other countries. They, under the greatest difficulties, have pushed on to the certificate and become excellent teachers, and some come over here in order to gain those certificates and become excellent teachers. I think we should have a little more of that. If there was, two things would be gained. First of all, the work of the Department would bulk much more largely, and secondly the outcry that we are bringing in extern because would soon die away, because we would have our own teachers.

5893. What are the methods by which you think pupils could be induced to attend more closely so as to get those certificates?—One thing that would help that would be if they saw two or three teachers appointed.

5894. That is being done at present, and the pupils who have gone from Glasnevin, I think, have received appointments?—I am not speaking of the work of the Department in other directions, but only as it affects us.

5895. The institution that will affect Galway is only quite recently established at Ashcroft?—Yes; that would be the agricultural side. I was thinking more of the technical side. Of course it would apply there, too, but I have not been coming into contact with the agricultural side.

5896. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you are aware that there are courses for training teachers in operation at present?—I know that.

5897. These are all natives who have been undergoing these courses?—We have been slow in coming in contact with it.

5898. Have none of your teachers been appointed from those who have been recently trained under the Department?—I rather think not. We have an assistant teacher who has been trained here, and now a pupil teacher who has been trained here.

5899. Your teachers have been sometimes foreigners?—Yes.

5900. You would not like to get rid of them?—Oh, no. It is not in that direction my remarks go. But I would like the idea to get abroad among the pupils that here is an opportunity, that they should follow it up closer than they have been doing. It will mean a good deal to us and a good deal to our country. It is open to them to do it now, and it is one of the difficulties that they don't do it. They have not realized sufficiently that there is this way open of earning a good livelihood and doing good work.

5901. (Chairman).—I see that £1,000 a year is your income. I have it here in the Minutes relating to the Technical Instruction Scheme for 1904-5. The estimated income is local contribution from rates, £110; fees, £50; from the Department's Endowment, £280; Science and Art grants, £125; from the Equipment Grants £10; sale of class materials, £15; amounting in all to £1,000. Then the expenditure gives the various items.

5902. (Mr. Brown).—Are you aware that it would be possible to earn very largely increased grants in the coming year on the new scheme?—We had that before us, and the Head Master thought that it would not be well for us to turn to the new scheme in the coming year. We would need a year to prepare for it, but he also indicated that we could earn increased grants when we came under the new scheme.

5903. (Chairman).—The new scheme will be in force on the 1st of August?—Yes, but the Head Master, who should know about these things, said it would be better to wait for a year as we were given a year for making our arrangements. He thought the classes should be prepared in the course of the year.

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Mr. J. A.
Glynn, Jr.

Mr. JOSEPH A. GUYEN, A.P., examined.

5903. (Chairman).—You are Chairman of the Galway County Council?—Yes, sir.

5904. I believe you are a solicitor?—Yes.

5905. You have sent us some very interesting notes which perhaps you will follow?—Yes. I prefer to follow them, because I took some trouble in making out the statements. Our first difficulty is finance. I think that is the general difficulty every County Committee meets. The county rate is £251, and that includes the contribution from the Ballinasloe Urban Council. We have an endowment of £130, and we get £62 10s. from the Congested Districts Board. That makes our total income £1,813 10s. We need to have £336 from the Equivalent Grant. That has been withdrawn completely now.

5906. The Equivalent Grant, so called, is rather a misleading term, perhaps. The Equivalent Grant was withdrawn, but another grant amounting to £7,000 annually instead of £3,500 has been substituted for it?—Yes, but the Department claim the right to distribute that £7,000 instead of the £3,500. We get none of it. Under the old scheme our contribution would be £336.

5907. (Mr. Micks).—We heard the day before yesterday in Limerick that the Department finally, or through one of their officers, admitted the moral right of Limerick to its former grant. Was any such admission made to you?—The officers always admitted that we were entitled to the money, but they always threw the blame on the Treasury. They told us we should not spend our income, but we pointed out that we could, if we were allowed to adopt our own scheme. They gave us an impossible scheme which could not exhaust our income, with the result that we had a very large balance.

5908. (Chairman).—I see the Minutes of the Board of Technical Instruction give the same figure that you do for 1906-5. The contribution from the County Council is £415?—It is £215, and £336 from the Ballinasloe Urban Council.

5909. That is given separately. Then comes the Department's contribution of £800. It leaves out, in this account, the contribution from the Congested Districts Board, so it brings out rather a different figure, and then there is the item, "Appropriation from accumulated funds of the Session, 1904-5, and previous Sessions, £3249 17s."—We appropriated that towards our new Scholarship scheme which the Department has not sanctioned, and we hear are not likely to sanction.

5910. Had that anything to do, do you suppose?—I do not know at all. I only ask for information—with your not getting part of the £7,000?—Very probably it has. They consider we could not spend our income, but we could spend the entire annual income in the rural districts. We have an immense county.

5911. Your claim is to have part of the £7,000 as well as that?—Exactly. We should get our £336. We have to deal now with the entire of Connemara, which is the size of an ordinary county, in fact rather larger. All we get from the Congested Districts Board is £62 10s., and we spend considerably more. Previous to the passing of the Act the Congested Districts Board had all the Technical Instruction and live stock schemes in Connemara. They must have spent several hundreds a year. Now they spend £62 10s.

5912. (Mr. Micks).—Are you sure that is correct?—That is what I am informed.

5913. Don't you think all the other operations, fishery, instruction and lace instruction, are still going on?—The fishery instruction is. I was not aware that the lace went on.

5914. I think you will find that all the instruction that they gave before is going on still, adding £62 as well?—I don't think domestic economy is going on, because they have no itinerant instructors now, and I understand they had one or several before that in Connemara. Some of the members, of course, are against itinerant instruction. Personally I am not, because I think a good deal could be done with it in rural districts.

5915. (Chairman).—Is it easy to see any other way in which you could reach the rural districts?—There is no other way at present; we don't reach half the

county. We could appoint two or three men with the greatest benefit to the county.

5916. Is it working well here?—Fairly well. From my experience, where there is any local help or interest in it, they could work up local classes.

5917. What you really want is to interest local feeling?—Yes. I touch on the difficulty of the attendance at the classes later on.

5918. Then before you leave finance, have you at all considered the question which was alluded to in the examination of the last witness, the additional financial assistance which you might hope to get from the new regulations?—No, we have not gone into that. At least, personally, I hadn't time to go into it since the scheme came in.

5919. It looks as if there was some possibility in that?—It would affect the towns, of course. We have only a few towns to attend to, and it would be a very serious matter in the county. It will in the city of Galway.

5920. (Mr. Browne).—How many towns have you?—Twelve, Ballinasloe, Loughrea, and Carr are the four towns that usually had a good scheme of technical instruction. Portlanna had a domestic economy scheme worked on different lines from that of the county. Clifden has not taken up the matter beyond itinerant instruction.

5921. (Mr. Micks).—Mount Bellew?—They have itinerant instruction and a college; we could work smaller towns up to ten or twelve. The caption grant has practically destroyed technical instruction in the towns I have mentioned except Ballinasloe, for Ballinasloe has a scheme of its own, and I think they only contribute £35 a year from the rates. They get £240, and the rest of the county supplies proportionately.

5922. (Chairman).—You have a scheme of technical instruction which, I suppose, is still in force—that is the one, from August 1st, 1903, to July 31st, 1904, and I see under the fourth head there is this regulation, "Wherever the average attendance for any successive four lessons falls below six, then the school or class must be closed." I suppose that is a regulation that affects these schools?—Yes. I don't believe in these very small classes. If they can't get sufficient interest to keep the class to six the school ought to be closed.

5923. Is not that the regulation under which these classes have come to an end?—I don't think so. It can't be for there has never been a class in any of these schools where the average attendance has been even as low as six.

5924. The words are the average attendance for any four successive lessons?—It is not that. They give a large number of hours.

5925. This is still in force, I think. I have looked through the Minutes and can find no alteration in them?—Well, it is not under that I am quite positive, but the number of hours they put on for the caption grant is quite excessive.

5926. (Mr. Micks).—That is the reason you don't get the grant?—Yes, for these four towns. They prescribe a number of hours for teaching, and the people can't give the number of hours.

5927. (Chairman).—At all events you say it is not the rule under which these schools are closed?—No; the question of attendance of the National school children has been remedied to a great extent now—the fifth and sixth standard pupils are allowed in. Still the general opinion is that we ought to get the children to the school earlier than the fifth or sixth standard. You have practically no sixth standard in a country school. After they pass the fifth standard they go to earn their living. If we could get them earlier it would be much better, because the National Board is not teaching them the subjects we could teach them. They are on their scheme, but it is not taught in this country to any great extent. We think it would be much better if some provision could be made to bring in the National school children a little earlier.

5928. That is a very important point, and one which seems to fall very much within our inquiry, because we have to consider the relations of this Department with other educational bodies. What is your view as to the subjects children could be usefully

taught at that early age?—I think it would be a great benefit to these girls if they could begin domestic economy at the age of ten or eleven on a small scale. The style of domestic economy that I would like to see them taught would be what would fit them to keep their own homes.

5939. Where would you give that?—That could be very well done in any of the convents, where they have large convent schools, and in the country centres. I think it could be done by itinerant instructresses, but I think that the classes should be remodelled. But the teacher going down, and giving a theoretical lesson on cookery to children is very little use to them.

5940. Do you think it could be done by the teachers themselves?—They would want to be specially trained for that.

5941. If you bring in a trained person to teach a child of ten or eleven years, the child might not be as ready to receive it from such a teacher as from its own mistress?—If you get it done by the ordinary teacher there should be some special remuneration for the teacher, otherwise they would not do it. If there could be any arrangement between the National Board and the Technical Board by which a local teacher would be employed on giving a certificate, and that they could be paid by the Technical Committee.

5942. (Mr. Micks).—Is it your view that the children should be taught in the National school, or that they should leave it for that teaching?—If they could be taught by their own teacher it would be better in the National school.

5943. You would recommend that in the training of teachers they should be qualified to give such instruction?—That would be my view.

5944. (Mr. Brown).—Would there not be a difficulty in small schools in carrying that out where the pupils are of different ages?—The teaching I mean for the young children is the teaching any good housewife can give herself to children. The children would be taught cleanliness, how to clean up things, and any simple little things, and how to make up their houses.

5945. Have you thought of the question of school gardens, and having horticultural instruction given to the boys?—That is being carried out in this county. They are beginning to do that on a small scale.

5946. Have you any suggestions to make how that could be extended?—We have two Committees in the county, and that is now a different Committee. I am not on the Agricultural Committee, and I prefer not to deal with except what I know myself. Now, the question of the Capitation Grant would come in under that head. In this county we have teaching going on in Gort and Tuam under the Act of 1839. I was connected with the Gort school from its foundation in 1842. It was in 1890 it was started. We had considerable difficulty at all in starting the school owing to a dispute as to the meaning of the Act raised by the legal adviser of the Local Government Board. When we got the school started the teachers were appointed by the local Committee, and I think the teaching was carried on in the Convent. There was only one nun teaching there. She was teaching cookery. They sent down a lady inspector from South Kensington, and this teacher worked before her, and she passed by inspection. I think she would not undergo examination. They were satisfied with her capacity to teach cookery, and the other subjects taught in the school were taught by girls trained in the industries. There was really very fine teaching going on. The class averaged from thirty to forty, and they had five or six subjects taught, including weaving. The weaver was paid a salary of £1 a week. Part was paid by the National Board and part by our Committee. The same occurred in Tuam, but they were paid on a little more liberal scale there, because it was a wealthy nation, and the teaching was in two Convents and in the Christian Brothers' School, but the advent of the Department after a year or two destroyed the teaching in Tuam and Gort. As long as the salaries continued there was no difficulty about the teaching because there was always an average of from thirty to forty in Gort, and I think in the two Convents in Tuam there average never fell below twenty. None of the girls could possibly give the number of attendances required under the Capitation Grant. Every girl there got at least four or five months' tuition in the domestic economy, and the subjects taught in the Convent—baking and history. The girls specialised. They did not go in for the same subjects. When the salaries were stopped by the

Department it was found no number of girls could possibly give the large number of hours required in the year. They could give them in two subjects, in which the number was about an hour a week for forty weeks, but for the third it would mean at least two hours a week for some nine months of the year, and it was utterly impossible to get the girls to attend regularly for that time, especially as the class of girls were girls who had passed these higher standards, and the result in Gort was that, I think, the average attendance for the entire year was something like thirty—I think twelve or fourteen girls gained the Capitation Grant, so that the Sisters there got a grant of about £30, and they lost in teaching alone about double that sum of their own funds.

5947. (Mr. Micks).—Kindly explain why the girls could not attend?—The attendance was higher than was required for the National Board. They would require considerable more than 100 hours in this one subject.

5948. Was it a Convent school or a day school?—It was an evening school. I think when the school closed the other class opened.

5949. Was the time of these girls occupied in any way otherwise?—Some of these girls were working during the day, others were children in the higher classes in the school, and there was no compulsion on these girls to return after school hours, and a large number did not. After a few weeks' teaching they considered, and I think properly considered, that they had mastered a good portion of the subject of the teaching, and they did not think of the immense financial loss to their teachers. In Tuam the schools have practically closed down, and in Gort it is worse from a financial point of view, because the nuns have continued teaching at their own expense, and absolutely get no help whatever.

5950. And they did not get it out of the Equivalent Grant?—The nuns in Gort got very little. £35 a year for one of the nuns who taught cookery.

5951. Still it was one of the places that got payments?—It did, but the rest of the money went to the girls themselves who were teaching. They got considerably more in Tuam. There would be no objection to the Capitation Grant by some of the Convents if the number of hours were shortened.

5952. (Chairman).—How many hours are required?—250 hours, which is out of the question.

5953. (Mr. Micks).—My question was put because I thought it was 200 hours only?—It was 100 hours in one subject only. We have it in the scheme for 1904-5, page 6, under the fourth head. A grant of £2 per student per session shall be paid for every girl not on the industrial Government aided or National School roll who is over fourteen years of age and who is certified by the Department's Inspector to have attended not less than 240 hours in the following subjects:—"The profit as part of the 240 hours of school work has received at least forty hours' instruction in the domestic economy subjects." Then it gives a list of qualifications for the teachers.

5954. (Chairman).—Was that the first time this appeared?—No, I think it came in the year before. The convents made a very earnest effort to work it the first year, with the result that it was practically a failure in the third.

5955. (Mr. Micks).—Can you tell me what took place between you and the Department about that 240 hours being necessary?—It was in the working out of it that the Nuns showed the impossibility of it. There must be forty hours in domestic economy. That leaves 200 hours for the other subjects. They would have to have classes every day in the week, and you would have to take up so many subjects that it would be practically useless for the pupils.

5956. (Mr. Brown).—Would not any one of these subjects plus domestic economy be sufficient to earn the grant?—Yes, but if you take up one of these subjects you must give 200 hours to it. If you give forty to domestic economy you must make up 200 hours in other subjects, and the pupils would not do it. The pupils would not attend.

5957. (Chairman).—You say that that was the condition that they found it was impossible to fulfil?—Utterly impossible. These convents have been seriously hit by this. We have practically no teaching in Tuam. We really have a great deal to complain of under head three—resolutions imposed on committees by the Department. They don't give a Committee scope enough. I don't object to the Department having a fairly strong hand, but local committees, and I think all committees,

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ought to have much greater scope. We have some very intelligent business men on the committee, who know what is required for the county much better than officials ever visiting us periodically. I can give you rather an amusing instance which occurred at our Committee. It took us six months to get a team, and the teacher had to borrow one before we could get the sanction of the Department to spend five or six shillings. That was some four years ago. They have improved a little, and are not so tight now. I think in the general management of the scheme and of its details they ought to give the Committee more of a free hand. At present the minutes come up, and you are afraid to order anything or make the slightest change in curriculum scheme, because if you do there is a sheet of queries at once, and you don't reply until your next monthly meeting, and by the time the reply comes the scheme is worked out for the year.

5048. (Mr. Micks).—Did you ever make inquiries in England as to the extent of freedom enjoyed by committees there?—I had experience of the freedom when we were under the old Act.

5049. I mean in England, under existing circumstances?—I did not. I was working under South Kensington from 1892 to 1899, and during that time we had no trouble in getting our scheme sanctioned. It was made up and sent to South Kensington, and the Inspector came down and discussed the matter in the most friendly spirit, and, morally, we had no friction from beginning to end. As soon as the scheme was settled the question of ordinary expenditure was inquired into. I submitted at the end of the year a detailed statement, showing every penny received and expended during the twelve months. As to the other matters, the Department never inquired into them, but they insisted that their grant of £30 a year should be spent on teaching. The first year I lost £40 because I bought the whole thing, having shown the expenditure on material from the joint grant. I did not make that mistake a second time. I put all the expenditure on materials on the rates. I would like the Irish Department to give us as much freedom as that. They ought not to be so grandmotherly in their relationship with committees. My fourth head is the question of local industries. That I look upon as the most important of all. The whole technical industry schemes in this county, in my opinion, should work up towards the establishment of local industries to get employment for the people.

5050. (Chairman).—After making allowance for the criticism you have offered on the action of the Department, do you think, on the whole, technical instruction has benefited or lost by the creation of the Department?—That admits of a double answer. Under schemes that were in existence under the old Act they lost, because they had to be entirely abolished, and the new schemes were put on them whether they liked it or not. My experience in some cases has been that where entirely new schemes had been adopted in countries where no old schemes were in existence they are very fairly worked under the Department. I have made inquiries in several counties in Ireland and found where they had no technical instruction previous to the passing of this Act they had very little difficulty in accommodating themselves to the new conditions, but in countries like ours, where we had our own schemes in existence, it had led in the early years to chaos. They may in a year or two go right again, and I think they will if a great deal of the restrictions of the Department are removed.

5051. So far, you have lost what was working fairly well under the old system and have not got a substitute under the new?—Yes, in this county. Ballinacree has gained by this new system, because in Ballinacree they practically came in when the Act was passing, and now they have got a fairly good scheme in working order, and they are very well financed. They have practically a fourth of our entire revenue. They can't complain, but the other towns of the county suffer.

5052. Your criticism really comes to this—in this particular case you think the methods which the Department has employed have been very rigid, and that it has made too little allowance for schemes already in existence for the requirements of these particular cases?—That has been so.

5053. And the result has been that the particular efforts have come more or less to an end, and there has been nothing to take their place as yet?—That is so; but outside that, I think the Department

is still too rigid with the ordinary working of the Act. We could do a good deal more work if we got a freer hand.

5054. (Mr. Brown).—The rules which have worked successfully in Ballinacree are the same rules which, under different local conditions, did not succeed in Gort and Tuam?—No; they have quite a different system in Ballinacree. They have their own teachers and their own funds.

5055. Are they paid by capitation?—They are not. We supply them with all the teachers.

5056. But the teachers in Tuam and Gort were teachers who were connected to these institutions?—They were.

5057. And the teachers working in Ballinacree are country teachers who gave a certain amount of their time to teaching?—We gave them one domestic economy instruction all the year round. Then they have a teacher in commercial subjects practically for a year, too, and it comes to this that in Ballinacree they have Home Rule.

5058. Have they anywhere worked the capitation system successfully?—Not in Galway.

5059. (Mr. Micks).—Ballinacree strikes a special note of its own?—I think £35. We give them £40.

5060. Is Tuam an urban district?—It is not. Ballinacree is the only urban district outside the town of Galway. I think the whole thing works up only to the question of the foundation of industries in the county, and I have taken up here the history of an industry which I helped to start, and I will give you a short account practically of its rise and fall. It is instructive because it shows how the new Department has helped, I only put it in as far as that, that the work of the new Department has really helped to destroy this industry. In 1891 the Sisters of Mercy started the Gort Cotton Industries.

5061. (Chairman).—What sort of industries were they?—Linen weaving, dress-making, embroidery, and knitting and crochery were also taught. None of the girls had the slightest training in any of these subjects when they started. The sums were presented with ten linen looms, or rather they were presented with eight and bought two out of their own funds. They engaged an expert from Belfast, and they had to start of course to teach the girls to work. The first year, naturally enough, resulted in a serious loss in this way, that all the material was practically wasted. The loss that occurred in the first year or year and a-half of the working was in the end one of the chief factors that broke up the industries. Instead of starting with capital they started practically with debt. The debt came to very closely on £300 as a result of the first year or year and a-half working. After that the girls became very expert, and they were enabled to pay very considerable wages. At the same time the Technical Instruction Act was put into force, and we were enabled to give very considerable assistance for a small industry to the industry through the Technical Instruction Committee. The Technical Instruction Committee, I think, did not come into operation for about eighteen months after the industries were started, and by that time the girls had got considerable training in the various industries taught. With the full approval of the Department we were allowed to appoint as teachers under the Technical Instruction Committee the girls who were most expert in the dress-making, in the embroidery, and in the knitting. The teacher of linen weaving was a man, and half his salary, £52 a year, was paid by the National Board, and the other half came from the Technical Instruction Committee, so that the industries practically had the use of the head linen weaver, and the four teachers of these four subjects were paid instead of being paid by the piece, a certain yearly wage, and half of that came from the Technical Instruction Committee, so that the industries benefited by £52 a year for the weaver, and quite £60 or £70 for the other teachers. That help, although it was small, enabled the industries to nearly pay their way. After this extraordinary debt that had been accumulated in the early years had been wiped out, I searched back to see if I could find any old reports, and I found a short report I issued in 1897, and not exactly a balance-sheet, but the amount of the receipts and payments of that year. In that year we paid in wages £225 7s. 4d. That was in addition to the amount paid of the salaries I have already mentioned.

5062. (Mr. Micks).—That would be for workers?—The workers in the industries. There was £55 in all.

dition that came from the Technical Instruction Committee in addition to the £225.

1902. How many workers?—The wages were small. What need to scour was this—the girls that would be most expert and could earn good wages got employment elsewhere.

1904. In weaving?—No, not all weaving, but in the other subjects, embroidery, stockings.

1905. Then the £225 covered the earnings of the weaving, embroidery, and every thing else?—Yes. There were ten weavers, and several girls got very expert at embroidery, and there must have been eight or ten of these girls who were at once snapped up in different parts of Ireland to teach the subjects. So that we were constantly turning out expert teachers who were taken up by the other convents. The average weekly wage was small, but the hours were short, if you look upon it as a factory. The girls never came until after breakfast; they had an hour for dinner, and they broke off about 5.30, as it would interfere with the rules of the Convent to keep them. These girls had to do work at home before they came, and after they went home. Some of them earned less than 5s., and some up to 12s.

1906. They did not work at it in their own homes?—No, at the convent. We sold in the year £360 worth of stuff. The whole expenditure amounted to £965, and we had a small balance on our credit. Our stocks in hands were £110 15s. Our debts due to the industry amounted to £73.

1907. (Mr. Brown).—If the total sales amounted to £360 and the total cost to £965, it showed a working loss?—No; you have to consider that there was due for yarn, bleaching, and what was due for the materials also. That was £135 15s. We had that stock in hands. There was £30 we got as donations. That would reduce the balance to £225. It is not a balance sheet. I am sorry I have not any other balance-sheet from that until later on. In 1904 we did publish an account of the foundation of the industry. I just wrote a short account at that time. I was very young and very poetical. I tried to get in money for local industries. It was really more an appeal than anything else, and it gives an account of the work in 1904.

We turned out 70 dozen towels, 70 dozen Cambric handkerchiefs, 800 yards of muslin, 1,300 yards of lawn. That was in 12 months. It was all of a first-rate quality. They got a considerable sale for their coloured linens for ladies' dresses, and their fine handkerchiefs were beautiful things. They got 12s. a dozen. I owed active connection with the local committee in 1897, when I went to live in Tuam, but still continued a member of the Committee, and in 1900 the Industries under the Friendly Societies Act became a limited company. I am afraid there was a mistake made then, but it was passed then on the advice of people connected with the Agricultural Organisation Society in Dublin. The old debt was then about £300, and when they formed a limited society the sisters in charge very properly wanted the old debt taken into account and paid off, but the officials that came down said it had nothing to do with the industries, and should stay out by itself. The result was that the old debt passed on to the new Committee. They got in actual cash £112 12s. That was subscribed by various people who took shares. The stock was valued at £258. The sisters gave up the home, and they got in return 100 paid-up shares, just to give them an interest in it. They got no money. A portion of the old debt, £50, was paid out of the capital, so that the stock in hands practically balanced the old debt. I am able to give you then for every year from 1900 particulars. We started in June, 1900, and for the following six months the total outlay was £508 12s. 10d. Our receipts were £287 12s. 7d. So there was a loss, and the wages paid was in that half-year £180 4s. 7d.

1908. That is included in the £902?—Yes; I am giving the wages in each case separately, because it shows the increase in the industry. In 1900 our total outlay was £5,076 6s. 3d., and our receipts, and in the receipts they included the bank overdraft. I took them from the auditor's books, and give in separate the figures. Receipts were £1,543 12s. 6d. That would show a credit balance, but I think if you allow for the overdraft there was really a loss.

1909. I don't know how you could take an overdraft into consideration as a receipt?—It struck me as a very odd way of doing it.

1910. The receipts are only the receipts from the July 5, 1906, select?—That is so.

1911. Does the £1,145 12s. 6d. represent receipts from sales only?—No, receipts from sales plus the amount borrowed from the bank, but the amount in the bank never went very high. When the industry was wound up the amount due to the bank was under £300.

1912. You could not say how much of the £1,145 represented gross figures?—I could send you the figures. The wages paid in 1901 were £251 17s. 6d. In 1902 our total outlay was £1,360 17s. 9d., and the receipts, again including what was due to the bank, were £1,217 5s., and the wages had gone up to £415 6s. 1d. In 1903 our total outlay was £1,640 7s. Our receipts still including the overdraft were £1,742 15s. 11d., and the wages had gone up to £529 14s. 5d. 1904 was the year the crisis arrived because we were steadily increasing in our work, but we could never get on the right side. 1905 coincides with the year that our salaries were stopped. That was the end of the aid given by the Technical Instruction Committee towards the industries.

1913. In these figures, the gross receipts, do you include the same also received from the Department in those years?—No, they have nothing to do with it. The total receipts are the sales, plus the bank overdraft.

1914. (Chairman).—You are really treating it as if it were quite an independent concern?—And so it was. But in addition to the amount of wages, these would have to be added contributions from the local committee to the girls who were teaching.

1915. (Mr. Brown).—You don't include in the wages the sums paid to teachers?—I don't, but the wages paid out of the money earned by the teachers.

1916. (Chairman).—Besides that there would be a sum of money paid to teachers who would also, I suppose, be actually superintending the industry, and would have to be paid wages if it was an ordinary business concern?—They were paid a yearly salary. Some of these girls were paid 12s. or 18s.

1917. That salary was paid partly out of the Technical Instruction Committee's funds?—That is so. They taught technical instruction classes for that. For 1904 to the end of June, which are the last figures I can give you, the outlay was £781 12s. 6d., and the receipts £711 12s. 1d., also including the bank overdraft.

1918. (Mr. Brown).—That would naturally be the amount by which the bank overdraft was increased in the period?—It is all in that for that particular period. I could not understand for a long time, and I still don't know, why they did it. The total wages for that six months was £217 12s., but we were approaching the end then, and in the four years' working we paid in wages £1,700. We applied to the Department in July, 1903, pointing out the state the industries were in, the debt that was due, and asking the Department to come to our aid by a Grant. There was no reply. We applied in July, 1902, and asked for a definite loan of £300, and it was refused. We applied in 1903, again calling their attention to the state of the industries and the importance of keeping them alive, and we were refused; and I am glad to say the County Council tried to come to our aid. In 1900 Mr. Bourke, who is to give evidence here to-day, was the County Councillor for the Gort Division, and he, as a member of the Technical Instruction Committee, brought before the County Council the working of the industries. At that time they worked in a large room which the nuns themselves have since converted into a chapel. They were terribly handicapped themselves for want of accommodation, because they required certain rooms that the industries were using, and they said unless the industries could be housed elsewhere they would have to take up the largest room. The matter was brought before the County Council, and the County Council was asked to build a school for technical instruction. We knew the Council could not build a home for industries. There was no secret made of it. We stated that, although we wanted a technical school, we wanted one built large enough to house the industries; and, having fully considered the matter at a general meeting of the County Council, they unanimously voted £2,000 to build a technical school for Gort. That was passed just as the new Act was passing through the House.

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5870. That was under the Act of 1880!—It was. Then, as we were adopting the new Act, the matter was adjourned until the new committee was formed, and from the outset we got every opposition.

5880. You didn't raise that sum—No. We voted the money, and asked the sanction of the Local Government Board for the grant. We got no trouble at all from the Local Government Board in the matter. They referred us to the new Department. When the new Department came in Mr. Blair came down to inspect, and he stated that this money was not required for a technical school, which could have been built for £400 or £500, but really for the industries, and it was impossible to decide, perhaps, from political economy and various things. At the meeting of the Committee I admitted all that, and told him there was no doubt what it was for, but we considered the money ought to be allowed, and they ought to close their eyes to a matter like this, which was all-important for the locality. Every single inspector the Department appointed for three or four years went into the matter. Mr. Fletcher gave us every assistance, I must confess, towards the end of it at any rate. Any way, the Department sanctioned the school, but they only sanctioned it just when the industries had collapsed.

5881. (Chairman).—On the 29th September, 1905, I was there in this entry in the print here:—Scheme.—A technical school to be built and equipped out of money to be provided by the County Council, £2,000 £—Yes; it was sanctioned last year, and it was not sanctioned until the industries had collapsed. In 1904 the sister in charge of the industries applied directly to Sir Hercules Plumptre for assistance for the industries. He then sent down an auditor, who went over the books. He made a very careful audit of them. He must have been three weeks at it, but the result of the audit was that there was a debt of about £700 shown. The stock in hand, which he valued at 50 per cent. reduction, and the debts due to the industries, which he valued also at 50 per cent. reduction, came only to £250. That, as it turned out afterwards, was a gross undervaluation, because the sisters have continued the industries on a small scale actually on the stock and the debts. I think a fairer value would have been £400 or £500 for the debts due and the stock in hand. What really was the difference between them and the £700 or £750 due was the old debt always hanging over their heads—the loss incurred in the first year of the convent's work, when practically all the material was wasted.

5882. You mean the debt you were advised not to take into account, but leave outstanding?—Yes. If that had been cleared off at the time the industries would have been in a position to pay 25s. in the pound. Mr. Fletcher came down, spoke of the amount of the debt, and the question was discussed how the industries could be revived. He made suggestions as to a certain class of weaving with some improved hand-loom, and also an industry for cutting out ready-made clothes for children. We asked would there be any help forthcoming from the Department, and we were told the Department could not give any help until the debt was paid off. Whether it was meant or not, it left us under the impression that if that debt was cleared off substantial assistance would be forthcoming. The Sisters of Mercy out of their own funds paid off the entire debt. They were not responsible for a penny of it, but as the industry was housed in the convent the nuns considered the credit was given in their name, and although they are a poor community I paid off for them over £700 of money they advanced to me. Even then they did not take over the assets of the industry. They are still working the industry with some ten or twelve girls on the capital that was left. Not one penny for the debt or stock has gone into their pockets, and they are actually carrying on the technical instruction classes at their own expense.

5883. Is the matter still pending with the Department?—The Department have sanctioned £2,000, but I have advised the County Council not to go on with the building. I think there is a possibility of the industry being revived, although the nuns are naturally reluctant to engage in new industries until they see they are put on a proper financial basis.

5884. Are negotiations still going on with the Department?—The matter is in abeyance. The nuns keep it on by my advice until we see whether the results of this inquiry would give us any encouragement to go on with the industries. I have shown that

three times we applied to the Department, and I think we have a very well grounded complaint against the Department on this industrial side. Whether they had the power, I don't know, but they never showed the will to help the Gort industries. When Mr. Blair came down he found the industry working in any of the rooms they could possibly spare in the convent. He could only enter at them, and he never went into the figures of receipts or expenditures. He said he came expecting to find a fully-equipped factory, and when he didn't find that he could find no good in it. Notwithstanding that we had no assistance from the Department, we had thirty to forty girls earning 8s. to 12s. a week during that time, and a large number besides that were thoroughly well trained in linen-weaving, embroidery, needlework, knitting, and a large number of girls got employment out of that industry. I have made very few complaints against the Department, but I certainly do complain that there was certainly no assistance given to us by the Department.

5885. It is very seldom that we get evidence so clearly put before us. I think it would be desirable if you would kindly draw up for us these figures you have mentioned about the wages?—The only addition I have to make or change in my figures would be to take out the bank overdraft.

5886. (Mr. Brown).—How much was paid under the old regime towards the salaries of the teachers—that is before the Department came in?—I could find, I think, in 1885—that was the first statement we issued. The sales in that year only amounted to £126 14s. 8d., and the debts due to the industries £17 9s. 2d. The following year, 1886, the sales had gone up to £359 1s. 8d., and the debts had gone to £73 6s. The wages in 1887 amounted to £235 1s. 4d., plus £65 received by the head workers from the Technical Committee.

5887. In 1889?—Unfortunately I can't give you the amount. My recollection is that we paid £25 a year to the lady that taught embroidery. One of the teachers, I think, got £25, and one got, I think, £20, and two £15.

5888. That would be about £76?—We paid in salary about a halfpenny in the pound. £25 a year went to the convent for the salary of the lady who taught cooking.

5889. I mean between salaries and everything how much were you paid?—£239 a year from the Department or South Kensington, and £289 a year from the rates.

5890. Was the whole £178 devoted to the convent?—Oh, no. The only portions that went to help the industries were the portions paid in salaries to the four girls.

5891. What did the remainder of the £178 go for?—We always had a balance. We never spent our income.

5892. About how much?—I think every year we must have spent between £140 and £150.

5893. That was in the Gort Convent and industries?—You must deduct from that the material used in teaching the children.

5894. But the £140 was spent between the material and the teachers' salaries?—Yes; but I think only something about £50 a year went directly to the aid of the industries. For embroidery you have to use expensive silks. The children wasted all that, and every single particle of the material used in the earlier teaching was wasted. In the cooking there was a considerable amount of waste, and there was a charwoman engaged.

5895. These are all necessary expenses to give instruction in these schools?—Yes; the industries benefited directly to the extent of £50 or £70.

5896. I was asking the total sum between industries and instruction. I will include these expenses?—About £140 or £150. I was speaking about South Kensington.

5897. You said you believed £140 or £150 out of the South Kensington grant?—It sometimes went higher.

5898. Well, £150. The amount you are spending out of joint department and rate fund would be £160?—Yes, but they increased the salaries under the old system. We did not give very high salaries.

5899. When you speak of the Department giving no assistance I suppose you mean no assistance in the way of a capital grant?—The Department never gave assistance to Gort. It was the County Committee paid the salaries when salaries were allowed.

6000. Was not that out of the joint fund?—Yes.

6001. They continued to make the same payment with additions?—Yes, until the Department closed down the salaries altogether.

6002. That was in 1903, when they proposed a system of capitation grants, which did not turn out successful?—Yes.

6003. But down to 1903 you were getting the same or a little more from the Department?—From the joint funds, from the county funds.

6004. But funds of which the Department had control?—The moment the Department came in they objected to every single teacher we had there because they had not certificates. We pointed out that they were teaching under South Kensington, and the South Kensington Inspector had passed them.

6005. I am on the money question. Down to 1903 you had the same or a little more from the joint funds?—We had.

6006. And then the capitation grant was introduced, with the result that you have mentioned?—Yes.

6007. (Mr. Meeks).—Did the Department refuse to allow you to continue teaching with officials who had been approved by South Kensington?—They did, immediately. We had a long fight over Gort and Tuen. They wanted the Sisters of Mercy who had been working in Gort to go up for examination. We said it was against the rules of the convent for a nun to present herself for examination. We pointed out that under the rules of the National Board the nuns were allowed to teach, and their work was inspected; and we offered to let them do the same thing, to send down an inspector, and let him stand beside that nun when she was teaching. We pointed out that those Sisters had been for some years teaching with the perfect approval of the Department. Finally they did sanction them. The thing must have gone on for eighteen months or more. In Gort they objected to these four or five girls, and would not sanction them for a considerable time, and their salaries were kept back for twelve or eighteen months, although we pointed out that they had been teaching under South Kensington. And they finally sanctioned them, but they insisted that there should be experts brought down to teach those subjects. They were brought down, and it was an utter waste of money in my opinion.

6008. As regards the starting of new industries, take the case of a new industry that would have a fair prospect of success, and would not unduly compete with any existing industry in the country. Have you considered at all what assistance might legitimately or fairly given?—I have. I consider that for an industry such as you suggest there ought to be a public fund under the Department, from which loans at a very low rate of interest—in fact, no interest at all if it could be done, but certainly at a very nominal rate of interest—would be granted.

6009. That would be for the purpose of providing buildings and machinery?—Yes.

6010. As regards any subsequent assistance that would be necessary, have you formed an opinion on that?—I have examined up my fourteen years' experience of the work under four heads. I would suggest that the Department should get very wide powers to start or help existing industries, and for the purpose that a special fund should be created from which loans at a nominal rate of interest could be made to local committees desirous of starting an industry, that a staff of experts to advise on the most suitable form of local industry should be available, and that the assistance of expert teachers in the particular trade to be carried on should be given free for a term, till the industry was firmly established. Should the industry prove suitable and successful a company could be formed, and the loan originally obtained paid off out of the capital subscribed.

6011. To whom would you give the loans?—If you had not already an existing company you could form a company to start that; but you won't get the people of this country to put their money into a thing like that till they know there is a strong chance of success.

6012. Would they put their money into it if they knew there was to be a loan at a very low rate of interest?—They would.

6013. And if they knew that teachers of the industry would be provided for, say, a year, two years,

or three years, as the case might be, till the hands were trained?—I think so.

6014. Do you think it would be also necessary to give some little capitation grant to pupils learning until they could earn wages?—Yes; I heard that discussed. I saw the evidence on that before your Commission, and if you could do that you would certainly ensure a larger measure of success.

6015. It might be necessary to give a small allowance for spoils material?—Yes; that would be the trouble in a great many instances—that is what crippled us at Gort in the start.

6016. You have had practical experience of an industry failing owing to not having such assistance as you would now recommend?—Yes; and if we were able to get a loan at a low rate of interest, let whoever was to be the lender, they would be able to start a considerable number of industries.

6017. (Mr. Meeks).—You would have a company to start with?—Yes.

6018. This company, if they get a loan of money, will have to give security for it?—Yes.

6019. You do not propose that the Department or the Government lending that money should be at the loss of it?—I do not, but I think that they ought to lend it, and they will in most cases get very fair security for the amount of money required. They will not be at the loss of the money by any means. They could get plenty of good names in the principal towns of Ireland of gentlemen who would be very willing, from a public point of view, to take up industries if they knew the money was forthcoming.

6020. If they knew they would not have to spend out of capital large sums in teaching and training, and for spoils materials?—Yes. We had that in Gort. Three of us, Mr. Burke, myself, and Mr. Niles, gave our guarantee to the bank, and that is in force at the present moment. The bank will pay off the loan, but if they did not we would have to pay them.

6021. (Chairman).—The security you contemplate is a personal security?—Yes.

6022. That probably is by far the best form of security for the purpose?—For that purpose it is. When you erect the buildings, and have, perhaps, the fee-simple of the land, you might have the security in the form of a debenture on it. I would give that in addition.

6023. Have you thought, at all, about another sort of security, that is, offers of contributions either from rates or voluntary contributions—that provision for a certain amount of necessary capital should be found in that way?—You may get something from the rates, but I do not think you will get much. It would be a drag on it in a way, because if they are starting industries in five or six towns—take the County Galway—if they tried to start local industries a guarantee from the rates would amount to a considerable thing, and our rates this year are very high. We never could do it out of the funds at our disposal.

6024. If the thing is to be done on a large scale it is a very big question?—I admit it is a big question. I do not deny that, but at the same time I do not think that the amount that would be required would be so very terrible.

6025. Must you not have some sort of provision as to the extent of the liability, and as to the persons by whom that liability is to be shared?—Certainly.

6026. What you want to do is to encourage people to help themselves?—I quite agree with that; but we have not reached that point in Ireland when the people from the country districts have fully grasped the significance of these industries.

6027. Are you not rather retarding it then advancing it, if you give State help on an unreasonably large scale?—I do not ask State help in the sense of asking them to provide the money to do everything for us; but if we wanted to start an industry in Tuen, and it required £5,000 capital, if the people there knew we would be able to get a loan of money to buy machinery and equip the place, the people of the town, apart from their rates, would be prepared, in order to benefit their own town, to put money into it. If the industry succeeded, and we were able to establish a factory on a paying basis in the course of three or four or five years, when the people would see the success, we would have no difficulty in getting the balance of the capital to pay off the loan.

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6028. Do you think a certain proportion of the capital might be secured in that way, that provision might be made that there should be State assistance, provided a certain portion of the capital was found by voluntary contribution?—I would quite approve of that, because I think if the local people have to provide money they would take a keener interest in it.

6029. It is not in the interest of the people to think that everything can be done for them by the State?—No; I do not ask that. I think that is a danger that is to be guarded against, but I do not think there is the slightest chance of its ever coming to that, for any public Department in Ireland or England to give us the whole money.

6030. The demands are pretty considerable, as far as I can see?—We consider in Ireland you owe us three millions a year, and I think we might get the one-thirtieth part of it.

6031. (Mr. Micks).—You are, perhaps, aware of the industry that has been started in Kilkenny just now?—I heard a good deal about it.

6032. They subscribed over £17,000, and got up a factory and machinery, and now their difficulty is that they will have to teach their workers for a couple of years, and pay their teachers themselves, unless it can be done through the Department. The subscription of £17,000, to your mind, would be more than enough for the people of the locality?—It would, and considerably more. It is as clear a case as could be that they should get assistance.

6033. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you would admit that it would be a bad thing for a locality to have an industry started for a number of years, and then to have it cease?—Yes.

6034. That must be the result of a non-paying industry sooner or later?—It must.

6035. Don't you think there would be a serious danger, if money was to be had at no interest, or a very low rate of interest, in the way you suggest, that there might be a number of those non-paying industries started that would subsequently collapse, to the very great loss of the locality?—Not if the local people have to put in a percentage of the capital.

6036. Capital won't make the industry pay. The receipts must exceed the expenditure by a considerable amount. You never reached that stage in Gort?—We would have reached that stage. What ruined us was that they had to pay interest. They would pay in Belfast, and they were not able to pay cash for it, and the result was that they had to pay interest on that. The people that sold the yarn always added the interest from three months, and the interest wiped away the profit they would have made on the transaction. Everything had to be bleached in the North. The material was woven, but they had not the means of bleaching there, and had to send off every particle of the stuff to Belfast.

6037. I am not going into the details?—You must go into the details to see where it failed.

6038. Apparently it failed in the beginning from want of capital. All I can make out is that there was more than £112 profit?—That was what the company was started. I know Lord Gough gave £50 one year, and another year he gave another grant. In 1896 we got £155 in donations. If they were able to do their own bleaching and carding it they might be otherwise. One of the things suggested in this very proposal is that they wished to do the carding and spinning instead of sending the wool away. If they could have done that they would have saved the freight. They had to buy yarn, and pay interest for it. All this added together brought in a deficit, but the loss in any one particular year would have been met if these savings could have been effected in the first three years. I have summed up the whole of my experience, now extending to fourteen years. I think, first of all, we want more money for technical instruction schemes, and in Ireland generally, and I am opposed to the question of a fixed grant. I think every year estimates should be prepared by the Department.

6039. (Mr. Micks).—You mean the £35,000?—Yes. Every year there should be estimates prepared by the Department showing the local contributions from each county and county borough, and showing that they have approved of the schemes, and the balance should be raised on the Irish Revenue. We discussed before the want of co-ordination between primary schools and technical instruction classes. The restrictions imposed on the attendance of National School children of the fifth and sixth standards should be abolished. I would say that some provision should be made for beginning to teach their domestic economy at an earlier date, and, thirdly, that the County Committees should have greater powers of initiative, and should be allowed to form their schemes without undue dictation from the Department. In towns where convents or similar institutions exist, in which instruction can be given all the year round, the Committee should have the power to pay salaries to suitable teachers who satisfy the Department as to their capabilities by inspection of their work.

6040. (Rev. Dr. Clarke).—Will you allow me to hand in the copy of the Department, and mark that (document produced), and I think you can get the figures from the last report (produced also), and there is the last prospectus (produced). I think that will give all you ask for.

(Chairman).—This is what Dr. Clarke has just handed in.—An extract from the Department's letter of the 18th of April, 1906, in reply to the resolution of the Committee asking the Department to make a special grant to enable a teacher of the fine qualities of hosiery to be engaged. This is the extract:—"The Department regret that they have no funds at their disposal out of which to make an additional grant to your Committee for the purpose of further aiding local industries."

Mr. WILLIAM G. FOGARTY examined.

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Fogarty.

6041. (Chairman).—You are the Secretary of the County Galway Committee for Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes, sir.

6042. You, I think, were referred to by the last witness as likely to give us more detailed information upon one or two points?—Yes, in connection with a question of Mr. Micks's. It was in connection with the capitation grant, the relations between the Department and the Committee in reference to that.

6043. You say we wanted to have the reasons given by the Department for insisting on the capitation grant?—I shall do that if you will allow me. I made a few notes on the subject. The County Committee at the start made up their minds that the convents in the county, wherever convents existed, were an excellent nucleus for technical instruction. The Committee have the greatest objection to give technical instruction at all, except as far as it can be applied to industries locally existing, or possible of creation, their reason being that if you give a boy or girl instruction which cannot be applied locally you are giving them an extra inducement to go somewhere where their knowledge may be turned to account, that is to say, to emigrate. With regard to the salaries that were paid in the convents, the

Committee paid a very moderate salary. I do not remember any salary being paid to a man over £20 a year. The Committee were thoroughly satisfied that they were getting excellent value for these salaries, but they early formed the idea that the Department were not friendly towards the inclusion of men on the county system at all. I think there has been very good reason for having that idea, and I am aware that the existence of this notion, be it right or be it wrong, has been a considerable factor in preventing smooth working between the committee and the Department, the notion that they are not well-disposed to the work. Perhaps I cannot give you a better instance of that than one, which I do not think Mr. Glyn mentioned. We found it very difficult to get the Department to sanction time at all owing to the various times Mr. Glyn pointed out. When they did sanction time for teaching domestic economy they did it with the qualification that each of the Sisters sanctioned should work for a course of six weeks in each year, and by side with a county lay teacher. Now, that was a most irritating and unnecessary condition. You are expecting a teacher, who has no pecuniary interest in the scheme, to teach with enthusiasm and interest, and at the same time to teach

under a cloud—under an innuendo that she was not sufficiently good to teach "off her own bat."

6043. It would not necessarily be that; it would be that teaching, like anything else, requires a certain amount of training, and it is desirable to have a person who has had such training.—If the Department were not satisfied that the teacher was able to give the teaching they should not sanction her at all, but having sanctioned her to conduct a class, they put in addition an irritating condition, that an expert teacher must work with her for six weeks. I think no self-respecting teacher could look on that as otherwise than irritating.

6044. We heard the other day of a bishop who was at great pains to get an expert and to introduce her into the convent in order to give this very teaching. In order to train the nuns to teach.—But not in a convent where the Department had already sanctioned nuns to teach. My committee have on several occasions drawn attention to the evident discrimination of the Department to teach anything with a commercial side. They apparently think they are bound by their statute, or for some other reason to this policy—in fact it has been put that practical technical instruction in this county has been considerably hampered by the Department's profound knowledge of theoretical economics. These are beautiful theories, but if they could be hung up for twenty-five years we might have something to apply them to. As the country is continued at present, they are altogether impracticable. Our industries have been ruined by extraordinary means, and it would take extraordinary means to replace them. That rather brings me to this point, to the question of the reasons given by the Department for enacting this capitation grant. The Department stated that under their capitation grant they proposed £2 per head for a course of 240 lessons, and that that was quite sufficient. It probably would have been quite sufficient in a country commercially and otherwise prosperous. With us, however, a girl has to take her part in the home work and in the farm work, and at various work as well as attending these classes, and it would be absolutely impossible to keep up the regularity of attendance necessary to earn this capitation grant. The Sisters had a continuous large attendance, probably an average attendance of twenty or thirty would be really represented by an individual attendance of, say, fifty or sixty, not that the same girls would be going right continuously through the course, but the committees were thoroughly satisfied that excellent work was being done by the nuns for the small salaries they were getting, and at the same time were advised that no other machinery was available that offered so good a chance for building up a system of little home industries in the districts where concerns existed, as was afforded by the convents themselves. That is altogether outside the evidence I submitted to the committee, and was suggested to me by Mr. Glynn's evidence. The point with which I would particularly like to deal before the Committee is the question of allowing greater freedom to the Technical Instruction and Agricultural Committees who are appointed by the County Councils in Ireland. Our experience is—and perhaps I might still use the illustration I have already used in my letter to you—the 1896 Act instituted the County Councils, and at a stroke of the pen put all local fiscal power into the hands of local men who had never before had the slightest experience in the use of it. Under that Act the County Council of this county administered about £122,000 a year, and from Government grants alone there is included in that £122,000 a sum of £26,000, that is to say, more every year than the whole of the Technical Instruction Grant dealt with by the Department in all Ireland. In the six years ending March last the Galway County Council dealt with a sum of £780,000. That has been all carefully reviewed by the Government auditors, and not a penny of a surcharge has ever been made. I do not think you can have better testimony to the care with which the law is carried out by the County Council than this. The Government gave the Councils full power, gave them their head, and then left them to the auditor, and the result has been a success. Under the Act into which your Committee is inquiring, we deal with a comparatively small sum—£1,000; Government grant, £2,600, a total of £4,400. We say and feel we should have as much freedom in dealing with a small sum like that as we

have in dealing with £780,000, but we do not get that freedom. I think I cannot describe the policy of the Department up to the present better than by saying it has been a policy of inability to sanction. We over and over again have a committee round this table. They throw out a matter for home and home, and then they read the result of their deliberations to the Department. In a very short time we get a letter saying, "The Department are unable to sanction." It is disheartening.

6045. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you a representative of the Department here when this discussion takes place?—I think we invariably invite them, and invariably send them a copy of our agenda paper.

6046. But, as a matter of fact, has he ever been here?—Very frequently.

6047. Did the Inspector, or whoever represented the Department, agree to the conclusions you reached?—An Inspector at a meeting is in a peculiar position. He cannot give himself away quite.

6048. He is non-committal?—Perfectly non-committal. So far as we are concerned, the Department is pretty cryptic, too. They are very non-committal themselves.

6049. They come to a conclusion apparently?—I can hardly go that far. Whenever the Committee and the Department do not agree, it is obvious that one of two things must happen. We must either agree with the Department, or drop the particular scheme under discussion. If we agree, we are working a scheme in which the committee are not so enthusiastic as if they were working their own scheme. I have been very careful to say that I do not believe that in every case where there has been a conflict, the committee was right and the Department wrong. I do not want to convey that at all. Neither do I mean to convey that the Department are acting otherwise than as they conceive to be in the best interest of the things committed to their care. But what we would like to have recognized is the general principle, and I think it is a fair general principle that here are men who have shown their ability to deal with immense interests other than their own; they are men who themselves contribute to the money they are spending; they are men who are living in the midst of the people, in daily intercourse with them, and we submit that, as a general principle, it ought to be the policy of the Department that the opinion of those men, carefully formed on a question which is in dispute, is more likely to be right than the opinion of two or three, or half a dozen men who pay a flying visit to the county.

6050. Would they in that way, if they agreed, be establishing a precedent that must be followed elsewhere, would that be the reason that the Department did not wish to allow your committee to take the course you suggested, for the reason that that would establish a precedent in other cases?

6051. (Mr. M'Keen).—You would wish to apply it to all? I certainly would wish to apply it all over.

6052. (Mr. Dryden).—But a general principle would apply to all parts; and when you come to a definite conclusion in reference to some particular scheme what was allowed here should be allowed elsewhere?—Surely no one would argue that what is good for us in Galway may be equally good for people in Kerry, Waterford, or Belfast. The men who are here dealing with the Galway scheme are out amongst the people every day; they are living in the county, every one of them; they have to face what the Department do not have to face—the ordeal of periodical election.

6053. I quite understand that; but I was trying to get at what might be the real reason of this difference of opinion. I can see from your point of view precisely your situation, but I want to be fair to the Department and see if I can find out what point of view they take of it?—I cannot say that, except possibly that it is the universal official instinct to base the show.

6054. I would not like to say that. They have the interest of the country at heart, surely?—I should also like to say that these constant vetoing letters coming every other time on motions, some important and some trifling, tend to sap the Committee's sense of responsibility. If an elector looks his representative at an election on a point connected with agriculture or technical instruction, and says, "Why don't you do this or that," it is extremely easy for him to reply: it is perfectly just for him to say, "Oh, we have no power at all; it is all in Dublin." And, in addition to that, there is the

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case of the man who wants something done. He wants another man to vote for it. Number Two considers it over, and thinks it should not be done, but he says to himself, "I want Number One to vote for me, and I know the Department will block it, so I will vote for it." If he and every member knew that every time he voted it meant spending money, you would very shortly have cautious Committees all over Ireland. The first you make an Irishman the more cautious he becomes. I must impress on the Committee—I do not know what value it may have, but my opinion is, and I have watched the Committees carefully for six years—that we would have better schemes and more cautious Committees, and things would be done more carefully, if a great deal more responsibility and freedom were given to the Committees than at present. The instant you assume that they are to get more freedom, there arises the question how they are to get it. They might get it by legislative alteration of the Department or by the Department's alteration of its own policy. I think the latter proposal, so far as I have considered it, offers the best chance of a reasonable solution. Parliamentary action will take time, and Parliamentary action, when it does take place, is liable to be cast-iron. What I conceive would solve the whole difficulty would be if the Vice-President of the Department calls round him his secretary, assistant secretaries, and inspectors, and says, "Now, gentlemen, your policy of inability to sanction has had free play for six years. For the future, I am going to try another policy, and give the Committees their head. When a Committee sends a proposal up to this Department for sanction, give them the fullest and freest criticism, from our point of view, of their proposals, for and against; but when they have considered it, and have our views, if they then come to a definite conclusion, our policy will be to give them their heads." If that were done, personally I have not the smallest fear that it would not result in as great a success as the administration of the Local Government Act has been by the County Councils. At the same time, I should not like this Committee to gather from anything I have said that there has not been great success in our work up to the present. I think if you examine some of the documents I have had placed out there for you, you will see that the County Committees of this county are working very extensively under the scheme as they at present exist.

We have five domestic teachers, a married instructor, a commercial instructor, and an instructor in hygiene and sick nursing, and two croquet instructors. But we want more than Hinnam instruction; we want district instruction. We want permanent centres, and wherever there are Convents, we want them to be in the Convents. As to the question of funds, I should like to say there are two points from which we view it. First, as to the available funds, we consider they are not fairly dealt with at all; and I cannot place my case any plainer than to say we have to deal with an area for technical instruction of one-fourteenth of the whole surface of Ireland; we have to deal with a population of one twenty-fifth, and the amount of contributions from the local rates towards the scheme is one-twenty-eighth of the whole amount raised through all Ireland. These three matters have been referred to from time to time as facts guiding the administration of the distribution of £55,000—population, area, and local aid. No matter which basis you take we are badly hit. Our share of the grant is only one-seventieth. I do not think these figures call for any comment, assuming them to be true. Outside the existing funds we think there ought to be a means of getting special building grants. I won't labour the point. You have heard it all over Ireland. We think that in an immense county like Galway, where we have ten nations, there ought to be one central institute in each union; and, having examined the question in our Committee, the Committee came to the conclusion that you could not build the sort of institute that is required for less than £1,500. That is, we would require £15,000, available either as a grant, which we would prefer, or on any repayment terms, for the purpose of building. As to the relations of the Department to other departments, I do not know much, except in so far as the teaching of domestic economy is concerned. I have examined every week the reports of eleven or thirteen Hinnam teachers, and I see very often coming up in these reports such remarks as:—"It is a very great pity that I cannot take in the children of ten to twelve or

thirteen to these classes." We cannot do it. Whenever I find a teacher doing that I have immediately, in accordance with official duty, to warn him that she is endangering the Department grant to us.

6053. (Chairman).—You know the provision in the Act of Parliament about that—the relation of the Department to the National Schools?—I am not aware of the statutory provision.

6054. Don't you think it would be well to look at it before you would make a change against the Department?—I do not make a charge against the Department.

6055. You do, or you say it is a great mistake for the Department not to allow you?—If it is a Parliamentary mistake we think the Act of Parliament requires amendment.

6056. You are the Secretary, and one would think you would ascertain what the Act of Parliament says about it. However, never mind, go on. As Secretary, I am not infallible. Perhaps, I do not do everything I should do; but I have done the best I can to put my evidence before the Committee as it strikes me. What we know is that the Department will not allow us to admit National School children into our schools. We know that the National Board are not teaching them domestic economy. We are willing to take them in if we are allowed, but we will not be allowed. Whether that is a Parliamentary or a Departmental defect does not concern us. We want it remedied, whichever it is.

6057. I should like to ask you one or two questions about agriculture. You are Secretary of the Committee of Agriculture?—Yes.

6058. That Committee consists of thirty-two persons. Fifteen are members of the County Council?—I have no doubt that is right.

6059. And seventeen are appointed from outside?—By the County Council.

6060. How does that work—do you think there is too large a proportion of outside persons?—That is hardly a question I would have considered at all. The County Council, I think, when they were originally making the allocation, tried to have a majority of County Councillors. For some unavoidable reason, it was found absolutely necessary for the representation of certain districts to place one or two men on the Committee afterwards, and in that way the balance of power was disturbed, but I do not know of any disadvantage arising from it.

6061. Does that bring in the parish priests?—Yes, they are represented there.

6062. It brings in a certain number of them?—Yes.

6063. (Mr. Brown).—How many parish priests are there in Galway?—I should say 100 at least.

6064. (Chairman).—At all events, it enables them to have a certain number of representatives on the Committee?—Oh, yes.

6065. You complain of the Department acting as a check upon the wishes and proposals of the County Council. I wish you would give me one or two instances of what you have in your mind?—I did not make up that point.

6066. No, but you make a general statement, and I want to know what it is based on?—We proposed, I remember, a peat-making industry at Ballinacree.

6067. We have discussed the technical question very largely with Mr. Glynn. I want to have it rather on the agricultural side. Do you apply that to agriculture as well as to technical instruction?—Rather more to agriculture. We have less freedom in agriculture. The Committee read that section of the Act, "No money shall be spent," to mean—at least we assume it to mean—that the County Committee shall first prepare their scheme, and submit it to the Department, and then the Department come in and say whether they like it or do not. In fact, the exact opposite is the case in agriculture. All the schemes of the Department are prepared and printed, and sent to the County Committee before the County Committee sets to work on and prepare its scheme at all; and the scheme is the same for the whole of Ireland, and the County Committee is bound to keep within the lines of this general scheme of the Department.

6068. (Mr. Brown).—Are you speaking of live stock?—Live stock, agriculture, poultry-keeping, butter-making—all these things.

6069. (Mr. Dryden).—I would like to know whether that statement is accurate. We have had evidence already that the Department asks all these committees for suggestions as to any change in the scheme for the following year?—That is perfectly correct.

5072. Then the initiative would come from the Committee?—I do not think so, because in practice you won't get the committee—it is not in human nature to expect the committee, and, as a rule, I do not think they will do it.

5073. Some of them do, because I have seen their suggestions?—Perhaps some do; but I think if the committee were let frame their scheme in the first instance they would take a great deal more interest in it.

5074. You have got a scheme framed—no matter how you get it—you have got a communication from the Department inquiring whether you desire any change in the scheme. Do you act on that notice or do you not?—Oh, yes, in the Agricultural Committee we have, I think, on a few occasions made some suggestions; but I would prefer if you were to examine Mr. Burke on that point.

5075. I am trying to follow your evidence. You have made this general statement, and I want to know if you can tell me any particular case in which the County Committee, having made a suggestion to the Department to alter the scheme, or to make a new scheme, or a new proposal, the Department have refused it?—I want to see what is behind the general assertion?—Perhaps I should have anticipated that question, but I did not.

5076. Well, you must have done so, because you made this general statement?—With regard to the technical side, I distinctly remember some of them.

5077. I want to confine you to the agricultural side; you said it was worse than the technical side?—It is certainly worse to the extent of binding as to a cash-in-scheme.

5084. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Council of Galway?—Yes.

5085. Are you a member of the County Committee also?—Both the Committee, Agricultural and Technical Instruction.

5086. Now, will you just tell me what you wish to say?—I should like to take the technical side of the question in a general way. I listened very carefully to Mr. Glynn, but I cannot change a single line of his evidence. I entirely agree with him, except in one point, about the loans. The loans may work in Loughrea and Teane, but I do not think they would work in our town. I am aware the Bishop won't allow the sums in Gort to carry on an industry in connection with the Department if the Department do not subsidise it. The County Council voted £2,000 some years ago. It took us two years to get it sanctioned by the Department. There was hardly a meeting for twelve months that there was not a resolution from the Committee, and it never was sanctioned; and special meetings were held in Gort at which his lordship the Bishop presided. Once, in Dublin, I was determined to go and see Sir Horace Plunkett himself, and, after a considerable time, I was allowed to see him. He received me courteously. I stated the case about the loans—that was, about the grant not being made. He said he could not answer me right off; it would take some time to answer me. I quite agreed with that; but before I left the Department, in half an hour, I was informed by Mr. Blair that the scheme was sanctioned. I take it that where things got blocked in between the Committee and Sir Horace Plunkett, not by Sir Horace Plunkett himself.

5087. You went to the fountain head?—I went to the fountain head. Amongst some of the objections that Mr. Blair raised was that he said we sent in a bill of expenses one time, and then sent a second one which was entirely different. That happened at a special meeting in Gort. I asked him to let the Committee know what the amount was, in order to give the Committee an opportunity of judging the amount of damage done by the defect. He could not give the amount. "It is £201" said I. He could not say. "Was it ten shillings?" He could not say. "Well, Mr. Blair," I said, "it was 3s. 9d." Now, I will tell you further how it was caused. The Sister in charge sent in her bill of expenses, and the Department refused it, and wrote for a copy. She did not keep a copy, and she made out a second account minutely, and it only differed from the first by 3s. 9d.

5078. Do, please, try and answer my question. I want you to give me an instance in which your Committee have made a proposal to the Department of Agriculture of an imperfect character which the Department of Agriculture have refused to entertain?—I can give them in regard to technical instruction.

5079. No, no; you said agriculture, just now, was worse than technical instruction. Now, I want you to give me an instance? In regard to that I shall ask you to proceed to me exactly the same facilities that you did to a previous witness, and I shall have that for you in, say, half an hour.

5080. You have already pledged yourself to the statement that it is worse. I want to know what you had to go upon to make that statement?—I certainly think it is worse in this view, that there is a scheme sent up by the Department to the County Committee. When that scheme comes it binds all Committees equally, and if they want to have a live-stock scheme it must be under the provisions of that scheme whether they consider it suitable or not.

5081. Have you made any objection to the live-stock scheme, or made any proposal to the Department which the Department have refused?—It is certainly in my mind that such proposals have been made. The exact details I cannot give you off-hand.

5082. I won't press you further about it?—But if you like to have that information in detail I will go it for you.

5083. What I wanted was to try to test the value of your general assertions. I supposed you had instances ready?—Certainly, I can give you the instances within half an hour.

(Chairman).—Well, if you like to send in instances, we shall be glad to consider them. (Faint noise.)

Mr. DANIEL F. BURKE continued.

Another reason he gave was that if they established a school in Gort, all Ireland would be looking for a similar school on the same basis. The people in Gort said round about acted on the principle that is generally worked by the Department with the districts that contribute money—that the Department would help them. The county contributed £2,000 for building a school, and in the meantime the industry collapsed. One of the Department's inspectors came down and looked over the books, and they gave us to understand—I inferred that a subsidy would come later on—but they told us they could not help a fallen industry, but could help the starting of a new one. We made application to start a new one, but the Bishop then would not allow the Nuns to go any further. I am afraid, as far as the loan business is concerned, with that staring them in the face, it would hardly work. The people expect the Department at least to give a considerable sum to start a new one.

5083. (Mr. Michel).—You mean you would rather have the money for nothing than as a loan?—Yes, a free grant. In the schemes of the County Technical Instruction Committee we find the Department hold too strong a hand. We would like a little more liberty. And about the Capitation Grant, that has ruined the teaching in Teane, Loughrea, and Gort; supposing a child makes 238 hours, she has so much instruction got, and the teacher gets nothing.

5084. (Mr. Russell).—I thought it was all right in Teane, from Mr. Glynn's evidence?—I think they got nothing in Teane.

5085. You are quite right; it was Ballinasloe?—They have a scheme of their own there. They were extremely well treated there that year, but they would not be so well treated only there was £500 allowed to the Convent, when they would not accept the Capitation Grant. So that was to our credit, and that was why Ballinasloe was so liberally dealt with. As far as the Capitation Grant in Gort is concerned, they got £40 one year, and they paid £30 to one teacher and £15 to another, so that left nothing for the Nuns themselves and their rooms and fees. Last year they got nothing at all. In a school like Gort, where there were sixty or seventy children employed there are only a few now. And they were educated for making Gort lines, and there was a general hum of business. The children used to take home their work, and supported their families by the work they did at home. About itinerant teachers, I am aware that a good many people wish to have a more central

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form of teaching than itinerant teachers, but I confess I hardly know how you can get into the remote districts except by itinerant teachers.

6090. (Chairman).—Do you think the itinerant teachers have been a success here?—I think fairly so.

6091. In all branches, or would you say more in one than in another—how about poultry, for instance, do you think it has done well?—I think a good deal. As regards scholarships for boys, I think that is capable of doing a great deal of service too, after three years, up to the present. We tried to arrange for the coming year two £40 scholarships. If that could be increased it would be a great advantage.

6092. (Mr. Brown).—Where are they obtainable?—At any secondary school in the county, but they are merely at Ballinasloe or Tuam. There is only one went to Dublin. I have reason to know they are doing useful work.

6093. (Chairman).—You were going to say something about agricultural schemes?—About horse-breeding. In the beginning it was open for any stallion-owner to place a horse wherever he wished in any county in Ireland, so they all went to the best districts that they thought would pay, and this left us in the County Galway very much in need of good horses; so, on the application of the County Committee, and with the help of his Grace of Tuam, the Department allowed us £100 for a thoroughbred, and £70 for an agricultural horse. In the third year a change came in the rules. The Department seemed to think there were too much Scotch and English horses imported, and were afraid they would do away with the better class got by the thoroughbred, so they did not sanction any further importations unless where these agricultural horses were allocated before. The people in my district thought differently, and preferred to have an agricultural horse. The Department sent one of their own to replace it, but they did not patronise him much. The Department sent us this year a thoroughbred. The people think the agricultural horse would be better for them, but the Department thought the thoroughbred would be best.

6094. (Mr. Brown).—Do you mean a pure-bred shire or a pure-bred Clydesdale?—Yes.

6095. You don't take the view that the old Irish draught horse should be encouraged?—That is a question I never got to the bottom of. I can go back sixty years, thirty years of my own recollection, and I know round my own district. The only thing I could make out about the best mares there—they were twenty-five years old at the time.

6096. The breeding is the difficulty?—There was no breeding at all. They were either got by broken-down hunters or some type of the thoroughbred.

6097. There must have been an original heavy breed of some kind?—That I cannot tell you.

6098. (Chairman).—You don't believe in the Irish draught horse?—In a way.

6099. (Mr. Brown).—You are not afraid of the shire or Clydesdale injuring the hunter breed?—No; they are all got in among the farmers, but too much of them would not be good.

6100. The mares that would be the produce of this cross would not be good for breeding hunters?—They would be too soft.

6101. Once you cross with a shire or Clydesdale you will practically have a mare of that produce for producing heavy horses?—Yes.

6102. (Mr. Smith).—You would not like a well-feathered horse for a hunter?—Not at all—keep him in his own class.

6103. (Mr. Brown).—Will the people do that?—The farmers, when they breed from those horses; but poorer people cannot afford to hold them, and some of them sell at six months old, or twelve months old, and some at a year and a half. When they breed from a good-class animal of this sort they nearly always sell him at the fair, and if they breed from a thoroughbred horse they would have to keep them longer, though they might, if it turned out well, sell for three times as much. This year down with us they are taking far more to the thoroughbred. I find the farmers of thirty or forty now taking more to the thoroughbred than they ever did during my recollection. I think it would be a very useful thing if the Government could be brought more in touch with youngsters got by sires like that, with the view of buying them for recruits for the army, not having them go through second or third hands from the farmer.

6104. (Chairman).—With regard to cattle?—As regards the cattle, the principal thing in that was to import the bulls and send them through the country. The prices given for the bulls, considering the pains paid for them, do not at all compensate the man that got them.

6105. (Mr. Dryden).—You mean the premiums?—Yes. They have increased since. They were £15 and £20. Now they are £35 for four years.

6106. (Mr. Brown).—Are all your premiums taken up?—I think so. I suggested at a meeting of the Agricultural Committee one day that perhaps there might be a way by which those bulls might be bought cheaper. You get young bulls for less than £35 or £40. They were bought on the lean system, but still had to put down £15 or £12, which I thought considerable. He would get a reasonably good animal for that outlay that a lot of country people would take to. At the Dublin show when an inspector went round looking for those qualified to take premiums, the very moment "Certified for a premium" was placed over his head the price went up. I thought the bulls might be bought on their merits and inspection afterwards. The demand was so large that I was informed the Department found it impossible. Then they took in the following year people from the different counties to Perth and bought them there, but I believe the difference in price was not much. One year they could be 24 or 25 cheaper if it had been done the other way, but of course when a rule came it was different.

6107. Would there not be this difficulty, that a man might buy a bull and find him disqualified?—He could make a provision the same as a man buying a horse, to submit him to the veterinary surgeon.

6108. Then that would enter into the price?—Perhaps that was the reason the Department objected to it, but the difficulty has been got over by increasing the premium.

6109. Has not the price gone down a little?—I think it has, this year, and the Department are now allowing them to continue for four years with a premium of £15 each year.

6110. Is the supply of bulls increasing?—Yes.

6111. A great many breeders in Ireland are now raising pure-bred shorthorn bulls?—Yes.

6112. (Mr. Dryden).—Did you ever consider the proposition of fixing the price of a bull before he is inspected—would not that get over the difficulty?—Supposing an inspector, when he comes to inspect the bull, demands the price placed upon him, then he would inspect him at that price?—The point I was coming at was very nearly that, that a man should try to arrange about the bull on his merits.

6113. The Inspector would go down and see him, and he would be bought on the merits, and the other man would not know whether he was suitable or not?—I know I made a deal myself; that was in the early days; the rush came later on, and the Department could not get enough bulls for the people. It is partly cured by giving larger premiums now. About the same scheme. That has been of great use to local farmers, who have been able to sell their pigs earlier than before.

6114. (Chairman).—It is very important that schemes should work well?—Very. We were not so very badly off in my own district on account of the Pig-Breeders' Association, and we made all the use we possibly could of those animals. The Department allow us to get the pigs now on a smaller deposit, and then a premium is given, so we are getting pigs almost for nothing, and all the premiums are taken up now. I think the poultry schemes have been a great success in the county. It teaches a class of people that the cattle or swine or anything else does not teach. People make little revenues out of their dogs or two dozen hens, and it is extraordinary what a number of eggs are laid in excess of what they previously were; and people get a better price.

6115. (Mr. Brown).—And the Committee are satisfied with the details of these schemes—they do not want to make any change in them?—The Committee are satisfied. I would like to say a word about some of the instructors. Professor Mason's lectures, I think, are of very great importance.

6116. It is a great misfortune that there is only one Professor Mason?—I know some people in my district took shorthand notes of his lectures, and read them over and over again when he has gone away. The Department sent him down there, but his services were not available afterwards.

6119. No; the other countries are wanting him, too?—Oh, yes. There was a manure instructor case round there one time, I think Mr. Dwyer. It was a pleasure to listen to him as a demonstrator. He made it so simple that a child of ten years of age could understand it. He used to explain the difference in the mixing of manure, and prove by figures how much cheaper it was to buy the best manure. There is another matter now. It is in connection with the Department of Agriculture, at Kinrossa Park.

6120. (Chairman).—You wish to speak about the agricultural farm and fields?—Some time ago there was an agricultural farm attached to the National Schools, and instruction was given there, which did a great deal of service in the country. Before I was well in my teens I was at one for two years. We used to learn the theory in the school, and be taken on to the farm. I am aware, up to the present day, that the education given there bore good fruit. The boys class, of sixteen or seventeen years of age, have shown the benefit of it, now that they are men. You will see the taste with which they cultivate their farms. There may be an objection to the extension of that, but the great college that is going to be built in Athenry will, perhaps, compensate for it.

6121. (Mr. Brown).—Would you think it would be a good thing now to have plots attached to the National schools to teach theoretical gardening and agriculture to the more advanced boys?—Oh, I would.

6122. Something to give them a taste for better instruction afterwards?—The farm I know was worked on a four-course rotation. The little stable and out-houses belonged to the teacher; he had to keep them in order, and to be very particular about the sewage and the manure, and about getting his hay early, and to have the weeds taken up, and having a good class of seed and manure. And though some of the children there were only fifteen or sixteen or seventeen years of age, I don't think they ever forgot it since, and they practice it on their farms.

6123. (Mr. Dwyer).—You had an exceptionally good teacher?—He was not particularly well up as an agriculturist—only an ordinary man. The inspectors came there once a year, and used to give him general instructions, and he carried them out.

6124. The success of these plots, it appears to me, would depend altogether on the teacher?—In a great way. The boys used to be very attentive, and the

teacher gained by our good offices and co-operation. Perhaps that would apply to all the schemes generally. If the people co-operate it tends to make them a success. That teaches all I have given you, except the Kinrossa Park. I think the headsets are very instructive. In some places they take great advantage of them; in other places they do not do so much.

6125. (Chairman).—Do you think this useful knowledge is spreading a great deal amongst the people?—I think so. That is my opinion.

6126. Do you think the work is proceeding on right lines; have you any suggestions to make about what might be done better in any way?—There is not anything I could suggest. Now, about Kinrossa Park.

6127. (Mr. McKel).—Is it for barley you want it?—For general purposes. It is nearly finished, and the parish priest and the Committee worked most strenuously to get the landlord to give the tolls and customs to the County Council for £5,500.

6128. Is he entitled to all the tolls and customs?—No; it belongs to the County Council. He made it over on the distinct understanding that £5,000 would be spent there—that is, £1,000 from the county, £1,000 from the Department, and £1,000 from the Board of Works. The money is spent, but the Department's £1,000, and that will break through the whole thing; because the landlord will come in now, and take the tolls and customs. It is calculated that the tolls and customs would pay interest on the money that the county would have to give.

6129. (Chairman).—Do you know what the difficulty is?—I do not.

6130. (Mr. McKel).—Would you like us to find out what the difficulty is?—I would like you to go further, and get them to pay.

6131. (Mr. Dwyer).—Their attention will be drawn to it, at all events?—Yes.

Mr. J. C. McDONNELL.—Before adjourning, I just wish to say I am nominated by the general consent of County Councils to give evidence. I was also nominated by the County Council, but in some way my name did not go in on the list; and there are one or two particular matters with regard to this county on which I wish to speak. It would be more convenient for me to give evidence here.

(Chairman).—Very well; we will hear you after lunch.

On returning after luncheon,

6132. Mr. Fogarty said.—I hand in three instances of cases in which our suggestions were rejected, and I have just learned that our technical scheme for this year has been disapproved of.

County Committee asked Department to revert to the system by which county purchasers of premium bulls purchased their bulls before they were announced as premium animals, pointing out that the practice of making bulls as premium animals had the effect of practically transferring the premium from the farmer to the breeder.

Department declined, stating increased prices were due to causes other than the new system.

Committee suggested a system of annual bonuses for young males to encourage farmers to keep such males for breeding purposes.

Not included in scheme.

The County Committee of Agriculture decided that an annual congress of County Committees would be desirable to discuss matters of common interest, etc., and asked the Department to give the same facilities to delegates as were given in the case of the Technical Congress, this request being supported by Committees of 18 counties.

Reply.—Department see no reason for the proposed Congress, and decline to give the facilities asked for. Reason given.—The Agricultural Council is, in fact, an Agricultural Congress.

Mr. James Dwyer, Tuen, examined.

6133. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Galway Committee of Agriculture?—No; of Technical Instruction. I have been honorary secretary of the Tuen Technical Schools for over ten years, and in August, 1890, the Tuen Board of Guardians levied £4 in the pound, or £160, on the Tuen Union for teaching laundry-work, cooking, bread-making, domestic economy, and dress-making. The Presentation Nuns of Tuen built a house at a cost of £280. The Mercy Convent had only an old kitchen, and for that year the work went on very well till the Inspector came round—the late Mr. Preston. He reported favourably upon the schools, but he made a suggestion that we might

do something more for boys, as we appeared to be doing all for girls. He also suggested that the old kitchen of the Mercy Convent was not suitable at all as a school. On this report we went and spent a sum of £300 of private contributions in building a large school at the Mercy Convent, and £160 advanced by the Nuns themselves. We also spent £100 in fitting up a room in the Christian Brothers' Schools for the purpose of teaching the boys, and for the coming year we introduced manual work, carpentry, type-writing, and shorthand. So far, everything appeared to go on well till the Act was passed in 1890. In 1890 Mr. Blake came down, and I myself went into the figures with him, and, so far as I could understand, I be-

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Hered that we were to get double the money under this new Act; but what really happened was that our duties were transferred to the County Council Commissions, and the duties of the local Committee were taken away, and instead of our getting £250 from the rates and £150 from South Kensington, we now only get about £75, and that is scholarships. The Capitation Grant system was adopted in 1903-4. I myself opposed that, but the Inspector who was here—Mr. Fletcher at the time—appeared to think it was the better thing to do. However, to show you the result of it: after years' work being done the Presentation Convent School only got £5 for their work, and the Mercy Convent £28, instead of £120. I cannot for the life of me see how any school can be conducted on £30 a year; and the result is that in the present session we are not at all in the county scheme. The Convent Schools and the Christian Brothers' have no connection whatsoever with the Department (the Christian Brothers are connected for the subject of experimental science), and several newspapers who are paying this money have spoken to me, and the matter has been brought before the County Committee, but nothing appears to have been done for us in the locality, and the matter has been pressed a great many times on the Department, but they insisted upon the Capitation Grant system.

6132. It all turns on that?—Yes; the Capitation system does not suit us, particularly where girls of twelve years of age who are on the National School books will not be allowed to attend; because, as I tried myself to explain to the Inspector, the class of girls we get coming from the country, after three or four months' instruction, unacquainted with the want of facilities and industries. We pointed out that the Board of National Education are doing nothing at all for the teaching of domestic economy, and we think some board ought to do something to teach the girls. It is too bad to see young girls growing up without being taught by some board. We pay rates for it; and often in the teaching of industries in recommending a teacher for credit the Inspector opposed us very strenuously. He did give way to the Committee, and I am happy to say that the result of that has been most satisfactory, because they have been able to make a living of it. I think myself that when people show they can go and spend their own money profitably and locally the Department ought to try and waive some of their objections and meet the people. They appear to place too much reliance on itinerant instruction. As far as I can see, the itinerant instruction is not a success.

6133. Are you speaking of the technical side?—On the technical side. The itinerant instruction is not a success. Now take an important town like Tuxm, the largest town in this county. You send one of these itinerant instructors to a place, Danmore, about eight miles from Tuxm. She went there about two years ago and gave a course of six weeks' instruction. Since then they have not seen her. What good is that instruction to them?

6134. In what was the instruction?—Lantern and cooking work. Tuxm is a large union, but as far as I can see only two or three villages have got any instruction in lantern and cooking work. And when you consider the population of the union, 33,000 people, surely this itinerant instruction is not a proper course adapted for them. I say in the towns of Tuxm and Ballinacree there should be one large technical school, and for the expense of paying an itinerant teacher to go round you should offer scholarships and prizes to induce the young women to attend these schools, and I believe if that was done it would give them an interest in technical education. Then again, as regards the boys, there is a system adopted in that county of giving scholarships for the teaching of experimental science and manual work. It has been extended now that a boy shall get two or three years' training, as the case may be, but then after the two or three years what is going to become of that boy?—You have got no facilities here. Of course it is very good for him to get the instruction. If he emigrated it would be a good help to him, or if he could go into an industry that boy could learn his trade very quickly owing to the training he has already got, and I think the Department ought to sanction something, as the Right Honourable Mr. Burns said the other day in England, they ought to sanction a fee being given to enable boys to learn a trade. Now, I will quote an instance for you. In Tuxm we are very badly off for want of a proper registered plumber since a man died six months ago.

If we could send the son of that man, who has an idea of the business, to Belfast, and pay his expenses for twelve months to learn the trade, we could have a good plumber on whom we could rely instead of sending over to Glasgow.

6135. (Mr. Miles).—You think he would come back to you?—We would make him give a guarantee to come back.

6136. (Mr. Brouse).—How would you enforce it?—Just as we did with the scholarships. When we set a boy to learn commercial subjects we gave £100 to the young man to go over to qualify as a teacher for commercial subjects, and he gave a written guarantee, and has come back, and has been teaching in this county for twelve months.

6137. Supposing he did not carry out the guarantee how would you enforce it?—We would have to hire some means of doing that.

6138. It is difficult—I see your point.

6139. It is difficult—not easy to meet—I think it can be met. You will always get a boy who will give a guarantee.

6140. (Mr. Miles).—Would you get somebody to give you a bond for the repayment of the money?—I am quite sure you will get some local person to give a bond. If I took an interest in a boy I would be most happy to do it. I believe he would come back, but that is a great point now, because we are presently saying—not the County Committee, but the local District Committee—a person, a plumber, who has no qualification whatever for it. Take the waste factory in Galway. That is a place where on one boys could be sent to learn the same branch of the business. The other day that committee voted £20 to the granite works, and the Department sanctioned it, to enable a boy to learn his business.

6141. Or "the principle underlying the trade"?—Yes, I dare say that is the proper way of paying it. The Convent schools have done a great deal to prove and show they ought to be entitled to some support from the Department when the local people demand it, and when the rates asked as teachers for so many years under the Board of Education in London. And the great point I would lay stress upon is that the Department, having sanctioned these ladies as teachers, on no occasion have they shown their incompetency, although they have been challenged to do so.

6142. Do you mean "have not shown them to be incompetent"?—Yes.

6143. (Chairman).—You say they were sanctioned as teachers before the Department came into existence?—Yes, in 1896 under the Board of Education, South Kensington, London.

6144. Then the Department objected to them because they did not come up to a certain standard of all events they had not got the qualification?—They sanctioned them all the time, but said, "You must always work side by side for about six weeks with an expert teacher." I would not have a great objection to that, nor these ladies have not. They themselves did engage such a lady for about three months before this Department came in at all.

6145. Why did not that system work?—That system did work till the capitation grant came in.

6146. (Mr. Miles).—You mean to state that the men have no objection that one of their experienced number should work beside an expert teacher?—They have not the slightest objection, experienced or inexperienced. They think that if you bring an expert teacher there it improves the teachers and the girls also, and gives them an interest in their work. We have not the slightest objection. I cannot understand why the Department do not see the thing. I believe that if the matter is fully thrashed out they will be able to come in on that point, and I think they are making a mistake. It is too bad if you give instruction in one town only for six weeks, and leave it the whole year without anything. You must get a permanent school on.

6147. (Chairman).—In your view it is justifying the capitation grant that has done the mischief?—It has done the mischief. Supposing a girl attends for two months—many of them do—I know them to walk a two or three miles. I have taken very great trouble with this business. I know girls that walk in long distances from the country, and I have seen the greatest improvement in their homes. I think if the Department returned to salaries it would help the technical education very much in the county, while the capitation grant system would not, because after a girl has got three or four months' instruction and

of her friends may pay her passage to America. And it is very wrong that a teacher should get nothing for three or four months' services. As I see by Mr. Fisher's evidence, this capitation grant system leaves the teacher at the mercy of the pupils, because they say, "The teacher will only be paid if we attend at a certain time," and you will find some pupils that adopt that system. There is another matter I wish to speak of in connection with the grants given to the County Galway. I consider that the County Galway is not treated fairly. It leaves £203, and only gets £200 from the Department to help this large county in technical instruction, whereas I find the County Leith gets £4 4s. 6d. to the £1 in rate, and the County Galway only gets 16s. 9d. to the £1.

6146. (Mr. Fisher).—That information from Leith may not be quite accurate—I am only taking it from the returns I got.

6147. Then Longford?—Well, in Longford they get £3 to the £1; Dublin, £1 13s. 4d.; Down, £1 13s. 4d.; Leitrim, £1 10s.; Cavan, £2; Kerry, £1 15s. 11d.; Mayo, £1 11s. 6d.; Meath, £2 12s.; Tipperary, £2. I really state the County Galway ought to be treated fairly in this matter.

6148. (Chairman).—We have a table here which shows all the payments?—I consider the establishment of secondary schools, fitted up with modern apparatus for teaching all experimental science subjects, is not a proof that the Department are sincere in their desire to further technical education with a view to encourage and promote industries. Because, what is to become of the young boy who has gone through his two or three years' course, without any future or any trade, except the experience he has got in the secondary schools. I do not consider that it is quite evidence to show that the Department of Technical Instruction are giving their best to help on technical education.

6149. You say they ought to go further?—I say they ought to go further.

6150. What should they do?—They should do something towards teaching trades, or providing young boys with trades—something like what the Right Honourable Mr. John Burns says in England. You must provide trades. That is the only course, and the proper way in this country, where we have been deprived of industries, to help on a better instruction.

6151. You must teach these particular trades with a view to practicing these trades?—Yes. To take this question of a boy getting a two or three years' course of experimental science, a boy from the country, it is simply giving him the idea to be a clerk. We are all going to be clerks. The other day I superintended an examination on behalf of the Department of a County Committee of boys for scholarships, and there were a lot of young boys came from the country as well as the town, and I said it was taking these boys away to give them the idea of becoming clerks.

6152. But the Act of Parliament says the money is not to be spent on teaching the practice of any trade?—The Act of Parliament does say it. Then I do not wish to blame the Department. I say the Act of Parliament ought to be changed, because it would be very wrong of me to go and abuse the Department when it is the fault of the Act of Parliament.

6153. Some people think the Department has gone as far as it is possible to go under the Act of Parliament, and, perhaps, rather further?—The Department has power to teach industries. It is not exactly the teaching of a trade.

6154. I admit it is very difficult to see exactly where the line is to be drawn, but still there it is in black and white?—It is very hard to know and understand it. But supposing pupils are not attending elementary schools?

6155. "The expression 'Technical Instruction' means instruction in the principles of science and not applicable to industries, and not the application of special branches of science and art to specific industries or employments. It shall not include instruction given in elementary schools or teaching the practice of any trade or industry or employment."—The only thing is to get our Members of Parliament to see that this Act should be repealed.

6156. (Mr. Fisher).—Or ask us to recommend it?—Yes; I will ask this Committee to be good enough to pass our views. That is the thing wanted here, because the Experimental Science Schools that the Department are establishing would be very good for these boys who have got that instruction, with the view of teaching them trades. I am satisfied with that now. There

is a matter here about the jurisdiction of County Committees. I consider that the committees should be allowed to formulate their own schemes, according to the requirements of their respective localities, and that the assistant secretary, or any person, should not come into the room, and say to the Committee, "You must take it or leave it." I say that is not right, and that has been done here. On the question of the capitation grant system or its absence we have been told by the Inspector of the Department that we must take this scheme or leave it.

6157. That is to say, they won't approve a scheme which does not contain—I—What they want.

6158. Are they within their rights in doing that?—They may be; but certainly the present Assistant Secretary did here at one time say to us we must take the scheme or leave it.

6159. Supposing the Department were to think that the system of capitation grants is the right system, are they not right in refusing to approve of a system which does not permit of it?—This is the point I would like to raise; why, then, would this Department say that they allow local committees a certain amount of liberty more so than any other Board, when, at the same time, a good many of the things we recommend they won't adopt? I will name two points. It was proposed at this County Technical Instruction Committee on one occasion that a teacher ought to be provided for the purpose of giving instruction in the making of silver envelopes for bottles, to enable the small farmers from Galway and Connemara to obtain employment. These poor people have a certain amount of work to do, and in the winter they have nothing to do, and it was thought that might give them a little employment in their own homes, and a gentleman had guaranteed that he would help on the business. When the County Committee here placed the teaching of cricket on their scheme the present Assistant Secretary gave it his most strenuous opposition, but the Committee would not yield, and I am happy to say it proved most successful.

6160. There you have a case where the Department yielded to the Committee, because they thought, on the whole, they had made out a strong enough case?—The Committee would not give in, though the Department declined point blank to adopt the scheme.

6161. The Act of Parliament gives the Department the power of saying they won't approve of a scheme if there is something they disapprove of in it?—But, then, sir, I say where is the use of asking me to come up here from Tuam, twenty-eight miles, every month, I should know the requirements of this district, and after spending so much money in building these schools, after spending £700 or £800, these schools are derelict. I say it is a great shame; we ought to get some power, and the Department should not act in such a high-handed manner.

6162. Does that not again come to the surrendering of the Act of Parliament and taking away from the Department the power of approving of schemes?—I don't think it requires an Act of Parliament.

6163. As you put it, I think it does, because the Act of Parliament has given the Department power to approve or not approve of schemes—you say the Department ought not to exercise that power?—But then there is the point that we in Tuam are getting no instruction in cookery, laundry, or domestic economy. Here is the point I cannot understand about the Department. It appears there is a Board of Technical Instruction. I cannot understand what power this Board has. I say the power exercised by the Department has not been used properly towards the schools in the County Galway, particularly Tuam, Gort, and Longhlea. When the schemes for each year are submitted to the Department, I maintain that these schemes should be thoroughly and properly discussed by members of the Board of Technical Instruction, after due notice, setting forth the schemes and any resolutions which may be passed by the various committees. I say it is not right of the Department to lay before a body of gentlemen a bundle of papers and say, "Here are the schemes for Galway, Mayo, and Clare; we have looked over them and they are all right." They ought to call special attention to any contentious resolutions from the various committees not to rush schemes on the Board of Technical Instruction.

6164. We have two volumes of the minutes of the Board of Technical Instruction, and it looks to me as if there was a good deal of discussion on these matters?—The public don't get that

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Mr. J. Daly.

6167. It may be a question whether you ought not to have more information?—My opinion may be right, or may be wrong, but I am entitled to my own opinion, and I don't believe in the whole thing. It should not be left to the Secretary of the Department or his assistants, and they should not write these letters without the express authority of the Board of Technical Instruction. I am not going to say whether any member of the Board of Technical Instruction say they have not been made aware of these subjects one way or another, but I have my doubts about it, and I have not authority to say so publicly. I would always like to work in harmony with the Department, but I say if the thing is to go on as it has been doing, I, for one, will cease to be a member of the Technical Instruction Committee. Some members of the Council asked should they withdraw the grant, and I said, "Wait until next year until we see whether they will approve our scheme."

6168. (Mr. Brown).—Take the straw-bottle industry—the Department have better means of knowing the state of the market than the committee in Galway?—I won't admit they have; we have the local people on our committee.

6169. You know, of course, that unless you are able to produce straw-bottle covers here as good, and at the same price as elsewhere, you know the industry would not succeed—would you admit that?—I will not admit it.

6170. Then I won't ask you any more!—We have got a guarantee from one of the leading gentlemen in this city of Galway that he would assist us; we would make it pay, and help our people to live here.

6171. If you don't admit that first principle, I cannot pursue it any more!—I am not the person who proposed it.

6172. Supposing the Department from their inquiries have satisfied themselves rightly or wrongly that a straw-bottle industry could not pay under the conditions that exist here, would they not be right to exercise their power of veto?—Our committee say they don't agree with them.

6173. You have no means of knowing the conditions?—Yes, we put forward certain proposals to them and said, "We will make it a success," and I say they ought to help us.

6174. (Chairman).—Will you go as far as this, and say your committee is always right and the Department wrong when they differ from you?—I will not.

6175. You are going very near it!—In the present scheme we had £500 to spare, and we set aside that sum for the purpose of assisting the teaching of industries in the county—they simply refused that also.

6176. (Mr. Dryden).—That would be according to the Act of Parliament—at least they would say that?—Then I don't see where our people are to come in. It is not teaching is not a success in this county, and I have heard it is not in other counties.

6177. (Mr. Brown).—You had better speak for your own county; we have been in other counties, and also know something about other counties.

6178. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you mean all itinerant instruction in all the branches?—I do not; there is one branch, I admit, is very good; it was adopted on the suggestion of the Inspector, that is, the teaching of hygienic and stock nursing; that was most successful and useful. In this county I don't think the manual instruction is a great success.

6179. When you speak of itinerant instruction that might be misunderstood!—I am not speaking of agriculture, it is of technical instruction I am speaking. I admit that this instruction is hygienic and all moving appears to be most useful. I would propose that there should be one permanent school for each union with a session of six months, and the itinerant ought to go and give a month or six weeks in each of the villages of the union. There are villages in the Tuam Union that have been paying rates for the last six years that never saw one of these ladies. There is another thing that, speaking from a public point of view, I do not consider let. I may not be allowed to speak of it, but I do object to the large salaries paid in the Department to some of the staff, and it is not fair, because, really, the work could be done by some people far more efficiently, and probably with better results, and I consider £200 paid to two assistant secretaries is a large sum, and £500 or £600 paid to inspectors. I consider it my duty to speak here about the Equivalent Grant. When this discussion was on in the House of Commons the Vice-President sailed away to America. I say he ought to have given more of his time to see that the Department made their demands in due and proper time, and sent them on so that Ireland would not lose the Equivalent Grant. Then again, with the £3,500 that has been added on to the other £3,500, I say Tuam and Gort ought still to get their proportion of that grant, because they had it before.

6180. (Mr. Michie).—Of course you know the salaries come out of money voted by Parliament, are the endowment?—I know that, but all the same I do consider if we were more careful in looking into our monies—I am not going into the whole details of the Department—I see an enormous amount of money spent sometimes, and when a poor place applies for a paltry sum of £10 or £20 as we did when we started a little industry in Monivea with the assistance of a lady who wanted to raise the people, the Department voted it straight off, yet there is not the slightest objection to send a gentleman over to London at a cost of £100 or £200. I am not going to speak about this Agricultural Organisation Association, but I shall cease to be a member of the Technical Committee unless some further freedom is given us as members of the County Council Committee, and I shall do my best to get the grant withdrawn. We got on very well with the English Board, but for moment the Irish Board comes in we are crushed. Our schools are desolate now, our people going over to America, as I see them, when I am coming to meetings have once a month. I brought it under the notice of the Committee several times, yet we are not helped in any way, so I hope something will be done to change the law.

Mr. MICHAEL HYDES, Clareview, Kinsara, examined.

Mr. M. Hynde.

6181. (Chairman).—You are a representative of the Galway County Committee of Agriculture?—Yes, I wish to preface my evidence by stating that I don't presume to lecture any Department Committee, or individual, but I will simply give my views as they come to me as a working farmer, and as a member of the Ardara Co-operative Society and a District Councillor.

6182. Where is your farm?—Midway between Ardara and Kinsara. I will take the itinerant instruction first. I consider there is no necessity for the services of those instructors at present owing to the Department's farm at Athlery, and the agricultural school at Mounthallow; for all practical purposes any person interested can learn from the experiments carried on at both these places everything they require.

6183. Could the smaller people do that?—The smaller people will learn from their neighbours.

6184. You think they give the best instruction in these schools, and you would leave that to spread itself abroad?—Undoubtedly. The exhibit from the farm at the last show in Athlery was a treat; there were six or seven varieties of potatoes, six or seven

varieties of oats with the quantity per acre of grain and straw, samples of hay grown with the different manures applied, and samples without any manure, in fact everything that a farmer could want information on was explained by a competent man, and I would simply consider it a waste of money to have itinerant teachers. In the first place they work is attended to, and the farmers have no confidence in them because they are supposed to be Scotchmen, and the people have no confidence in Scotchmen either, they may be very competent good men, I know some of them are very good men; they are very good last year, but when they go to work land for these acres they are not in it with us.

6185. (Mr. Dryden).—Did you know that one of the foremen at that farm at Athlery was a Scotchman?—I do; I know they know their business thoroughly, but send them to work on a farm such as I have to work on. Of course he is all right at Athlery, where he has every kind of appliance, but if he has to work with the limited capital that a man like me has it might be a different tale. Any person wanting similar proof, and we Irish farmers need no proof, or we won't adopt any innovation from the old system.

6186. (Mr. Brown).—With regard to the instruction in dairying, would you say that should cease?—Oh, there are no dairies in my district.

6187. Is there not a dairy instructor in the County Galway?—Undoubtedly there is, but not in my district; there are no dairies in it.

6188. Do you say you should not continue the instruction in dairying because of the farms?—I have nothing to say to the dairy instruction where it is required.

6189. (Chairman).—You are speaking of your own district?—Undoubtedly, the Glenties district; I don't speak of the county by any means.

6190. When you say you don't think that itinerant instruction is much use in your part of the county?—It is no use whatever.

6191. You refer, don't you, to the lectures of the agricultural instructors; they are going about teaching people how to cultivate?—Yes; people don't believe in that.

6192. You think it is better people should go and see for themselves how the thing is done?—Yes, that is what I mean. With regard to the live stock scheme, people in my district don't appear to attach to it the importance it deserves; they are satisfied with the services of the ordinary bulls, owing to the fact that the average number of cows kept is two or three, and it is more for the purpose of supplying their families with milk and butter than for breeding purposes, and they say that pedigree stock don't show their qualities until they are three or four years old; and all the people I speak of sell their calves when they are a year old, and pedigree stock require more care than the common breed.

6193. (Mr. Dwyer).—You don't believe that, do you?—No; I only keep one cow to give me milk, and the cows are not of a very good class, indeed; most of them are cattle a man could not dispose of at a fair, and the only thing he can do is let the bull to them and have a drop of milk from them. A great many hay takers in Limerick, Cork, and Tipperary in winter and hand-feed; it is well that these should be well bred; they sell them again as yearlings, and make a good profit on the winter feeding.

6194. (Chairman).—Is there a good deal of winter feeding in your part?—There is, such as waste potatoes and turnips; it is a tillage district. With regard to the sires in my district, the sires supplied by the Department to nominated owners do not suit the people in my district; they all keep one or two strong young ones, and, besides doing their ordinary agricultural work, they breed from them with a Shire or Clydesdale, because they sell their foals at weaning time; their holdings are too small to keep them any longer, and consequently they require strength and substance.

6195. What is your view about that?—In place of a Moorhead sire they require a Clydesdale or Shire horse. They sell their foals; they don't keep them. Then, of course, they could not sell a thoroughbred foal at six months old; nobody would buy him. My opinion about poultry is that the existing system of instruction is all that could be desired, and the pity is that the people cannot be made to see the great source of wealth there is in it if it could be availed of.

6196. What you said about itinerant instruction does not apply to poultry?—Oh, no; I only meant it in agriculture, because we have a farm at Ashery and another at Moonbellow to give instruction.

6197. You do attach great importance to poultry instruction?—There are millions in it.

6198. Do you see much improvement in your part of the country in the breeds of poultry?—There is a great improvement for the last few years.

6199. Getting in better stock?—Yes, and taking better care of eggs, sending them to market fresher.

6200. Have you any egg-distributing stations within your reach?—Not nearer than Ashery; I believe there is one somewhere near Glenties. About Prof. Mason's lectures on the Diseases of Horses and Cattle, those are pretty well attended and appreciated; it would be a great boon if the Department could establish some system of veterinary dispensaries in each rural district or every two districts. A great many cattle, especially the milk cattle, die on the poor people for want of treatment; it is not for want of doctors, for it is too much of that they get. It is the poor that always suffer. If there could be a veterinary surgeon who would visit the people for 7s. 6d. or 10s. a visit (their present fee is two guineas, and that is beyond the reach of ordinary people), if there could

be something managed, it would be worth even to give 1d. or 1d. or the rates to subsidize these veterinary surgeons. I know a great many people who have lost a lot of cattle. A neighbour comes in and says: "Did you give the least such a thing?" "I did not," said he, "but I will give it now." And then another neighbour comes in and proposes something else. The unfortunate beast gets more medicine than he could carry. About the planting of the trees, I am very anxious about that. I planted within the last eight years some ten acres, hedges and waste corners, no use for any other purpose; I planted Austrian pine, larch, and beech, and it is doing splendidly; and I knew a great many people round me who have coarse, bad corners, with coarse grass and boulders that the plough could not work, and, if they could only get the trees in their neighbourhood, they would be very anxious to plant them, but of course they never think of going a distance or making a rail journey to get them. Many a man goes to market and sees cabbage and broccoli plants, and it strikes him that if he had a couple of hundred it would be good, and if he saw the trees in the same way he would buy them and plant them. If every member of the County Committee would select a suitable man in his town who would keep a sample bundle of those trees during the planting season, and keep them exposed outside his shop, and had the prices labelled on them, a lot would buy, and if the Department paid half the cost.

6201. (Mr. Brown).—Does your Committee supply forest trees at cost price to anybody in the county?—I think the Department supply forest trees.

6202. It would be open to them to supply forest trees?—I don't think they do. If the people when they go to market saw them exposed, and the prices on them, and were tempted to plant, there would be lots of places planted.

6203. (Chairman).—Is there not also the difficulty that a good many people don't appreciate the importance of planting trees, don't see any immediate return from it, and therefore are not very keen about it?—It is only eight years since I planted and I had to thin last year, and what I cut made pollings, and the top would make firing, and a good many round my place would be anxious to do it.

6204. A good many people don't like to have to wait for ten years?—People have to wait. There is not a railway station or harbour in the county that you won't see the timber cut down in now, and nobody planting. If it were possible to adopt some scheme that the people would see the plants and be tempted to purchase them, before five years you would have millions of trees planted all over the country; they would be both ornamental and useful, if it was only for climatic purposes. With regard to the teaching of the elements of agriculture in rural schools, I understand that has been dealt with, and I need not go into that. In my opinion, the chairman and members of the County Committee are most earnest and painstaking in discharging their duties. I am one of the worst men in attending, because there are circumstances that prevent me from attending. I think it would be advisable to have more working farmers on the Committee, as no man can feel where the shoe pinches as well as the man who wears it, and no man knows that as well as the man who has to live solely as a working farmer. I would suggest that a sub-committee of five or ten members of each District Council be formed to advise and suggest to the County Committee the particular wants of the locality. At present they are grumbling, and they are like the hurler on the duck, thinking they are not getting value for the halfpenny in the El they pay towards the scheme, and if they get a little responsibility the grumbling would cease; it would be better to have them in. There are a good many things that would occur to a man in his own locality that a man down here would not think of at all. At any rate, I would say that whatever sum the Department may spend on the improvement of the country will be spent in vain unless Government or the State takes over the railways, owing to the excessive rates that are charged for agricultural produce of all kinds. About a month ago I sent for a thousand cabbage plants to a garden in the County Wicklow, and they were very small, but of good quality, only about a stone and a half; they cost 2s. 6d., and the railway people demanded 2s. 11d. for carrying them. I can get potatoes from Glasgow cheaper than I can get them from Athlone. It is no matter what anybody says, railways would

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Mr. E. Hyatt.

cripple the most flourishing country in Europe. The Secretary of the Andean Co-operative Society asked me to put before the Committee that the charge made by the Department against for analysing manures manufactured by their Society is rather excessive; it is 10s. a sample, and for five samples that they make it costs them about £2 12s. 6d., and he states that if it were, say, for 2s. 6d. there are a lot of cheap manures manufactured in England and sent

aboard all over the country, manufactured without regard to the nature and condition of the soil in which it is going to be put, and if the charge for analysis was reduced to 2s. 6d., there would be an opportunity of putting a stop to some of that.

6205 (Mr. Brown).—The fee in a private person is much less—it is only to traders that the 12s. is charged—I did not know that.

Mr. T. G. F. HALL, J.P., M.P., continued.

Mr. T. G. F.
Hall, J.P.,
M.P.

6206 (Chairman).—You have come to speak about fisheries, I believe!—Yes. My first head is on the importance of salmon fisheries. I don't know whether it is necessary to enlarge on that.

6207. I think we all appreciate that I—Salmon and trout fisheries, besides being the source of supply of a valuable food, bring a great number of people into the country—the Galway fishery has, for example, brought a great number in for angling in the Corrib River. They say that there is really more demand for houses in Oughterard than can be supplied, and the same thing occurs at Lough Mask. The point is this—that there is that increasing demand for angling; I believe it is so all over Ireland; I think it gets more and more every year. There is another point—perhaps I ought to make this the basic point for the purpose in view—the distinctive and specific character of fishing as compared with agriculture, for example. We are under the government of a Board of Conservators; the fund that this Board disposes of is all paid by the fishermen—by the net fishers and the rod fishers—besides the amount that the fisheries pay to the County Councils and urban authorities and so forth. As an illustration, take this Galway fishery. This fishery pays £100 a year to the Board of Conservators, and then £100 a year, with the licence from the men who fish here, and so forth, really supports the Board of Conservators. It has no other source of revenue. This money is spent in protection chiefly. Besides that, I think all the great fisheries spend a very considerable amount that they are not obliged to spend at all for additional protection. It is a very different sort of thing to what you have to deal with in the case of a farm, and you get nothing of the kind in an ordinary business. The business and the farm have to pay their ordinary local rates, they don't pay anything besides in the way of protecting their business. This Galway fishery in a former lease enforced the expenditure of £300 a year for protecting its upper waters. The lease was bound to spend £200 a year in protecting the upper waters besides what is spent in protecting the lower waters. That expenditure is kept up now, and more, besides the £100 a year paid to the Conservators.

6208 (Mr. Mickel).—When does the £300 a year go to?—Chiefly to hatcheries in the winter time to protect the spawning. We have between forty and fifty hatcheries. Some of them are on all the year round. Then we have the expenditure on the fisheries down below, between the Lough and the sea. That is one point—that is a specific difference in the constitution of the fisheries to what you find in ordinary matters of agriculture. Besides that, the business of the fishery and the business of agriculture are totally different things: one has to do with water, another has to do with land. To give an illustration: our three rivers are fishing for salmon now at the present moment, and they will be fishing for herring directly they have done with the salmon. I want to make that point for another reason. It was stated that there were so many salmon-fishers and so many herring-fishers, but practically all our salmon-fishers are herring-fishers. Further than that, out of, say, eighteen fishermen that we have, I think all but two either are or have been in the Naval Reserve. Then, the work is altogether different, and the difficulties that we have to contend against, as fishermen, are altogether different from anything you get in ordinary agriculture. First of all, there is the poaching, for example—we have to spend an immense amount of money in the way of protection. There is with manufacturers and mills like upon rivers and so on as a means of carrying off their pollution; others look on it as a means of carrying off sewage. Then we have difficulties with mills—obstruction caused to

fish. There is little of that kind here; we have happily nearly settled the matter. There is an act compelling the mill-owners to put up gratings to prevent the fish getting up the tail race. The dams took its rise from this river, and they are bound to keep them up, but in order to make things as easy as possible we put them up ourselves and pay the cost. It is an extra expense, but it is a way by which we prevent the salmon from getting up to the mills.

6209. Under the whole and unbroken—Yes; and in the same way when they are coming down. All these difficulties occur in our business that are not usual in ordinary businesses. Then there are questions about fixed engines, and a special question as to death time. All these difficulties have given rise to special laws. The Fishery Laws are an extremely important body of laws. We have no technical instruction at the present moment; we have no rate-aided practical education; we educate ourselves.

6210a (Chairman).—What have you to say to the question of the relations of the Department with you?—The evidence I have given is preliminary to the question with the view of showing that we want a specific mode of government. We have a specific industry to deal with. There is a Bill introduced into Parliament practically turning the fisheries over to County Councils. We hold that an act of that kind would be extremely detrimental to the fisheries, and that for various reasons. The first reason I have given here—the specific character of the work that has to be done, in which the local Councils have had no sort of practice; and, secondly, they are not skilled for that purpose; they are elected for a different class of work, and they contribute absolutely nothing towards our fisheries—we contribute everything ourselves. If the Bill were to come into operation, they would be given representation in the government of the fisheries without any contribution to their expenditure. An argument on a similar principle, though from another side, applies to the higher Government. We consider that if we pay all the Imperial taxes, as well as the local taxes—we pay our Excise and Customs, and Income Tax and Death Duties, and all the rest of it—we consider that we have a distinct claim on the Imperial Government for legislation, administration, and also judicial action. We pay the central Government, and think we have a claim on the central Government in this respect for our protection. We think that it is of very great importance that the Inspectors of Fisheries should be independent; and for this reason—they are, to a great extent, a judicial body; they go round different parts of the country, and they make by-laws, for one thing, which is largely a judicial business, and when any difficulties occur about close time, fixed engines, and other things of that sort, we always go to the Inspectors in order to get the matter adjudicated on; and, therefore, we consider that as the office partakes of judicial functions, we ought to have them independent, as far as possible—not mixed with other things, as I believe they sometimes are in the Department. I am not saying anything about any particular individual, I am only speaking on general principles.

6210b (Mr. Mickel).—Would you rather have a Fishery Board than the Fishery Inspectors being a branch of the Department?—Personally I would. I am a Conservator in England as well as here, in the West of England, and there we are practically a separate body. Though we are connected with the County Council. We belong to four counties, and this Board here also belongs to four counties, but we are practically independent there. In Scotland they are entirely independent.

6211. The Crown have it. The upper and lower proprietors appoint the Fishery Board.

6212 (Chairman).—What are your relations with the local authorities here—you are independent of them?—Perfectly independent.

6223. The Department took over the powers of the old Fishery Board under the Act of Parliament?—Yes, I belonged to this Board when the two things were not connected, but we are very much mixed up with certain things. We are mixed up, for example, with the Congested Districts Board, and I could give cases where the thing has acted prejudicially to us.

6224. (Mr. Michel).—You mean salmon fishing in the sea?—Yes. There is nothing of that kind in England. We belong there to the Home Department; we have no Congested Districts there. The Congested Districts Board sometimes looks more after the fishermen than after the fish. There is sometimes a tendency, as we think, to sacrifice the welfare of the poor fishermen by promoting or defending injurious modes of fishing.

6225. (Chairman).—Have you any definite suggestion to make as to an alteration in the administration of the fisheries, bearing upon our inquiry?—There are one or two suggestions I would make. The first is with regard to the Advisory Board of the Fisheries. I have a list of the Advisory Board; they are eminently respectable men; but I don't know really—I should be sorry to take the opinion of many of them on a matter of fisheries—I don't think they are calculated to advise on or promote the progress of fisheries—they don't know the business. I have nothing to say against them personally, but I should say, if you do appoint an Advisory Committee, you should appoint a Committee that is competent to advise.

6226. (Mr. Michel).—That has knowledge?—Yes. I have no objection that way myself; but you would find competent men, to some extent, among Boards of Conservators, and you would find them among great fishery proprietors; all these men are brought up to the thing. But the gentlemen mentioned here cannot possibly know about it.

6227. (Chairman).—You would suggest rather a different personnel for the Advisory Board?—I should like to make the fisheries as independent as possible. I simply go to the ground of competency throughout. I want competent men to be our Fishery Board.

6228. A great part of the salmon fishing is in the congested districts?—On the West of Ireland.

6229. Has the Department of Agriculture anything to do with these fisheries?—I believe they have; we come in contact with them sometimes in the matter of the fishermen. The Congested Districts Board help the fishermen. The Board of Conservators in Connemara had a case with them about trammel nets; we consider those to be very questionable nets in fisheries; we believe that the Congested Districts Board have tried to relax the law and extend the use of these trammel nets, and the Conservators don't like it.

6230. I was upon the question whether any difficulty arose at all as to the division of territory, so to speak, between the Congested Districts Board and the Department of Agriculture?—I believe the Board of Agriculture is supposed to be supreme from the fishery point of view.

6231. They took over the powers of the inspectors of fisheries whatever they were?—Yes; in this case a question arose as to the advisability of using trammel nets. The inspectors came down to make a by-law on the subject. There is another point as regards protection; we think it is desirable that the coastguards should help us; I have heard that it is probable they will; we have our signs to keep up in the sea as well as in the rivers; the coastguards might help in that matter as well as the police. There was one other point, on the question of funds; I am going to speak about one matter, taking a precedent that exists in England. In Lough Corrib we used to have what was called cross-line fishing, and each cross-line used to pay the Conservators £2; it sometimes amounted to £40 a year. The cross-lines have been abolished, and the lough has been thrown open to the trout fishers; they come from all parts, and according to the Irish law they pay nothing whatever. The Conservators have been obliged, so to speak, of their funds. In England under the Freshwater Fisheries Act you must have a licence for trout. If we could command that to your consideration, it might be possible to have it extended here.

6232. (Mr. Brown).—For fishing on the Lough or river?—Anywhere. We have a licence for sea-trout, a grilse licence, but for fishing for ordinary brown trout there is no licence whatever.

6233. (Chairman).—As a fisherman I don't know that I should have so much sympathy with that?—

These cross-lines had to pay for their licence, and it is so in England with rods.

6234. I don't think either in England or Scotland?—They do in our Board, at any rate, the Board I belong to in the West of England, the Parrett, Aron, and Brice.

6235. The only question is as to the functions of the Department of Agriculture. It is one of the duties cast upon them by the Act, and I don't know whether you have anything to suggest beyond what you have said to-day, as to any change or alteration that you think ought to be made in the law in the matter?—That is the only alteration I should suggest to make the inspectors independent as far as possible.

6236. You don't wish County Councils to be brought in?—No; they pay nothing towards the fisheries, and they are not elected for that purpose. Their facilities are not in that direction. I have nothing to say against County Councils, but they have a different class of functions.

6237. (Mr. Michel).—You have an objection to trammel nets in the sea. I did not quite understand your reason for objecting to?—They are a class of nets of a destructive character. They not only catch fish, but obstruct.

6238. They are not fixed nets that you refer to?—Yes, fixed nets.

6239. Then you don't object to drift nets in the sea?—We do, very much.

6240. (Chairman).—You object to catching salmon in the deep sea?—We object to drift nets.

6241. (Mr. Michel).—What are the grounds of your objection, the sea being open fishing?—It is more the question of obstruction, and these drift nets have been made illegal in Scotland. A great law suit went on in Scotland for some time, and it went to the House of Lords.

6242. The Fishery Law is quite different in Scotland from Ireland?—Well, that is the question. The drift net is illegal in Scotland, and the question has not been tried out in Ireland.

6243. There are hundreds of men who earn their living now in Donegal, and some on this coast, by catching salmon in the open sea?—It is quite a new thing. It has not grown up in the country. It is introduced from without—Bellinghame chiefly. I should like to submit this resolution of the Galway Board of Conservators to you about the drift nets. There was a very important trial that went to the House of Lords, and they unanimously declared drift nets to be fixed nets and illegal, and they are abolished in Scotch waters.—"That these drift or harg nets are a self-acting or automatic mechanism, stationary in slack water, and wholly different from the hand-controlled and continuous movement of ordinary drift netting. In Scotland, in consequence of these qualities and their consequent obstructive operations to the passage of fish, they have been decided by the House of Lords in the case of Duke of Atholl v. Glover Incorporation of Perth, May 30th, 1900, to be 'fixed engines' and illegal, and it is submitted that if these automatic mechanisms—literally floating fish traps, 'fixed for a time'—are injurious to the free passage of fish up the rivers in Scotland they are equally injurious to the free passage of fish up the rivers in Ireland."

6244. Does this refer to stake nets?—No; to drift nets.

6245. (Chairman).—There is no decision at present that drift nets are illegal in Ireland?—No; the question is sub judice—it is under inquiry. I went up to Perth myself about this matter.

6246. You could not prevent the fish going up the Tay by catching them in the deep sea?—These nets were all up the Tay.

6247. I thought drift nets were nets which in one sense were fixed, that is, left stationary in deep water?—Yes, that is the case. There are some parts where they have stake nets, but they have been abolished here on the coast of Galway.

6248. (Mr. Michel).—They have them still on the Shannon?—Yes.

6249. (Chairman).—But the drift net you spoke of, was for deep-sea fishing?—They go out a certain way in the estuary; they may go out into the deep sea; I don't think that would do harm in the deep sea, but when they are brought up to within half a mile of the mouth of a river they would.

6250. (Mr. Michel).—I have a vague impression that

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July 1, 1895. they are not allowed to fish within three miles of the mouth of a river.—They come up within half a mile in Galway.

Mr. T. G. F. Halton, C.B., 6241. (Chairman).—I was thinking of catching

salmon in the open sea?—Yes, but they come up within half a mile of the mouth of the river; there has been an inquiry in the North of Ireland about the matter.

Mr. J. Galvin,

Mr. JOHN GALVIN continued.

6242. (Chairman).—You are Chairman of the Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for the County Roscommon?—Yes, since its formation.

6243. You wish to give evidence about the relations of the Department with the Committee?—Yes. Perhaps I may say that we have put in operation all the schemes of the Department, both those under Agriculture and those under Technical Instruction that we thought at all applicable to the county, and I must say they all seem to be going on very smoothly and successfully. Before I come to any details which the Committee may wish to ask me about, I think I ought to say at once that during all the time of the working of our Committee, nearly six years, the relations with the Department have been most satisfactory and pleasing. Of course occasionally little difficulties arise, but they were always adjusted easily enough; they met us, and we met them, and on the whole, no single case of friction or conflict of any kind has occurred between the Department and my Committee.

6244. Just give us the principal points you think of importance?—Our live stock schemes are all running very successfully; we have to the full extent of our resources obtained as many thoroughbred bulls as we could afford in the county.

6245. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you know the number you have?—Twenty, and we have twenty-four bays, and we are giving this year ninety-three nominations to mares; and I think the number of mares that presented themselves for these nominations would be about four times that number.

6246. (Mr. Brown).—Were you able to fill up all your premiums for bulls?—Yes, in every case, and we could fill up a great many more if our means permitted us. We had considerable difficulty as to the respective claims of men who came asking for premiums for bulls which we could not afford.

6247. Were all able to procure bulls?—Yes, all that were selected.

6248. (Chairman).—Is that scheme working satisfactorily?—Very satisfactorily. We have had no complaints at all about it. Indeed, say only complaints are from districts where we find it impossible to give premiums through the limitations of our funds.

6249. You would wish to see it extended?—Yes, it would be a great advantage. Our difficulty is what we are to do with the great bulk of the county which we are unable to touch. In Roscommon there would be about 2,000 townlands; some of these have very little houses, but in order to touch anything like 2,000 townlands our funds do not enable us to go at all as far as we desire, or as the county is anxious we should go—that is really our great trouble.

6250. How much does your *live stock* realise?—£1,257. This year, for the first time, we raised a penny rate, before that it was a halfpenny rate, and for two or three years we lived on our accumulated fund from the first years, when the work was going slowly. Our agricultural schemes ran into debt to the unexpended balance of our technical instruction schemes, and this year the County Council unanimously agreed to raise an additional halfpenny rate, that gives us £1,257.

6251. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you notice any improvement in the live stock since you commenced to carry on this work?—Yes; still I should be bound to say that the improvement is by no means as extensive as we wish, that is to say, very large portions of the county seem to be very little affected. But there is no doubt that there is a visible improvement.

6252. Supposing you had those schemes working all over your county, what do you think the effect of that would be?—I think the effect would be very great, indeed.

6253. You think the cattle, for instance, would improve in quality?—I think the live stock would enormously improve. I take one item—pigs—and already we have practically transformed the entire of the breed of pigs, which is a very considerable item in Roscommon; we have twenty-four bays, and the effect of the introduction of better blood has been to transform the whole pig breed of Roscommon; I have

heard it estimated by a very extensive pig-buyer that the effect of our scheme has been to increase the value of the Roscommon pigs by at least £10,000 a year, although that is not by any means the most extensive item of our expenditure. Of course I have no means of guaranteeing that. Our better scheme is very successful, and from various parts of the county reports have come to us stating that the latter has improved, that the price of butter has increased, and we regret that we cannot supply as many instructions in butter-making as we desire, or, certainly, as the county desires. We have twenty-one egg stations working very well. This year we distributed 10,000 eggs of approved breeds. Last year the number was 25,000. A good deal of distrust is still felt throughout the county as to the improved breeds, but still the fact remains that 25,000 eggs have been distributed and paid for, and no doubt the effect will soon be shown.

6254. That distrust will pass away as soon as they have experience?—We have one instruction who is engaged in teaching people to trim and clean fowls, as she has practically completed her work in connection with the egg station.

6255. You have not any experience of the pen-hatching poultry farms?—No, we have not tried it in Roscommon; you are aware of the nature of our stations; for each station one person is selected whom our instructors think is suitable for the purpose, and one particular breed of fowl is given; a certain number of male and a certain number of female birds are sold to the person selected for the premium at nominal price. We receive an undertaking from that person that to other breed of fowl will under any circumstances be permitted to have approach to them, and the holder of the fowls contracts to supply a certain number of settings to the public at a nominal price.

6256. That is in order to get the premium?—Yes.

6257. They are not allowed to have it unless they do dispose of a certain number of eggs?—In every case for four years all those appointed have complied with that condition and supplied the necessary number.

6258. (Chairman).—Has that increased from year to year?—Yes; I think the number of stations was the same last year as this year, but there has been, of course, an increase. The first year we had not so many; we have a very energetic instructor. We have turkey stations, also; I think fourteen, and I have not noticed any very apparent improvement, but of course it is difficult to see the improvement.

6259. (Mr. Brown).—But in poultry is there any improvement?—There is, distinctly.

6260. What breeds are favoured most?—Duck (Duckings) and Black Minorcas; it is entirely an egg country; and a very large proportion of the people of Roscommon subsist mainly on the profit of the fowls.

6261. (Mr. Dryden).—Are there any goose produced?—Yes, mostly for rainers' use.

6262. Does the poultry scheme take in the improvement of geese?—Yes, but only to an inconsiderable extent; it is not much of a business.

6263. (Chairman).—Roscommon is chiefly a grass country?—Yes, but we are doing everything we can to remove that charge against us; I think it is one of the great miseries of Roscommon.

6264. (Mr. Dryden).—Everybody seems to be doing a great deal except the man that is on the land?—Roscommon is in a disgraceful condition in regard to the extent of its grazing tracts. I think there is no other county in which there is so much very good land left by the side with very bad land; and for the most part the people have to live on the bad land, often in bog villages with four or five acres for a family. In fifty years the number of families has decreased from 45,000 to 21,000, and I think it is this dreadful falling off in the population and the evidence of rapid decay which makes our committee work with special zeal to improve the condition of the people. We feel we cannot afford to wait for a single day.

6265. (Mr. Brown).—Have you an instructor in agriculture?—Yes, a very successful one; he has twenty-one demonstration plots conspicuously placed, and he has given in twenty-five centres seventy-five lectures since he was appointed. We have no horticultural scheme in operation because of the difficulty of obtaining a competent man; we had one for a year, and the scheme was very popular, but he thought it better to move to another county. We have allocated money for the purpose, and hope soon to have another instructor.

6266. (Chairman).—Do you do much in dairying?—It is not much of a dairy county; in the north there are some dairies, but in the main it is a stock county. With reference to technical instruction there, also, the work seems to be going very satisfactorily indeed; we have two domestic economy instructresses, and their schools are exceedingly well attended. I may say for myself that the work done by these itinerant instructors' lectures did not seem very valuable, because it is hardly apt to remain in the mind, but, at all events, it has become increasingly popular; and this year we invited from various parts of the county applications for a course of instruction in the following year. There are in existence twenty-four independent local committees created at our invitation, and every one of the twenty-four has sent in an application for a domestic economy instructress, and also for instruction in wood-work. We have a wood-work instructor who is very capable, but it will take him perhaps forty years to go over the entire county; every parish asks for him.

6267. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you had any friction with the Department?—None whatever; I am really amazed at what I heard here to-day, and at the impression that seems to exist in the minds of the gentlemen who pass evidence. I don't think I heard any facts which go to justify that extraordinary warmth of feeling. I may say for myself and my Committee that we have had absolutely no friction at all; we have had frequent interchanges of view, but we had no trouble in having these views adjusted. And in relation to the preparation of this scheme, it may interest the Committee if I tell them in what way our schemes are prepared. I take the agricultural scheme, which I think I heard described here to-day as the worst of the two. Our agricultural scheme for this year and also last year, and, as well as I can call to mind, the preceding year, was prepared in this way: a representative of the Department came to Roscommon and spent a good part of a day with myself and the Secretary, and in two of the cases, I think, with some of the other members of the Committee who had a special interest in the work, and we went carefully over the preceding year's schemes; we made suggestions, we heard suggestions, we reasoned where we thought our views ought to prevail, and the representative took back, I assume, our views to the Department; in every case that I can call to mind these views, which were in no case, I think, very extraordinary, all seemed to be incorporated in the new scheme; and then the whole scheme was read to the Committee, and I always took occasion to dwell on anything in which any departure from last year's scheme was made, with the result that again some alterations were suggested and put into the scheme, and it was then sent back to the Department for sanction, which, I think, was always given.

6268. (Mr. Dryden).—I had the privilege of seeing some of those suggestions in the Department: they keep a book in which they are all recorded, so there is no difficulty in coming to the exact truth of the matter!—Every year is preparing the general scheme they ask us for as expression of opinion as to what alteration, if any, we would suggest in the general scheme for the county, and I think in recent years the reply has been, "Well, we are getting on very well"; and I think we have sent to these inquiries for the last two years no reply. The first two or three years we did make some suggestions, and one was an expression of opinion that donkeys ought to be treated, as they form a large amount of the live stock in Roscommon; and I assume some importance was attached to our advice, because we now have nine donkey stations in the county. Our county is in the singular position of possessing no urban centres at all, and we have no Technical School; we have two Convents as permanent centres to which we pay in respect of eighty girls.

6269. (Mr. Brown).—Is that on the Capitation system?—Yes, and we have had no difficulty in regard to the 240 hours' system. I asked the Rev. Mother of Roscommon Mary Convent, who is a particularly keen educationalist, and she said they made no objection to that. We have given scholarships to five boys, and we have had just within the last couple of days fifty boys under examination for these additional scholarships. I have no doubt we shall be able to place eleven boys in Intermediate Schools.

6270. Would you tell us what the Capitation Grant earned by the Convents came to?—I rather think it was £8 per head. No other Convent school, I think has offered to comply with the conditions of our scheme. Now, with regard to our appointments, we have a large number of officers both in agriculture and technical instruction; we have always appointed them ourselves, without in a single instance any interference on the part of the Department, and we have at once received sanction for these appointments without any difficulty that I know of, so that in regard to our appointments we have had no trouble with the Department except in regard to two market instructresses. At this moment we are—I should perhaps hardly say at loggerheads with the Department—but we are in correspondence with the Department in reference to the appointment of four croquet instructresses; we appointed four croquet instructresses some months ago. As a matter of fact, when our annual scheme was prepared some time previously, we only included two, because we had no money for any more; those two are being paid out of the unexpended balance of previous years, and the whole of our accumulated funds will only enable us to keep two croquet instructresses for two years, after which they must cease, unless, as I most earnestly hope, our funds are increased; but when the question arose as to the appointment, so much feeling was aroused among members of the Committee as to the inability of getting instructors in their particular districts, that it was proposed and passed that four instructresses should be appointed. The Department have only seen their way to sanction two, and some complaint was made at a meeting of our Committee two or three days ago as to the fact that the Department have not sanctioned the other two or intimated whether they approve of the work submitted by them. That is the only incident in which I can call to mind that we have had any trouble which has not been settled by the Department. In another case our Committee was very anxious to improve or remodel an existing structure in Roscommon, a disused church, and we included some money in our scheme for that purpose; the Department refused to sanction that expenditure, and this was one of the cases in which we agreed with them, because they pointed out they could not expend money on a building the lease of which we could not obtain. We assented to this view. I ought to say that a good deal of the pleasantness of our relations with the Department is due to the fact that a representative of the agricultural section of the Department has always been present at our meetings, so that if any question arose in which there was likely to be any conflict, it was discussed at once before it went any further, and thereby we were saved a great deal of trouble and a great deal of delay. Now, I think as far as the County Roscommon is concerned, I ought to say again that unless we receive larger funds we must hitherto do much less than we are doing; not only must we stop where we are, but we must also do a great many of our schemes, because up to now we have been living, and are living now, partly on the unexpended balance, and I think it would be safe to say that the popularity of our scheme, as well as the chances of its multiplication or increase, will be greatly injured if we are not in some way able to obtain larger sums. I don't know enough of the finances of the Department to complain of the fact that in regard to technical education the whole of the funds which are given to Roscommon are £450 a year; I don't know how much of the £25,000 is necessarily used for purposes outside county purposes, but I venture to suggest that £450 is a small sum for a county the size of Roscommon, but even if they give us as much again, it would go a very short way in enabling us to do as much for our schemes as I think we can do. Now, in regard to the Council of Agriculture, of which I am a member, and by which I have been delegated to offer evidence at this inquiry, if it is the desire of the Committee I shall submit what are my

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views in regard to the Council of Agriculture. I may say that regarding the relations between the Council and the Department, so far as I have an opportunity of seeing, for the last three or four years during which I have had the honour of membership, they seem to have been perfectly smooth, but I must say, and in this I am speaking altogether for myself, because I have had no opportunity of speaking on this subject with any of my fellow-delegates or members of the Council, I have always found and still think that the powers of the Council of Agriculture are not such as would induce men to go to much trouble in thinking out schemes or formulating improvements in schemes which they have no power to enforce. Excepting the power of electing a portion of the Board the work of the Council of Agriculture is of somewhat slight value. That is merely my opinion. If I were asked to suggest any way in which the power could be increased, I am afraid I should have very great difficulty in doing so, but it does seem to me that the power is not sufficiently defined, nor such as to induce men to give that time and labour to the consideration of the whole question which its importance demands.

6271. (Chairman).—The attendance are very fair?—They are.

6272. They are to meet now twice a year; of course there are a good many points of interest, and a number of experienced people meet together and discuss matters.—There are not very much opportunities of discussing matters, because while the meeting is going on men are speaking, and the speaking is almost invariably done by the same people, and they are not very many.

6273. (Mr. Brown).—Has not everybody an equal opportunity of speaking?—I don't want to place any great importance on this matter, because great fairness is shown to those who wish to speak.

6274. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say as to some members being elected and others nominated?—The Board is more or less a check on the Department, and to some extent the Council in its election of the Board is in the same position. I should be glad to see both Board and Council wholly elected. I think it would be desirable if a scheme could be devised that some minority representation should be given on both, but I think it would be desirable that both would be entirely elected, and it would create greater public confidence in the county, without which our work is short of half its value. I am expressing my own views.

6275. (Mr. Micks).—You have not told us anything about your own special branch, forestry and trees?—No; except to say that we have no forestry scheme in Roscommon at present, and no horticultural scheme, because we have no horticultural instructor, and without him our Committee feel we could do very little indeed. Regarding the forestry scheme as a whole, I think that the schemes in operation in other counties where horticultural instructors are employed are generally valuable schemes.

6276. Can you tell us as regards the extent to which other counties are engaged in forestry operations?—My experience is that other counties are not engaged in forestry operations to any considerable extent. There are a few counties where it is being done in a small way, Waterford, for instance; Wexford, Cork,

King's County, and Mayo; and some other counties that I don't call to mind at present.

6277. Are you speaking now of fruit trees?—I am speaking of forest trees as distinguished from fruit trees.

6278. Has there been much demand for fruit trees?—The demand for fruit trees has greatly increased.

6279. In what counties is the demand showing itself?—Wherever an energetic and intelligent horticultural instructor is located there the demand for fruit trees is very greatly increased, and in some cases where no horticultural instructor is in existence, but lives in an adjoining county, the example of the adjoining county has set people planting. In Mayo the number of people who purchase a few forest trees as well as fruit trees is much increased. It is, no doubt, due to an energetic instructor.

6280. Shelter belts?—No; the order has been generally for small numbers.

6281. How many counties would you yourself be supplying?—I can hardly say at the moment. I dare say for four generations we have supplied more or less every county in Ireland and many counties in England. But the demand has largely increased for fruit trees.

6282. (Mr. Brown).—Is there any demand also for forest trees?—Yes; a demand for forest trees in a very small way is more general than it used to be, but I don't think that that has arisen so much from the working of the Department as from the fact that men have been given permanent tenure in their land. Wherever the land has been sold to tenants there has been for some three or four years a tendency to plant a few trees, and the great difficulty is that people want two or three dozen of trees; the price is not more than two pence or threepence, but the trouble in getting them by rail or getting them planted, or knowing what trees should be planted, is considerable, and in that way the horticultural instructor would be of use.

6283. Do you know how many counties have adopted the system of supplying forest trees at wholesale prices?—A good many of them have adopted the principle, though I don't think a great many have followed it up.

6284. It is very rapidly increasing in Kildare; we supplied 30,000 forest trees and six or seven thousand fruit trees?—Yes; in Cork they would not have planted half the number; Waterford, perhaps, between hedge plants, would have planted rather more than half that number. I am speaking of forest trees, but including hedge plants. I know Waterford has been ordering some direct for some people, and so also has the King's County, and perhaps a dozen other counties; it is making slow progress, but it is making progress. I think if land were available near schools in connection with the teaching of the County Horticultural Instructor, that would be most valuable, and the instruction could easily be given without interfering with his ordinary work.

6285. It might be carried out by the school teacher under the direction of the Horticultural Instructor?—I don't think so; I think it would be best carried out by a trained cultivator. I find the teaching of the man who knows the theory but not the practice has hardly any effect. The teacher has not his heart in the thing, and does not teach the pupils to be interested.

MR. MARTIN REDINGTON EXAMINED.

Mr. M.
Redington.

6286. (Chairman).—I think you are a representative of the City of Galway Technical Institute?—Yes; I speak on the same subject as Dr. Clarke. Our first point is the building grants; our present school is too small; there are about 232 pupils in it, and it is merely a dwellinghouse. There is one room, a closet, I call it, where about three people would fit, used for the instruction of modelling in clay. What should be done, in our opinion, is that there should be some grant given to enable us to borrow the money to build schools. For instance, we are paying a rent of £38 a year, and that, together with rates, taxes, &c., comes to £90 a year; if that sum were capitalised it would be able to get us a good school and not be hampered the way we are in a town like

Galway. The next point I want to bring under your notice is that persons with special qualifications might be admitted on the Committee. Dr. Clarke mentioned Professors of the Queen's College. I would take a different view of it, and say that successful working men should be on the Committee—men successful in business.

6287. The Council might put them on?—There were a lot of them on, but it seems they got knocked off; the Department gave some instructions to reduce the numbers.

6288. (Mr. Brown).—How many are there on the Committee?—About seventeen or eighteen. If there were a few of the working men on it they would be of great assistance. With regard to the classes for domestic

economy, the poorer classes don't attend, because what they are taught there are too high for them. They are taught how to cook very expensive dishes, and where will a poor person get the price of those dishes? It is all very well for persons who are going to teach it, or for chefs in restaurants or gentlemen's residences, but poor people should be taught plain, simple cooking.

5288. Is there any course of plain cooking?—There is, but they don't attend. The class that attend is not poor.

5289. Does it not rest with the Technical Committee to prescribe a course of that kind?—If it does, I think it should be done. The difficulty is not confined to Galway. It is very hard to get in people whether you give them a simple course or not; it is only by personal exertion it can be done. In connection with that I would say that in primary schools there should be classes started for that purpose; and the National Board of Education should, if they have not the funds, be supplied with funds for that purpose. Another complaint that has to be made is that where we get in young fellows they are not properly trained. They are not given any technical instruction in the primary schools. If there was something done in the primary schools, some kind of work to prepare them for this technical school, which I look upon as a second secondary school. The way it is carried out, you would want to be almost fit to go to the Queen's College beyond to be able to go through the schools. They have art classes and science classes, but there are no classes, I might say, for the working men, except for carpentry and joinery. We have a woollen industry in this town. We applied some time ago for leave to get a teacher; it was put on the minutes, and sent up to the Department. They replied that they would give a scholarship—they would not allow a teacher. They are pretty numerous, and it is a rising industry. What we wanted to get done was to have the boys and girls in that industry taught in such a way that they would become more proficient as workers and more intelligent, but the Department would merely grant a scholarship to send a boy away to some other place; what we wanted was a teacher to teach the subject in a special manner, and they did not grant it. But lately, after a long correspondence, it has been granted; at least they have allowed us to give £20 a year for a teacher. Then there is a hosiery business; it is new to the town, and they are trying to struggle through. The Committee said they would give £45 a year, provided the Department would give a grant of a similar sum, to get a teacher to teach a

fine class of hosiery. The Committee agreed to give the £45, but the Department refused. Whether they had power to give the money or not I don't know; but, anyway, it would be a help to the industry if they got it. I think, also, that local committees should have more power to define their own schemes. Of course the schemes are defined, but the Department say you must do this or that. I think the local committees ought to know what would suit their own places better, and they should be allowed greater scope than what they are. Another thing I would like to mention is the fishing industry. There is nothing at all being done for the fishing industry, which was once a great industry in Galway. There were thousands of pounds brought by it into Galway, but it is languishing now. Some Department should take it up, and try to help these people, because they are in a bad state. Where is the use of having a Department looking after the wants of the people if they don't do something for them? Where would be the use of having a Department in this country. The year the potato crop failed it was the Board of Guardians had to supply them with potatoes instead of the Department.

5290. (Mr. Mick).—How many boats have you in the Claddagh?—There were sixty or seventy. They are dwindling away by degrees. There are a lot of towlers in it. They are doing fairly well.

5291. Who are the men who are not doing well?—The poorer class.

5292. What not do they fish with?—The ordinary herring net. They have a small class of boat. They don't go out very far.

5293. They stay in the Bay?—They would have no business going outside with the small boats they have. Another point I would like to bring under your notice. In connection with the primary schools—there should be some law enacted that boys from primary schools would get scholarships in a day technical school, and then into factories or workshops, where they would be able to get instructed properly; because all the theory in the world is very little use without practice. Tell the managers of factories in this country: we must train them up in this country if you want to have our country successful; we must also train up young men, whose fathers have capital, in some industry or other. In place of that there is nothing done. They are sent off to a university—of course that is a very good thing in the way—but they would be more useful to the country if they were sent to learn some industry in this.

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Kilgallon.

MR. J. C. McDONOUGH EXAMINED.

5294. (Chairman).—You are Vice-Chairman of the Galway County Council?—Yes. I was nominated to give evidence from the General Council of the County Councils; I am also deputed by the City Technical Committee to give evidence. One of the first matters I would wish to put forward would be a return I have obtained, after a great deal of trouble, with regard to the allocation of funds by the Department, and I find we have a very special grievance with regard to the County Galway. We are very badly treated. I am sorry to say I cannot endorse the views put forward by my relative and friend, Mr. Galvin, with regard to the favoured County of Roscommon. The amount we get from the Department is £800 a year, and we raise 2504 of the rates. At the Technical Congress, in Limerick, last year, I brought up this question. An official of the Department was there, and I put to him this question of why it was Galway was getting so little, considering the amount of money we raised off the rates, and he said that in the beginning, after the Act was passed, the money was allocated, and there was no more money available. At first we were only getting £600; then they increased it to £800. I put him the question, and said, "Supposing we levied only a farthing in the £, which would amount to £877, would we still get the grant from the Department of £800?" He said "Yes." I thought that was a very strange thing, that we were so badly treated on account of our generosity. I may mention that outside Dublin, Cork or Belfast, this return will show that the County Galway raises more money for technical purposes than any other county in Ireland. We are a poor county; our rates are high, and we have done a good deal with regard to technical education. I think in a general way our technical instruction has been profitable. There was a great

loss owing to the action of the Department in reference to capital grants in the County, and a number of industries died out altogether—they would not adopt the capital grant. I brought up this matter at the Congress in Waterford, and could get no explanation from the officials of the Department with regard to the allocation of the money. This return (produced) we got from the different counties in Ireland, and all of them where schemes are in operation here copied, and the same given by the Department in proportion to what is raised off the rates varies very much, but, with one exception, Galway is the lowest. For every £1 raised in the County Galway we only get 12s. 9d. In the County Down they get £2 for every £1 they raise; in Londonderry they get £3; in Louth, the information supplied was so astonishing that our secretary put a query; they got £4 6s. 6d. for every £1 they raise. Meath, a westerly county, raised only £254, and they get £450, or £2 12s. Tipperary gets £2; Cork gets £2 1s. 8d.

Mr. J. C.
McDonough.

5295. (Mr. Brown).—Could you give me the figures for Kildare?—It set a lot of gentlemen thinking at the Congress. Everyone was looking after his own county. You get practically £1 for £1.

5296. (Mr. Draper).—Then Kildare has a grievance?—I am sure it will be ventilated, too. I am a member of the County Technical Committee since it came into operation, and I must say that we have had frequent troubles with the Department. The Department, to my mind, mostly interfere with committees with reference to the formulation of their schemes, and instead of being sympathisers they are dictators. In the district I represent in the County Council, I thought a very good industry that might be introduced would be lacemaking. The officials of the Department said the De-

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partment could not sanction the appointment of any more lace-makers—that it was a failure. In that same district, now, we have two teachers and two successful schools. The Department have come now to recognise that they are a success, and are anxious to encourage them; but in the beginning there would be no less class there if the Department had their way, but I am glad to say they were not allowed. This evening I am sending on to Limerick exhibits of lace for the Minister-Counsellor Exhibition, made at Ballygar in this county, where the Department said they had no chance of succeeding. I think the Department ought to interfere with local committees, and there should be some power and discretion given to local committees, who know the special requirements of their own localities. I think the time has come now when technical knowledge might be applied in a practical way towards the creation of wage-earning industries. There is no use educating our boys and girls to go to a foreign country to use their knowledge there. The Department have been very slow to encourage industries. I thought out the matter of making straw envelopes in the poorest districts of Connemara, where the people have nothing to do but look at the sky or rocks all day long. If you introduced five shillings a week into the house it would be a small fortune. The Department made inquiries in the Black Forest, the Rhine, and Belgium, and said there was no chance of our getting on unless we had machines. We asked them to give it a trial, but they said "No." We have been hammering at them, and will come at them again. We introduce this every time into the scheme, but the Department knock it out. We could easily get a market for them.

6202. (Mr. Meade).—Would you give me a copy of the draft scheme with that recommendation in it?—Mr. Fogarty can give it. With regard to the City Technical School, I think the matters dealt with there are too literary, not practical enough. I would like to see applied science for industrial purposes. In view of that I suggested that we might get an instructor in lace-making, considering it was so successful in the county, and I think that was dealt with in Dr. Clarke's evidence—he explained the Department said they had no money for it. It is quite necessary something should be done by legislation towards providing funds on easy means of repayment for building technical schools. That matter has been up at three Congresses of recent years, and recommendations made in that direction. The funds available for technical instruction are not nearly sufficient, or even the allocation of the annual

income. If more was applied to technical and less to agricultural purposes it would be better.

6203. (Mr. Brown).—Of the Department's income?—Yes. But as far as I know with regard to the sum of £10,000, which I understand is the annual grant of the Department for the encouragement of fisheries in our country, where much might be done, they have done nothing. The Department and the National Board have been largely arranging matters with regard to the teaching of technical subjects in primary schools. We passed a resolution about three years ago at our school asking them to allow our itinerant instructors to go into the schools, and we got a very favourable reply, but nothing has been done since. I understood a sum of £5,000 or £6,000 a year is annually granted, year after year, to the National Board for such purposes, and goes back automatically to the Treasury without being used. They neither do it themselves or allow the committees to do it.

6204. I suppose you know the National Board are bringing out a new scheme for this year, in which they are making provision for a certain amount of technical education?—It is quite time they should. I thought you might refer to the new programme of the Department, which was sprung on the Congress in Waterford without any opportunity of discussing it at all, though being said to pass an opinion on it.

6205. (Chairman).—It was the result of long negotiations with the Treasury, and the programme was explained at the Congress, which was not held because of the issue of the programme?—As a matter of fact, there was a Committee appointed to draw up suggestions.

6206. How this money was to be applied?—Yes, I think legislation should deal with the re-arrangement of the Department altogether. It is not sufficiently in sympathy with the people on account of its constitution.

6207. Supposing you were drawing the Act of Parliament, what would you put into it?—I would put a number of things into it that it would have no chance of passing the House of Lords. I think that question will be dealt with very fully by five of us, who have been nominated to give evidence on behalf of the General Council. Will that evidence be taken in Dublin?

(Chairman).—I am afraid that is premature now. We have plenty to do for the next fortnight. It will not be taken within that time at all events.

The Committee adjourned.

TWENTY-FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.—MONDAY, JULY 9TH, 1906.

At the Courthouse, Castlebar.

Present:—

SIR KENNEL DIGBY, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DAYDEN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MCKEE.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN.

Mr. JOHN J. TATLOE, C.B., Secretary.

Rev. BERNARD QUINN, C.C., examined.

6304. (Chairman).—You represent the County Mayo Technical Instruction Committee?—Yes.

6305. You are a member of it?—Yes.

6306. Then will you give us your evidence in your own way?—Yes, I would prefer to give it that way, which I have here jotted down. I believe it is absolutely necessary to have an Agricultural and Technical Department in Ireland, and the next thing I have to say is that the Technical Department, as at present constituted, is a failure. I wish to explain that.

6307. You apply that to the Technical Department only?—Well, principally the Technical Department, but I would apply it afterwards, in a certain sense, to the Agricultural Department. Science is very difficult in any new Department, but it is especially difficult in Ireland, where our education has been at such a low grade, and I say it is particularly difficult to make any Department in Ireland a success, when the whole system is radically and fundamentally wrong, and to me it seems almost impossible to make it a success in any particular portion, but I say, in the next place, that its failure is not due to the fact that it has not hard-working, industrious officials, because, so far as I have seen, they have been most industrious, and hard-working and courteous. It is not a failure either in the sense that it has not done some good, but the good that it has done is a minor good; for instance, domestic science classes, cooking, and laundry work have done some good, and so has the dairying, although at the dairying they have not begun at the proper place, they have not gone back far enough. The only thing they have done is teach how to make butter; they would require to begin with the cow itself, and teach the people how to keep the cow clean, and teach the proper feeding and general treatment. Then bee-keeping has done a job, as is shown by the Congested Districts Board work, and then the lectures that the most success have given are most excellent, and the most practical thing that I have seen. Except that we have got only just the name of them, we have not sufficient at all, not a sufficient number; and then, in the breeding of cattle, they have done a great deal too, or are doing, at the present time, because they are beginning to consult the wishes of the people, and they are looked after very well, and I think, after a few years, that will be a great success if it continues on. In horses they are doing something, but I am very sorry they are not consulting the interests of the people in some districts, and are sending in horses that don't suit the districts. In other districts they have consulted the people, and in one district, I am told, they have not consulted the people, and they have sent in a very inferior class of horse that the countrymen don't take any interest in.

6308. (Mr. Brown).—Do you know the breed?—I don't know the breed of the national horse, because I have not seen him, but I have consulted judges about it. That it is a failure does not arise either from the fact that the people are not desirous of availing themselves of any benefits—my experience in the people are most anxious to avail themselves of any benefits they possibly can—provided always that they have a reasonable foundation for having their hope of success on, but the people are so poor they cannot afford experiments themselves, and I might

also add here that the people, so far as I know, are not anxious to emigrate. I know a village where a lace class was started seven years ago, and one single girl did not emigrate out of that village since. I have tried to explain the sense in which it is not a failure as regards doing minor good, but the sense in which it is a failure is that it has brought no substantial benefits to the Irish people, and whatever benefits have come are more accidental and minor ones, merely touching on the verge of what would be a benefit to a country rich and populous, but not sufficient for a country like Ireland, wallowing in poverty, with a seemingly dying race. The Irish people are sadly disappointed with the Department. They expected it would not merely give technical instruction, but give it practical application. A Department that would follow up the idea which the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society had before it, and which it was trying to develop if it had funds, and I may add here that I thoroughly disagree with statements I saw made about the amount of money given by the Department to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, for I believe that money was well applied; that is my opinion.

6309. You think it was a wise thing?—Yes, because I think it has done any amount of good, and whatever little good the Department has done up to the present it would never have done only for the groundwork laid by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society; but for the fact that the country was organised by them, before the Department came into existence, the Department would never have got hold on the country, and the people that are trying to work the Department up would never have done so, except that they were organised under the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. They founded banks in one place they founded a bank, and at present have £1,500 to their credit, and 140 members. They were the means of establishing a fair in a certain place, and the people who formerly had no pigs have now three or four, and are able to sell their pigs every year.

6310. Was that before the rise of the Department?—Long before the Department came into existence.

6311. (Mr. McKee).—Is it Father Hagarty's parish where the bank is?—No, another parish, but there is one there. It is at Bangor Erris, Guala, where it is. No Department at the present time in Ireland is of any practical utility that does not turn itself to the re-peopling of the country, and as desperate eras require desperate remedies, no system of technical instruction that does not enable the youth of the country to live in Ireland and enable them to apply their technical instruction to Irish industries is of any utility to them, except to fit them for foreign lands, and consequently the Technical Department, in a certain sense, is one of the best and most effective, and useful emigration agents in the country because it is enabled at present to give instruction in technical branches, but it has no power to give an opportunity to the youth of the country to put that knowledge into practice in their own country, and therefore they must transfer themselves abroad. If you give technical instruction to young people, and they have no industries to apply that technical instruction to, what is the utility of it here for their own country? Of course it is a very good thing to

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send them out equipped to be a benefit to another country when they have to emigrate. Technical instruction, as applied to one, and only, existing Irish industry, Irish agriculture, is, at the present time, of very little use. Very little has been done. I referred to the breeding of horses before. Cattle are also improved. The ordinary country people are unacquainted with diseases of horses. You will see, at the present time, numbers of people breeding horses that are thoroughly ignorant, and the suggestion I would make, with regard to that, is that all untrained horses in the country should be done away with, and people should not be allowed to breed from unsound horses.

6312. You are speaking of horses—do you apply the same thing to bullocks?—They are practically the same in this country. As regards cows the Department is looking after them very well in that particular thing. They are thoroughly ignorant of the breeds of sheep, and don't know how to prepare their lambs for the early market. They don't have them early enough, and consequently can't send them to England until the season is practically over; they are unacquainted with the nature of soils, and the quality of manures that should be put into particular soils; they have no knowledge of trees.

6313. (Chairman).—As regards manures, the Department are taking a good deal of trouble, are they not, with the particular kinds of soils?—To a certain extent they are. I am not very much aware what they are doing, but the people have no knowledge, generally speaking. Of course you will get individuals here and there, who have always more knowledge than their neighbours, but, generally speaking, they have no knowledge of the land, and the proper manures to put into their lands.

6314. (Mr. Brown).—Have you an agricultural instructor?—We have no agricultural instructor in Mayo at the present time. We have had a horticultural instructor. They have no knowledge of trees, as a rule, either of forest trees or garden trees, and I think every farmer should be able to look after trees.

6315. (Chairman).—You are pointing out certain wants which, I assume, you think should be satisfied?—Yes.

6316. And it is the Department's business, you think, to supply information and instruction on these particular matters?—The things I am pointing out now are the wants as regards the agricultural portion of the technical instruction that should be given. They have no knowledge of trees. I am applying all I have said in the last statement to agriculture. If you develop the present system that the Department has, with regard to agriculture, they would be able to go on fairly well, but the principal thing I wish to draw attention to is technical instruction, as applied to industries, apart from agriculture, and this Department, according to their present power, fits people only for emigration, and it is a very good thing, in a country with an overflowing population, but certainly in a depopulated country like Ireland, a Department, according to the wishes and desires of the Irish people, is one that would, in the first place, train and educate that portion of its youth which is intended to live on the land to the requirements of that industry, and in the second place would train and instruct that other portion of the youth of Ireland which must turn itself to other industrial pursuits besides land, to those industries which are likely to take root in Ireland, and then, of course, it is a general principle that the youth of any country should be trained in a manner that would enable them to live in the country, and the suggestion I have as regards technical instruction, applied to industries, is this. I say you should set up a factory here and there, and have a school connected with it, have learners working in the factory during the day under skilled hands, let lectures be given to them in the evenings, also establish scholarships, so that unusually smart learners might be able to go abroad and learn the use of machinery, but I would undoubtedly object to scholarships being established except such as would teach a paying industry. At present there are scholarships that, I think, instead of training youths for industries, train them for professions, and I think that is a very wrong application of funds. In a country like Ireland industry must be started by giving aid; they must be fostered, and must be maintained. The best skilled workmen must be procured, and the whole thing kept going until the youth of

the country is drawn to industrial life, and our industries become a success, and may be handed over to the hands of those people who have plenty of capital, who are anxious to invest it in Ireland, but who cannot be expected to be philanthropists and put their money till they see a fair prospect of a dividend. In fact, my opinion is that people are not anxious to emigrate if they can get anything to do at home. What you require is, in my opinion, extension of powers and a large increase in the funds, and the only one thing I have to say is, with all due courtesy and respect, that I think seven-eighths of the Irish people are of the one way of thinking as to the establishment of industries, and that in that without the establishment of industries they have very little hope, and there will be no good done for us.

6317. If I understand your evidence aright, it is that technical education does not take a sufficiently practical turn, and you think it is of very little use giving the people instruction unless you give them also practical help by enabling them to become practical workers, to get industries set on foot?—Yes, that is my point.

6318. And that everything ought to tend towards the State encouragement of industries, up to a certain point, in the hope that they will be taken up and set on their own legs?—Yes, that is my further point.

6319. And you would have development on that scale, with factories here and there—what sort of factories would you suggest?—That would be for persons who have a knowledge of other countries, and who could say what was suitable for certain districts in Ireland.

6320. Take the case of industries which were already, more or less, established in Ireland—would you establish new industries of the same kind?—In some districts I would. You would require to get expert advice on that, I would not go into those things. I would start industries that would be suitable to the people of the locality, and that you would be able to get a market for.

6321. Would you be guided at all by the consideration that there were certain industries which had formerly flourished in Ireland, and which had been put on end to?—Any industry that flourished in the past, there is a probability of its flourishing in the future; the principal thing I would look to is the market, and then you would require to get young people suitable to work at that industry.

6322. You spoke a while ago of the lace industry?—So far as it has gone it is very good; whenever it has been started by the Congested Districts Board it has done very well. I knew one place where there are about sixty girls, and twelve out of the sixty can do a week, twenty earn 15s., and the lowest earn about 7s. 6d.

6323. You have considered the matter a good deal, and, looking forward, do you look hopefully to the future of that industry?—Do you think it will retain its market?—That is a question I could hardly be expected to answer; of course things come in and like everything else.

6324. As regards agriculture, you have indicated a good many matters to which the Department are devoting a great deal of attention?—They are, a fair amount of attention, but they are not taking local people sufficiently into their confidence. What they should do is to go to a district, find out the local practices there, take all that is good out of them and utilise it. What has been the misfortune in the past is that an official would come down. I am not talking now of the Department.

6325. No, you have spoken very highly of the officials?—They have done all they could, but they are bound up in a certain way that they could not do anything. In the past an official came down, scoffed at the people, and brought in a new theory that the people could not work, and it very often proved a failure.

6326. What case are you thinking of?—I would not like to particularise any particular case.

6327. But still it would enable one to form a better estimate?—I quite understand. Speaking generally it was really the custom in the past that local opinion was never elicited for at all, or taken into account. It was in the past a general occurrence as regards all officials in Ireland.

6328. I understand officials in Ireland are not very popular?—They are very popular when they take the

people into their confidence and show sympathy with the people, but then, when the official goes back to Dublin, he finds he is bound by a certain number of laws and finds he cannot do any good.

6329. We are assuming a case where the people are a little behindhand, and are not well informed about agricultural matters. Take an instance, such as the spraying of potatoes, and suppose that before anything was known about spraying potatoes, they had simply adopted local methods; would they have made much progress?—They were not very long—That shows how the commencement of the people came out—Did they adopt up-to-date methods.

6330. Take dairying, and butter-making. In my own case the other day I had to show a woman how to make butter by the aid of a book, and she said she could not do it!—People are availing themselves, in every district, of instruction in butter-making. The Congested Districts Board has done a great deal of good in the past. In the district of Erris, so famous for breeding polo ponies, it sent out some of the best ponies in the world, but the Department got the idea into their heads that it would be better to breed hackneys, and the result is that they have ruined the magnificent breed of ponies down there. They never take the local people into their confidence; the whole thing was worked on some idea that some other person gave them.

6331. You must first bring to bear expert knowledge.—That is my point; you must bring expert knowledge, but it must not override the experience of the local people. In every district you will find local people with prudent ideas.

6332. Supposing you have an inspector who understands his business, and does things in a sensible way, who comes into a district, finds out what has suited the district hitherto, and also brings his own knowledge, bringing those factors together you get the net result?—Yes, from an agricultural standpoint you will, but the principal thing I want to speak about is industries.

6333. I quite see that!—If you want to have the people remain at home, and re-populate Ireland, you must have industries in the country, and must start them by giving aid.

6334. I may put it in this way—you must have on a large scale State-aided industries!—Yes, for a time, until you get the growing population educated in these industries.

6335. (Mr. Meeks).—You belong to the diocese of Kildare?—Yes.

6336. There are a great many poor people in that diocese?—In certain districts there are.

6337. I mean if you go west of Ballinacorney. Is it your opinion that the real object of the Department, if they had the power according to law, should be to bring earnings into the people's houses?—Yes, and make their lives more happy, and give them sufficient to live upon in decency and comfort.

6338. Then your idea would be that of starting industries, either by help, guaranteeing some people to start them, or starting these themselves, and proceeding with industrial training and trade at the same time?—Yes.

6339. As in the lace schools, where wages and instruction went hand in hand?—Yes; you could not start industries without giving wages, at the same time, to the learners; they are too poor to exist if they have no earnings; it might be very small in the beginning.

6340. Small as the children may be, their time is of great value?—Yes, and they are too poor to remain without getting some wages.

6341. And if the law prohibits the Department from starting and aiding such industries, you think the law should be changed?—Yes, the Department ought to get a free hand in that direction if you want to have any substantial benefit.

6342. Not with any of these limits and a large round sum of money at their discretion?—Yes, in the present state of Ireland.

6343. (Mr. Brown).—Would you confine that to the congested districts only?—Not at all, take the towns. Take the town I come from, Ballina, you get poorer people there than in any other part of Ireland. I think it is almost to have Ireland divided up into congested districts and non-congested districts entirely. You get a congested district on one side of the river, and a non-congested district on the other side.

6344. Have you considered at all the amount of funds that a scheme of that kind would involve?—If I was starting a particular industry myself I would be able to tell you that.

6345. I mean taking the whole of Ireland?—I have not considered that question.

6346. And the demand that would naturally arise when one district received a grant and another district would want it?—Take them by degrees; when you made one district a success go on to another. I don't think a large sum would be required.

6347. (Mr. Meeks).—And even if it were a large sum, should it be forthcoming?—Yes, if we are going to keep the population of the country at all, otherwise you should turn it into a grazing ranch.

Mr. A. C. LARMOND, J.P., examined.

6348. I should say, sir, that I am not here as a deputed witness at all; I am here more as an *amicus curiae*, and if there were any deputed witnesses I should think it only right that they should be heard first. I shall speak generally on the question I really feel, that is agriculture, of which I know more than I know of technical questions.

6349. (Chairman).—I shall be very glad to hear you on that; I believe you managed Lord Luzzan's property?—Yes, and I do still. I have been connected with the County Mayo all my life, and have had, I suppose, as large an experience as any white man with regard to farming in this county, on a large and a small scale. I am dealing with the congested districts for the last forty years, so I have some slight qualification.

6350. Kindly take your own line!—As far as I understand, the inquiry is as to the reputed failure of the Department.

6351. Our inquiry is as to the methods of the Department, and whether they are suited to the people of Ireland, and whether any improvement, either in the Act or the methods of the Department, is required; that is principally our duty!—As far as my experience goes, the methods, generally speaking, of the Department are on the right lines.

6352. Are you speaking both of agriculture and technical instruction?—Yes, I think they are on fairly right lines, but they are subject to variations, according to the districts you are dealing with; and that is what I would respectfully suggest to the De-

partment, that they put themselves more constantly in touch with the local bodies in the carrying out of the various schemes which are adopted and suggested, either by the local bodies or the Department itself. I think as far as education is concerned, which I take to be the real function of the Department, in agricultural and technical matters, that they should give greater facilities for the youth, and that the youth, first of all, particularly in agriculture, should be instructed, from their childhood up, in the various matters that can be called into existence for the cultivation of their small holdings.

6353. How soon would you begin with the child?—I should begin the groundwork from about twelve years of age; I think every schoolmaster in the country should be able to give rudimentary instruction in agriculture.

6354. In the Department, you are aware, they have nothing to do with National Schools?—Although that may be so, I think the law might be changed. I think that the instructors sent down by the Department ought to apply themselves to instructing the teachers. You cannot come at the whole population by a few itinerant instructors.

6355. You think further powers are required?—Yes, I think those powers should be granted.

6356. In what form would you have that instruction; would you have boys do agricultural work at the National Schools?—I think so, as far as it could be—the rudiments of it, at any rate, as far as it could be done, outside practice. They ought to see a certain amount of the practical work around them.

July 9, 1896.

Rev. B. Brown,
Queen, &c.

Mr. A. C.
Larmond, J.P.

July 3, 1905. These boys live in the country, and I think it is only fair to say that the present system of agriculture as carried on by the small farmers in the West of Ireland is the worst possible.

Mr. A. C. Larmann, Esq.

6356. There is room for improvement!—There is room for an absolute revolution.

6357. Of course there is danger of beginning too young, and if you try to teach too much at that age they go to text books, and catalogues, and things of the sort?—Yes, I am quite against cramming.

6358. Still you think there should be more practical instruction?—Certainly.

6359. Would that take the form of school gardens?—That is a detail that might be worked in, but, after all, school gardening in a country like this, where there are such bad facilities for transit, and such distances from market, and ruinous expenditure in carting, would not be very useful, I think, except for producing for home consumption.

6360. It would give valuable knowledge and taste?—Yes; it would improve them; there is a great deal of improvement in that respect, in the surroundings of the various cottages, and I attribute that very much to the education given to the girls.

6361. Taking the next stage, what do you say to the form of instruction, or education, or whatever you may call it, by means of itinerant instructors?—That has been found very useful, but it is such a drop in the ocean, as it is administered at present, that it cannot reach the general body of small farmers. I would enormously increase the number of instructors wherever you can get them, and also, I think, nothing could be of greater advantage than object lessons in the way of cultivating small farms or plots, taking out one acre from one man for a certain crop this year, and another acre from another man, and doing that all over the country, for until the people realise an improvement in farming you cannot expect them to adopt it.

6362. I suppose the circumstances of this county, and the scattered nature of the population, does render it more difficult than in other parts of Ireland?—Undoubtedly it is scattered.

6363. (Mr. Micks).—How is itinerant instruction given now?—I am not quite sure how they administer it in the agricultural department. They give lectures in various school-houses.

6364. You think they don't stay long enough in a particular place?—They certainly don't; half-a-dozen lectures won't ground a man in agriculture; it is a most difficult science.

6365. (Chairman).—The increase in the number of agricultural instructors is limited, not only by the question of expense, but by finding people qualified to give it? Quite so, and one of the great objects of the Department should be to give instruction to local people, who can convey the instruction further.

6366. What do you say of the system of establishing, in certain parts of Ireland, training colleges, where people are trained, and who may become instructors?—I think it is admirable, but you cannot have colleges unless you have schools first, and what I call schools are small farms, here and there, working on the ordinary agricultural principles, on up-to-date principles, suitable to spade industry, which is the only system that will pay in this country.

6367. (Mr. Micks).—To get the rudiments in his own locality, and then he sent to one of the establishments to finish?—Yes.

6368. (Chairman).—They have schools with twenty or thirty pupils, and hope to make them up to fifty pupils, in some cases?—Those would be for rather superior classes of farms.

6369. Not only that, but those who come in give an undertaking that they intended to farm, themselves, and return to the land; all that is excellent education?—All we want is education.

6370. Do you approve of that method?—Certainly, I think it is admirable, but you are beginning at the top instead of at the bottom.

6371. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you seen the farm at Athenny?—No, I have not; I don't know whether it is really in working order or not; but that can only teach a few, and before those few are able to give the benefit of their instruction to the country at large the dilapidation may come.

6372. (Mr. Brown).—Must you not make provision for the training of such men as you speak of who will be capable of conveying instruction? Must you not do that before you can give instruction broadcast?—Of course that is so, and that is what I started by saying that you want to have more teaching.

6373. These higher colleges are for the purpose of providing for that want, and are providing for it. Quite so, and so far they are admirable.

6374. (Chairman).—I don't quite follow all you say when you say begin at the bottom instead of at the top, have not you the best chance by getting together a certain number of pupils and showing them the improved agricultural methods result in really improved products?—That is not so, it is such a slow process.

6375. (Mr. Dryden).—Are you sure that it is slow; is it not the quickest. Your idea is to get a boy of ten years old and train him, but that would take ten years to carry out. The way at Athenny is that they take a boy and give him a year's course, and then he goes out with the newest ideas relating to agriculture, and puts them in practice?—I thoroughly admitted that.

6376. Well, that only takes a year; the second year he is putting his knowledge into practice, and the people round about are looking on, and, as the Chairman says, if you scatter these people in various districts, would not that be the quickest way?—I quite approve of that, but what I want to come to is, we should give the people more object lessons, and that can be done, in the first instance, by itinerant instructors, who can go from small farm to small farm, as we have very successfully by the Computed District Board. You must show the people the advantage of improved farming, so that they may get the best, instead of the best, out of the land.

6377. (Mr. Brown).—That sort of thing is being done wherever there is an agricultural instructor appointed by the county?—Yes.

6378. I believe you have not been able to secure one in this county?—I believe there is not one.

6379. That can only be done by some one living in the county?—Quite so, and therefore I am very sure that the Agricultural Committee would, as the Technical Committee to which I belong have done, be very glad to employ instructors if they had certain tasks; it is all a question of pounds, shillings, and pence.

6380. The Department pay the whole salary of the agricultural instructor, so there is no question there?—Probably Mr. Higgins will be able to tell us what the difficulty was; I cannot speak at it now.

6381. (Chairman).—I think it is a great misfortune they have not one; but I don't think it altogether new to the Department?—Don't take me as advising, in the slightest degree, on the Department.

6382. Do you think there has been any improvement as regards the breeding of cattle?—A vast improvement.

6383. In this part of the country?—Oh, yes; it has been going on for the last thirty years, by the introduction of improved breeds of cattle more suitable to the county.

6384. Have you made yourself acquainted, generally, with the scheme which the Department have been advocating?—Roughly so.

6385. Do you think they are working on the right lines?—I do; but if they would put themselves in touch with the local Committees who are now thoroughly acquainted with the immediate wants, though don't take me as reflecting on the Department. Unfortunately, in this country, we are really all "against the Government." It is a great pity that members of the various Committees don't take more interest in these matters.

6386. Then as to the scheme about the breeding of pigs?—I don't really think there is much improvement required in that. The breeding of pigs has been absolutely revolutionised in this county; we have as good a breed of pigs as they have in any part of Ireland. The buyers come up from Limerick, and all the South of Ireland, to buy our pigs. There are some people who may, for the sake of a very little preliminary saving, sacrifice their future prospects by not getting

the best of animals. I quite agree with the gentleman who was here, before me, as regards the question of size of all sorts. There should be a restriction on them; every one ought to pass a medical examination, and be disqualified, if not suited to the country.

6387. That is an idea that everyone would agree with, if it was practical—I think by a greater number of prices being given, and premiums, to sire, horse particularly, in one way, and bulls certainly, and rams, I think the pigs might be left to the people of the country; they will take care of themselves. Then with regard to sheep, this country is adapted for various classes of sheep; there is no doubt that they improved very much in the black-faced, or horned sheep.

6388 (Mr. Micks).—It would be difficult to interfere with the existing ones, any way?—Knotting sires, except in the case of horses, would be only very temporary.

6389. If there were any possibility of legislation, do you think legislation ought to prevent people, in the future, from keeping animals as size, unless they get them certified by the Department?—I quite do.

6390. Do you think that would involve very much hardship?—I don't think any; I don't see where the hardship would come in at all.

6391. And such a plan, you think, would have a really good effect?—I think an absolutely good effect, without any qualification.

6392 (Chairman).—Now, is there anything else, before we leave the agricultural side?—I think there should be a very much greater number of local exhibitions, in the way of both agricultural and technical questions, because they could be very easily held together. We find that our local exhibitions, here, to which the Committee subscribe fairly liberally, are most advantageous, and successful, and I think a great thing is to encourage local effort. I am rather at variance with some of the views held with regard to subventions to industries. I think the great thing is to encourage local effort; if you have no local effort there will be no success.

6393 (Mr. Micks).—Have you had the local effort?—It nearly always exists, where it is reasonably and judiciously carried out.

6394. You are speaking of individual effort, as distinct from joint stock?—I think individual effort is the foundation of joint stock success.

6395. And have you, in your mind, individual efforts, rather than joint stock?—Certainly.

6396. If you had joint stock effort starting a place, with money put down, would you be disposed to give that very cordial and considerable assistance, if it did not interfere with any existing industry?—That is where the difficulty arises. Individuals have a perfect right to do their best to compete with everybody, but it is a question whether a Government Department has a right to do that, and there would be always that danger.

6397. What is your view on that?—I would encourage individual effort.

6398. And you would not go to the State?—I think it would be a dangerous experiment.

6399. Do you know that it has been tried, and succeeded abroad?—I have no doubt it does, if the State becomes a vast joint stock company; it should succeed then; why not. But whether the general benefit to the country is the same as if it was individual local effort, I doubt.

6400. You know there is a good deal of very low-level existence, in this country, without very much earning?—That is so.

6401. And the people, naturally, are leaving the country?—Unfortunately.

6402. Do you think that, in such cases as that, it would not be desirable to go, as far as you could, to provide employment for those who would remain?—Certainly I should go as far as one reasonably can, but there they would not be interfering, because they would be in a place where there were no existing industries, and it would be a very good thing to start there.

6403. Take Ballina, which the last witness spoke of; there there are a very large number of unemployed people?—I am not aware of the local question.

6404. Well, Westport; or I suppose you have a number of unemployed people in Castlebar?—I am thankful to say we have not a very large number.

6405. What industries have you?—We have practically no industries here, but there have been, for

years past, a great deal of public works, and a considerable amount of local effort, in the way of building houses.

6406. That would employ carpenters and masons only?—Yes; they import a great number.

6407. Do many of the children of small farmers leave the country in your own district—on the Lanes estate?—Well, yes, certainly a considerable percentage, but a great portion of the estate is now the property of the Congested Districts Board, and they have dealt with it.

6408. There is not sufficient land, at present, is there, for holdings for the young people?—There never will be.

6409. And therefore, if they are to stay in the country, they must be employed otherwise?—Quite so; any small industries that we started, by local effort here, have succeeded very well. There was a tweed industry started a few years ago by Lady Lonsborough on the large capital of £25.

6410. Is that near Castlebar?—It extends from Castlebar to Newport; home industry, spinning and weaving.

6411. Is the tweed finished, in any way, or sold unfinished; is it pressed and milled?—No; it is nearly all sold in England. The King wears a good deal of it. The turn-over now is nearly £1,000 a year.

6412. How many weavers?—I don't know; I think about half-a-dozen, in different parts of the country, and then the people card and spin in their own houses; we supply the wool.

6413. Do you supply it dyed, or is it dyed locally?—Every way; as a rule we supply the wool in its natural state, then it is spun by the women in the houses, and returned to us, and we send it to the weavers.

6414. You had instruction, I think, for that purpose?—I don't think so, or very little.

6415. They had at Lonsborough?—No, it is altogether individual effort. Then there was Lady Arzac started a very large knitting industry, and she told me one time that she had been placing orders for 400 dozen pair of stockings.

6416 (Chairman).—Suppose a State system were organised for industries, such as has been suggested by the witness who immediately preceded you, what effect, do you think, would that have on the energies of the people, and their desire to start industries for themselves?—If you train people to look to the State for aid of that kind, and in establishing and carrying on, commercial enterprises, what would be your opinion as to the effect which it would have on the tendency of the people to establish industries for themselves?—They say example is better than precept, and in that way, if it could bring about a change in the general habits of the people, with regard to these industries, it would be very advantageous, so far.

6417. You think it would bring about that change, or would there not be a tendency always to look to the State for aid rather than to individual effort?—You can look at it in both ways; it might have that effect to a certain extent, if it was overcome. All these things should be done very carefully, and cautiously. It is a very big question, affecting the whole of the country.

6418 (Mr. Micks).—Do you happen to know the amount of the turnover of the home industries you refer to?—It is about a £1,000 a year now; at a bazaar the other day they sold nearly £200 worth.

6419. How much of that would be profit, going into the pockets of the weavers, and spinners?—I could hardly say, probably about half.

6420. Could you get, if there is no objection, a balance sheet, or something like it, or a statement of receipts and expenditures, for the year?—Well, I might.

6421. What I really wanted to know was, was it an extensive industry that kept many families going, or whether it was comparatively small?—There are several tons of wool bought every year for it, and it is given out to the spinners, first, and then to the weavers. I have audited the accounts, myself, for two years. It is really on a small scale, when you come to look at it, but it shows what can be done by individual effort.

6422. Apart from those efforts, in this tweed home industry, and the Aran industry, has anything else been done, in West Mayo, so far as you know, in the

July 2, 1906. nature of industries, excluding lace?—Lace is very largely made.

Mr. A. C. LARSEN, J.P. 6423. But, excluding that, what I want to know really is, whether there is among the people themselves any capital, or are they exceedingly poor people, with no means at their disposal, towards an industry, except their labour?—I don't think the general run of small farmers could put much money in.

6424. Or start industries for themselves?—No; but I know these matters got up, under an organized society, appear to have been very successful, and by the small advances made, there has been effected a wonderful improvement in the appearance of the houses, and accommodation for stock, and things.

6425. These are the parish committee schemes started by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes. I think the funds are supplied by the Congested Districts Board, but I thought the scheme was one by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

6426. No, it is altogether the Congested Districts Board and parish committees. The Organisation Society does not come into that, except for banks?—Well, they are generally rather mixed up—the funds.

6427. On house improvements and houses for cattle?—That is done by the parish committees.

6428. (Chairman).—Have you any experience of the working of the banks?—No, not personally. I know there are one or two in this society.

Very Rev. DEAN CAMPBELL, Athlone, examined.

6429. (Chairman).—You are, I think, the Dean of Clonmacnoise?—Yes, and Rector of Athlone.

6430. You are appointed by the Athlone Technical Committee to give evidence before this Committee?—Yes, there were some points the Committee wished to put before the Commissioners. We don't find any fault with the Department in its action towards us. We have found them very helpful and considerate, and their agents have done a lot to help us to help ourselves. Some parts of the work, I think, have been very satisfactory. The work in connection with domestic economy has been very useful. We have had an excellent instructor, and we find that by causing her to circulate in different parts of the town and surroundings that the work has been very efficient, and we notice a great improvement in regard to many domestic matters in the neighbourhood as a consequence of that work.

6431. You are able to speak of that?—Yes, that I know.

6432. You mean that girls go back to their homes, with a certain amount of knowledge of cooking and other matters, to improve them?—Yes; and out of our instructresses' work there have arisen one or two cases where girls taught by her have been able to set up houses for providing provisions of a better quality which are paying their way on independent effort. They have been using the result of the cooking classes.

6433. (Mr. Mick).—Houses of entertainment?—Yes; and there are classes of cakes, and things of that sort there.

6434. (Chairman).—That is in the town of Athlone?—Yes; we don't go outside the borough boundary.

6435. Do the girls who attend these classes come from the town principally, or from outside?—Chiefly from the town, and the immediate outskirts of the town. It spreads out rather widely.

We have also a building industry, or rather a wood-work training class, which has not been as successful as we could have wished; but our difficulty there has been the difficulty of retaining boys in such a way as to have them really trained thoroughly in their work. Our Committee would have been glad if something could have been done by the Department. I am not sure whether they can do it or not, but if they could do something to enable us to make weekly payments to these boys, either by way of bursaries or something of that kind, so as to have them apprenticed, and give them a sufficient length of time to make them thoroughly efficient tradesmen, it would be of great advantage. The boys come to us for a certain time, and get a certain amount of knowledge.

6436. (Mr. Mick).—A certain dexterity?—Yes, a certain amount of knowledge; but their parents are poor, and are anxious for their work at home. In a week or so, a week to the parents of these boys is very important; and they keep them for a term or two with

6429. You regard them as useful?—It is very admirable. It is really a joint stock business, in which each man keeps his neighbour right. Three or four of them join together, and they are all security for the money advanced. With regard to technical instruction, I think the Department are very well informed of the views of all the committees in the whole of Ireland, because, judging by a Congress I had the honour of attending the other day in Waterford, it appears there is not very much difference. They had a very able representative there, Mr. Fletcher, of the Congress, and although there was a good deal of divergence of opinion, there was not, I am glad to say, a single division the whole three days, and never a vote called for. And, as I said before, we are generally inclined to go for any Department with which we are dealing, and to find fault with it.

6430. That Congress was representative of the whole of Ireland?—Very representative.

6431. The impression you get from that Congress, I understood you to say, was that the schemes were working well?—It was most gratifying to me. We had North, South, East and West all together there. They were very much the one way, although there were individual divergences of opinion. I believe in higher compromise than that we have differences of opinion.

us at our industry connected with wood-work, which is very well equipped now, and then take them away. Some of these boys have turned the knowledge they have gained from us into home industries, and are making some choice, and masters of that kind, which they are able to sell, and they are doing pretty well.

6440. Local sale?—Local sale; but we should prefer, and I think it would be beneficial, if we could, in some way, pay these boys. We put this before the Department, but they seem to be hampered by their own rules, or by law, from enabling us to do what we would like at doing—that is, giving the boys 2s. a week to lend them to us, and have them as apprentices.

6441. (Chairman).—Is that instruction given in the daytime or in the evening?—It is given both day and evening. Another of our difficulties has been that the children who are under instruction are themselves hardly qualified to take instruction as regards their general education. They are very young, often, and we should have been glad, if we could, to establish a trade school, if we could manage that, where we should have the boys more completely under our control, and better fitted to take advantage of the technical education than they are at present.

6442. (Mr. Mick).—When they are about fifteen years of age?—Quite so, up to that time.

6443. (Chairman).—What sort of instruction would be given in a trade school?—It would include drawing, mathematics, and arithmetic, and subjects of that kind.

6444. It would be generally useful, whatever trade they went to?—Quite so, but we find them not quite equal to taking any knowledge which is communicated to them, or might be communicated to them, if they were better trained. No part of our work thus difficulty does not arise in. There is a school belonging to the Incorporated Society.

6445. (Mr. Mick).—Banshight?—There we have the boys completely under control, and have a more advanced character of education.

6446. That, of course, is a very good intermediate school?—Yes, we lend our instructor to these boys for a certain number of hours a week, and we find that very useful.

6447. These would never be boys who would require to use their trade knowledge?—Oh, some of them go to trades. The big boys do not. They go to a higher school, and the universities and professions; but there are a number who would find it a great advantage to go back to their homes and become farmers.

6448. You do reach those boys?—Certainly we do; and we have very interesting information from the parents of these boys of the improved condition of the boys after they go home, after even this comparatively training.

6449. (Chairman).—Could you give us any information as to the number you have in your school?—It is that school there would be sixty boys. The others very very much. We have had close on thirty or forty in

winter time, but in summer time it is extremely hard to keep the boys, or even to keep the girls. These are work in the country that has to be done.

6450. What staff have you?—We have one highly-trained teacher for the wood-work, and we have a very highly qualified mistress in domestic economy, and we have a lady in connection with the Convent of St. Peter's who teaches her-work.

6451. (Mr. Michel).—That is the evening class?—That is the evening class; it is doing very well now.

6452. (Chairman).—Your domestic economy classes, you say, are satisfactory?—Very satisfactory; I think that is one of the most satisfactory parts of our work. Our committee would have liked, and thus they desired me to put before you, to establish a company of which the capital would be provided locally. If they were able to take over and lease the premises at present equipped and working as a technical school, and if they could utilize the present teacher, they would add another teacher for instructing and helping the boys who would be occupied under this company. I am not sure whether that could be legally done.

6453. (Mr. Michel).—That comes really to the question of a building fund, or a fund for the acquisition of buildings?—One of our committee, Mr. Smith, whom you know, who has a very large industry in woollens, which is most successful, employing a large number of hands, put £200 into our present buildings, so that they are well equipped as regards machinery and tools.

6454. (Chairman).—And are the buildings themselves sufficient?—We think our mistake was in not attempting a better thing when we were starting, and if we could have concentrated the work, and had a really good building, we could have done a great deal better. We have made mistakes, but I think after our present experience we could have attempted a much better thing, and it has been discussed, the possibility of improving our buildings, and concentrating our work more in our own premises.

6455. What would be the character of the company? It would be a strictly private company, with the capital supplied by the members of it, and added by the Department in the way I have suggested.

6456. (Mr. Brown).—What was the company to do—what business?—Wood-work. Our committee are very practical men, and they hardly appreciate, as much as I do perhaps, and so, perhaps, some of you do, more technical instruction, apart from an industry. They are most anxious to start an industry. There have been some very successful industries started in Ashleat, and they are anxious to see results.

6457. (Chairman).—Apart from any question of what the Department could do, what do you want them to do?—To lease the premises to us, or to this company, for a period, say, of five years.

6458. You want to acquire the premises?—It is a difficult question. What we would desire if we could, we should require the consent of the Town Council, of course, because the premises, strictly speaking, belong to them. That consent, I think, we could obtain if the Department could help us in this way, by agreeing to let us have these premises, and the equipment, say for five years, not with the view of taking away anything from the Department, but rather with a view to stability.

6459. How is the Department to get them—in the first instance acquire them from the Town Council?—The Town Council would consent to hand them over to us on a lease.

6460. Very well, the Town Council would hand them over to you on a lease—what is the Department to do?—We should ask the Department to assist us in leading their teacher to us, that they would not withdraw their present grant, but confine it to enable us to get the thing thoroughly well started.

6461. (Mr. Michel).—You want to turn your Technical Committee into a joint stock company?—Not wholly, we should only require the services of the teacher for certain hours of the day.

6462. Don't you say you largely wish to turn your Technical Committee into a joint stock company, or to give a joint stock company the right of using the buildings now used for technical instruction?—Quite so, that is the point.

6463. (Mr. Brown).—The company might be formed of members of the committee?—It would be; there are certain members of the committee who have capital at their disposal.

6464. (Chairman).—Do you want it by way of financial assistance, or to get better stability?—We

want it more as security for the performance of the work.

6465. And having a freer hand about a teacher?—Quite so, and also a thorough control over the work.

6466. (Mr. Michel).—Have you any reason to believe that the Department might think it a matter of objection that such a joint stock company should have the right of tenure in a technical instruction building?—I have in discussing the matter with Mr. Fletcher; he felt himself rather embarrassed, either by rule or law, as to their powers in the Department to do this, but the matter, I think, is very important, because, I have no doubt, we have excellent business men on the committee who have capital at their disposal, and would be disposed to use it in that way, and they think there is an opening for first-class furniture.

6467. (Chairman).—No doubt Mr. Fletcher will have an opportunity of repeating what you said to the committee, and will give his views on it?—He has given us every possible assistance, he has been very kind about the matter, and he has met us to a certain extent, but his proposal has not quite given the security, I am a nominated member of the committee; our chairman, Dean Kelly, is also a nominated member; nearly all the working members are also nominated members. The Council per se don't give us much help.

6468. How many members of the Council have you?—I think probably four, and perhaps an equal number nominated, but I don't stand by the figures. The work has really been done by the nominated members, Dean Kelly, myself, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Chapman, and one or two more of our energetic people. If the Town Council should change the mind any day, and this body were formed merely out of nominated members, and had any real control over the premises, next year some breath of change might come; you see the point.

6469. (Mr. Brown).—Besides, it would practically get an end to the technical school, and convert it into a business concern under the control of some gentlemen who might, or might not, be members of the committee?—Not necessarily. The suggestion we had at first was, and still is, to establish a really prosperous industry, and that the money now embarked in Ashleat, and employed by the Department, might be taken last year and employed for the same purpose where it is more needed. It would not really injure the technical school, it would help it by making our apprentices these pupils.

6470. (Mr. Michel).—Giving them wages?—Giving them wages, that is the critical point. You cannot secure the boys' regular attendance unless you pay them something.

6471. They take more interest in the wages than in the principles underlying the trade?—Well, I think they take more interest in them than in higher mathematics, at least not to put too fine a point on it.

6472. (Chairman).—This, I understood, is apart altogether from the technical school—are the buildings in different places?—It is the building in which the technical school is now in operation.

6473. You want to make this company independent of the technical school, and you say the technical school would not be affected by it?—It would be affected in this way, that they would supplement each other.

6474. (Mr. Michel).—You want to get exhibitions in a technical school?—

6475. (Mr. Brown).—Is it not possible to find elsewhere a building in which this technical industry could be carried on, to which you could bring the best boys for training?—If something cannot be done with the technical school to make it more efficient I rather despair of it as to its practical usefulness. You get up enthusiasm for a season or more, and have a fair attendance. Then the boys depart. They don't stay here and there, and they are not made really qualified persons as regards their technical education. The whole aim of this proposed company would be to make the thing really efficient, and it would be a great support to the technical school, and the technical school would be a support to it. It might be difficult to arrange, but I think it is not impossible, if they were not legally disqualified from this.

6476. I don't see why you could not have run your company in some other building, and let the school remain as it is?—It is not very easy to procure a building.

6477. (Mr. Michel).—That would be a great expenditure, of course?—A very heavy expenditure,

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probably £500, and the whole expenditure is a gift by one of our committee, practically; the buildings would not be there only for our committee. The Department endowment has helped, but the £500 is our £500, and the buildings are really the result of our contributions. I think indirectly the operation of this society, and also the other departments which are, more or less, allied to it, have been very useful to the whole neighbourhood.

6478. (Chairman).—Which other Department?—I don't know whether you are dealing with the Agricultural Department.

6479. Yes, we are dealing with the relations between that and the Department?—It has had a very beneficial effect, on the whole, in the neighbourhood. We have an egg industry which has been very successful. We founded, at first, lost our first capital, and replaced it, recovered our capital, and have been able to make a small profit since.

6480. That was established some time before the Department?—Yes, and out of that has grown an annual show of local produce work, chiefly by Mrs. Longworth, and Mr. Harold Smith, who is assisting her. This has had a great success, and is a great factor, and has been a great factor, in improving the quality of produce all round the neighbourhood.

6481. You don't desire to say anything else about the agricultural side of the question?—No; except that, so far as we know, it has been very useful to the neighbourhood.

6482. (Mr. Micks).—Your egg industry was started by the Agricultural Organisation Society?—Yes; it was started by Mr. Hannen, the organiser, and we have a very well equipped establishment, and that is still progressing. We were rather unfortunate in our first appointment of manager; he made a mess of it.

Mr. A. C.
Loraine, L.R.

6483. Mr. A. C. Loraine.—Would you allow me to supplement my remarks on one point that escaped me, and that is the absolute necessity of assistance from a building fund. Lord Lucas has granted a vote, here, for the building of a technical school which we hope to establish, but for want of funds we are absolutely at a standstill. The very energetic parish priest, here, is prepared to start it, and do everything

However, some of the Committee put our backs into it, and it is now flourishing, and we are able to replace the capital lost, and make profits on it also. There is another matter that, if it could be done, I think, would be useful, that is, if it were possible to apprentice a certain number of boys to existing trades. The difficulty of establishing these things is between the cost for equipment is so very heavy, and we could not attempt to set up, for instance, looms, or printing presses, in our present building, at all. It would be very expensive, and some members of the Committee are under the impression that if the Department could use the way to give certain boys, one or two boys, scholarships which would enable them to go, say, into the woollen factory which we have on the spot, and which is very successful, or into the printing establishment, of which we have also a very successful one, that that would be a very valuable help in the way of really training boys to attend, for a certain number of hours per day, and the rest of the day could be employed in our technical school. I think that is all I wish to say.

6483. Is any of your instruction so arranged as to have in view the employment given in the printing and weaving industries?—None, specially for printing and weaving; it is all general.

6484. You have no special trade classes?—No.

6485. They would be very useful, would they not; have you considered the question of starting night classes for these industries that are going badly at Athlone?—The Committee rather fails in what I have suggested, that we should try to forward the training of the boys by apprenticing them, or by giving scholarships, and so make them more efficient in these industries.

Mr. Patrick
Higgins.

I may mention that Mr. Loraine has expressed in an admirable way, most of my views.

6486. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Mayo County Council?—Yes, and of the Agricultural Committee. I may mention, at the outset, that Mr. Clarke, the Secretary of the County Council, was directed by the County Council to write a pamphlet, and he has written a pamphlet that, I may mention, is very expressive of their ideas. We have criticised the work of the Department here from time to time, and our great complaint is that they seem entirely ignorant of local feeling, and local opinion. Any suggestions put forward by the County Committee were, almost always, ignored by the Department.

6487. Just tell me one or two suggestions that were ignored by the Department?—With regard to the lettuce, I think the lettuce—

6488. Oh, will you answer my question; I asked you for one or two instances?—I will just give you an instance. We appointed an agricultural instructor for this county, and the Department would not sanction him.

6489. That was within their right, was it not?—Oh, certainly.

6490. When was that?—I think it was 1903.

(Mr. Clarke).—1902.

6491. (Chairman).—The Committee suggested an agricultural instructor, and the Department refused to sanction him?—Yes.

6492. On what ground?—Really, I don't altogether remember the grounds.

6493. That is an important thing, is it not, because if they have a right to do it, the question is whether they gave a proper ground or not?—If I remember right it appears to be was not up to the standard set by the Department at the time.

6494. Would not that be a good reason for refusing to sanction him?—Yes, it would; but at the same time, perhaps, his qualifications were better suited for this county.

Mr. Patrick Higgins continued.

possible for it, but for the one black, that there are no funds. That was a matter also considered by the Congress, and there was a very strong resolution passed, because it is impossible, from local sources, to get sufficient funds, in any small town, where there could be no possible repayment, or any interest paid on the loan, for building and equipping our technical schools.

6495. If you suggest a person that the Department think is not qualified, it is not only their right, but their duty, to say so?—I may say he got the same training that the instructor and instructor got.

6496. Well, the Department had the whip hand of you, that is what it comes to, is it not?—Yes; I may mention, also, that the same qualifications in an instructor and instructor don't suit all Ireland. An instructor might suit Cork, but the conditions here are quite different. Another instance I may mention; Mr. John Garvey, presently the Crown Solicitor, had a splendid breed of cattle, a breed that he went to a great deal of expense and trouble in getting up, and as he was getting out of farming, he wrote to the Department, and asked them to send down a man, and he would sell these bulls. They sent down a man, and he said they would not suit. Some time afterwards Mr. Garvey sold these bulls to some private gentlemen near Westport. Some months afterwards he was in Westport, and he saw these bulls passing through. He recognised them, and on inquiry found that they were purchased by the Department at double the price he sold them for.

6497. (Mr. Micks).—You are sure of that?—Quite sure; I had it from his own statement.

6498. (Chairman).—The same bulls?—The same bulls.

6499. What sort were they?—I think called Angus. 6500. The Department made a mistake, then, in not buying them at once?—Yes. Mr. Garvey sold them at half the price the Department paid for them afterwards. I may mention, with regard to the agricultural banks, that I agree with Father Quinn; they are working admirably in the country. In my district I am treasurer of a small bank, and people there get a loan of £5, £7, or £3.

6501. What district is that?—Castlebar; and it is lent to them from year to year, and they find it very useful.

6502. (Mr. Micks).—Short loans?—No, sir; it is lent a year. They need not be renewing their books

every three months, as they have to do this, with the National Bank and the Bank of Ireland. I know people who got the loans; they were very badly off, and are now improving.

5502. (Mr. Brown).—Is this co-operative?—Yes; the Ballyshannon Agricultural Bank. I think the Department ought to encourage this. I am also of opinion that itinerant lecturers should be more demonstrative than theoretical.

5503. You mean lectures with regard to the particular plot of ground, and the seeds, and the manures?—Yes.

5504. You can have that with an agricultural instruction.

5505. (Chairman).—You say you have not got an agricultural instructor?—No, we have not in this county. The poultry scheme did not work well in this county.

5506. (Mr. Micks).—Why did you not get another instructor, when that one was refused?—I don't remember the cause. We never have had one in this county. The poultry scheme was working here, as we considered, on wrong lines. In four years the poultry instructions received, in salaries, £1,150.

5507. (Chairman).—Travelling expenses are not a salary?—Well, she received that, in any case, and that money was gone.

5508. (Mr. Micks).—How much a year did she get?—Her salary was £120 a year.

5509. (Chairman).—That does not come to £1,150? (Mr. Clarke).—£120 a year, and £100 travelling expenses.

(Chairman).—That is £200—what is the harm in that?—If the money was spent in distributing eggs it would be more beneficial.

5510. (Mr. Brown).—Had you any egg-distributing stations?—We had; but some poor people had to pay very dearly for them.

5511. (Chairman).—You would rather have eggs than an instructor?—I think so; it would be more suitable.

5512. (Mr. Brown).—Would you not like to have both?—The countrywoman will tell you she is well able to care for her own home if she gets the proper breed.

5513. (Chairman).—Do you think, now, that a countrywoman known as much about chickens, and so on, as an instructor?—I really think it does not take very scientific information to manage hens, but, with regard to the improvement of live stock, I think the Department can do a great deal yet. They have done a great deal, but they have not arrived at anything like perfection yet. The conditions that are imposed are very hard, and the districts that require improvement have received least benefit, that is the congested districts, where the people are very poor. A poor man cannot afford to go on to Dublin and bring a judge with him to buy a bull.

5514. (Mr. Brown).—Doesn't the Department buy bulls for them?—Yes, but a man likes to have what will suit the locality.

5515. Could he not go to Ashenny, and look at them?—Ashenny is only established a very short time; then the conditions are so very hard. If the bulls were let cheaper I think it would be better for poor districts.

Mr. JOHN CLARKE, Secretary of the County Council, examined

5516. (Chairman).—You represent the Mayo County Council?—Yes, and I may say, at the outset, that the Council asked me to write a paper on the working of the Department's schemes in Mayo, and I think I can safely say that the paper is expressive of their views on the matter.

5517. Is this the paper I have got before me?—Yes. I have nothing to add or retract from that paper on the subject. Agricultural and technical instruction in Mayo is, and certainly has been, a failure.

5518. You were secretary at one time to the committee?—I was for about two years.

5519. When did you cease to be secretary?—In 1903.

5520. Do you wish to go through your paper?—There are portions of it, sir, that I would touch on.

5521. First of all, there are one or two things I should like to ask you about. You gave in some useful figures, you say, to March, 1902. There was a special rate of 1d. in the pound struck for the whole county?—Yes.

5516. (Chairman).—What have they to pay for a bull?—In the first instance a poor man has to lay down £12; that is £25 entirely.

5517. (Mr. Brown).—That would be a short-term?—Yes, and I should think that there should be some restrictions put upon the letting of a bull. Every man should not be allowed to have a bull, because it is the ruinous and the destruction of the country.

5518. (Chairman).—You mean that there should be some restriction on the bulls that are used?—Yes; no man, in my opinion, should be allowed to have a bull, unless he got a certificate that the bull was useful for the locality.

5519. From whom would he get the certificate?—Some veterinary surgeon or some qualified man.

5520. (Mr. Brown).—Would you not have to wait a little while, until there were a sufficient number of good bulls to supply the wants of the locality, before you put a law like that into operation, before you do away with some thousands, or tens of thousands of bulls, until the general standard has been raised, so that you could have sufficient left, after getting rid of the bad bulls?—You would require some time, but it would not take a very long time.

5521. (Mr. Micks).—Would you approve of a law that, in future, people should not be allowed to keep sires for service unless they were passed by a veterinary surgeon as suitable for breeding?—That is the idea I have before my mind.

5522. (Mr. Brown).—You really think that it would not cost a very big sum of money to carry that out; would you not think that, perhaps, if the money were available it would be better spent in getting in more good bulls, perhaps on better terms?—Yes, I should think on better terms; the terms presently are not encouraging to people in poor districts.

5523. (Mr. Micks).—Have you any veterinary officials from the Department living in this neighbourhood?—None.

5524. But there are qualified agricultural instructors going round who would be able to look into the question of breeding?—Yes.

5525. And give an opinion whether an animal should be kept at all?—That is the idea I have, that every man who would take it into his head to let a sire should not be allowed to do it unless he had a license.

5526. (Mr. Brown).—Would you prohibit him from using such a bull for his own stock?—I would.

5527. Then the bull should be got rid of altogether?—Yes, as a bull. Mr. Larmine touched on the question of pig-breeding. There is no doubt but the breed of pigs has vastly improved, and I think there is little room for further improvement. The middle York is a most suitable pig for this district. This is a great pig-breeding district. They turn them out in six or seven months, and the middle York would be very suitable.

5528. (Mr. Micks).—I believe most of the boars are good in this locality?—Yes, but the old breed of sows are not quite extinct yet.

5529. Would you approve supplying sows on easy terms?—Yes, I would.

5530. That raised a sum of £1,368?—Yes.

5531. Then the amount expended in the year was £146 1s. 4d.?—Yes.

5532. The poultry farms, amounting to £35 2s.; administration expenses £40 12s. 4d.; grants to Corcoran £22; then the Department's contribution in augmentation of that rate was £1,878; so that made your whole income for that year £3,125?—Yes.

5533. That left a sum of £2,968 expended on the 31st March, 1903?—Yes.

5534. Then you prepared a scheme, as I understand, on the 30th December, 1903, which you set out on the fourth page of your paper?—Yes.

5535. And you say that that was a scheme "in every way suitable to the requirements of a county like Mayo, which it was evident required special treatment, to usefully expend a portion of the balance to the committee's credit, but the Department refused" to accede to the wishes of the committee, giving no reason, but merely a curt refusal?—Have you got the

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correspondence of the Department?—I could produce it, but it would take some time.

6542. I should like to see it very much—I may say that down here we are very jealous of our intelligence, and did not appreciate a refusal of this kind.

6543. We are here inquiring into the methods of the Department, and you are making certain statements about these methods, and I should like to see the documents?—I shall have a search for them.

6544. We must see them before the end of the inquiry. That left, you say, a very large balance to your credit. Add anything if I take you too quickly through it. The amount raised for the second year, to March, 1905, was £1,248, but the amount expended only came to £751 6s 1d.—Yes.

6545. For the year ended March, 1904, the sum of £1,595 12s. 1d. was expended, and the amount raised for this year only came to £702. You say: "The reason of this was that for this and the subsequent year, ended March, 1905, the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction decided that a rate should be levied only over the non-congested portions of the county, and as practically half Mayo is congested, the amount raised for years ended March, 1904, and March, 1905, only totalled as £700 for each year." I want to ask a question about that. Why do you say that the Department of Agriculture decided as a matter of fact, you only raised a rate over the non-congested portions of the county?—Yes.

6546. At first you had no power to do that?—At first they raised no objection to having a rate struck for the whole county.

6547. No; but as the law stood in 1899 the rate had to be raised for the whole county?—For the whole county.

6548. Then there was a new Act of Parliament passed?—I don't know whether it was an Act of Parliament or an act of the Department itself.

6549. You were the Secretary of the Committee. I thought you would have known that?—They simply wrote down to say a rate could only be raised for the non-congested—that the Congested Districts Board would look after the interests of their own people.

6550. We shall see that letter, too, in the correspondence?—Probably you shall.

6551. Because I see I have a note here of what passed about that. I find that in 1902, in August, it was stated that the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, passed on the 23rd June, 1902, empowered County Councils to exempt congested electoral divisions from a rate raised for the purpose of agricultural and technical instruction. Now, I suppose your County Council acted on that, and exempted the congested districts from that rate?—I dare say that would be it.

6552. That was the committee of the County Council then, and not the Department?—The Department, I suppose, pointed out that rule to them.

6553. I dare say they did—it would be their duty to do so?—I don't find fault in my pamphlet with them for not levying it over the whole county.

6554. No, I don't say you do, I only want to get the fact accurately. Then it is stated in the minutes of the Board of Agriculture, dated 29th August, 1902, that the Congested Districts Board had decided, in future, that in any case where the County Council decided to raise a rate for the purposes of agricultural and technical instruction in congested districts, the Board (that is the Congested Districts Board) would not make "any equivalent contribution, but would devote their funds towards the carrying out of the scheme approved and initiated by themselves." You say there is no rate raised for the congested districts now, and the Congested Districts Board seem to have then decided that they would not contribute, that is to say, if a rate was raised they would not contribute?—Yes.

6555. Now turn to your scheme. This is the scheme which you complain that the Department would not sanction. I don't quite understand that scheme. Where did you get the second item? The first item shows the money you have on hand, the full value of the 1d. rate raised over congested districts, £242 1s. The first year we raised it over the whole of Mayo, and the people living in the congested areas got no benefit. We left this money to their credit.

6556. At that time the Department could not spend any of their endowment in the congested areas?—Yes.

6557. In 1902 they had power to exempt the congested districts from the rate?—Exactly.

6558. How did you get in this scheme, which is a scheme drawn up in 1902, I think—how did you get

that full value of the 1d. in the pound rate, raised to the congested districts?—That was the money raised the first year and not expended.

6559. Or is that the contribution from the Congested Districts Board?—The Congested Districts Board stated, in a letter, that they would give £1 5s. for every £1 raised, provided the Department approved of the scheme drawn up by us.

6560. That is £275 1s. 6d., that is the contribution that the Congested Districts Board promised.

6561. Then you had a sum in hand of £1,202 1s. 6d.?

Exactly.

6562. Then the scheme proceeds to show how that money should be expended?—How the committee thought it should be expended. They asked us to draw up a scheme and they approved of it.

6563. And the Department objected to it?—Refused it.

6564. We shall see the letter presently giving their reasons?—Yes, if I can possibly find it. I handed over the correspondence and other things when I gave up the secretariatship to the new secretary.

6565. (Mr. Brown).—I would like to ask you about that contribution of the Congested Districts Board. Are you quite sure, at the time this scheme was prepared, the Congested Districts Board had not altered their mind about contributing?—Quite sure. Their letter on the subject stated distinctly that they would give £1 5s.

6566. What was the date of that letter?—In 1902, before we prepared the scheme we had their letter.

6567. (Mr. Brown).—The letter of the Congested Districts Board would probably be early in 1903?—It would be before August.

6568. They found their funds were not equal to giving on that scale any longer, I suppose?—That was it.

6569. (Chairman).—You go on in your paper and you say, "It often happened that a scheme where lectures were delivered, or where the manual, tractor, or poultry instructions might be situated in a non-congested district just bordering on a congested district; so that, while the school might come within the Department's purview, the persons attending the lectures or classes were mostly from the congested areas adjoining the school." I don't quite understand the point of that criticism?—I am talking of a later date, when we could raise money over the congested areas.

6570. But then suppose you did not, was there any reason against that?—They would be getting taught while they did not contribute anything.

6571. But the instructor is paid by the Department, I understand, then what is your objection to the instructor, or instructors, giving instruction to people in congested districts?—The objection principally is the two Boards pulling against each other.

6572. I don't suppose the Congested Districts Board would object to people in the congested districts getting instruction from an instructor of the Department?—They would not, but the Department did.

6573. You put it as if it were a great grievance. I don't see where the grievance comes in?—I don't put it as a great grievance.

6574. (Mr. Brown).—You put a note of explanation.

6575. (Chairman).—Here again, you say, "the vagaries of the Department were shown"—is this a reply to give instruction to people in the congested districts?—They say we could not give instruction in the congested areas, but the school might be on the border of the congested district.

6576. (Mr. Brown).—You would select the plan where the lectures were given?—The committee would, but the Department had a say in the matter.

6577. How do you characterize that as a vagary of the Department?—It is the system we differ from. We want to raise the money for the whole of Mayo.

6578. (Chairman).—You have the power to do it or not, just as you like?—Yes, I understand.

6579. Then, in the year ending March, 1906, you say "the amount was again raised for the whole county, and the teachers and lecturers were allowed to teach all over the county. For this year, a sum of £1,280 was raised; and thus it can be seen that for the five years in which the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act was in force in the County Mayo £5,145 was raised in rates alone, which, with the Department's contribution of £3 to every £2 raised, makes a total of £12,865 to March, 1906. The actual amount expended, during the period mentioned to September, 1906, was £8,658 1s. 1d., leaving a balance of £4,206 12s. 11d. unexpended, and on the hands of the committee." During this time you had no agricultural in-

structors here?—I may say the committee appointed an agricultural instructor, and appointed a candidate whom the committee thought very well qualified, but the Department did not think so, and they were naturally indignant at the idea of the Department refusing to sanction this man, and they refused to appoint any other, and we have been going on without an agricultural instructor at all.

6580. Do you know what reason was given for not accepting your nomination?—I believe the Department gave him an examination in theory, and I don't suppose he was qualified in that respect.

6581. Where did he come from?—Fosford.

6582. Did the Department object on that ground?

—No.

6583. (Mr. Dryden).—Had he ever been to any school where he might have been prepared?—I think he is a very well-educated man, I mean in reference to this particular instruction.

6584. Was he a practical farmer himself, who never had any special preparation?—I don't think so.

6585. Had he ever taught anything?—I don't think so.

6586. Or lectured?—I don't think so.

6587. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you are aware that the opinion of these officials is often would have been paid by the Department, and none by the local committee?—Quite aware, and the committee were aware. I have the minutes now. "Letter from the Department notifying that Mr. Jones failed to qualify for the position of itinerant instructor." A resolution was passed. "Resolved, that we request the Department of Agriculture to give Mr. Jones, whom we have elected to the position of itinerant instructor, facilities to be trained in the same manner as the Department is training other young men for the position." They did not give those facilities.

6588. (Mr. Micks).—What age was he?—About 30.

6589. (Chairman).—You say there was a court refusal?—I want to see what reasons the Department gave?—They never gave any reasons.

6590. Have you got the letter?—No sir, I have not got it.

6591. I want to give you an opportunity of making any explanations you like?—I don't think an explanation is at all necessary. It was merely a refusal. They gave no account, whatever, except that the scheme was not, in their opinion, suitable, and they would not sanction it.

6592. I should like to see the letter; we can get it from the Department, later, I suppose?—Yes.

6593. Then you go on to give certain reasons for the proposals which you made in this scheme which the Department would not accept—would you like to read those, or state them?—I think the paper gives my own view, as well as the committee's.

6594. The scheme for technical instruction amounting to £250, contains a grant to technical schools situated in congested districts. At that time, I suppose, the Department had not power to give it, because that would be contrary to their Act—the £150?—Yes, sir, but the money was raised for the congested districts, and the Congested Districts Board were agreeable.

6595. Then take the items in the scheme for agricultural instruction—providing equipment for a flax mill at Ardara, £110; opening of limestone quarries, £250; cost of 200 spraying machines, £300; instruction in dairy work, £50; expenses in connection therewith, £30; cost of distributing spraying machines, testing limestone quarries, and ascertaining particulars as to water power in connection with proposed flax mill, £25. These items in the two schemes, together with an unallocated balance of £380, amount to £1,280, being the same amount as £542 raised over the congested districts, and the Congested Districts Board contribution £573?—I may mention, sir, in connection with that, too, in reference to the spraying machines, the committee were very indignant at the time, and I think it helped to throw the Department into much disfavor here, in Mayo, because, time after time, they pass resolutions, and asked them to give facilities in the way of spraying machines, for poor people, and this is a sample of the resolutions they passed:—

"That unless the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, authorize the purchase for the several Unions having congested districts, the 200 spraying machines so much needed, it will be altogether too late after the 15th of June, and that they be sent to the chiefs of the several Unions with power, where practicable, to hand them over to the

parish committees within the several districts. July 9, 1905.
Mr. J. Clavin.

That this Committee respectfully submit they have already given sufficient details of the scheme for distribution of the spraying machines, having given the number required, and suggested that they should be allocated through the Clerks of the Unions. We have already spent much time and labour over this matter, and feel deeply disappointed that the Department raises technical objections, so very frequently, that this Committee cannot effect its purpose—in fact, it will be a very serious matter indeed, if the spraying machines are not forthwith supplied to enable the poorer tenants to spray their potatoes at the proper time."

6596. In order to form any judgment on this it is quite necessary to see the correspondence, to see what the Department said?—They wanted to know how the machines would be distributed, and I wrote them very fully. There were parish committees appointed, in fact. We were very nearly sure we would get them. I think one of the instructors nearly assumed so that the Department would approve of it, so that the people felt very much disappointed.

6597. Have you anything else to say about the scheme?—No sir, except that it was very popular, if it could be carried out, and with regard to the flax mill at Ardara, feeling ran very high in that direction.

6598. Is there much flax grown there?—There is, in the Ballina district.

6599. (Mr. Micks).—Ardara is now in the Co. Mayo, under the Local Government Act?—Yes.

6600. (Mr. Brown).—Are there any other flax catching mills in that area?—No, they are of a very old-fashioned style.

6601. Are there any working?—I believe there is one, but it is not sufficient, it is rather a primitive one.

6602. (Chairman).—You say something about limestone quarries?—That was one portion of the scheme. I may say in framing that scheme I wrote to the principal men in each district to know what would be suitable for their districts. In a county like Mayo, one scheme would not be suitable for the whole county. You have people living on the seaboard, and people living inland.

6603. (Mr. Micks).—Some people living where there is lime, and some living where there is no lime?—Yes.

6604. (Chairman).—An item, in your scheme, was the opening of limestone quarries, where practicable?—Quite so.

6605. You had not any definite place in your mind?—I was thinking of the Ballinacree district. Father Hegan suggested it.

6606. Then as to instruction in dairy work by a person who satisfies the Department?—At present the instruction is dairying teachers with barrel churns, and cream separators, but the old women of the country will only have the ordinary dash churns, and won't have a cream separator, so this instruction is thrown away.

6607. They sometimes have a dash churn?—I have not seen it, so far.

6608. (Mr. Brown).—Have you been present at any of these classes yourself, recently?—Dairying instruction has not going on in my time.

6609. Have you been there lately?—No.

6610. Can you undertake to say that that class of instruction is not given?—I can, because the committee of the County Council told me, when I purchased some of the machinery for the instructors, and I knew I purchased barrel churns, and cream separators.

(Mr. Dryden).—They have some dash churns now.

(Chairman).—If the instruction is worth anything, there should not be much difficulty in teaching the people to use the barrel churns.

6611. (Mr. Brown).—Why should Mayo be left behind every other county in the matter of instruction?—That is what we are objecting to.

6612. (Chairman).—You are objecting to the Department introducing new methods?—We have not the money, in the first instance, to purchase barrel churns, it is simply money thrown away to have the barrel churns and cream separators.

6613. (Mr. Micks).—What you mean is that the teaching of the butter industry, by means of barrel churns, and separators, is not likely to be useful, in a county where the people cannot acquire these utensils themselves?—Exactly.

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6614. (Mr. Dryden).—As a matter of fact, do these instructors not teach the girls, where they have not these appliances, to see what they have?—So this gentleman says; I have not seen them.

We have been informed that they do?
(Mr. Brown).—They do in other counties.
(Mr. Dryden).—They recommend, of course, the latest and best appliances, but if they are not able to get them, then they take the next best thing.

6615. (Chairman).—Is there anything particular you want to say about technical instruction?—I alluded to the instruction given in cookery, and laundry work, that it should be given in country districts, and not in towns.

6616. Why not in towns?—Not so much in towns.
6617. But I suppose it is wanted in towns as well as in the country?—At present it is chiefly confined to towns.

6618. You attach importance to that?—I would. Of course it is not useful work in Mayo at all. It is simply to educate a girl, and when she is educated to cook she goes to America. We say it is a help to emigration. There is no opening for a girl thoroughly educated in cookery or other things and she will go away to America.

6619. (Mr. Brown).—Has she not her own home?—She has, but she cannot stay at home.

6620. Do not see how a knowledge of cookery helps her to go away?—She will be sure of getting a position when she goes.

6621. Is that a drawback?—We look upon it simply that the money is thrown away in teaching them.

6622. That is an argument against teaching them at all. If you teach them anything they are not accustomed to at home it encourages them to go away?—That is how we look at it; it might be more useful to expend the money in other directions.

6623. (Mr. Dryden).—Don't you think a girl has a right to some education, of some sort?—Yes.

6624. (Mr. Michie).—The idea of your Council is that they would like these girls to be taught something that they would get employment at in this country?—At home, sir.

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6625a. There is one portion of my evidence I would wish to correct. I would not wish to interfere with the right of any individual to keep a gun for his own stock, provided he did not let him out for public use. I might mention that the water power of this country is passing away uselessly, and it would provide a means of employment for our emigrants who are going away. There is, in my opinion, one-eighth of the land of this country useless for agricultural purposes, and if the Department would undertake to plant these waste and mountain lands with trees.

6625b. (Mr. Michie).—Have you any of that land in your own hands?—Very little of that description.

6626. Have you any in commonage grazing?—No.

6627. Do you think the people would be very glad to give up their commonage rights to allow the lands to be planted?—They have not a very great right to it; it is practically useless to them. It is in the hands of the landlord nearly in all cases.

6628. Do you think that is so, really?—I think it is.
6629. Do you think they don't value that for young cattle and sheep very highly?—It is useless in the land I am referring to.

Mr. A. J. CAROLAN examined.

6643. (Chairman).—You are secretary of the Mayo County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes.

6644. I believe you had in a report of the committee?—Yes, it was drawn up by the committee. This is it.

Report of the Mayo Committee of Agriculture on the working of the Department's scheme, etc.:—

"The Mayo County Committee of Agriculture are of opinion that the working or progress of the Department's scheme of agriculture in this county is unsatisfactory. Various reasons may be given for their failure, such as their adoption of a system of red tape, want of sympathy with the people, ignorance of the farmers' wants, and interference of local influences. We have also noticed that the Department seemed not to take into their

6625. (Chairman).—Then about manual instruction, you say it has done a great deal of good, but that here again the Department step in, and want to allow a child of twelve years of age to attend the manual instruction classes, though it is a well-known fact that children of that age are much quicker to learn than children who are much older. Children of that age are still at the National school?—Yes, that is one of the objections.

6626. You want them to be brought up in these classes, but they must be taught at the National school?—At the National school, but the Act, of course, prevents it.

6627. Then it is not the Department stepping in, all through that you appear to be trying to add to the Department with something, and then it turns out that it is not the Department at all; they have nothing to do with it?—They don't tell us, though.

6628. Your paper does not seem to me to be quite fair in that way. You say: "Here again the Department step in," when the Act of Parliament says the Department must not step in?—The Department might, in referring to do these things, tell us the Act was against it, and we would be more lenient if they did.

6629a. You speak well of the establishment of poultry farms?—They worked very well. The lectures, I am afraid, was money thrown away.

6629b. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you remember how many poultry stations you had in operation?—I do, twenty-four poultry farms; I don't suppose we had twenty-four at the beginning.

6630. (Chairman).—I have the return of the egg stations; in 1903, there were six; in 1904, thirteen; 1905, twenty-four; 1906, twenty-four. Then has been a considerable increase also in hails; there were ten in 1903; thirteen in 1904; twenty-nine in 1905; thirty-seven in 1906. That is a considerable result. Yes, sir, I say that too, in the improvement in the breeding of cattle and horses.

6631. In hares there were two in 1903; thirteen in 1904; eighteen in 1906; thirty-one in 1906?—The only thing that bothers them is the price of hails.

6632. Now, is there anything else you want to add?—I don't think so. I think we have gone over the whole ground.

Mr. PATRICK HUGHES

6633. Where is your land?—In the parish I reside there are vast tracts of mountain growing nothing but heather.

6634. There is no mountain there; it is cut away long?—It is purely mountain.

6640. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you had an experience of the growing of these trees?—I have no experience myself, but I have read a lot of the usefulness of them. I have seen one authority who says, I believe it was Mr. Dawson, that there is land not worth 1s. an acre, and in twenty years it is worth £30 an acre.

6641. You think trees would grow on these mountains?—I am sure they would; it is the natural home of the larch and the fir.

6642. (Mr. Brown).—If something like that was done, if these tracts of land you think that are suitable for planting, could be acquired and planted would the County Council or the County Committee be willing to take them over and maintain them?—I think they would. This country is very bleak and bare, and often, for the purpose of shelter, it would be a means of protection.

Mr. A. J. CAROLAN examined.

6643. (Chairman).—You are secretary of the Mayo County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes.

6644. I believe you had in a report of the committee?—Yes, it was drawn up by the committee. This is it.

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able to cause the Department to a sense of their responsibility and duty.

"The small resources of the Department weakened their efforts. The agricultural and industrial movement in this country is one of great magnitude and importance. The grant given by the Government was entirely too little. The big salaries of the principal officials and the expenses of the staff being taken from the Grant, a surplus remained entirely inadequate to carry out any large scheme of agriculture in the country.

"We are not impressed with the utility and powers of the Council of Agriculture, as they seem to have no power or control in its workings. We are of opinion that the Department in all its branches should be placed under the control of a representative National Council, with full powers over the working and construction of same.

"We consider that no system of improving tillage or developing agriculture and industrial resources of Ireland, especially so far as the western province is concerned, can ever attain any great measure of success while the present exorbitant charges for transit of goods on Irish railways are in being. We recommend some radical change in the present working, such as the nationalisation of the railway system of the country or the adoption of the Pough and Pirrie scheme of transit from the more inland districts.

"That the present system of primary education in this country presents many defects, and is not suited for a rural community, where 70 or 80 per cent. of the boys have to make their living out of the land. There ought to be a co-operation between the National Board and the Department on the subject of introducing practical agricultural teaching into these schools. We recommend that agriculture be taught in a practical way in all National schools, and demonstration plots be established in connection with them, with lectures by a qualified teacher. Arrangements might also be made to establish a more advanced agricultural school in each county, where farmers' sons could get a better scientific knowledge of all that pertains to this subject.

"We consider that domestic economy—plain cooking, laundry, hygiene—is as necessary a branch of education for girls in rural districts as agriculture is for boys, and ought to be taught in every school.

"We are of opinion that the present system of delivering one lecture on veterinary hygiene—the disease of animals, etc.—does not produce much effect, as the people only begin to take an interest in the matter after the first return. The subject is one that might be usefully developed, and we recommend the Department to make arrangements for the better working of the courses in this subject.

"We wish to draw the attention of the Commission to the necessity that exists for the planting of large tracts of waste lands in this country, and consider that special funds ought to be provided for this purpose. Indeed, all parties of the State recognise that the Land Question in the western province requires special treatment. And the Department of Agriculture may yet see its way to deal also in a special manner with the western counties.

"We consider that a monthly or weekly journal treating of technical, agricultural, and industrial subjects would be most opportune and beneficial for the best interests of the farmers and for the success of the schemes of the Department.

"In reviewing the general working of the Department in this country since its inception, we are of opinion that the return got for the money expended during the first years was inconsiderable. The schemes were but imperfectly understood; and, as a rule, where the committees put forward any scheme of their own, it was objected to by the Department, with the result that the committee got tired of proposing anything to a body that never seemed to accept their views.

"We have to say that Mayo county is somewhat peculiar. A scheme that may be suitable for one district would be useless for others. It would be well for the Department to take more into their confidence the views of the representatives of the several districts of this country.

"Nothing has been done so far with regard to the

teaching of agriculture in County Mayo—a subject that we consider as most important of all that comes under our work.

"The live stock schemes are working satisfactorily for the past few years, and we are at present recommending a change in the scheme for breeding of cattle which we think will result in an improvement in its work.

"The Department have taken over the horse-breeding scheme of the Congested Districts Board in the western portion of this county—a scheme, we fear, that has done much to destroy the utility of the original class of horses in those districts, and has left in their place an animal which is neither as hardy nor as saleable. If the Government Departments of this country, when starting their schemes, obtained the opinions of the representative men of those districts—men who knew the wants and were educated up to the requirements of the people—greater benefits would accrue, and more confidence would be instilled into the public mind. The Department, we believe, do not intend following in the footsteps of their predecessors in this respect, and are willing to consider any suitable scheme put before them.

"The committee have had for the past two years the services of a horticultural instructor, and have this season established a number of demonstration plots for the growing of fruit and vegetables, which they hope will be a success.

"Lectures on butter-making in the rural districts have also been established, and are working satisfactorily.

"The schemes of prizes for the best-managed farms is yearly showing that a greater spirit of interest is being manifested by the people in this matter.

"The egg stations are working satisfactorily, but we think that a great deal more might be done with regard to the rearing and fattening of fowl for the market. The countrymen have at present no means of disposing of fowl during the most of the season, and we think this is a matter that might engage the attention of the Department.

"With regard to the 'Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act' and the matter of getting seeds tested, nothing has been done in this county; and until an instructor in agriculture is appointed and lectures, the farmers cannot expect any improved results.

"We are glad to be able to state that, on the whole, our relations with the Department have considerably improved, and are continuing to improve; so that there will be less likelihood of friction in the future. We have to say that our people are inclined to expect too much from a new Department. Allowances must be made for experiments and mistakes in all new undertakings. Rome was not built in a day. The technical and agricultural training of a nation cannot be expected to be accomplished in a few years. The keystone of all reform is a fair trial and a little patience. We have no reason to fear that, with the adoption of the many improvements which will be suggested to your Commission and with the more cordial feeling of co-operation which is being manifested between the committee and the Department, a great amount of good for the agricultural and industrial development of Ireland can be accomplished in the future. However, we are of opinion that a greater and more lasting good will accrue when the Department and the other boards of this country are placed under the control of a representative national assembly.

"A. J. CAROLAN, Secretary."

There are a few remarks I wish to make with regard to both committees. You have not got any report from the Technical Instruction Committee, except that they adopted some resolutions which were adopted by a former committee at the Joint Council of the Technical Association, and these were forwarded to your body. There is no general report drawn up. However, I don't wish to go into this, but I wish to make a few remarks myself. The first thing I would wish to refer to is the amount of money at our disposal. I consider that the amount of money that is at present available for technical instruction in Mayo is entirely insufficient. The annual grant we get from the Department is £330 a year. The county contributes £304, and the two urban districts contribute £45; that makes £232. We

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had, on account of schemes not being worked for a few years, an accumulated balance lying to our credit. In the year we finished, to the 31st of July, the amount we estimated for was \$1,010, and this year we have estimated for \$1,210. That would expend all our balance in a very short time. If the contribution of the Department is not increased, we will have to let a good many of our schemes fall through, so that without provision being made to give us more funds, I don't see that we can carry on any technical instruction at all satisfactorily.

6648. Have you a scheme approved by the Department?—Our scheme was adopted by the committee, but I have not got the formal approval of the Department yet, but as it is the same as last year, I expect there will be no difficulty. A month or two ago we agreed to appoint an expert man, an instructor. We have already agreed to appoint a second, and we appointed a second cricket instructor, and the Department have approved of both.

6649. (Mr. Brown).—Have the Committee yet considered the new scheme by which grants can be earned?—We have no classes of that kind in this county. The only technical instruction we have comes under the head of cricket classes, and capitation grants to the classes, and instruction in manual work and domestic economy.

6650. I think you can get grants for your manual instruction and domestic economy classes and other classes now?—We have not gone into that. I was under the impression that our present manual instruction classes that are held in the evening could not get grants. We have no fixed classes for manual instruction in this county, except that they teach it in Westport in the Christian Brothers' School, which works in connection with the Department, alone, and, therefore, we have no connection with them. We have at present two domestic economy instructors, and most of these lectures at present are being given in country districts, and we find they get on very successfully; and I find that where the girls attend regularly, and pay attention to the course, a great deal of benefit can be derived from them. The subjects being taught are ordinary plain subjects, such as would apply to their home life, and I think there is room for a great deal of improvement in that respect.

6651. (Chairman).—Do you mean improvement in the way of attendance or in the character of the instruction?—There is room for educating the girls.

6652. Like most people, you think there is room for improvement in domestic economy?—I do, if they are taught plain cookery that would suit them. We are trying to make the teaching as suitable as possible for the home life of the pupils—that is the line we are taking. A great many people when you talk of cookery instruction seem to imagine that it is something very high class, but the instruction we give very often is not so very high. Most of the instruction in country schools is given with the ordinary fire-place, and not a stove. We find it more suitable to teach them the same methods that they have to adopt in their own homes. With regard to the manual instruction classes, I have seen it suggested that a three months' course of domestic economy would be very useful. I think that if they attend sufficiently well a six weeks' course is just sufficient to enable them to pick up what knowledge would be necessary, and I don't think you would be able to get an attendance for a three months' course in most places in the country. I have the opinion that a six weeks' course in manual instruction is not of any benefit. Nothing less than six months is sufficient to give them a good training. I think the Department would be willing, where a good school was established, to approve of the continuation of it for six months. There is another point with regard to technical instruction, that boys or girls under fourteen years of age are not admitted by the Department to the schools except they are in sixth standard in the National Schools. I think any boy or girl over twelve years of age, no matter what standard they should be in, should be admitted to our schools. They find in many cases they have so very much to do over again that they are in sixth standard in the National schools. I think they are not fitted to receive technical instruction. The instructors tell me, however, that they have met plenty of cases where boys between twelve and fourteen could get suitable instruction at their classes although they had not attained the sixth standard. In the majority of country schools, I think, they leave school before they attain to the sixth standard. There is a great want in that respect, that they are not

left sufficiently long at school in order to get a plain education. The average attendance at National schools is very poor. It is not at all what it should be, and the young children leaving them are not so well educated as they might be. It would very much lighten the work of committees if they could get children properly trained. It would be a great help to them in most cases if children were fairly well trained and educated. Our Committee are of opinion that domestic economy should be done in all the National schools. You must educate children when they are young. I wish to show that without an extra grant from the Department it would be impossible to carry on the technical instruction, but we are told that they have no more funds at their disposal. Brother Kilgiver, who was one of the members appointed to give evidence before this Committee, could not attend, but he wishes to put forward as his view that the Department and the Intermediate Board should not have count over the same boys with regard to examinations. At present the Department examines in science and drawing, and the Intermediate Board examines in the other subjects. There is a secondary school in Westport, and he is of opinion that one body should have control of all the examinations.

6653. (Chairman).—There are two rather different systems—the Intermediate Board go by results and the Department by inspections?—Yes. I have not personally very much knowledge of the thing myself.

6654. There has been a great deal of evidence to that effect, that some better system of co-ordination, or co-operation, should be adopted between the Department of Agriculture and the Board of Intermediate Education?—These are the views of Brother Kilgiver, in charge of the Westport Secondary School. We have not yet got an itinerant instructor in agriculture in the county, and, therefore, I think we are very much behind in that respect. We have asked the Department once or two committees to send us one, but they said they had not a sufficient number to send to all the counties; that they were training some young men, and as soon as they had a special number trained we would get one. We were under the impression that we might have got one earlier than some of the other counties, and as soon as the Department have qualified men to send us we are ready to appoint them.

6655. (Mr. Mick).—Did you ask the Department to allow some intelligent man, as distinct from a qualified man, to come on until they could supply men of their own?—We have not, at least since I took up the duty.

6656. (Mr. Brown).—You have been ready ever since you have been appointed to have an instructor?—The Department have made provision for it in our scheme every year, and the County Committees are willing to appoint any qualified man, and have been ever since 1893.

6657. Yes, but there have not been a sufficient number of men ready for all the counties. We undertook from the last witness that they would not have anybody, because they could not have the man they appointed?—I have no knowledge of the former working of the Committee.

(Mr. Clarke).—It is a different Committee.

6658. (Mr. Brown).—That reason has not existed for the last three years?—I would not say three years. I am only appointed since last February twelve months.

(Mr. Higgins).—I may mention that they asked the Department, when they refused to sanction Mr. Jones, to send down a man, even for a few months, and they refused to do so.

6659. (Chairman).—You both agree now that you will have a man as soon as you can get one?—I am just referring to our work in the past.

(Mr. Higgins).—The Committee were only anxious to have an agricultural instructor, as they look forward to that as the most important item of the whole scheme.

(Mr. Clarke).—I said they were indignant at the idea of their man being refused.

6660. (Mr. Brown).—And I think you went on to say that that was the reason they did not appoint one?

(Mr. Clarke).—That was the principal reason.

(Witness).—We are of opinion that experienced men in the district would be of great advantage. In fact, taking up a whole holding would be a far greater benefit than having small plots of land.

6661. (Chairman).—I suppose the circumstance of this county made a great deal of difficulty in respect to that?—The county is a large one, and the means of transportation is not very good, and there is so much difference in the

land of this county that it is very hard to work out the thing satisfactorily. There is some good land in the county and some as bad as you would get anywhere in Ireland, and a great many of the Committee are of opinion that one general scheme cannot work satisfactorily for the county.

6689. (Mr. Micks).—In different areas there are just as many different ways of earning their livelihood—some go to the harvest in England and some have grass lands.

6690. (Mr. Brown).—Every district is represented, more or less, on the Committees!—The County Council, as a matter of fact, made a very fair arrangement. They asked each District Council to nominate four members. There are eight unions in the county, and that would be thirty-two members. Some districts cannot attend. We never have a representative from Erris.

6691. (Mr. Brown).—Would it not be better if they had a smaller representation; what is your total committee?—Sixty-five. A very large body, generally, is not the best for working a scheme; a small body, where each individual member is distinctly interested in the work, will do more satisfactory work.

(Mr. Higgins).—The committee is unwieldy; it is never attended by more than twelve.

6692. (Chairman).—Where you have so large a committee it practically gets into the hands of three or four people!—There are a number who attend fairly regularly. I think the County Councils being practically concerned in the levy would like to have some interest in it, and attend meetings; but they have so many matters of their own to attend to that you can hardly expect to see them there.

6693. You would rather see small committees!—It is a matter in which I don't know that I could make any suggestion; it is a matter that has been raised by the committee, and therefore I would not like to express an opinion.

(Mr. Clarke).—The committee was once an itinerant committee.

(Witness).—We held our meetings at present in three different towns. A great many members of the committee object to always coming to Castlebar, so we meet at Claremorris, Castlebar, and Ballina, which gives each member of the committee an opportunity of attending.

6694. (Chairman).—How often do the committees meet?—Once a month.

6695. (Mr. Micks).—There is no meeting for Crommaholm?—No. I have not heard Mr. Higgins' evidence, but there was a matter on one or two of the minutes that I intended to give evidence or speak about. That was the registration of the bulls and stallions. It is the opinion of a great many that no animals should be allowed to be kept for breeding purposes, except they were registered in some form or another, in order to do away with unsound animals. I think it is a great loss, with regard to horses and the breeding scheme, that a lot of young mares are not kept in the country. If some means could be found by which people who had young mares could be encouraged to keep them it would be a great help to horse-breeding. I find, in a great many cases, no mares have to be given to old mares for the want of a sufficient number of young mares.

6696. (Mr. Brown).—Have you many local county shows?—We have only two in the county—Claremorris and Ballina.

6697. (Mr. Micks).—And Hollymount?—That is not being taken up now.

6698. (Mr. Brown).—Don't you think the prizes for young mares at local shows meet the case?—It does not meet the case sufficiently.

(Mr. Higgins).—The people in this county take very little interest in them. They are not able to prepare their animals for show as they are to appear.

(Mr. Brown).—Not if prizes were given for the best young mares?

6699. (Mr. Micks).—You think that would be no use, unless every mare got a prize?—The amount that is being expended in that way would be so small that it would have no appreciable effect.

6700. You would rather see every well-bred filly kept in the county by a money payment to the man?—I have not made up my mind as to what arrangement should be made; it would be better done by some form of payment.

6701. (Mr. Doyle).—You have not a definite scheme in your mind?—No, I have not considered that would be the most suitable scheme to put forward.

6672. (Mr. Brown).—You would have to devise some principle of killing off the old mares. The people would naturally keep the old ones for breeding!—If they get a good mare, to be sure, but if the judges met with a very good young mare, I think there should be some inducement given to a man of that class to keep his mare.

6673. You would not make it universal to keep off all the mares?—It would depend on the quality.

6674. (Mr. Micks).—Farmers, as far as possible keep a mare rather than a horse, so that they may be able to sell the young foal?—In most cases they do. There is another matter that I should rather recommend with regard to agricultural teaching in schools. It has been brought before you already, that we are of opinion that youngsters going to school should take 14 in. I have to make some remarks with regard to dairy lectures at present. Before I took up the dairy there was only one dairy instructor appointed for a very short time. Last year we appointed two, and they got on very successfully in the county. We did not entirely adopt the system of barrel churning. We have got alongside new style churning the old style, and are teaching them both systems at the one time. The instructions are given in such a manner as to show them that as good butter can be made from the old style churning as from the new style; only the present system reduces the labour, and I think, on the whole, that our lectures on churning are very successful in the county. Where the people take any interest in it, and the Press takes any interest in the matter, the classes are well attended, and I believe a good deal of benefit is derived. I am sure there is a great deal of room for improvement in the making of butter, and I think certainly, after a time, if the people attended to the classes they would derive a great benefit from them. The committee this year decided to have another instructor, so we have three in this county. I believe there are a very few counties in Ireland in which they have three instructors in butter-making.

With regard to the veterinary lectures delivered by Professor Mason, we are of opinion that there is no practical benefit derived from one lecture on diseases of animals. We think some regular system of lectures should be devised, so that the people would be enabled to get three or four lectures in a course.

6675. (Mr. Brown).—If you had your agricultural instructor he could supplement that?—Probably he could give a good deal of information, but I know the committee are generally agreed that these lectures should be extended a good deal in some form or another. The only other matter I have to refer to is that our live stock scheme has improved a good deal. We are giving far more premiums for cattle than we gave a year ago, and our egg stations have increased, and I believe they are broad to increase, according as the people get to understand the different schemes better.

Except, however, there is more money spent on the different improvements there will not be so much benefit arising from them as we would wish to see. In a large county like this it would take a great deal of money to put things in such a way as would enable people to be educated in the different things, and it would be important that the Department should get such funds to expend in some of the poor counties, like Mayo, as would enable them to do everything to their satisfaction. A poor county like this should not be treated in the same manner as some of the rich counties. Payment on the basis of valuation is hardly a satisfactory method of payment with regard to a county like this, where the population is so large and the valuation so low.

6676. (Chairman).—You will be in a fair way of improving that when you get your agricultural instructor?—There are numerous districts in this county where we can send premium bulls. We asked the Department, last year, to allow us to increase the number of premiums.

6677. (Mr. Brown).—How many bulls are offered by the County Committee?—Twenty-four premiums, but the Department give a number of extra ones themselves in the congested districts.

6678. Making thirty-one?—Yes.

6679. I think that is a very good number!—It is not a sufficient number for a county like this.

(Mr. Higgins).—Three times that wouldn't be sufficient.

(Witness).—There are many large districts where they have never got one at all, and the committee cannot hope to send one there. The extent of the county is very large, and if you have one here and

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another ten miles away you cannot say that that is so very satisfactory. Mr. Higgins referred to the planting of waste lands. I think that is most important in this county. There is a great deal of land here useless for anything except planting.

6680. (Mr. Micks).—What part of the county do you know best?—There is a good deal of suitable land in Erris.

6681. Do you know the grazing there is very valuable?—I don't know. Some of the baltides are very good, but there are many swampy places that are quite useless.

6682. There are not places you would select for planting?—You would want draining as well as planting.

6683. (Mr. Brown).—And there will be fences against the sheep?—That might cost something.

Mr. MATTHEW MELVIN examined.

Mr. M. Melvin.

6687. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Mayo County Council and a member of the Committee of Agriculture?—Yes, sir.

6688. Tell us what you wish to say?—With regard to the agricultural portion, first, I consider that an agricultural instructor in Mayo is badly required. There has been none, so far, and of course an agricultural instructor in some portions of Mayo is almost useless, in portions of Westport and Bellefleur, and Swinford. In these mountain districts, where the people have no good land or facilities for tilling land properly, until there are enlarged holdings, it is impossible for them to do it there, but in Claremorris, Ballina, Ballinacree, and portions of Killybegs they have different facilities. The land is of better quality, and I would say that an agricultural instructor should be appointed to go down and show the people what they should do. They have old, primitive ways of farming, not up to date now, and compared with other countries we are behind time. In the century, I have been over the greater portion of Belgium, and over portions of Holland, and I must say as far as Belgium is concerned I believe, for agriculture, it is the loveliest country I ever travelled in. We in this country, with our capital would not be able to bring this country to the same level as Belgium, but at the same time we are behind there a century. On small holdings there they can raise more crops than we could attempt to do here, but in Belgium there is a paternal government which watches over every industry. They have those gentlemen, each man having a province larger than this county. It is his duty to go round and find why there is less of any particular crop grown this year than last year. He will find out whether it is railway facilities or anything else that is the cause of it. They are different to us; they put on a tariff in case foreign competition is going to compete with them.

6689. The railways are State railways?—They are all State railways in Belgium. Before I part from that, I may say that I have been over there on the fax industry; I was appointed by the County Council of Mayo in 1903, with nine or ten Northerners, including Mr. Fitzmaurice, a Member of Parliament for fourteen or fifteen years. I thought in travelling through the South of England that Kent was the loveliest country I could look at, but when I came to Belgium I was wholly disappointed. The system adopted in Belgium is the best system I saw anywhere yet. I really admired it. In the fax business they sow carrot seed with the fax, and as soon as the fax is pulled—the carrot plant is avoided—and as they pull along they pour liquid manure at the root of these carrots, and they have a crop of carrots afterwards. On the 22nd of July, when rye was cut there, and in stocks, a plough was travelling along in the middle of the roads of rye ploughing in for the next crop of white turnips.

6690. The same year?—The same year for a selling crop. I found the system adopted in Belgium could, in a great many cases, be adopted in this country. Our farmers are behind time a great distance.

6691. Has Belgium chiefly small holdings?—They are small holdings. As a rule it is a flat, alluvial country raised from the sea, with long, narrow holdings.

6692. And I think a poor soil?—It is naturally a low-lying soil, but of course the climate there is different to ours in the West of Ireland, for the simple reason that there are no storms. Although I found crops of rye oats, wheat, and other crops six and a

6693. (Mr. Micks).—Can you point to any single tract in Mayo of a thousand acres that could be set for planting?—I don't see why it should not be purchased for that purpose the same as anything else.

6694. (Mr. Brown).—Purchase out the interest of the landlord as well as of the tenant?—Yes, I don't suppose anybody would give it to you for nothing.

6695. (Chairman).—There is just one point I should like to mention; there is this sentence in your report, "Big salaries of a number of officials and expenses of the staff being taken from the grant, the surplus remains entirely inadequate to carry out my large scheme of agriculture in the county." I think you will see that is a mistake—I believe that statement is a mistake. I believe that is a result of a misunderstanding, and was not known to the Committee when drawing up their Report.

half and seven feet high, I never saw a lying crop. The fax crop is sadly neglected in this country, except in the district where I live in Ballina, which is the only portion in Mayo, Sligo, or Roscommon where fax is grown. We grew 250 acres last year, and 300 the year before, but owing to the bad season we have not as much this year, but we have some fax growing yet in my country. I grow it myself. I have won prizes at six shows in Ballina on three successive occasions, and will continue it.

6696. (Mr. Brown).—Do you find it a paying crop?—I do, but last year or the year before it was not a paying crop.

6697. But one year with another?—One year with another. I have the promise of a fax crop this year. It is already three feet high, and was sown on the 7th of May.

6698. Do you find it exhausts the soil?—It does to a certain extent, but if you treat the soil according to a certain system of rotation, it will not deplete the soil so much. There is no system of rotation prevalent in Ireland presently among the farmers of the West. Well now, with regard to cattle, I must say I find this scheme adopted by the Department works very well. I am fairly satisfied with it with one exception, that the price of young bulls in the country is too expensive for farmers.

6699. (Chairman).—That is owing to the scarcity of them, I suppose?—If you give £40 or £45 for a bull it is a very big price. He is a fine, well-bred yearling, only fit for two seasons. He may sometimes do a third, but not for the ordinary run of poor men's cows under £15 valuation.

6700. (Mr. Dryden).—He will get the money back, will he not?—I understand that, but I would rather advocate a system adopted by the local committee of instead of giving £15 annually, reducing the price of the bull. I would give them over £25.

(Mr. Carolan).—When it is in a poor district you cannot get the man to pay down the money.

(Witness).—No doubt the quality of the bull is very good, but the price is rather high.

6701. (Mr. Brown).—I think they are coming down a little in their price. They were cheaper this year. I saw two bulls in my district, one a Hereford cost £45, and another, a Friesian Angus, £33—Do you call that for a yearling anything but a high price?

6702. (Mr. Dryden).—They were high all over the country.

(Mr. Gallagher).—The Hereford and Friesian Angus were very dear in Dublin this year. The short horns were cheaper.

(Witness).—I deal in cattle and feed cattle. If you get a cross of a short horn with a Friesian Angus, you get the loveliest feeding heifer; she is fit at two, or two and a half years old for the butcher, if you feed her on good land. There is one thing that I am particularly anxious about, the horse business. I am a bit of a horse man myself, and am fond of a good horse. In the horses in this country I admire what the Department does. They are doing it correctly by sending thoroughbred horses down to this county, but it is useless to send a thoroughbred horse or two to a town like Ballina, when there are twenty-five bad ones. I would adopt the abolition system. I have been over in Belgium, and one of the gentlemen with me—we were both horse characters—a gentleman named Mulligan from the county town, and we took particular delight in watching the Belgian horse. I never saw a spavined, surbed, or ring-boned horse in

Belgium, while I wouldn't travel this town for a quarter of an hour without seeing twenty of them. The Flanders horse is one of the finest horses you could possibly meet. I won't say he would come to anything like our hunter, but for what he is adapted for, he is the finest horse you could possibly meet. Every sire has to be registered in Belgium. He must pass as sound, and no mare can be shown there that does not also pass an internal examination. I wouldn't go so far in Ireland presently, but to begin with, I would go this far, that any mare that is caked, spavined, or ring-boned for the last three or four years, I would not allow her to be put to breeding, to be put to the stud. I don't care what the breed of horses may be, let them be Clydesdale, Shire, "Suffolk Punch," thoroughbred, or pony, unless they have a certificate for soundness for stud purposes. If the Department, or the Government, would introduce a measure quickly that would put that in force it would be a law of service in this country. In my parish, a small one, with 280 families, we have bred horses worth £200. I have known that done by farmers with £12 valuation. I have bred horses myself and got £150 for sheep. I am a £20 valuation man myself. I get £65, £130, and £85 last November for horses.

6700. (Mr. Brown).—Of your own breeding?—Of my own breeding. The horse scheme in this country is a very important one. The Irish horse is the best horse you could possibly meet. The Irish hunter is the finest animal you could possibly see anywhere, the Belgian horse does not come near him. Of course he suits his own country, but he doesn't come near him at all. With regard to young mares, there is a habit prevalent in this country with farmers, poor men, who are in the habit of doing away with the young mare for the simple reason, to begin with, that they are poor, and when they get 240 or £25 for a good mare they sell her, and keep a weed. They say generally she will rear a foal for us, and do the ordinary farm work of eight or ten acres. Let them put her to a thoroughbred horse, a Clydesdale, or a "Suffolk Punch." The natural consequence is, in a horse like everything else, it goes back two or three generations, and you are bound to have spavins or creak springing up in the end.

6701. (Chairman).—You would have the mares regulated as well as the horses?—Certainly, because there is an Irish saying, you might not be aware of it, which says, "a drop in the hen is worth two in the cock." I would be particularly anxious about the mares.

6702. (Mr. Brown).—What about the question of heavy horses?—I am not particularly fond of heavy horses, but at the same time I don't believe in breeding in and in. What I call breeding in and in is this. I don't believe that if you breed from thoroughbred mares that you will get bone enough for a good hunter.

6703. What cross would you produce?—I would cross with a half-bred horse.

6704. How would the half-bred himself be bred?—By a thoroughbred horse out of an Irish mare, but she is very scarce now.

6705. Would you have no sire at all capable of producing heavy agricultural horses?—I would by all means; they are very useful.

6706. What would these sires be?—There is one thing I don't like, this horse introduced some years ago by the Department.

6707. Do you like the Clydesdale or the Shire?—I would like the Clydesdale horse better than the Shire. The Shire is a soft horse.

6708. Isn't the Clydesdale open to the same objection?—Perhaps, but I have seen a hunter out of a Clydesdale horse, and I have seen £400 refused for him. I have seen him hunted until he was ten years of age, carrying seventeen stone, bred by a Clydesdale horse out of a thoroughbred mare.

6709. Does that often happen?—It does often happen. At one time I bought a colt, I didn't want a horse. I was selling fat cattle on the 11th January at Andarose. I went among the horses, and met a colt by a thoroughbred horse, out of a Clydesdale mare, and I paid £25 for him. I brought him out with a pack of hounds in March, gave him a few gallops, and sold him for £70, on the 12th of August. On the 11th of May following he was sold for £200 guineas at a public auction.

6710. What about "Suffolk Punch," have you any experience of him?—I have a long experience. There

is one horse at present in my county, and twenty-five years ago, after the Franco-Prussian or the Austro-German war, he came to the county, a nice, clean little horse, but I don't like his shoulders; he is a cleaner legged horse; he is more like a Belgian horse. 6711. (Chairman).—There are no "Suffolk Punch" in Ireland?—There are, but they are imported.

6712. (Mr. Brown).—There is a great question agitated as to what would be the best sire to produce an agricultural horse. The "Suffolk Punch" is a good horse to produce an agricultural horse.

6713. A cross in connection with the thoroughbred?—Yes, and the one that was there twenty years ago is them still. If you breed a good mare out of him, and cross her with a thoroughbred horse. I have seen good weight-carrying hunters that can gallop and stay out of him.

6714. Would you approve of that rather than trying to find something like the old Irish draught horse?—You cannot find him now. He is gone, and I regret he is gone.

6715. You cannot create him?—No; but excuse me, in remote districts, the further they are away from breeding, the more you will find of the Irish mare, but unless every sire standing in any place, is registered, and passes as sound, until he is eight years old at least—I must qualify that by saying I have known very good thoroughbred horses, but after eight years, owing to the bad treatment they receive, they become unsound in the wind. I may tell you that the owners of these sires, after the covering season is over, generally throw them into a stable and they hardly see daylight until next February or March, and of course the horse gets bad in the wind. I have two particular horses, in my notice, who have been passed sound by the Department, one in particular has been standing for the Department, and he was sound up to twelve years old, and is unsound now, but it is owing to bad treatment, and I have never seen one of his family unsound in the wind or otherwise.

6716. (Chairman).—Do you know anything about the Department's Veterinary lectures?—I don't know much; there is a gentleman that lectures with regard to cattle, Professor Mason. I heard him on one occasion, and would be glad to hear him often, but you cannot derive a lot of benefit from one lecture; you want to hear him two or three times. Now, with regard to the railway, I object to the railway system in this country generally. It is a notorious fact that dealers bring down their sheep from Claremorris to Balla, and rail them from Balla to Dublin, at a less price than they can do from Claremorris, because Balla is nearer Ballin and Westport, which are shipping ports. In Belgium they can bring 800 miles in its raw state, that is, last year's fax, next April saved, for twelve shillings a ton.

6717. The question is whether the Department can do anything for you?—They can recommend it to the Government. I would like to see the State owning the railways. Travelling is cheaper in Belgium than in Ireland.

6718. Have you any other point?—I had a whole lot of it prepared, but I missed the train this morning and left my papers after me. I am very anxious about the horse-breeding scheme. I would adopt the system of encouraging the keeping of young mares in the country, because if you put a mare to the stud once, and she proves successful—in order to avoid this thing of selling the young mares, if you give a special class at each district show, for the young mares, we will say three or four years old, because they are sold over four—if you get them to the stud once, you will have them as brood mares over, and I would offer a special class for them. I have been connected with the Ballina Show, being one of the members of the Committee there, for the last six or seven years, even during the time of the Royal Society, previous to this coming in at all, and I always see that they are inclined to hold the brood mares, the Department's Inspectors, and I think that is a very wise idea. I would wish to hold the good three and four year olds in the country, put them in two classes, the man of £15 valuation and the man between £15 and £20. Offer a prize to three or four year olds for the selection of good young mares, and I would insist that they should be put to the stud, because this thing is prevalent. Some of these gentlemen, I find, bringing in young mares get them examined and passed all right. They will go behind

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Mr. M.
McIntosh.

our backs, probably the owner of the horse may not be there, and they will put some old wood to the stud. I would be particularly anxious to watch that thing, as I want to hold the young mares in the country. If you held the young mares in the country you will have brood mares afterwards, and I would do away with the weedy sires and mares. I would say that the three diseases of mares are ringbone, sprains, and curb; first, we must creep before we walk, and let us take the other diseases afterwards, but any sire not passed second by the Veterinary surgeons until eight years old—I wouldn't let him stand.

6719. (Mr. Bruce).—Is your plan for encouraging mares that these young mares should get preference in the nomination?—Yes, in their class.

6720. That would not involve any additional expenses?—No additional expense at all. You are very careful about the expense. I never met a gentleman who went round on a Commission yet but watched the expenses; men must make monies and not watch the Exchequer.

6721. It is not the Exchequer I am thinking of but the rates; they must also be considered?—I am supposed to watch the rates as well. There is an Irish saying that there is a great difference between the English Exchequer and the Irish Purse.

6722. (Chairman).—If we don't take care we shall have to recommend the taking away of the penny limit?—I wouldn't go so far as recommending the taking away the penny limit, but I find the man above £30 valuation is always able to look after himself.

6723. (Mr. Bruce).—If your object is to be accomplished, without additional money, it is all the easier?—I would like to see you shovelling up the money.

(Mr. Corbitt).—In the present scheme there is supposed to be a preference given to young mares.

(Mr. Gillingham).—There is a special instruction in the present scheme under which judges are to give a preference to young mares.

(Witness).—They do, but that is not keeping them in the country afterwards.

6724. (Mr. Bruce).—Do you mean to say you would give preference to the farmers for keeping them?—No, by no means, but I would give them five shillings, nothing more. I would put them in a special class by themselves. I would not put them against old brood mares at all, but in a special class to themselves.

6725. Would you increase the total number of nominations?—The total number of nominations in my union is nineteen. I would extend that, if possible, if the Department was good enough to say we will divide the difference and put three or four more, and take off three brood mares—say twenty-two nominations, that would be pretty even.

6726. (Mr. Bruce).—You would keep them from selling these young mares?—I would take good care that when they passed that particular mare it would be sent to the stud. The owner of the sire should not get the money, without making a declaration, before a magistrate, that that mare was actually served.

6727. You would have the description of the mare taken down?—The description of the mare is generally taken down; it has to be for the owner of the horse.

(Mr. Corbitt).—Yes, he gets a ticket from me with the description of the mare on it.

(Witness).—But does the owner of the sire go down the yard to see the mare served. There are sires and circles in that. I would watch that. It is very good to send down a thoroughbred sire, and I would have all thoroughbred horses eight and a-half inches round the knee.

6728. (Chairman).—Why not draw up a horse-breeding scheme, showing whether the Department are working on the right lines?—When we cross country mares with these thoroughbred horses, unless the mare is bred pure or bred clean, it is impossible to get a good horse out of her, but I think there is a great deal in this horse-breeding scheme.

The Committee adjourned.

TWENTY-SECOND PUBLIC SITTING.—WEDNESDAY, JULY 11TH, 1906.

At the County Council Chamber, Sligo.

Present:—

SIR KENELM DUNSTON, K.C., K.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Rev. J. J. HYNES, C.C., examined.

6729. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Sligo Urban Technical Instruction Committee?—Yes.

6730. We have received from Mr. Smith, the Secretary, who, I very much regret to say, cannot be here to-day, a paper which I dare say you have had also, containing certain observations of his on the various questions, and a covering letter. As he cannot be here, I suppose to have this put on the notes as representing his views?—Yes, his views are those of the Committee's on these points.

6731. I was going to ask have you read them, and do you agree with them?—I agree with everything he says.

(Chairman).—Perhaps I might read the covering letter:—

Sligo Urban Technical Instruction Committee,
Municipal Technical Schools,

Kerrin-street, Dublin,

July 10th, 1906.

J. J. Taylor, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to enclose herewith for your information a copy of some notes I have supplied to the members of the Sligo Urban Technical Instruction Committee in view of the sitting of the Inquiry at Sligo on Wednesday. I regret exceedingly that it is impossible for me to be present at the sitting, but I shall be pleased to support any statements made in the enclosed notes at any time. If I had been present, I should also have dealt with the teaching of manual instruction in rural districts. I none with regret that in some instances members of the committee have given an adverse opinion of its value. I am perfectly clear that its failure in any particular case is due solely to local circumstances, and in most cases the want of proper methods of administration by the local authorities. I have seen the great benefits which may be derived from it in rural districts when local interest is properly aroused. As one who was responsible for the organisation of the classes in King's County for about three years I may fairly claim to speak from experience. I trust the Committee of Inquiry will visit the Sligo Municipal Technical Schools and see for themselves the circumstances under which the work is being done in the town. As proof of the enthusiastic interest of the people, I may, perhaps, be permitted to mention that at the close of this, our first, full session of work, no less than about 250 examination papers have been worked and forwarded to the various examining bodies. This is proof that our students attend with a will and a will to work hard to advance their educational qualifications, and it is decidedly discouraging to the Committee not to be in a position to accommodate them in suitable rooms for the purpose, and I sincerely trust that the result of the inquiry on this point will be a recommendation for a grant in aid of the provision of suitable buildings as well as for increased funds for general purposes.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE H. BARRY.

(Chairman).—I ask the shorthand writer to put this document also on the notes, which goes very fully into the questions:—

Sligo Urban Technical Instruction Committee,
Municipal Technical Schools,
Sligo, July 10th, 1906.

July 11, 1906.

Rev. J. J.
Hynes, C.C.

Points to be dealt with:—

1. Insufficiency of annual income to adequately provide for the needs of technical instruction in Sligo.
2. The absolute necessity of aid to provide suitable premises in which the instruction can be given.
3. The need for co-ordination by the Department to enable isolated technical schools to obtain teachers of special trade courses at a reasonable cost.
4. The need for better preparation of National School pupils in drawing and mathematics to enable them to derive greater advantage from attendance at technical classes than the average student is now able to do.
5. The need for fuller information with respect to the working of the schemes in towns of similar sizes in other parts of Ireland.
6. The need for greater organisation and assistance from the Department to enable industries recently established to find a market for their products and further advice as to the most profitable lines on which to work to make success practically certain.

Statistics of the Sligo Municipal Technical Schools.

Population of area administered by scheme, 10,870.

Valuation of Urban District of Sligo, £22,271.

Annual value of rate of 1d. in the £, £93.

(This sum is subjected to a small deduction for cost of collection, &c.)

Net value, 1904-1905, £93.

Net value, 1905-1906, £90.

Class entries for session 1905-1906—349.

Average weekly attendance for whole session—600.

Total income of Committee from all sources—£710 per annum.

Over fifty students were refused admission for last session owing to insufficiency of accommodation.

One subject was dropped, although sufficient applications were in hand to make it a success, owing to lack of suitable accommodation.

Another class was applied for by students, but could not be formed from the same cause.

A.—Insufficiency of annual income to adequately provide for the needs of technical instruction in Sligo.

The annual value of the rate levied under the Technical Instruction Acts is very low for the population to be served under the scheme. As the value of the rate is low, it follows that the majority of the students are unable to afford the fees which might be charged to make up for the deficiency. Hence our funds suffer in both ways.

A town in the geographical position of Sligo should be the object of special consideration with respect to the amount of the annual endowment of the Department. It is quite isolated from any other towns where a technical school has been instituted, and is thus compelled to rely altogether upon its own resources for all subjects of technical instruction needed by the inhabitants of the borough.

It cannot share the responsibility for the teaching of any special subjects, as can be done by, say, the urban districts around Dublin, neither can it share

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Rev. J. J.
Myers, Esq.

the services of a special teacher, say, of a trade subject with another authority, as can be done by several of the urban districts in the North of Ireland. The cost, therefore, of special trade subjects is enormous.

Special courses can only be organised of a few weeks in duration, and these at an excessive cost; and great difficulty must, of necessity, be experienced in obtaining a first-class teacher for such a short engagement.

An art teacher can be fully and usefully employed, but the Committee have no means of paying him, and, consequently, this work has had to be added to the duties of the principal.

The absolute necessity for substantial aid to provide suitable and sufficient accommodation for the needs of the Borough of Sligo in respect of technical instruction.

The present premises are certainly entirely inadequate for the work to be done.

The house at present designated "The Sligo Municipal Technical Schools" was built a few years ago to suit the drapery business, and was used for a time as a draper's shop. The arrangement of the rooms was designed to accommodate that business, and the rooms are, as a consequence, entirely too small for the effective teaching of technical instruction subjects.

There are about seven rooms available, four of which are used as class-rooms. Each room is entirely too small for its purpose, and this notwithstanding that every available room is used on every evening in the week.

The following are the details of the rooms:—

I. WORKSHOP.—The largest room in the school, being 25 ft. by 16 ft.—It is used for instruction in

Carpentry and Joinery.
Manual instruction.
Carving in wood.
Leather work.

There are about twenty students in the carving class and about fourteen in each of the others (in every case the number is the maximum the room will accommodate).

When these are six double benches for carpentry (convertible for carving), one large carving bench, a turning lathe, large laundry stove, and other fittings, the room can only be described as very much too small.

The use of this room for laundry work, though quite unavoidable owing to the diminutive kitchen, is very detrimental to the woodwork and tools stored there, owing to the steam and heat. Gas must be used at all times, as the room is very dark, having only a window at one end.

Art Room.—30 ft. by 16 ft.

Used every afternoon and evening. Effective art work is quite impossible with more than twelve students, and there are over twenty students in every class held, and numbers have been refused admission owing to limited space.

Room is also used for building construction—

Carpentry and Joinery.
Practical Mathematics.
Practical Geometry.
Book-binding.
Commercial Arithmetic.

With a full class individual help is impossible.

COMMERCIAL ROOM.—40 ft. by 16 ft.

Used every evening in the week. Seats are provided for thirty students, but this number can only be accommodated at serious inconvenience and risk to health. As a room originally intended for a bedroom, adequate provision has not been made for ventilation.

The Inspectors of the Department constantly criticise the state of the air in this room. They have suggested sub-division of the classes; this was accomplished by adding classes to the work of the Principal.

The condition of such a room, after thirty persons have been there for three hours, with gas, etc., can well be imagined. There are 297 class entries by 120 individual students in the commercial section.

KITCHEN.

This is really a hopeless case. Size 18 ft. by 20 ft., with 176 class entries by 115 individual students in ten classes weekly (average attendance over 200 per week).

Room is very dark, having high walls close to the windows on each side.

The cooking range is, necessarily, a large one, and the temperature of the room is far too high, even with all possible ventilation. Complaints of cold among the students are very common, owing to the draughts set up when the windows are lowered. The laundry stove had to be moved to the workshop, as it was quite impossible to work in the heat given off by it.

If a larger room were available as a kitchen, larger classes could be accommodated, and the structures would then be set free for classes in laundry, hygiene, needlework, stock raising, and other very necessary classes. These must be out of the question until further accommodation is available.

There are a few other small rooms quite impossible for use as class-rooms now used as store-rooms, &c.

We have been prevented from increasing classes in several directions owing to want of suitable accommodation.

Classes were proposed in dress-making, modelling, stone-carving, etc., last session, but, owing to the refusal of the Department to approve of the accommodation proposed, they were all abandoned, although in every case sufficient genuine students had definitely applied for admission to genuine courses.

We have the best accommodation at present available in the town, but it has proved quite inadequate.

In no case can the Committee erect a building without external aid.

The product of the 1d. rate—money which is urgently needed for instruction expenditure—will not provide a sufficient capital sum to erect a building.

According to an estimate of the Board of Works, an annual sum of £88 will only produce (at forty years) a sum of £1,312, and we estimate that a school will cost £4,000 or £4,500 at least.

Additional aid locally is out of the question.

Our present premises cannot possibly be extended, owing to the very limited ground space.

A Day Trade Preparatory School has been suggested for Sligo, but until further accommodation is available nothing can be done in this direction. Short courses have been decided upon in baking and painting, but we have at present no accommodation.

Even if the value of our local rate would raise a sufficient sum for building, yet its withdrawal from the funds available for general school purposes would be a very serious handicap on our work.

The rooms in a technical school for evening students should be as bright, inviting, and healthy as possible, and there is no doubt that if better rooms were available there would be a considerable increase in our attendance.

The sanitary arrangements are not sufficient; no lavatory is available, or offices for the young men.

Our limited accommodation will make it very difficult to work the preparatory classes contemplated under the Revised Scheme of grants recently issued by the Department.

As there is no night school (continuation school) in the Borough of Sligo, this work must be undertaken by the Technical Instruction Committee.

We have no Science Laboratory at all, and no room to accommodate one.

TRAIN TEACHERS.

It is quite clear that when we require a specialist teacher of a trade subject that it is impossible for our funds to support one, except for a short course of six or eight weeks. The cost will be very high for such a short engagement, but, apart from the question of cost, there is the improbability of getting a good man at all to come to Sligo for such a short time. Would it not be possible for the Department to engage a man altogether and share his services among these smaller schools, who can give a real demand for his services, and who are willing, if necessary, to pay for his services for the time he is with them. This would ensure a competent teacher being available, and would, in any case, save the

heavy expense of advertisements, &c. This arrangement might apply to such subjects as tailor's work, painting and decorating, &c., and would undoubtedly be a boon to the smaller schools.

NEED FOR BETTER PREPARATION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL PUPILS.

It has been repeatedly stated, I understand, that technical instruction should be commenced in the primary school. If by "technical instruction" I may understand "preparation for technical instruction," then, I think, the statement is quite true. A better grounding is certainly necessary in mathematics, drawing, and composition, but valuable time should not be spent in experimenting, with an elementary form of technical instruction, in the primary school.

At present the grounding of the great majority of the students in these subjects is anything but satisfactory, and the few students who do possess it are very quickly ahead of their companions.

Either the methods of teaching are faulty or, what I think is much more probable, the time available for these subjects is inadequate. In any case, it is a serious matter, which is in urgent need of a remedy.

NEED FOR FULLER INFORMATION.

It would, I think, be a very valuable aid to a committee when submitting a scheme, or preparing a scheme, if the Department could issue annually the whole of the schemes in force in Ireland, so that comparisons can be made as to methods of allocating funds, subjects taught, and the cost of the various items of expenditure. There seems to be no reason why this should not be done. I understand the Department have promised to issue these schemes in future. It would certainly clear away many criticisms of unfair allocation of funds as between the different committees.

It does not appear to be generally known that there are many ways in which the Department is prepared to assist farmers—e.g., seed-testing, issue of pamphlets; the existence of the Journal of the Department is frequently unknown to farmers and even to members of committees. I would suggest that it would be advisable for the Department to advertise these facilities for obtaining assistance more widely in the local Press.

6732. (Witness).—The point I wish to refer to is the action of the Department in reference to the scheme initiated by Bourke Cochrane in connection with the saw mills here some few years ago. Bourke Cochrane, the Irish-American, decided to do something for the town of Sligo. I believe he is a Sligo man, and was anxious to do something for the people of Sligo. He decided to invest £10,000 in some industry that would give employment to the people, and, as far as I can gather, he did not spend very much what industry was started provided that it gave employment to the people. He, as far as I can gather, consulted Sir Horace Plunkett and the officials of the Department with regard to the form the industry should take, and Sir Horace Plunkett thought that it would be a good thing to start a school of furniture and church-furniture industry here in Sligo. He accordingly bought over Gallagher and Doherty's interest in certain mills here in town, paying, as I understand, £4,000.

6733. (Chairman).—Who bought it?—It was bought on the advice of Sir Horace Plunkett, as I understand. Of course I may be mistaken on some of these points, but I give you what is, I think, generally believed. Then, and not all then, did he think of consulting the business people of the town with regard to the industry. He started the thing, and got £1,500 from the people of Sligo. That made the entire capital £11,500. The company found out that the plant that existed on the premises was valueless, and they had to pay £5,000 more for new plant, and the preliminary expenses swallowed up nearly another £1,000. The appointment of the manager was also left to the Department.

6734. Are you quite sure of this—have you any documents, I know nothing about it whatever, but it seems surprising to me to hear that all that was the work of the Department?—I will point out in a moment how I believe that the Department is accountable for it.

6735A. You are giving all this as being the work of the Department. As I said before, I know absolutely nothing about it. You are giving all this as the work of the Department?—The work of Sir Horace

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6735B. But, then, that wants proof. It wants something like documentary evidence?—I shall be glad to hear any mistake I make in this statement corrected.

6736. Well, but I am only asking you on what ground you make the statement: whether you have got any document, or correspondence, or anything to go upon which can show me exactly what happened?—The authority for making this statement is all derived from interviews with those concerned with the scheme, some of the directors.

6737. Then it comes to be hearsay?—The directors knew, I presume, how the scheme was initiated.

6738. (Mr. Brown).—Were not the directors local people?—Yes.

6739. Would they not be better able to tell about it?—Yes.

6740. (Chairman).—I think we ought to have somebody who really conducted the business. You are only telling us what you heard from other people. If we are to go into this, and I am not sure it is relevant, we ought to have it from the people who conducted the business?—I can tell you who some of the directors were. If I mistake not, the Secretary of the County Committee was one of the directors, Mr. Keane. Mr. Connolly was one. Mr. Kilgallon was a director; Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Campbell Perry.

6741. I wish you would tell us anything you know yourself, if you can?—All I can give you is what is generally believed with regard to the scheme.

6742. We have come across so many things that are generally believed and that turn out to have very little foundation when you get at the facts?—Well, I have no document whatever to give.

6743. You must take your own line about it, but I am quite sure you won't say anything you do not think you have good grounds for. Still, it does render an inquiry very difficult when you do not have before you the people who really have conducted the matter, but get the information second-hand altogether, especially when it looks rather improbable on the face of it?—Well, shall I go on?

6744. I would very much rather get it from somebody else, who does know something about it?—I should be very glad that some one of the directors would come; but if no such person does come up, I would wish to put the facts before the public.

6745. I want to get the facts of the case first-hand?—It is to be presumed that my statement will be regarded as correct unless someone whom it concerns contradicts the statement.

6746. No, I do not think that at all. If you are making a statement of that sort you must prove it to begin with?—If I state it is generally believed, the general belief must be presumed to be correct unless there is evidence to the contrary.

6747. I do not in the least agree with that?—This matter concerns a number of people, and if they allow the thing to pass by unchallenged I think my statement must be regarded as correct. I should be very glad, indeed, to see any erroneous statement of mine corrected.

6748. Well, go on, please?—I stated that the company was started with a capital of £11,500. When it was started the company found out they could not do that furniture business, and instead of doing furniture business, they entered into competition in the slate and wood line and saw-mills line with a firm that was already in existence. The company went on for some couple of years, and in the end the business was wound up, and the interest in the business was sold to the Wood and Iron Company. The £10,000 is gone, as far as the people of Sligo are concerned, and there is no trace of the industry. These are the facts, to begin with, as I take them, but I wish to point out, first of all, the cause of the failure of the scheme, and, secondly, the harm done by the failure. I say, in the first place, that I regard Sir Horace Plunkett and the officials of the Department as responsible for the failure.

6749. Why?—It was on their advice that the industry to be started was to be a furniture industry.

6750. When was that advice given, and how was it given?—It was given before the company was started.

6751. By whom?—Sir Horace Plunkett.

6752. When?—A few years ago. Before they started the industry.

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6753. Was it given in writing?—I presume it was. As I said, I have no documents.

6754. You really know nothing about it, absolutely nothing?—I know what the general public believe.

6755. Yes?—And the general public do not generally believe things without some foundation.

6756. Well?—I remember that Sir Horace Plunkett and the officials of the Department were down here. I saw them down here myself going over the place; and I have been informed by a director of the company that the saw-mills were bought up before the company was formed at all. I regard it, then, that the first mistake made was in starting this form of industry at all. The second mistake was that the officials of the Department advised the buying up of Gallagher and Doherty's interest in the saw-mills without consulting the people of the town.

6757. I really cannot take it that the officials advised it, unless you can give me some definite evidence about that.

6758. (Mr. Brown).—Who were the directors?—Some of them were Mr. Connolly, Mr. Tighe, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Campbell Perry, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Kilgallen. These were the principal directors.

6759. They were all local people?—All local people. But before the company was formed the saw-mills were bought over, and I am informed by a director that certainly too much money was paid for them.

6760. (Mr. Dwyer).—Who paid the purchase money?—I think Sir Horace Plunkett.

6761. Do you mean it was conveyed to him by the corporation?—I understood it was conveyed to Sir Horace Plunkett and two other trustees.

6762. (Mr. Brown).—Did the directors seek to have any other form of industry?—They could not seek, because the form of industry was decided before they were appointed.

6763. (Chairman).—Do you put this as a personal matter. Sir Horace Plunkett, you say, was, with two other gentlemen, a trustee. Had he represent the Department in that, or was it his own private matter?—I believe he represented the Department, for the officials of the Department were down here. Messrs. Chibben, Hall and Coyne were down here in connection with this matter. If it was his private business I do not see what business the officials of the Department would have down here in connection with it. I state as a matter of personal knowledge that they were down here in connection with it, and if it was his private business I cannot understand how it is they would be mixed up at all in it. Then too much money was paid for it. He first of all should have consulted the people of the town before deciding on the form of industry. Secondly, too much money was paid on his advice for the premises. The scheme was a failure for these two reasons. A sum of £11,500, I have been informed, by those in trade is entirely inadequate for the starting of a furniture business. The scheme now was a failure and, as a result, in the first place no good has been done to the town of Sligo, and in the second place positive harm has been done to the town, because if this £10,000 were properly invested it would give a good deal of employment. In the third place it has a damping effect on industries. People are slower now to put their money into any new enterprise when they look back and see that this £20,000 business turned out a failure. One point I wish to make is that the officials of the Department showed very little business capacity.

6764. Well, really, I cannot take that from you. You really know nothing whatever about it. You do not know what the officials of the Department advised, or whether they advised at all. You merely speak from certain general rumours, and I must say I do think it is grossly unfair to any public body to come and bring charges of this sort on evidence of this kind. If they are to be brought at all they must be brought on documentary evidence, and the actual evidence is available if they are well-founded. If that is forthcoming and it is relevant to the matter we will consider it, but I do not think we ought to go and consider it on statements of this kind, which are exceedingly remote. We have no definite evidence to go upon at all. You are now making these statements which get into the press and are published all over the country, and I must say I do not see how any Department can carry on business if they are subject to be attacked in that sort of way. It seems

to me grossly unfair. That is my opinion. I speak for myself—I can give you merely the general belief in Sligo. It is for you to decide whether that is relevant or not.

6765. (Mr. Brown).—There is no doubt that documents exist which could prove this case if it is true.

6766. (Chairman).—If documents exist, and if they are relevant we will attend to them.

6767. (Mr. Brown).—There must be communications that passed between the Department and the directors, all of which are capable of being laid, and which will substantiate this case if it is true, or prove the contrary?—I do not pretend to have seen those documents.

6768. (Chairman).—Then, I am sorry to say, I do not think you ought to have come here to say that—I do not regret coming here in the slightest. I came here to state what I believe to be the truth. It is for you to decide whether the evidence is relevant or not.

6769. There is no evidence whatever to set out—I state what are generally regarded to be the facts of the case.

6770. (Mr. Brown).—One would have thought you might have taken the trouble to investigate the documents, which are available, undoubtedly, through the directors, who were all local people?—I did not see the documents, but I spoke to a number of the directors, including the chairman.

6771. Then you are only making a hearsay statement—they might have been brought up here to state the circumstances themselves?—I could not bring them up, but I will not refer to any further length to this matter so.

6772. (Chairman).—Is there anything else you desire to say?—I think I stated I agreed with everything Mr. Smith said with regard to the necessity for a building grant, and the insufficient accommodation. With regard to the relations that exist between the Department and the country at large, I think that the Department ought to be empowered to give more aid to urban industries than it has done in the past, or than perhaps it has power to do. I do not know whether it has the power of doing any work for urban industries. I see it has the power of aiding rural industries. I shall point out ways in which I believe it can help the urban industries.

6773. Yes, that is very much to the point—it should be in a position to give manufacturers information as to where they would get markets for their goods in other countries. I believe that at could do a great deal in that way by pointing out to manufacturers where openings would be for their wares in the next place, I understand that all over the country there are people, shopkeepers who sell, as Irish-made goods, imported articles, and that is a state of affairs that is calculated to have a very bad effect on the industrial revival; and I would recommend that the Department should have the power of prosecuting those who are guilty of this fraud. I do not know whether it has that power or not. If it has not, I believe it should get it. There are the two ways in which I would say it can help urban industries. There may be other ways too. That another point is that I believe that the appointment of all officers and inspectors should be vested not in the Department, but in the Council of Agriculture, or in a committee nominated by the Council.

6774. What sort of officers?—The officers appointed by the Department as such; the inspectors and officers referred to here in paragraph 6: "A secretary, two assistant secretaries (one in respect of agriculture, and one in respect of technical instruction) and such inspectors, instructors, officers, and servants as the Department may require." I believe that any one man is now likely to be subject to prejudice than a number of men, and when that one man represents, as he will, the Government and not the people, there is danger that those who are in sympathy with the views of the people will not get appointments. I may add that the officials appointed by such a committee would enjoy the confidence of the public more than the officials appointed by the Department or by the representatives of the Government; and I think the appointment should not be left in the hands of the Vice-President, as it appears to be, but should be left in the hands, directly or indirectly, of a majority of the Council of Agriculture. Those are the only points I intend to refer to.

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6775. How far would you go down in the scale of officers and have them appointed by the Council of Agriculture. There are inspectors and instructors and clerks, and so on—you would not have everyone so appointed, would you?—I would have everyone appointed, directly or indirectly, by the Council.

6776. Down to the clerks in the offices?—Well, directly or indirectly.

6777. What do you mean by "indirectly"?—The Council of Agriculture would nominate perhaps some committee to whom they would leave these appointments, and that committee might leave the appointments in certain cases to certain higher officials.

6778. It is rather difficult for a body of that sort to consider the merits of each individual unless by a system of examination, or something of the sort. Would you advocate a system of examination for the appointments?—Yes.

6779. For everyone?—For everyone. Then it would be for the Council or the Committee of the Council in the end. There should first of all be a qualifying examination, and, I believe, too, it should be competitive.

6780. (Mr. Brown).—What would be the position of the Board of Agriculture in this matter?—would you approach them?—I don't know very much about the Board of Agriculture. The Board of Technical Instruction is the one I am better acquainted with.

6781. I suppose you know that the Board of Agriculture is, or two-thirds of it, appointed by the Council of Agriculture?—I would be quite satisfied if the appointments were left to the Board or the Council.

6782. But if it is to be by a system of competitive examination what would be the functions of the Board or the Committee?—I would be satisfied either to have it by a system of competitive examination or to have it left entirely in the hands of the Council. The two things could not co-exist, but I would be satisfied with either.

6783. (Mr. Dryden).—Are improper appointments made by the Department, do you think?—I don't know anything about that. I would not be prepared to say that improper appointments have been made, but I say the danger exists.

6784. I suppose it would exist just the same if they were made by the committee?—But the danger would be less, and the appointments would give more satisfaction. I admit that there is danger always of improper appointments being made.

6785. I thought that your suggestion might be based upon some reason?—I don't know very much about the officials. I know it has been stated, but I don't say it has been accurately stated, that unnecessary importations have been made. I don't know very much about the officials, and therefore I am not prepared to say.

6786. It does not appear from the evidence that we have had that any importations are being made now?—I am not prepared to find any fault with the appointments made.

6787. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you know that the clerical staff is appointed practically by a system of competitive examinations?—I was not aware of that.

(Mr. Brown).—They are all civil servants.

MR. EDWARD KEANE EXAMINED.

6788. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Committee of Agriculture of Leitrim?—Yes, sir.

6789. What is the number of your committee?—Over thirty. It has got down a bit lately.

6790. It is a Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes.

6791. The number, I see, is forty, and the members of the Council on the Committee number twenty-six. Now, I have not got any notes, but would you just take your own book?—In the first place we have not had since the commencement of this Act an agricultural instructor; never had one in the County Leitrim.

6792. How was that?—I don't know.

6793. Have the county selected anyone and submitted his name?—No; it seems the Department have not got any qualified person so far yet.

6794. I see you have a butter-making instructor and an instructor in bee-keeping?—Yes; we had a butter-making instructor going through our district about a year ago.

6795. But the procedure is for the County Committee to submit a name to the Department for approval?—I did not know that, but I think the Department must not supply them with one at all events.

6796. There was not one to be found?—No.

6797. (Mr. Brown).—Do you know when the county applied to have an agricultural instructor?—I do not exactly know. I believe it is two or three years ago.

6798. (Chairman).—Did they send up a name?—No, they did not; but they made inquiries about it. Now, in the thoroughbred scheme, the Department are very anxious to send thoroughbred horses to Leitrim. Well, thoroughbred sires do not suit the County Leitrim at all, because their mares are small and weedy. The size that would suit would be a good draught sire or a bayard. It is the same way with the bulls. Those pure-bred shorthorn bulls do not exactly suit either. The half-bred or polled Angus would suit, but the polled Angus does not suit so well for dairying purposes. They are very good for dairying mares, not for dairying purposes.

6799. (Mr. Brown).—What bull do you say would suit?—The half-bred, thoroughbred shorthorn bull.

6800. (Chairman).—You say this is more suitable than thoroughbred?—Yes.

6801. (Mr. Dryden).—Can you tell us any reason why you form that opinion?—I see some of the Department bulls in the county and I see these half-bred bulls for other purposes, and the calves of the half-bred are better, and they are better growing calves. They suit the cattle better in the country and bring better prices.

6802. Then, according to your opinion, there is no use in reaching forward to any higher breed at all?—There is, but not so generally as they are doing it. There are cattle as well as mares to suit the thoroughbred, and cattle that don't suit them.

6803. I am a breeder of thoroughbred shorthorns. I want to know, if I can, how it is that a half-bred would be superior to a pure-bred?—They suit the cattle better, the small class of mountain cattle, a good deal better than the thoroughbred.

(Mr. Dryden).—I think if half a loaf is good a whole loaf is better.

6804. (Mr. Brown).—How many shorthorn premium bulls are there?—I don't know exactly. There are a few round our neighbourhood, but the people are not very well satisfied with their gons.

6805. I was anxious to know the comparative numbers of premium bulls and other bulls in the county?—There is not one premium bull to five of the others.

6806. Or perhaps one to ten?—Perhaps one to ten; you are right in that, and besides, it is not very easy for the people, who are poor in Leitrim, to come at the price of these premium bulls, for when a bull is selected they have to pay twice the price that he would be before.

6807. There are not more than twenty or thirty in the whole county?—I don't think so.

6808. You think that is too many?—I think it is rather many. I think the half-bred would suit better.

6809. (Chairman).—Is that what you wish to say about the cattle part of the scheme. Do you say anything about the poultry?—The poultry is fairly well attended to. There are not many complaints.

6810. You have not a poultry instructor?—We had until recently.

6811. What happened; was it an instructor?—No; a gentleman that went wild.

6812. Did he go away, or what happened?—I think he is in the county still.

6813. There is no instructor in the County Leitrim according to this list?—Well, he has been in the County Leitrim till recently, till a few months ago.

6814. Have you not got one now?—No.

6815. Have there been any new breeds of poultry introduced into the county?—There have.

6816. Has the result been good?—It has done good service, I believe some slight good; but there is something more wanted, I believe, than an instructor in farming. I think nothing would take more or do as much good. They have an instructor in farming in Cavan, and he has given very general satisfaction.

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Mr. B. Keane.

I believe that the Department should do as they have done in Cavan, buy a farm and teach practical farming there, the same thing as they used to do in Glenties. I don't know whether they do it now or not. That would take well and improve the standard of farming.

6816. To have a sort of model farm?—To have a model farm as at Ballyshannon, County Cavan. If they had something like that in Leitrim it would do a lot of good.

6817. At the same time, of course, if there is a farm of that sort people at a distance cannot profit much by it—I suppose if they took in pupils on paying a small fee they would avail themselves of it.

6818. You mean for educational purposes?—Yes, education and practical farming.

6819. Do you think the itinerant instructors have done much good?—I think they have done some good at all events. The dairy instructors has done a great deal of good.

6820. Tell us about that; has her instruction improved the trade?—I believe it has improved the butter-making, and our district makes a great deal of butter. There would be 150 fridges of butter sold every week in Ballinamore.

6821. Have you any creameries?—We have two or three in that neighbourhood—four creameries. Still creameries were doing better a few years ago than they are doing at present, especially the co-operative creameries. They were doing better then than they are now. A good many parties have left off creaming and returned to butter-making.

6822. Do you think the butter-making in the small separate farms has improved?—I think so, and, if properly instructed, the butter-making would be more suitable for the small farmers. The farmers of three or four cows, it is nonsense for them, going to creameries. They starve their families at home. The separated milk is of very little value for feeding calves. A dealing man can tell you a calf that is fed on separated milk; and I don't think they supply anything to the feeding of the calves that would replace the good taken out of the milk.

6823. Then you say the poultry have improved. Is there a much larger production of eggs now than there used to be?—A great deal larger.

6824. Have you egg stations for distributing eggs?—Yes.

6825. Do they work well?—They work fairly well.

6826. Is there anything else you want to say about agriculture, feeding seeds, or anything of that sort?—Well, a farm like this at some convenient centre where farmers could get good seeds, where it could be recommended to them, would be a great improvement.

6827. Are there any demonstration plots in the county?—No; we have no instructor, and then we cannot have demonstration plots. In Cavan they have.

6828. It is a pity you have not?—Yes, but then we could not get the instructor.

6829. (Mr. Keane).—You must have been late in applying for him?—I think you have not many instructors all over Ireland. There are a good many counties, I think, without agricultural instruction.

(Chairman).—There are two.

6830. (Mr. Brown).—About twenty-two counties have them. Of course you are aware that a number of young Irishmen are being trained for the position?—Yes.

6831. And I suppose you would not be so ungrateful as to take a foreigner here?—We would rather hire a native if we could.

6832. (Chairman).—It would be a good thing for you to have one?—Yes. When there is a scheme formed by the Committee of Agriculture, and it goes up to the Department; when it comes back you don't know it, it is that much changed. I cannot understand how people from England or Scotland, or even from Dublin, can know what suits the County Leitrim or Sligo better than the people who are natives in those counties.

6833. You think they know all that is to be known?—I don't say that, but they could give very valuable hints at all events.

6834. What they don't know is not worth knowing?—I don't say that.

6835. There is room for improvement, then, is there not?—There is a good deal of room for improvement.

6836. It strikes me, going about the country, that there is a good deal of evidence that improvement has taken place?—Some improvement has taken place, there is no doubt about it, but there is a good deal more room for improvement.

6837. However, you say you would be glad to get an agricultural instructor if you could?—That is in general feeling.

6838. Have you anything to say about technical instruction?—We have a lace class in Ballinamore for the last year or two, and it is going on very well. They had a lace class formed in Mossall under the supervision of the Nurse. They spent a lot of money in equipping the school there, and they were doing very good work, but it seems the Department did not approve of the instructor. She was not up to the standard, although she was a very good teacher, so of the Nurse; and the thing dropped after spending £500 or £700. The whole thing has dropped since. In Ballinamore there is a good deal being done. It is conducted by one of the Nurses. She is qualified.

6839. Have you any manual instruction?—We have under a manual instructor, but in Carnac-on-Shannon and Drumalundoo they have classes.

6840. Have you any instruction in domestic economy?—In cooking occasionally.

6841. By an itinerant instructor?—Yes.

6842. Do you think that this instruction does good?—I think it does; I don't know really.

6843. Has that gone on to any large extent?—No, it has not.

Alderman Foley examined.

Alderman Foley.

6844. (Chairman).—I think you are a member of the Technical Instruction Committee of Sligo?—Yes.

6845. You have heard this statement of Mr. Smith's—do you agree with it?—I quite agree with it.

6846. Do you wish to add anything?—I would merely say, following that up, that I think that while a good deal of credit is due to the Department, and it is rather too soon to censure them for any of their acts, they should be rather encouraged. I should say, but my own suggestion is that they should begin at the beginning and take the children attending at the National schools.

6847. You know you cannot do that now?—I am sorry to hear that. That probably might be attended.

6848. Quite so, or there might be some sort of agreement perhaps between the National Board and the Department with a view to co-operation between them?—Yes, or Parliament might give them powers to do that.

6849. I should like you to follow that up a little and tell us what kind of instruction you think might be given?—A short series of lectures not to exceed a quarter of an hour should be given in schools in economy and cleanliness, and the school teacher should be the medium of imparting this knowledge, or by lectures.

6850. Would you have that given by the school teachers themselves or by lecturers?—I am not expert in those things. I must leave it open to others who have studied the matter better than I have.

6851. Still you think they ought to do something of that kind?—I think so, and pamphlets or books dealing with the different matters should be distributed among the children as well.

6852. The Irish children are very sharp, but I don't know that they would sit down to the reading of pamphlets?—Little leaflets, I should say; some things to give them an idea, to open their minds, with the object, of course, of bringing matters before them that would be useful in their battle of life.

6853. Do you say anything about gardens, which a good many people have spoken about—having gardens attached to schools?—I don't believe in that at all. The rural districts are quite sufficient for that. If you have an instructor in agriculture through the county, which unfortunately we have not now—we had a very good man here, and against the wishes of the committee he was sent about his business and has not been replaced. Although some people might say we could get a better man, I think he was very good; and when the committee, after a good deal of

thought and care for the welfare of the county, asked the Department to reconsider this matter, some attention should have been paid to them, and they should not have been sudden over high-handed as they were.

6664. How long ago was that?—This gentleman here was the gentleman who helped to send him about his business, though we made strong efforts to retain him.

6665. I see there is no agricultural instructor here!—The Department said it would be economy to send him away, and there would be other things to take his place, lectures in schools, but these dropped off.

6666. How long have you been without an agricultural instructor?—I won't be positive. (How long since Mr. Logan left?)

(Mr. E. Gallagher).—Last September.

6667. (Mr. Brown).—Was it by resolution of the committee?—No, the committee wished to retain his services, but the Department, or somebody acting for the Department, overruled the ideas of the committee which, I think, should not have been done.

6668. (Chairman).—Can we have the reasons for the Department's action—can we see the letter?—I am sure it would be on the minutes of the secretary, Mr. Keane. I think this gentleman here knows.

6669. Yes, but I should like to have a statement from your side?—The secretary, I am sure, will produce the books. There is another matter, as far as I am concerned, as a member of the County Committee, I was not aware of it till a few days ago, when I heard from Mr. Smith that for threepence a farmer could have his seeds sent to the Department and analysed. That is a matter that I think should have been brought within the knowledge of every member of the committee. I was not aware of it. I merely mention that to show that we are like acting in the dark. This should have come within the knowledge of the committee.

6670. (Mr. Brown).—Was it not within the knowledge of your secretary?—Well, I did not hear of it for one.

(Mr. Brown).—It is communicated in the form of a communication from the Department to the committee.

6671. (Chairman).—But surely that must have been in some document?—I don't know.

6672. I don't want to make any point of it, but if it is in a document issued by the Department and the

document comes here to Sligo, it is not quite the fault of the Department that you did not know of it?—It is not.

6673. (Mr. Brown).—Did you draw up a scheme of your own for the county?—I think so.

6674. And is not that embodied in your scheme as well as the Department's?—If so, I attend nearly all the meetings and was not aware of it. I mention that to say what must it be to others when a member of the committee does not know it.

6675. Is it not the fault of the member of the committee that he did not know it, and of the committee not to make it known in their own county?—I hope it will be more widely known now.

6676. (Chairman).—That is a very important thing, is it not?—Yes, it is. Dealing with the Urban Committee, of course Mr. Smith has sent you a very elaborate report, and I am sorry he is not here present.

6677. I am sorry he is not. I should have liked very much to see him, but his report is very clear?—We have the usual complaints of want of funds for the accommodation of the schools.

6678. I must say your accommodation is very poor—I saw it last night?—The children of the town and the youths are taking great advantage of these schools.

6679. There seems to be a great amount of interest taken in the school, and a very large number of applicants?—A very large number, and a good deal is due to our teacher. We have a very good man in Mr. Smith. He takes very great interest and looks after the pupils.

6680. Then you put in a strong claim for further accommodation?—We put in a strong claim for further accommodation. The accommodation is insufficient for the number of pupils.

6681. What strikes one is that the penny rate here does not raise a very large sum?—No, it only brings about £80. Otherwise, so far as I have watched the working of the committee both in the urban and the county, I have not heard anything improving on them.

6682. You want to have some courses which you have not room for in your school?—Yes, there are some courses there we did not carry out for the want of accommodation.

6683. (Mr. Brown).—And even for those who are attending the accommodation is very cramped?—Yes, the rooms are very crowded and small.

Sir JOSEPH GORDON-BOOTH, Bart., examined.

6674. (Chairman).—You are a nominated member of the Agricultural Board?—Yes.

6675. I see you want to speak mainly on one point, the absence of organisation?—Yes.

6676. And especially under three heads—you refer to poultry first?—I put down in this memorandum exactly what I want to say. I propose to confine my evidence to one point, business organisation. There is great doubt as to what the Department's policy and powers are in regard to the business development of Ireland in agricultural and industrial matters. I believe that when the Department was created the general idea in the country was that one of its main functions would be to supplement self-help and local efforts in matters of business development. In actual practice, I think, that so far as this is concerned the Department has either failed, or has very little to show. I propose to refer briefly to three matters, poultry, early potato-growing, and the Sligo shirt factory. A poultry instructor is employed by the County Committee, lectures are given, and I believe the instructor is well fitted for her work. But I fail to see what advantage is gained by the community from this work. When the small farmers in the county follow the advice given, and produce better eggs, they derive no advantage in the shape of increased price for improved produce.

6677. I suppose they get more eggs?—I think the common hen of the country probably lays as many eggs as the new-fangled ones. I think it is in the weight of the eggs the greatest advantage comes in in the new breeds; but I am not a poultry expert.

6678. (Mr. Dryden).—The evidence we have had before seems to indicate that the breeds of fowls in a great many parts of Ireland are very poor, and they were not healthy. Of course in these cases they would

not produce as many eggs as another breed that had the opposite quality?—I am not competent to say whether the fowl of the country would produce as many eggs as the new-fangled fowl, but I always understood that the advantage from the new breed was a larger egg that weighed more.

6679. (Mr. Brown).—It would depend upon the breed?—Yes, but I understand what they try to do is to produce breeds that lay large eggs.

(Mr. Brown).—The Leghorn lays larger eggs and more eggs.

6680. (Mr. Dryden).—I think the main work of the instructor is to teach the people how to handle them properly and make the most of them?—Portion of my evidence is directed to the want of following up things by the want of business development. I believe in the teaching, and I am sure the teachers are all right. But then it stops there, and no necessary advantage is derived by the people, and they get disgusted at the whole thing.

6681. Would that be the case with all the people. I should assume that in some parts of Ireland they would readily take advantage of the market as it is now?—My point is that in the districts where there are small farmers there is no organised attempt to market these things and derive the advantages which are to be got from them.

6682. What part of Ireland are you speaking of?—My observations are confined entirely to the district I know myself.

6683. (Chairman).—You have not had an opportunity, I have no doubt, of seeing Professor Campbell's evidence. I should like to ask you whether you agree with this statement in his evidence. Speaking of what has been done with the poultry, he says at Question 1524 (Reads). Do you agree with that?—I

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Glen-Booth,
Irr., D.C.

do not agree that there has been much business result since the Department started. I believe the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society has done a lot of good work in the country in that direction.

6894. (Mr. Brown).—Is not that body subsidised by the Department?—I understand it is, but the bulk of their work has been done in years past.

6895. (Chairman).—Professor Campbell's evidence seems to be somewhat in accordance with your own view, that is, the direction in which some development can be made?—I am dealing with this country here, and I understand it cost between £200 and £300 for this poultry instruction, and I don't think any single thing has been done by the Department towards marketing the improved produce that they have asked the people to produce. In fact I don't think the instructions here is allowed to say a word about marketing at all.

6896. (Mr. Dryden).—The local Committee could take that up, could they not?—I don't know what power the local Committee have in that matter.

6897. (Chairman).—Is not that just a question which you might expect organisations other than the Department to take and work up, co-operative societies and so on?—Yes, but the difficulty is to get co-operative societies organised.

6898. (Mr. Brown).—Have you not got the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—We have; but the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, I understand, has got no more money now.

6899. It has had it up to this, and it is not certain it won't have it in the future?—It has been very short of money since the Department was created.

6900. (Chairman).—In the South of Ireland we have had very strong complaints against the Department for subsidising the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, so they catch it on both sides?—Up here the proprietary creameries came in after the co-operative ones were started, so we had no row here. I understand the difficulty about the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society is this, that up to the time the Department was created that Society was largely subsidised by private individuals, and when the Department of Agriculture came into being these individuals came to the conclusion that its work would entirely be taken over by the Department of Agriculture, and there was no longer any necessity for their subscriptions, and meantime the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society has been going on as best it can, and how long they are going to last or live they don't know.

6901. (Mr. Brown).—Is it your idea that they should be taken over by the Department, or that the subsidy should be continued?—They should be adequately financed in order to organise the business end of all this teaching. That is my view.

6902. (Chairman).—I think that concludes what you have to say about eggs. Then, with regard to the early potatoes?—With regard to early potatoes—this only applies to favourably-situated districts, but this county is fortunate in possessing a good deal of suitable land and a climate which enables us to have early potatoes in the market before the Scotch ones are ready. There is a great demand at paying prices for new home-grown potatoes in the Scotch and English markets before the Ayrshire crop is ready to dig. It has been amply demonstrated by the Department during the past four years that this demand can be largely supplied from Ireland, and it has been shown that a gross profit of from £20 to £40 per statute acre can be made. Here is a sound business which could be largely developed, but there is practically nothing to show as far amongst the farmers. The Department's procedure in this case was to send a Scotch expert in lecture on the subject. I attended one of these lectures in my neighbourhood, and great interest was taken. Some twelve small farmers agreed to try the experiment, and the Department presented them with seed, boxes for spreading, and artificial manure. These farmers had their potatoes ripe in good time, but when it came to marketing them they were stuck. The Commission will understand that it is difficult for small farmers, ten miles from a port, with perhaps each a root of early potatoes, to find a market for them in England or Scotland. They did not understand how to grade and pack them, and I believe I am right in saying that not one of these small farmers is growing them now. The Department's teaching in these matters is all right, but it does not go far enough.

Steps should be taken to follow up this teaching by an active organising propaganda; small farmers need be taught how to combine the produce of their individually small plots into marketable bulk. Co-operative societies should be started to collect produce locally, grade, pack, and market it, and divide the proceeds. As an example of what such an organising propaganda can do, I need only point to the work of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in the neighbourhood. In my district there are three Co-operative Creameries, which last year did a turnover of over £30,000, on which they earned a net profit of £800. But the main point with regard to them is that the milk supplies to these creameries have realised an increased annual profit over home butter-making estimated at from £1 to £2 per cow.

6903. I think you are in substantial agreement with Professor Campbell's evidence. You may say the Department might have gone further, but still that they do pay attention here, I think, is pretty clear from what he says at Question 1907 (6856). You say they have been able to get them into the market?—There are individuals frequently growing them. I am giving them myself, but I would be growing them whether the Department were here or not. What I say is that of the small farmers that they came along to look in the first instance, and one is growing them now, because they could not market them.

6904. (Mr. Brown).—And they make any application to the Department to help them to market the crop?—I don't know whether they made any application, but they naturally expected something would be done as an entirely new thing like that to help them to get a market.

6905. (Chairman).—The view is that there are a great many new things.

6906. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you sell your potatoes here or ship them across?—All over the place. Some in Glasgow, some in Liverpool, and some all over Ireland.

6907. You do not sell them in the field?—Not yet; but in a very few years, if the area was increased, do Scotch merchants would come over here and buy them in the field. Last year a number of large Scotch merchants were here looking round.

6908. (Chairman).—Is not this the kind of thing which a certain amount of local effort is really as important as the Department taking it in hand. I do not suppose you would advocate the Government doing everything?—I would advocate the Government coming along and teaching small farmers how to combine.

6909. Is not that the very thing which the Department is trying to do. They may not have done as much as they hope to do hereafter?—When it comes to the business part of it the Department have it done.

6910. (Mr. Brown).—Has not the policy been to let that through the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—No; the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was never asked, as far as I am aware, to come down and organise the potato-growing.

6911. Is not that the business of the local people to ask them. They cannot come down without being asked to do so?—I understand when the Department took this up, and sent a man down, they did not suggest that when it came to marketing we should apply to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. I took it for granted that the Department would come down themselves. I am not complaining, from my own point of view. I grow these things, and have a business organisation, and can find a market all right.

6912. (Chairman).—Is not the organisation of marketing expecting considerable assistance?—The teaching of it purely and simply is not.

6913. (Mr. Brown).—The teaching of how to organise?—Yes.

6914. (Mr. Dryden).—Would not the Scotch dole teach them to organise if he had the potatoes here?—I will tell you an instance, which will show you the difficulty. Nearly all the big merchants in Cork were over last year looking at these potatoes. They came to see my field, and asked where there any more round here. I said there were several other plots in a direction, two miles away. One man has half an acre, another man a quarter. The merchant carried round, and said, "Do you expect me to go two miles to see half an acre of potatoes?" It was not worth his while. My point is simply the necessity of teaching organisation to get these things into the market. I do not ask the State to come along and market them.

6915. Your evidence goes to this—that that is a lot of teaching assistance to local industries which you

state the Department might legitimately undertake, and press further—*Certainly.*

6006. And which, to some extent, they have apparently undertaken, but have not carried out so far as this particular case and this particular locality—I think myself it would be far better to hand over the teaching of this organisation to a business-trained body, and give them the necessary money, with as little red-tape as possible, to carry it out.

6007. A body like the Agricultural Organisation Society—*Certainly.* That is my view. Of course, they have had the training, and their work can be seen. From a business point of view, it is as sound work as you will find in Ireland. Their work was not at all spoon-feeding the people. All they did was to teach the people how to combine, and register their society, and draw up rules.

6008. (Chairman).—Now, I think you wanted to say something with regard to the shirt factory?—With regard to the shirt factory, I am not at all clear as to what is the policy and powers of the Department with regard to industries not agricultural. I am a nominated member of the Agricultural Board, and am also Chairman of the Sligo Shirt and Ready-Made Clothing Factory. When this factory was started, about four or five years ago, it was generally understood that the Department would help to find part of the necessary capital, either by way of grant or by loan, at low rate of interest. In this belief the sum of £2,000 has been locally subscribed, but nothing has been subscribed by the Department towards finding capital. Certain small grants, at irregular periods, have been given towards the cost of instruction of the workers. But Ballina Boot Factory, which subscribed locally £200, got a loan from the Department of £500 at 1 per cent., in addition to grants, while Sligo got none. I understand that the Department believe that they have no power under which they can lend money towards our factory, and I only mention this instance to show that the policy, or powers, of the Department are not at all clear. For my own part I believe that the Department should have power to grant adequate loans in approved cases. I believe it is only interfering with the matter to give small grants towards cost of instruction to workers, and if it is worth while assisting to start new industries at all, it is worth while assisting them adequately.

6009. That is a very thorny subject—granting money to assist new industries. I don't know whether you are aware exactly of what took place at Ballina?—No.

6010. This is a statement that was made on the 6th of May, 1906 (quote from Board's Minutes). "With reference to the scheme of technical instruction for the Urban District of Ballina, the Vice-President said that this scheme provided for the establishment of a boot and shoe school. In order to carry on the industry, a co-operative society was formed, and an agreement was made between the Urban District Council and the Society defining the functions of each body. The Department advanced a sum of £500 for the purpose of providing equipment and machinery for the school. The undertaking had unfortunately not been successful, and the Society had to cease working. The Department had, of course, personal security for the loan of £500, but inasmuch as the guarantors had lost considerable sums of money in the project, and as they had given much time and attention to the effort to establish the industry, the Department thought it would be inequitable in the special circumstances of the case to press for the repayment of the loan. The approval of the Board, however, was required for the remission of the amount in question. In the circumstances he would propose that the loan should be remitted." That looks rather more like a warning than an example.—The people at Ballina had put £200 into it locally. They got a loan of £500 at one per cent., and they got, through the boot factory being called a local urban district scheme, a shoe school. They got further a free grant from the Department, roughly over £100, per quarter. Sligo put up £2,500 and only got an odd grant and no loan at all which they asked for. Sligo started long before Ballina.

6011. Ask with regard to the question of the policy of advancing money in that sort of way, quite apart from the question of legality, it seems exceedingly doubtful. The State does incur very considerable risk if it adopts the policy of subsidising industries?—You mean it is risky locally to the industry. I do not agree, if steps are taken to see by business men that it is a proper thing to do.

6012. How can you always guarantee that, inasmuch as in the case of Ballina steps of that sort were taken?—Anybody who knows anything about the manufacturing of boots in a factory will know that, roughly speaking, you cannot run a boot factory under £25,000; and if you want to be very successful you want £30,000; and here the Department proposed to run it on £200.

6013. Therefore you think it was commercially injudicious?—I think it was absurd. Then you come on to Sligo which has made an effort locally and put up £2,500, and cannot get a thing from them.

6014. Supposing a shirt-making factory starts at some other place, are they all to have this assistance from the Government?—If they are working the thing properly.

6015. Supposing a man starts a shirt-making factory at another place, ten or fifteen or twenty miles off, and does not ask assistance from the Government or cannot get it, so he is to be handicapped by competing with a State-aided industry?—You mean if a shirt factory starts in a town and a man is running it successfully it would be unfair for the State to come in and subsidise a similar industry. What I say is that in a town like Sligo where there is nobody making shirts at all, and there are many other industries that might be started that people are not doing in Sligo, the State should come in. History tells us the State killed industries in other towns.

6016. In that we all agree; it is very lamentable the State did so?—Well, the State is killing these industries also killed the self-help spirit among the people.

6017. I agree; I think they did?—I think the State should, in the special circumstances which exist in Ireland, go a little further than it does in other places.

6018. I quite admit the force of the historical argument, but what we have really got to face is, what are the needs of the present day; what is the best thing for Ireland at the present day. I am only putting the argument as it has been put to us, or attempting to do so. Is it desirable that the State should aid a shirt-making industry in Sligo, and thereby prevent any other man setting up a shirt-making industry in Sligo, because if you once get a large system of State aid you entirely prevent anything like private enterprise or initiative in the same direction?—It is a difficulty. I grant you that; but when I look at the work of the Department in other things—they have spent large sums of money in the North of Ireland in a factory for fruit-preserving; if they can do that in agricultural industries why can they not do it in other industries?

6019. I am not arguing in favour of the Department's proceedings. I am asking whether it is desirable that this system of the grant of State aid to particular industries, in particular places, should be further developed or not. On the one hand there is a great demand that it should be. On the other hand there is a very great objection to it on various grounds, one of which I have indicated—I am entirely in favour of it, and I cannot see why, if the Department was empowered to do that, why the Department could not avoid doing an unfair thing as regards the point you mention, enabling a newly-started industry to be formed or an individual to be in a position to compete unfairly with other people.

6020. Now you have thought about this, I dare say, a good deal?—I have not thought about this, but I only look straight ahead and see what is wanted in a country like Ireland. There are special circumstances and you must take special means.

6021. On what scale would you do it; after all, even the English purse is not altogether unlimited; how far would you carry this principle; what principle would you lay down as to what industries may be helped, and what may not. When you have a new industry or a deserving industry started, do you think that should claim State aid?—Wherever you have a promising industry in the country that is in need of more capital to enable it to get along, in those cases the State should come in and advance the capital.

6022. Have you considered what an enormous field you are opening there: could any State, however wealthy, stand it?—I think the field may be limited.

6023. Well, the principle is broad enough to cover anything, the principle carries you any length you like?—Personally, I know Ireland pretty well, and I do not see many places where there are new industries that could make a claim at the present moment for a loan on the basis of the amount of money they put up locally. I think they are very few.

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6024. We know of a good many already!—Let this case be inquired into by business men who know something about it. I do not agree that Ballina, on putting up £362, should get a loan of \$500. I say that is absurd. But I say that Sago, who put up £2,000, should get something.

6025. Would you lay down the principle that there ought to be a State contribution in proportion to the amount of capital raised by private individuals?—You could not lay down any hard and fast line, but you could assist industries that were promising to be successful in the country, without injuring other people, and I believe you would not be asked for a great amount of money. Of course if the Department were prepared to hand over money to everybody who came along, without looking into the thing, they would get any amount of applications.

6026. But if you don't lay down a hard and fast line you lay yourself open to this argument: "You have given to So-and-So; why not give it to me?"—I would go on the figures. There are people who make a genuine effort to create an industry or reanimate an old one, and there are a lot of people who are shovelling very hard and putting down no money at all. I say you should divide one from the other, and help people who are making an effort. I should like to say myself that I do not think, what appears to be your idea, that the amount of money that would be necessary for such a purpose is so huge as you appear to imagine.

6027. I am very glad to hear it. That, at all events, is one of the dangers?—I quite see the point, but I think if you went through Ireland you would find very few places where a genuine effort was being made.

6028. (Mr. Brown).—You would confine it to cases in which a genuine effort has been made up to the

present, and so exclude all further genuine effort?—I would take every case as it came along.

6029. You are confining your observations to efforts that had been made heretofore?—I would consider future efforts also.

6030. Then there is a very large field?—You think everybody would put their hands in their pockets and plunk down the money.

6031. No, but it is not limited, as you say, to the existing efforts?—It is very hard for me here to answer questions about this kind of thing, which, as I am not likely to be running a Department, I have not considered.

6032. (Chairman).—What led us into this line was this particular case you brought forward, for it is really an illustration of a general principle which I am bound to say is one of the most difficult questions one can possibly have to consider—the proper limit of State aid?—The reason I brought forward that case was to show that the powers of the Department are not quite clear, and that is in the terms of your reference.

6033. I do not think their powers are at all clear in that respect?—I know but little of the educational part of the Department's work, and my observations only apply to business matters with which I am personally acquainted. I believe that the business end of the Department's work could be very largely improved and developed, and unless this is done I feel that the full advantage to be derived from the Department's teaching will not be gained to Ireland. In saying this I am casting no reflection on the Department's teaching, which I believe is good, and I have only to add that I know of no one who, in my opinion, is better capable of directing the work of the Department than Sir Horace Plunkett.

MR. JAMES NEARY EXAMINED.

Mr. J. Neary. 6034. (Chairman).—You live at Strokestown, and are a representative of the Roscommon County Council?—I am a member of the County Council and of the Agricultural and Technical Committee. There are thirty or thirty-two members (all of the County Council), and twenty or twenty-two other members, his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese and a good many clergymen amongst them.

6035. You say you wish to speak about some change in the methods which you consider most suitable to the rural population?—I consider that the Department and the Board of Education should be in touch with each other, and agriculture, at any rate, and technical subjects, also, should be taught in the schools at an early age. Agriculture should be taught to boys in rural districts, and, if possible, you should have a small farm or plot attached to the schools in the rural districts where they might learn the rudiments of agriculture; and I should also say that it would be well if there was a large farm taken in every county, forming part of the scheme, and worked by the Department in a central place, so that the people of the county could see improved breeds of stock and improved methods of agriculture pursued there. And if there were boys—advanced boys—taught in such a school it would be a great advantage.

6036. You mean like the farm at Athlery?—Yes; I don't say in all the counties it would be necessary to teach boys, but I think it would be well if there should be such a farm in each of the counties.

6037. To show how a farm ought to be worked?—Yes, and to see everything in connection with it—the class of cattle kept there, and the treatment of the cattle, and the crops grown. I am also of opinion that the itinerant system does not appear to me to be a success.

6038. In what way?—The lectures are not attended very well. There seems to be some fascination or novelty about it the first time. After a time, when those instructors in domestic economy go round again, the classes are not very well attended, and the people don't seem to take a great interest in them. And I believe domestic economy should also be taught in the schools. In Roscommon we have an agricultural instructor only for a year or two, and I think he is the most useful instructor we have. We have no horticultural instructor at the present time. I think that would be useful, too.

6039. Have the Committee asked for one?—The Department said that they could not recommend any person to teach horticulture at present.

6040. You are trying to get over?—We will put one as soon as we can. And then I am of opinion also that the County Committee be worked, as it stands at present, by a few members of the Committee. We hold meetings in Roscommon monthly, and it is impossible for members of the County Council and others living at the extreme end of the county to attend those meetings regularly, or attend them at all. In fact, I believe some members of the Committee never attend at all.

6041. You have a very large Committee?—Yes; I take it that the county is pretty well represented in the Committee, and I think there should be a change. We have the county in Roscommon divided into five circuits, and I think it would be well if each of these circuits had a good deal of the management in their own particular districts. If there were Committees formed, mark on the same lines as the Rural District Councils and having the same relation that the Rural District Council does to the County Council, it would be more satisfactory in every sense, and it might enlist public sympathy and support, for at present it appears to me that the Department, or the work of the Department, is not popular.

6042. (Mr. Brown).—Would there not be a difficulty about that, how would each circuit arrange visits of instructors and all that of the various classes?—The Secretary generally sends round circulars inviting applications for an instructor or instructor.

6043. Then the Committee representing the whole county tells where the instructors are to go?—At the next meeting it is arranged. In fact it is practically managed by the Chairman and Secretary.

6044. It is arranged for the whole county at the same time?—Yes.

6045. How would you work that if there were five different districts each working separately?—I do not say that they should be totally independent of the County Committee.

6046. Then you would want five separate officers, one for each district?—Yes.

6047. That would run away with a great deal of your funds?—The remuneration would be very small, and the Clerk of the Rural District Council would act.

6048. Do the circuits correspond altogether with the Rural Districts?—In two cases I think they correspond of two unions, Ballinalee and Athlery in the south, and Carnal-on-Shannon and Boyle in the north.

6049. They don't coincide generally?—All the others do. Castlereagh, Roscommon, and Strabane do four districts at themselves.

6050. Don't you think it would be better if the County Committee were fewer in number?—I do; but I don't know that there would be a good attendance even if it were smaller. We have a good many clergymen on, and they are not good attendants.

6051. Did you ever try to give local Committees the working out of the details?—We have local Committees in the scheme at present, but they are invested with very little power. Their duty simply consists in arranging with the instructor or instructress who will come there, and seeing that there is order kept, and reporting if there is any irregularity.

6052. Would it not also be part of their duties to endeavour to secure attendance at the classes?—Yes, if they do that; but they don't generally go to any trouble about doing it.

6053. Would you not think that that is one of the great causes of the failure of interest instruction? if those Committees took a little more trouble and interest things would go better?—I don't think it. I should not like at all to do away with the working of the Department. At the same time I think it needs a change. And on the other hand, if the Committee takes an interest in requesting people to go there, I don't think it would have any effect on the second or third session; because people who know how it is working would go there, I think, of their own volition.

6054. Which of the classes, do you think, does most good?—I approve of the Agricultural Instructor, Mr. Hands; and the better instructress is a very good lady. I see it is arranged that there will be three instructresses in domestic economy for the next time. I don't think there is sufficient interest taken in the subject at present.

6055. Why have your Committee decided to have a third instructress?—I cannot tell you. I am not a

good attendant at that Committee. It is ten or twelve Irish miles from me. I cannot attend there, only occasionally. July 11, 1906.
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6056. But there must be other members of opinion that it is doing good, because they are attending it?—Yes; we have increased the county rate. It was only a halfpenny last year. Hereafter it will be a penny, and it naturally follows that there would be more instructors and the working would be more elaborate.

6057. Have you anything to say about the working of the poultry scheme?—The poultry scheme has been successful so far. There is no doubt whatever that there is an improvement in the breed of poultry.

6058. And the people are profiting by that?—Yes, the price of eggs is rising somewhat; but then a good many people think they are fairly well instructed in the management of poultry now. They don't care so very much about letting it go on for ever.

6059. How are your livestock schemes working?—The five-stock scheme is working fairly well. The people don't seem to have taken so much interest in pig-breeding as they might have taken. The bulls they have got I think are a great acquisition to the county.

6060. You don't think the half-bred bulls would be better?—I think not at present. They have a large head of cattle in Roscommon, and I think the Hereford and Friesian and pure-bred shorthorns are a great improvement on that class of cattle. The tendency will be for earlier maturity than we had hitherto, and not altogether so large. They were growing rather large.

6061. Have you large dairies in Roscommon?—No, there are no large dairies. We have creameries in Boyle, Croughan, and on towards Bellefleurgreen. The other end of the county is not so noted for butter-making.

MR. ALEXANDER CREIGHTON, J.P., examined.

6062. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Ship Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes.

6063. I may ask you, perhaps, whether you had Mr. Smith's views before you?—No; I am in the country; but I wish to endorse every word that Sir Joselyn Gore-Smith has said in his evidence.

6064. I think you wish to say something about the expenditure of the Department?—I should like more help to be given to local effort. I think that the system as worked now cannot give full satisfaction. For instance, a County Agricultural Committee is not able to do anything for early potatoes or for horticulture. A scheme will be fully made up and there will be always minorities left out in the cold. I think these should get some help, but the only way I see of getting nearly all round would be to make it a condition that they should help themselves first; in other words they should pay for some of the expense. That would safeguard waste, and be a sort of guarantee that the people really wanted it.

6065. You are speaking now of—?—Agriculture, more especially with reference to potatoes.

6066. And with regard to the marketing of potatoes?—Yes; it is a suggestion to carry out Sir Joselyn's idea.

6067. You think there ought to be assistance for that, but that it ought to be on condition of the people helping themselves and forming some association among themselves, or what sort of an organisation would you contemplate?—I think you might have both working partly in co-operation with the agricultural committee. People in the country, for instance, could apply to the Secretary and ask for a certain definite kind of instruction, and if the Secretary told them that the county funds were not available, he could then inform them that if they liked to pay £50 or £15 they would get £20 or £25 more. Of course all the accounts would have to be audited, but, subject to audit, the less red-tape the better.

6068. (Mr. Brown).—For what purposes would these moneys be given or subscribed?—For instruction generally.

6069. (Chairman).—Instruction in marketing?—Instruction in marketing and technical instruction also.

For instance the people in the country are terribly ignorant about horticulture, but it is extremely probable that one horticulture instructor would not be able to do the work. He can't be everywhere. If you could get the people to subscribe they could employ a local gardener or at least apply to the nurseries—some of the English or Irish nurseries—who would send them down a skilled man who would show them how to prune trees. It would pay the nurseries to do it, because it would lead to business.

6070. What I understand is, you would supplement the present system?—Yes; I don't want to find fault with the present system.

6071. You want to carry it further, and you think it might be carried further by way of combination with assistance from the Department, and local effort?—Local effort should be worked partly by societies and partly by individuals.

6072. Would the local effort consist in combinations of individuals or in further effort on the part of local bodies?—I think that should to a large extent be left to the future; but perhaps it would take the form, as it has done abroad, of large societies and syndicates. Abroad all the chief trades are in the hands of big syndicates, all industries are in the hands of syndicates. I think it would be on those lines that it would be worked.

6073. You want more organisation among the producing class?—Yes.

6074. And more assistance towards that organisation?—Yes; and I think the same principle could be applied with regard to industries—firstly, by helping instruction. Now I quite understand your remarks about helping particular industries, that State help might lead to terrible waste.

6075. There is a good deal to be said on both sides?—But at present, I think any industry, whether co-operative or private, might get some help when they turn raw labour, unskilled labour, into skilled labour. And with regard to our factory, if we get, say, £100 or £200, merely because we are actually converting a lot of girls who don't know any work at all into skilled workers, they are in a better position afterwards to earn their bread and butter anywhere.

Mr. A. Creighton, A.B.

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Mr. A.
Greigson, J.P.

6976. (Mr. Brown).—They would be aided by instruction.—No; we are well able to give them instruction ourselves. We have a manager, and it is his business to instruct them. We don't want the Department to instruct our girls in any technical business, but we want help and subsidy.

6977. An annual sum?—Yes, varying with the number of girls employed and the wages.

6978. (Chairman).—You want a direct subsidy of some sort?—Yes; the same thing to apply all round, and any private industries to be helped equally.

6979. What staggers one there is the vast proportions which such a system would attain.—I think by keeping it so instruction, a beginning would be made, after which it could be left to take care of itself.

6980. I thought you said you were not beginning with instruction, that the instruction was contributed by your own manager?—A grant for instruction, I mean.

6981. The grant, at whatever you call it, is really as a subsidy to the industry?—Well, it works out as a subsidy to the industry certainly, but it should only be given as a grant for instruction.

(Chairman).—“A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

(Mr. Brown).—I thought you provided for your own instruction.

6982. (Chairman).—It does come to that, whether it is right or wrong. It comes to this, that what you really want is that your industry should be subsidised by the State?—I am thinking of it as a convenient case.

6983. (Mr. Brown).—Of course it should apply all round—both to individuals and societies?—Yes.

6984. And to every species of industry?—Yes, as far as it can be worked?—It is all theoretical.

6985. You don't mean advances, as Sir Joselyn Gore Booth said?—No, I think for the present I would be against loans; it would be too risky.

6986. Giving away the money altogether would be more risky. If you lend money you have a chance of getting it back, but if you part with it altogether there is not even the chance of getting it back?—I think it might be done by keeping the figure small, not giving too much.

6987. I understand. Loans would mean large capital sums for the erection of machinery, but subsidies would only mean an assistance to running expenses?—For instance, in our case, if the manager informed the authorities that we had every year ten underpaid girls, and that we had put ten girls that were not able to earn more than six shillings or seven shillings a week in a position to earn double the amount.

6988. (Chairman).—You mean you ought to have a grant in consideration of the instruction you have earned out?—It is merely a sort of grant for secondary education.

6989. (Mr. Brown).—A grant equivalent to the cost of training these new hands you bring to each year?—Yes.

6990. (Chairman).—Your notes deal largely with the question of organising co-operation, and how far the Department ought to have any connection with co-operation?—I read the evidence in the South of attacks on the Organisation Society, and I think there is something to be said from that point of view; but I think the whole difficulty could be met if the Government could see its way to giving, we will say, one per cent on the whole trade of a large business for improvement purposes. For instance, in the butter trade, there is something like £2,000,000. There should therefore be something like £20,000 given for the general purpose of improving the butter trade in Ireland. Part of that £20,000, only part, might be given to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. Part might be given towards the payment of officials in England to look after Irish imports into England; and part could be given to any set of manufacturers organised that could show they do some work like giving prizes. A certain amount of discretion might be given to them. In that way there would be no interference in helping any particular Association like the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

6991. It would be an assistance to the whole trade, not to the individual trader?—Yes. At present I think the Department in its effort to act fairly is acting very unfairly to the proprietary creameries. It appoints inspectors, but inspectors are no earthly use to the proprietary creameries, and at the same time by taking away inspectors from the I.A.O.S. it is practically crippling the Organisation Society. Formerly the inspectors belonged to the society, and the societies felt that they got some value for their affiliation fees. Now the I.A.O.S. has nothing to offer.

6992. (Mr. Brown).—What were the duties of those inspectors?—To recommend alterations in machinery, if a society wanted a new boiler or anything of that kind; to advise generally on the out-pat. Some of them are extremely good men.

6993. You say they are acting unfairly to the proprietary creameries by appointing those inspectors?—Yes; the public money is used for a purpose that is only useful for their rivals.

6994. But then you also say it has been injurious to the co-operative creameries?—Well, it would be very much better if the co-operative creameries got some money, £50, in the pound that they are paying, and let the I.A.O.S. then support them as they used to do.

6995. I do not quite follow. Is it that the co-operative society should be paid the equivalent of the inspector's salary?—No, part of it, not the whole of it.

6996. Would not the co-operative creameries, according to your scheme, still have the benefit of inspection, which would be an injury to the proprietary creameries, and would they not have, in addition to that, a subsidy, a part of the inspector's salary?—What I am driving at is that the only way to make it fair is to subsidise all round.

6997. Then would you subsidise the proprietary creameries and the whole butter trade?—I would.

Mr. WILLIAM LARSEN examined.

Mr. W. Larssen.

6998. (Chairman).—I have your letter. I do not quite follow how this arose in reference to our inquiry. There was a statement made by Mr. Gill, which I think you call in question?—Yes.

6999. Of course you are quite entitled to point out any inaccuracy in that, but I do not think we can go into the general question of this particular railway, and why it was discontinued. Mr. Gill's statement is here [Reads Question 1935]. Any inaccuracy in that you are quite entitled to call attention to.—That differs from the report that I based my conclusions on, but still I think his statement is inaccurate.

7000. Any correction you have to make in that statement, you are at liberty to do?—There was no

resolution passed in favour of the bill presented by the Cavan and Leitrim Railway. The matter had come before the Council previously, and they had passed resolutions favourable to extension, provided there was no additional burden put upon the county. In the Bill a clause was introduced making the county liable if there was any deficiency in the working expenses or maintenance of the extension. The Bill came before the County Council under the Standing Orders of Parliament for their sanction or dissent, and on the ground that it was throwing an additional burden on the county, or might throw an additional burden on the county, the assent was refused.

7001. That you say was the fact?—Yes.

Alderman BERNARD COFFEY, J.P., examined.

7002. (Chairman).—I think you are a member of the County Sligo Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes, I am.

7003. Will you just tell us what you wish to say?—Well, I don't think I have anything very particular to say. I think I have mentioned to the secretary that I would answer any questions put to me. I have no particular theory of my own to put forward.

7004. You have been that paper of Mr. Smith's that was referred to?—I did, but though I am a member of the Technical Committee of the borough I have not really attended their meetings or taken any interest in it. Any interest I took in the matter was in connection with the agricultural department.

7005. Is it the County Committee, not the Urban Committee, with which you are concerned?—The County Committee principally.

7006. Have you anything you wish to say about the relations of the Committee to the Department?—I have nothing to say exactly with regard to the working of the Committee and the Department. I think they are working fairly well, but I do think there are one or two subjects that individually I do not approve of in connection with it. One of these is the selection of bulls. I farm a little myself and breed my cattle, and I have a most decided objection to prize bulls. First, they cost twice the price, and the Department won't allow any to be bought except those ones that have some pedigree or something of the kind, while infinitely better cattle can be bought in the neighbourhood at a third of the price.

7007. Half-bred cattle?—They are practically quite fully bred cattle, but not registered. I once bred from one of these premium bulls that a neighbour of mine had got, and the produce was the worst cattle I ever bred for thirty years, the poorest calves I ever had. I have cows that I sold the best of cattle from. I think after they are a few years in the country they may do better; but when one of those prize bulls comes down from Dublin, fed up and pampered and all that sort of thing, in the first year his produce is decidedly bad. That is my experience personally.

7008. Do you object to the live stock scheme or complain of giving premiums?—No, I do not object to it. I only object to the fact of compelling those who get prizes for bulls to go up to Dublin and pay £40 or £50 while they could go entirely a better one at home for from £15 to £20. On one occasion we asked the Department to allow us to buy some of those, and they refused. I don't blame them for that. I was travelling outside their programme.

7009. (Mr. Dyden).—They don't hinder you from buying them yourself if you wish to?—Oh, not at all; and I keep one myself, for I take very good care I would not send again to one of the prize bulls.

7010. Where did the bull that came from that you speak of?—He came from Dublin, and he took two prizes at our local show, beat all others before him; but he produced the worst calves I ever saw.

7011. Did you not keep the calves till they were two years old?—I did, and turned out one of them fat from among fifteen, and he was the worst of the lot—turned him out when he was three years old, after being fed in the stall for three or four months.

7012. (Chairman).—Is your view based on that particular instance?—Well, practically. It is probable they might have done better in other districts, but I know, in my own neighbourhood, even with others the same thing occurred.

7013. At all events, you say you were unfortunate in this case?—Yes. I think it is regarding to down on the country people that the co-operative creameries are not a success. At one time we had a large butter market here in Sligo. Some people may think I am prejudiced, being resident in Sligo, in favour of the butter market, but I assure you I am not. I am more interested in the country than in the town. But it strikes me forcibly that the co-operative creamery system has not been a success. To begin with, the calves that have been reared now are not good. I know that for some years I used to buy calves myself, and I had very great difficulty in bringing them through the winter. I don't know whether it is be-

cause of their being fed on creamery milk or whether it is the artificial food they give them, but when they are turned out in the winter on the farms they are not capable of standing the winter. That is my own experience.

7014. Is that the principal reason why you think the creameries are not a success?—I think it is one of the causes, to begin with. I will just give you an instance of it. I was Mayor of Sligo in 1904 and 1905, but on one of those occasions we had 1,400 firkins of butter in the Sligo market, and they averaged 25, bringing in £7,000 to the farmers. I don't think the country people ever collected such a lump of money together to meet their demands as they used to do under the old system. When they came in they got 45 per firkon of butter. I have a business in town, and we now sometimes change cheques for 4d., and there is one penny on the cheque. Well, perhaps I am wrong in saying as low as that, but I have changed them for 5d., and on the cheques for 5d. there was a penny stamp. I think, too, the country people were altogether better off when they made butter. And, secondly, creamery butter is not, to my mind, better at all. I would not eat it.

7015. You don't think the methods of making butter have improved?—I am a great believer in the old method of making butter. And as to the quality of the butter, at the time I talk of the butter was packed in these firkins, and they were bought by the English merchants for the purpose of being stored until March and April.

7016. Since then there has been a good deal of competition from Denmark and other places?—I think there was at that time a great deal of butter coming in from Denmark. Irish butter when packed in large firkins kept sound. It might have a little woody flavour in March, but it was perfectly sound all the same. It was really better. I think myself, however, that the Department is doing some good.

7017. What would you say was the best thing they are doing?—Well, although I am not so well acquainted with it, I think the technical department is the best thing they have on hand in a measure. There is no doubt that the agricultural department is doing good, but I am greatly afraid the greater bulk of the money goes in expenses. As far as I can see, it takes at least half the amount of the funds in hand to administer it, both from the county contributions and the Department. It takes half the amount to administer it. And those inspectors that go about the country, I don't see what good they can do. I don't see what they are doing.

7018. Do you think they are doing so good in poultry?—I think if the money was expended in another way, if it was laid out in encouraging the small farmers through the country, giving them to understand that the man who grows the best acre of turnips or the best acre of oats, so to speak, that he would have a chance of getting a prize for it or being recommended for it, or something of that kind—if the money was expended through the country in that way it would do good, but at the present rate that it is expended it practically does no good.

7019. Do you think they do something in the way of showing them how to grow their oats and turnips and so on—the experimental farms?—My experience of all they have done about here is not much. They attempted these small little plots. What good are those plots? What experience does it give to the man who wants to grow two or three acres of turnips or two or three of potatoes, to see a couple of patches grown? I could understand a class going down to see where Sir Joselyn Gore-Booth grows a quantity and whether that is a success or not. But the instructors that went round here and tried to grow small patches, I don't see what good they can show! In the first place, they can't show whether it would pay or not. If they grow one or two acres—and that was one of the things that at the first formation of the committee we wanted to have done, to have a sort of small model farm in the country in which acres of oats and turnips and other things would be grown, and then show the people what could be done and then it paid a profit.

7020. (Mr. Dyden).—Is not the principle just the same in growing a small plot as in growing a large one?—I would expect it would be.

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7021. And would not the cultivation be just the same?—You cannot show by a small patch of ground whether it pays or not.

7022. Oh, yes, you can show just the same. What is the difference—you would only have the same percentage of labour, the same percentage of seed and

everything else?—If a farmer with fifteen acres of land was to grow an acre or two of potatoes or turnips, and if every perch was to cost him as much as the experimental peach crop, he would very soon give up agricultural farming.

Rev. JOSEPH MECHAN, C.C., examined.

Rev. Joseph
 Mechan, C.C.

7023. (Witness).—I have been asked by the County Committee of Leitrim to come forward. I must say as the first instance I have not seen a paper for the last nine or ten days. I was away from home, and I am afraid what I have to say will be a little disagreeable. The Department in the parish to which I belong has done a vast amount of good. It would take me too long to go over all it has done in this parish alone, not to speak of the whole county of Leitrim. If I speak to you of what it has done in that parish you can infer from that what it has done in the remainder of the county. I am of opinion that its work has been altogether on the right lines.

7024. (Chairman).—Are you speaking of the agricultural or the technical work?—Both, but particularly the technical work. I am greatly afraid the last witness would consider my opinions almost reactionary. I should say, too, that I don't believe the Department could have done all the work it has accomplished but for the fact that it was preceded by the I.A.O.R. That society banded the farmers together and formed a number of societies which were centres for the dissemination of knowledge; and, furthermore, it almost entirely got over that difficulty, which is a very great difficulty in this country, that is the religious one. The farmers of the different denominations came together now. They were brought together in those societies, and that paved the way for all the work the Department has done. Of course, too, while the Department has done a vast deal of work, its main work has been educative, and that is work that does not appear on the surface, and whose results will not appear for a very long time. But the education has been, as well as I can judge, on the right lines, and they have taken the greatest possible trouble to give it the proper stamp. The first thing the Department did in our locality was to send pioneer lecturers. There were a number of pioneer lectures delivered on domestic economy, veterinary science, poultry-keeping, bee-keeping, and horticulture. I thought so very highly of what was done in this respect that I took the trouble to put those lectures together in a little book, and I would venture to ask you to take the pamphlet in evidence [produced]. The object of the pioneer lectures was not to impart a large amount of instruction; it was simply to arouse the interest of the people in the subjects about which they treated. Consequently it should have been followed up by an agricultural instructor. The iron should have been struck while it was hot. The last witness from the Co. Leitrim complained of the fact that we have not had an agricultural instructor, and I should wish to mitigate what he said on that point.

7025. That was a great misfortune I should think?—A very great misfortune. The Department sent no agricultural instructor. I was on the Committee in 1905 when we applied for an agricultural instructor. They put forward various excuses, which some of us did not accept as quite genuine. We saw in the Fifth Report of the Department that they have twenty-two instructors altogether. Our county has been left out in the cold, while instructors were given to other counties.

7026. (Mr. Brown).—Was 1903 the first year you applied?—Yes.

7027. The Act had been three years in operation then. Other counties had applied. I can tell you of one that applied in 1900 and obtained an instructor?—It was never put forward as a reason, that I can remember, for refusing us an instructor, that other counties had applied before. We have been treated in the self-same way by the Congested Districts Board. Half of Leitrim is scheduled as congested, thirty-eight of its seventy-eight electoral divisions. It is extremely poor; in fact, going into statistics, it is actually the poorest county in Ireland. We applied for an instructor to the Congested Districts Board. It was refused us. The ground given then was that they had no instructors available. That excuse was put before the hitherto

agricultural society with which I had to deal, but I saw from the reports subsequently that they moved their instructors from one field to another of the congested districts. Furthermore, I saw that the Congested Districts Board, when they thought there was a need for another instructor down in Donegal, went and appointed one. And still we were left out in the cold. I am greatly afraid, therefore, that there is a possibility of the self-same reason operating in this case. It is that we are poor and therefore neglected. I think the Department of Agriculture should have special regard for the needs of a particularly poor county. When I am on that point I would say further that it is in our scheme since 1903, this thing about the instructor.

7028. The scheme has been sanctioned?—Yes, but I should say we applied before 1903—in 1902. In the scheme there is a certain contribution from the county, and £280 from the Department. That £280 has gone back year after year to the Department. We never got it. There is as much now accumulated that we fancy we can lay claim to as will establish an Agricultural College or an Agricultural High-class Institution in Co. Leitrim. Whether it be held or not that each county in Ireland should have its own agricultural college, I think that particularly County Leitrim should have one, for this reason, that not only is it a poor county, but the land is particularly poor; it has a cold and retentive soil. I give you that, not on my own opinion, but on the opinion of experts that came round—Mr. Clane, of the Department of Agriculture, and some others. I remember Mr. Clane pointing out on the side of the road the rushes growing, with a little drain alongside. It is commonly said that in good land, after it is drained, you won't have any rushes, but here was a little strip perfectly drained, with the rushes growing, showing the retentive nature of the soil. Owing to the exceptional smallness of the farms in Leitrim I think the average valuation would be about 27 each. Half of it is congested, and even outside the scheduled area the average valuation is very low. A district is not congested unless the ratio of the population to the rateable valuation is something like 25s. They are very poor. The soil is particularly bad, cold and retentive. It is exceedingly bally. Therefore the kind of agriculture which would suit other counties would not suit County Leitrim. I fancy that is one of the mistakes that are being made by the Department of Agriculture, that while the instruction conveyed would certainly tend to benefit districts where you have exceedingly good land and exceedingly fertile soil, it would be totally unsuitable for counties such as Leitrim. That is one special reason why we should have an agricultural station in Leitrim. From that all the benefit would arise that arises from agricultural stations elsewhere. But then again, we are not very poor, but neglected. Unfortunately we have not very many representative men, or men of influence and leisure, to push our cause. That may be suggested as one of the reasons why we are in the background. As to poultry, there are twenty poultry stations in the county, and they have been a vast benefit. The Congested Districts Board had some few poultry stations before that. But as an evidence of the value of the agricultural instructor, the people had neglected them a great deal, but once the agricultural instructor had gone round and showed them the value of this poultry, the poultry stations became a very great success.

7029. (Mr. Deegan).—You mean what the Department call egg stations?—Yes. First you had a pioneer lecturer; secondly an agricultural instructor remaining in the county for a year and giving the people much knowledge about poultry, and then you have him withdrawn. There would not indeed have been any great need for him, he would be only travelling over the same ground. Then agricultural stations were established. There are twenty agricultural stations for fowl, and sixteen or seventeen for turkeys, and from these the best breeds of poultry are sent round

about the country. The Department expects these stations now, although the poultry instructor is no longer in the country. Taking the station in my parish the breed of fowl is White Leghorns—an excellent breed of fowl. There are thirty hens and three roosters. The people go there and get a setting of eggs for a shilling.

7022. That is what they call in most places an egg station?—In that connection I should like to emphasize what has been already put before you by one of the witnesses, Sir Joselyn Gore-Booth, namely that while that is all right, the country people do not reap as much benefit from these egg stations as they might. There is a hiatus. Of course the number of eggs has increased somewhat, and eggs are a most important food for the country people, but then the people at the present time get no higher price for these eggs. In a great many instances the poultry selected give larger eggs, but nowhere in Leitrim or the adjoining counties are those eggs of more value commercially than smaller eggs. There is need for organisation for marketing these eggs, and there is where the I.A.O.S. would come in again. After a few years the people will come to have any interest in these poultry stations unless they can see some material benefit accruing from them. At the present time while there is a small benefit in increased eggs and better poultry and stronger poultry, as an industry it is worthless; they get no more money than they got before.

7023. The number of pounds in their pockets don't increase?—No, they are nothing the wretched.

7024. (Mr. Brown).—Have any poultry societies been formed in your district?—Not in my district.

7025. There is nothing at present to prevent the people applying to the I.A.O.S. to aid them in organising a poultry society?—No; it just requires the initiative, and after a time when these breeds are nurtured more fully among the people it will have to be organised, and we will have to fall back on the I.A.O.S., or some similar body, but I don't know any body that could do it as well as the I.A.O.S. They are experienced men, and are of the people, and understand them.

7026. We have been told the very opposite in some districts?—I am very confident in the opinion I express, because I have gone about with them and heard their lectures, and know a good deal of them.

7027. (Chairman).—In the passage which I read to Sir Joselyn Gore-Booth the Department acknowledge the justice of what you say, that it is very important that particular question should be taken up. They say a great deal has been done as regards marketing by the instructor as well as by the co-operative societies in effecting an improvement in the method by which the eggs are placed on the market, and they have earnestly turned their attention to the question of markets?—The I.A.O.S. in other districts has so far as its attention.

(Chairman).—This is Professor Campbell's evidence speaking of the Department.

7028. (Mr. Brown).—The I.A.O.S. do not move until they are requested by some local people?—No, they do not.

7029. But they are always prepared, I suppose, to act?—As long as they exist they are, but their existence is threatened at the present time, and in my opinion, and of that I am very confident, their extinction would be disastrous for the country. With regard to swine, that is an instance of where the people have been educated. In the beginning the people did not believe the Department were on the right lines—that is, in the Co. Leitrim. They now believe they are on the right line. I have taken the trouble to find out, and it is like this. The first time those Yorkshire pigs were introduced they did not sell very well in the market. They were beaten in price by pigs of a flabby description, which were then prevalent. They were all hybrid, no recognized breed of pigs whatever. There are a few of the old black pigs in the country still, but they are very few. But when the Limerick buyers came to know of these pigs they bought them. They require a special stamp of pig, and the Yorkshire breed exactly fills the bill; so their are getting far higher prices now than they were. With-out the Department I do not see how they could ever have been introduced into the country. It was quite a new experience to the people to see the officers of a Government Department taking any interest in the people.

7030. Doing any good at all?—Yes. The strong point up to that was ruling and beating. Now, they

seem like other Governments to be trying to do a little good for the people. As to the horses, I am not confident in any opinion I can advance with regard to them. With regard to the cattle there are special difficulties in the Co. Leitrim. There is one gentleman I know who has a large farm in Leitrim, and another in Roscommon, and he says that the cattle that would suit in Roscommon would not suit in Leitrim. If he brings good sheep from his Roscommon farm to Leitrim, in a year they all die of fever. As to whether the cattle schemes are a net benefit I am convinced they are. I think this is the true opinion about it. If the small farmers be obliged to sell their calves the improved cattle are not a benefit. They don't get as good a price for the short-horned calves, as they do for what they call the Roscommon breed. They do for the Aberdeen Angus. For those who can keep on their calves for two or three years short-horned make the best turn out. The short-horned bulls introduced are like hot-house plants, and their progeny require more care than the ordinary run of calves. Consequently there are more losses. Then in the market they don't get such high prices, but when kept on as two or three years old they are better. This is the opinion of all the farmers I have come in contact with. The short-horned have never been bred for milking qualities except one or two strains. There has not been a record of their milking kept. I infer that from a paper read last June before the British Dairy Farmers' Association. Then cattle differ. If you take the price of a gallon of milk at 5d., in the same herd you will find the value of the yield for a year of one cow was £24, and of another as low as £10 or £11. Hence it is of great importance that a good strain of milking cattle should be introduced into Leitrim. It is altogether a dairying district. We have over so many creameries. That has not been done. That as far as I know has been neglected. Cattle of a good dairying quality have not been introduced. It seems almost the universal reaction that cattle are bred to make a good exhibition in the showyard rather than for milking purposes. You cannot show a cow that would be a good milking cow merely, but if it appears well shaped and framed for putting up beef it is all right.

7031. (Chairman).—Do you think the milking qualities are sufficiently attended to?—They have not been sufficiently attended to, and it would be most important that they should be.

7032. (Mr. Brown).—The people who are supplying these bulls have not paid enough attention to the milking qualities?—I think they have paid no attention whatever.

7033. I would not say that, because some of them have?—There is one strain of these short-horned, the Mantalins, and their breeders maintain they have paid attention to the milking qualities.

7034. There must be a continuous selection?—Certainly there must be, just as in poultry. In the very self-same herd there is a difference of from £6 to £10 in value of cow's annual yield. There again the Aberdeen Angus are not a strain for milking purposes.

7035. They don't pretend to be, nor does the Hereford?—There is only one Hereford in Leitrim, but there are several Aberdeen Anguses.

7036. (Mr. Brown).—The local committee need not sanction either a Hereford or an Aberdeen Angus. That is left entirely to their own discretion?—Certainly it is, but they have sanctioned Aberdeen Anguses, and in one instance Herefords and Kentons. The latter have not been introduced, though they would be a useful breed. But the people depend on selling their calves.

7037. (Mr. Dwyer).—Do you think if your committee instructed the buyers to be sure, if possible, to get a bull from a good milking strain, that would help you out of the difficulty?—It would theoretically, not practically.

7038. I think I could suggest to you how to go to get a sire of a splendid milking quality?—I. While I am on that point another difficulty occurs, the selection of these bulls. The buyers complain that when they go up to buy a bull to Dublin or Belfast they cannot purchase one till the Department's inspector has gone round and passed the bulls. Then one that could be got at £80 jumps up to £20 or £40. Hence the value of the premium goes in reality to the breeder of the animal, not to the benefit of the buyer. Three fairs last a couple of days, and supposing they were not tickled as having passed the

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Department's inspector till the very end of the show, and that the bulls were bought provisionally, there would not be so much to complain of.

7046. Then the poor man who had put his money in the bull would be left?—No, he buys it provisionally. As I am on that point, too, I think it a suggestion that might be worth while considering, whether in the case of these bulls—we have just heard a Leitrim gentleman say there are ten non-premium bulls to one premium bull in the county—I think before any bull was let out for hire the owner should get a licence. The country has been ruined by bad animals. You cannot have so much gratuitously legislation as would prevent a man using with his own cattle any bull he likes, but if that man lets out a bull without a licence, he should not be empowered to recover fees.

7047. Would you agree that these bulls are better than the ones brought in generally?—I think the reply to that is contained in all I have said up to this. The net result to the small farmer is hardly any benefit, because he has to sell his calves; but for the man who can keep on his calves, it is all right and a decided advantage. As to bee-keeping, I take a great interest in that. It is on the right lines. It does not cost much in Leitrim, and it is slowly making its way and doing a very great benefit to the people interested. And there is this particularly. The people are hopeless and helpless, but when they want to learn a thing they now know where to go and learn it. I know two or three young fellows that take an interest, and there is not a book published on the subject that they have not read and studied, and that they do not know perfectly. About getting information from the Department, that is a good thing, too. I wanted to get some information on minding questions at one time, and I wrote to them, and they very courteously sent it to me. I think that should be put to the credit of the Department; any farmer wanting to get information on a subject connected with agriculture knows he has experts to whom he can apply and on whose opinion he can rely.

7048. (Chairman).—You think they are coming to appreciate that more, and know where they can get advice and information?—I know it was of very great use to me on one or two occasions. I am afraid I have to disagree in toto as to what has been submitted by the last witness about creameries. First we have inspection. The farmers themselves, those on the committee of the creamery, are not experts, and cannot know the value of machinery. The Department sends round inspectors who show what is wrong in the creamery and where the machinery can be improved, and the committee have confidence in their opinion and advice, and so can mend it. That they could not do out of their own knowledge. Then they have surprise butter competitions, and that keeps everyone alive; and then there are managers' certificates. It is of very great importance in a creamery that the manager should be a really good man. That is of more importance, in my opinion, than to have a good committee. How are you to know if you get twenty or thirty applications for a vacancy, how can you know a good man? We can know pretty well now, because a really good man will have a certificate. Hitherto it was a good deal of a lottery. Even those who have not got these certificates the Department are teaching, bringing them up to winter sessions, and they are also instructing them, enabling them to get these certificates. They are not only instructing the managers, but the prospective managers, and that is a good idea. Even when a manager is appointed they give him an opportunity at a time which suits him. They have a Commissioner looking after the sale of produce in England, that is Lord Islington. I won't enter on the point whether he is the right man or not, but at all events, having a Commissioner of Sales looking after Irish produce in England is a great boon to the country. Another benefit is the Agricultural Banks. They were altogether organized by the I.A.O.S., and these in the poorer districts are of very great benefit.

7049. Have you anything definite to say about the banks?—I should like to hear that from you?—In the small bank £360 is the amount of money we have. We got £50 of this from the Department, £50 from the Congested Districts Board, and the remainder

in different ways. It is lent out in small sums. The average loan would be £5 or £6. The small stipend for that you will find in the last Report of the I.A.O.S. In my experience, it has been a very great benefit to the small farmers. If a poor man is in need he will have to go twelve miles away to the neighbouring town, and he will have to give higher interest than we charge. It is not worked for profit, but on philanthropic lines. He spends his whole day in the town, and it costs him a great deal more, for he has to look after people who come to societies, and he has to go with his hat in his hand to the managers of these joint stock banks.

7050. And he has to pay a considerable rate of interest?—Ten per cent., and it amounts to a good deal more than that for small sums, because the interest is taken out of the face of the loan. Hence, these agricultural banks are a benefit, and one too that a clergyman especially should appreciate. We lend only to men who, we know, are respectable individuals. If we thought that a man was in the habit of going to fairs and coming home drunk he would get no loan from us. And it is also putting a value on the character of the man, for he only gets a loan again if he keeps his word. It is putting a higher premium on people keeping their word than ever was done before.

7051. As a matter of fact, have you many bad debts?—No; we never had a bad debt, and there has been a profit of about £3 every year. It was organized by the I.A.O.S., and in any difficulty—we had not many—we looked to the men who established it to naturally take an interest in it.

7052. It is an advantage that it should be on a comparatively small scale so that the borrowers should be personally known?—They are all personally known. For instance, taking this Bille bank, money can't be lent outside three electoral divisions, so that every individual in that district is well known to all those in the bank.

7053. (Mr. Dwyer).—Do you take security?—Yes, two shillings.

7054. Are there any paid officers?—No. They meet once a month.

7055. You have a managing board?—Yes, there is a committee appointed at the beginning of every year.

7056. (Mr. Brown).—What rate of interest?—Five per cent., a penny a pound a month.

7057. You don't pay that till the end of the time?—At the end of the time.

7058. (Chairman).—Do you get your interest as well as the principal?—Yes. It works out in a great moral and material benefit to the district, in my opinion. I have referred to the desirability of having an agricultural school in the Co. Leitrim, and the special reasons why I think there should be one, but I should wish to emphasize the fact that I am afraid the Co. Leitrim has always been neglected.

7059. (Mr. Brown).—There are only three of those schools in Ireland. We all want schools?—Of course we have the opinion advanced and supported that there should be one of these in each county, and they need not be on such a large scale.

7060. (Chairman).—Do you mean a school taking in a certain number of resident pupils?—It would take in a certain number of residents, but it would be much better if it did not take the pupils from their own homes.

7061. (Mr. Brown).—Then you would want one in every district?—Yes, that is the difficulty.

7062. (Chairman).—You mean day pupils, not living there?—I think the kind of school that would be of most benefit to a place like Leitrim would be what might be called a Continuation School, held in the evening and during the winter months. If you had an agricultural instructor he could teach one of the subjects one of the evenings. Not only should there be an agricultural instructor, but I think there should be a horticultural instructor. Between these two I should expect they could teach every subject that would be needed.

7063. (Mr. Brown).—Are you aware of the details of the instruction which is going on in some counties where they have agricultural instructors to water classes?—Yes, I heard about them.

7064. Would you think that would answer your purpose?—I think so.

7065. The schools last throughout the winter and end when the spring work begins, and the boys attend there on certain days—in the evenings would be most convenient.

7066. But it would be hardly workable in the evenings, because at present they attend for five hours at these classes, and you would be hardly able to get a sufficiently long time in the evenings. It is under the County Committee, and the boys who have come from a distance are supplied with meals?—Something like that would suit Leitrim. In my opinion, there would be two drawbacks. I should like to emphasise this, too, that farmers, especially farmers' sons, who are not used to taking knowledge out of books, they should rather be shown how to do a thing than told how to do it. The kind of instruction should be practical instruction, that is, actually showing them the thing done before their eyes. I am afraid that both in Leitrim and elsewhere boys who might be expected to take advantage of agricultural instruction are not sufficiently advanced. Their primary education was not sufficiently good to enable them to take advantage of a really good high-class agricultural education. I remember one instance, not in my own parish, but outside it, in one instance, not in an examination by a school inspector. I was present at an examination by a school inspector. It was an evening class, and the boys were from sixteen or seventeen to twenty-two or twenty-three years of age. They appeared to me to be almost illiterate, not to have had such an education as that they could readily reap the advantages that might otherwise be expected from a high-class school. Hence that oblige one to talk about primary schools. It is an opinion which is growing upon me that some form of modified compulsory attendance is necessary for the county districts. In Scotland they have compulsory education. In the summer time the boys go two days at least to school. In the winter they are obliged to go three days. And I especially like to say that, that while teachers, more especially those who have been trained a little, are doing their very best, they must be disheartened at the irregular attendance at the classes. The statistics run out something like this, that the attendance all through the county is not forty per cent. of the actual numbers on the roll. And the primary schools are held in this way, that the boys attending are not taught agriculture. I don't want much agriculture taught in these primary schools, but I would insist on a taste for agriculture being fostered. From my experience of primary schools, when a boy gets education there has whole aim afterwards is to get away from agriculture. He wants to become a clerk or go behind a shop counter, and that is one of the things that are doing a great deal of mischief in the country. There was a system of teaching agriculture in schools when I was a lad, and when I came back to deal with schools ten years ago I found it had not improved. Our boys were crammed with a lot of information. They could rhyme off "a five years' system" and "a four years' system," and did not know an iota of what they were saying. As education it was ridiculous.

7067. (Chairman).—That is rather the danger of primary education in that form?—It is not quite dead yet.

7068. It is so much easier to teach from a textbook?—Very much easier. The inspectors themselves did not know it. I met an inspector once and he was just after passing a magnificent examination, giving his inspectors, and I am positive he didn't know the difference between a turnip and a mangel. One of his questions to me when we were talking of Shropshire sheep was—he asked me the colour of the head, was it blue or green? The inspectors used to be brought up for three weeks to Glanvinn and get a sort of a run through agriculture, and they were supposed to know all about agriculture and be able to examine schools of children through the country. And it is no wonder that agriculture was at such a low ebb as it was when the Department was instituted. If the Department could devise a way by which they would establish model farms in each district they would serve the purpose of agricultural instruction.

7069. How far would the influence of the model farm extend—do you think benefit would be gained in having to come considerable distances to see it?—If they were established along the sides of the roads, three or four or five places could be selected in the county.

7070. (Mr. Brown).—You would not believe in having plots scattered all over the country?—Certainly; I saw some of them here in Sligo, and I got a great deal of information from them.

7071. And they are usually placed alongside the road?—Yes, in the instances I saw.

7072. (Chairman).—All your misfortune arise from not having an agricultural instructor?—That is one of the big misfortunes in Leitrim. I heard it said this way, that while our Co. Leitrim farmers have little theoretical knowledge of agriculture. They have got much practical knowledge. You send down your best instructor, with all his information. Put him on an average farm in Leitrim. Give him the average amount of cows, and give him half-a-dozen children to look after and leave him adrift, without any other aid, and I would back my County Leitrim farmer against him. You might infer from that that I slight a knowledge of agriculture. I do not. After a few years I believe his knowledge would tell, but for a considerable time the Co. Leitrim farmer would beat him.

7073. (Mr. Brown).—Might not the Co. Leitrim farmer be very much assisted in his practice by a little of the theoretical knowledge of the instructor?—Vastly assisted; but there are so many raw features in the Co. Leitrim that a person has to become acquainted with that for the instructor would be handicapped in that way, for see thing.

7074. He might for a little time, but he would in the end ascertain the peculiarities of your soil?—Yes, and climate, and markets.

7075. This experience would enable him to grasp those matters?—Yes. We had veterinary lectures in the Co. Leitrim which were of very great value. We have no veterinary surgeon there, and the people are suffering a great loss, and nothing has been devised by the Department to meet that difficulty. Until the lectures on veterinary science were given the knowledge of the farmers was certainly of a very elementary kind.

7076. (Mr. Draper).—And these lectures helped the farmers out of their difficulty?—They helped them, but of course a farmer cannot have acquired from them sufficient confidence in his own skill to go and treat a beast. In each district there is an unqualified man who does sometimes more harm than good. They depend upon him, and in a few instances I know his methods were very primitive. Now to go to special difficulties, the committees are too large. They number seventy-six in the Co. Leitrim, and it is an exceptionally small county. If a committee is to work properly it must be small, and all entirely devoted to their work and able to do things properly. That condition is entirely absent in Leitrim.

7077. (Chairman).—How do you account for the committees being so large—are all the members of the County Council put on the committees, to begin with?—Yes; at the present time that is the arrangement.

7078. Would you approve of the number being limited?—I can't see how it can be managed otherwise. If the Act of Parliament would state that a committee should not consist of more than a certain proportion of the members of the County Council, and the committee be given power to co-opt not more than a specified number, I can't see any other way to meet the difficulty.

7079. I suppose the real difficulty is that they don't like to leave their friends out?—Yes; usually a County Councillor wants to compliment a friend by putting him on. Fancy the secretary writing to each one of those seventy-six for every meeting! It is a terrible labour. And then there is no honour in doing well if you are only one of seventy-six, and there is no disgrace in doing things badly.

7080. Does it, in practice, work out that a very large number of the committee do not attend at all, and the matter is left in a few hands?—I should explain that with regard to Leitrim we are under a special difficulty. If you look at the form of the county, it is very like an hour-glass. It consists of two parts connected together by a narrow neck, perhaps like North and South America. Those two are worked together as one, though there is no connection whatever between North and South Leitrim. The people don't know each other. The county town is on the verge of the Co. Leitrim and at the extreme end, and what is worst of all, the railway accommodation is very bad in Leitrim. If you are going from North Leitrim to Carrick-on-Shannon

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you have to manœuvre through Sligo and Roscommon before you can reach it. At one of the large meetings in Leitrim I saw a gentleman who told me he had to get up at two o'clock and drive twenty-five miles into Sligo and then train in thirty-six and a-half miles to Carrick-on-Shannon. He could not be back here in Sligo till at least half-past nine at night, and I think he could not be in his own home till four or five next morning. That is not exceptional. It is the case with all those in the lower part of the Kinlough district. You can't expect those men to attend. They won't attend. In order to meet that difficulty they tried to adopt a system of having alternate meetings, one in South Leitrim and the next in North Leitrim, in Monaghan. That works out in this way, that the meetings in Carrick-on-Shannon are attended by the men from South Leitrim exclusively, and the meetings in North Leitrim by the men from North Leitrim almost exclusively. You cannot have a Committee working properly under those conditions, and I think that it ought to be at least considered and gone into fully whether or not there should be two Committees in Leitrim. As things are, the County Committee can never work thoroughly to the satisfaction of all concerned.

7081. (Mr. Brown).—If you had two Committees you would require to have two separate sets of instructors, but I think your first idea is the best, a really small Committee. You cannot have it all belonging to North Leitrim or South Leitrim. How can you expect the North Leitrim men to come down to Carrick-on-Shannon? Remember they are all small farmers in the County Leitrim.

7082. If you could have a small representative Committee with district Committees working under them, it might do, but if you have two independent bodies I don't see how they would work?—If the work of each were a separate unit. In Tipperary you have two Committees, but you have also these two County Councils.

7083. Yes, but one of the ridings there is much larger than the County Leitrim.—Whether it can be done or not, I think you will recognise that it is an extreme difficulty in Leitrim, and, if the scheme does not work so satisfactorily there as in other counties, that circumstance is to be discounted.

7084. There is no central place.—Well, where I live, I consider it should be made the Washington of the county, Crevin. But there is no railway to it. From north Leitrim you have to drive thirty miles, and you are not much use for a meeting after that, and thirty back, sixty miles in one day. Or, if you want to go by railway, you have to come to Sligo first. It is the worst land out county in Ireland. I would go in for school-gardens in connection with the National Schools. Of course I know that the Act excludes the Department from having anything to do with them, but I think by means of the Consultative Committee that could be managed. That would continue the instructive interest which the children have in agricultural matters. We have practically no industries in Leitrim except agriculture and its subsidiary industries. There is a lace class in Monaghan doing very well, making an average of £350 a year. There is also a hosiery class in Carrick-on-Shannon doing very well. The last gentleman, speaking about creameries, spoke about the small cheques from them, and putting a penny stamp on each small amount as 5d. I have seen stamps put on small sums like that, and I really think the Department or Government should in some way allow creameries, which are of vast importance to the country, to issue their cheques without that stamp. That has been allowed in the case of Agricultural Banks, and I cannot see any very strong reason against it in the case of creameries. In the Agricultural Banks the Registrar has allowed us to issue cheques without a penny stamp. It would not seem to be unreasonable to ask that the cheques issued by co-operative creamery societies should not be obliged to have a penny stamp, more particularly in view of what was brought out by the last witness, that sometimes a penny stamp is put on a 5d. cheque. The payment to milk suppliers in almost all creameries is payment by cheque. The amount of cheques in the creamery that I have to do with is surprising. It has a turn-over of £2,000 a year, and the annual cost for cheques is about £26, because they are all small supplies. And I have frequently seen a cheque with a

stamp on it for 1s. 6d. or 1s. There is no other good, business way of paying it.

7085. (Mr. Brown).—Am you registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act?—Yes.

7086. You should go to the Inland Revenue—the Department has nothing to do with it.—We went to the Inland Revenue through the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. It was done for banks and other philanthropic societies. The only point against it is that these banks are purely philanthropic, not worked for profit. Creameries are industrial societies registered for profit.

7087. And the banks are perhaps registered under the Friendly Societies Act?—They are. I suppose an Act of Parliament could do anything, but that an Act of Parliament should oblige us to put a penny stamp on a cheque for 1s. 6d., or even for as small as 5d., seems a little bit unreasonable.

7088. If sums under £2 are exempted?—Oh, exactly. That would exactly meet our difficulty.

7089. These lace classes are of trivial importance compared with agriculture?—If the country is to be saved, which is questionable, it is by agriculture. My opinion is that the best work done by the Department in that respect is in the domestic economy class, giving girls a better taste for neatness and tidiness and for improving their homes. All those improvements, and all that the Department has been doing, is so nothing compared to the good that has been done by giving the farmers the land into their own hands. It was impossible for them to improve their farms, or take an interest in improving their homes or farms, until the landlord was deprived of the power of selling a higher rent on their land when they did do anything. Let me give an instance. I was the other day speaking to a farmer, and I entered a gate he had lately put on a field. I said, "Would you have done that in the time of the late landlord?" "Not at all," he said; "that would have been £5 addition in the rent, besides paying for the gate." And I know, as a matter of fact, that that landlord when he found himself in need of money went over the country, and noted the best farms, and raised the rent for them, because he knew the inference that those people were strong farmers. I knew that to be done. It was impossible for any improvement to be made in the land under such conditions.

7090. (Chairman).—There is one question I should like to ask you—do you think the people are beginning to appreciate all this?—Certainly. Of course in the beginning the Department had two or three difficulties to contend with. First, it was looked upon in the country as the outcome of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, which I believe it is, to a very great extent, at all events. The interests of a great many shopkeepers in the country clash with the interests of the creameries, which were identified with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and, consequently they arrayed themselves against the Department. Again, there is the traditional distrust, which I referred to incidentally, of the Irish farmer and the Irish people generally in anything which the Government does or has done—a distrust which, I think, is the part was perfectly justified. There is that feeling, about them, *Times Deceus et deus ferociter*; they were afraid that all the Department was doing for them was in order to strengthen their backs to bear heavier burdens to be later put on them, just as it was said the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in the beginning was a landlord's institution, and its sole object to make the farmers stronger, in order that a bigger rent might be piled on. Hence it was only with extreme prudence, and only in the case of landlords in whom the people had confidence, as in one of the gentlemen who appeared here to-day, that they had anything at all to do with it. While they recognised it would be for the benefit of the country, they thought it more prudent to let the people work out their own salvation themselves. These causes are not so operative now as in the beginning. What the Department is doing has become very evident all over the country. I was rather surprised at a reason given by a gentleman at the last meeting of the Agricultural Council, in speaking of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. He said, "Let no one say anything about it that has anything to do with it." In other words, let no one give his opinion except a man who knows nothing whatever about the subject.

7091. (Mr. Brown).—Is it your opinion that the fear of the shopkeepers and traders in the districts in which creameries have been established have been well or ill-

7061.—The net result is a benefit to them, but in most cases of small country shopkeepers the people bring in their butter, and in exchange for that get tea and sugar. Hence they had a double profit, and they have lost that profit. It is perfectly correct to say of the creameries that every cow a man has is now at least £1 more an annual value. I remember what made me take an interest in the creameries. I am living alongside Drunkoreen. I sent a person in with butter, and all he got was 5½d. a pound. The creameries have worked out the salvation of the people in that respect; and in face of the growing and increasing competition, there was no hope for the butter industry except for their establishment.

7062. (Mr. Doyle).—The old-fashioned butter could not be sold?—As far as my taste is concerned, I prefer the old butter, if well made, but that does not suit the customers we cater for in England and Scotland. I

cannot see the object or motive of this inquiry; it seems to me a little unnecessary to have it at all.

7063. (Chairman).—It is not our fault?—We have an experience in Ireland that the best butters are always on the ditch; here you have exports coming in. As far as we understand, the object of the Commission is to try and improve the Department of Agriculture, and show where it has been making mistakes. But in its own internal constitution there is power to improve and amend and so on, and from my knowledge of the Department, I believe that it is positively ready at all times to recognise any mistake it has made, and benefit by them. It must have been through a good deal of experimenting in the first few years of its existence. When a Department is experimenting, it is easy enough for a man who comes along afterwards to criticise in the light of the experience accumulated by it.

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7064. (Chairman).—You are a representative of the Sligo (Urban Technical Instruction Committee)?—Yes. I should like to say a little about the agricultural aspect of the case, too, if I might, but about technical education, the work in this town has been very encouraging.

7065. Have you read this paper of Mr. Smith's which he has sent in?—I have.

7066. Do you agree with it?—I do. Our Committee would be glad if you would give every possible consideration to what Mr. Smith states.

7067. Certainly, it is a very valuable paper?—I may say, with regard to our schools here, that we had 990 class entries during last year, and the average weekly attendance was 600, so that from that it may be inferred that technical instruction is of considerable value in large towns, but we labour under one very serious disadvantage—that is, an utterly unsuitable building.

7068. We looked at it last night?—You are aware that a number of students were refused admission.

7069. It is certainly insufficient as it stands for the number of students you have, and the variety, in accommodation, you require?—That is the particular point I wish to lay stress upon. I would like to say, with regard to the technical instruction generally, that unless a wave of prosperity comes over the country there is far less that may lead to further emigration.

7070. Because it fits them for a state of things we cannot find in this country?—Quite so. But even if that fear were well-grounded, it would be a selfish and unpatriotic thing not to give them the best instruction possible; but unless there is a wave of prosperity there is that danger.

7071. (Mr. Green).—Do you not think that the people who receive technical instruction and emigrate would, in all probability, have suggested whether they received it or not?—I doubt that would apply in a great many cases.

7072. Are they not more likely to get more profitable employment at home by having the equipment of technical education than if they had none?—By having the equipment of technical education it makes them dissatisfied with certain kinds of employment which they might have got at home had they not got the instruction, and so they would decide to emigrate.

7073. But as a set-off to that, are there not others that would procure employment that they otherwise could not procure at home, and would be inclined to remain in that way?—Possibly there are. I should not like for a moment to give the impression that we are afraid technical instruction may do harm; we wish that it would be supported in every way and encouraged. But with regard to the possible wave of prosperity, I think the Department of Agriculture is more concerned with that, because the wealth of this country is in the soil. There are enormous tracts that appear to be bare to the eye of the stranger, but they possess wealth peculiar to themselves, and that wealth is not in the form of mineral or meat, but butter; and I should just like to add my approval to what the last witness stated with regard to the value of the creameries. I think butter is the great national and natural product of this country, and I don't think that the butter industry receives at all the attention it is worthy of. For instance, last year in this county the sum of £1,868 was spent under the heading of agriculture, and of that £1,868, only £300 went to the butter industry directly, the remaining

£1,760 going to various other projects—£300 going to the meat industry, I mean the beef industry. Now I have been seventeen years living in this county, and as far as I can find out the farmers here regard the importation of the English breeds of cattle as being not only useless, but damaging to their interests.

7074. (Chairman).—What is their reason?—That they do not improve the milking properties of the cattle, but rather injure them. Nature, it seems to me, has not intended this to be a meat-producing country; we cannot possibly keep out foreign meat, we might as well try to keep back the tide. But the importation of foreign butter into Ireland is a national disgrace—it is like taking coals to Newcastle.

7075. It might be so?—It is. There are enormous numbers of people in this province of Connaught who live amidst wealth breeding it under their feet, and at the same time they are floundering in poverty. It is a mistake to say there is no capital, there is plenty of capital—the poorest farmer has capital at all sides of his house. He has got the means of working it also. He has the right breed of cattle, which has not been, so far, quite destroyed; he has the natural desire and fitness for it, but he wants organisation, and a market for his produce. Whatever may be done by the Department with regard to the marketing of the butter, the farmers of this part of the country are utterly dissatisfied with the treatment they receive as compared with the treatment farmers of other countries receive. They feel that their industry has been driven out of the English markets, and not only that, but the foreigner is able to compete with them here in Sligo and in all parts of the country. Perhaps they are wrong, and perhaps I am wrong, in supposing that that is due to the fact that the foreign competitor in butter has his Government steadily and faithfully backing him on, while the Irish farmer has been left in this respect to grapple as best he can. That is the impression amongst us, but possibly that may be a mistake. So far as I can see, the Irish farmer is, commercially, in a bad way as compared with other farmers, and I think that a scientific regulation of the butter industry would be the most important lesson in practical science this country could receive. There are, of course, other industries, but that, I believe, to be the great industry, and the others would follow in its train. If the Department aimed more at the helping of one great industry like that, it would do good to all classes of people, even to the very poorest, who live away on the mountain sides, and at the same time it would avoid favoritism, both to individuals and to localities. It is very hard to teach our young people habits of tidiness and regularity so long as their homes are poor—poverty is always followed by disorder and slovenliness. The Department maintains a very large staff in Ireland, but for my part I should like to see, instead of some members of the staff, I should like to see creamery managers or working farmers sent occasionally to the Continent, to see for themselves how their work could best be done. I am quite satisfied that all the officials are doing their best, according to their judgment, but still I believe that a great deal of money is spent on projects which are not of lasting value; and I think, too, that the Department is sometimes too much influenced by individuals, who are allowed, perhaps, to ride their own hobby to the sacrifice of the interests of the majority. If the dairy industry, in

Rev. Canon
Arbell, LL.D.

July 11, 1906.

Rev. Charles
Arbuckle, M.A.

particular, could be placed upon a solid basis, it might open a new area in the country. It is the only industry which at the same time enriches the people and enriches the soil, and that is of paramount importance, and also extends its benefits to all classes, and which might, to some extent, arrest the tide of emigration.

7105. You look more hopefully to that than anything else?—I do.

7107. (Mr. Brown).—When you refer to the small amount spent by the Department in promoting the dairying industry, you don't include the sums which were spent in the system of inspection, which were described as being so valuable by the last witness?—No, I am speaking of the schemes for this county.

7108. Does not the inspection apply to this county?—The sums spent in that way are not included in our county scheme.

7109. Is not that the fault of your County Committee to some extent?—It may be.

7110. The fund you refer to is under the administration of the County Committee, and if they thought dairying required encouragement at the expense of the other industries they are promoting, it would be open to them to propose that in their scheme?—I think the Department ought not to permit it.

7111. (Chairman).—As regards technical instruction, I suppose you wish to enlarge the building here

to some extent in order to have other classes?—There are a few other classes.

7112. Has there been any complaint at all, or any idea as to how the building could be enlarged or a better building found for it?—The impression is that it could not be enlarged.

7113. You could not get an adjoining building?—No.

7114. It needs to be removed?—Yes.

7115. Is there much horse accommodation to be had in this town?—It is difficult to get any other place. It is, however, accommodation is very scarce in this town.

7116. What you really contemplate is the building of an entirely new school?—Yes.

7117. (Mr. Brown).—Is the present building held on lease or rented temporarily?—It is held on a short lease.

7118. The property of the committee, I mean the interest in the lease is?—Yes.

7119. The kitchen particularly is very assigned?—Very; I think a town with a population of close on 11,000 is worthy of a respectable technical school, if the scheme of technical instruction is to be permanent.

7120. It certainly seems to be appreciated here, as far as the numbers, they are very satisfactory even with these drawbacks?—Yes.

7121. And it has not been started very long?—No, just two years.

ALDERMAN THOMAS FLANNAGAN EXAMINED.

Alderman
Flannagan.

7122. (Chairman).—You represent the Sligo Urban Technical Instruction Committee?—Yes, I am a member of the County Council, co-opted unanimously; I am chairman of the Lectric and Sligo Asylum, and I am also Alderman of the Corporation and a member of the Sligo Urban Technical Committee.

7123. Then as regards the Technical Committee, you have read Mr. Smith's paper, perhaps?—I have not; I have been away for some days.

7124. What do you wish to call our attention to?—I have very little to say to this Court of Inquiry, but merely to answer any questions that may be put to me. There are a few questions that I wanted to impress on the Court. One is, I had something to say in reference to the seeding and manure business in the county. The County Committee have no jurisdiction over the seeding or manuring of experimental plots; we have no jurisdiction over the inspectors who will come down; they have not applied to our Secretary or ourselves, it is managed by the Department above, and we feel that we at least should have some voice in the matter.

7125. Do you mean you don't get notice of their visits?—Not that I am aware; our Secretary is not aware; visits have been paid to the county by officials, and we have no jurisdiction over the seeding or manuring of experimental plots.

7126. (Mr. Brown).—Have you any experimental plots?—Yes.

7127. Have you an instructor in agriculture for the county?—No, not that I am aware of.

7128. Then where are the experimental plots; we understood there were none in this county at present?—We had experimental seeding, experimental manuring, and experimental potato growing.

7129. That is not going on at present, because you have not an instructor?—We want an instructor.

7130. (Mr. Brown).—When you have him you will have jurisdiction over him.

7131. (Chairman).—He will be your officer; I don't know what more jurisdiction you want?—We want the officer, and we want the jurisdiction.

(Chairman).—There are means pointed out in the Act to get the officer.

(Mr. Brown).—The only difficulty is that they are not available.

7132. (Chairman).—There are not a sufficient number of people trained yet to fill all the places, and, therefore, some appointments have to be postponed?—And we want also the distribution of the money according to our own views.

7133. To get that you must have the Act altered?—Then we will go for having the Act altered. I claim I am as well entitled to distribute the money of my county as a Yorkshire, Lancashire, or Aberdeenshire man.

7134. That may be right enough as regards the money of your county, but how about the money that

does not come from your county?—Give us the three millions of money—our thirty-two counties—that you are taking away from us in England, and let us handle our own purse.

7135. We cannot go into the question of the financial relations between England and Ireland?—It is a matter of logic, and I am just giving you my opinion.

7136. Is there any other point?—I have to say that as far as our instructors are concerned they are very able, energetic, and clever, but there is too much theory and not enough practice; I want to see more practice done. Professor Mason is a most distinguished man; he is always appreciated when he comes amongst the farmers; I know it, and so is Mr. Gallagher.

7137. We have heard that from many quarters?—That is the only point with reference to that, too much theory and not enough practice. Another matter about which I had always an idea of my own is light ploughs for high land or mountain districts, and if the County Committee got some of these ploughs for land with two or three inches of soil, a male or a jennet or an ass could draw them, and more crops could be cultivated on these high lands, and the machinery could be lent out to the small farmers, who cannot buy these machines themselves.

7138. You mean that they should be supplied to them?—On hire or otherwise, whatever way the County Committee would decide on distributing these machines.

7139. That is a question which would be very well worthy of being before the County Committee?—That is my idea, and I am always thinking about that, if we could form a scheme for lending machinery for these useful little animals on high lands. I have been a member of the Urban Committee as well as of the County, and I think I would be right in saying that Sir Joselyn Gore-Booth deserves very great credit for his exertions and energy, both in the borough and in the county, in reference to this industry that has been started amongst us—the shirt factory. I have no hesitation in saying it would go by the wall, and be gone by this time, but for Sir Joselyn's own efforts; he deserves a tribute of respect from the whole county for his trouble and time and expense in connection with the whole matter. Being a shareholder myself, I think the members who subscribed to that industry were not very well treated by the Department, who held the purse-strings, who took that industry under their wings. Of course the question will arise of subsidised industries versus private enterprise, but private industries will not come up in competition with this industry in our midst. One feature in this case is the training of unskilled labour—raw material; they were brought in there and taught and trained by Sir Joselyn Gore-Booth; we imported nobody; we brought raw material and educated them, and have them now

prepared to go to the ends of the earth with their skill and labour, that is the point I want to impress on you as to the way in which Sir Joselyn and his company deserve credit.

7140. There are no two opinions about that. In these any other point you wish to impress on me—Everything has been elaborated so much: Father Meehan, particularly, left me without any subject to deal with. There should be some Government protection for the better industry in Ireland.

7141. That is a question that lies a long way beyond what we have to consider: we have only to consider the methods of the Department—it has been proven in a court of law that forty per cent. of corn-meal sile and fat can be put into butter and sold as butter; experts cannot detect that; why would these sile and fat be allowed to come into the country and put into butter without the knowledge or supervision of the

Government? Is there no means of detecting them? If any one of us commits an offence of any description, he is soon found out. July 21, 1894.
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Alderman
Fleming.

7142. (Mr. Braun.)—These facts may be used for other purposes; they may come into the country for other purposes—Bring them in, but let them be sold as such, and let barley whiskey be sold as barley whiskey and patent still whiskey as patent still, and let it not be sold in Harrogate and London as the best Irish whiskey. There is only one other matter I am very much interested in—the curragh industry; I think it is not being attended to; I would like the pig trade would be fostered, because the pig is the poor man's friend, and I would encourage them and give them premiums for nice styes for keeping pigs, how to keep them best, and feed them best, and offer them some small premiums.

Mr. BERNARD McDONAGH examined.

7143. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Sligo Urban Technical Committee?—Yes.

7144. Have you read Mr. Smith's paper?—Yes.

7145. Do you agree with it?—I agree with it thoroughly; anything Mr. Smith states about the schools is perfectly accurate; he is a man of great ability and very successful. I have a few remarks—the first is in reference to the great want of a technical school; we have all our minds made up that it is absolutely necessary we should have a new school, and I am very glad to hear your own remarks about the want of accommodation, and as you have seen it I will confine my remarks to a very small space. Were it not for the efforts and energy and resourcefulness of Mr. Smith in connection with our late examinations our technical school in Sligo would have been a very dismal failure, and it is only by a great effort on his part that it has come to anything like the success that it has come to. I superintended a good many examinations there during the session. The superintendents and students have to stick in very small rooms for three hours at a stretch on a hot night; in some cases they have to make three divisions of one examination of twenty or thirty students in order to give the required space to each; it made three times the labour on the committee. In many ways I think one of the greatest needs we suffer from here at present is want of accommodation, because I don't think things of this sort tend to inspire much enthusiasm in other students or members of the committee. I hope one of the results of this Committee will be that we will have new schools in Sligo. There is another matter I would wish to refer to with very great respect and give my opinion on, in connection with the teaching of technical instruction generally. I agree with the last speaker, and would go a little bit further, that it is much too theoretical and not sufficiently practical. Now to a certain extent the teaching is all right, but when our students are taught we want some practical employment for them, so that they may utilize their talents to their own advantage and the benefit of their own country, and not be, as we are at present, spending our time educating them and sending them out to enrich other countries by their talents and abilities. Taking technical education, as administered at present, as far as I see, except that we can bring about some other improvement, we are a kind of technical emigration society. Thus I think it is the duty of the Department or the Government to foster the industries of the country and to watch over them until there is an assured success established. Some people say, "Let capitalists find the money to start industries." Well, gentlemen, I am sorry to say that the

capitalists in this country are few and far between, Mr. B. and I think if the Government are sincere in the idea of reviving our industries they should give us a lead in this matter, and I believe myself if they would it would be the means of inspiring those who have a little money to invest in industries to take courage and speculate a little more than they do. Take for example our shirt factory on the small capital of £2,652, locally subscribed; we are fighting an uphill fight for the last four years; out of this small sum we have had to expend £1,022 on buildings and machinery, leaving us the magnificent sum of £1,630 as working capital. Were it not for the spirited action of our chairman, Sir Joselyn Gore Beeth, and the committee in going security to the bank for a sum of money we would have been wiped out of existence long ago. I have no hesitation in stating that if the Department had pluckily come to our assistance when we asked them to do so, instead of fifty or sixty hands employed as at present, we would have 300 or 400 hands employed. I trust that even at the last moment they will see their way to come and give us a helping hand, because I believe if they did our factory would go on increasing, and it would be a great means of further employment in the town, and I don't believe in that idea at all, that we are going to clash with any private interest whatever. I think that is not likely to occur in any case in Sligo.

7146. How many do you say are employed in the shirt factory now?—Fifty or sixty.

7147. Has the number increased?—Oh, yes; we started with twenty or thirty.

7148. How long has it been going on?—Four years. We cannot keep the sixty constantly employed for want of capital; that is our greatest drawback. To talk of running a business on £2,652 is ridiculous. Any money we get is money we get in the bank on our own security, and it is a pity, because we could get any amount of hands if we had the employment to give them.

7149. Is employment had in Sligo?—Very hard indeed, I am sorry to say.

7150. Is there any other industry in Sligo?—Not in that particular line.

7151. What other industries are there?—There is a brewery, but there are very few industries and only on a small scale; shipping of course is good.

7152. But you could increase the number of hands?—Oh, yes; we could have four or five, or perhaps more, hundred people working there, and we have plenty of room for expanding if we had the capital. I consider we have been very badly treated, and have spent a lot of time and energy; Sir Joselyn Gore Beeth has been untiring in working up the place.

Mr. MICHAEL KEENE examined.

7153. (Chairman).—You are the Secretary to the County Sligo Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes.

7154. Have you any particular heads of evidence that you wish to call our attention to?—No, as I was not requested by my committee to give evidence I did not intend to do so.

7155. You heard a great deal of the evidence given to-day?—Yes, I have been here, but I should wish to

confine my evidence to answering questions put to me by the Commissioners on the administration of the Act.

7156. First of all, about the agricultural instructor; when was it that you ceased to have an agricultural instructor?—We were one of the first counties in Ireland to put the Act into force, and since that all the money has been expended on the different schemes; we had an agricultural instructor for three years from 1902.

Mr. M. Keene.

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Mr. M. Keen.

7157. Was it in consequence of any difference with the Department, or anything of that sort, you ceased to have one?—His salary was paid direct by the Department and out of the joint fund, and he was here three years, and the Department wrote a letter to the committee stating that they believed the services of that instructor could be done without in that county.

7158. Could you show me that letter?—I have it on the file. They stated also that instead of that they would recommend that lessons on agriculture be taken up during the winter season, and my committee did take up those lectures and they were a great success in three centres in the county.

7159. Who gave that instruction?—A special instructor sent down by the Department.

7160. That was a substitute for an instructor?—Yes.

7161. You say these were completely successful?—Yes; there was only one centre that there were not the required number of boys. Twenty was the required number in each centre, and we had that in all except one, and it being the first year it was applied I did not expect it would be the success it was. The boys who attended were very much pleased.

7162. Are you making an effort to get an instructor as soon as you can have one recommended to you?—If my committee adopt the same scheme for next year the Department will probably send down an instructor as last year; this instructor is paid altogether directly by the Department, out of the joint fund.

7163. I suppose it is very desirable you should have an instructor?—Yes. This instructor has nothing to do with the demonstration plots; his instruction is in connection with the different classes of seeds for different soils and drainage of land, and a lot of other matters of that kind, and how to measure land.

7164. Does he remain here during the winter months?—Yes.

7165. Have you anything to say, generally, about the working of the scheme; do you think it is satisfactory on the whole?—My experience of it is that it has been very satisfactory; all the money that was available has been always expended, and all the schemes have been taken up, and the farmers seem to take a great interest in it.

7166. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose the majority of the committee must be in favour of the present live stock scheme or they would not continue it?—I never heard any objection against it. We have a farm price scheme; we were one of the first of the counties to start it. I drafted the scheme and the committee approved of it, and it is in operation since 1901; that is giving prizes to neat cottages; we have three classes, which range according to the valuation. In consequence of want of funds two years ago we had to knock off one of the classes, the high class. We had a high class between £15 and £25 which we had to knock off.

7167. Of the three you attach the greatest importance to the smallest?—Yes. I always look upon this

Act as specially introduced to benefit the poor class.

7168. That scheme originated with the committee?—Yes, I drafted it myself and submitted it to the committee.

7169. (Chairman).—You had no difficulty with the Department about the scheme?—No; the Department and our committee always got on harmoniously.

7170. Have you anything to say about the poultry scheme?—That is only in operation for two years, and has given great satisfaction; the people seem to take great interest in it.

7171. Are the lectures well attended?—Yes, very largely attended. We were fortunate in getting a good poultry instructor, a very good lecturer; she takes a great interest in her work.

7172. And dairying; do you think that has been working well?—It has been working well. Last year was the first year we started that; this year she is working in a district where there are not any creameries; her classes are very largely attended.

7173. How is your technical scheme working?—We have only two domestic economy instructors employed and it is going on all right. Some people seem to be dissatisfied with the expense attached to it. They go round from one centre to another; every six weeks they change from one parish to another, and when you have to send the equipment it takes at least two carts to carry the equipment of the cookery and laundry, and the expenses in connection with these matters is so great that some members of the committee seem to think the money might perhaps be better utilised.

7174. If domestic economy is as valuable as a great many people say it is, it is important to bring the instruction to the homes of the people?—I am very strongly in favour of it myself; I believe it is doing a lot of good.

7175. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you probably would have many more complaints if the committee were not able to reach to the districts?—Yes, the committee arrange the centres at the beginning of the year, and when the time comes I write to the local committee in each centre and they make the necessary arrangements. I might mention in connection with domestic economy classes and itinerant lecturing in general my experience is it would be very difficult to make them a success at all were it not for the interest taken in them by the clergy of the county; they give us the schools and make arrangements, and encourage the people to attend the lectures.

7176. That relieves you of the difficulty felt in other places about getting schools?—I have never been refused the use of a school for classes or lectures; my committee, of course, pay the expense in connection with the use of the school, the lighting, heating, and cleaning.

7177. And altogether the account you give is satisfactory?—All the schemes in this county are working satisfactorily; the only thing is we could spend more money if we had it.

Mr. ANDERSON then examined.

7178. (Chairman).—I understand you wish to call our attention to a certain matter?—I have been away from home for the last fortnight and have not had the pleasure of reading Mr. Smith's report, and it is only to-day when I came to the town I learned you were sitting here. I was asked by a few friends to bring forward a new industry I am going to start in the West of Ireland, which, I believe, will give great employment in a district where there is no industry at all; that is at Coolahilly; it is a beautiful brick clay I have discovered there. I have sent ten tons of it off to different expert brick-makers in England, to five different parties, and the results that they sent back have been so good that it gives me great encouragement to go on. There are no such bricks now made in Ireland.

7179. Have you had any communication with the Department at all?—No, I have made no communication yet.

7180. What we are inquiring into is the action of the Department?—I have had some experience in regard to that. I have been connected with the Collooney Co-operative and Dairy Society. I acted as secretary at the beginning for two years, and I must say we got

very able help from the I.A.O.S., and if it was not for them we would not be in existence at the present date; that was in 1900.

7181. Before the present Department was established?—Yes; it was they organised the whole thing for us. Mr. Anderson was the principal man in connection with it, and now we stand about the poorest creamery in Ireland; we have seven auxiliaries and one large central churning creamery and do an immense trade, and the farmers seem to derive a benefit and are well pleased.

7182. You speak well of the I.A.O.S.?—I could not do anything else. I think we are up to the top of the tree by their aid, and we cannot go any farther. In financing a new scheme such as mine I find if you have to go to the bank to borrow the bank interest is very heavy; to-day they are asking 8½ per cent. I think there might be some encouragement given to a new industry to start.

7183. That is a general question that hardly falls within our inquiry unless you say you want the money from the Department; you would be glad, I dare say?—I would be glad to get it at a lower interest than 8½ per cent.

The Committee adjourned.

—Mr. Alliman.
—Ses.

TWENTY-THIRD PUBLIC SITTING.—FRIDAY, JULY 13th, 1906.

At the County Council Chamber, Londonderry.

Present:—

SIR KESWELL E. DIBBY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Right Rev. Manager McGLOTHLIN, P.P., V.C., examined.

7154. (Witnesses).—You appear on the part of the Technical Instruction Committee of Donagall—I am a member of the County Committee of Agriculture, and I am a member of the County Committee of Technical Instruction, and I was recently appointed a member of the Council of Agriculture, and I am also Chairman of the Parish Committee of the Congested Districts Board, which works partly on the same lines.

7155. Well, now, would you kindly tell us or take us through what you propose to say?—Yes, sir. I intend to give, particularly, documentary evidence of the scheme in the county as it came before me, and then anything that I may be asked afterwards. I will endeavour to explain in any way I possibly can to make the thing more clear. It may add more weight, perhaps, to the evidence I am going to give to state that the Donagall Committee of Agriculture, when they appointed the members to give evidence before this Commission, summoned a meeting of the witnesses, who assembled together. I drew out a statement of the hearings in brief of the evidence that we were about to give before this Commission. It was considered wise as the part of the meeting then to submit the statement they had drawn up to the next ordinary meeting of the Donagall County Committee, to make sure that we would represent to you not personal views, but the views of the Committee. At the next meeting of the Committee the following statement was, on the motion of the Right Rev. Monsignor McGlothin, seconded by Francis Callaghan, Esq., unanimously adopted, viz.:—On the question, how far the provisions of the Act constituting the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and the methods of the Department itself, are suitable to Ireland, the following points were put forward:—

1. "It would be a great improvement if the Department, instead of coming as now, practically, of the Vice-President and Secretary were composed of an elected board.

2. "If the County Committee or County Councils of each province elected three members to an unpaid board (with an allowance for expenses), constituting the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, due representation being given to cities, with the Under-Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant as an ex-officio member and the Chief Secretary as chairman, the Department would have far more practical knowledge of the country's wants, would be much more readily in touch with the local or County Committees through which its work is carried on, and would, therefore, inspire more popular confidence.

3. "Mode of selecting the three members for each province.—That each County Council of each province appoint two members of their body, who shall nominate three qualified gentlemen as members of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

4. "As things are, the Council of Agriculture and the Agricultural and Technical Boards have only advisory or voting powers, and the County Committees deal with the Department and transact its business with these boards. If any advisory body, such as the Council of Agriculture, were deemed useful under the proposed constitution it could, of course, be retained.

5. "The fact that the funds of the Department come either from county rates or from purely Irish

sources is a distinct reason for giving the best even the people can choose an opportunity of turning the annual income to the best account for Ireland.

6. "The Donagall County Committee has not been able to get on well with the Department. As at present constituted, the Department is not a homogeneous authority with the elected County Committee, and in an autocratic way the schemes are sent down from Dublin with scarcely any option to the Committee.

7. "There should be control, but it would be much better to allow the Committee to make a mistake than hamper its liberty, as has been done; and, besides, the knowledge of local wants prevents the mistakes to which the Department is liable.

8. "We are of opinion that the Department have failed in securing to the country the advantages that naturally were expected from a body having at their command such a large annual income of public money.

"Some of the causes of this failure, in our opinion, arise from the undue interference of the Department, which hampers the Committee and discourages local initiative. We fully admit that the Department should exercise due control, but not undue interference.

"The rule of the Department prohibiting the appointment of residents or natives of the county as instructors under the agricultural schemes of the county deprives the Department to a large extent of the knowledge, experience, and information that the Act of Parliament intended should be given by the Committee to the Department. It shows that the Department do not take the County Committees into confidence. It inflicts a humiliation on the Committee, and puts every man, woman, and child in Ireland under a ban that makes them indigible in their respective counties. It is against reason and precedent, no other such great Department in the country having any such rule. The Local Government Board, the Customs and Excise, the Post Office and Telegraph System, the Board of National Education, and even the Technical Branch of the Department, under the same Vice-President as the Agricultural Branch, have no such rule. The Department in appointing their own Inspectors do not believe in the principle of this rule or observe it.

9. "The live stock schemes of the Department are considered by the Committee as unsuitable for the county, especially the congested parts of it. With regard to the scheme for the improvement of cattle, the Committee find considerable difficulty in getting applicants for premiums, especially from the poorer districts, owing to the large price which they have to pay for suitable animals. The Committee consider that the present practice of the Department of selecting bulls at shows and sales for premiums, prior to their purchase, adds very considerably to their price, the benefit of the premium going, in fact, to the breeder and not to the man who gets same from the Committee, and has to comply with the conditions of the scheme. The Committee consider that the time has arrived when this practice should be discontinued, and that in its stead, the bulls should be bought by gentlemen selected locally, subject to their being passed for premiums by the Department.

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R. "The en-acting by the Department of certain propositions, not only of the Department's grant, but of the local rate, for certain schemes for the county, deprives the Committee of the chance of promoting special schemes suitable to certain districts, hampers them, and deprives the scheme of the elasticity that the State intended that they should have."

20. "The funds at the disposal of this Committee are inadequate, and the Committee consider that, in a county like Denagel, where the population is large, the land for the most part extremely poor, and, consequently, the valuation low (namely, about £1 15s. per head), the Department should contribute at least £3 for every £1 of rate raised in the county."

I may mention that the meeting of the Denagel Technical Committee occurred in the same room immediately after the other was over, and they adopted this same statement.

7125. As applicable to both I—Yes.

7126. There are one or two questions I would like to ask you on this. First of all, as to the proposal that there should be an elected Board of three instead of the Vice-President and Secretary. You say that would be an unpaid Board?—Pardon me, I said an elected Board, not of three, but of twelve, three from each province, due representation being given to cities. I say elected, because it is against constitutional government to have as the head of a Department spending so much Irish money, say men whose appointment is independent of the Irish taxpayers and of the Irish members of Parliament, and even of the Boards under him and dependent only on the will of the English party that happens to be in power at the time the appointment is made. I said an unpaid Board with an allowance for expenses.

7127. Have you considered as all the enormous amount of work that any Board of that kind would have to do?—I have, sir.

7128. It would take their whole time. Would it not involve a residence in some central place?—I did not contemplate that. We have the Congested Districts Board at present working in Ireland. They do an immense lot of work; they do an immense lot of business. They have their officials in residence in Dublin, and they don't, I believe, meet more than once a month, perhaps oftener when required, and comparing the work of the two Boards with which I am somewhat familiar, the work of the Congested Districts Board gives far more satisfaction than the work of the Department.

7129. Surely if you are to carry on a Department on anything like the same scale as this is carried on now, with all the various matters that have been transferred to them by Act of Parliament, which they are bound to deal with; fisheries, veterinary matters, besides the agricultural and technical work, if you have all this enormous amount of work thrown upon them by the Act of Parliament, could you expect that it would take up less than their whole time if your suggestion were adopted?—I would expect a great deal more from them. I think they could appoint as efficient a staff as Sir Horace Plunkett has.

7130. I am talking not of the staff but of the heads of the staff. I understand you to substitute three or four members for the Vice-President and Secretary?—There would be twelve, at least, with a full and efficient staff.

7131. Some of these would not be in constant residence?—I think that would be a matter of detail afterwards. I think the principle is good, that these twelve gentlemen could direct the movements of these specially-qualified efficient members of their staff.

7132. They would have to be in residence in Dublin and transacting the business of the country, but it is really a matter of argument?—It is, and I hold they would not have to be in residence in Dublin.

7133. (Mr. Michs).—Do you think there could be a Standing Committee of the new Board that would provide for some members being always in residence?—It is usual to have Standing Committees selected out of larger Committees, and they are called to do the work that is necessary to be looked into between the usual meetings of the large Committees, and I think it is quite possible and necessary to appoint a Standing Committee out of their body.

7134. (Chairman).—As to the fourth paragraph, you say that the funds of the Department come from county rates and purely Irish sources. I don't quite

understand how you can say the funds of the Department come from purely Irish sources?—Is there not something in the Act?—

7135. Have you considered the provisions of Section 6 of the Act. That section provides that the Department, with the consent of the Treasury, may appoint a Secretary, two Assistant Secretaries, and a staff generally, and that they should be paid out of money provided by Parliament. The same section fixes the salary of the Vice-President, and further provides that all expenses incurred by the Department in the exercise of their powers or the performance of the duties under this part of the Act, other than expenses incurred in relation to the Albert Institution and the Museum Institution, shall, so far as they are not otherwise provided for under any Act, be paid out of money voted by Parliament. That enables the Department to go to the Treasury and say we want funds for such and such a purpose, and that power they make use of to a considerable extent, besides paying all the salaries of the staff. Surely that money does not come from Irish sources?—They have £78,000 from the National Board, £95,000 from the Church Temporalities, £12,000 from Judges' salaries abolished, £6,000 from Parliament in lieu of moneys granted for education, and several other moneys under clause 16.

7136. I admit that a great many of the funds which were formerly appropriated for other Irish purposes have been transferred to the Board, but still over and above that, there is a very large sum, is there not, that comes from the Parliamentary Grant?—There is £176,000 made up to us annually, and is this not from Irish sources, and I don't know whether the penny in the pound collected in the country is included in that.

(Mr. Michs).—No.

7137. (Chairman).—That Section 6 that I read to you just now is over and above that?—Yes. How much might there be, if I could ask the Chairman a question?—I think, sir, it is a very small thing in a great question of this kind to look into a small question of this kind, even if it came from Parliamentary or other sources.

7138. I think if you consider it a little more you would not have thought it a very small sum. Have you had brought to your attention at all a new scheme for technical instruction and the moneys that have been appropriated to it?—I am not prepared to answer that.

7139. (Mr. Michs).—As regards that question of funds, are you considering the distinction between the moneys appropriated, and known as the Endowment Fund of the Department, and the moneys provided under Section 6 for salaries?—I should like to make that distinction. The salaries are paid out of voted moneys.

7140. And the Endowment Fund out of Irish funds?—Yes.

7141. In what particular ways do you say that the Denagel Committee has not been able to get on with the Department?—Well, the statement made by the County Committee represents the Denagel County Committee as not being able to get on with the Department. In fact the relations are strained, and there is still a serious deadlock between the Committee and the Department. The latter, without assigning a fault or assigning a reason, or giving any notice to the former, in an arbitrary and, in the Committee's opinion, despotic manner, suspended the Committee from exercising the right of making appointments (hitherto possessed and exercised by them), and the former suspended the agricultural schemes of the Department for the past two years, and will likely continue to suspend them until the Department is either ended or radically reformed.

7142. Then the principal ground of difference between the Department and the Committee has been that they did not approve of what was referred to in this paper?—That brought it to an issue.

7143. They did not approve of a local instructor being appointed?—That is what brought it to a head.

7144. Then the Department adopted the principle that it was not desirable to appoint a local man as instructor?—I think, for the sake of not repeating things again, I should say that this rule of the Department I have mentioned, is a rule made by them, making ineligible in the county of their residence or of their

birth, any instructors under the agricultural schemes. That is the general rule, and that rule if you observe it in some, or *pro tanto*, is a rule against the native Irishman and the resident Irishman.

7206. (Chairman).—The resident, not the native, Irishman?—If a man is born in one county and resides in another, he is deprived of competing in the two counties. The rule affects the native Irishman, and also the Irishman in residence. When he leaves his native county and goes to another county, he is prohibited from competing for an instructorship in that county or his native county.

7207. But the rule only affects the latter of these two. A resident in a county is not, in the province of the Department, eligible as an instructor in that county?—It is not correct to say that the rule only affects the latter of these two. It affects both.

7208. The rule is not against Irishmen as such, but a resident in a county?—Every Irishman who resides in Ireland resides in some county, so it affects all Ireland, and all Irishmen.

7209. He can't be an instructor for the Agricultural Department in that county?—What the rule says is, he is ineligible in the county of his birth or residence, but every Englishman and Scotchman can compete around the whole three counties; but, as far as the Donegal County Committee is concerned, they desire to have the power to select from the widest area. They don't want to confine their appointments to the county, but they certainly do object to prohibiting their own countrymen from competing for those positions in their own county.

7210. This was, I understand, a rule which the Department did not follow at first. At first they said—it is in the evidence given before us—they did not object to the appointment of persons in their own county, provided they had the necessary qualifications. Experience, however, showed that there were great drawbacks to this system—I am reading from the evidence of Professor Campbell, Question 1629—and they came to the conclusion that the drawbacks were greater than the advantages, and they laid down the rule that in future they would not sanction the appointment of a resident of the county as an Agricultural Instructor?—The rule as stated by the Department makes both the native and the resident ineligible in his county.

7211. Then there is a difference between the Department and the Donegal Committee on that point. Is not that just a question whether the Department, rightly or wrongly, exercises a power which the law has given them. They say they don't think it desirable, for reasons given here, to appoint these instructors from their own county?—The Department is aided by Boards—that is, the Council of Agriculture and the County Committees, and these are people that serve it at their own expense, and pay their own expenses coming to meetings; and I say the Department have acted towards the committees in this matter in a way that no respectable firm would treat its paid employees.

7212. Surely the Department consider that there are strong objections to appoint an instructor from his own county?—Would it be within the province of this Committee to go into the reasons on the one side and on the other.

7213. Certainly, it is within the province of this Committee to say they think the Department is wrong. If they think it is wrong?—The proceedings are entirely in favour of the Donegal Committee on against the Department.

7214. I would not agree with you there. We have been all over Ireland, and we have only had the objection urged in one case, in a modified form?—Take the two instructors appointed by the Donegal Committee in 1904. The Donegal Committee appointed two itinerant instructors in butter-making, subject to the approval of the Department, as to training and expert knowledge. If they disqualified them on either of these heads we hadn't any word to say. Both instructors were trained a couple of years before, and partly at the expense of the Committee; both belong to the County of Donegal; and both were known to the Committee as steady, upright, intelligent ladies, of excellent character, and every way suitable. Both belonged to the Irish-speaking parishes, where Irish is the language of the houses, and of 70 per cent. of the people. The spoken language of the house is Irish in 70 per cent. of these parishes. One of them I know personally to be a fluent Irish speaker; the other I don't know personally, but I have learned from inquiry that she speaks Irish well; and a knowledge of Irish is essentially

necessary for instructors in butter-making in the Irish-speaking district of the county. Both lived twenty miles apart from each other, and in different Parliamentary divisions of the county, and neither is, as far as I know, related to the friends of the other. So the County Committee could have both teachers always instructing in parts of the county where they would be far removed from their friends and relatives, and where they could not be accused of acting partially or exercising patronage, or anything of that kind. These were the two persons that were refused admittance to examinations by the Department. They disqualified them by rule and called them up afterwards for examination. They first condemned them and then put them on their trial.

7215. (Mr. Brown).—Did they attend on that occasion?—One of them consulted some member of the Committee, and she asked whether she should go to the examinations or not, and his opinion was that she should not, as the rule was made to disqualify her; that it was not beyond the probabilities that she would be disqualified on merit, in order to get clear of a troublesome business. That is the advice of one of the Committee; and she did not go on. The other went, and she was disqualified, all the same.

7216. (Chairman).—You set out the case very plausibly against the Department?—Yes; that is the case. These are the two people appointed and refused, and we continued to harp on that at the Committee for twelve months.

7217. We have the reasons, as you said, on one side, and the Department's reasons on the other, and it will be the duty of the Committee to say which ought to prevail?—When the Department refused to sanction these appointments, at the next meeting of the County Committee, no member of the Committee was pleased with this rule that they never heard of before. They were every one indignant. There was strong action taken that day. I took no action. I did not even propose a motion or amendment or second one, or make a speech. I waited for a month to see how the thing would work out. This resolution was proposed, and I voted in favour of this resolution: "That having regard to the Department's letter of the 25th of May, refusing to sanction the appointment of Miss Mary McManamin and Miss K. O'Malley as itinerant instructors in butter-making, and as this body has made a rule which excludes Donegal people from all appointments in their native county, under the 1903-1904 Agricultural Scheme, this Committee refuses to make any appointments under said scheme until the above rule is absolutely withdrawn." The Committee voted down afterwards. In order to continue on good terms with the Department, and work with them, they passed that down to a modified resolution: "At a meeting of the Committee, on the 28th of August, 1904, when it became known that the Department refused to withdraw the above rule, the Committee, with the desire of working harmoniously with the Department, respectfully submit reasons—and you have the reasons there for modifying the rule. The modification asked for was that the Department be asked to modify their rule prohibiting the employment as instructors under the Agricultural Scheme of persons residing in the county to the following extent—that inasmuch as Donegal is a very extensive county, divided into four Parliamentary divisions, applicants for the position of instructors be eligible for appointment in any Parliamentary division in which they did not reside."

(Mr. Brown).—What was the answer to that?

7218. (Chairman).—That was refused, I apprehend. The answer to that is: "We regret the Department have nothing further to add."

7219. What date are you speaking of now?—In the year 1904. It began early in the year, and continued to the end of it. There is a minute on the 14th of November, 1904. A letter was read from the Department regretting that they could not sanction any modification of their rule. It was then proposed, seconded, and carried: "That this meeting again send to the Department a copy of the resolution passed on the 27th of June, 1904, together with a type-written copy of the reasons for adhering to the resolution, as given by the Right Hon. Mr. McGilivray, at a meeting held 8th of August, and that copies of these documents be sent to each Committee in Ireland." We wanted to know the opinion of the other counties. On the 28th of January the Secretary submitted replies from other County Committees to the resolution adopted by the Committee relative to the rule of the Department pro-

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inhibiting the employment of any person as Instructor under the Agricultural Scheme in a county of which he or she was a native or he or she a permanent resident. The following counties supported the motion of the Committee:—Cork, Carlow, Dublin, Londonderry, Leitrim, Limerick, Sligo, Wexford, and Wicklow. The County of Kilkenny supported the rule of the Department, just one of the counties; and Down, King's County, Longford, Queen's County, Roscommon, Tipperary North and South, and Waterford took no action in the matter. The County Galway Committee wrote to say that all the instructors employed by them were residents in the county. A letter from the Department regretting that they had nothing to add to the previous letters on the subject was afterwards read. Extract from minutes of 15th February on the same appointments.—The Secretary submitted replies from other counties—Monaghan, Kildare, and Antrim—to the resolutions adopted by the Committee relative to the rule of the Department prohibiting the appointment of any person as Instructor under the Agricultural Scheme of the Department in the county in which he or she was a native or in which they had a permanent residence. Monaghan supported the action of the county, and Kildare and Antrim took no action on the motion. As a summary, above counties supported the action taken by the County Denegal; one county supported the view taken by the Department; the other counties didn't take up the matter. Practically, I know what happens at meetings. When the agenda paper is through people are anxious to get away to their homes or dinners, and if it is not a matter that is very closely connected with their duties, they ask to have it read or adjourned, and I think they get rid of it in that way.

(Chairman).—I hope that really is not so!

7230. (Mr. Brown).—I want protest against that rule as being considered of universal application—I did not say it was universal.

7231. You said matters were thrown aside and not attended to. I don't at all agree with that. I think nothing comes before the County Committee of which I have any knowledge which is not considered. A matter of this kind, when so many documents are to be read, and when it comes up late in the evening the committee take some way of getting away very quickly.

7232. (Chairman).—I think we are very much obliged to you for bringing the matter before us—I should say also that Mr. Gill, the Secretary, spoke to our vice-chairman: asked would it be any service for him to come and speak to the committee. The vice-chairman said he thought it would be, and the committee were of opinion that it would be a wise thing for Mr. Gill to come; but he was too busy, or something occurred, and he could not come; and last September Sir Horace Plunkett came to a meeting of our committee, and he heard the thing discussed, and he advanced the reasons why the rule was maintained by the Department. The only reason we ever got until we saw Sir Horace Plunkett was that the Department declined to rescind the rule because they believed it might tend to injuriously affect the working of the scheme. Now observe the language used in that sentence, "it might tend to injuriously affect": it does not say it would injuriously affect the scheme. It does not say that it tends to affect injuriously the schemes, but it might tend to injuriously affect them. That is so vague and general that it would be disregarded by anybody as a valid reason, and it is an extraordinary thing that any Department should send such a reason for such an extraordinary rule. I forgot to tell you that the County Committee had no notice whatever of this rule being passed. We were a committee working under them. Our secretary was in constant communication with them. They say in the letter to us when the question arose, that the rule was passed two years ago. Think of any capable Department having their committee in ignorance of a rule that they made for our conduct and actually contrary to the rule we made the appointment of people that we believed suitable from our own knowledge and experience of the county. The Press are admitted to our meetings. It went out to the Press that we appointed them; and it went out in the Press that our action or appointment was not sanctioned by the Department. So it was a most humiliating position for our County Committee to be in. It was thought that we were treated in a disgraceful manner, and I believe if things had been taken in a different way the trouble would not have arisen. I

should really it must have been a mistake on the part of the Department, but I say at the same time when these strong reasons were brought before them, that the Department should have written to us—Gentlemen, as you have acted in ignorance of this rule, we will let it pass over and get these ladies up for examination, but remember the rule is to stand in future.

7233. But I thought one of these ladies came up for examination!—The examination was discredited, by the passing of the rule, and the trouble arose between the committee and the Department before they were summoned to the examination, and indeed something might be said about the examination of the one that went up but I will not go into that.

7234. (Mr. Micks).—As I understand, your committee is quite willing that instructors should not be appointed in their own neighbourhood?—Certainly.

7235. Was that the question between you and the Department, or whether the residents of the county should be selected or not?—That was the question that arose.

7236. You would be willing if the Department modified that and made a rule that no instructor should give instruction in his own neighbourhood?—Yes, the Committee would be satisfied, and that was told over and over again to the Department.

7237. You see the faces of not having a woman or man among their immediate friends?—We do not sit that, the county is large.

7238. And you quite admit that?—Not to the extent that Sir Horace Plunkett wanted us. We see the Commissioners of Education and the Congested Districts Board and all the other great departments have no such rule at all. But we are quite willing, and we ask for a modified rule to the extent already specified.

7239. To make the disqualification apply to the neighbourhood only?—Yes, our modification was that the instructors should be eligible in any of the twenty Parliamentary divisions of Denegal, but not in their active divisions or the divisions of their residences.

7240. And that division is as large as some of the Irish counties?—It is, and Denegal is cut over by the Swilly and mountain ranges and bays, practically into different counties.

7241. (Mr. Brown).—Is there not the further difficulty with reference to the natives competing, that it practically shuts out all other competition?—I don't think so.

7242. Would any outsider have a chance in Denegal against a native?—They have been appointed.

7243. Not against natives?—I don't just tax my memory with it at present, but if I really knew that question would have been put I would have given my attention to it, and have given a full answer.

7244. Don't you think—seeing the great anxiety of your county to have native teachers?—No; their anxiety is not to be excluded from competition in their own county; it is a humiliation upon them, and it is against the national sentiment.

7245. No; against the county sentiment?—I think it is a most unhappy rule for the Department to make. If the Department was not there and there was an elected board there there would be no such rule at all.

7246. That is entirely apart from the question I am asking. In practice would it not practically exclude competition of other Irish people?—I don't think so.

7247. Is there not rather a difficulty in committee controlling natives of their own counties; they would have so many friends on the committee?—I don't think there is. I don't think they would be screened. We did know of cases where it happened and where in consequence they were reported forthwith to the committee and dealt with summarily, and sent about their business.

7248. (Mr. Micks).—Does not the fact of the natives being appointed often lead to another undesirable result—that there are factions there and the officials are too closely watched?—They would be well watched I am certain.

7249. (Mr. Brown).—And if this were universal would it not limit the competition all over Ireland?—I should say if any County Committee did not conduct their business properly it would be the business of the Department to treat with them and warn them, or make a rule excluding their doing it. But I think it is too bad that thirty-two counties in Ireland should be put under a ban for the action of one or two counties, and it would be a proper thing for the

Department to make a rule for the particular county that had transgressed.

7240. (Mr. Micks).—That is if there was power to make such a rule?—If they had the power. Sir Horace Plunkett gave his reasons. One reason was that given by the Chairman here, and of course the modification we asked for did away with the grounds of the reason altogether. The next reason he gave was that a prophet does not get credit in his own country. Well, our instructions are not more prophetic than the schoolmaster, or medical officers, or chaplains of workhouses, or the persons appointed under the other great departments. In any case they are not in their own country, because we put them out of the Parliamentary division in which they reside.

7241. It was merely a question whether neighbourhood or county should be a disqualification?—Yes. His next reason was that more were in favour of the rule than against it. He made inquiries from several people and they agreed with him that it was a good thing to have the rule, and it just came out from him that he inquired from the people employed by the Department—the people actually who were appointed under the rule—they are gaining by the rule—their positions depend upon the rule perhaps, and when people are employed by the Department, and they know what the Department is in favour of, they don't, I think, go into very strenuous reasons to oppose the Department's views. Then it was said, in reply to Sir Horace Plunkett, the counties throughout Ireland were committed and eleven-twelfths of those who answered were against the rule and one-twelfth in favour of it. Twelve counties supported us and one went in favour of the Department—one, Kilkenny, and only one. He also said in the end, as it were, to throw oil on the troubled waters, he thought that if we had more money we might employ two instructors; an arrangement might be made to sometimes hereafter whereby natives of one part of the County Donegal might be employed in another part, the same as at present in the case in Cork. We could not well understand how it was that we hadn't money to appoint more than one instructor. The previous year we had to our credit £130 or about that sum. I think the salary of our instructors was 260. That is £130, and 260 was allowed for vitals and travelling expenses. That money was not spent by us, and we had an income in the next year to draw upon, still we were told we could only appoint one instructor in the butter-making. I think his reasons were very lame on that head. He said, too, he could not afford to break the rule because other counties would be asking exemption also if it was done for Donegal. The fact of a certain exemption being made in Cork broke the rule, I think, to some extent.

7242. (Mr. Brown).—Cork is in two Ridings?—Tipperary is also in two Ridings, and is bound by the rule.

7243. What was the explanation in Cork?—The reply from County Cork was that the rule does not apply. Sir Horace Plunkett said an arrangement could be made in Donegal the same as was now practised in Cork, where a resident in one part of the county could be employed in another part of that county.

7244. (Chairman).—It states the case against the rule very thoroughly?—It does, and I give the reasons as they came before me, and those that could be assigned for the other side, and I weigh them very carefully.

7245. (Mr. Dryden).—I notice you stated that the live-stock schemes of the Department are unsuitable in this county; will you explain that?—I would like to ask the Secretary if Mr. Cassidy is to be here. He is a cattle dealer.

(Mr. Taylor).—He is to be examined.

(Witness).—Then I would rather leave it to him. He is a large cattle dealer living in Ballyshannon. Canon Sweeney, of Killybegs, spoke several times against the live-stock schemes in the congested areas of the county. They could never get any advantage at all from them. In fact the people could not take care of these animals that were sent them. The class of animals was not suitable for them, and they would not prosper with them.

7246. (Mr. Brown).—Did they propose to the Department any alternative?—I don't recollect that they did.

7247. The Committee never put forward any alternative scheme to the live-stock scheme?—No. We

worked under the scheme as long as we could. We had one iron in the fire, and we thought we might as well attend to it.

7248. The Committee is asked each year to express its views on the working of the live-stock scheme and make suggestions for the future?—They discussed that.

7249. Did they ever send forward any suggestions which were not adopted?—Our Secretary will be here; he has the books and minutes; there were some of the meetings I was not at. At all events, the live-stock scheme was not much in my way.

7250. I would like to ask if there anything good in the working of the Department at all?—Indeed there is. They spend £167,000 and more, and if there was nothing to be said for that it would be a damaging case certainly. We admit that they do a great deal, and we worked with them, and intended to work with them, but we were sorry we could not work with them in consequence of this unfortunate thing done in the most high-handed manner. I thought we could never continue to work with such a Department.

7251. (Chairman).—Do you put in a statement on behalf of the Joint Technical Instruction Committee of the County Donegal. There is a resolution of that Committee?—Yes, it was passed at a meeting of the Technical Committee.

7252. You remember that?—Yes, and I was Chairman of that meeting. I think Father Delaney was Chairman that day of the Agriculture Committee.

7253. (Mr. Micks).—You can identify that?—Yes.

7254. That was passed at the meeting?—Yes. That was passed at the meeting. "At a meeting of the above Committee, held at Lifford on the 18th May, 1906, a communication from the Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland asking to be furnished with the observations of the Committee on the questions referred to them having been read, the following statement was unanimously adopted, viz:—Resolved:—That this Committee regard the amount of money allocated by the Department (£416) for Technical Instruction in non-agricultural subjects in County Donegal as totally inadequate for such a large county. The Committee also consider that the amount at the disposal of the Department for this purpose in rural districts is entirely insufficient, and consider that the Government should provide them with proper funds so that County Committees may be able to give technical instruction on a proper scale in rural districts. The Committee also beg to record their opinion that the Department should not have been a party to the grant not of injustice and breach of trust perpetrated by the withdrawal by the Treasury of the Equivalent Grant from Ireland. The Committee trust that the Committee of Inquiry will impress upon Parliament that it is an act of justice which they owe to Ireland to restore this Grant. The Committee thoroughly approve of the proposed changes in the constitution of the Department suggested in the statement which is being forwarded by the County Donegal Committee of Agriculture."

7255. (Chairman).—There is just one question I should like to ask as to the withdrawal of the Equivalent Grant from Ireland. I don't quite understand why it is said that the Department were a party to that?—The Department were expected to make a minute before a certain date making a certain claim. They failed to make that minute, and therefore the country has had to lose.

7256. Well, I think there is some misconception there?—Well, I give it to you just as I got it, and I don't want to go into it any further.

7257. (Mr. Micks).—The Committee complain that the amount placed at their disposal is insufficient for the purpose of technical instruction. It does seem rather a small sum?—The county is large, the land very poor and the salubrious very low, and the penny in the pound does not make up a large amount of money, and under the present arrangement the Department will only give a further sum of £1 15s. to the pound.

7258. (Chairman).—They give just double the amount of the local contributions?—I was not aware they gave so much.

7259. (Mr. Micks).—There are some places where the contribution is larger. Have you asked for an extension in the figures?—I don't remember.

7260. Or asked to have it increased?—I don't remember. Our Secretary will be able to give you

July 13, 1906.

Right Rev.
Most Rev.
Bishop,
etc., etc.

July 18, 1901

Eight Bar.
Messrs.
McGowan,
P.P., &c.

evidence on these matters. On the 25th of January it was resolved—"That any money saved from the different schemes in congested areas be reserved for the congested districts in future years if not applied this year." Sometimes in the working of the schemes at the end of the year the money was not all taken up, and the Committee desired to have that money reserved for the poorer parts of the county, but the Department would not, or had not the power to yield to that application. On the 8th of March, 1901—the Committee have the Department's letter relative to the scheme adopted for the congested areas, which had been read at a previous meeting, again under consideration, and it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Mr. Magee, seconded by the Hon. D. Stevens, that we condemn the action of the Department in refusing to approve of the action of the Committee to work the prize scheme through the Parish Committees, and that we request them to reconsider the matter, as unless the scheme is worked in this way the county scheme and parish schemes will overlap and much confusion will be caused to farmers. We condemn their action in refusing to approve of the proposal to allocate the balance of £240 to Parish Committees for the erection and improvement of cottage dairies. Note this balance of £240 is the balance available for that year. We allocated it under other schemes. As a matter of fact, the overlapping of the schemes and confusion to the people did arise because that consensus was not granted to us, and the confusion still continues; for example, the farmers who make improvements in their houses and holdings under the Parish Committees in congested districts are paid a certain amount of money for their improvements on the recommendation of the Department's judge under the farmers' prize scheme of the Committee for the same work. They are paid twice out of public funds, which could not happen if the Department had not refused to sanction the above resolution of the Donegal County Committee, so in the Committee's opinion they should have done, because the Donegal County Committee of Agriculture under the Department, and the Donegal Parish Committees under the Congested Districts Board, consist of gentlemen of the same standing and qualifications, namely, County Councils, District Councils, Clergymen of all denominations, medical doctors, and magistrates. Many of them are on both the County and Parish Committees—the same gentlemen—but the difference between them is that the County Committee is large and is appointed to carry out the schemes for the county, whereas the Parish Committee is smaller and its duties are confined to the area of the parish, and although the same man may be on the County Committee and the Parish Committee he cannot control the men on one side or the other, because they are working in different areas. We wanted to transfer the management of this money to the Parish Committees they were at responsible people as the County Committee.

7251. (Mr. McGowan).—If the law at present make that impossible, is it your opinion that the law should be changed so as to make it possible?—I think so.

7252. (Mr. Brown).—You would provide for the appointment of Statutory Committees like the Parish Committees under the Congested Districts Board?—We have been in Donegal working with great success. For every £100 the Congested Districts pay the people most at least show £400 worth of work, and the result of the scheme last year was that we had at least eight times as much work as the money paid, and the success of that scheme is very great compared with the success of the Department's work.

7253. Do you suggest an extension in that particular of the Congested Districts Board's system, to have a similar organisation for the whole county?—I didn't go into that, but I see nothing against it at present.

7254. (Chairman).—Your Committee, I see, consists of forty-eight persons?—It is a large Committee, but it is a large county.

7255. There are eleven members in that of the County Council?—I don't know the proportion.

7256. That is the return I have before me. There are thirty-seven outside persons?—They are appointed by the County Council.

7257. Do you think the Committee too large?—It is not in practice too large, because several of these

are in such a distant part of the county that they cannot often attend, it would require them to have a better income than they have to pay the expenses of coming up to the meeting and spending a night or two on the way.

7258. Where are the meetings held?—At the very extreme end of the county—at Lifford, the Doyle families sit against the back of the courthouse, and the Doyle families sit from Tyrone.

7259. Does that account for there being such a large Committee?—That is one reason for it. It was not at the meeting of the County Council. I don't know what weighed with them.

7260. Is the business really done by a comparatively small number of the thirty-eight?—Some seven to sixteen, I should say, attend the Committee meetings. There are seldom under seven and seldom over twenty; there are sometimes under seven and sometimes over twenty; but that is the average. The Department sent a letter to the Committee asking them to consult with other people outside the Committee. That may account for making our County Committee so large. They advised them to get the views of the different rural districts in the county with regard to the schemes that should be worked in the county. The members of the County Committee took an interest in summoning meetings of the different rural districts; hence Committees were formed throughout Donegal consisting of a few of the District Councils, I think, and the County Councils, clergymen of all denominations, and magistrates and people of position. Agricultural schemes were drawn up for the county and were submitted to the County Committee at its next meeting, and the County Committee took an interest also in helping them to form their schemes. Then we all came together and read over all the schemes, and sent them to the Department, but they were sent back for some purposes of co-ordination or some such reason, and then we sent them back to the Sub-Committees again for whatever changes they wished to put into them. There were some changes made, and we endeavoured to do the best we could, and we sent them off to the Department. So whether it was too late in the year, or whether it was that they had not time to go into the different schemes, they were so numerous, but there was nothing whatever done in that year. And seeing that the Department had such a large amount of money, that there was much trouble taken to organise the Committees, for these gentlemen left their work to attend the meetings at considerable trouble, and that the whole thing ended in smoke, they were disgusted and disappointed; and ever since that they would take no part in putting anything of the kind. I know that the Chairman—the Bishop of the Diocese, the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—had a considerable experience in matters of the kind, being a member of the Congested Districts Board, he attended exceedingly well the meetings of the County Committee, though he had to drive twelve or fourteen miles to do so, and since that he never attended but once—four or five years ago. I heard him say that the Department was very hard to get on with, or got very much from, and he thought he was not spending his time usefully in going to these meetings. In 1900 there was a letter sent to us from the Department, asking us to get these Committees re-appointed to the rural districts. The Secretary sent a letter to the rural districts, and only two sent in a reply, and their reply was: "Do you and the County Committee settle your disputes, and then we may take some interest in helping on the schemes in the county."

7261. (Chairman).—Owing to this unfortunate difference of opinion Donegal has been without the benefit of an instructor at all?—We have the cattle prize scheme, and the technical scheme, and coopers, and dress-making going on. I don't see how the Department can stand against us.

7262. (Mr. Brown).—Is it not rather the county than the Department that is suffering?—I think the Department has not gained any credit. A general election has occurred since; the County Councils had to go to the country. The County Councils formed new committees after their election, and it was not any person who was opposed, and strenuously opposed to this rule, that was left out of the Committee, which shows that the public opinion of the county was within the action of the Committee.

7263. That is beside the question?—It is not beside the question at all; it shows that the Committee represented the views of the electors.

7274. I mean it is beside the question as to whether the county is suffering?—Many a time a person suffers for a time in order to gain a good result. It is not a pleasant thing to take medicine sometimes, but still

people take it. It is not a good thing to go under an operation, but it is very useful sometimes to get the constitution repaired and radically fitted up, so we hope to get done on this occasion.

Rev. JOHN DOWERY, P.R., Carrisburgh, examined.

7275. (Chairman).—You are a member of the District Committee?—Yes, a member of the Agricultural Committee and also of the Technical Instruction Committee.

7276. You have heard Messrs. McClure's evidence. Generally, do you agree with his view as regards the county instructor question?—Yes: all the evidence he has given I thoroughly endorse without any qualification.

7277. Do you wish to add anything to it?—Last you might forget. The last question put to him was, "didn't the county suffer from the fact that these instructions were not working?" It seems to me to give my own personal opinion, supported, I think by the pretty fairly unanimous opinion of the district in which I live, that the county has suffered very little from the want of these instructions, for they do very little good. I mean, of course, in the congested areas of the county. Of course they do a great deal of good in the other districts where there are big farmers. They profit by it, no doubt. By the poultry scheme, which is left out now the large farmers profit very much; the congested areas profit very little, for the simple reason that we had hardly a poultry station in the congested areas at all. That was because the farms were small, and the farmers were comparatively poor; they were not able to provide accommodation plots of ground for the poultry to walk in, or houses to accommodate them, and the subsidies that the County Committee could give these poor people were too small, and for that very reason I say that the congested districts of the County Donegal suffered very little, and, of course, most of Donegal is congested. We had also other instructions; and when we are on this point, I happened to be asked to take the chair at some of these meetings. We had one of these professors—I may say a Scotchman—he had been at Carrisburgh. I gave him the loan of a school. The meeting was very well advertised, posters put up everywhere, and it was a pretty fair meeting. The schoolhouse was fairly filled, and from beginning to end, I believe, there were not half-a-dozen people there who understood what he was talking about.

7278. What was the subject of the lecture?—On tillage and manure, and how to till their farms. He got a black-board and commenced putting down Algebraic expressions. The people at last began to laugh and didn't know what he was talking about—working out the percentages of phosphates and nitrates.

7279. It was over their heads?—Yes. The next experience I had was we were to get a lecture on flax—how to cultivate flax. A gentleman was appointed by the Department to come down to Inishowen. A meeting was advertised for three o'clock on a Monday, the market day at Carrisburgh. The man never turned up until six o'clock, after the people had gone. There was a third meeting on bees, but the man never turned up at all. That disgusted the whole district with these itinerant teachers, and, therefore, they came to the conclusion that the want of them was not much loss.

7280. Otherwise, you have not had much experience of them?—Not personally, but I have over and over again discussed the matter with others who have had experience of them, and, as a matter of fact, I think the general opinion is that they do very little good. As all results, as far as the County Donegal is concerned, I don't think you will find many to say much good of them. I am speaking, however, principally of the congested districts of the County Donegal. I don't speak of the Lagan and its rich lands.

7281. Do you think if competent persons were appointed, good lecturers and so on, men who interested the people, and could put things before them in a way they could understand, do you think they would appreciate them?—I think they would, but that is just the very reason why I think we should have liberty to appoint those ourselves whom we think qualified, and we should not be restricted by the Department.

7282. Shall you now give your evidence in your own

way?—That touches, however, on the evidence I intended to give—that one uniform scheme is not suited for a county like Donegal. Take the live stock. What suits the Lagan does not suit as in Inishowen, and what is true of Inishowen is true of the large area of Donegal round the sea-board.

7283. What modification in that scheme would you make?—I certainly would suggest that they should give a larger subsidy to farmers, in order to make provision for keeping these animals they get. The £15 premium, or whatever they get, is not sufficient; it does not pay, and, therefore, they do without them.

7284. (Mr. Brown).—They can get the premium for several years if they get a bull?—They can; but the question is, could they get that for £15 a year? Those who have large farms it does pay them; but it does not pay the small farmers, and it is the same with regard to poultry or anything else.

7285. As a matter of fact, the number of bulls in Donegal appears to be very considerable?—One year they had not one for Clannamony, which is a very large parish, and they hadn't one this year until it was very late, and it was sent on special terms.

7286. Do you know how many you have altogether?—I am not sure. I only know one in the parish I have myself.

7287. There are thirty-four county premiums?—I am speaking principally of Inishowen. I am not so well up in the other divisions of the county. They are taken up by the large farmers, and the congested districts are suffering a grievance.

7288. There are also eighteen special premiums given by the Department?—Some of these are located within two or three miles of each other, and there are large areas without any at all, because they could not get parties to take them.

7289. (Chairman).—I suppose in the poorer parts of the county it is very difficult to get people to take them?—While we were under the Congested Districts Board, we had a man there on the ground all the year round to look after the live stock and teach the farmers of the district. But now it is amalgamated as to the live stock scheme with the Department. The congested areas are thus suffering a very serious grievance.

7290. (Mr. Brown).—According to the map, there would appear to be nine in Inishowen.

7291. (Mr. Nichol).—There are six in the congested districts?—And three outside.

7292. The really congested part of Inishowen is the West, in Clannamony Parish?—Yes, and the North—Malin Head.

7293. Comparatively little in the East?—Quite so.

7294. (Mr. Gordon).—There are nine in Inishowen, and three are given specially by the Department. Two are £15 each, and one is a Congested Districts Board bull at £10, to be paid off in three instalments.

(Witness).—Arising out of that information, I just take leave to say that it appears a rather strange thing with regard to that animal, to which Mr. Gordon has referred, that it was given to Clannamony on special terms. The farmers have to pay 2s. or 2s. 6d. for the service of that animal, whereas those who live in the rich districts have only to pay 1s. for the premium bull. It appears a rather strange thing. It is a rule made by the Department.

7295. (Mr. Brown).—Have they been asked to modify that rule?—I am not aware.

7296. (Mr. Nichol).—Perhaps it was a rule they took over from the Congested Districts Board?—Perhaps so.

(Mr. Gordon).—In one case it is a premium paid of £15; in the other case it is an absolute sale at half the price, £10, and it is left to the owner to charge what he likes. In the case of the other they are not allowed to charge more than 1s., and they are paid £15 for the service of that cow.

(Witness).—My impression is that the Congested Districts Board made a rule that 2s. was the limit, and perhaps is a considerable thing for a poor man very often. My suggestion would be that there should be two schemes—that the County Committee should be given permission to initiate some kind of work there—

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acres. They should, at least, have permission to draw up two schemes—one for the areas where the larger farmers reside, and another for the congested areas in the country.

7307. (Mr. Micks).—These areas fall into natural divisions or into those of baronies?—Nearly all.

7308. If the limit of barony were adopted in Donegal you would have very little to complain of, from your point of view?—Very little.

7309. Have they ever put forward this suggestion in answer to the inquiries at the end of each year?—Yes; Mr. Mayor McGilgan referred to the matter. We got schemes drawn up by ourselves ploshed aside, and a scheme sent down, cut and dry for us, to adopt or leave.

7310. That occurred at the beginning, but each year the County Committee are invited to send on their observations to the Department on the working of the schemes for the past year, and suggestions for the future?—That is quite true, theoretically.

7311. Have they ever sent up any suggestions?—They have, time and again.

7312. Could you refer us to those?—I was speaking to the Secretary yesterday with regard to the matter, and he said he had notes of that, where we sent on schemes; that they were ploshed aside, and their own schemes came down, with one of their inspectors, who gave it to us, to either take it or leave it. I think the Secretary will be able to give you instances, but let me appear to be giving no credit at all to the Department. I intended to say that the only benefit—the only real benefit—that I think we are getting is in the subsidy they give us for the Agricultural Show we hold in Carradonagh every year, which certainly is a benefit, for the people go in very largely for entering their cattle at these shows, and it gives a great stimulus to the improvement of stock. They do give us a subsidy every year, and for that we are grateful, but they give us very little more.

7313. (Mr. Brown).—Don't you think the nine bulls are an advantage, as far as they go?—There is a difference of opinion as to whether they are suitable for the

poor districts. They give a choice between the Pollad Angus and the Shorthorn.

7314. What bull do you prefer?—I would say the Pollad Angus suits very well, or the Galloway. In the congested areas, but a great number would not agree with me.

7315. You have the Pollad Angus and the Shorthorn, but the Committee could make a rule making them all Pollad Angus?—A great many of those turn out very inferior animals, and give great dissatisfaction.

7316. Then it is not the breeds you object to?—Not the breeds, exactly; but, at all events, the bulls don't turn out well. There is great dissatisfaction with regard many of them.

7317. Do you mean the progeny don't turn out well?—No progeny at all in many instances.

7318. Has abortion prevailed in these districts?—Not much. I never knew much of it. We had another point with regard to these instructions. We found it a very hard thing often at our Committee that those who were candidates for local instructions, and other things of that kind, had to go to Dublin for examination. And, then, another thing, we wrote to the Department to send us some kind of a programme, or syllabus, of the matters in which they should be examined, but we never got any satisfaction at all. These poor candidates had to go to Dublin to be examined, and pay their own expenses, and all that kind of thing, and we found it a great hardship that their expenses should not be paid. We thought that the Department should examine them in person nearer home.

7319. (Chairman).—A nearer centre of examination?—Yes. I knew several of them that would be very anxious, and very well qualified, but they had not the means to go to Dublin, and the Committee could not help them, and I really thought that the committee working under the Department should be allowed a little elasticity and freedom, because they are very well acquainted with the needs and circumstances of the locality, much more so, I am certain, than those living in Dublin. I think these are the only points on which I intended to say anything.

MR. WILLIAM O'DONERTY, J.P., BARRACRA, EXAMINED.

Mr. W.
O'Donerty,
J.P.

7320. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Committee of Agriculture?—I am Chairman of the Finance Committee of the County Council of Donegal. I may say that, not being a member of the Agricultural Committee, I was not appointed to give evidence here, but at the last meeting of the County Council, having so little of any results from the Agricultural Department, I gave notice to the County Council in favour of no longer continuing to subsidise and pay a penny in the £1. It was then I was asked to appear before this Commission.

7321. Notice of motion to that effect?—Notice of motion. I only said that I would do so, but I did not do so. I was then asked to appear before your Commission to give evidence. What I complain of is as to the distribution of funds. The Agricultural Department allocate a very large amount of money under the live stock scheme, which probably serves the gentleman farmers and the large landholders of the county, who are quite able, from their wealth and intelligence, to take care of themselves, while the poor parts of the county are neglected.

7322. (Mr. Micks).—The well-off and the poor live in different districts in Donegal?—As a rule, they do.

7323. The poor live to the West and the others to the East?—Yes. In this district of Lagan, from Loughcutty to Lifford, all along the Foyle, there are rich and large farmers, who want very little instruction from the State. I think it is the poorer farmers and peasantry who should be the benefit of this State aid. I came from a parish in Inishowen where the existence of the Department is unknown.

7324. Is that Barracra?—Yes. It is true the small farmers of the parish have got, for the last few years, from £50 to £75, from the Parish Committee, under the Congested Districts Board, which has done an immense lot of good. That £70, given to them, in points, represents, at least, £700 worth of improvements. The whole face of the country, even for that small amount, has been changed, in regard to their dwellings and surroundings. A great deal of it was given for the improvement of their dwellings, and

the surroundings of the houses, and sanitary purposes.

7325. The erection of cow houses?—Yes, and sanitary arrangements, so as not to have manure heaps near their doors; but the small farmers of this district have yet to discover as to whether there is an Agricultural Board existing or not.

7326. (Chairman).—I suppose it has not been brought home to them in any way?—There has been no one coming to them to give them any help or instruction. With regard to the live stock scheme, all that has been done has been done for the large farmers. They could get good cattle, if the Agricultural Board did not exist.

7327. (Mr. Brown).—You said "all that has been done"?—All that they know of. Half of this parish is congested, and the other half is scheduled as non-congested, and in many cases there is no call for such a distinction. The part that is not congested is just as poor as the part that is scheduled as congested, for the most part.

7328. (Chairman).—Those nine bulls, are any of them within the reach of the poorer people, or do they make use of them?—In my district practically very little. There would be a large farmer amongst them who would have a bull that they would, in fact, prefer. While on this subject, I may say that the Agricultural Department have made an offer of £2,000 towards the extension of Barracra pier, for which the people of the surrounding districts feel very grateful. That is saying so much. They made an offer, but that was conditional on the War Department and the Admiralty, making an offer of a similar amount, which they never did. These Departments consider it would be only a useless expenditure, I suppose, spending anything on Irish purposes. We cannot get anything from them, but we are certainly very thankful to the Agricultural Department for the offer they have made for the extension.

7329. For their good intentions?—Yes, and a thing that would be so very much required, as much as our fishery industries injured; in fact it is a fishing

station, and we can get no good from it for want of a harbour.

7320. How do you think, yourself, that small farmers might receive more benefit than they do—do you think it would be a good thing for them if they could have more instruction in poultry-keeping, and so on?—Yes; and with regard to live-stock, and so on?—Yes; I think if those schemes had their origin more from local Committees, who know every-thing adapted to the country, it would have a much better effect than under this cut-and-dried system sent down from Dublin by people that practically know very little of the district. I think that of the local Committees and the Agricultural Committee of the County Donegal should have as much to do with the initiation of these schemes as the Agricultural Department.

7321. (Mr. Dryden).—You would prefer that they should allow a certain sum of money, and hand it over to your Committee?—I don't go that far, though I think I would not be going too far in saying so, but I mean the initiative of the scheme.

7322. I understood that they invite suggestions from you every year?—They do, but they never act on them. I was on that Committee, and there was a scheme sent forward for cottage industries. It was approved of by them, and before two weeks they had changed their minds, and sent down word that it was cancelled; I suppose because they thought that it originated in the Committee and that it was giving the local Committee too much latitude.

7323. I think, if you look through your books, you will find that they have had all these schemes, and viewed them, and you will find that in the vast majority of cases they do adopt them?—They adopted our suggestions, as to the cottage dairy scheme, and we were prepared to act on them. I was on the Committee at the time, but a few weeks afterwards the scheme was cancelled, and one went down of their own that was quite unsuited to the district.

7324. (Chairman).—What was the reason for cancelling the scheme?—They did not give any reason; they gave no reason whatever. I am giving you my own reason, that they considered they had done wrong to give a local Committee such liberties.

7325. (Mr. Brown).—About the live-stock scheme, I think this question arises on a suggestion that you made for alteration in the live-stock scheme?—I don't know.

7326. You can't say whether the County Committee have made any suggestions?—I am only suggesting to-day, that I think if these schemes originated, to a great extent, with the local Committee, that they would be more adapted to the wants of the country.

7327. (Chairman).—I should like to see the reasons; Mr. McGlynn gave us the correspondence, in the other cases, and we should like to see what the reasons were?—I remember no reason for cancelling the dairy scheme.

7328. But you stated, with regard to the live-stock scheme, that you had made frequent suggestions that had not been acted upon?—I don't think with regard to live-stock schemes. It is principally the dairy that I stated as an example.

7329. (Mr. Dryden).—It appears to me that it does not make much difference where the scheme originated—the question is whether it was a right scheme?—I think when they hold a firm head, and say, "You are not to vary one iota from the scheme we send down," we can make no amendment on it; if we proposed an amendment they would not take it.

7330. (Mr. Brown).—Is that the experience, generally?—That is my experience, so long as I was a member of the Committee, for six years, and I got so disgusted with it that I would not take the appointment a third time.

7331. Are you aware that modifications have been taking place in the schemes, year after year, and that these modifications have almost entirely emanated from the local Committees?—It was two years since I was on that Committee, and it was not so in my time. I don't know that they have taken suggestions from the local Committee since, but I think there are very satisfactory.

7332. (Mr. Dryden).—There is no doubt they do make changes on the suggestions of the local Committees?—That was not my experience when I was a member of the Committee, for four or five years.

7333. (Chairman).—Statements of this kind render it important for us to see the documents themselves?—I think the County Agricultural Committee were responsible for £1,500, about. We subscribed actually one penny in the pound on the valuation. I think they should have a voice in the allocation of it, and they have not such, in my opinion; they have only to carry out the scheme proposed by the Department.

7334. You must not take that as not being open to question; I think the Department would probably say that they do give the local Committee's views very considerable weight?—They don't act upon them, as far as I can see.

7335. That we shall have to test; now, will you go on to your next point?—I would certainly recommend that, for the sake of the small landholders in my district, and every district in the county, that if the Department could afford to allocate, say, £100 a year to each parish in the county, the same as the Congested Districts Board does, for the improvement of some little holdings and cottages, and carry it out in the same way as the Congested Districts Board does, that is to say, by Committees of clergymen, of all denominations, and magistrates, and the county and District Councils, that the money would be very usefully expended; there would be no absolute waste. There is no officialism or red-tapeism. There is nothing lost; all goes to the pockets of those who earn it. It represents not what they get, in the way of improvements, but ten times as much as they can get in premiums for them. In that way a great lot of useful improvement can be done, in the poor districts, and so for the richer gentlemen, I would leave them to manage their own affairs, and that they see do very well, but the poorer want both aid and education.

7336. (Mr. Micks).—What would that £100 be a substitute for?—That would be for the Parish Committee.

7337. I know, they would be the spenders of it, but what schemes, now in operation, would you give it to?—I don't mean as to giving up any, if they have funds, and I am told they have any amount of funds, but I would like to see it spent in a useful way among the poor of the place who require it.

7338. (Mr. Brown).—How many parishes are there in Donegal?—I think about thirty parishes, but they would not be given much more than we subscribe ourselves.

7339. But would you give aid to the other schemes, the live stock and boat schemes?—No, that would not exhaust the quarter of a million that they get from all sources.

7340. What about other counties?—Donegal represents the one-twentieth part of Ireland in extent, population, and valuation, and I think there should be twenty times as much as I have stated to be dispensed here in the amount given to the Agricultural Board.

7341. (Mr. Micks).—Was this an additional head of expenditure, or would you propose to substitute it for some other?—I would say an additional relief, of course it would depend greatly on the funds they have at their disposal.

7342. (Chairman).—Is there any other point?—There is no other point. When I hear of the scarcity of funds there is no use of making suggestions about local industries, such as a boot manufactory and woollen manufactory. They would be very beneficial here, in this neighbourhood, where there is so much water power going idle to waste, but I am alarmed by the scarcity of funds that I have already heard talked of.

7343. (Mr. Dryden).—Nobody on this Committee has been suggesting scarcity of funds?—Well, when they cannot afford £100 for the county.

7344. (Mr. Brown).—It is £1,000?—Well, even so.

7345. And to all other counties as well?—Donegal is as large as some three other counties.

7346. (Mr. Micks).—Have you ever heard of the existence of a flax and linen works in Roscomra many years ago—Wilson's?—Well, I remember Richardson's afterwards. I remember that there were four or five hundred workers in that linen spinning factory; £200 or £400 a week was paid in wages, and it was principally worked with water power. They used very little coal as a motive power.

7347. Did you ever happen to hear how that industry came to an end?—No; I think it was a family quarrel. It was a partnership between the father and

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his sons, and there was some amount of disagreement between them and they took up the affair. Still in other places, such as the Sion mills, the trade is prosperous.

7342. It was an exceedingly extensive concern!—It was.

7343. The Government grant to it at the time that such grants were given was \$2,117 in a single year; you are not aware of that perhaps?—I have heard that there were three partners, and that in one year their profits were \$2,000, or rather above that. That was the time of the American War.

7350. Was it in existence so recently as that?—Yes; it was there until about the last thirty years.

7351. Would it be a great advantage to the country if that could be revived?—It certainly would, or anything in its place, even a wooden industry, but Mr. Richardson appears to be the dog in the manger, and will not do anything himself or allow others.

7352. Is that mill used for anything now?—No, and I have heard that several attempts have been made to purchase it.

7353. They are not the premises Mr. Cunningham had?—No, they are placed down near the Castle.

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7354. (Chairman).—You are Secretary of the County Committee of Agriculture for the County of Tyrone?—I am.

7355. You desire to speak, I think, of the operations of the schemes in the county?—Yes, sir; the chairman of my committee has already been before you and given evidence, Mr. Montgomery. It is unnecessary for me to refer to the resolution sent up by my committee. I have been instructed by my committee to give evidence regarding the operations of the schemes of agriculture and live stock in the county, and I propose to give a brief outline of the methods adopted by the Tyrone Committee of Agriculture in regard to the organization of the Department's agricultural and live stock schemes. My committee have at present in operation nine agricultural schemes, three live stock schemes, and one experimental scheme. To give details regarding the operation and organization of all these schemes would make my evidence unduly long, involve a great deal of repetition, and possibly serve no useful purpose. With your permission, therefore, I propose to give a somewhat detailed description of the way in which one scheme, the "Scheme for encouraging improvement in the poultry-keeping industry," has been organized in the county, to trace briefly the history of its inception and operation, and to indicate, as far as is at present possible, such results of the operation as are apparent or can be reduced to figures. The Tyrone County Council, by a resolution dated the 11th September, 1901, determined to raise a rate of one halfpenny in the £ for the purpose of co-operating in the work of the Department; in October, 1902, the Council increased the rate to 1d. in the £, and in March, 1904, the Council authorized a rate of 1d. in the £ to be raised. The "Scheme for encouraging improvement in the Poultry-keeping Industry" was one of the first schemes accepted by the Tyrone Committee of Agriculture. It is selected as a typical scheme because (1) it has been in operation in the county since the initiation of the Department's work with one brief period of nine months' interruption; (2) it is a scheme which aims at satisfying all classes of the agricultural community; (3) it is a scheme which has passed through the purely pioneer stage, and from which results can be in some sense, though imperfectly, measured. In its original form the scheme provided for the appointment of an itinerant instructor, who should, during the autumn, winter and early spring months, deliver courses of lectures on poultry-keeping, visit farms and poultry-yards, and give advice to those interested in poultry-culture. For the purposes of the scheme the county is divided into six rural districts, and the instructor delivered courses of four lectures at five courses in each rural district. The system adopted in arranging for these lectures was as follows:—Representatives of the rural districts in which the lectures were to be held were consulted as to the most suitable lecture venues for that district. The places generally selected were National schools in the country. In many cases the master or mistress of the school consented to act as honorary local secretary for the lectures at that centre, the duties involved being to arrange for the display of 100 posters announcing the lectures, to enlist the assistance of the children attending the school in distributing handbills announcing the lectures, and to provide copies of the syllabus of the course; to arrange for the lighting, heating, and seating of the room, and to give such further assistance to the lecturer as might be required. The Secretary of the County Committee issued the posters and handbills, fixed the dates and hours of the lectures, arranged in most cases for a chairman for each lecture, and gave due notice to the itinerant instructor as to the arrangements. The

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lectures were followed by discussion, when it was open to any member of the audience to ask the lecturer questions, or to request the lecturer to visit a poultry yard or farm. These "pioneer lectures" were at first extremely well attended, but a certain, by no means small, proportion of the audience was attracted either by curiosity—I am that word in its somewhat degraded modern sense—then by a desire for enlightenment in regard to poultry-culture. The general impression among the people was either that there were a nuisance or that those interested in poultry in the county knew all that was worth knowing about the subject. This last impression "died hard," but the persevering and painstaking work of the present instructor gradually removed this misconception, and in the third winter in which the scheme was in operation it was evident that large audiences attended the lectures in order to gain information. More than 100 of these strictly "pioneer" lectures on poultry-keeping were delivered in the county up to the 31st March, 1903. At the same time numerous visits had been paid to poultry keepers of all classes in different parts of the county, and these visits made it very apparent—(1) that the stock was bred without any care and without due regard to the necessity for the constant introduction of fresh blood; (2) that stock was retained long after the maximum of utility and productiveness had been reached; in many flocks twenty-five per cent. of the birds were too old or too young to be profitable; (3) that the methods of housing and feeding were in most cases extremely unsatisfactory; (4) that the system of hatching prevalent in the county tended to the production of unsatisfactory young stock. The defects generally were hatched too late to give eggs in winter, nor was there any systematic attempt to breed birds suitable for the table either in quality or time of maturity. The first difficulty, that of supplying fresh blood, was met by the introduction through the Department of a system whereby three were established in the county, stations for the distribution of eggs of pure-bred fowls and ducks. The station-keeper was required to keep separate from all other poultry on the farm, and locate in houses and runs approved by the Department and the instructor, thirty hens and three cocks, which might be of any one of the several pure-breeds recommended by the Department. The birds are all selected and approved by the Inspector prior to the final selection of the station, and during the hatching season periodic visits of inspection are made to each station. From such a pen the station-keeper is required to distribute at least sixty dozen of eggs to applicants at 1s. per dozen, from 1st January to 31st May in each year, to stamp all eggs issued, and to replace all genuinely sterile eggs returned, to keep a record of all eggs laid and used, and to feed the stock in the manner approved by the Inspector. In consideration for this a premium of £5 is paid to each station holder at the close of the season. This system, with slight modification, has been in operation since 1902, and during that time nearly 18,000 settings of twelve eggs of pure-bred fowls, ducks and geese, have been distributed in the county. Assuming that on an average fifty per cent. of these eggs developed into mature birds, we find that about 18,000 pure-bred birds are added annually to the county stock at an average cost to the county of about seven-tenths of a penny per bird, and the influence of the new blood has been widely felt. Moreover, as the station holders retain their position from year to year if they manage the station satisfactorily, it has been found possible to select and improve the stock with more and more care from year to year, and I state

the bare truth when I assert that many of the selected pens in Tyrone are now of such quality that settings of eggs from them would realise 30s. per dozen in the open market during the breeding season. In addition, each station is a practical object lesson to those in the vicinity as to the proper method of housing and feeding stock. The visits of the instructor and the influence of the lectures have done much to stimulate improvement in the class of birds kept and in the methods of housing and feeding. A large number of farmers in the county have adopted the system of placing poultry in portable houses on wheels, which are periodically moved to fresh ground, and this has resulted in an increase in productiveness and improvement in general health. In 1904 the County Committee arranged for the instructor to give practical demonstrations preceded by a short explanatory lecture on the fattening, killing, plucking, and trussing of poultry at the chief agricultural shows in the county. This was followed in 1905 by the formation of classes conducted by the instructor for the purpose of giving practical instruction in preparing poultry for the market, trussing, &c., and in the grading, testing, and packing of eggs, open to the wives and daughters of farmers, labourers, and cottagers. Ten classes, of from two to two and a-half hours each, were given at each centre, the girls were required to provide fowls and eggs for packing, and the course was essentially practical in its character. These classes were held at ten centres in the county, the average attendance was about twelve, and during the winter months, in addition to the practical work, three lectures on the theory of poultry-rearing were given at each centre where a class was held. By means of these courses of instruction the knowledge of the qualities required in a good table fowl and the most suitable means of preparing such birds for market became more generally known in the county; and, in addition, considerably over 300 girls left the classes with a practical knowledge of modern trussing and egg-grading and packing. Some of the pupils proved particularly expert as trussers, and at the recent competition held at the Royal Ulster Show both the first prizes were carried off by Tyrone pupils who had been trained entirely under the county scheme. During the present year (1906) the Department has sanctioned the establishment of a small portable poultry farm for teaching purposes in the county equipped with poultry houses, runs, appliances for hatching and rearing both by artificial and natural means, and a complete but small plant for fattening. The stock consists of two pens of pure-bred fowls and one of ducks, while considerable numbers of chickens are raised on the farm. The farm is located in one centre for six weeks, arrangements being made for the use of a field and a room for lecture purposes and for practical work in connection with killing and trussing of birds and the grading and packing of eggs. Classes of instruction are held daily for from two to three hours, and these classes are open to the wives and daughters of farmers, labourers and cottagers, and where the demand exists provision is made for a separate class for men. Each pupil in turn has the full responsibility of looking after the farm for an entire day under the direction of the instructor, and, while two hours per week of the time of the classes is devoted to lectures, the remaining time is occupied entirely by practical work. This scheme has been in operation only a short time, but where the farm is working at present we have thirty-two girls and women and seven men attending the classes. As bearing on the practical utility of the operation of the poultry scheme as a whole, perhaps you will permit me to lay before you the following figures—

I have summarized the prices which have been paid for eggs in one market town in Tyrone from 1900 to 1905; possibly you will find the figures interesting. It has a bearing on the importance of the scheme. Of course I don't attempt to say that, altogether, this scheme has accounted for the prices, but it must have had some influence on them. In 1900 the average price per dozen for eggs given in this market town—let me say that no consistent effort has been made to organize the produce or sale or marketing of the eggs on a co-operative basis—but the price of eggs was 9.5s. per dozen; in 1901 it averaged 9.2s.; in 1902—these data are all prior to the operation of the scheme for the distribution of eggs—it averaged 8.9s. per dozen; in 1903 it averaged 8.5s.; in 1904 it averaged 8.4s.;

in 1905 it averaged 8.85s. per dozen, so that there was a steady rise. In another town in the county the average price obtained in 1900 for eggs was 9.47s. per dozen, and in 1905 the average price was 12.8s. per dozen. During the same period, that is from 1900 to 1905, in the last market to which I referred the average price of dead poultry has risen from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per dozen. Should you wish to have particulars regarding the syllabus of the work done, or of the examinations held, and the course of instruction, I have copies of them here to lay before you.

7356. Would you like to say something, generally, about the live stock schemes?—And now, gentlemen, if you will allow me, I would like to give a few facts with regard to the working of other schemes in the county. Under the agricultural scheme proper, that is in reference to the work done by the itinerant instructor in agriculture, 190 lectures have been delivered in the county in two years: the syllabus of these lectures shows quite clearly the ground covered, the lecturer has dealt with (*quod scribimus*). In addition to this there have been over 200 demonstrations and experimental plots laid down on selected farms in the county, and these plots have formed a sort of practical continuation course supplementing the suggestions made at the lectures.

We have one demonstration plot showing the mixtures of grass weeds which are best. With regard to the turnip crop, we have laid down three experimental plots on the marlous side, and two of varieties; and we have conducted five demonstration plots on the marlous side with regard to turnips. In the maize crop we have only one experiment. With regard to the flax crop, my county has been fortunate in this way, that the Department has conducted several experiments on a large scale which my farmers can see in the county, and, therefore, my Committee has not conducted so many flax experiments. We have five demonstration plots, one set of five plots and two sets of two plots on the marlous side of flax. We have conducted thirteen experiments on the inoculation of leguminous plants, and eight demonstrations of manure mounds. That sums up all our work under the agricultural scheme.

7357. Do those demonstration experiments arouse much interest in the country generally?—I cannot say that people come from a long distance, but they undoubtedly attract the attention of a few.

7358. (Mr. Brown).—Have you tried the plan of having meetings on the plots or in the immediate neighbourhood at which the lecturer attends and explains?—We have not tried exactly that system, but we have tried a slightly different one. We have an Agricultural Students' Association. We encourage the agricultural students to take up experimental plots, and we give them every facility for so doing, and the Agricultural Instructor then goes out, and all the students in that neighbourhood meet at the given plots, and in that way those plots are made to form, as it were, a supplementary practical continuation to the theoretical work which is done in the classes in winter. But we don't hold meetings generally for farmers on the plots. As a matter of fact, our county is pretty big.

7359. I mean in the immediate neighbourhood of the plots?—The way in which we have done the thing in this We never put down a plot except in a district where the lectures have been given. The intention is that the plots should carry out the teaching of the winter course of lectures.

7360. What was the result of your inoculation experiment?—The result was negative. The instructor was not able to express an opinion definitely one way or the other. He did not notice anything very distinct. The only thing he said was that, applying it to peas, the inoculated sprouts seemed to get on better in the early period. The following of the young plant was not so prevalent in the case of inoculated plants as it was in the others.

7361. In the case of clover?—The general opinion expressed by the Instructor was that on really barren soil it was an advantage, but where clover would grow under ordinary circumstances, or with ordinary treatment—that is to say, with intelligent treatment, that would produce clover—the inoculation was no good. Under the scheme of instruction in horticulture and the management of bees, there have been more than 180 lectures delivered during the period in which the scheme has been in operation, and 117 practical de-

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monestations on planting, pruning, and spraying have been given by the Instructor in gardens and orchards throughout the county. Four model gardens, of about one-eighth of an acre in extent, have been laid out in various parts of the county. Two of these are placed in proximity to National schools. I may say with regard to this, that during the year 1904, 453 fruit trees, representing both apple trees and bush fruit, were planted under the direct supervision of the instructor. In 1905, 1,766 trees were planted; in 1906, 1,456 trees were planted; and at the same time thirty-six acres of land have been put under forest trees in this county, which were never under forest trees before.

7362. Were these trees supplied from the County Committee?—They were in this sense, that the County Committee obtains the best rates, and then recommends where the trees should be got, but there is no compulsion in the matter. We have never purchased trees, but we have been told by the Department that we could do so. One thing I tell the County Committee was that I did not wish the responsibility of looking after a large nursery of trees. In the bee-keeping industry we have to combat the prevalence of foul-brood in bees, and expert opinion seems to suggest that until this disease is regarded by the State as of as great importance in its relation to a minor industry, as foot-and-mouth disease is in relation to cattle, there is little chance of making the most of bee-keeping in the county. In regard to the operation of the live stock schemes, my committee award annually seventy premiums to farmers' rears, and for the purpose of selecting these rears six shows are held, one in each rural district. Through the assistance of the Department we have procured thoroughbred stallions of excellent quality, and we also have Clydesdale and Shire stallions located in the county. The veterinary examination of all rears selected for premium and reserve has had a most salutary effect in decreasing the number of animals suffering from hereditary defects. My committee at first offered thirty-three premiums for pure-bred bulls to be located in the county; they now offer fifty such premiums annually. The great difficulty at present in connection with this scheme, is to prevent the export buyer from carrying off a large proportion of our selected animals. Premiums are given to short-horn and Aberdeen Angus bulls. Twelve premiums of £5 each are offered annually to pure-bred boars for the purpose of improving the breeds of swine. Since the winter of 1903 classes of instruction in technical agriculture have been held regularly in the county. The students were admitted to the course free on passing an entrance examination in English composition and arithmetic, were granted an allowance of 12 pence mile for travelling by road, or third-class railway fare when they resided beyond three miles from the centre at which the class was held. A mid-day meal was also provided free of charge. At first the classes lasted for four weeks only, and were held daily, Saturdays excepted, for four to five hours per day. During the last two years these classes have been held at three centres in the county for two days per week at each centre, and the course has extended from the latter end of October until the middle of March. During the progress of the courses of instruction the students are examined periodically by a representative of the Department, and at the close of the course a regular examination is held on the subjects covered by the syllabus. One hundred and eleven students have passed through these classes, since their inception in 1903, and this year the students, past and present, formed an agricultural students' association for the discussion of matters of interest, for the reading of papers, and for the purpose of comparing notes as to the results of experiments. In order to supplement the theoretical instruction given at the winter course, students who attend these courses are given special facilities for carrying out experiments on their own farms during the summer under the direction of the itinerant instructor in agriculture. There is ample evidence that young men trained under this system go back to their farms with increased knowledge, and knowledge which can be turned to use to practical account; but what is still more important, they go back with an enlarged view of the meaning of working a farm: they learn to realise that agriculture should be "the most worthy and dignified, as it certainly is the oldest and most important of all industries." The drawback of such a system of instruction is that it involves almost entirely the opportunity for practical work, for object

lessons; our courses are theoretical exercises from the very nature of the limitations which exist, and what is felt to be the real need in this connection has been so clearly and perfectly expressed by Earl Grey in his despatch dealing with certain aspects of agricultural education in Canada, dated 23rd December, 1902, that I venture to borrow his words in order to state the views of my committee, who believe "that the brain of the agriculturist is reached not by academic disquisitions, . . . but through the eyes and finger tips, by practical handling of animals and materials, and the visual demonstration of the right way in which the arts of husbandry should be done." The young farmer in Co. Tyrone cannot in most instances go away to a distance to attend an agricultural course in a great provincial college; he could be persuaded readily enough to take advantage of the teaching and the object-lessons offered by an educational establishment less pretentious, perhaps much less fully equipped, but still situated in his own county and acting in a definite way at the solution of the problems and difficulties which farming in that county presents. Such an establishment might turn out few producers, but it would, it is surmised, turn out many good farmers. The great difficulty which is met in attempting to realise such a scheme is the difficulty of expense. It is understood readily enough that the Department cannot raise and maintain scores of colleges. On the other hand the Tyrone County Council, since the fall of 1904, and their existing schemes represent the whole of it. We are, therefore, at present working a system in regard to technical instruction in agriculture which is a compromise, and which has the disadvantages inseparable from a compromise.

7363. (Chairman).—I should like to know what you say about itinerant instruction. Poultry instruction has been started by that means. Do you think that otherwise it has been a success?—I think it may be admitted at once that the success of itinerant instruction depends to a large extent on the instructor. It is impossible always to get exactly the right man. Provided you get the right man there is no question about value. It is very difficult for a man coming into the county to at once recognise the limitations and requirements of the people in it, and to adapt himself and his teaching all at once to those conditions. I think my committee has been particularly happy in most cases in these instructions, and certainly where we have obtained good instructors we have found the value of their work was very great indeed.

7364. (Mr. Attkin).—Do you think there is any other way of really bringing all this knowledge home to the smaller tenants?—The smaller and poorer people have such a strong objection to anything in the nature of book-learning as they call it, that it has always seemed to me in this case I am not voicing the views of my committee, but my own opinion—that anything in the nature of a practical demonstration is always far more valuable, and likely to do far more good than mere lecturing. Many of those people go to the lectures—a great many of them because they meet one another there, a few because they are interested. We have numerous sets of lantern slides, and they may be interested in seeing them. But whether they go there to take away a tith of the knowledge given there is a question which it is difficult to answer, and depends on the district. In some districts they will carry away a great deal, and in other districts they will carry away very little because to learn from a lecture is absolutely foreign to the nature of people who have reached perhaps thirty, or forty-five, or forty years of age, and have been all their lives at farm work. It is impossible to think that they can take away as much from the lecture as a man who has been in the habit of taking notes of lectures.

7365. I suppose this itinerant poultry farm is an attempt to combine both?—It is an attempt to combine both, and so far as it has been in operation it has been a great success.

7366. Do you think this instruction has penetrated far in the country, or are there many outside the benefit of it?—There are undoubtedly large tracts—I could point in my own county to a district of twenty-five miles where we find it very difficult to get the advantages to be derived from the Department known or appreciated in any way; that is to say, from Cookstown to Plumbridge.

7367. Have you any scheme of instruction in dairying?—No, because the county is dotted with one series.

7368. You think it is useless to try and establish

more desiring it—It has been the view of my committee that other demands on the money were more important.

7369. Do you fail to get applicants for premiums?—We do not fail to get applicants for premiums very often in accessible districts, but in the more remote districts we often fail to get applicants. Or perhaps you go up there and make inquiries and try to get a man to take a premium bull, and he does so, and then possibly you find he has no conception of how he ought to feed that bull, which goes back in condition. The principal solution of that difficulty and the one which my committee have always kept before them is to get co-operative purchase of premium bulls, to get six farmers to co-operate and purchase a premium bull. But there are very great practical difficulties in the way of doing that.

7370. The bulls seem to be rather concentrated?—They have been too concentrated; but the selection of the bulls is entirely in the hands of the committee, and they are guided largely by the applicants. The applicants may run along a certain line of country, and very often they do, and it is not in our power to take them out of the congested state they are in.

7371. (Chairman).—Generally speaking, what have been the relations of your committee with the Department?—They may be described generally at most friendly. On some occasions differences of opinion have arisen, but, if I may venture to offer an opinion, in these cases it seems to me that, while nominally the objects of the Department and the committee are one, they are rather sharply differentiated in a certain way. The work of the Department is educational work. It looks forward to a very far distant horizon. On the other hand, the County Committee are the trustees of money for three years only, and the County Committee naturally says: "Let us have a flourish of trumpets at the end of the three years, and let us show what we have done." The two objects are incompatible. You cannot build up brick by brick, as the Department want to do, and at the same time make a flourish at the end of three years. With regard to the adoption of suggestions by the Department from the committee, I can point to several instances where suggestions of my committee were actually incorporated in schemes now in force by the Department. Section E of the flax scheme, whether it be the result, at any rate carries out identically the suggestion of the Co. Tyrone Committee with regard to the inspection of flax mills.

7372. Do you find the Department willing to listen to suggestions?—If the County Committee comes to the opinion in October that a scheme is unsuitable, the Department says, "You must wait." We cannot elaborate a scheme now, but your suggestions will be considered with regard to the issue of schemes for next year. The only cases in which I have known the Department in any sense to refuse to consider suggestions of that kind have been cases where the answer which they gave always appeared to me and, I think, to most members of our committee a satisfactory answer—"We legislate for the country, and not for a county."

7373. (Mr. Micks).—"Legislate" or "administer"?—Well, "administer." I used the wrong word.

7374. (Mr. Brown).—You are aware the live stock schemes have undergone great modifications?—Quite so.

7375. At first yearling bulls were only chosen, and the premium was of a small amount. Now it has been extended to two, three, and four-year-olds, and the premium has been raised?—Yes.

7376. I don't know whether your committee pressed the Department to make changes of that kind?—Yes; my committee pressed the Department very strongly about the yearlings. A great many of my members considered that premiums should not be given to yearling bulls, at least exclusively; but the answer the Department gave appeared to be satisfactory—"We have no intention to make the premium tenfold only by yearling bulls, but we must begin with them to get new blood into the country."

7377. They have carefully modified their schemes at the suggestion of the County Committee?—They have; in several instances I know they have done so.

7378. (Mr. Micks).—You mentioned an interruption of nine months in your poultry scheme. How did that arise?—From the fact that one instructress left us, and it was some time before we could get a good instructress in her place.

7379. To what extent in your poultry scheme general over the country?—During the present year we have had fifteen stations distributing eggs of fowls and ducks.

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7380. What parts of the county would these be in?—They are really very well distributed. In that remote part of the county you were talking of there are three stations—one for game at Gortin, that is an experimental scheme. There is one for white Leghorns at Broughmore, there is one at Dooon, Castleberg, and at Killybeg there is another station. They are pretty generally distributed.

7381. What schemes are general over the county—the teaching schemes?—The teaching schemes are much more slow in their operation. We have had only one agricultural instructor regularly in our employment for about two years. We have had agricultural instructors intermittently before that time.

7382. Have you had any instruction at Gortin?—Yes; a course of lectures was given there, or a course of instruction in training poultry.

7383. It seems as regards tillage?—No; we have had no lecture on tillage, but one on veterinary hygiene by Professor Mason.

7384. You said just now you think it is impossible for the Department to build up brick by brick, and at the same time to have results showing in each year or three years. Had you anything in your mind—how would you illustrate that?—What struck me particularly with regard to that was comparing the agricultural schemes and live stock schemes. There is very little difficulty in getting a man to take a premium for a bull. There is much more difficulty in getting a large collection of farmers to take an interest in the agricultural lectures. It is just the same thing, as it seems to me, as the question in a public school if you judge it by results. If you ask a boy at a public school "Would you rather play cricket or do Caesar?" the average public school boy would say he would rather play cricket. It is the same with agricultural schemes and live stock schemes. They see the £15 from the bull. That is all right.

7385. It is a brick?—Yes, that is a brick we can show. The agricultural lecturer is a brick we cannot show.

7386. It seems to me anything that is done is an immediate result that can be seen. You think the instruction is not?—That is altogether a relative question. It depends upon how you measure the results. It seems to me that if education is the measure of the result, then what you say is true. But if you are to appeal to a public vote as to whether the results are tangible, and can be put in black and white, and represented in pounds shillings and pence, then it is a very different thing.

7387. (Mr. Dryden).—How long have you had the present itinerant poultry fairs in operation?—We have only had it in operation two months.

7388. Then where it is situated now is its first location?—Yes, it is going in a week or two.

7389. I understand the attempt is to combine theoretical with practical instruction?—Yes.

7390. That is to say, instead of your lecturers, who merely tell the people how to do a thing, you put them at work to do it?—Quite so.

7391. No doubt that will be additionally beneficial?—One thing I may say in honesty. Although the scheme is quite young, and has not been tried thoroughly out, still one thing I can say is this, that no scheme in connection with poultry has ever attracted as much notice nor have people ever come so far to attend classes in connection with it as they have in regard to the farm. One girl comes four days a week, practically seven miles, and she had not a bicycle when she started. One man is coming quite as far, and not more than three or four per cent. of them live within three miles of the farm.

7392. You have not really got to the end of the first experiment?—No, we have not.

7393. But you have gone far enough to say that you can see a good result?—We have; and my committee are of opinion that it is satisfactory.

7394. (Chairman).—I should like to ask you one thing. I think you are advocating a county school?—Yes.

7395. What would be your idea of what was wanted?—My idea of that would be, as far as I can see, that a simple experimental farm, or something of that kind, should be located in the county, with a staff of one, or perhaps two.

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7356. Have you seen either Athenry or Clonsilla?
—No, I have not; I have seen Glenties.

7357. (Mr. Micks).—They are going to have one at Cookstown—I understand that is to be equivalent to the Münster Institute, which is a different thing. I have certainly heard our farmers say that they wished there was some place they could go to, in order to see the results of what they hear about. And a farmer—very rightly I should think—believes in the wisdom of the eye far more than any results he reads of. We want a small experimental farm, where these results can be carried out, and where the results which are carried out would bear on the difficulties of farming in Tyrone. Another thing is, that generally speaking superfluous lands are not kept in farming now. Every man that is on a farm is required to do his quota, and they cannot be spared very easily. The result is, if you ask for a boy to go away to Ballyhaise the thing is pushed aside as out of the question, and if there was a local place where they could go to for even half the year it would be a very valuable thing.

7358. (Chairman).—Do you mean where he could reside half the year?—Where he could go in daily. If such an institution were located with due consideration of the most central portion of the county and most accessible by rail.

7359. (Mr. Micks).—A place like Dungannon?—Yes. Every farmer's son would be able to go in there every day.

7360. (Chairman).—Your idea is rather a model farm than a residential place?—It is.

7361. Athenry and Clonsilla are more or less residential?—They are.

7362. It is not based on either of these schemes?—No; I think my committee's opinion has always been that they do not want an enormous college.

7363. Or a residential college at all?—I don't think that that actual aspect of the thing has been considered.

7364. It is very important, because it requires a different organization?—Yes, I see it does.

7365. The difficulty about a model farm seems to be that owing to geographical considerations its influence must necessarily be rather limited to the area round about it—It may seem an absurd statement, but I do not see why on earth a model farm should not be put down that could stay at one end of the county for five years, and be packed up then and sent to the other end. I think these things must be mobile. We want to give everybody a chance. I think all sheds and so on could be put up on the understanding that they were to be movable. I am perfectly convinced of one thing; that that class of thing would do an immense amount of good. It may not turn out scientific agricultural of the highest class, but it would turn out good farmers.

On returning after luncheon.

7415a. (Mr. Dullinger).—Last there should be any misunderstanding about the statement I made with regard to the poultry scheme. I would like to state that the developments which have been since put into

7405. Could not something like the same results be accomplished by the multiplication of demonstration plots?—I don't think so. At most times of the year, except during winter, the work on the farm demands the attention of all the hands. They cannot go away far. I may say that in the condition of the agricultural in my county, at any rate. They cannot give up everything to get their education. Their education must be brought to their door.

7406. (Mr. Brown).—Are not the experimental and demonstration plots brought to the door?—They are; but they are not as satisfactory. If you see a plot of land manured for any good crop, it is not the same thing at all as taking a student and showing him the whole process leading up to the preparation of the land, and the subsequent process necessary for the production of a good crop.

7408. (Mr. Micks).—On a larger actual scale?—On a larger actual scale.

7409. (Mr. Dwyer).—Have your committee worried out the details of a scheme like that—how they would get it started?—My committee have gone as far as to consider where they would get a site. Unfortunately, the great difficulty is money. We have no money.

7410. What I am trying to get at is to see if you could give me an idea of how they would meet if they had the money?—They have not had this in black and white, and therefore, I cannot say that I am expressing the committee's opinion, but the idea was to purchase suitable land near some central position, where railway communication would give access from all parts of the county, and there to set up something in the nature of a model farm. They would try to cover as far as possible in the land they got, all classes of land in the county, so that poor land might be brought in; and further than that the committee have no direct conception of how it would work.

7411. That would be only temporary—you would be there for five or six years?—That was my intention.

7412. What would you do then?—We would move on again.

7413. What would you do with the farm then?—I imagine in my county it would not be impossible to get land on that basis.

7414. You would be the tenant practically, put it in order and then hand it back again?—Yes; but the loss in putting it in order is repaid by the capital gained by the instruction given in doing so.

7415. That is general; that does not apply to an individual. I wanted to see how you would hold the property?—Under that system it would not be possible to purchase out; at least it would not be profitable.

7415. (Mr. Micks).—Except that you would sell it, probably, at a higher figure than you would have bought it at?—Probably. I don't think it would be impossible to get the thing on the basis of a lease.

Mr. JAMES MACFARLANE, DOONA, EXAMINED.

Mr. J. —
Macfarlane.

7417. (Chairman).—I believe you come here, not as representing any particular committee, but as a farmer who has had experience of this work?—Yes, and as a member of the Agricultural Committee of Tyrone.

7418. I should like to hear what you have to say?—The first thing that I think I ought to say is, that I endorse what Mr. Dullinger has said, and he represents the Committee of Tyrone. I would like to say something about the working of the poultry scheme, especially in this district. I border that district, the mountainous district from Cookstown to Gortin, and the poultry scheme is of great benefit to them in that district. Before it came into operation there was a lot of disease from in-breeding and not changing. One man told me he had not changed the fowl for forty years. Now there is hardly any disease. We never get them foul. The old fowl has now died out, and of the new pure-bred one not one has died. Then the turkey scheme has done a great deal of good in the country, too. There was a man just selling me yesterday that he has paid his rent with turkeys for the last three or four years.

operation have only been put into operation after the strictly pioneer work had made it possible to put them in operation.

7419. (Mr. Micks).—I suppose he has a judicial rent?—He has. The rent is not very high in the district. It was I suggested the turkey scheme, and we always found the Department very nice. Anything we suggested in reason we got without any bother. Of course, we had to wait our turn if it was late in the season, but we got on remarkably well.

7420. (Chairman).—You say the poultry scheme is of great value?—It is of great value to the small people in the mountains.

7421. (Mr. Micks).—How do they dispose of their eggs?—The managers go through the country and buy them.

7422. Tea-men; and exchange the tea for the eggs?—Yes.

7423. So it is very likely that the tea-men are getting the benefit; or do you think the people are getting more tea for the dozen eggs?—I don't know that. A great deal of the small farmers buy eggs and set them, and sell for killing again in Cookstown. Before there was a small kind of fowl that did not sell the buyers.

7434. (Chairman).—Do you think it would be a good thing if they had rather more assistance in getting rid of them—marketing them?—They don't fatten them; and I think, in those mountain districts they have not a good market for them. If they had some centre to gather them in it would be a great advantage.

7435. (Mr. Micks).—They are bought as store fowl and fattened by the men that buy them?—Yes.

7436. (Chairman).—When one exchanges eggs for tea there is a great danger of not getting enough tea?—Of course there is; and not of a good quality either.

7437. (Mr. Brown).—Do you think the quantity of eggs produced in this district has increased?—Yes; and increased in the quality, too.

7438. Apparently they are not getting the benefit of the quality?—They are not. They are sold by the dozen and not by weight, and I think that is a great mistake.

7439. But they have more eggs, and are rearing more fowl?—A great deal more fowl. They are sticking to the fowl well.

7440. (Mr. Dryden).—Do they gain anything for the fowl in the increased quality?—They would. They would get a shilling a pound.

7441. (Mr. Micks).—They had very little sale before?—No. They are getting 2s. for Bad Oringtons.

7442. (Chairman).—We were told early in the inquiry that there was a great difficulty in getting men or boys to work at poultry; they thought it rather beneath them?—Certainly. The women do the poultry business, and do it well.

7443. (Mr. Micks).—Does she get the poultry money as a perquisite for herself?—I think, generally they have to keep the house in tea and dress out of the eggs.

7444. And the rest may go in ribbons?—It might; or as they like.

7445. (Chairman).—You propose to say something about the live stock scheme?—It is very hard to get them to take up the bulls in this district. The only thing we can do is to put them as close to the district as possible and bring them in. A man up in the mountains told me he brooded cows to my bull, and got 80s. a head more for his calves than he could get for the calves from the cows he had himself that he did not bring to the bull. He reared those boys himself, and he even bought a bull last year himself. He thought he had to pay too much for a premium bull, and bought a show bull himself. Then in the fax department, the scheme has wrought out very well; but there is not as much benefit as you would have thought there would have been.

7446. (Mr. Micks).—What is the scheme?—For growing fax, at present. The scheme last year was for surprise visits to mill-owners. Farmers, in that way, thought the mill-owners were getting the money—the price—and they were not getting any benefit; but it was the reverse. The farmers got the benefit, and the mill-owners had no benefit even when they got the price, because they had to take too much out of the fax, and they had not the tow. I am a small mill-owner myself. The mill-owners get the tow, and the more tow the better. And they did not like the scheme, or the farmers either. They are giving prices this year for growing fax, and certainly it would encourage the growth of fax well. I would prefer the inspection of the mills and the handling of fax well, and surprise visits to the mills.

7447. (Mr. Brown).—That has not been tried yet?—It has; but the farmers thought they were not get-

ting any benefit from it; and the mill-owners knew they were not getting any benefit.

7448. You would still prefer to go back to that system?—Yes; it is a better system.

7449. (Mr. Micks).—And the buyers would give more money for the fax?—Yes; and there would not be the amount of waste.

7450. (Chairman).—Is there an increase in the lead under fax?—There is, this year; and I think there ought to be a small fee paid by those who enter competitions for fax on foot, because every man that had a field of fax entered it, and it is a tremendous expense going over the country to look at those fields. I would make them pay a small entry of 2s. 6d., to keep them from entering everything.

7451. (Mr. Brown).—That would soon be off when they found they did not get a prize?—It only costs them a penny to enter them with the secretary, and it often costs a man a pound to see the fax.

7452. (Chairman).—I suppose the difficulty about fax-growing is that it rubs out the soil?—The difficulty is, that we cannot get it handled. There are not hands in the country for shearing and spreading. And if the Department could do anything at all to get us good seed. I believe the grass given through the country for fax, given in seed, was more beneficial than anything else, because if a scurvier would not want the seed his neighbor would; and if there was any chance of getting good seed in Belgium—for the people will pay for it now. They know the benefit of it, and they would readily pay for good seed if they could get it.

7453. (Mr. Micks).—Do they get it in the local shops at present?—Yes.

7454. (Mr. Brown).—It is a profitable crop when you have the necessary help?—Very.

7455. How does it work out per acre?—You would make 250 to 300 an acre of good fax.

7456. Gross?—Yes.

7457. And all the expenses would come out of that?—Yes.

7458. (Chairman).—Do you wish to say anything else?—No; I don't think so. I think Mr. Dallinger has represented us well.

7459. (Mr. Micks).—If a farmer sends his crop of fax to your mill to be sorted, what is the arrangement?—A shilling a stone.

7460. And you keep the tow?—No; about 10d., and keep the tow. A shilling is too little for anything if you don't get the tow, and a farmer is unwilling to pay more, although it would pay him to give 1s. 6d. and take a little more time. The mill-owners are just getting the same prices now as fifty years ago; and things are dearer.

7461. What do they do with it after taking it out of sleep and drying it, before you get it?—Put it in a stack.

7462. They don't break it at all?—Oh, no.

7463. You know they do in some parts of the country?—I have not seen it. That would be a benefit to them too, if they broke it.

7464. (Chairman).—On the whole, you give a good account of the work of the Department in your country?—Yes.

7465. You think it has been a benefit?—Oh, yes; a great benefit; and the committee and the Department work right well together. We have no disputes. We might want some things, but they would write back an explanation that satisfied us that they didn't suit us.

7466. (Mr. Micks).—You are very reasonable people in Tyrone?—We try to take the lead.

MR. SAMUEL RADON, J.P., DUNMAGINAGH, STRABANE, continued.

7467. (Chairman).—You are from Tyrone also?—Yes.

7468. Are you a member of the County Agricultural Committee?—I am a member of the Committee and also of the County Council.

7469. Tell us what you have to say about the working of the Department in the country?—I fully endorse what Mr. Dallinger said, and Mr. MacFarlane about the poultry scheme at any rate. I think it has been the most successful scheme of them all. I mean in a general way; because some of the others never reached the backward districts of the county at all.

7470. (Mr. Micks).—The poultry scheme is the quickest to show fruit?—Yes, it is the one most generally availed of.

7471. (Chairman).—It is the one that comes home

more readily to the people?—Yes, and it is cheaper. It is easy to send away for a setting of eggs for a 1s. Then, with regard to the live stock scheme, I have heard some complaints about the class of stallions that have been authorized by the Department. They are only thoroughbreds and Clydesdales. Now, a number of people in my district think, that if they had something of the coaching horse, or hackney, that they would breed horses more suitable for this country, and also for sale, than the thoroughbreds.

7472. (Mr. Micks).—For harness?—For harness. The thoroughbreds are too light and hard to bring forward, and they breed the Clydesdale rather too small for the bulk of the country horses.

MR. E.
RADON, J.P.

July 13, 1909.
Mr. S.
Katon, J.P.

7463. Have you any hackney stallions?—Yes, there is one hackney horse or two that stood here in Derry, but they are not very plenty in the country.

7464. You want more of them?—We would like more of them.

7465. The Department disapproves, however, of any hackney stallions anywhere?—Yes, I understand that.

7466. (Mr. Brown).—That question was submitted to the Council of Agriculture and they declined against hackneys.

(Mr. Miché).—And the Advisory Committee.

7467. (Chairman).—Why do you advocate hackneys, is it for the breeding of carriage horses?—For breeding carriage horses.

7468. (Mr. Miché).—For ordinary carriages, not big-sized horses?—For breeding horses for single harness.

7469. (Chairman).—Is there a considerable demand for that class of horse?—There is a good market for them.

7470. (Mr. Miché).—At the Moy?—Yes, and other centres, too. There is a fair in this town also.

7471. What part of Tyrone are you from?—From the borders of Derry—Donnemaugh. With regard to the bulls, that has worked out fairly well. I would like to say a word with regard to the experiments that are tried here and there in different parts—the agricultural experiments and rearing of pigs. I think that they confine themselves too much to the good land. I think if they were to go out to some of the backward districts and try and get those people to take some interest in the experiments that they are making, that the people would learn something, and would require to learn. Because the places where they are carrying out the experiments are where the people know almost all about it themselves, and the results of the experiments are not as much required in those good districts. At the present time it is nearly impossible to grow fax, because the people cannot get it laboured, and it is not very slow work, pulling it and steeping it, and no machinery has ever yet been invented to do it; and so I think that is one reason why there is not so much fax grown as formerly. Another thing I would like to say is with regard to those classes that are being taught in our county. I think if there could be more centres for teaching them, and not taking the pupils so far to one centre, it would be an improvement. For instance, if the Instructor, whom he is in one district of the county, would have a number of centres, and teach the classes there. In our county the Committee had been paying fares to bring pupils to a centre—paying train fare. If the Instructor could meet them in some centre more convenient it would be cheaper, and he would have more scholars.

7472. (Mr. Brown).—The course of instruction lasts for six months?—From October to March.

7473. He could hardly carry on more than two sets of instructions together, and do his other business—

look after experimental plots?—There are not so many experimental plots in the winter season. He could lecture while teaching classes in the district.

7474. Do you think he could teach more than two classes at the same time?—I think he could teach three.

7475. Each class attends two days a week?—Yes.

7476. That takes in four days a week?—It would be rather much for him. Still, even if the classes only attend one day a week.

7477. That would be hardly sufficient?—Very often they know more than they could put into practice.

7478. (Chairman).—Do you think the itinerant lecturers do much good?—I think they do. They do some good, but I am afraid they do not do good to the people that require it, because they do not come to hear them.

7479. (Mr. Miché).—Is there any instruction given in the District from Plumbidge to Cookstown?—I don't know anything about that district, but there is another district from Plumbidge to the County Derry, in the North-East direction, towards Glenties. There is no instruction given there, or they hardly know the fact is in operation. And that is one district I have in my mind at the present time, when I say that if there could be some experiments made there and some instruction given it would be very useful.

7480. Have you mentioned that at all at the Committee meetings?—No, I have not.

7481. (Mr. Brown).—Do you think it a good thing to have meetings at the experimental plots, and let the lecturer come there and explain to them what has been done?—I think it would be very useful.

7482. That has been done in some counties?—It is all a matter of local arrangements?—Yes.

7483. (Chairman).—But you think a good deal of progress has been made?—I think a good deal of progress has been made, but I am afraid, looking at it generally, there has not been enough progress made for the money spent. It is only like a beginning. It may lead to great results in the future, and I hope it will. Everything has to have a beginning, and the Department seems to be doing its utmost to meet the wishes of our Committee. We never had any friction with it. We are getting on smoothly enough.

7484. Are you satisfied, on the whole, with your instructors?—Yes, they are all capable of imparting instruction in the different branches they are working in. The only difficulty is getting them to some of those remote districts.

7485. (Mr. Brown).—The people will copy their neighbours after a little while?—They are very keen in getting out of old ruts, and if some of those experiments could be made in their midst, that they could see the benefit of them, it would be a help to them.

7486. That is a matter for the Committee themselves. They could arrange the places?—Yes.

Mr. James Stewart, J.P., Strabane, examined.

Mr. J.
Stewart, J.P.

7487a. (Witness).—I don't think I can add anything to what our secretary has said. Our schemes have worked very successfully in Tyrone. I represent the Strabane District on the County Committee, and the secretary generally applies to me to find schools for the lectures. When they started first it was difficult to get schools. Now they are offering schools all round. As for the horse scheme, some places were allowed for Strabane district. The first show we had there we hadn't nine mares, and the second, I think, we just had the number. Now this year they have run up to fifty-four. The veterinary surgeon who was there this year examining the mares, happened to be the man that was there the second year after the horse scheme came into force, and he said that the last year he was in Strabane he could not get a sound mare out of five. This year he believed that there were not two mares out of the fifty-four but were sound.

7487. (Mr. Miché).—How do you account for that?—The people are paying more attention to breeding.

7488. It would not be the month of your breeding scheme in such a short time?—The preference is given to young mares from two to four years old. A good many of those mares that came out of the breeding scheme have come to the front. It is running now for six years. The result is the same in

the cattle scheme. In the first year our nominations were not taken up. This year I think it is seven nominations we have in Strabane. There were applications for eighteen, and there would have been more, only they knew that there were too many applicants in. As for the fax scheme, about Strabane we don't care for it at all. We think it a failure. We believe about Strabane we could grow fax as well as in Holland or Germany if we were paid for it. I don't agree with Mr. MacFarlane as to the labour. If the fax crop would pay us we could get the labour for it, but I don't see that there is much to learn in fax-growing. Fax is a fickle crop that will grow where it likes, but if the farmers in Ulster found it would pay them they would grow it to-morrow and get labour for it. I think it is losing money to try to learn the farmers of Ulster to grow fax.

7489. (Chairman).—You don't think there is much in it?—I don't think there is anything in it.

7490. (Mr. Miché).—Have you ever grown much of it?—I used to grow up to thirty-five acres of fax yearly. Now I have come down to six.

7491. You would not get £40 an acre on it?—If we could get an average of £15 or £20, we would grow it regularly.

7492. (Chairman).—You do not think the outlook for fax is promising?—Not at present prices. Yes

"have to sell middling flax at 22 a cwt., and farmers won't grow it under 23.

7493. (Mr. Mickel).—Can you get good seed?—Well, yes, some years better than others. It is an uncertain seed. There is a good deal in the seed, but as for the labour, I believe the farmers know the way to labour it as well as in any other country, and can bring it out as well, clean it, and grow it.

7494. (Mr. Brown).—Have you seen it in other countries?—No, but I have seen some of the experts that came from other countries, and had other experience. Some of the instructions, they let on they don't know English, and need their heads. Others might learn you something, but you could learn as much from an Ulster farmer as you could from them, and I have seen most of them.

7495. (Chairman).—Have you anything special to say about the poultry?—The poultry has been a great success in our country. There has been a great improvement in the poultry. We have had a success in the lecturer in the first place, and that has made it a success, and she has wrought the matter up till everybody is pleased. She is in demand all over the country, and the results are plain to be seen anywhere you turn your eyes.

Mr. WILLIAM WARNOCK, Coleraine, examined.

7501. (Chairman).—You are from the County Londonderry?—Yes.

7502. And I think you have come to tell us something about flax?—Yes, as far as my experience goes.

7503. Are you a member of the County Committee of Agriculture?—Yes.

7504. (Mr. Mickel).—What part of the county do you live in?—Coleraine.

7505. (Chairman).—Now, will you tell us what you wish to say about flax?—I want to start at a time before the Board of Agriculture came into existence. About January, 1899, there were some letters passed through the Press, and the Coleraine Flax Society was formed, and we went to Belfast. There was talk about the different modes that the Dutch and Belgians had of handling flax, and that it was the careless way the Irish had of handling flax that was ruining the prize. Before the Belgian expert arrived, I said to a customer of mine, "Would you kindly give us a trial of what we know ourselves before the Belgian expert arrives in this country?"

7506. (Mr. Brown).—Have you scotch millet?—Yes. And the customer asked me what the price would be. I said I could not tell him, but if he was willing to pay the cost of labour I would run the mill free. He said he would be quite satisfied. He had three stacks. When he scotched the second stack he saw an improvement. He asked me first the price, I said it amounted to 14s. per cwt., that it was a new thing for the hands, and they had taken more time and care. He took it to Ballymoney market and sold it for 66s. per cwt., and the top price for ordinary washing was 62s. It was bought by Mr. Barbour, of Lumbra. When Mr. Frank Barbour examined the flax he sent a letter to congratulate us on the way we had got it handled, and said he never saw better handled Irish flax, and invited myself and the workers of my mill to visit a Belgian mill erected by Mr. Frank Barbour in Dromara, County Down, which we did. I did not see there was any great change in the machinery to work it on the Belgian system if it gave better results in flax. We wrought the flax, and Mr. Barbour was getting the refuse of the tow from that season. At the wind-up we sent the flax and tow to Belfast. We was to give us the results of the test, but I never got that result yet, from his Belgian mill.

7507. (Chairman).—How long ago was that?—1899. After the Board of Agriculture came into existence in this country, at the expense of the Board perhaps, one of the best Belgian mills was erected at Coleraine; so I was anxious to know how I came out of the former test, and I sent a customer of mine, a Mr. Morrow. This customer went in officially and offered to give them 25 cwt. of flax straw for testing, and he said that the flax did not come out as well as with the ordinary mills of the district; and that

7496. Are the people in that part of the country getting better prices for their agri?—We are selling them by the weight in Strabane. We are always in the front about Strabane.

7497. (Mr. Mickel).—I suppose the small people in the hills have to stick to tartan?—Anybody that is far from the market may have to take tea.

7498. (Mr. Brown).—Have you anything in the nature of a society?—In Strabane town some dealers buy them by weight, and one society has started to buy them by weight.

7499. Is that a co-operative society?—Yes.

7500. (Mr. Mickel).—Does it buy except from its own members?—I don't know, indeed, how it is getting on. It was only started two months ago.

7501. (Chairman).—Is there anything done in your country in the way of small banks, advancing money to small people?—Some time ago there was what was called, I believe, a loan fund bank, but the county is better without it. It is not there now. There was heavy interest, and very little for it. The county is better without a bank of that sort.

7502. (Mr. Brown).—Have you any objection to co-operative banks, or have you ever studied the question at all?—I never studied it. I would expect you would have a good many applicants.

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July 15, 1895.

Mr. W.
Warwick.

£1 3s. 4d. for tow per bag of seeds sown. I looked over my books and could not see how I could do that and pay my hands at all, and I asked the Chairman of the Society, and I think they had twenty-six tons of flax scutched that year, and they were able to get seven and a-half tons of tow scutched tow off the flax, and, strange to say, how the average price were the same, 60s. per cwt. for the best fibre. I scutched 45 tons of flax. I had 8 tons 9 cwt. of free-scotch. I had about 3 cwt. 3 qrs. to the ton, whereas the Dutchman had something about 6 cwt., and I asked the Chairman of the Society whether it was better to have the produce in fibre or in tow. There is another thing I might add to that. This last summer, in the Department's mill, there were tests wrought by different scutchers from different mills. Mr. Stewart supplied one, I supplied one myself, and there was one from Dumbce and one from the mill under the same roof in which the Belgians are working, and I don't know how the result may turn out, but I expect you, gentlemen, will be able to get the results—whether the man from the mill of Dumbce, and the man working under the roof in the subsidised mill, or the two men from Stewart and myself, which are non-subsidised mills—but the Commission can easily find out which of the two men gave the greater fibre. There was 2½ cwt. of straw weighed out to each scutcher, and he scutched his lot of flax, and the weight of the fibre was put down to each scutcher, and the tow. So then we shall see if the non-subsidised mills are able to seed men that are able to give a greater result of fibre. I may say that I went one day at the invitation of a manager through a mill, and the manager examined the fibre very minutely, and he changed different scutchers, and he said, "There is something strange about scutching yet. There are two men," he said, "and they give a greater weight, and I would put from 2s. to 3s. a hundredweight on their dues."

7523. I don't know that I quite follow what you are saying—do you complain of the competition of the subsidised mills?—I don't complain of the competition, but I complain if they are subsidised mills why don't they do their work the same as ordinary scutch-mill owners have got to do it?

7524. By whom are they subsidised?—The Board of Agriculture.

7525. (Mr. Brown).—Are these co-operative mills?—Co-operative mills.

7526. To what extent are they subsidised?—Half the manager's salary, I understand. There is another thing I might add. There are four Irishmen placed

—was it not somewhere in Donegal?—and these four scutchers did their work, as I understand, to please their clients fairly well. In fact their weight of tow to about thirty tons of flax was about five tons of tow. Well, I don't know, but I understand from the co-operative mill where it is managed by a Dutchman that he had something equivalent to twelve tons of tow to thirty seven and a-half tons of flax. I don't understand why, if these men wrought as well in Donegal, that they should be displaced and Dutchmen put in their places.

7527. (Mr. Minto).—You don't know that they are going to do that?—I heard a rumour that they were for trying that, had asked the societies to do that. The reason, I understand, that the Board of Agriculture had given was a resolution passed that no co-operative mills would be subsidised for more than three years.

7528. (Chairman).—Do you complain of what, in your opinion, is rather unfair competition on the part of these subsidised co-operative mills?—I do. I am paying rates the same as the other men, and my customers are paying rates, and I don't see that they have any right to pay another man's expenses.

7529. (Mr. Minto).—You don't want your customers to go to the other mills?—They never asked to go.

7530. (Chairman).—Generally, you think there has not been sufficient attention paid to the seed supply?—I don't think so. I think the best way the seed would be selected would be, supposing there were shows all over the country, and a farmer would go through his crop and select two stalks of flax, and the Department gave a good prize for first, second, and third, and any other samples that they thought would be good for seeds, that they would buy them from the farmers at fairly remunerative prices that would pay the farmer for his trouble.

7531. And do you think that the flax output might be increased?—I think it might. Now, these last two or three seasons have been exceedingly good seasons for growing flax, and when you go into a field of flax, in about a square foot you find lengths of flax from six inches to three feet.

7532. (Mr. Brown).—What causes that great difference?—I should think principally the seed.

7533. You would not say that the want of manure had anything to do with it?—In a square foot you cannot have much difference with regard to manure.

Mr. JOHN W. STEWART EXAMINED.

Mr. J. W.
Stewart.

7534. (Chairman).—You also wish to speak about flax, I believe?—Yes.

7535. I think this is a little pamphlet of yours that I have in my hand, entitled "Flax Cultivation in Ireland: How it may be improved." Are you from this county?—Coleman.

7536. (Mr. Minto).—Are you a grower?—I am a grower; but very largely dead in the flax scutching, and have had over thirty years' experience. I quite agree with the evidence of Mr. Stewart, that if the crop is a remunerative one the people will grow it, and there will be plenty of labour got to handle it. But the crop, for some reason, is a despoiling crop. We cannot grow the crop of the quality or weight of former years. The Department, while they have been endeavouring to improve the scutching, retting, and that sort of thing, with no success whatever, that I can find out, have neglected altogether much the most important matter in the successful cultivation of flax, that is, the improvement of the seed. I was a member of the Advisory Flax Committee, and I was also engaged by the Department to lecture on flax cultivation through the country. I ranged those portions because I could no longer agree with the Department's methods, and I cannot see that there is any hope of the industry being materially revived through anything they have yet attempted. The advisory committee in the Department is composed almost altogether of people who have no practical experience whatever of the cultivation or the after-treatment of the crop. I think there is only one farmer on that advisory committee, and he only grows flax occasionally. I am quite satisfied a much more beneficial scheme could be devised through the advice

of practical men, flax-growers and scutchers, through the different flax-growing counties. Say there were one or two from each county. I may say that a good flax crop is about the most remunerative that a farmer can grow, and it may go up to 240 an acre; but an inferior crop is the worst possible. He may be out of pocket altogether by it.

7537. And they often are?—They often are. And there are great differences in the results. Those can be traced, in the majority of cases, to bad seed. In 1895 I noted all the lots of flax I scutched that year and what seeds they were produced from. We have Riga and Dutch. I scutched about half and half of each. That from the Dutch produced an average return of 88 5s. per acre, while the Riga seeds produced an average of 218 4s.; that is a difference of almost 130 an acre. In several other years I have seen such differences.

7538. All in favour of the Riga?—No; sometimes the one and sometimes the other. In the majority of cases the Dutch gave the better returns. This last season, as far as I can trace, the Dutch has given over 55 an acre a better return than the Riga. The continental crop is just deteriorating in the same manner as our own. It is falling away with them in the same degree, in quantity and quality.

7539. (Chairman).—Do you say it is, or it was?—It is. That is admitted; and there must be some other cause for this than either want of care in the cultivation, or any of the things that the Department have taken up. To show that Irishmen are deficient in growing flax and handling it, the demonstration plots that are carried out by the Continental experts are almost invariably inferior to the farmers' crops

grown in the same field, and below the average of what is grown in the district. The Continental experts that are brought over to this country to instruct us found, after some experience, that the Irish system was superior to their own, and consequently they have abandoned their own systems altogether, and in every detail are following the usual Irish methods of growing, cultivation, and scutching. My own experience, while over in Belgium, was that we had nothing to learn from the Continentals.

7540. (Mr. Brown).—Did the other members who were with you agree in that conclusion?—Not altogether. One of the schemes for improving the crop was prizes for scutched flax. We held shows, and prizes were given for the best scutched flax. I could not say that that did any good, for the reason that the prizes were given often for what I would call over-scutched flax, or a system of scutching that was not beneficial, that wasted the fibre. That has been proven by the fact that the farmers refused to scutch for exhibition any more than the small quantity required for exhibition. The remainder was scutched in the usual way found out to be more profitable. Prizes were also got at those shows which could not be obtained for the same flax, with the same handling, in the open market. As to the scutching itself, the styles of the Belgian and Irish mills are very different. In the first year's operations of the Department's Belgian mill there were twenty tests carried out with it and different mills throughout Ulster. The flax was equally divided and weighed, and each mill got its fair quantity, and it was awarded under the inspection of an official of the Department. That flax was all sold in the open market; but the result was that the Irish mills gave a greater net return than the Belgian by about 22 lbs. per cwt. In succeeding years tests have been carried out, but not in the same style, and instead of the flax being sold in the open market it has been either sent to Belfast or Belgium for valuation, or to Messrs. Harcourt, of Limerick. At any rate, none has been sold in the open market, so the people have no confidence in these latter tests whatever. About the Irish mills, I don't say they cannot be improved upon, but they are certainly superior to the Continentals, as shown by every test that has been carried out. We have had several tests of Belgian retted straw, to suit the light Belgian mill, and in every case the Irish mill has given considerably more weight.

7541. (Mr. Micks).—Left longer in steep?—Yes. So that the introduction of Belgian mills in this country would be a retrograde step. Part of the scheme was to send a delegation to the Continent from the flax-growing districts. That is carried out every year. Ten or fifteen men go over. I was on one myself, and I have known of no case where any member of a delegation ever changed their method.

7542. (Chairman).—You think the method of dealing with flax in Ireland is as good as it is on the Continent?—I think it is better suited for Irish flax, and I think the Irish farmer is in a better position.

7543. The chief requirement is to better understand the cultivation, and you say the real secret is the seed?—I consider the Irish farmer—the man who has been residing on the farm and who has practical experience of the farm, is generally the best expert in the cultivation of the farm.

7544. (Mr. Micks).—Do you see anything necessary except the provision of good seed?—If the Department began by improving the seed and making a scheme of that they could leave the rest to the farmer.

7545. (Chairman).—The point of your evidence is, that that is what the Department ought to turn their attention to?—Yes. That is what they have totally neglected.

7546. (Mr. Micks).—Have you known any experiments in growing from Irish seed?—I am carrying out experiments myself. This is only my own theory, but it has proved right with me. The crop on the Continent grows in a similar manner as in Ireland, and the breed is being run out; we have fine even boards. It grows to the length of three to six inches in this manner. After that there would be one staff forging ahead and a great number behind. It matures; one staff 40 inches long, and beside that twenty or thirty from 2 to 30 inches long; and this is accountable for the difference of production. My idea is, that if the seed can be improved by means of those long sound stalks, that that is the only real and successful method of improving the flax industry. When the flax is being pulled one or two men would go along with the pullers and

pull these long stalks for seed, and I think if the Department, instead of giving prizes for growing crops and that sort of thing, would give prizes for the best root or half-acre of flax grown from home seed, that would be beneficial. There is a difficulty about this saving of home seed. A farmer sowing a small quantity has got to hold the straw for a year. If the farmer had any anxiety of getting rid of this at a remunerative price, or at all at least, he would go in for it. The Flax Supply Association have got a special arrangement at Millisle quite suitable for steeping this straw. At the present time, for the prizes for the growing crops there is a free entry, and there are an enormous number of people entering over the country. People, as they tell me, enter "just for a laugh," or to encourage the show, and some of them have entered with very indifferent crops. Take Donegal. They get 255 in prizes for the growing crops, and it takes 225 to do the judging. In the Co. Londonderry they got 272, and it takes 227 to do the judging. I don't see that the fact of a man winning a prize has the slightest beneficial effect. Every farmer tries to produce flax to perfection. Sometimes they will have a very good crop and sometimes a bad one; and the prize for growing crops does not put an acre more under cultivation.

7547. And the man who gets a prize may have a bad crop next year?—May have a failure next year.

7548. What have you done about experiments with home-grown seed yourself?—The first year I sowed only a peck. I sowed that last year against other seeds, Dutch and Riga, and finished out a much better crop—a fairly even crop, of very superior quality. This year I sowed as much as two bags of seed, and it is growing in four different fields alongside other seeds, and it shows the same results, very good results. The Flax Supply Association, last year, or Mr. Crawford, of the York-street Spinning Mills, took an interest in this thing, and carried out an experiment at Millisle, and he writes to me that he has very good results, especially in the quality. But I find, strange to say, although I am not surprised, that with the same tests carried out by the Department, where a selected and an unselected seed are sown alongside each other, there is not the slightest difference.

7549. Between their two experimental plots?—Between the selected and the unselected. I think it is a matter worthy of investigation.

7550. How would you account for it without knowing the facts?—I might account for it, because it was not selected seed at all that was sown or else the selection was bad, if it gives certain results in one place, and if in every other place it gives quite an opposite result to what it does when sown under the Department.

7551. (Mr. Brown).—Is it seed selected by you, sown by the Department?—No; selected by the Department.

7552. (Mr. Micks).—Foreign seed?—No, home seed. I am quite prepared to show the results of my seed to anybody that cares to go and see it.

7553. Don't you think that your experiments pay you very well owing to your getting a better crop?—I question if it would pay me to continue to breed this seed for the country.

7554. But for yourself?—I would certainly do it.

7555. It would pay every other man to do the same and quit getting foreign seed?—And quit getting foreign seed.

7556. What is the after history of the straw that you took the seed from?—I have it retted and it looks very well. I am quite certain that the straw is worth as much as an ordinary crop would be, handled in the usual way.

7557. How long had it to stand over before it was retted?—It was retted in just about the usual time, a little more than the green crop.

7558. What time of the year did you do the steeping of your main crop?—About the 1st of August.

7559. When did you steep the stocks you kept for seed?—Within the last fortnight.

7560. You think having to keep over the straw for a year would keep a good many farmers from trying to save their own seed?—It would.

7561. Standing out of one's money so long?—It is not standing out of the money, but it is a troublesome thing. You cannot begin to get a few baits just as you would the full of the dam. You never have the same results. If there was some way of getting rid of this flax so that they would lose nothing, I have no doubt that they would go in extensively for it.

July 18, 1908

Mr. J. W. Brown.

July 13, 1906
Mr. J. W.
Barnard.

7568. (Chairman).—Professor Campbell tells us in his evidence on the first of June at question 1963 [reads]—I agree with that part of the scheme thoroughly. I think I advocated that for the first number of years, that prizes should be paid in faxseed instead of money, and there is no doubt that it had a most beneficial effect. That leaflet they issue is a most useful one and should be continued, and issued a little earlier if possible. Prizes are given and paid in cash now.

7569. (Mr. Brown).—Was not that at the request of the County Committee?—No, at the request of the Department. I objected at the fax committee.

7570. Is this prize scheme for the best fax carried out through the County Committee or directly by the Department?—It was carried out directly by the Department at first.

7571. At present have the County Committee anything to say to it?—As you a member of the County Committee of Agriculture?—The County Committee got the choice of three different schemes.

7572. And it is carried out like any other scheme through the County Committee?—Yes.

7573. And you say it was not the County Committee asked the Department to give prizes in money instead of in kind?—I don't think the County Derry Committee did. I think they were asked if they would agree to that.

7574. Did they agree?—Evidently they did. I am not very clear on this particular point.

7575. (Chairman).—Professor Campbell speaks of it as an existing practice?—I think the difficulty was that instead of taking prizes for scotched fax, prizes were given for growing crops. It was considered too long for the farmers to be out of their money till next year's seed.

7576. (Mr. Brown).—Who considered that?—I suppose the Department and the County Committee.

7577. There was no difference between the Department and the County Committee about it?—Not at all.

7578. You don't remember from when the suggestion came first?—It looks like a local suggestion. Possibly I cannot say. But it takes away from the benefit of the scheme. That was the one good thing in the scheme, that the prizes were paid in seed. There is one other point I would like to mention. We have different styles of Irish mills, different styles of construction, and I have recommended tests to be carried out to find out which was the best, so that the people would know exactly which was the best mill and it would be adopted generally. Any change that would be necessary would be very little. The Department last year carried out most exhaustive tests in this matter, with what results I don't know, nor does anybody, because they have never been published. I think those results should be published so that the people would get the benefit of it. The same thing occurs with demonstration plots on the seed varieties and the results of manures. The results of those are not disclosed to the public till the following year after people have got their seeds bought and the fax put in the ground. It is not published in time to be of benefit to the growers if there was any good in it.

7579. Those experiments are not carried out by the county instructor?—No; they are carried out under the supervision of Belgian fax experts.

7580. (Chairman).—What Professor Campbell says about that at Question 1961 is:—"The scutching tests to which I have referred, which have been made in the Department's scutching school at Coleraine, have been in progress for some time, and we have shown there that a modification of the Belgian mill is one that gives the best results." I think the modification of the mill was very little, but the change of results was likely to be from a change in the method of scutching. At any rate even the modified mill has given no better results with Carrut straw than the unmodified.

7581. The whole thing appears to be in the experimental stage?—It has surely passed the experimental stage when it is six years in Derry. The whole thing is absurd, as you have got an Advisory Fax Committee composed of spinners. There is one fax-grower, and he only grows fax occasionally. These men, no matter how good their intentions are, and I do not dispute their intentions, have not got the practical experience to advise the Department on the proper scheme to be adopted. You might just as well say you would get successful farmers to advise spinners on the best method

of spinning fax. There is not a single practical man on that Advisory Committee. In the carrying out of experiments or other work of the Department, you have unsatisfactory experts, no matter how expert they are in their own trade. Their first essential is to endeavour to learn the Irish methods, and it takes years to do that.

7582. (Mr. Mirib).—Who are the spinners on the Committee besides Mr. Barbour—Alexander Chalk?—He is a dyer and tinsmith. The next Mr. Clarke is a farmer. Mr. Montgomery is a landlord from the County Tyrone. Mr. Reid is a spinner, and Mr. Thompson a spinner. Then there is the Organist Society. They took the matter up.

7583. Are they working in the Coleraine mill?—No, but they undertake to give instruction in fax. I have known a poultry expert to do so who had no previous knowledge of fax whatever, and I am quite satisfied it would better him to know the difference between it and a weed, but he began to give instruction on the proper way of handling fax. The Organisation Society will attempt to handle anything; and I object to their having anything to do with the improvement of fax, because they would only spoil whatever they will go. There is one thing, however, about them—they can talk.

7584. (Chairman).—Was it some time ago, before the days of the Department?—Oh, no, they are at it still. In fact I have seen, in answer to a question asked in the House of Commons about the Organisation Society's experts, and the answer given was that they were occupied, among everything else, in giving fax instruction.

7585. About the working of co-operative societies?—I consider it a good movement. It ought to be, among they are getting free advice and assistance from the Department. If they could give an object lesson in the markets on the best methods of scutching, and this sort of thing—that is what they are supposed to do, and one of the reasons why they are organised, but they have invariably failed to do it; and they have come out no better than the scutchers who were working on the same lines. There is one thing about co-operative societies that is initiating a little to the mind. The shareholders become merely mill-owners and canvassers, and they will canvass neighbouring scotch-mill owners' customers, and puff up everything done by their own mill—I don't say they all do so—and condemn everything done by the private mill-owner. So it is very irritating to the mill-owner, who is probably doing the best work.

7586. (Mr. Brown).—The mill-owner never condones the co-operative societies' mills?—No, I think not. They try to get the custom by their own work, and the farmers are so much alive that they seem to know where they get the best value. The co-operative societies, so far, have to do a lot of canvassing to get enough work. I do not object to co-operation. In fact I go in for it; for I think they are in a position, in the first place, to find out and secure the best seed.

7587. (Mr. Mirib).—Abroad or at home?—Abroad or at home. So that each member of the society is supplied with the best seed, and consequently superior crops are bound to follow.

7588. (Chairman).—In fact, everything turns on getting the best seed?—Yes.

7589. (Mr. Brown).—You do not think there is any improvement possible in the handling?—In a good many districts the scutching could be improved; but what I would suggest, instead of co-operative societies, is that the Department would employ a few competent workmen to visit these inferior mills, and stay there a few days. I don't see why scotch-mill owners and farmers should be penalised, and refused this instruction, simply because they don't belong to co-operative societies. The amount of money spent on co-operative societies is enormous, and no benefit whatever to the general industry.

7590. (Chairman).—About co-operation, do you agree with this in Professor Campbell's evidence?—"We have trained in the school at Coleraine young men with a fairly good education. There is an expert. We pay half his salary for a year. He manages the concern for a farmer who formed a co-operative society. We think this is the best way in Ireland. They can co-operatively buy seed and co-operatively scotch it." They have a manager in Coleraine. He is a Belgian I would be very much surprised if he could scotch himself in an Irish mill. He is not a practical man, and training scutchers there was useless. They were better scutchers before they went

more than when they came out of it. The pupils were much more proficient than their instructors.

7588. (Mr. Micks).—Was the general impression five or six years ago that the Irish flax could not be scotched as well as the Belgian, because it was worse handled?—I don't think so. There has been a great deal of improvement since I remember in the handling of flax.

7589. Was that the reason for these visits to Belgium?—I suppose that it was.

7590. Does not some of the Belgian flax fetch a higher price than any of your flax here can fetch?—Yes, but it is only a small proportion. The bulk of it goes to about our price. The Belgian people had the advantage of the river Lys, which certainly produces a superior quality. We have not such a river, and even if we had, we would be prevented from using

it by the Irish Fishery Laws; but even with that, I am quite satisfied that the Irish farmer, by his method of working, is making more money out of the same quality of crop than the Belgian grower. The Belgian grower sells his crop either grown or pulled, and takes no part in the manufacture, so that whatever benefit there is in the Lys steeps goes to the factor and not to the grower.

7591. The grower does not steep in Belgium?—As a rule not.

7592. (Mr. William Worsack).—I have a word to say about Professor Campbell's training of students at Coleraine. I asked one of the men engaged last season in the school if he had learned anything in that mill during the time he was there, and he said he had not.

MR. ALEXANDER HAMILTON, Whitehouse, Ballymagroarty, examined.

7593. (Chairman).—You represent the County Council and the County Committee of Londonderry?—I do, both. I am Chairman of the special Committee appointed to draw up a report in regard to your inquiry. I would just read you the report:—

Your Sub-Committee recommended your adoption of a general resolution in the following terms:—

"That we, the members of the County Londonderry County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, desire to place on record our high appreciation of the important work in which the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland has been engaged since its constitution under the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, and the manner in which the Department has endeavored to carry out the provisions of that Act. We approve of the Department as at present constituted, and consider that any material change in its constitution would be disastrous to the cause of agriculture in Ireland, and, therefore, inadvisable."

"While your Sub-Committee recommended this general approval of the work in which the Department has been engaged in the past, they consider that a time has now come when the relations of the Department to local statutory bodies might be revised, and more power given to County Committees in the matter of drawing up and carrying out county schemes. At present the work of County Committees chiefly consists of preparing and carrying out the details of county schemes, prepared in accordance with general schemes for all Ireland, drawn up by the Department. Your Sub-Committee consider that general schemes (if they be considered necessary at all) should only be drawn up to apply to districts or provinces, and that the Department should, in drawing up such schemes, be assisted by an Advisory Committee, nominated by the County Committees in each district or province, in order that the conditions prevailing in each portion of each district or province may be properly understood and provided for. At present your Sub-Committee understand that the Department Advisory Committees are not representative enough in character, and consider that this should be remedied."

"With reference to the funds administered by the Department, your Sub-Committee desire to point out that this county has not benefited to anything like the same extent as a great many other counties. If the policy adopted by the Department of contributing in proportion to the local expenditure is right, then the fault does not lie with the Department, but your Sub-Committee consider that the funds placed at the disposal of the Department annually for the benefit of counties should not in the past have been, and should not in the future be, administered in this way, but that each county should have been in the past, and in future should be, credited each year with its due proportion of the funds for the purposes of the county schemes."

"In reference to the educational functions of the Department we beg to suggest that more might be done in that direction by the establishment of agricultural colleges and schools of technical instruction at centers which would be easily accessible, with a view to the better equipping the youth of Ireland, and qualifying them to compete with all comers."

7594. (Mr. Brewster).—What is your Committee's idea of the "due proportion"?—We in the County Derry have only a halfpenny rate levied under the Joint Agricultural and Technical scheme, and we found

we were not able to meet all the various claims we allocated under that rate, and the Department paid in proportion to the contribution from the local rates. The consequence of that is that we can only employ our Poultry Inspector for nine months in the year.

7595. If you raised a penny rate you would get more money from the Department?—Our County Committee would not do that. The only alternative I see to that is that the Department should pay the contribution due to each county out of the general fund.

7596. Whether the county raises the rate or not?—Yes. There is another alternative scheme I think that would be better, that is, that they should assume the power of nomination with regard to County Committees the same as they do with the Council of Agriculture, and name another of representative men out of the county who would not try to block the work of the Department. I think that would be a better solution.

7597. Better than getting the same amount of money in respect of the halfpenny rate that they would in respect of the penny rate. It does not seem quite right?—They would raise more money. About eighty years ago the North-West Agricultural Association established an Agricultural College at Templeogue, five or six miles from Derry. That association was started by the London company and the Irish Society and the various landowners. They started this college in 1825. It did a great and useful work until about 1847, when, in consequence of the failure of the potato crop, the Society became embarrassed in their funds and handed over the management to the Board of National Education, and under that it began gradually to decline, and collapsed some time in the early sixties.

7598. (Mr. Micks).—Are you sure it was in 1855 it was started?—Yes. The North-West Agricultural Association largely anticipated the work of the Department of Agriculture, because they issued a little publication, fortnightly, of twenty-two pages each, and the year's numbers were bound up in volume, and I happened to come across the volume of 1829, which gave the whole establishment of the college.

7599. Was it established before the forerunners?—It was established in 1825.

7600. I am talking about the Flax Improvement Society?—That is not it at all. This Association represented Derry, Donegal, Tyrone, and Fermanagh, and largely anticipated the work of the Department of Agriculture. From the Central Association they gave subscriptions of from £10 to £20 and £20 to towns, about like Strabane and Raghoe, and these also had branch associations, and they took up not only the improvement of the breeds of cattle, but also the work taken up by the Technical Instruction Committee. At that time there was a linen industry in this country, also the woolen weaving, and the fisheries. This parents association gave prizes on condition that the local towns contributed a certain amount. They held shows annually, and gave prizes, not only for the live stock, but also for the produce of the peasants and farmers in the line of weaving and linen goods.

7601. (Chairman).—They really applied themselves to do the same sort of work as the Department of Agriculture does now?—Yes, very much the same sort of work.

7602. (Mr. Micks).—There is an account of that in the Devon Commission's proceedings?—I have not read it, but you will find it in *Theobald's*.

July 18, 1906.

Mr. J. W.
Stewart.

July 11, 1906.
 County Council
 Mr. A.
 Hamilton.

7691. (Chairman).—I see there was some opposition to the adoption of this report?—Yes, there was.

7692. Was there a large minority on the County Council?—I see a Mr. Horner moved an amendment?—Yes, it was eight to fourteen.

7693. (Mr. Mick).—Eight non-progressives?—Yes, that is simply what it means.

7694. (Chairman).—Have you anything you wish to add to this report?—In regard to the technical scheme, we practically have no technical scheme in operation in the county for the last year. We have had no funds out of our halfpenny rate. We have only one urban district, Lisnawady, and they refuse to contribute their proportion to the halfpenny rate—£25—and for their failure to contribute the Department cut off from us £250. We made an application that if we made up £25, out of the rural rates, would they continue the £25? They said "No; we look upon technical instruction as more suitable to an urban district than a rural, and if they won't help themselves we can't allow others to do it for them."

7695. (Mr. Brown).—How much of the halfpenny rate was given towards the work of technical instruction in the county?—Did the County Council divide the halfpenny rate between agriculture and technical instruction?—The Department gave £250 opposite the technical scheme, which they have cut off altogether now.

7696. I wanted to know whether the halfpenny rate raised by the county was divided between technical instruction and agriculture?—It was divided, but I am not sure of the proportions.

7697. Was it the county raised the money from Lismavady?—They raise their own rate. We have no technical scheme, and the agricultural scheme is very limited.

7698. (Chairman).—On the 9th of November, 1900, there is this note in the Minutes of the Board of Technical Instruction:—"County Londonderry: the County Londonderry have struck a rate of only one halfpenny in the pound, and the whole of this has been allocated

to agricultural schemes. As there was, therefore, no local contribution towards a technical instruction scheme, the Department were unable to grant any contribution out of their endowment, but they allow the Committee to carry on the work under last year's scheme till the money for last year's scheme has been exhausted."—My suggestion is that the Department should nominate one-third of the County Committee, of progressive men.

7699. (Mr. Brown).—How much does your halfpenny rate produce?—Something over £500.

7700. (Chairman).—You advocate the nomination of County Committees?—Yes; I suppose that is something new.

(Chairman).—We certainly get a variety of views going about the country.

7701. (Mr. Brown).—Have you any arrangements about the question of prices for the flax scheme?—I don't know much about flax.

The following letter was subsequently received from the witness:—

"Kindly allow me to supplement my evidence by stating that the division you referred to, in my Report, was taken at the meeting of the County Council held in June; but at the meeting of the County Committee held subsequently, viz., on the 7th inst., my Report of Sub-Committee, as read to you, was adopted in its entirety unanimously by them, without a division. My reply to Mr. Horner's amendment, mentioned by you, was: 'That the work of the Department was largely educational, and the money expended in that way could not, in the nature of the case, show a credit balance in £ s. d. at all once, as he suggested it should; but did go to provide an equipment for men in order life by supplying a valuable asset in the form of a store of useful knowledge from which they could draw at all times, available for a whole life-time, which I am sure the possessor would not be willing to bester for the money expended in acquiring it.'"

Mr. J. W.
 Stewart.

Mr. J. W. STEWART.

7702a. (Mr. J. W. Stewart).—I have been looking into the question of Professor Campbell's answer, and, when it is brought to my recollection, I find Professor Campbell was perfectly correct. There is another matter that, with your permission, I would like to speak of. I understand here that the Rev. J. Doherty gave evidence about the Department's methods, and gave as an illustration that the flax lecturer at Carrisnagh did not turn up till seven o'clock when the lecture was to be at three o'clock. I was the lecturer, and I wish to explain the circumstances. He says: "The lecture was advertised for three o'clock. By an oversight, looking at the time-table, I thought I had a good time to wait for the train, and I went into a city hotel, and wrote two letters, walked out, and thought I was in plenty of time for the Lough Swilly

Railway, but when I got up there I found the train was away, and, inquiring the cost of a special train, it was out of my reach. I could not get a car. With enough to do, I got a car that would take me there by half-past three for a pound. I agreed with him if he left me at the courthouse steps at half-past three I would give him five shillings more, and wired to the Chairman: 'Address meeting at courthouse at 3.30.' I arrived at courthouse exactly at 3.31 p and I was surprised to find the meeting had been adjourned to seven o'clock. I went up to the post-office and got a copy of my telegrams which I had sent from Derry to the Chairman. It was all right as I had wired to the Chairman. I went to see him myself, and he met me and said: 'I thought you would not be in till the train this evening.' I said, 'I wired you that I would be here at 3.30.' He had, however, adjourned the meeting till seven o'clock."

The Committee adjourned.

TWENTY-FOURTH PUBLIC SITTING.—SATURDAY, JULY 14TH, 1906.

At the County Council Chamber, Londonderry.

Present:—

SIR KENELM DIGNY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWNE, J.P.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

MR. E. H. O'DONNERTY examined.

July 14, 1906.

7610. (Chairman).—You are the Secretary of the Dignity County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes, sir.

7611. You gave us various heads on which you wish to speak?—I propose giving you evidence under the following heads:—(1) Working of agricultural and live stock schemes. (2) Insufficiency of funds for these schemes. (3) Reafforestation of the country. (4) Working of scheme of technical instruction in non-agricultural subjects; and (5) The starting and developing of industries. 1st. Working of Agricultural and Live Stock Schemes.—Owing to the difference of opinion which, unfortunately, has arisen between my committee and the Department in regard to the eligibility of natives or residents of the county for appointments in the county as instructors under the agricultural schemes, only a few of these schemes have been in operation for the past couple of years. The schemes that have been in operation are the live stock schemes, cottage and farm prize schemes, subsidies to show scheme, and flax scheme. It is admitted that a very great improvement has been effected in the quality of live stock in the county, especially in the breeds of horses and cattle, since the live stock schemes have been put into operation. There is no doubt that these schemes could be improved by making them more amenable to the smaller class of farmers, who at present find it difficult to pay the large price demanded for bulls and hears. The Department, however, are now working in this direction, as they are supplying bulls on favourable terms to persons from the congested districts out of the small fund placed at their disposal by the Congested Districts Board (only £2,000 a year for all the congested districts of Ireland), when they banded over the agricultural and live stock schemes to them; but I believe that they make a mistake in allowing the recipients of these bulls to change whatever fee they like for the service of the animals. They should be required to comply with the same conditions as to services as the owners of county premium bulls. £268 is allocated in my county for the improvement of live stock, and this provides 139 nominations for mares (awarded at thirteen centes), 54 premiums to bulls, and 10 premiums to hears. The cottage and farm prize scheme has been very successful and is very valuable, as it induces habits of cleanliness, thrift, and industry among the cottagers and small farmers, for whom it is specially intended. £300 is allocated towards this scheme, and the fact that last year and this year we have had 509 entrants under it shows that it is well appreciated. £300 is also allocated for subsidies to agricultural and industrial shows, and I consider that this money could not be better spent, as these shows are an important factor in educating the people. Since we took up this scheme four new show societies have been established in the county, and, along with the four previously in existence, are doing excellent work stimulating the farmers in all agricultural pursuits. These societies, I should add, are very liberally supported in the districts in which they operate. Since the flax scheme has been put into operation, the culture of this important crop has been very much revived in the flax-growing districts of the county. In fact I have been informed by two gentlemen in the county largely interested in flax-growing that nearly twice as much flax has been

sown this year as was a couple of years ago. My committee offer prizes each year under Section A for this scheme for scotched flax and under Section B for growing flax amounting to £310. That the prizes offered under Section A have effected any improvement in the scotching and handling of the flax is doubtful, and I am inclined to think that the lots exhibited at the shows are scotched specially for "show," and cannot be considered as fair samples of the ordinary scotching done in the mills exhibiting them, but, while this is so, I may say that the fact that the prizes have been paid in flax-seed has had a most useful effect, as, of course, only the best seed procurable has been supplied by the Department, and it has grown so well in the different districts that it has been an object lesson in the benefit accruing from sowing good seed to the farmers, who, for the most part, were given to buying the later shipments of seed because it was a few shillings a bag cheaper than the first, which is always the best. That the lesson has not been lost on them is evidenced by the fact that many farmers have written me asking to be supplied with similar seed to that which has been given in prizes.

7612. Has there been any change as to giving prizes in flax-seed?—Not as far as Section A is concerned. Prizes for growing flax are paid in money because at that season of the year the flax-seed is not required. That Section B has induced the farmers to give much better attention to the crop when growing cannot, I think, be disputed. I may mention that I have received 138 entries under this section this year, this being thirty-six more entries than I received last year. The flax and farm prize schemes might, I consider, be made still more useful if made more elastic. A small sum of money has also been allocated in my county for carrying out the provisions of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1889, which is regarded as of much importance by the farmers, but this Act is so clumsy that the taking of samples under it is almost an impossibility, and I would strongly urge on the Commissioners to recommend that an amending Act be passed which will provide for sampling being done on the lines of the Food and Drugs Act, and the analysing of manures by a Government analyst at a nominal fee.

7613. Will you explain that? It is now so clumsy. At the present time to obtain a sample of the manure for analysis you have first of all to go to the merchant and buy at least half a cwt. of manure. You have then to give him three days' notice of your intention to take a sample of that manure, and you have to send a copy of the analysis to the analyst along with it, and the whole thing militates against the work.

7614. (Mr. Micks).—Are the samples taken before it leaves the merchant's store?—No, sir. In fact they can't be so taken under the provisions of the Act, because after you purchase a quantity of manure you have to give three days' notice of your intention to take samples for analysis.

7615. (Mr. Brown).—What are the fees at present charged?—The county analyst for County Dignity receives 7s. 6d. a sample up to a hundred samples.

7616. Samples sent by the Department's effort?—Yes; any samples I send we pay 7s. 6d. for analysing each of them.

Mr. E. H. O'Donnerty.

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Mr. H. H.
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7617. Is that not a scheme settled by the County Council?—Yes.

7618. Could not the Council revise that then. Is not the analyst their officer?—He is of course. These are the terms they made with him a couple or three years ago.

7619. Is the same fee charged to an individual sending samples?—Yes.

7620. And to the County—both?—Yes.

7621. Who is your county analyst?—Professor Backlin, of Belfast.

7622. (Mr. Dryden).—It is a personal arrangement made by the County Committee?—The County Council settled the fees with him, and we have to pay them.

7623. (Mr. Micks).—Have you a scale for such an article as manure?—No; all samples come under the one scale.

7624. (Chairman).—Do you know that that is the case in other counties?—I can't say.

7625. (Mr. Micks).—In how many cases did you get an analysis made in the past year?—Last year I think up to forty analyses and this year between twenty and thirty.

7626. (Mr. Brown).—Perhaps the analyst's salary is proportionately small?—I don't think so has any salary; he is paid entirely by fees.

7627. With us the analysis for the county is free, but the analyst receives a salary?—Owing to the disparity between the valuation and the extent of County Donegal (area, 1,197,153 statute acres; valuation, £303,869; population, 205,889), the funds at the disposal of the committee run far short of its requirements, and it would be very desirable that funds should not be allocated on the basis of valuation alone, but that the extent and population should be taken into consideration. Other counties, scarcely one-third the size of Donegal, either in extent or population, have larger valuations, and consequently get as much of the public funds as we do. In these smaller counties one instructor in any one branch is sufficient, while in Donegal two at the very least would be required, and the same applies to the number of bulls, horses, &c., which we can have. These I consider are good reasons why much larger funds should be given to a county of this description.

7628. Do you include the funds for technical education?—No; I am dealing separately with technical education.

7629. Have you brought in the question of area. Some counties have very large tracts of mountainous land which is practically uncultivable?—There is a good amount of Donegal uncultivated and not possible of cultivation.

7630. (Chairman).—As I understand, your point is that valuation should not be taken into account?—I will give you the extent of the county. We have 1,197,153 acres and the valuation is £303,875. The population is 205,889. There is another county which has an area of 415,495 acres. That is only about one-third of ours. It has a valuation of £335,000, just about £20,000 more than ours, and a population of 65,000, about a fourth of our population.

7631. What is that county?—Kildare. In that county they can have as many bulls as we have.

7632. (Mr. Brown).—As a matter of fact we have not nearly as many?—But you can have them.

7633. No; the funds would not permit it. You get 20s. from the Department and we only get 25s. I do not consider outside my sphere, I would suggest that the reforestation of the country is a matter worthy of the best attention of the Commissioners, and that the funds for this purpose should be largely supplemented by funds out of the Crown and Quilt Rents amounting to some £50,000 annually, which are derived purely from Irish sources and should be expended in Ireland, and not taken to England, as they appear to be at present; only some £2,900 of this large income having been accounted for as spent in Ireland in the year 1904-5.

7634. (Mr. Micks).—You mean it goes into the general fund for Great Britain and Ireland?—I don't really know what becomes of it. It is not spent in Ireland in any way.

7635. (Chairman).—Have you given much attention to re-forestation?—Not particularly. I should think it would be very desirable that we should be able to supply the trees to farmers at a nominal cost.

7636. (Mr. Brown).—Are you not entitled to do that at present?—No. All we can do is to purchase the trees, and supply them at cost price.

7637. Surely that is a great advantage. They could not buy them on anything like the same terms then.

7638. Besides, I suppose they have the advantage of having your Horticultural Instructor to advise them about the planting?—Of course they would, if we had a Horticultural Instructor. We have not one.

7639. Do you think the planting is intended for shelter or for ultimate profit?—Ultimate profit.

7640. (Mr. Dryden).—Then it would have to be on large areas?—Yes. It is thus by authorities that the work of trees is responsible for the great growth of consumption in the country.

7641. (Mr. Brown).—Is there not a great difficulty about mountain parts—grazing rights?—There are some, but I don't think there would be much difficulty about acquiring these.

7642. (Mr. Dryden).—If trees were planted in small quantities would they grow?—Yes, there is some very suitable soil in Donegal.

7643. The soil is suitable, but the wind is very severe?—I have seen places where shelter was planted a short time ago and they have grown wonderfully.

7644. (Mr. Micks).—What parts of Donegal are you most familiar with?—Well, I am pretty well acquainted now with the whole of it. Of course, I belong to the Bellefleur side myself.

7645. Have you in your mind, or seen places, suitable for planting on a large scale in Donegal?—I can't say I have given particular attention to that.

7646. Or have any members of the Committee or County Council, as far as you know?—The matter was not discussed by them. Perhaps Mr. Hanna might know.

7647. Are you aware that nearly the whole of Donegal, so far as mountains and moors go, is subject to commonage grazing rights?—Yes; it is very much subject to that, runable as it is called.

7648. And in instances they have grazing rights in the mountains there?—Yes.

7649. Your proposal would mean that all these people would have to be compensated?—Yes, when necessary.

7650. Have you any idea what the compensation would amount to?—I have not.

7651. Or have you any idea how compensation could be given in any way that would come cheaply as the public funds?—I think a great number of these farmers would be glad to have others themselves.

7652. That would be merely for small shelter belts; but planting on a large scale, where they would have to give up their commonage rights for the grazing of sheep and young stock?—I have not considered it.

7653. These commonage rights are valued very highly by the people?—Yes; they put a considerable value on them.

7654. Do you think it might be a sufficient inducement to the farmers if they were guaranteed for five or ten years fully as large an income, by way of employment, as they would get out of the profit of their sale of sheep and young stock?—If they had a definite guarantee for a certain number of years, and then the prospect of ultimate steady employment?—I am very sure it would be. It would be giving in kind in place of money.

7655. You would promise them employment subject to their working hard, and working under orders properly?—I believe it would be very workable.

7656. You think it would be acceptable to them?—Yes. I know they are always most anxious for work.

7657. (Mr. Brown).—Do you know whether any extensive sales under the Land Purchase Acts have taken place in mountain districts in Donegal?—Yes; I think the land has been turned over pretty rapidly.

7658. What becomes of the mountains?—I think they are conserved to the tenants. Whatever rights the tenants have in the mountains are, I think, conserved to them.

7659. Would it be possible to manage a scheme by which mountains would be vested in the County Council, as trustees, with power to re-forest portions of them?—I think it would be quite possible.

7660. Would they be willing to undertake that responsibility?—I can't speak for the County Council, but I imagine they would. Turning my attention now to the technical instruction side, I am glad to be able to say that the money that

July 16, 1906.
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we have expended in technical instruction in our country, small as it has been, has been even more productive of good results than the agricultural expenditure, inasmuch as we have given a stimulus to the young men and girls, the latter especially, of the county to an independent livelihood by their head and hands, and have done some small thing to check the tide of emigration, which is working such havoc in the country. I may mention the case of two or three districts where I have successfully established the spinning and woolen industries. Two years ago we sent a Spinning Instructor to conduct classes at Malin and Malin Head. This is a district where the shirt industry had been in existence for a considerable number of years, been owing to the great depression which has, unfortunately, visited in the shirt trade for the past three or four years, the shirt manufacturers had to discontinue sending out work to their country workmen, and these poor girls were left without any means of livelihood, and would have had to emigrate if another industry had not been started.

7650. (Chairman).—Was that started under the Computed Districts Board?—No, by the Technical Computed Districts Board. Well, these classes have been so successful that at present close on £1,000 a year is being paid to the girls who attended them, and the Department's Inspector reports that the industry is spreading throughout the district. Again, we gave financial support for three years to lace classes started at Ballyshannon and Buncrana some four or five years ago, with the satisfactory result that about £2,500 a year is now being earned by the girls working at the industry in these two places.

7651. Do you think that represents the actual profits—that that money is fairly earned, legitimate profits?—Quite so. Other successful spinning and crocheting classes are also being conducted at other centres; and the dressmaking, cookery, and manual instruction classes have also been very successful. I think that the Commissioners will agree with me that it is a pity that such useful work should be hampered for want of funds, but I am sorry to say that if the funds for agricultural purposes are inadequate the funds for technical instruction purposes are ridiculously so. This, of course, is not the fault of the Department, since the funds given them for technical instruction purposes in non-agricultural subjects by Parliament are so small, and are earmarked for country boroughs and urban centres. In our county we have only a sum of £284 for technical instruction in non-agricultural subjects. £200 of this amount is contributed by the rate, and £84 by the Department; and I may add that £116 of the Department's contribution is in respect of an urban district in the county (the only one we have got), which contributes only £18 to the scheme, and that should this urban district cease, as it may at any time, to contribute, we would only get £266 from the Department, so that all we have for technical instruction in non-agricultural subjects in the ten rural districts of this very extensive county is £260. Owing to very little in the way of technical instruction having been done for the first couple of years, my Committee had a considerable amount of accumulated funds, in addition to their annual income, to work on for the past three years, and it was this which enabled them to do so much good, as they were able to appoint ten instructors while the money lasted—four in crocheting work, three in spinning, one in dressmaking, one in cookery and laundry work, and one manual instructor. The accumulated funds are, however, now, unfortunately, all spent, and the Committee have had to refuse their staff of teachers in industrial subjects from seven to four—a state of affairs which is nothing short of deplorable, as it means the withdrawing of teachers from districts where further instruction would still be required, and also the Committee being unable to establish these paying industries in other districts where they are urgently required. I, therefore, trust that the Commissioners will strongly urge on the Government the necessity of immediately providing adequate funds for the imparting of technical instruction in non-agricultural subjects in rural districts. The boys and girls living in rural districts are surely as well entitled to be equipped for the battle of life, with all the technical knowledge that can be given to them, as those living in urban districts.

7652. I did not gather, in what you have said, that you alluded to this statement in the report of the Technical Instruction Committee:—"The Committee also beg to record their opinion that the Department

should not have been a party to the grave act of July 16, 1906, of injustice and breach of trust perpetrated by the withdrawal by the Treasury of the Equivalent Grant from Ireland." The Equivalent Grant was originally £3,000?—Yes. What happened was, if I recollect aright, was that the Treasury, in 1902, thought, as funds were being otherwise provided, that amount would no longer be paid. Remonstrance was made by the Department, and the Treasury agreed to continue the payment for three years. The Department was supposed to be accountable for the withdrawal of the grant, because it was to be grounded on a minute of the Department, which minute, we understood, the Department failed to pass.

7653. I think that was a misconception, but, however that may be, the arrangement made was that £3,000 a year should be continued for a few years, at the end of which it was replaced by a grant of £7,000 a year?—For a limited number of years. I think it has ceased.

7654. (Mr. Mickel).—Was not the limit of £7,000 to be the lowest limit?—It might increase.

7655. (Chairman).—This statement cannot be quite accepted as accurate?—That, of course, is the statement of the Committee.

7656. It appears on the notes, therefore I think it right to point that out. I think the language is too strong—"should not have been a party to the grave act of injustice and breach of trust."

7657. (Mr. Mickel).—How was the amount of the grant fixed? Are you aware that it was to be for each pound raised, so that if the county raised £50,000 you would get £50,000 from the Treasury?—That was the idea of the Committee.

7658. That they would get an equivalent for whatever they raised?—That was the idea of the Committee, and the £7,000 given is not at all what ought to be given.

7659. (Chairman).—I damnay you want more, but that is, briefly, the history of the thing?—I think that the Treasury did not anticipate when the Act was passed that the country would go in wholesale for technical education, as it has done.

7670. That may be; I am not at all questioning the justice of your claim for pecuniary assistance. I am not on that at all. I am not saying this is enough. That is another question altogether, but I was merely saying I do not think it is quite accurate—the statement contained in this report. Has your attention been called at all to the new scheme of technical instruction which has just been sanctioned, by which there are to be payments on a considerably larger scale. I have it in my hand—an extract from the Science and Art programme?—I am not aware that that concerns the County Committee. We were informed by the Department that we might not expect more funds.

7671. (Mr. Bruce).—But this has only been sanctioned quite recently?—However, they would require to increase the funds very considerably. I am very glad to hear we are getting increased funds. I hope we will be much increased.

7672. (Mr. Mickel).—Can you tell me how much a year the County Council received for the year ending 1906?—Roughly, about £1,367 3s. 4d.

7673. How much for technical instruction?—The Department have only allowed us to set aside £222. Of course the county can raise a separate rate independently of that rate if they chose.

7674. And it would amount to £1,587?—Yes.

7675. And if you were to raise £1,587, you would be entitled to, if the old Equivalent Grant was in force, get another £1,587?—Yes.

7676. And that is what you complain of?—Yes.

7677. (Chairman).—It is a great pity it ever got called by the name of Equivalent Grant: it is very misleading.

(Mr. Mickel).—It has got very well known by its now. (Mr. Bruce).—The most urgent need of our country is the opening up of new industries and the development of existing ones, as only these can keep our people at home, and I certainly think that it should be in the power of the Department to give assistance towards industries that are being established or developed.

7678. (Mr. Bruce).—The Department do give help to new industries by providing instruction; for instance, in this crocheting and other work?—These are what you might call cottage industries. I speak of large industries, such as establishing boot factories, leather industries, or something like that.

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7679. Even in these things they do very largely give aid by providing for instruction?—I think the Act does not give them power to give aid to any great extent in subsidies.

7680. Have you given any consideration to the policy of subsidies?—I think the Department's principle should be more to provide expert knowledge and skill to such industries that would be established.

7681. (Chairman).—You mean educational rather than directed to the commercial side?—I don't think, perhaps, it would be wise for them to interfere with the commercial portion.

7682. How about competition. There might be a great deal of competition between State-aided and non-State-aided industries?—I think exceptional circumstances should be shown.

7683. (Mr. Dryden).—I suppose they are all exceptional, at least local people think they are?—I don't know. I think there is good reason in Ireland. They could open up many industries in Ireland in which there would be very little competition.

7684. (Chairman).—The industries you specially refer to are lace and crochet?—These are not the only trades I refer to.

7685. (Mr. Misk).—Can you tell me any place in the County Donegal where an industry might be opened profitably, as far as you know?—Buncrana is a capital place for starting industries.

7686. Where there were—there used to be an industry before?—There used to be a very flourishing industry, linen, giving very large employment, and the mill is lying there derelict, and the water power going to loss, and that is only one instance.

7687. (Mr. Brown).—The question of competition would come in there with other mills?—It would depend largely on what you are going to start. There is great room in this country for a boot factory. Boots come almost altogether from abroad.

7688. (Mr. Misk).—At all events the view of your committee is that it would be well if the Department should be empowered to assist rising industries by such means as they thought judicious and proper?—Yes.

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7689. (Chairman).—I think you are a member of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Donegal?—Yes.

7690. And I see you have something to say about the system of employing itinerant lecturers?—Yes. I think that itinerant lecturers are not exactly what is suited for our county, at least that part of the people of our county that we want to improve. It is the poorer class that we want to teach first with the Departmental aid; and a man has got to have a certain amount of information before he can understand lectures on a subject, and before even he desires any further information. If he knows but little he won't take information orally. I think it must be practically shown to him.

7691. Then, how would you bring home knowledge to these people?—I think I mentioned in the note I wrote to Mr. Taylor, the secretary, that I wished to teach something on fruit culture first. I think that, as this country imports four or five millions worth of fruit, and that as a great deal of the County Donegal is admirably suited for growing fruit, that our people would be glad, and it would be of very great importance if they were taught how to plant trees and how to select trees suitable for their districts, and how to train them and prune them. For instance, it has now become, I think wisely so, a practice to plant bush trees. They don't take up a great deal of ground. In Ireland we have at the present time erected twenty-five or twenty-six thousand labourers' cottages, with a half or three-quarters of an acre of land attached to each. I think that a border of fruit trees would not interfere with the cultivation of the garden, and would supply a very admirable addition to the means of the family. I think they could grow admirable apples, which might be used in the family, and would beautify the place. That applies to the poor people; the richer man is probably able to control that information himself.

7692. You say you think apples are peculiarly suited to this county?—I do. I think it is admirably suited. I grow myself about five tons of apples; but I had to learn from experience: it is not every man who knows how to plant a tree. Thirty years ago I got a man who had been brought up in Kew Gardens. He spoiled all my plants. I had to raise all the trees again. In a large place like Kew Gardens every department is special, and this man knew nothing about planting trees, though he knew a lot of other things. A cottager gets trees from a nursery. I have ordered trees by name, and I got in return another sort, and I didn't know it for two or three years, until the fruit began to be produced. I have got a dozen trees of one name and planted them in a row. I found four or five of them colored, and I had lost four or five years; but other trees of the same class planted in the same row were good enough. I think that we ought to have in a place like Donegal practical men, with a general gardening training, not particularly specialists, except in so far as planting trees, and that they ought to show these cottagers and small farmers how to prepare the place to plant, how to put in the roots, and train them, and should show them how to prune a tree and make a head on it. These are things that

in the course of a few years there would be enough instruction in general knowledge throughout the country about, and they would not need so many instructors, but at first you need four or five in a county like Donegal, and then that becomes a question of money.

7693. Unfortunately in this county there are no specimens of this kind?—None at all.

7694. That is a very great misfortune?—I believe the Department did appoint one or two gentlemen to come and lecture. He calls a meeting in a hall, and has but few hearers, because people are not interested in it. We want men to show the cottager not only where to put a tree, but how to economise his ground.

7695. It is a very big matter, but it has been due to a great extent in other parts of Ireland?—I think it is only a big matter as far as the money is concerned.

7696. And also giving the proper instructions. You have not a large supply of persons competent?—What I mean is this. Supposing a few persons in one electoral district are properly taught, and their gardens become productive, that is an object lesson for these men. They teach each other.

7697. You know the Department are giving very great attention to that matter?—I don't know. We have a great many poor people in Donegal, and what I want to see aroused are the poorer people, who don't understand and appreciate it now.

7698. (Mr. Dryden).—It would be necessary for the Committee to employ the services of a horticultural instructor?—I think you want a man who understands one thing. I think general horticulture does not come into the scheme.

7699. He would not be qualified if he could not talk all in?—Perhaps not; but that is what suits the people.

7700. (Chairman).—If you have a man almost entirely devoted to this particular thing, growing of trees and so on, and going on his bicycle all over the place to the various gardens and demonstration plots, helping the people and telling them in their homes how to do it—is that the sort of thing you would like to see?—Yes. I think it would require four for the County Donegal. His duties would begin in November and would continue up to March. I think he would have very slight duties from that on until November again.

7701. (Mr. Brown).—I think you would find you would want him all the time?—Yes, if fruit culture was established on any large scale. There would come the grading of fruit; it is most necessary to get them to take the place of American or Australian fruit. Then you must find market for them. A poor person, or often a large farmer, can't bring himself into contact with dealers in London or the provinces. What we want is some local instructor to instruct him how to grade his fruit and pack them. The Department made some arrangement with a box-making factory in Dublin, and everything goes to Dublin. I ordered fifty or a hundred boxes according to the Department's arrangement, and they cost

me, with the freight, something like 9d. to bring them to my place. I sent a sample box to a broker in Derry, and got them made for 7d. I don't think these things should be conserved in Dublin, where you have long distances to carry them.

7702. You could not establish these manufacturers all over the country. There would not be a demand to keep them going.—What I think is this, that in a district like this there ought to be a man who is acquainted with the trade—we have several of them here, large well-to-do and well-to-do, and they supply fruit trees—I think if the Department gave a small subsidy to such a man, he would get the sample boxes, and so could make contracts at home for fairly large quantities, without the Department interfering at all.

7703. (Mr. Micks).—Has not the Secretary of the County Council got samples?—He is not in touch. You must have some man easily reached. Derry would suit Derry, Tyrone, and Donegal.

7704. (Mr. Brown).—How do you say the firm in Dublin are subsidised?—I don't think they are subsidised. An arrangement was made with them for getting samples, and they are trying to push the trade. I am not finding fault with them, but I say the cost is too much for a man here to bring them from Dublin. When I got the box, I simply had the sample prepared in Dublin. It ought to be just as easy to get samples here. We ought to have some depot in Derry, some man who would get a small subsidy for seeking the people and making shipments of small growers.

7705. (Chairman).—I will just read what Professor Campbell says at Question 1871.—Every person that applied got the boxes sent to him.

7706. (Mr. Brown).—What do you want to pay a man for? The Department get a sample box made in Dublin, sent it down, and this box could be made by any local man, and he could make a profit on it!—The box is only one advantage of what I think the man might be very useful for. He would need to be a receiver of the trees selected to be distributed among the persons who would want them, and he would need to be in communication, to receive the fruit, and ship them in large bulk, because you can't ship to an agent in Birmingham, Liverpool, London, four or five boxes of fruit even if it is graded. The freight is too much. If there was a man in Derry, twenty men would perhaps send him four boxes each, and the person in Derry would make arrangements to despatch 100 boxes boxes of fruit all graded.

7707. Does not that point to some system of co-operation?—You can't unite people unless there is some central body to unite them. I think probably in a short time things will work out themselves, too. I am talking of the people who have never had experience of this thing at all.

7708. (Chairman).—They want instruction brought home to them?—That is exactly it. They want instruction on the spot. The Irishman is very quick to learn when you show him the thing.

7709. And the object of the organisation ought to be to give him that instruction?—Yes.

7710. (Mr. Dwyer).—At present the fruit is not growing?—We are supposing we are on the eve of starting an industry that will benefit every small cottage. I think he ought to be able to plant trees six feet apart along the border of his plot. I have looked trees four feet apart, that in summer are absolutely laden with apple fruit. I am perfectly sure the Department is anxious to do everything they can; but our business is to point out practically how it affects our locality.

7711. (Mr. Brown).—It is a question of funds; you are using your funds for other purposes. In other matters they have a horticultural instructor?—About Armagh and Portadown they don't want it.

7712. (Mr. Micks).—There are a number of orchards from Carrigrohane to Lifford?—Yes, but they are neglected. They are old orchards of fifty or a hundred years old, and there are some new orchards there that are bearing splendid fruit.

7713. So some trade already exists?—Oh, yes.

7714. (Mr. Brown).—You set apart in your scheme £150 for horticulture. How is it you have not a horticultural instructor in Donegal?—Unfortunately our Committee got at loggerheads with the Department. I think that our Committee had a reasonable grievance against the Department for making a rule which they hadn't advised them of. Our Committee had appointed two lady instructors for butter-making

7715. We know all about that, but about the horticultural?—Then the Committee would not appoint anybody. The Committee was divided. We were all of one mind that the Department treated the Committee shabbily by not advising them of the rule until after they had made the appointments, and then treating them like children; throwing their appointments on one side. I moved an amendment that we should make our appointments, and so take up the propositions for the different matters, and do it under protest. That we should fight the matter as much as principle by going on with our schemes; but the majority of the Committee did not agree with the minority, so the schemes dropped. For instance, there was a very useful scheme in poultry. We had had a lady instructor for one or two years who did admirable work. She has given lectures; then went round to the cottages and showed them how their dirty houses were not suitable for poultry. She showed them that wretched fowls had to be fed as well as pampered fowl. She showed them then out of an old packing box how to make a fairly good little house. These were little things that the cottagers' wives could understand, and she did improve their houses. She improved the breeds, and the eggs were better, and that scheme, I think, would ultimately have been a very useful scheme, but it was knocked on the head by this dispute.

7716. The Committee itself discontinued this?—They discontinued. They would not appoint.

7717. (Mr. Dwyer).—To their injury?—I think it was a mistake, but it was a mistake under a very legitimate irritation. Our Committee was treated badly by the Department by putting a rule in force and then not advising them until they had made two appointments, one an admirable appointment. One lady was living two years in Derry. She had been a native of Arklow. She was elected for Donegal. I recommended her to the Committee. She was elected but the Department threw her over because she was a native of the County Donegal.

7718. (Mr. Micks).—Did she go up for examination afterwards?—Yes. She had been trained in several countries, had a lot of service to show, but she might not have been able to answer every question. Nervous people are not very able to answer sometimes questions in theory, but she had a lot of practical training. We did not contest the right of the Department to go into their qualifications. It would be foolish for any County Committee to contest that right.

7719. (Mr. Brown).—Have you seen the horticultural schemes in operation in any other county?—I have not.

7720. I think you will find your own ideals are being realised elsewhere?—I have seen them in actual practice abroad.

7721. But Ireland—under the Department?—No, I have not. That is what I want to see introduced here. I don't see why if we have got a good fruit growing scheme here it should not be introduced.

7722. (Chairman).—It meets with your Committee to introduce it?—I think also if our fruit instructor had any spare time the question of afforestation would come in.

7723. (Mr. Brown).—That is done in our county through the horticultural instructor?—You have a small county, and it is not nearly so difficult, I think, as Donegal. We are nearly ninety miles long by forty wide.

7724. We can't have everything. We would like to have two or three instructors in Kildare, but we are doing a great deal of good with one?—Yes, but I think to give such message instruction doesn't—it is not understood. It does not teach those who require teaching. It is throwing money away. I think we should not have so many schemes, but should work one out practically.

7725. Certainly, but the instruction is entirely practical?—So far as it goes, but it is so meagre it teaches comparatively few.

7726. I assure you it is not meagre?—We have not had a single man to instruct about fruit culture in this county.

7727. (Chairman).—If you look down the list of horticultural instructors you will find this instruction is very general, indeed?—I have not heard of any instructor of the class I speak of. I know there are beginners.

7728. The class you talk of is really exactly what is done, or attempted to be done, at all events in other

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place?—I have not heard of any either in Derry or Tyrone.

7729. I think if you get over your difficulties with the Department, and appoint a horticultural instructor; if you get a good man, as I hope you will, you will find it answers your purpose to a great extent?—We in the North of Ireland think a great deal of the Department's funds have been allocated more to the South than to us.

7730. (Mr. Brown).—You are entirely mistaken. You are raising by the rate £1,250, and you are getting £2,004. Now, let us take Kildare; we are raising £1,400, and we are getting £1,594; that is £200 less?—But you have got such a limited area.

7731. But we thought naturally that we should get a proportionate amount to the amount that is raised by rates. That is not an unnatural way of looking at it?—It is not, except when you look at the view of using it in one part more than another; the condition and needs of each county must be considered.

7732. We consider our needs are just as great. I want you to realize that there are other limits. Cork County thinks it is only fair when it raises a rate that it should get a corresponding amount out of the fund?—I don't for one moment contest the justice of what you say. I am only looking at it that this great Department has been established for the purpose of inaugurating funds where funds were most needed. We have a great big county that has a great need for that allocation of money.

7733. And that is the reason you are getting so much larger an allocation than counties like Kildare, and we don't grudge it to you, but we want you to understand that you are getting a very much larger share in proportion to the money you raise?—There are some of the projects that suit this part of the county that should be more largely endorsed even if you drop some of the others.

7734. (Chairman).—That is rather for the County Committee?—There is no use in spending a pound on a project if it requires five pounds to carry it out in practice.

7735. You wish to say something about agricultural schools and colleges?—I wanted to say something about technical instruction as it applies and as it would be useful in my opinion for rural districts. Some two or three years ago and up to the present we appointed an instructor for carpentry and for iron work; that would be applied to the general purposes of the country.

7736. (Mr. Mische).—A smith?—Not much of the smith; it was mostly in carpentry. We employed a teacher named O'Neill, who is an admirable man. He came out to my district, four miles out. That was the first place that he started. We had great difficulty in getting a place for him in which to teach at all. At last we got the National school, but we could only have from four o'clock, and he taught two classes of ten each. The boys were most enthusiastic. Of course he would only teach them first drawing and sketching, and how to handle tools. The progress was wonderful. He taught for three months. Mr. O'Neill told us the talent of some of the boys was wonderful. He taught for three months. The boys were greatly interested, and would talk of nothing else; but he went away at the end of three months, and for two years he has never been back. The boys have forgotten all about it and have got out of touch. There is no continuity with the teaching. I don't want Mr. O'Neill or any other gentleman giving instruction under the Department interfering with trades. What we want is to make handy men, men that can turn themselves to do any little job at carpentry or anything necessary on an isolated farm, and that broadens the idea of the children and makes them handy and thoughtful. A young lad so taught becomes a useful man all his life. Speaking in a general way, as it is now, boys are turned out at fourteen or fifteen from a National school; they have not an idea; they know nothing except probably the mere theory of what they are taught in school, but when required to put it into practical effect they know nothing about it. What I suggest is that the Department should allocate certain National schools, appropriate buildings at suitable distances, and build an annexe where they could establish a permanent plant, say a bench, and other things, where the teacher could teach it, and I think that in a county like Donegal it would require at least four teachers of the class I speak of. They did admirable work wherever allocated, but the benches destroyed all their teaching. If there was an annexe

where a permanent plant and tools could be put up it would cost less than carting them about from place to place, and there would be no risk of breaking the tools and losing them, and having to pay for the clearing up of the National schools for each session. I know in the immediate neighbourhood we had a difficulty; some little things were broken and some of the desks defaced. If there was an annexe, which I think could be built cheaply, and permanent plant put up to accommodate one teacher for every two county districts, that would be about ten miles square of country, and it would take two teachers. I think if he was linked say four centres in each of his teaching districts; that would be convenient enough to gather his class in. Then the real work of industry would come in. He would not teach teaching a boy any trade; he would simply give him enough instruction to make him a handy man with tools.

7737. (Chairman).—Do you think that could be done on a sufficiently large scale to teach the people of the country?—What does Mr. O'Neill cost?

(Mr. E. H. O'Doherty).—His salary is £130 and he is increased to £150.

(Witness).—How much are his expenses?

(Mr. E. H. O'Doherty).—Roughly, £20 a year. I might mention perhaps that the committee now with their accumulated funds all spent have given notice of motion next meeting to disburse with the manual instructor and keep on teachers in credit and spinning work.

(Witness).—That resolves itself into this, that we are teaching the girls of the household to be the bread-winners, and boys are not taught and therefore don't become useful citizens. In Derry we have shirt factories, and the women have to do the work, and the men unemployed are not easily employed. I don't want to see our girls made bread-winners. I would like to see it going shoulder to shoulder with the other things; but the boys should be instructed in their role of life as well as the girls.

7738. (Chairman).—And you look upon the instruction of the boys as fitting them for the life they have to lead, as being got by technical instruction?—Yes.

7739. (Mr. Mische).—Not with a view of earning, but making them useful in their homes?—Making them handy and ready to think for themselves. Supposing a man is mowing or reaping who has no idea, and if anything breaks he can't fix it. Another man who has got the class of training I speak of has some ideas, and can fix a breakage like that at once. In a box he carries the tools he needs. He does not lose half a day running for a carpenter or blacksmith.

7740. (Mr. Brown).—And his gates won't remain unburgled?—That is exactly what I mean. It is the most useful thing in country life, and if we want to keep our people at home we must make them self-sustaining. We will probably have a hundred thousand labourers' cottages scattered through Ireland in a very short time. We have thirty thousand now. And in ten years I hope we will have one hundred thousand. If they could be taught to plant trees and train trees you would practically give a man a lease in making him a tidy, thrifty man. You give him something about his own home which is attractive for him to work at. Some years ago the North-West Agricultural Society were the means of starting a training school for boys at Templeogue. I think they had forty or fifty. These boys were taught the theory of agriculture in the school. They had to work the farms themselves, as far as I recollect. They employed no labour, and everything was explained to them. They were taught the value of certain manures. They were taught that they could not grow potatoes unless they put back into the soil the same plant food that the potato grew at; therefore that they must use phosphates and potash. These things were taught in the school. Then they went out and the thing was taught practically on the farm. I do think that agricultural instruction, teaching the theory of agriculture by lecture, is money thrown away, because a man has got to have a certain amount of knowledge before he appreciates any further knowledge, and then again, if you begin to talk to a blind man about colour he does not understand you. You gather a lot of young farmers. They have never been properly instructed. They have not been brought up on big farms where things are fairly well carried on, and they really know very little about the chemical value of manures, or rotation of crops, or

anything of that kind. You gather them in and you leave them. They go away without one single idea of it in their minds; but if you show them on a farm practically the same as they are used to themselves the way to pasture, how to cultivate it properly, depths of soil to break up, where drainage is required, and you show them the result—one lesson of that sort they never forget, for they use their natural genius and brains and go on further and better, for they have got the initial idea of what is wanted. If you took a entire like Derry where a number of railways converge, or a entire like Strabane; Strabane or Derry I think should do for Derry, Donagall, and Tyrone; you could establish a school there. It might not be on a most extensive scale at first but enough to give them practical education.

7741. (Mr. Micks).—Would that be a day school or a boarding school?—Like Templemore, where they will get instruction and education in certain hours, and then have to work certain hours on the farm.

7742. (Mr. Brown).—Have you considered what a very small number you could reach even by a school of that kind in every county?—In Derry there was an average of thirty and forty boys. I know myself three or four that were taught there and they became centres themselves to scatter the information they got in Templemore. There was Mr. Macpherson about two miles out from here. He was looked up to all his life while he lived as a progressive man who understood what he was about, and he taught his neighbours. If you established a school you will have no difficulty in getting thirty or forty boys, and after you have turned them out you will have thirty or forty centres teaching others by example.

7743. (Chairman).—It has been done on a certain scale already?—You have established one in Cavan on the very southern boundary of Ulster, the greatest rotation crop growing province in Ireland. I don't think that is enough to teach the Province of Ulster.

7744. (Mr. Brown).—Oh, no; it is a beginning!—You have two others in the South, but really we have nothing up here. I am not talking now of our big farmers. There is a jealousy which is tried to be imported into this thing that the big farmers get advantage. I don't think that the big farmer ought to be considered in this matter. He is generally fairly well educated and has lots of experience, and he travels; therefore his education is not before my mind. What I want to get at is the farmer of from ten to thirty acres.

7745. (Mr. Micks).—Don't you think the school ought to be in the districts where these people chiefly reside, in Inishkeen or West Donagall?—I do think so.

7746. I mean the kind of land they have to till about Strabane and Derry is so very different to what they would meet in the West—moor or boggy land!—I don't think that would matter. The climate has more to do with it than the quality of the soil.

7747. And the amount of practical instruction they could be given there in drainage. There would be comparatively little drainage to be done on the same class of land in the neighbourhood of Strabane and Derry?—I think if a man understood how to make drains he would use his own judgment as to where he would turn it. I think the fees should be very very small, and where it was the case of a man of fifteen or twenty acres the fees should be dispersed with altogether.

7748. (Chairman).—As I understand, in these farm schools you don't contemplate the pupils living there and spending two or three months there, but simply coming from their own homes!—Coming from their own homes and being taught and boarded in the school for a year or two years.

7749. Remember, the circle which all these schools would directly influence would be a comparatively small one, because the people in the poorer parts are more scattered, and the distances they would have to go would be greater?—I think one school would accommodate three counties, and this school would accommodate 20, 30, or 40 boys.

7750. You would have them living there?—Certainly; and these boys would be taught a certain number of hours in the day and then taken out on the farms and then work the farm.

7751. In fact you would multiply the schools such as those at Clonakilty and Athlery?—Exactly.

7752. (Mr. Dwyer).—It means a large expenditure of money?—It means some; but the question is, as

the county is so poor they cannot come in a practical way to touch with them otherwise. So in a few years, I think, it would repay to the extent it would be bringing them out of intellectual darkness as to their own business and making them expert.

7753. (Mr. Micks).—There was a suggestion made yesterday that there might be a temporary iron-roofed building to shift about from one place to another, so that when one place had had the advantage for a year or two the building should be removed to another part of the county. Do you see any objection to that?—I think the removal of buildings is a very difficult matter.

7754. It is done in fish-curing!—Yes; but the people engaged in fish-curing are experts and know their business, but to remove farm buildings, I think, is not possible.

7755. Your committee passed a couple of resolutions about the constitution of the Department. What is your view about that?—Messieurs McGilgan was deputed to give our ideas. I think the Department might be improved if each county council appointed two persons to elect three for each province, that that would fairly represent the country, and they might have to appoint one of the number to be resident, so as to be in actual touch with the work. But that is a matter of detail; it could be managed afterwards. I do think it would be a very great advantage to have practical men selected by the various county councils and brought in touch with the work of the Department. How it is to be done is a detail, however. I have not studied it closely enough.

7756. (Mr. Dwyer).—Do you know of any other Department that is managed in that way?—I know it is largely managed in that way in America. I have travelled through America for twenty years. In places where it is established, there they are largely subsidised by large grants, and they are able to do things in much larger ways. Four years ago I was in America, and saw this thing—some American establishments for the teaching of boys in the way I am speaking of, and it worked admirably.

7757. I am not speaking of that, but of the management of the Department—there must be some head to the Department?—We are trying to popularise the thing in this country, and I don't think you can popularise it if you make it too much of a burthen. You are taking it out of touch with the people.

7758. (Chairman).—Does not your suggestion practically mean the doing away with the Department and leaving the whole matter in the hands of the local authorities?—I don't really think so.

7759. That was Messieurs McGilgan's proposal?—I think probably you have carried his idea too far.

7760. I don't think I have carried it further than it appears in this paper?—I don't think the Department should be overruled. The committee should be advisory.

7761. (Mr. Micks).—Is not this resolution the substitution of an elective for a permanent body?—I think that the idea was that the County Council, being an elected body, having appointed two, the Committee itself to have the appointment of three. That would represent the province of Ulster. There are nine County Councils, and eighteen of them would appoint three. This would only be advisory to the Department.

7762. (Chairman).—That is a totally different thing to the proposal to substitute for the Department an unpaid elected Board.

7763. (Mr. Micks).—Who proposed that, do you remember?—I think Messieurs McGilgan proposed it. I was present at the meeting when it was adopted.

7764. Were you one of the proposers or seconders?—I was not, but I supported it in some of its views. But I did not think that three persons from each province were going to replace the Department.

7765. That, however, is the proposal, in black and white, in a formal document?—I thought they would only advise; and I think that would be very useful.

7766. (Mr. Brown).—Have you not at present a Board of Agriculture as to two-thirds elected direct by the County Councils?—No. I don't know any member of that. I think there was one gentleman on it from Freetown, Mr. Montgomery, a very able man.

7767. But how is he elected?—I really can't tell you.

7768. Do you know the constitution of the Board of Agriculture and the Council of Agriculture?—I do not.

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7768. On the Board of Technical Instruction?—I do not. I did not intend to speak on that subject.

7770. (Chairman).—It arose out of this proposal?—I do think that the idea brought forward, which was not brought in an arbitrary sense, that the idea is a good one, and a workable one.

7771. The way in which you understood it is rather different from what appears in that paper?—I think

Mr. McGilgan would to convey that the County Councils, being elected bodies, should be brought into direct touch in making the appointments—in making up the Executive Committee.

7772. He went a good deal further than that.

7773. (Mr. McKel).—It was clearly the substitution of elective members for the Department.

Mr. JOSEPH McARTHUR, J.P., examined.

Mr. J.
McArthur, J.P.

7774. (Chairman).—You are also a member of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Education for Donegal?—Yes, sir, I am.

7775. Will you kindly tell us what you wish to say?—In my opinion the schemes have been a decided benefit to the county, and the agricultural schemes in particular have done a great deal of good in improving the farm stock of every kind. I might just take up the horse scheme first, and say it is a great benefit the way it is found working at the present time, for a person can get a nomination to select from over 200 horses. In a country like Ireland I think that is a very important matter. There is one thing, of course, we have not enough of nominations.

7776. (Mr. Dryden).—You have 120 nominations for the whole county?—Yes; but it is a very small matter when you divide that into ten.

7777. (Mr. Brown).—Is it much of a horse-breeding country?—Oh, yes, it is.

7778. (Mr. Dryden).—I think it compares favourably with almost every other county. There are only three or four that are ahead of it?—The holdings are so small and the population so thick. At every show it is tremendous to turn to the masses there are. I think the bulls have improved the stock vastly through the whole country. I have been attending them, and, of course, I have been getting a premium bull myself for five years, and actually I have served up to sixty or seventy cows.

7779. Do you find the service of such bulls popular?—Very profitable.

7780. You think the calves you get from such a bull superior to the ordinary breeds?—Yes. A person bought two calves from a half-bred bull and a calf from me, and there appeared little difference in the cows. The calves were kept for two years, and sold. And the calf from my bull was 12 cwt., and the other two only 10 cwt. each.

7781. Did he sell them?—Yes, by the cut. They were sold for 27s. the cut.

7782. (Mr. Brown).—Was there any complaint of want of fruitfulness on the part of your bull?—None at all. I had three at once.

7783. Have you heard of such complaints?—Well, I have. Very often I think the food they give them is against breeding properties. Certain cakes, for instance. I don't see anything wrong about oil cakes in small quantities. With regard to young cattle, I have been at large fairs, where they used to be only getting 25 or 26 for two-year-olds, they are getting 25 now for yearlings bred from bulls of that sort.

7784. (Mr. McKel).—Has there been a general rise in prices or have prices remained uniform?—Cattle are cheaper this last spring than they have been.

Mr. FRANCIS WARD, Letterkenny, examined.

Mr. F. Ward.

7797. (Chairman).—Are you a member of the Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Donegal?—I am.

7798. Will you tell us what you want to say?—I will be very brief; in fact, I have summarized it, and some of it may not be of very great interest. It is on the sprigging industry that I intend to give evidence. It may be necessary for me to show that I understand the business, in order to gain the confidence of the assembly. I have been twenty years employed in it, trained in a leading Glasgow firm, and sent to Letterkenny on salary, the only salaried agent in Donegal, sent with money and goods, to pay for the goods, when done, according to my estimate of their value.

7799. Were you the agent of a Glasgow firm?—I was the agent for that Glasgow firm which failed for £725,000 in 1886, bringing down three Glasgow banks with them. Their goods were then thrown on the market, and cheapened the rates, to the injury of other

manufacturers, whom they handicapped, and caused other manufacturers to reduce the price paid to the workers. The trade languished from 1886 to 1894, when it became almost extinct in Donegal, except in a few North-Western towns, in which it still survives, but in a very languishing form. The prices are not much more than half of what they were when the trade flourished.

7800. (Mr. McKel).—That was owing to the American duty on the work? I think not. The McKinley Act was not passed at that time; this was 1886.

7801. It went on again, and then it was killed by the McKinley tariff?—Yes, but it is not killed yet in Donegal. In 1890 sprigging was first introduced to the town of Donegal by Mrs. Carr, wife of a National teacher, removed from near Belfast. This lady taught the business to several families, some of whom became sewing agents, in the counties Donegal, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Sligo, and other places. That was the

second rise and fall, and the cause thereof was the reckless trading of the leading Glasgow firm, resulting in its failure for £726,000 in 1886, when it took down three of the leading Glasgow banks. Their goods were thrown on the market, lowering the price and handicapping other manufacturers, who had to reduce the prices paid to account. The trade languished throughout Ayrshire, Down, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Sligo, Leitrim, and Donegal, until 1898, when it became all but extinct, except about Belfast and North-Western Donegal, where it still survives, but at a comparatively low and unremunerative price to what it was before the 1886 crash. The reason I refer to these counties is that while in the service of the manufacturers who sent me to Letterkenny, on salary, I sent work from all these counties to agents. The agents were shopkeepers, who knew nothing about the business. They got the goods and got them made and sent in to us, and I, with others, sent back the prices to be paid for them, on a valuation of the goods. Although under the Department of Technical Instruction, the County Donegal Committee are empowered to appoint teachers as sprigging, I find, in the fifth last annual general Report of the Department, that no such appointment has been made in any part of the County Donegal. Now, we are paying one penny in the pound on the valuation for technical instruction, and sprigging is part of it, lace is another, and crochet is another. Either of these two industries would be more profitable for the people than sprigging, and it is a pity they don't learn them; but they are more difficult to learn, and consequently they don't take to them as freely as they do to the sprigging; yet at the last meeting of the Technical Instruction Committee at Lifford it is reported that Dr. Garrett, Inspector to the Department, reported favourably of the sprigging classes in the county; that Dr. Garrett should so report of what does not exist is incomprehensible, and it requires explanation and I hope he will have the explanation. The present way of appointing teachers is to have them stand, in Dublin, at their own expense for examination.

7032. (Mr. Micks).—Was there ever an examination at Letterkenny?—There was, a bogus one.

7033. Was it a bogus examination or a bogus candidate?—I think they were both bogus. I will tell you more of that after a little, but it is prohibitive to them to have to go to Dublin, and I would suggest that the law should be changed in the Department. Let them appoint local centres for examination of candidates—Letterkenny, Donegal, Killybegs, and such places, and the candidates go there to be examined, instead of bringing them to Dublin, for I knew half-a-dozen to go to Dublin and come back without one appointment. I don't reflect on the Department for not appointing them; perhaps they were not qualified. In every district in which the business formerly flourished competent teachers can be had at half the cost of imported ones, for the bogus ones we have had are imported. Let them be fully equipped with the essentials of teaching the business, and that is what some of them have been equipped with. It is not the fault of the committee who appoint them, for they don't know the essentials. There are more than a dozen sorts of sprigging, and these dozen sorts may be on the one piece of cloth, there may be only three, or there may be four or five. On other pieces, workmen may have been taught, by the bogus teachers, to do whatever is on the cloth but they cannot be taught what is not on it. I have gone in, with the view of establishing the business again, at the request of those to whom I afforded employment for twenty years. I have tried several manufacturers, and I have been supported by some of them to establish the business. It is my heart's desire yet to leave the business established in Donegal before I leave it. The committee appointing a teacher I think should equip her properly with what is necessary to teach the art. Some of those women came in to me and examined what I had, and said, "Well, I would take that piece, but I can't do it; there is work on it that I have not been taught." That was not the fault of the teacher. She did not get the work. If the law could be altered, I think teachers should be appointed at local centres, and there is no district in which the business flourished that there cannot be plenty of teachers got. I have them on my books, and can point them out yet, and some are working for me still, plenty of workmen, pattern workers. There is another thing that I would point to that is injurious to women's interests in Donegal: they pay as much for

badly done work as for good. A good worker says to me: "Where is the use of my spending time doing it well when you pay bad workers the same as me?"

7034. (Chairman).—Is this because the manufacturers cannot judge?—No; they say, "We will send this to Donegal, and no matter how bad it is done we will pay the price we promised." They pay higher prices at Belfast and get better work. In Glasgow there were manufacturers from 1640 to 1868, until they collapsed, and there is not a single manufacturer there now. I think if this rule of the Department could be modified, to have local teachers appointed, we could have the industry revived in the County Donegal, and I would undertake, and did undertake at the meeting at Lifford, to superintend the teachers until they would become thoroughly acquainted with the business, and do that for nothing, and I am prepared to do that, if they can be appointed locally.

7035. What you want to have are local examinations, and not have the teachers sent to Dublin for examination?—Let centres of appointment be by the County Committee for the county. I don't speak for any county more than another, but I would speak specially for my native county—Donegal.

7036. You are speaking, specially, of this particular industry?—I am. I would refer those who may not know the great benefit the sprigging industry has done Ulster, I would refer them to "Kane's Industrial Resources of Ireland," which shows that millions have been spent in Ulster since the industry, and millions can be spent there again if the industry is established as it should be. There are plenty of workers to be got who will take kindly to it. Before twelve months I could have hundreds of pounds earned in every parish. When I was in the business before there were fourteen agents in Letterkenny, I was the only selected one. I was paying £60 to £80 a week then, and I attended all the agricultural fairs for ten miles, and was allowed my expenses by that great firm, which, to get inside of their neighbours, built great squares in Glasgow and then came down north. I would suggest, if possible, that the rule of appointing teachers in Dublin would be modified or altered entirely, and that local teachers, who can be had in every townland in which the business flourished, be appointed, and I would nominate them, and I would undertake the management of them throughout Letterkenny district and all round the North-West for twelve months free, except for travelling expenses.

7037. (Mr. Micks).—Where is there any sprigging carried on at present in Donegal?—In Letterkenny. About the bogus teachers, I would say it is not the fault of the local gentry, clergy, or others. They have done their best, but they could not appoint local teachers against the rule of the Department. There has been one in Letterkenny for three and a-half years, and another for some time previously.

7038. How many buyers are there?—There are no buyers there; the buyers come to Belfast where the goods are sent in, and finished.

7039. Are there no agents in Letterkenny?—There are two. There only I have taken the liberty of calling bogus, and I have an acknowledgment from a very high authority that I obtained by writing, and stating I would visit her school, at a certain hour on a certain day, and after visiting it for several days, and finding it closed, I had a reply about that dated by a very high personage, stating that the school was in no way connected with the Technical Instruction Department, "of which you are not a member." I did not inquire who were the Committee, but I think every school that is for public instruction should be open to inspection.

7040. Could you send Mr. Taylor some little specimens of sprigging work, for the members to see?—Certainly, I can.

7041. Are the lace and crochet more profitable than sprigging?—Far more profitable, but it is difficult to learn. I am not partial to one industry more than another; I am for the industry that is best for the people.

7042. Would you say that is the reason why there is such a slackness in the sprigging trade now?—No; the manufacturers don't support me in Letterkenny. I don't know the name of the teacher that is there, but I have it, on high authority, that she is not connected with the Technical Instruction Department of the county.

7043. Is it dropped altogether in Ardara?—It is not; that is one of the districts in which it still

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survives, and in Killybegs, and in Ballyshannon. Donagel was the first place in which it was introduced, and it still survives. There is another industry I would like to bring under the observation of the gentleman present, that would be basket-making, which would generate an auxiliary industry, the growing of osiers, in swamps unsuitable for other

purposes. These would be the two industries. One would be for young boys of the district, making baskets, and growing willows in the swamps. There are other industries, but as I am not conversant with them, I confine my observations to those with which I am acquainted.

Mr. HENRY GARRETT, examined.

Mr. M. Garrett.

7014. (Chairman).—Will you give us your exact position under the Department?—I am the District Inspector for technical instruction in this district of Ulster.

7015. I wish to ask you, as your name has been mentioned in Mr. Ward's evidence, have you anything to say in reference to his statements?—I think there has been some misunderstanding on Mr. Ward's part with regard to the teachers in existence in his own county. There have been three teachers for sprigging employed directly by the county. There has also been one other teacher whom he probably refers to as the league teacher. That teacher is employed, directly, by the Department. In Donagel there have thus been four teachers in sprigging. I have seen some of the classes in sprigging, and I have had returns from our special inspectors for lace and sprigging, on the other classes, and a report has been sent to the Committee on those classes.

7016. I see, in that scheme, provision was made for two county teachers of sprigging for 1905-6, at salaries not to exceed £50 each?—I think you will see below, under the heading of accumulated funds, another one.

7017. Yes, one county teacher of sprigging, at £50?—One of those teachers left some little time ago to go to England. The classes were held at Malin, in the Stranagar district, and at Cloughan. The teacher at Cloughan left a little while ago.

7018. (Mr. Michel).—Perhaps you would explain why it is that the examinations are held in Dublin?—We have only one inspector for all Ireland for lace and sprigging, and she has a very great deal to do with all the classes we have. The result is, she cannot always come to the teacher, and sometimes they have to ask the candidate to come to Dublin, but I think she prefers to come to the candidate; I know in some cases she does. That case, at Letterkenny, to which Mr. Ward referred, was a case in point. She came to Letterkenny, and examined the candidate.

7019. Did she pass her?—I believe so.

7020. (Chairman).—It is not always possible to do that, and therefore they have to come up to Dublin?—Yes, but as they get positions, in consequence of it, I don't think there is a very great hardship.

7021. (Mr. Michel).—That is if they pass; the hardship would be if they did not pass?—The hardship would be if they did not pass.

(Mr. F. Ward).—Would I be in order in making observations on what this gentleman has stated?

(Chairman).—You may add to your evidence.

(Mr. Ward).—Then I would say, referring to the evidence, that I searched the last annual report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and I can find no bonus or money applied to the payment of any sprigging industries in the County Donagel. The last published in 1904-1905. Another point that arises is, how could appointments be made when local parties won't be allowed to be appointed. That seems strange to me.

7022. (Chairman).—These local teachers appear, as I understand, in the county scheme; is it in operation?—Yes, that is the scheme from 1st August, 1905, to 31st July, 1906. There is an expenditure estimated for two county teachers, the sprigging salaries

not to exceed £50 each, that is out of the annual income.

7023. Then out of the funds which remain expended there is a salary of £40 for another county teacher of sprigging?—Does this apply to the teacher that is at present said to be appointed there.

7024. (Mr. Brown).—No, it is a separate teacher appointed by the Department.

(Mr. Michel).—And paid by the Department.

(Witness).—I was told by the Clerk of the Council that there was a rule in operation by the Department that no appointment could be made until the end of last year. Then the appointment must have been made since.

7025. (Chairman).—I am told by Mr. Garrett that these have been appointed for some years, and that they are working now.

(Witness).—Then I have a letter in my pocket eliciting the fact that they don't belong to the Technical Instruction Department, whatever, and a letter dated by a very high personage that will disprove that statement. There is a good deal of abstract work going on in this matter. "Letterkenny, 10th of July, 1906." This is to the estimated teacher. "Madam, I have been several times at your Sprigging school, here, during school hours, and found it closed. As a member of the Technical Instruction Committee, I purpose to apply for admission to the school at 10 o'clock to-morrow, when, I hope, it may be convenient for you to be in attendance. Yours faithfully, Francis Ward. To the Inspectress of the Sprigging School, Letterkenny." Now, here is the reply. "Town Council Office, Letterkenny.—Dear Mr. Ward, Your letter of the 10th inst., addressed to the Inspectress of the Sprigging School at Letterkenny, has been placed in my hands. I don't see how it came into his hands, but I will not question that further. "I submitted same to the Chairman of the Committee." He gives the name of the Chairman, but I won't mention it here, and my instructions are to inform you that the Letterkenny Sprigging classes are, in no way, connected with the Donegal Technical Instruction Committee."

7026. (Mr. Michel).—That is right?—The teacher was nominally, and ostensibly—

(Mr. Michel).—She is a teacher of the Department, instead of the Committee.

7027. (Mr. Dryden).—The teacher was appointed by the Department, and paid by the Department.

(Witness).—This is very complex—but one directly under the Department, and managed by a committee of which you are not a member. I would think from that that she had no connection with the Department.

7028. (Chairman).—It is the other way, surely. What I understand is, that this teacher to whom that letter refers is a teacher, other than the two I have read about, who was appointed, directly by the Department, and therefore is under the Department, and the local committee, and not the county committee?—Are there any other committees that can appoint, but the committee of Technical Instruction.

7029. Those appointed by the Department?—Then I will say in reply to that, that I have applied, several times, since the month of March last, and I could not get the school opened. I don't want to stand for the purpose of doing any injury. I wanted to assist the business. I never could get into that school, and it is closed to-day. There are wheels within wheels.

Mr. THOMAS M'DERMOTT, Londonderry, examined.

Mr. T. M'Dermott.

7030. (Chairman).—You are manager of the Foyle and Barn Fisheries?—Yes, sir.

7031. You are going to tell us something about inland fisheries?—Yes, I would like to do so. I have been in the employment of the Lessees of these rivers for forty years, and know these two rivers

with all their tributaries intimately. I am also well acquainted with the Erne and its tributaries. These are the three most important rivers in the North of Ireland, and if well protected could produce a large supply of Salmon and Sea Trout. In order to carry on the fishing and preserve the principal portions of these

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of turbine wheels, and discharge of poisonous substances that the owners dread any further concessions to these manufacturers. The mill owners have destroyed by poisonous discharges the whole of the Upper Bann and Six Mile Water, comprising sixty miles of good breeding rivers, and have closed up with weirs nearly all the Blackwater and Moyola, for about seventy miles. In fact a full half of the upper rivers, tributaries of the lower Bann, have been rendered useless for breeding purposes through the action of the mill-owners, and the Bann has gone down a half in its fish supply since 1835 as this chart (produced) will show.

7853. (Mr. Micks).—Do any spawning fish go up beyond Benburb?—Not in the Blackwater. I have stood at the weir, and seen them jump at it, for half a day, and no fish could get over it.

7854. (Mr. Brown).—When did the closing up take place?—Many years ago. I believe it was built by the Board of Works, because I see a fish pass in it which is absolutely useless for fish.

7855. (Mr. Micks).—There was no action taken, at the time, by the fishery owners?—I was not there then.

7856. Or since?—There was no action taken since. You could not touch the weir now. Fully half of the Upper river has been destroyed by mill owners, and is useless for breeding purposes.

7857. (Mr. Brown).—Has any of this happened in recent years?—It is going on gradually, piecemeal. All these turbines have been put in, most of them during the last ten years, and nearly all within twenty years.

7858. Are there any gratings?—Not at all; nearly every mill I know, on the Bann, has got exemptions. The Department have power to exempt a mill from putting up a grating.

7859. (Chairman).—Then your complaint against the Department is that they exercise this power of exemption too freely?—Certainly; much too freely.

7860. (Mr. Brown).—Do you know the usual ground of exemption?—If it interferes with the working power of the mill, but the exemptions are rarely made in a satisfactory manner, if made at all—in many cases they are not made at all.

7861. Is the exemption usually complete, or partial?—If you mean by partial, for a time, yes. It is very often for some months in the year. Sometimes a tail race is exempted and not a head race, but mostly it is from the head race that we suffer. Before we used to suffer from the tail race, fish getting up, and being poached, but now we suffer from the fish getting into the turbine.

7862. Is exemption granted for the entire year?—In some cases it is not, but in most cases I think it is.

7863. Are they not sometimes obliged to put in gratings which will, at all events partially, effect the purpose?—No, they don't, and we were anxious that at every turbine there should be a by-pass, with a sluice, that could be opened when the mill was off work. These mill beds are the whole river. I could take you down on the Maun, and from Mr. Robinson's place at Dromone down to Lisnadilly there are seven miles of the water that rarely touches the river; as soon as it is discharged of one mill it is taken up by another.

7864. Is there power to require mill owners to have this pass?—The inspectors could make this bargain; they could say, "Unless you make a by-pass, and put in a sluice, we won't give you an exemption." This has been asked in the Bill, which has been passed by the Fishmongers' Company. It would be some little relief. Then another thing, the poisons are discharged, as a rule, into the tail race, so that when the fish come down and get into the tail race, when they do escape the turbine, they have the poisonous discharges to contend with. Chloride of lime is a deadly thing. I have seen two miles of the Maun with not a fish alive in it, thousands lying dead, and the salmon smelts floating down the stream, dying and dead.

7865. Is not that an offence to let these poisonous matters into a river?—It is.

7866. Whose duty is it to prosecute?—We only found out our powers during the past spring. Formerly we thought we would have to prosecute the person who let it flow. There were two cases tried, during the last spring, and the judges held, in the King's Bench, that we could prosecute a limited company by summoning the company.

7867. Who has the power to prosecute?—Anybody; I can prosecute, if I can catch them.

7868. (Chairman).—Does the Rivers' Pollution Act apply to Ireland?—I believe it does, but it is the Urban, or District, Council that would have to put it in force, and they would never do that for the fisheries.

7869. (Mr. Brown).—But in the fishery station themselves it is made an offence to discharge poisonous matter into a river?—It is, but we never knew what power we had until these two decisions.

7870. I was anxious to know what you were expecting the Department to do in the matter?—I think we now would be safe in bringing a case where a poisonous discharge came from a factory, against the owners of the factory, or a limited company.

7871. You have now found out you have the remedy in your own hands?—We have.

7872. You said you complained of the Department giving exemptions; I don't quite know what their power is to give exemptions?—They have power to give exemptions where they have reason to believe it would affect the working power of the machinery of the mill.

7873. That is a very definite complaint against the Department, that they are too liberal in giving exemptions?—Yes; if I thought of it I could have a list of their exemptions here. Practically, whether from want of sufficient funds or otherwise, no assistance is given by the fishery authorities or the Government in the protection of salmon during either the weekly or annual close season, or in the prevention of the poisoning of rivers, or the undue abstraction of water from the breeding rivers, or in enforcing from mill owners facilities for the event of breeding fish and for the descent of such fish (after spawning) and their fry to the sea, and these duties are almost entirely cast on the owners of the commercial fisheries to discharge at their own costs, and without the support of the fishery authority; on the contrary, such fishery interests are held at arm's length by the fishery authority, and are not consulted or assisted in any way by such authority either in respect of the improvements or protection of the fisheries or in promoting legislation beneficial to such fisheries. The Irish Fishery Department should be re-constituted—I would suggest the following alterations:—The Inspectors of Fisheries should be three in number, entirely independent of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

7874. (Mr. Micks).—You want to go back to the state of affairs before 1881?—Yes, I would rather, but I would give them more power than they had then. They should be appointed by the Government and be answerable to Government for their actions, and, when filling up vacancies as they occur, care should be taken by the Government that the Inspectors of Fisheries should comprise (1) a barrister or solicitor of good standing; (2) a practical man having some knowledge of fish and their habits; (3) a scientist who has studied the life history of fish.

7875. (Chairman).—The third section of the Act of 1886 provides for the transfer of the powers of the Irish Fishery Inspectors; how many were there of those at that time?—Three; they were Messrs. Hornsby, Roche, and Green when the Department took them over; I think they have two now, Mr. Green and Mr. Lane, and I think Mr. Lane was appointed before the Act passed.

7876. Mr. Green is the Chief Inspector, Mr. Lane, Inspector, and Mr. Holt, Scientific Advisor, and, as I understand, the Chief Inspector has all the powers of the old inspectors?—I should think so; I think he is desirous of doing his duty as well as he can.

7877. (Mr. Brown).—Is it the Inspectors who give these exemptions?—I should think it is on their recommendations that they are given, and a good many were given before the Inspectors were amalgamated with the Department.

7878. Then, practically, the exemptions were given in the same way, since the establishment of the Department, as they were given before?—The very same way.

7879. (Chairman).—You advocate going back to the old system of having three inspectors?—Yes; I think there should be an inspector with a long training, a barrister, or solicitor, of good standing.

think the inspectors, with an Advisory Committee, should form a fishery authority, and should have control of the fishery funds supplied by the Government, and these funds should be on a much more liberal scale than as supplied at present. I understand that at present £10,000 per annum is spent in protecting and developing the sea fisheries round the Irish coast, and, as the inland fisheries are fully as important and valuable as the sea fisheries, a sum of £10,000 at least should be devoted annually for their development. The Advisory Committee should consist of a representative from each Board of Council in Ireland, nominated by the Board, and a representative of every fishery in Ireland valued at £500 and upwards, nominated by the owner or owners of the fishery. The fishery authority or boards of such fisheries. The fishery authority should hold meetings at least twice a year. The present Advisory Committee have only met once during the last three years.

7875. (Chairman).—The advisory committee is not a statutory body, is it?—There are eleven now on the committee; there were twelve up to some months ago.

7876. Is not the advisory committee simply an arrangement, made by the Department, for appointing a certain number of persons to advise them?—I should think that is so. The members of the existing advisory committee are, at present, very unfairly distributed over the country, as a glance at the map in my hands will show; and when it is considered that Mr. Moore never acted on such committee and many months ago resigned, and that Mr. Plase has ceased to be connected with any fishery, and has left Loughs and has gone to reside in New Ross, County Wexford, it will be seen that the inland commercial fisheries have no representation whatever on the existing advisory committee. Indeed, there is not now a member of this committee resident in Ulster, and only one in Connaught.

7877. (Mr. Brown).—Is the Earl of Mayo interested in any fishery?—He has no commercial fishery worth talking about.

7878. (Mr. Michel).—Has he not the Gweedagh?—It is only a trickle.

7879. (Mr. Brown).—Has Mr. La Touche a fishery?—I am really not sure. Then, I say, there is no member of the committee now in Ulster, and only one in Connaught, at Tralee. If this continues it may come to this, that the owners of the commercial fisheries, if the existing and continuing causes of injury to the salmon fisheries be allowed to continue,

together with the unrestricted use of drift-nets round the coast and up to the mouths of the rivers, then any company may be compelled to cease all protection or contribution to protection, close their hatcheries, and take what fish they can get until the salmon fisheries disappear. We claim that we are breeding and protecting all the fish, and others get the benefits.

7880. (Chairman).—I suppose that it is always the difficulty: the more successful hatcheries are, the more you benefit other people's prey upon them.

7881. Do you think, then, that hatcheries are a great benefit to you?—Do the fish come back in quantities?—I believe fish that are bred in a river come back to that river, practically all of them. I had three wonderful examples this spring. If I may tell you of them. On January 20th, 1905, I discharged a number of fish at Killybegs hatchery, after labelling them—155 altogether. Not one of them was seen in the summer of 1905, but on the 20th of June, this year—exactly seventeen months afterwards—one was caught in the nets at Coleraine, about fifteen miles lower down, and on the 22nd an angler caught one, at Killybegs, and another has been caught in a net since. Where these fish have been, all these months, I cannot say.

7882. They could not come up last year on account of the drought?—They may have come up and spawned, and went back to sea.

7883. Have you any satisfactory means of marking a small fish?—Oh, no, you cannot mark a small fish.

7884. (Mr. Michel).—Not even nipping the back fin?—It would not do, it grows again; and you get a number with the back fin destroyed from other causes.

7885. (Chairman).—It is very difficult to get evidence that it is the same fish coming back?—I think hence that it is the same fish coming back?—I think there is no doubt at all, that fish, discharged in a river come back to the river again. We had one case of a fish marked at Killybegs. It was caught in the Bann, seventy miles away, a few weeks after it was marked. It had travelled that journey, but had not improved at all.

7886. Then, I understand, the point of your evidence so far as we are concerned is, that you want this portion of the Agriculture and Technical Art Department, you want the inspectors re-established, and you want the inspectors to possess the qualifications you described?—That is my evidence; and if this advisory committee is to go on, we want it to be fairly representative of the interests of the country.

MR. WILLIAM KELLS EXAMINED.

7887. (Chairman).—I think you have come to tell us something about the fisheries?—I represent the sea fisheries of the Bann. Mr. McDermott's evidence applies to our values, as far as we go into the same waters. I have heard Mr. McDermott's evidence, and I agree, practically, with him, as far as he has stated. Our fishery is not so extensive as the figures Mr. McDermott gave—we are limited to the Bann and Lough Neagh, the inland portion.

7888. I should like to know something about the importance of your fishery, the magnitude of it?

7889. (Mr. Michel).—Do you contribute anything to the protection expenses?—We pay £170 a year in licence duty and spend about £200 in protection. Of course, we pay our poor rate, county cess, and our working expenses every year, and all run up to about £1,600 or £1,700, and if it is any information to the Commission I could let you know the rest.

7890. (Chairman).—Could you give us the gross figures of what the produce of the fishery amounts to?—The value of the fish yearly from the Lower Bann would be about £10,000, but there is a very large portion of the fish taken above in Lough Neagh, equally as much as that.

7891. Where is your market for fish?—Principally London.

7892. In Scotland?—None in Scotland; London is the principal place, except in the very warm weather, in the summer.

7893. (Mr. Michel).—What are your months for sending fish across?—The principal months in which we ship fish are December, January, and February. The principal months for taking them are September and October.

7894. (Chairman).—And you keep them in boxes?—In barrels.

7895. (Mr. Brown).—What particular help do you Mr. W. Kells need from the Department or ask for?—The Department is spending a large sum in developing sea fisheries, I understand about £10,000. We think the inland fisheries are equally as important as the sea fisheries, and the Department should spend a similar amount on them.

7896. (Chairman).—£10,000 is allotted by the Act of Parliament?—I don't know exactly the statute under which it is given.

7897. Section 35 (1) (d) which provides that—“The annual sum of £10,000 shall be applied for the purposes of sea fisheries.”—We think an equal amount should be spent on inland fisheries. They are quite as important, and although I am not interested in salmon, it is in the inland fisheries that supply the sea with salmon.

7898. (Mr. Brown).—What do you ask should be done for the promotion of your own particular industry?—That there should be general protection given by the Department.

7899. That the Department should bear the cost of protection which you do at present?—No, that they should assist. If the owners of the fisheries spent as much money in protecting fisheries as really would protect them they would have nothing whatever left. We spend about £200 yearly in protection.

7900. The inland fisheries are private property, and sea fisheries are public property?—Not at all.

7901. How many sea fisheries are there that are not public?—I could not give them in detail, but I understand there are a lot of fisheries on the sea that are private property in salmon. I believe the inland fisheries are all private property.

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Mr. W. E. H.

7987. (Chairman).—The total valuation of the oil fisheries is given in the last report of the Department at £25,000.—That would include the oil fisheries on the Shannon as well. I have occupied such a position that I am in touch with the oil fisheries in the Bann for the last thirty years, and I venture to say that estimate is considerably under the actual figures, for the principal buyers only give statistics and the railway stations and shipping companies. On the smaller streams they don't get statistics at all.

7988. There are a number of fisheries here in which they pay contributions in aid of protection have been granted—I agree with Mr. McDermott that the Fisheries Branch should be worked as a Government Department, and, as far as possible, without interference from any County Council or other elective bodies, except that body be elected from the owners of the fisheries themselves, who would be specially interested in their management and control.

7989a. (Mr. Micks).—Does this salmon Bill touch that question at all?—I have not had the pleasure of hearing the salmon Bill yet.

7990. (Mr. Brown).—The Board should consist of the owners themselves.—There should be a fair representation of those who pay licences yearly. The Board as at present constituted is not what we consider fair.

7991. You said it should consist of the owners.—That the Board should be elected by the owners of the fisheries.

7992. How would you have the public represented?—As at present the public is represented in this way, according to the amount of licence duty paid by the fishermen; he has a vote, or representation, according to the law at present. It is only fair that the public should only be represented in proportion to the contribution they make to the protection of the fisheries and their upkeep. I assume your Commission is not inquiring as to the law at present.

Mr. JAMES MURZEN, Ballinacree, Coleraine, examined.

Mr. J. Mellen.

7993. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Committee of Agriculture for Londonderry?—I want to say a few words about the roundabout way we have got of getting stallions registered. Supposing you want to buy a stallion, to import a horse into Ireland, suppose you buy him in August, and maybe near Christmas you don't know whether you are going to get him placed on the Department's register. They ask ten days' notice, and it is a very roundabout way of doing business.

7994. (Mr. Micks).—What would you suggest?—That they would make the time longer; ask three weeks and be practical.

7995. (Mr. Dryden).—You have not started at the beginning of this; I don't think the Chairman understands it?—It is a roundabout way of getting horses on the Department's register. I know a man who bought a horse in August, and it was near Christmas before he knew he was going to get him on the register. It is a slow procedure.

7996. Did he make application immediately?—He made application in the beginning of September. They never sent a man to examine him. Some time in November they sent an inspector to examine him for suitability; the next thing was a veterinary surgeon was sent. The thing comes right, but it is a very slow procedure.

7997. (Chairman).—Is this the only instance you have got of that?—This is the only instance I know myself, but I expect every other body is the same way. Then we have sent up a resolution some time to get the premium of bulls changed from £15 to £10 to enable us to give a few more bulls.

7998. (Mr. Brown).—They are selling not, in other counties, to have it increased to £20?—We have only twenty-five bulls in Derry. If the premium was lowered, and the fee raised, the owner would almost have as much money. 2s. 6d. is very little for a premium bull, but it would give us more bulls, and distribute more good animals.

7999. When was that resolution?—It was sent up last August.

8000. Any change in the law. You, I think, agree with Mr. McDermott that you would rather have something like the old inspectors; that would require a change in the law, but it is quite within our province to recommend it?—I would suggest that attention should be drawn to the fact that the close season is not satisfactory.

(Chairman).—As to the general law of fishing, and the close season, we have nothing, I think, to do with that.

8001a. (Mr. T. McDermott).—Might I supplement my evidence so far as to answer a question of Mr. Brown about those inland fisheries being owned by individuals. More than half of the fish coming into the Foyle are caught in the open sea.

8002. (Mr. Brown).—I merely pointed out that there was a distinction: in the one case the public were concerned, in the other it was the private owners?—I remember when there were no drift nets on this coast, and we had £19 last year from Killybegs to Malin Head, and £25 from Malin Head to the mouth of the Foyle, each over a thousand yards long, capturing more than half the fish, and if the development goes on, with an increase in the number of nets and the length, which have been increased from 50 nets at all to over 300 nets. Presently drift nets were only 250 or 300 yards long, but they are now up to 1,500 and 2,000 yards long.

8003. Do you find your losses are proportionate to the number of fish caught in those nets?—I would not say, altogether, but a good deal of it. Many fish are caught by those nets that we would not get at all; they would go past.

8004. (Chairman).—I suppose there has been a great development in the catch of salmon in the open sea?—All our loss; the more we produce the more is taken from us.

8005. You don't know whether the Department may or may not agree to that?—We don't know. I would not go very strong for it. I don't know that it will increase the quality, but it will give us more bulls.

8006. Will there be a sufficient number of applications for £10 premiums?—I don't think so. The bulls should be selected at the local show, and the premium cards should not be tied to their tails, for I think part of the premium goes into the breeder's pockets.

8007. (Mr. Dryden).—Now we have heard so much about that, that I should like you to give an instance.

8008. Do you know of any case in which the fact that the bull was selected for a premium caused the price to go up?—I have no case.

8009. (Mr. Brown).—You suggest that people should buy their own bulls first; would you say that he should not be inspected by the Department at any stage?—Oh, yes, they should, after the sale.

8010. Might not a man run this danger of buying a bull at a high price, and finding it was rejected?—How would you meet that case?—I don't know how it would be met, but I think that the premium raises the price of the bull; that is the feeling we have here.

8011. (Mr. Dryden).—I know there is that feeling, but I have got to the time when I want to have some explicit case put, for somebody to say: "There is a bull I could have got for £25, but now it is £10, because the ticket is up?"—That is what we think.

8012. The alternative is worse; you might buy a bull, and find he was disqualified?—You have to look at it from every point. I think the money spent on pedigree bulls in the County of Londonderry is partly lost. It is not the sort of pig that takes, limiting the scheme to a boar serving forty sows, at 1s. each; forty sows could be served in one month in the year. I think they should be doubled. I think the fee not too much—1s.

8013. (Mr. Brown).—I think your County Committee suggested that to the Department?—I don't think they have. Again, we have a bull-bred horse scheme in Londonderry that we like.

(Mr. Brown).—It might be adopted in any county.

The Committee adjourned.

TWENTY-FIFTH PUBLIC SITTING.—MONDAY, JULY 16TH, 1906.

At the County Council Chamber, Londonderry.

Present:—

SEE KENSELM E. DIBBY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OGDEN.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, G.B., Secretary.

MR. LEE HOGG, of Londonderry, examined.

7622. (Chairman).—You represent the firm of McIntyre, Hogg, and March?—Yes. On behalf of the trade I desire to call the attention of this Committee to the action of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in the way of granting subsidies to various trades in Ireland, I think no less than six in number, using State money against private capital.

7623. In what cases do you think they have granted subsidies?—I expect my friend, Mr. Tillie, will be here in a moment with definite information, but I can speak about one in the County Armagh.

7624. Do you know what form it has taken?—In granting money for the purchase of machines; it is the shirt trade I am referring to.

7625. Do you say the gentleman who is coming will give us further particulars?—He has the full details. About a number of these places we can give definite information, but in others we only suspect similar things have taken place—it is in the County Armagh, at a place called Millinghams. We are here on behalf of the trade to draw your attention to this existing state of affairs, and to protest as strongly as we

can about such action as wrong in principle and grossly unfair.

7626. Well, apart from particular instances about which you say we will get further information, do you object to the giving of instruction?—No, providing State money does not subsidize the industry.

7627. If it fell short of subsidizing the industry, and merely amounted to giving a certain amount of technical instruction?—We should have no objection whatever.

7628. But you draw the line between instruction and subsidy?—Quite so.

7629. And you say, as I understand of this particular case, it falls under the head of subsidy, and not of legitimate technical instruction?—Yes. I have nothing further to add, except to express regret on the part of Mr. Morris, of the firm of Welch, Margaretson and Co., who is unable to be present here to-day.

7630. (Mr. Ogden).—I did not catch the name of the gentleman you mentioned now as not being able to be present?—Mr. Morris.

7631. Are his views similar to yours?—Yes, I have nothing to add, except to record our strong protest.

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Mr Lee
Hogg

MR. MARSHALL TILLIE examined.

7632. I am one of the partners in the firm of Tillie and Henderson in this city, and I have come here, along with Mr. Hogg, merely to draw the attention of the Commission to the subsidizing of the industry in which we are all interested, and which is the staple industry of this city, and we think it is rather hard that we should be opposed in other parts of the country with Government money; in fact, it is simply the subsidizing of the industry. We consider that we have ample competition from abroad in addition to that competition provided by the British Government.

7633. (Chairman).—Mr. Hogg referred to you when I asked him just now what form these subsidies take; could you tell me?—I have no very definite information about it, except the Agricultural Board are in the habit, I am informed, of paying the cost of the premises and also supplying the capital for the purchase of machinery and paying instructors and managers for these premises. Of course it would suit any commercial firm very well if the Government would step in and supply them with machinery.

7634. I am referring to the Department's scheme for the County Armagh?—I think it is dependent on the scheme.

7635. Mr. Hogg mentioned a case in the County Armagh; I want to ascertain from you, if you know, the form the subsidy takes there?—I have no definite information I could give on that; it is merely report. I have been informed that the Government pay for the rent and management, and supply the machinery.

7636. I should just like to know what it is you object to; supposing it took the form of instruction and not subsidies, not paying wages or contributing to the support, would you object to that?—No; I don't think we could object to instruction.

7637. As long as it is kept within the limits of instruction?—We could not if there was not a subsidy for the supervision and the supplying of capital.

7638. (Mr. Micks).—Do I understand you to say that you would not object to the Department giving instruction to persons in the art or business of shirt-making?—I don't see we could object to it when they are giving instruction in other matters such as carpet-making and butter-making; at the same time I don't think it is at all a necessary thing for the Government to do, because there is an ample supply of labour to meet the demand.

7639. (Mr. Ogden).—In this particular district?—Yes, all over the North-West of Ireland there is an ample supply of labour and the workers teach each other; the young girls learn from the time they are thirteen or fourteen years of age, seeing their mothers and sisters at work, and we have no difficulty in teaching them ourselves in our factories. We wish no subsidy from Government, and we are willing and anxious to teach.

7640. (Chairman).—I understand the broad line you wish to draw; it may not be very easy when you come to details to see on which side of the line it falls, but the broad line is between subsidizing industry, supplying capital for an industry, and giving technical instruction to the workers?—I contend there is no need for technical instruction in that direction; I cannot object to it if the Government think it necessary to do it, but there is an ample supply of educated labour without it.

7641. Is the shirt-making industry a new industry?—It has been established in this part of Ireland for seventy or eighty years.

7642. (Mr. Micks).—Do I understand that the objection, putting it in different language, of the shirt makers is an objection to the Department starting any works that compete with an existing industry?—Certainly.

7643. Would you see any objection to their starting or helping industries where they would not be in competition with existing industries?—I consider that

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when an industry is well established and there is an ample supply of labour that there is no need for the Government to waste public money in such a way.

7043. You would not see any objection to starting

a boot factory where there was no existing factory?—Certainly not, if that would bring work into the country, but to raise a competition with an existing industry is absurd and ridiculous and very unfair.

Sir NICHOLAS GOSSALE, Ballybay, examined.

Sir Nicholas Gossale.

7044. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Council of Monaghan?—Of the Agricultural and Technical Committee.

7045. I think you have one or two points you wish to bring before the Committee?—Of course the first thing I have to speak about is how the Department are working with the County Committee. There has been a great deal of talk in the papers as to the friction and all that sort of thing, and the views taken by the County Monaghan are these, that the Department are rather autocratic in their dealings with them, that they don't give sufficient attention or sufficient liberty to the county to suit the particular needs of the County Monaghan, and they think there is a sort of iron rule—namely you I am only giving you what they think—they think there is a certain iron rule which makes the County Monaghan stand on the same lines as the County Kerry and the County Kerry with the County Meath, that due attention is not given to the wants of the particular county as put forward by the committee; that is what is in the air.

7046. You have been asked to give evidence on behalf of the County Committee?—Yes.

7047. Of course in every county the Committee are asked every year whether they have any modifications to suggest in the scheme?—They are.

7048. Have your Committee availed themselves of this invitation?—Yes, they have.

7049. Then does what you say apply to the result of having made such suggestions?—I think in time they have come to an understanding; there has been no deadlock, but there have been differences of opinion. Now the Monaghan County Council published this little pamphlet (produced), and I think their case is as fairly put in that, as if I were talking to you for a week; anyone that reads it will see what they really do think, because that paper was intended for you; it was intended for the people themselves, so when you read pages 2 and 3 you will see what they really do think. If I might read a short passage from it. In speaking of the bulls and cattle that have been introduced they say—"The value of the calf or bull so produced is often from twenty to thirty per cent. greater than of those derived from badly bred stock. The holdings of the large majority of the County Monaghan farmers are valued at sums under £25. The total agricultural rate paid by each of these farmers does not exceed 26d., most of them not more than 8d. or 10d., and there is not one of them who could not make as many shillings by taking the advantage held out to him by the smallest of these schemes, while many of them who are industrious and enterprising have made considerable sums of money through the benefits thus conferred on our rural population." I think that puts the thing in a nutshell; the value of it is that it was not originally intended for you; Mr. Taylor has been supplied with a copy of this.

7050. You must remember you are speaking for the public as well as for us; is there anything more?—Do the people who are always grumbling and grating about the unjust and excessive taxation of Ireland for Imperial purposes, as well as the just but moderate agricultural tax of 1d. in the £ for local purposes, ever reflect on the enormous amount fine out of ten of these voluntary contributions each year for intoxicating drink and tobacco. The drink bill of the Irish people is fourteen millions per annum, and it would pay the rent of all the farms in Ireland; rebuild all the churches in Ireland; work all the agricultural and technical schools for the whole of Ireland, and still leave a respectable balance. Anyone who complains of the 1d. in the £ should first be able to truthfully say he contributes nothing to such wasteful expenditure."

7051. What is that you have been reading?—A condensed report on the schemes.

7052. (Mr. Griffin).—Circulated by order of the County Council?—Circulated by the Technical Committee.

7053. (Chairman).—It comes from the Technical Committee practically?—Agricultural and Technical Committee, issued by them; it was supplied to your secretary. You asked me about the things that were

put forward by the County Council before, and with regard to a ten-acre farm, I did not know it was put forward by the Agricultural Committee before, but it appears on looking back at some documents I had access to since, that the scheme was put forward in that way, but I did not know it, and my idea is then, that instead of the Department paying and spending, as it is said, enormous sums of money on provincial model farms, or whatever you like to call them, they should have in each county three, four, five, or six—I don't call them model farms; I would call them ordinary farms, of the same acreage as the farmers usually hold in the county. Now I would say to Monaghan there should be a ten-acre farm; show me it by your agricultural instructor, and show me especially that that man's theory when reduced to practice is sound; one pound of fact is worth a ton of mere talk. What the Irish farmer wants is to see something. Now I illustrate it in this way; what has made the poultry scheme such a success is order demonstration. There is no use to tell anyone the Leghorn is a good layer, for he has only to look over his shoulder and see she is a good layer. In the same way if he goes to this farm he can see that the instructor—the man who is paid to teach him—knows what he is talking about, and can reduce it to practice himself; if the ten-acre farm is an object lesson to the county what greater benefit could possibly accrue to the county?

7054. Have you seen any of these model farms?—No, but I know Ballybay that they have bought. I used to know it pretty well, because there was an embargo laid on me on looking over the fences; I was very often shooting in the neighbourhood, and the proprietor thought I did not understand the boundaries very well, but for all that I know the land, and it is a poor place. I don't know what they are doing on this farm, but I do know that the small farmers of the County Cavan will never see it; the big farmer will and will go there.

7055. (Mr. Miles).—The man from Glan won't see it?—No, never a Glan man or even those nearer than Glan.

7056. (Chairman).—Some of those who are going through the course on the farm will carry the knowledge with them of what is done there when they go back?—That may be, but I say it would lead to great confidence in the Department if they published fully, faithfully, and clearly what they are spending on these model farms, and then Paddy would understand a great many things of which he is ignorant at present, and so would the public. But to come back to my ten-acre farm, I say it would be worth all the money they are spending on these places if they had in each county one of these farms on the side of the road near a market town, and I believe it would be of enormous importance; it would give confidence to people to listen to this fellow if he could show by his own work the value to be attached to superior labour, superior manuring, and superior methods.

7057. (Mr. Miles).—With a knowledge of the cost?—With a knowledge of the cost. He has only to say, "There are ten hens; they laid so many hundred eggs and cost so much." That pig was bought in the fair of Monaghan; I fed him for so many months and made so much on him." "That ground was sowed, and the sowing cost so much, and the manuring and the ploughing so much, and the result is so much." What is the use of a fellow getting up at night and talking a lot that people don't understand. A fellow came to me and told me what destroyed my carrots was the larvae of the click-beetle; if he told me what would cure it it would be more to my purpose. You don't want any more poultry instruction now, they are tumbling over each other to get the poultry because they know the value of them.

7058. (Mr. Brown).—Would not experimental plots serve your purpose?—I quite admit that there are experimental plots, but they don't illustrate a farm as a whole. We have an agricultural school in Monaghan, but you will hear more about that from some of the other witnesses. I don't know the working of it very well; it is where the theory is taught the farm pupils and also technical instruction given.

7060. (Mr. O'Grady).—What you are suggesting is really an extension of the present facilities given for a demonstration of agricultural work; you don't question the value of the accepted methods whether by plots or instructions of poultry farms?—No.

7061. Nor do you doubt the value, as I understand you, of the farms upon which farmers' sons, who are to manage their farms, may be educated?—Certainly, I do not.

7062. You don't know the farm at Glanadilly, where instruction is being given under terms which makes it available for small farmers' sons?—No.

7063. You think that just as demonstration plots are used for one purpose so demonstration farms might be established on a suitable scale for the education of those who pass them?—I say it would not cost much and it would be practical.

7064. (Mr. Brown).—Would you not have to have an instructor resident on each of these farms?—I don't think so if you had two or three men employed on the farm; this man has a boy and is going about the country; he says to a man: "That field has to be sown, and I expect you to sow it in many rows of ground within so many days."

7065. (Mr. Micks).—You could pay him by the perch for drilling?—You could do so, but I want to bring before you that it is necessary to have practice combined with theory.

7066. (Mr. O'Grady).—Have you made these suggestions to the Department?—It appears that our Agricultural Committee some years ago made—I don't know whether it is the same as my scheme or not, but I believe that it was made, but it did not come to maturity.

7067. That it has not been adopted yet?—Yes.

7068. But it may quite possibly be one of the things for which they are waiting for a suitable opportunity?—Well if it is something I don't see any harm coming to the surface.

7069. (Chairman).—Do you say anything about the constitution of the Department?—It is very curious property that the present constitution of the Department is not agreeable to a great many people in Ireland. An agitation has been got up against it. I have frequently thought that a one man thing is a bad thing, and it is my opinion that if that Department was made a Board consisting of say three members, who would be charged each man with a particular line; the man for agriculture might have something added to him; the man for fisheries might have something added to him; the man for drainage might have the drainage of Ireland should certainly be under that Department; without drainage your farming is no good. Drainage is at present no man's child. Mr. Brown knows more about it than I do; he will tell you that it is no man's child in Ireland, and so man's business; the money that has been wasted in Ireland is phenomenal. That is my idea; I would charge each man on the Board with his own separate work, and he would be responsible to the country for his part of the work, the Board working together as a whole. We have examples of Boards managing big things all over the world. The greatest spending Department we have is managed by a Board, the Board of Admiralty.

7070. (Mr. Micks).—With one man empowered to set aside the decisions of the Board—the First Lord of the Admiralty?—Of course the Board would have to answer to Government like any other Department of the State.

7071. Is not the First Lord absolutely powerful; can he not sit aside all the Boards and—?—I cannot go into the details.

7072. Oh, no; it was only just the illustration?—But I think it would discuss explosion. And another point I would like to put before you—I think the country is not satisfied with the want of publicity; I won't go further than that, but I don't think it should be so much kept in the background; it may do harm to publish some things. There are often very foolish things said in Parliament about our dealings with foreign Powers, but after all I am a great believer in publicity. To merely go on criticising the details of the Department is a waste of time. A great many things in the Department I don't approve of, but it is a waste of time for me to be criticising; for instance, where bulls are selected. I mention that just to show that though I highly approve of what the Department has done I also very strongly object to certain things they are doing, but I want to look at the thing as a whole, not as a part.

7073. What do you object to for instance?—I object for instance to the method of selecting bulls. The Royal Dublin Society have a good show, a fine show, and they go to the best men in Great Britain to judge their bulls and bring them over. The judge says, "That is the best bull in the year," giving him the first prize; "That is the second best, the third best, the fourth best, that is commended and that is commended," and then he stops and in steps the Department, and their inspectors comes along and he says, "This bull is worth a premium, and this not." There are two sets of judges; the best judge in Great Britain who is thought to be able to pick out the first prize bull is not thought worthy of picking out a premium bull; I say it is absurd.

7074. It is for rather a different object?—The man brought over to judge the first prize bull is not supposed to be able to judge a premium bull.

7075. (Mr. Brown).—But the Department don't bring him over?—I know they do not, but they won't make use of him when he is on the ground.

7076. (Chairman).—If the Department have competent people able to judge these bulls sent up by the farmers, why should they not use their own officers?—Because there is a better judge on the ground, the best judge in England.

7077. (Mr. O'Grady).—Does the judge who is there for the Society judge the bulls from precisely the same point of view as the Department?—He does.

7078. (Chairman).—Is it not well that they should have the same system in Dublin as in Belfast and elsewhere?—It is the very same system, and the Society in Derry get the best judges they can, but he is not thought worthy of judging a bull for a premium.

7079. Have you any reason to think that the selection of bulls by the Department's officers is satisfactory?—I leave it to the commonsense of the ordinary individual, are these men who are known to be the Department's judges, are they likely to be influenced by the men who breed bulls or are they not? Do you mean to say that I was a judge for the Department, and lived next a farmer who would have four or five or half a dozen bulls at the next show, I would not be influenced one way or the other. If I did not get it in mind I might get it in mind. When the Royal Dublin Society bring over the best judge that can be found he should judge the premium bulls. I may be wrong.

7080. (Mr. Micks).—Has the question been raised?—Not to my knowledge.

7081. (Mr. O'Grady).—Have you any experience of the effect of railway rates on agricultural produce?—I have; I am sorry to say, the railway rates are, to my mind, choking agriculture.

7082. Can that charge be reduced by the ordinary economic methods of working by railways; it does not require special treatment?—I have thought over the thing very much and I cannot see daylight. You might, of course, by special means; for instance, running a train once a week, you might in some ways get at it.

7083. (Mr. Micks).—A cheap rate train?—Yes; running it at stated periods might do something, but I am afraid vested interests are too great, and the shareholders want their three or three and a half per cent., and they look to their managers to do what he can; there is a monopoly, and they mean to stick to it unflinchingly.

7084. You have a good deal of experience of poor districts in Ireland; you also have a residence in the County Donegal?—I have.

7085. Do you think sufficient steps are being taken in poor districts, not merely in Donegal, but generally for the development of the resources of the poorer people of Ireland?—In Donegal there has been a great deal done for the poor by the Congested Districts Board; along the coast they have done a great deal and spent a good deal of money; whether it was wisely spent or not I don't know, but they have spent a great deal of money, and the attention of the country has been drawn to that part of the world by the Congested Districts Board.

7086. Take the other parts of the country; you mentioned poor people in Monaghan?—Yes; there are a great many places all over Ireland that are in that sort of condition; they are between heaven and earth; they cannot get up or get down; for instance, there may be people living near a premium bull, but so far he is no use practically, and in other ways somehow the poor man is not getting the benefit. I think, after all of the money that has been spent,

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Of course cattle have been improved and poultry have been improved. He has got the poultry; mind you, it has gone everywhere and done a great deal of good, but I don't know that the other part has practically helped. I will tell you why in one way I don't think it has done very much good. Suppose he does send down a cow to the premium bull and his cow is served and he has a fine calf, his calf is barely ready for the market until it is sold; he is no better; the calf is gone, and probably the money too.

7985. You mean he would require some assistance to enable him to keep the young improved stock?—No; I am against assistance being given.

7987. In the way of loan?—By way of loan is a different thing, but giving money is a bad plan. It increases the vice of borrowing we have in this country.

7988. I mean by loans from the agricultural banks?—It is quite possible that might be done, but what I would suggest is, that if a bull suitable to the district is found, for instance you know in the County Down I have myself for the last eight or nine years kept a thoroughbred bull, and he has been at the service of the people free, grain, and for nothing. I had two Polled Angus, I had a Jersey, I had a half-bred Polled Angus, I had two Kermans, and two Dexters; these have been there every year. I also had a Red Polled bull, and those animals were free to the whole country side, and they availed themselves very freely

of them; when they had a Polled Angus all they would sell, but when they had a Kerry calf the women of the family got so fond of him they would keep it for themselves. A Dexter calf would not be sold at all; first, there was not so much money in him, and, secondly, the wife liked him, and she had him at my farm and saw my Dexters being milled and wanted to keep him. I could sell every female calf I have for the next five years.

7989. In that poorer district bordering on Fermanagh you think operations have not extended sufficiently?—I do most decidedly.

7990. (Mr. Brown).—Does not the improvement in the breed of swine brought about by the premium have benefit the poor man?—It has.

7991. Practically exclusively benefited him?—I would not say exclusively, but the pig is not known in Donegal; they don't keep pigs. In that poor district that Mr. Micks is talking about they send their sows to the boar and he has done good.

7992. The breed of pigs has been improved, generally speaking?—Most decidedly. Go into the farm and you see cartloads of pigs coming in; they are beautiful creatures.

7993. (Mr. Micks).—Are they killed by the farmers themselves in your district and sent as pork?—No, not in any part of the country, and it is the most paying thing if they get a good price for pork.

REV. ALEXANDER H. DELAP EXAMINED.

Rev. A. H.
 Delap.

7994. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Tyrone Committee of Technical Instruction?—Yes, sir.

7995. And Rector of Strabane?—Yes.

7996. Will you just tell me how the Department is working in your district?—I think it is working very well, considering the difficulties there have been in the way. We had to start with a complete ignorance locally as to what technical instruction was, and the Committee had to learn what technical instruction was. Then the Department, of course, were entirely ignorant of our local conditions, and we had to come to an understanding with them. We have started very slowly, but as far as I can judge, the work is going on satisfactorily. We are hampered very much in Tyrone by want of suitable buildings. We think when that difficulty is got over the scheme promises to work out thoroughly satisfactorily, adapting itself to the local needs.

7997. What buildings do you use at present?—do you use the National School?—No; there are difficulties about the National Schools, and they are not available, and hitherto we have been working in a building that had been used as a Sunday School, and also in the Town Hall in Strabane. The Town Hall is being reconstructed, and we will no longer have any use of it. We are absolutely without a house at present, except for this one school-room, about the size of this room, in which we really cannot carry on the work. We have been trying to raise money to build a school, and we have got plans of a school at about £1,500; but there are difficulties in the way of getting money from the Board of Works.

7998. (Mr. Gifford).—To what extent is your work carried on in the daytime?—Except in the case of domestic classes, we have not any work in the daytime.

7999. Is the difficulty in utilizing the existing school buildings solely connected with the classes carried on in the day-time, or does it extend to your work in the evening?—It extends to the work in the evening. There are local difficulties that make it impossible to use the schools. One that is most available is used very largely for parochial purposes. It is engaged two and three nights a week for other things. It was built for a National School primarily, and also for a lecture hall or concert hall or parochial hall. Two of the other schools might possibly be used, but there are local difficulties in the way.

8000. That are insuperable?—Quite insuperable for their use permanently. It is possible we may work through this season by getting help from them, but I don't know about that.

8001. Difficulties that justify an expenditure of £1,500?—I think so, certainly, because we must ultimately have a building. And there is a very strong feeling that this has begun like many another thing and will drop away. If we had a permanent place as a technical school, people would have a feeling that there was a permanency about the work.

8002. Do you contemplate the new buildings being used to any considerable extent during the day, or would it stand idle during twenty out of the twenty-four hours?—I should hope it would be used largely in the afternoons. I don't think we could have material for the forefront of the day.

8003. What class of people do you expect to have there in the afternoons?—The art school and teachers' and commercial classes.

8004. The teachers would be engaged during the day?—Except on Saturday.

8005. The domestic portion of the teaching would be the only one that would be in effective use during the afternoon?—Yes, and are work.

8006. Is there much art work possible?—There is very good work done.

8007. In relation to the day-school training, or for people who have left the day-schools?—Those who have left the day-schools.

8008. What would be their occupation?—In a small place like that you cannot classify them—one from one profession and one from another.

8009. What I want to get at is, whether, in view of the fact that they have left the day-school and are available in the day-time for art instruction, that art instruction is in reference to their occupation in life, or is it merely as a luxury?—I don't think I have detailed enough information about the pupils, but we have our director, Mr. Bradley, here, who will give you the exact details.

8010. You observe in your heads of evidence that there is a danger of the literary side of the work overbalancing the practical. Do you refer there to the necessity of making good a defect in the elementary school training of pupils who come to your evening classes?—That is really our greatest difficulty. There wants to be a connection between the National School Board and the Department.

8011. Is it found possible in your area to have continuation classes, which the Commissioners of National Education provide for by their scheme for this purpose, doing work?—Yes, we have done a good deal of work in that way.

8012. If that were done fully that would relieve your Technical Instruction Committee of this responsibility?—Yes, if it was done thoroughly, but it has been done through the local Technical Committee, and that is work that, as I understand, will be cut off by the new Syllabus that has just been issued.

8013. Do you mean that it is made impossible?—As far as I can understand from the wording of it.

8014. Oh, yes, the new Syllabus of the Department, but I understood you just now to mean that you had been doing it as a sort of sub-contractors, and got a subsidy from the National Education Commissioners?—Yes.

8015. That is still permissible. This says you are not to get grants for this elementary work from the

Board of Agriculture, but there is no reason why, as I understand your arrangement, you should not continue to carry on the elementary work under the arrangement for grants from the National Education Commissioners?—There is just this difficulty: you can get pupils to attend what they consider technical classes, but you cannot get them to attend the National School classes, and it was because these evening continuation classes came under our wing as technical instruction that we got quite a number of young people whom it was very important we should get on—people who, owing to the state of education they had had, would have been left out of the benefit of technical instruction. To give you a concrete example—one boy came to us having only just passed into the 4th standard. We took him in under the National Board Evening Continuation School, and worked him on elementary commercial subjects, and, after two sessions, he passed over to England into a commercial position as book-keeper in a shop. That boy, if it had not been for our work, would have been left a fourth-class boy, and there would have been nothing for him but labourer's work.

8016. (Mr. Mickel).—What age was he?—He was about fifteen when he came to us.

8017. (Mr. O'Connell).—It is quite understood that for boys and girls leaving school at fourteen or fifteen it is of the first importance that any work done should be of a clear and definite relation to what is to be their occupation in life. What you have hitherto been arranging is that the continuation of their elementary work should keep that permanently in view, and the work you are doing there to do is practically a belt to secure their continued attendance?—Certainly.

8018. It would suit your purpose if the arrangement for the grants by the National Education Commissioners, against which the continuation of elementary education is a proper charge, should be made available for your committee in that direction?—Yes.

8019. It is nothing to you that part of your classes are drawing grants from one department and part from another, as long as the arrangements for the grants from the two departments are upon lines that enable you to carry out the excellent arrangement you have just mentioned?—Yes, they work into one another.

8020. And therefore the most beneficial thing from this point of view is that the arrangement for grants under the National Education Board should be adjusted as far as possible to the kind of work that ought to be done under them?—Yes.

MR. L. BRADLEY SEARLE.

8021. (Chairman).—You are the Secretary of the Tyrone Committee of Technical Education?—I am, Sir.

8022. You propose to give a summary of the work done in the County Tyrone during the last three years?—The County Tyrone scheme came into operation in 1903-04. I undertook the duties in October, 1903. Our first session was rather a short one. All the classes in all the urban schools were in operation by January, 1904, so that the session lasted from January to April, 1904, in addition to classes in the rural districts, up to July, 1904. In 1904-05 we had a full session. In 1905-06 we had a full session. We had four urban districts in the county—Strabane, Omagh, Dungannon, and Cookstown. The work in all the four urban centres and rural districts has gone on most satisfactorily. The County Committee and the four Urban Committees have entered into the work most energetically; and, as Mr. Dalrymple has mentioned, there was nothing that hindered the work, except the want of proper buildings in three out of the four towns. Dungannon was fortunate in having the use of a house, at a rent of £25 a year. This house contains thirteen rooms, and half-a-dozen of them are larger than this chamber; so that the classes have gone on better there than in the other places. In Omagh we had to make use of a small bedroom in a house that would not hold more than six or eight at the most. The difficulties at Strabane, Mr. Dalrymple pointed out. In Cookstown we had to make use of three different buildings, some three-quarters of a mile from each other. That placed difficulties, both in the work of supervision and in the arranging of classes, and in the way of students; because students could not very well, on the same evening, attend the classes

8023. (Mr. Mickel).—Your parish is in the County Tyrone?—Yes.

8024. Does it go as far as Flinnabridge?—No, within five miles of it.

8025. Do you know the country to the east of Flinnabridge?—No, except superficially. I know an exactly similar district in my parish—small holdings and high up in the mountains.

8026. But not so remote from headquarters?—No.

8027. (Chairman).—Have you been speaking about the Strabane schools only?—I have been speaking mainly about the Strabane Urban District, but exactly the same thing holds as to the need of buildings in two other of the urban centres. Dungannon is very fortunately situated. It has a very suitable building, but Omagh and Cookstown are in the same difficulty as Strabane.

8028. Have you anything to say about technical instruction in the country districts?—So far as I can judge, it is working fairly satisfactorily. We have plenty of applications from the country districts, and I think we are able to meet them by a summer course very satisfactorily.

8029. Are you able to get a satisfactory class of teachers?—I think so.

8030. What kind of technical instruction do you attach most value to?—Manual instruction or domestic economy. Domestic economy is very important for the women. I would like to see more of the actual technical work. What I meant in my letter to the Secretary was that I saw a danger of the commercial side of our work overshadowing the other, but I think that is largely accounted for by our difficulty in accommodation. In Strabane, Cookstown, or Omagh we have had no possibility yet of fitting up rooms suitable for woodwork and science work. We have to use makeshifts, and the work has not got on as we would like to see it.

8031. That, you say, is due to want of sufficient accommodation?—I think it is largely due to that. Commercial work leads to immediate employment, and, consequently, has attracted itself a great deal better than the technical side.

8032. (Mr. O'Connell).—Any difficulty in securing suitable teachers?—I do not think so. We seem to have been fortunate in our teachers, and have had a fair supply of local teachers, well qualified.

8033. (Mr. Brown).—What you say as to commercial subjects does not apply to the rural districts?—Oh, no.

8034. The instruction is purely technical?—It is.

if they happened to be in two of those buildings far apart. In the first year we had 1,298 entries in our various classes in the four towns. In 1904-05 the number dropped to 1,177. In 1905-06 the number was 1,434. With regard to the occupation of the students who come to our school, from 35 to 40 per cent. in the urban centres are engaged in some commercial work or other—shopkeepers or bookkeepers, or clerks in banks or business houses. Consequently, the commercial side of our work has very largely developed, and, I think, rightly so. There is no doubt that the more practical part of our work, with regard to woodwork and science, would have been developed if we had suitable rooms for it.

8035. What does the commercial side of your work mainly consist in?—Book-keeping, business methods, commercial arithmetic, shorthand, and typewriting.

8036. Have you instruction in any special trades?—We have an instructor in carpentry and woodwork. He has been teaching for the past session only. In the two previous sessions we could not appoint a teacher because of the lack of accommodation.

8037. In that successful?—It has not been so successful and satisfactory on one could wish. In the urban centres, during the past winter, the teaching has been one day at each centre. We had twenty-one entries in Cookstown, which was satisfactory; and twenty-one in Dungannon, six in Omagh, and four in Strabane. The twenty-one entries in each of those cases were divided into two classes. In the country this summer we had a very successful class—at Strabane—a full class in carpentry and building; both practical classes. At Fanny we have a full class of twenty-two in the

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evening. In Stewartstown we were fortunate enough to get a class of fourteen or sixteen in the afternoon.

8033. (Mr. O'Neill).—What class of people?—Footmen; in fact, every young man in the village.

8036. So that was a case of manual training?—Yes.

8040. It was not technical training, in the sense of preparing people in connection with their own special industry?—I think in the last fourteen we had three or four carpenters. This is an afternoon class.

8041. Was it on Saturday afternoon?—No; every afternoon but Sunday.

8042. Did their employers send them there in order that they might attend these classes?—Yes; their father was a carpenter out in the country somewhere; another one that I have in my mind used to journey four miles every day while the season lasted. This same student was a student in Cookstown, a most energetic young man, to whom must be ascribed a great deal of the success of the country districts. So I don't think our classes in the town were as unsuccessful as appeared; because the work done in the classes got known. And here is a case in point—where three or four students at Cookstown who came from the country made the work known, and were the means of getting up such a good class at Stewartstown.

8043. What provision has been made for the instruction of young men actually engaged in building industries—for their instruction in such subjects as construction, building, and drawing?—We have classes in these subjects one evening a week in each of the four towns, and in these rural districts we had a class from half-past seven to half-past nine.

8044. Were those classes well attended?—They were. We had twenty-two in one class. We have a maximum for most of our classes. I ought to have mentioned that when I gave the number of 1,177 as against 1,382 the previous year. The reason was that we fired a maximum for our classes. Then, in 1903-04, we excluded practically none; and we had in the practical laundry and sockery class twenty-seven or twenty-eight students entered. It was impossible for them to work, and we limited the number to twenty. In the practical carpentry class we limited the number to sixteen. With a class of twenty-one all the benches were employed with practical work, and we had six more engaged in the trade who did not want the practical training, but wanted to know the construction of buildings. So we had two classes going on at one time.

8045. Mr. Delap has referred to the probability of the commercial work rather blighting the technical. I put it to you whether there is not one advantage possible, under the conditions that you are working in—that the young tradesmen who want to become small tradesmen on their own account may be induced to get some knowledge of business methods that will be useful to them when they come to run their own trade?—That has happened to a considerable extent. I am pleased to say; and for that reason I have worked the commercial side as far as possible, consistently with the trade of the people. For instance, in Dungannon we had a commercial class of fifty students. Out of those, forty were engaged in shops in the town as apprentices to grocery or drapery. I think the same thing applies to the session just finished—that there was not a shop in the town that had apprentices where one or more of those apprentices were not attending our commercial class.

8046. I don't think you have quite caught my point. It is, whether any proportion of those students in your commercial class were engaged in trades as carpenters or plumbers—men who ought to be, when they come to have shops of their own, able to keep their own books. How far have you found that class coming in to the commercial classes?—Not very many.

8047. Are they encouraged at all to realise the importance of knowing something of book-keeping, for instance?—I don't think they look much at that aspect of the business. With regard to carpenters, we find carpenters will not come to any class that does not involve practical work.

8048. I am speaking not so much of the young apprentices, but of men who were finishing their apprenticeship, who might be expected to assist when you suggested to them the importance of learning book-keeping?—It is a practical thing, and essential for them. We have had a few, but the majority of our commercial students are shopkeepers' apprentices and clerks.

8049. (Mr. Brown).—And, I suppose, a number of young people proposing for commercial pursuits?—Yes.

There are a number of lads at school or who have left who are anxious to learn shorthand; and we make a good rule that those who come for shorthand must also join the English class, unless they show they have sufficient ability to work shorthand without it. And in the book-keeping class we make a rule that a man should have a knowledge of commercial arithmetic, and should have a good training in handwriting, arithmetic, and correspondence.

8049a. (Chairman).—I suppose you will put in this resolution of the Tyrone Education Committee?—Yes.

County Tyrone Technical Education Department.

Dungannon, 6th June, 1906.

Copy of Resolution unanimously adopted by the County Tyrone Technical Instruction Committee, at their Meeting, held in Dungannon, on the 6th of June, 1906:—

"That, as requested by circular letter of the Secretary of the Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, we, the members of the Tyrone Technical Instruction Committee, beg to make the following observations:—

"This Committee, which is constituted by the County Council and the Urban District Councils of Strabane, Omagh, Dungannon, and Cookstown, is administering a joint scheme of technical (non-agricultural) instruction, has had three years experience. During that time a large number of pupils have received instruction, which they would not otherwise have obtained, in commercial subjects, domestic economy, art, science, and, to a small extent, in technology.

"The work has been limited in two ways:—(1) In those of the urban districts the Committee has been very seriously hampered by want of suitable premises with properly equipped class-rooms, particularly for science teaching. The need of a building fund is urgent, if adequate results are to be obtained from the present expenditure on teaching. (2) The second limitation is the defective primary instruction of the pupils who are admitted, which the Committee hope will be partly remedied as the compulsory provisions of the Irish Education Act becomes more effective. The Committee, however, have to give elementary instruction to these pupils, who have left school, and we are of opinion that the cost of this teaching should be more adequately and directly met out of the funds for elementary education.

"The relations of the County Committee with local committees, who supervise the classes in the urban districts, have been of a uniformly friendly character, in spite of the difficulties inherent to the inauguration of a perfectly new system of education. The same remark, with the same qualification, applies to the relations of the County Committee to the Department, which have become increasingly cordial as the local requirements on the one hand, and on the other general principles underlying approved schemes, were developed; and we are not in favour of any change in the constitution of the Department or Board of Technical Instruction, considering that it would tend to dislocate the work and interfere with the continuity of those principles, which must be settled, and generally understood, before full advantage will be taken of the instruction available.

"At the same time, as regards the employment of the funds of the Department, we suggest that some clear and authoritative statement should be made as to how far the public money may be used for aiding proposed new or existing industries, either by instruction or direct bonus; and, without expressing any opinion on the advisability of giving financial aid to industries, we strongly urge that no money intended for technical instruction should be diverted from that purpose and used as subsidies or bonuses; and we submit the names of the Chairman (H. de F. Montgomery, Esq.), the Vice-Chairman (M. Lynch, Esq.), H. L. Glasgow, Esq., and the Rev. A. R. Delap, Members of the County and Local Committees, and the Secretary (R. Bradley, Esq.), to give evidence to the Inquiry Committee on behalf of the Committee."

The work throughout the three years has been exceedingly successful, because I am fortunate in having a County Committee that well represents the county.

It is made up of representatives chosen by the four towns and the County Council.

8050. Is it a Committee representative of the County and the Urban Districts?—Yes; there are four representatives men for each urban district, and six representatives on the County Council; or five from one district, from twenty-three. So I have on the Committee men who can express the views of every local Committee. And the local technical committee appointed by the Urban Councils have also, without exception, gone thoroughly into the work; and it is owing to their efforts that the work has been such a success all throughout the county, and to the harmonious working between the local committee and the County Council.

8051. (Mr. Brown).—Might I ask how the local committees are constituted?—They are appointed by the County Council; and the representatives to the County Council are chosen by the Urban Council.

8052. Those local committees have representatives on the general Committee for technical instruction?—Yes. The Urban Council, at their meeting in January, will appoint four members to act as representatives on the County Committee, and ten or twelve, or up to twenty, as forming the local Committee. Generally, they include the four county representatives.

8053. And they include persons other than members of the Council?—Yes. In two cases ladies are included.

8054. Do you find these local committees work well?—They do.

8055. (Chairman).—You have heard the evidence that Mr. Delap has given as to the cordial relations between the committee and the Department?—Yes. Mr. Delap has mentioned the way in which we work the evening continuation classes under the National Board. That was necessary, because we found that we could not undertake all the work that was coming upon us with the funds that we had from the Technical Board alone. Consequently, from a financial point of view, it was necessary to work some of our classes under the National Board. Thus the committee had in view the fact that the funds for technical work were intended for technical work and not such elementary work as we found it absolutely necessary to give. Therefore from that point of view we found it necessary to have classes under the National Board, and in working these classes we found a great deal of difficulty in co-ordinating them. The grants in fact from the National Board are not sufficient to run from the class alone. Consequently it has always been necessary, in order to get teachers and to have the work carried on satisfactorily, that some complimentary arrangement should be made in order to work them consistently with the relations of the National Board and the Technical Board, and it is not a satisfactory method. Then again, it is not satisfactory from the point of view of the students. We have, say, a student who has taken up carpentry work, but we find he is deficient in his arithmetic. We have no arithmetic class except elementary arithmetic under the National Board. We cannot send him to that class and get a grant on him in that class because the National Board have a rule that a pupil must give four hours at least a week to qualify with attendance. A young man, a carpenter, cannot do that; he has got his building construction to attend to. In England I was able to take a carpenter student, and if I found he needed arithmetic I could send him for an hour to the arithmetic class, but here I must send him to the continuation school, and he must take the arithmetic and book-keeping of the full course. I can make an arrangement by which this student would be doing private arithmetic instead of book-keeping; but you cannot have too many of those or the work of the class is hampered. Under the new scheme of the Technical Board this is somewhat cleared away, but if we adopt the preparatory scheme under that it would be utterly impossible for us to have an evening continuation school under the National Board.

8056. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Just to make quite clear what the objections at present are, you are not allowed to enter pupils for grants under the continuation school arrangement, under the Technical Board and under the National Board at the same time?—No.

8057. So even though the number of hours permitted, you could not have a duplication of instruction aided by grants?—Yes, but we ought to have.

8058. The existing arrangements fall in that respect, in your opinion?—Yes.

8059. Further, the Com. Insurers' arrangements for

continuation class work do not permit a sufficient infusion of trade drawing into the course in order to enable you to carry out the first year's work, say, for an apprentice carpenter under their regulations?—I should not like to put the whole of our first year under the National Board.

8060. And yet you have a very large proportion of pupils who have not completed elementary education in these evening classes?—Yes.

8061. And the continuation of their work or of an essential part of it is necessarily therefore elementary?—Yes.

8062. And ought to be chargeable against funds for elementary education?—Yes.

8063. As the matter stands you cannot carry that out?—No, I think not.

8064. The arrangements for continuing elementary education in the evening do not make it possible to have a sufficient bias towards trade to make it really beneficial for the type of pupils that it is intended for?—Yes.

8065. You talk of applying the new preliminary section of the Department's scheme so as to meet these cases?—No, sir; up to the present we have had a very great deal of our elementary work under the National Board. Under the new scheme of the Department is outlined a preparatory course, and three of our urban centres have already decided to adopt that course for next year, so that will mean doing away with classes under the National Board.

8066. Replacing the classes under the National Board by classes under the preparatory scheme?—Yes.

8067. And therefore you would be claiming grants from this Department for work which is essentially elementary?—Yes.

8068. Do you find that the minimum number of hours under the National Board scheme is as great as to be in itself a practical barrier to the success of the classes?—Not at all if you consider that all a pupil ought to attend is three or four hours a week. If I had a carpenter student who is taking up carpentry work and he needs a little help in his arithmetic or English, I could not send him to the National Board Schools for an hour a week. He could not make the minimum. His minimum would be a maximum. But for a student in the evening continuation class, attending two or three evenings a week, I do not consider the minimum at all too high. I consider it quite small enough. The grant is too small. Then again, co-ordination between the National Board and the Technical Board would enable us to get funds for certain of our classes which are at present paid out of the technical funds. We have a class in drawing at Strabane for teachers who would meet on an afternoon at five o'clock. That is to say, the National school closes at three or soon afterwards, and we have a class there of sixteen teachers coming from the districts around, a radius of twelve miles, to our art class from five to seven; and we had a very successful course there which began in 1884-85 and continued to 1888-89. We consider we are doing very good work there with those teachers, giving them a special course, and instead of the National school teachers attending and instead of the National school teachers attending a special course in drawing or science every night in the week for six weeks, or three times a week for six months and having it resumed for eight months in the year with no two hours a week. They have time to digest and master it. They can carry it on year after year, and the benefit which the pupils of the National schools will get through their teachers in National schools will get through the two evenings. We think co-ordination between the two Departments ought to enable the Technical Committee to have the benefit of certain funds, just in the same way with the domestic classes. Then co-ordination between the Intermediate Board and the Technical Board would follow pretty much on the same lines. We had twenty-three at another centre, and they have received no other lessons who were at secondary schools. We had twenty-three at another centre, and they have been working through their course to fill up the course for the Intermediate Board, and our teachers have given the instruction. That might be followed out more closely by co-ordination between the two Boards. There is another point, and that is with regard to the fitting up of science workshops, where a co-

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ordination between the Technical Board and the Intermediate Board would be of great benefit. To fit up a science laboratory requires a certain amount of money. Some of that money is spent in fittings in the buildings. You have a town like Omagh with 5,000 inhabitants, and in Omagh there are four science laboratories, and we are fitting up another for the technical work. It is evident, whichever way you look at it, that there are five science rooms of that class, and the place is not big enough to have the necessary funds, whether from the National, the Intermediate, or the Technical Boards, to support more than one or at most two. That is to say that these five laboratories will have a certain amount of money given to each to fit them, let them be fitted to the minimum extent. If the number be reduced by co-ordination between the departments, and the same money allowed to the town, it would be very much to the benefit of all classes and all the schools.

8069. What are the schools in which these laboratories are in Omagh?—They are four schools under the Intermediate Board. I think the same thing exists in Dungannon—two schools for boys and two schools for girls. And then there would be the Technical School.

8070. (Chairman). There would be the Protestant and Catholic Schools—the separation of sexes and difference of religions?—Yes. Then a point that more nearly touches my own particular work, I would like to see co-ordination between the Technical Board and the Local Government Board, to a certain extent. I have an auditor of the Local Government Board at my accounts twice a year. I am quite satisfied with the auditor and the audit, but the Department also require me to furnish an annual financial statement. The Department's statement goes up to the end of July, the Local Government Board's goes to end of March and September, so it means a duplicate statement of accounts. There is quite work enough to do without that. If it were possible for the Department to accept the audit of the Local Government Board that would be an advantage. Or it would be a great advantage if the Local Government Board would accept the year of the Department, ending the 31st of July, so that if I could have an audit to the 31st of July that would simplify the work.

8071. (Mr. Micks).—That is the end of your session and year?—Yes; at the end of March the accounts don't explain anything, because it is in the middle of a session. September is part of two sessions, and although all the accounts would not be cleared off by the end of July, the majority would, and you would have a fairly accurate statement of how the work has gone on during the session.

8072. Have representations been made to that effect, do you know?—The new Public Bodies Order was issued, and a recommendation to that effect was sent to the Department and the Local Government Board. I have not dwelt very much on the need of funds for building.

8073. (Chairman).—It is mentioned in the resolution—I wish to impress that on this Committee, because it is a great happening to our work altogether. We are in great difficulties at Strabane. We are a little bit easier now at Omagh. And we are in great difficulties at Cookstown. It is impossible to fit up a room for practical science and practical wood-work and carpentry unless you have room you can call your own.

8074. How do you do in the country districts?—For the carpentry class we take possession of the courthouses. There is an equipment sent to each place.

8075. (Mr. O'Grady).—What appliances for practical work are there in Cookstown at present apart from yours. You require buildings to get yours together, but you have just told us that there are four labor-

atories in Omagh already. Can you tell us how the matter stands in Cookstown?—In Cookstown there is a very nice science laboratory in connection with the girls' school under the Intermediate Board, and a new one has just been built in connection with the boys' school. There are two. The Committee there made strong efforts, and it is a pity the thing could not be worked for union between the Secondary Boys' School and the Technical School, but, in spite of preliminary negotiations and correspondence the thing fell through, or else we would have been in the happy position there of having attained to this co-ordination between the two schools.

8076. What is the difficulty in the way of what would appear to be a useful and proper union in the interests of the public?—The negotiations fell through because we had not funds sufficient to build. The Urban Council decided to borrow on the strength of a penny rate to build. The sum available there was about £600. Plans and specifications were drawn up, and failed to secure the approval of the Department. They considered that a school much bigger should be built. The Committee thought that possibly by joining the two together it could be worked, but I think difficulties were foreseen by others that we did not foresee.

8077. It was not because of any failure to agree, on the part of local parties, that this scheme of co-operation was not carried through?—No; I think the local parties were all agreed.

8078. (Mr. Micks).—How many students can be taught in the ladies' school at Cookstown?—In the laboratory I think there is accommodation for six or seven practical work.

8079. And in the new one just finished?—Twenty or twenty-four in the Boys' Secondary School.

8080. Your Committee has made a representation that none of the funds for technical instruction should be diverted towards aiding industrial efforts. They suggest that "some clear and authoritative statement should be made as to how far the public money may be used for aiding proposed new or existing industries, either by instruction or direct loans; and, without expressing any opinion on the advisability of giving financial aid to industries, we strongly urge that no money intended for technical instruction should be diverted from that purpose and used as subsidies or bonuses."—That is because the amount of money we have available for work in the County Tyrone is insufficient for teaching alone.

8081. Would the Committee object to instruction that could be given in a workshop or factory if such institutions were available?—By their own teacher, no.

8082. No, but by persons skilled in the trade or occupation?—Recently an application came for aid in connection with a lace-making class at Linnis, near Cookstown. A Co-operative Society there asked for a grant in order to pay the teacher, and the Committee expressed an opinion that they were not prepared to pay in that way, but they were prepared to send their own teacher. They were not prepared to give grants for teaching that would not be given by their own teacher, so that they could have proper control. We have a deficiency of funds, so I have pointed out, for building, but I ought to add that we find ourselves extremely short in funds for carrying out the purely teaching work. The building is the great thing.

8083. (Chairman).—You have your full penny rate?—We have a penny rate from the town and a farthing rate from the country.

8084. (Mr. O'Grady).—If you were relieved of all preliminary elementary work, would you have funds?—We could not be relieved of it, but if funds were available for that we should be in a satisfactory condition as far as teaching goes.

Mr. MICHAEL LYONS examined.

8085. (Chairman).—You are Vice-Chairman of the County Tyrone Technical Committee?—Yes.

8086. Of course we have had very full evidence from Mr. Dehop and Mr. Bradley?—I agree mostly with what has been said. I wish to say, in the first place, with regard to the schools in Omagh fitted with laboratories for science teaching, that it would be a mistake to judge of the necessities of the place from the population, as Omagh is very central, and there are

a number of smaller towns within easy reach from which pupils come to attend the Intermediate Schools. At all events, in two of the Intermediate Schools the number of pupils entirely justifies the erection of science laboratories in them. I refer to the Intermediate School taught by the Christian Brothers and the Intermediate School taught by the London Convention. There were seventy pupils between the two presented for the Intermediate Board Examinations last

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year, and about half that number were examined in science subjects. With regard to the expenditure on the technical scheme, I may say that the general opinion among the employers is that there is not sufficient value set for the money expended, and that the expenses of administration are too high. For instance, in the County Tyrone the expense of administration, roughly, came to a quarter of the total sum available.

8067. (Mr. Brown).—Is that for the technical scheme alone?—Yes.

8068. (Mr. O'Neill).—Can the Committee make any suggestion to diminish that proportion?—Yes. It has suggested to diminish that proportion between the Urban and the County Committees.

8069. (Mr. Micks).—Are you speaking for the Urban Committee or the county?—I can speak for both. I am a member of the Otago Urban Committee as well as of the County Committee.

8070. (Mr. O'Neill).—That is a matter on which, I suppose, your committee would practically have sufficient power to work out a scheme for the consideration of the Department, and if an adequate scheme were drawn up by your Committee you would not likely have much difficulty in getting the Department to agree to it?—I am afraid we would. Our experience of the Department is that they are very slow and very stiff in according to representations made.

8071. (Mr. Brown).—There is a difference of opinion, I gather, between the Urban Committees and the County Committees?—There was a serious difference of opinion between Otago and the County Committee.

8072. Supposing they settled that difference, would you anticipate any difficulty from the Department?—Well, I think, under present circumstances, perhaps there would not.

8073. As long as they differ, the Department cannot agree with both of them?—That is quite true; but I think the Department are responsible for the extravagance of the scheme up to the present.

8074. (Mr. O'Neill).—Not having prescribed methods of working the administration rather involves extravagance?—It involves unnecessary expenditures.

8075. What particular side of the Department is it that brought this about?—I refer to the original scheme as sent down from the Department for adoption by the County Committee.

8076. Then was not the County Committee in a position to return the scheme, saying, "We think it would be much more economical to arrange it differently?" The County Committee were not in a position to do so at that time, because the whole thing was new.

8077. As they are now, could they not do it?—Yes; I think they could now.

8078. (Mr. Brown).—What is the particular point you object to?—The general administration—the secretarial work and travelling expenses.

8079. To begin with, the salary of the organising head teacher—do you object to that?—Yes.

8080. That gentleman does not only the work of Secretary but also a certain amount of teaching?—Up to the present he has done no teaching.

8081. He has been engaged in organising the work?—Yes, altogether organising work up to this.

8082. (Mr. Micks).—And superintendence?—Yes.

8083. (Chairman).—The expenses amount to £1,500. Is that what you are referring to?—That was the first year. £1,500, I think, last year. I entirely agree with the evidence regarding the buildings. The buildings are the great difficulty. We have no suitable buildings in Otago, and if the scheme is to become permanent, and to have good results, there must be suitable buildings.

8084. I see you have something to say about industrial development?—I think the Department is at present absolutely of no service for industrial development.

8085. What do you think they ought to do?—I think Government aid should be given for the development of industries, and I think technical instruction in urban schools generally, outside such subjects as domestic and commercial subjects will be entirely valueless unless something is done to revive industries.

8086. What industries have you in mind?—Quite a number of industries that may be developed in the County Tyrone. Spinning is carried on to a considerable extent. Bleaching might be carried on to a considerable extent.

8087. (Mr. Micks).—Have you thought of leather?—Yes.

8088. (Chairman).—Would you have assistance to

industries on a large scale or assistance to particular industries under special circumstances?—I think the assistance should be given in three ways. I think advances should be given of a portion of capital in certain circumstances.

8089. What sort of circumstances?—Perhaps the best thing I could do would be to put in an article I wrote on the subject.

8090. Could you tell us the substance?—The substance is that a Government fund or stock should be established bearing 22 per cent. interest from which advances should be made. Perhaps, if I read a particular portion dealing with the point that there is always difficulty in inducing investors to invest money in any Irish undertaking, it would suffice. Small industries have frequently been started without the parties responsible for starting them having the necessary technical knowledge, and also with insufficient capital.

The small investor cannot afford to run the risk of losing his money. This is from the *Ulster Herald* of March 24th.—"The small investor cannot afford the risk of losing his money, or of having it locked up in securities that are not easily marketable. We think a much more feasible plan would be to create an Irish Industrial Stock, bearing interest at, say, 22 per cent., guaranteed by the Government, to provide a fund for making advances for industrial purposes. The fund ought to be administered by a small Committee or Board of practical men, having business training and knowledge of the conditions and possibilities of Irish industries. This Board should be empowered to advance an amount not exceeding three-fourths of the capital required to start new or reorganise languishing industries, repayment of principal and interest to be made by annuity at say, 4 per cent., which would repay the sum advanced in about forty years. This Board would require to have an annual grant, the amount of which would vary in proportion to the advances made, to cover cost of administration and to provide a reserve fund to meet possible losses. It should be the business of the Board to see that the accounts of all undertakings are audited regularly by chartered accountants, and the Board should have all the power of mortgages over concerns to which they make advances." I think assistance should also be given, where necessary, to secure skilled designers or instructors in any particular industry that might be established in a locality. I think further, that some co-operation might be organised among small manufacturers, for the purpose of disposing of their goods and finding new markets. That is one of the great difficulties with the small manufacturer.

8091. (Mr. Micks).—Are you aware that under the Act of Parliament the Department could not legally undertake such a development as you recommend?—I am.

8092. Do you think the law ought to be changed? In that respect, and funds placed at their disposal?—I would say so.

8093. (Mr. O'Neill).—Of the Department?—Not the Department as at present constituted, because I think their officials are not sufficiently acquainted with manufacturing industries, or the details of commercial undertakings.

8094. If this were added to the Department it would be necessary to be added under circumstances that would enable them to extend their staff, so as to be able to cover this section of the work?—That would meet the case.

8095. (Mr. Brown).—When you speak of new industries, do you mean new to the country as a whole, or to the locality?—To the locality.

8096. How about competition with other industries in other parts of Ireland?—I think where the market is a local one, that should be carefully guarded against, but where the goods manufactured are for export, there need not be any difficulty on that point.

8097. You spoke of linen and bleaching. These are industries that already exist in many parts of Ireland?—Bleaching does not exist to any great extent.

8098. If you subsidised new industries in those directions, might not the persons who are at present carrying on those industries feel themselves entitled to assistance also?—I don't think any difficulty would arise on that head where the market is a foreign market.

8099. (Mr. Micks).—But there would be competition there?—There would, but I don't think the addition to it would be of any material danger.

8100. (Mr. Brown).—Would they not both be competing at the same market?—Possibly they would, but there would be a large number of outside competitors

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too. If you take bleaching, it is a very small proportion of the bleaching that is done in Ireland. The bleaching of cotton is a large business and could be largely developed in Ireland.

8121. Would you expect that cotton manufacturers elsewhere would be sent over here to be bleached and sent back again?—Yes.

8122. (Mr. O'Connell).—We had, this morning, evidence from Mr. Hogg and Mr. Tille in connection with the industry of shirt-making, in which the output in Ireland is only a small part of the output of the world. They put to us very strongly that it would be improper to have Government subsidies given to such an industry, so that they should have to meet not only competition from abroad but competition from subsidised industries at home?—That is true to a certain extent. But further I do not agree with that evidence, because I happen to be in the business myself and know something of it. It would only apply to one particular kind of shirts—white shirts. There is plenty of scope in the other kind of shirts used by the nation, for development in Ireland.

8123. You think the addition of subsidised competition would not affect injuriously the existing trade in such work?—No, I think not.

8124. (Mr. Micks).—Is coloured shirts?—I look upon it as one of the drawbacks in connection with the shirt trade, and trades carried on in connection with it in Derry and Belfast, that the large firms engaged in them are mostly controlled from the other side of the water, and they only get made here the particular class of goods which the workmen in the locality are accustomed to make; whereas, if the trade was controlled from this side of the water, when the demand for one class of thing slackens off, something else would be introduced. At present this is not done.

8125. Are there many makers of coloured shirts in Ireland?—Comparatively few.

8126. (Mr. Brown).—Are those that are in existence successful?—Those that are in existence mostly supply local wants, not so much for export.

8127. (Mr. O'Connell).—What is the essential difference between coloured and white shirts that affects this question so radically?—White shirts have to go through a careful process of washing and bleaching, which necessitates highly skilled labour and expensive machinery, and coloured goods do not have to go through such a process.

8128. Then your selection of industries for Government subsidies would be restricted to industries that were not essentially dependent upon the use of machinery?—No, I would not.

8129. Then it is not the use of machinery that is the distinguishing feature?—It is not.

8130. (Mr. Micks).—You would not like to compete with local industries out of State money?—No.

8131. (Mr. Brown).—When you say "local" do you mean industries existing in Ireland, not merely in the locality?—Quite so. Take the trade in collars and cuffs. It is a very small proportion of the total output of the three kingdoms. I think the trade in collars might be subsidised in districts where suitable labour could be found, without doing any harm whatever to the manufacturers that are already in existence.

8132. (Mr. O'Connell).—The point being that the subsidised work would be such a small section of the whole in the country that it would not affect the price obtainable by the non-subsidised enterprises?—Quite so.

8133. (Mr. Micks).—Nor the extent of their trade?—No; it would be so small. I think bleaching could be carried on to a much greater extent than it is. It is a very large trade in Scotland and Lancashire, and it is carried on to some extent in the vicinity of Derry and Belfast. There are several districts in the North very suitable for it. The air is moist and there is good water—two essential needs for bleaching.

8134. Is there any bleaching along the Foyle or its tributaries?—No.

8135. (Chairman).—You wish to say something about the agricultural schemes?—I was a member of the Tyrone Committee of Agriculture for three years, and the general opinion regarding the agricultural schemes is that there has been too much spent on live stock and too little on tillage. Tyrone is an agricultural county. Another drawback is, that what is spent on live stock goes generally—almost entirely—to the benefit of the large farmers. Small farmers

get no benefit from it. Tyrone is a large county, and I think it is not possible for one man, sitting to look after the interests of it as they should be looked after; and I think it would be very much better if there was a local committee, say, in connection with each rural district council, that would look after the local needs of the place. The large farms are generally in districts of the county, and the small farms are also in districts by themselves, and the premium bulls and stallions that are in the county are generally owned by the large farmers. Some of the members of the committee themselves get premiums, and they are also exhibitors at the subsidised shows and fairs of prizes. As a matter of fact, the small farmers do not compete at all, and are practically shut out from any benefits under the scheme. The only portion of the scheme that the labourers and very small farmers get any benefit from is the poultry and eggs.

8136. (Mr. Micks).—And pigs?—To some extent. To some extent from the pigs.

8137. (Mr. Brown).—Why only to some extent?—Are not pigs chiefly reared by the small farmers?—It is a question open to discussion whether such improvement could be effected in the pigs.

8138. They have been improved?—Not to any material extent. The breed of pigs has been very good in some parts of the county, and it is a question whether it is open to improvement.

8139. (Mr. O'Connell).—Are those views your own or are they shared by the Committee of Agriculture?—Those views are entirely my own. As regards the Committee of Agriculture, I am not a member at present, but I know they are held by a large number of the population.

8140. (Chairman).—You were a member of the committee for three years?—Yes.

8141. (Mr. Brown).—Did you make any suggestion as to how tillage could be promoted in a better way than at present?—Yes. It was discussed several times by the committee, and as the result of some conferences and consultations held, there was a resolution proposed, of which I will give you the substance, and sent up to the Department. It was unanimously adopted by the Committee on May 2nd, 1904:—"That in the opinion of this committee the scheme for next year should include a number of experimental farms in the several rural districts of the county, of from 15 to 35 acres, the occupiers of such farms to get a subsidy from this committee, on condition that they carry out all operations on their farms under the direction of the agricultural instructor to be appointed under the county scheme." It was known at that time that an expert in agriculture was to be appointed under the next scheme, and this was the unanimous view of the committee, that something should be done to bring the matter more directly in touch with the smaller farmers; but the Department ignored that resolution and took no action on it. When the scheme came up again for the following year, on the 7th September, 1904, I referred to the subject, and several other members referred to it and asked why the Department had not either taken any notice or adopted the scheme, and the secretary said he had got no reply from the Department. An officer of the Department was present at that meeting, and informed the committee that the Department had considered it and would not adopt it, and he further told the committee (referring to the scheme under consideration for the following year) that that was the scheme sent down by the Department for next year, and the committee had either to take it or leave it.

8142. Have you any suggestions to make as to the constitution of the Department?—I believe it would inspire a great deal more confidence if the Department was elected.

8143. We have had one or two proposals about a elected body in place of the Department. What would be your opinion?—I think there should be representatives selected by the various county councils, and I think that should be the sole body.

8144. Each County Council electing?—Say, one or two.

8145. Then you would have thirty-three members on this elected Board?—Yes.

8146. You would also have the cities represented?—I think the urban districts in each county might have a representative also.

8147. How many urban districts are there?—I could not say.

8152. (Mr. McKel.)—Have you thought out the details of this scheme?—I have not in detail, only on general lines. I think a Committee appointed like this would be an authority that would inspire confidence throughout the country. It might be desirable to have a small Executive Committee, partly elected by the general body and partly nominated, of five or six members, to look after the general business of the Department between the meetings.

8153. (Chairman).—Would you have them paid?—I think the small Executive Council, if their duty was continuous, should be paid.

8154. (Mr. Oyllic).—There would be about twelve of them?—Well, a smaller number—say six.

8155. (Chairman).—They would be in constant session?—Yes.

8156. (Mr. Brown).—For what period would they be elected?—I don't know. Three years, perhaps.

8157. Would you change them every three years?—Yes.

8158. (Mr. Oyllic).—And have their whole time during the time they were employed?—I think they

should get a reasonable allowance, sufficient to compensate them. July 15, 1906.

8159. Would they be giving their whole time?—Mr. H. Lynch.

8160. So they would be six salaried officers, holding office for three years, and possibly turned out of it at the end of three years?—I would not say that. Perhaps it would be hardly fair. I think half the number might be appointed by the Government and the other half for three years.

8161. (Mr. Brown).—The Council of Agriculture is one-third nominated and two-thirds elected now?—Yes, but they are only consultative.

8162. You think the Board of Agriculture is only consultative?—I think so.

8163. (Chairman).—Don't you know they have power to veto the expenses—is not that an important power?—I think so.

8164. (Mr. McKel).—Has it ever been exercised, that you know of?—Not that I know of.

8165. (Mr. Oyllic).—You would not know. It might have been, but you would not know?—Perhaps so.

REV. EDWARD CLARKE EXAMINED.

8166. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Strathmore Urban Technical Committee?—Yes.

8167. And you are a Presbyterian Minister?—Yes.

8168. You heard Mr. Delap's evidence?—Yes, and I heard Mr. Headley's; and I may just say in a word, it might save time, to take me as generally agreeing with all they have said. They know very much more than I do with regard to the working of the technical instruction scheme in Strathmore. Mr. Delap has been Chairman, and has taken a great interest in the matter.

8169. They have given very full evidence, and, therefore, if you agree with them, you add the weight of your evidence to theirs?—Yes. I would like to emphasise what has been said with regard to the necessity of increased funds. The Technical Institute at Strathmore would have been fairly on its way by this time, only for the difficulty we are in getting the Department to sanction the necessary outlay. Till that Institute is built it will not be possible to judge positively of the prospects of technical instruction in Strathmore; but up to the present, prospects are very hopeful—then it is to say, unless the Department goes on to improve the scheme as we make it unworkable under the present conditions of things. I think they have been moving rather in that direction recently, in that new revised scheme that has been published. With regard to the distribution of grants to the schools, if the number of pupils should remain the same as at present, undoubtedly the grants that would be given under this new scheme would be very much increased; but I think the Department have effectively insisted that there will be such a diminution in the attendance of pupils in the classes that the grants will certainly not be any more than they are at present for a number of years to come.

8170. (Mr. Oyllic).—In what way?—In the new scheme the subjects have been divided into two sections—a preparatory course and a very specialised course. The preparatory course consists of English, elementary mathematics, and elementary science, or drawing; and the scheme insists that all the pupils before they can be admitted to any of the specialised courses must also attend satisfactorily at the preparatory course or pass an examination in its subjects equivalent to the pass in the Junior Grade Intermediate. That will cut off from attendance at the specialised courses a great many who might profit by them. For instance, a young woman who wished to improve her knowledge of cookery, laundry, or dress-making, or a young man who might benefit by attendance as a class of carpentry. They won't wish to undergo the ordeal of two examinations, and to show their ignorance, and they won't take the time to attend the preparatory course. Of course I admit that a good elementary education is a great advantage in attending any specialised course, but at the same time, I think, there is a number of these specialised courses that ought to be open, at least for a number of years, to all who wish to attend them. There are some of these specialised courses—such as mathematics, languages, and higher commercial subjects—for which a preparatory examination ought to be required; but then there

are others that ought to be open to all who wish to attend, at least for a number of years.

8171. (Mr. Brown).—They will be open still. Your point is that they will not be able to earn the grant unless they have this qualification, but they will be open to pupils as at present?—But there would be no grant given for their attendance. I really think the Department is aiming at a state of things that will only be brought about by proper co-ordination of the various systems of education.

8172. (Mr. Oyllic).—Are you not rather assuming a wrong interpretation about these classes. The subjects for instruction in this division will be English, elementary mathematics, and elementary science, or drawing. A great deal depends upon how you interpret these words. In fact, everything done. For instance, you talk about a specialised course for carpentry and joinery. Elementary mathematics in their case would necessarily be the application of arithmetic and measurement to such problems as they are likely to have to deal with; and similarly with drawing?—But you see that the scheme insists upon an examination in these subjects equivalent to a pass in the Junior Grade of Intermediate Education before the pupils can attend any specialised courses.

8173. It says: "Any student registered in this section must have (a) satisfactorily followed the Preparatory Course or passed the Junior Grade of the Intermediate examinations or its equivalent; or (b) be certified by the principal or responsible teacher to have reached an equivalent satisfactory standard of education"—not to have passed an equivalent examination?—(H. Lynch).—Now is the principal to determine whether they have reached the satisfactory standard without examining them?

8174. If there had been in the school previously he would know what they were able to do from the school records?—My point is that there are numbers of young people in the town or district who wish to attend a specialised course who have not been at any school for a number of years, and who, if they knew they would have to stand an examination of any kind, would say, "We will have nothing whatever to do with it."

8175. If they were in the position you describe, probably their first year's work in the school will indicate of the character of the work in the first year of the preparatory course?—Not in cookery, laundry, or dress-making. If there is sufficient elasticity in the scheme to easily admit of all who wish to attend such classes my objection would go.

8176. (Mr. Brown).—Everyone can attend, but everyone won't earn fees unless they have attained the standard?—I know myself quite a number of ladies who have been attending classes in cookery, and I know if they had to present themselves for any kind of a test they would certainly say they would not do so.

8177. (Mr. Oyllic).—They never would be asked to, as I read it. If a lady presents herself for the cookery class, the responsible teacher would be in a position in the course of a few minutes' conversation to say whether her education had proceeded sufficiently to justify her putting her among those who could benefit by that

Rev. Edward Clarke.

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course. There would be no doubt in his mind as to whether or not she had an education equivalent to that which the preparatory course is intended to give!—Would it not have been an improvement—

Mr. H. L. GLASGOW, Cookstown, examined.

Mr. H. L.
Glasgow.

8175. (Chairman).—You are also on the County Committee for Tyrone?—Yes, and I am the Honorary Secretary of the Cookstown Technical Instruction Committee.

8176. Well, bearing in mind what the other witnesses have said, perhaps you will say what you wish to add?—I am sorry I have not heard Mr. Bradley. Another member of the Cookstown Committee and I were appointed to give evidence of the work, and I also was responsible for drafting the resolution, in its original form, and which was adopted by the County Committee.

8177. That we have already had?—Yes; the Cookstown resolution is substantially the same:—

Cookstown Technical Classes,

Cookstown, 15th May, 1906.

SIR,

At their meeting on May 7th, the Urban Council of Cookstown authorised us to reply, on their behalf, to your circular of 14th April. The work of the Department in the urban district has been solely in connection with the holding of classes for teaching non-agricultural subjects. There has been done through a county scheme administered by a joint committee representing the County Council and the four Urban Councils in Tyrone. The result has been that very useful continuation classes have been held—chiefly in domestic, commercial, and art subjects. The machinery is available for any technological subjects for which there may be a demand. In time, no doubt, such teaching will be appreciated, and boys going to trades will embrace opportunities for learning something more than they are likely to do during their apprenticeship. A beginning was made last session by holding carpentry classes, the only defect of which was the want of interest by the persons for whom they were intended. The work has been seriously hampered by the want of suitable premises. The classes are scattered over the town, and are conducted under much disadvantage in consequence. The need for funds for building is urgent, and the success which has attended the commercial, art, and domestic classes justifies capital expenditure, so as to have them in one building, properly equipped. At present practical science is impossible, and even the primary schools, which are taking up elementary science, will be turning out pupils who will have no means of continuing their studies, unless the Committee is provided with funds for building. A grant to equip an institute is lying unclaimed, to a large extent, because no permanent premises are available. In connection with the commercial classes, some of which have been rather elementary, there has been an overlapping of the National Board and the Department, and we desire to say that, though there is no formal connection between the two bodies, there was absolutely no friction, but, on the contrary, quite as much co-operation as if they were both a single board. We are also aware that the Governors of the Boys' Intermediate School, when it was being reconstituted a few years ago on a representative basis, received valuable assistance from officials of the Department on matters which were outside their duties. So far as our experience goes, as members of the local committee, and representatives of the Urban Council on the County Committee since the inauguration of the work, the constitution of the Department is quite satisfactory, and no change which we can imagine would make its work more useful to the community. Its relations with statutory bodies has been perfectly friendly. In regard to the modes of employing the funds at the disposal of the Department, we are of opinion that the principles on which they money is allocated to different districts should be explicitly stated, and also that the objects for which the funds are available should be accurately defined. We are aware that applications are made, from time to time, for grants for subsidies to commercial undertakings, but have no means of ascertaining whether such grants are made, or, if so, to what extent. We are strongly of opinion that the funds allocated for technical instruction do not permit

8178. The point is whether, under this scheme, there is sufficient latitude to enable an intelligent department to let the work proceed?—Of course, if there is it is all right, but that was not our reading of it.

of any reduction for the purpose of subsidising commercial or industrial enterprises, and that they ought not to be so used, but, if financial aid is to be given to such undertakings, it should be separately voted by Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES D. ANDERSON

HENRY L. GLASGOW,

Hon. Secy.

J. J. Taylor, Esq.

Cookstown joined with Omagh, Strabane, and Dungannon and the County Committee in a joint scheme. The object of that is to have a staff of experts to itinerate the county. The alternative of that would be to make the Technical Department a branch of the Secondary Schools, and in that way we could save something in the cost of laboratories, but I do not think that would be possible at present. I understand Mr. Bradley mentioned the laboratories we have at Cookstown. We have one in connection with the boys' school which accommodates sixteen boys, and one in connection with the girls' school which only accommodates five girls. They belong to private bodies. The ladies' school is a proprietary school.

8178. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You don't see any objection to public money being spent in laboratories in a private establishment not available for public purposes?—It was made compulsory on them to adopt the laboratory.

8179. Did they receive assistance?—Yes, considerable assistance. I don't know how much.

8180. Without any limitation of use of the laboratory for other purposes?—It must be available for this school for five years. That is the only condition on which the money was given. I should like to say about the classes we have in Cookstown that we have been three years working them, and last session we had four domestic classes, two art classes, a wood-work expert teaching carpentry and building construction, and two large classes of commercial book-keeping, shorthand writing, and type-writing; and next year we will have advanced commercial classes. All these are facilities available for the young people for their advancement which they had not three years ago. It is something that the people here against the rate they pay of a penny in the pound. The reason for which I was asked by the Urban Council to come here, and also appointed by the County Committee, was to urge the necessity for a building fund. We have these classes, but they are scattered all over the town, instead of being in a single building, which would give the people an idea of their permanence. The domestic classes were originally in an auction hall, and there was a good deal of friction. There was a licence attached to it. Now we have got into an old flax store, and if we could get two or three others we would be quite happy, but we can't get them. It is possible the wood-work will be suspended because in the room, which alone we could get, the tools are being destroyed by the damp. The commercial class is worked under great difficulties in the secondary school. The best housed is the art class. We have the grand jury room in the courthouse, but that is understood to be temporary, and we have not the whole use of that. We have to give it up for Cinderellas and Celluloids. We want a fund for building a suitable schoolhouse. The local conditions want a free grant, but I would suggest, on my own responsibility, that it might be sufficient if the local authority could borrow for the building of such a house up to a third of the expense, and the Department would give the other two-thirds, on the principle on which the National Board gives two-thirds of the cost of all the vested National Schools to private denominations. If that were done it would remove the difficulty, at all events, in the smaller urban districts.

8181. You mean to borrow and repay?—To borrow from the Board of Works. We can't borrow sufficient on the security of the penny rate to build a house that would be suitable for all the schools. We are desirous to build a house within that limit, but the Department refused to sanction it as not sufficiently expensive.

8182. Or do you mean it was not sufficiently large?—I think it was sufficiently large. It was as large as the Inspector told us was wanted, and the Secretary told us they would not object if it cost double the amount.

8183. Have you been pressed to put up ornamental stone work?—I don't know exactly what was wanted.

8184. (Mr. Brown).—Was it increased accommodation they suggested?—I expect it was for increased accommodation, and they thought we were, perhaps, doing it too cheap.

8185. (Mr. McKel).—Had you an estimate?—We had, an architect's estimate. We had a lease taken. It was the only ornate building ground inside the town boundary. It is now used by the secondary school for their laboratory. We carried out the scheme suggested to me by the Inspector at that time—Mr. Burns.

8186. To what extent do you use the secondary school buildings for evening classes?—We use them for the commercial class only.

8187. Not for the science class?—No. From the amount of friction we have had about the use of the desks, I don't think it would be possible to run the science class with their laboratory.

8188. Employing their teacher?—I don't think so.

8189. You think you could not arrange to employ their teacher, or do you mean that you could not get the use of the laboratory for him to teach in?—We had their teacher before the laboratory was built, and we could not get a sufficiently large class at that time. We were teaching science at that time out of a text-book, with some experiments.

8190. But under the new condition of things, do you think by such an arrangement it would be possible to secure the facilities desired in the town?—I am satisfied it would not be.

8191. Because of personal reasons?—Yes. I don't think the secondary school would care about having our classes there at all. They appeal to a different class of the community. I don't know whether there has been any evidence given as to where the funds might be had. One of our members suggested at a recent meeting that there has been technical instruction for ten years in Great Britain, and money has been paid out of Imperial sources in England for it, and the equivalent for that might be given here when it is required for this building fund. Then there was £125,000 placed to a Development Fund for building railways and securing education under the Land Purchase Act, and I understood the amount so credited to Ireland is still only £125,000, although the amount expended in Great Britain has been very greatly increased. I see the increase for the present year on the Educational Estimate is £490,000 for England and Wales. The Irish equivalent for that, on the Gordon principle, would be £35,000. In addition to that there is a proposition to expend a million a year under the present Education Bill. What I would suggest to this Committee is that the Irish equivalent to that might be earmarked as a building fund for technical institutes throughout Ireland. It would amount to about £112,000. That is the principal limitation of our work as mentioned in the resolution. A second limitation mentioned is the defective education of the pupils who come to us from the primary schools, and, as we say there, I hope it will be remedied, partly by the operation of the Compulsory Attendance Act.

That is not enforced all over, but it has been lately set in force around Cookstown. I think it will also be helped by the moral force of public opinion through having our classes, for as soon as people understand these avenues of improvement would be open for children coming into the town they will try to obtain a higher standard than they are having at the present time. In our resolution we say we have to give elementary education to these people, and we say this teaching ought to be paid for out of the funds for elementary education. Since then I have got this revised scheme, (the revised scheme for administration and distribution of grants to schools other than day secondary schools), and I think that meets the difficulty, so I beg leave to withdraw that portion. We had to prepare those boys for more advanced instruction, and we had to conduct an evening school under the National Board, for which we got paid by the National Board, and the local committee on Friday night decided to depend entirely on the grant under this scheme. I think the scheme will help very considerably to remove the difficulty. I do not interpret the specialized courses in the same way as the last witness. It seems to me

that the grants made for these specialized courses, amounting in one case to 1s. for art in the first year and 1s. 6d. for the fourth year, that that will be an additional source of income to our committee. I understand that will be paid by Parliamentary vote and not come out of the Endowment. That will be an additional source of income. The payment for this preparatory course is 2s. an hour, and the highest rate paid by the National Board is only 1s. 4d.

8192. (Mr. Ogilvie).—There is just one point I would call your attention to. This scheme starts at the point where the pupils have already received such an education as would entitle them to be placed in the sixth class of a school under the National Education Board. Are there no evening pupils to be provided for who have not in their general education reached the sixth class standard?—We have considered that, and propose not to bar out any one on account of his ignorance. Ultimately I believe we will be able to reach that standard for all. We will take them all in, but I understand we won't be able to get any grant for those boys. We charge six a shilling fee at present for the classes under the National Board. To those who made night attendances that fee was repaid, but for those boys not qualified to get a grant we did not repay the fee. My suggestion is that we take all the boys, no matter what standard they are in, and try to give them some sort of education. For those not eligible for the grant under this scheme we won't repay the fee, that we charge for the session.

8193. Is that doing your constituents quite financial justice—you are accepting fee, to recoup your expenditure for the education of pupils who are proper subjects for a 17s. 6d. grant from the National Commissioners?—We would not propose that if there were any evening continuation schools to which they could go.

8194. Why could you not form a class below the preparatory class under these regulations—a class for pupils who are not up to the sixth standard—and work that as a National Board class?—Because we have not sufficient material.

8195. There are so few people in Cookstown for evening classes who have not reached the sixth class standard that they would not form a class?—All these we had last year, whether they reached the sixth class or not. The grants only allowed us to pay the teacher for a night each, and we could not ask them to work for less than that.

8196. Was not that enough?—I don't think it was enough. That was the outline. If we take all up to sixth class standard out of those we would have a very small number left; and one of the conditions of the National Board is that we cannot pay a teacher from any other source. We cannot supplement it. Then we say our relations with other bodies have always been very friendly, in spite of the difficulties inherent in any new system of education. Any little friction disappeared since the parties were brought together. About the constitution of the Department—the work has been going smoothly since the general principles were understood. Sometimes we wanted things which were against the general principles, and as we came to understand them these difficulties have disappeared. The Committee was unanimous about the desirability of continuity in these principles. Some suggestions have been made that the constitution should be altered and placed on an entirely elective basis, but in our opinion it would be absolutely disastrous to have the Department and all its ramifications put into the melting-pot every three years. The present constitution, as far as we are able to judge, is quite satisfactory. The last paragraph in the Urban Council's resolution is in regard to subsidized industries. We do not advise what should be done. What we say is that none of the funds which are at present available for technical instruction should be directed from that purpose. The total fund, outside county boroughs, is only £220,000, and that would not more than advertise and send out travellers for any one single industry. The principle on which we have gone when we are asked about any industry is this. A particular case was a springing industry. Father McElhattan, from the north end, said there was a certain amount of labour unemployed there, and springing was a profitable industry; and, acting on his representation, we advertised and got a teacher of springing. That teacher is at present holding classes in Carrickbeg and Strabane. That is the way we interpret the attitude of the Department towards industries. We go the length of teaching them.

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8197. (Mr. Miska).—Is that paid for by the agricultural side of the Department or by the technical?—The technical.

8198. It could be paid out of the agricultural—I don't think so.

8199. Is it not one of the rural industries grouped with agriculture?—I was not aware of that. If that is so we will hand over our teacher to the Agricultural Committee, and ask them to pay her.

8200. The Department's evidence would leave one open to conclude that that would come under the Agricultural Committee?—The Department, at all events, approved of our appointment of the teacher. We had an application for a grant for a lace industry near Cookstown. We offered to employ a teacher to teach girls and have classes, but the lady who had charge of the industry wanted to have a grant, and, as far as we could make out, give it to a manager. There was an industry started by the Department—a doll industry—at Biewarstown, where they appear to have paid a teacher and manager, and it merely ran as long as the subsidy continued; but they were not able to market the goods, and the whole thing collapsed.

8201. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Your Committee draw the line at teachers, and don't approve of making payments towards the salaries of the managers or the commercial part of the undertaking?—That is what we have held so far. We hold we have no more right to appoint a manager for one of these than for one of the mills or manufactures of the county. I think it is very desirable there should be some clear definition given of how far the industries are to be State-aided.

8202. (Mr. Miska).—Don't you think it sufficiently clear already, under section 36?—It shall not include teaching the practice of any trade or industry or employment?—That does not say anything about the management of those industries.

(Mr. Miska).—There is no authority to undertake any industry except agricultural or rural.

8203. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Do you think it is desirable that there should be power to pay the manager of an industry in order to aid the industry?—Personally, I do not. Some members of our Committee hold that view, and others are inclined to be whole-hog collectivists. If the Department is prepared to teach pupils and pay apprentices till they are able to earn a sufficient livelihood, we might be able to start some simple industries. At present there is an element of uncertainty. A man who proposes to start an industry in a certain district has no guarantee that the Department may not subsidise someone else to compete with him in the same labour market. He may have his girls taken away to compete in some other industry kept going altogether with State aid.

8204. (Mr. Miska).—Have you any case in your mind when you say that, or is it only a supposition case?—That is all.

8205. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I gather it is, in your opinion, undesirable that there should be such power?—I think it is. Although, on the other hand, if the Department did go in for aiding industries, we will be able to take advantage of that in Trema as well as anywhere else. We have some bleaching works and dyeing works in our district, as well as spinning, and I know that some of the Northern dyeing works are competing very strongly at present with Lancashire. There is a considerable amount of goods going to Ballinacree at present, where the labour is cheaper, competing with English Bleachery. This new scheme proposes to classify the work more than has been done. As to those specialized courses, I feel that there should be some suggestion made to committees like ours as to how far we may be able, by technological teaching to aid existing industries—for instance, boot-making. I have frequently pointed out that these industries are going down. There seems to be a lack of adaptability in the employees, and also employed, to new conditions. Boots have been imported. The pace of living is going up rapidly. People are not satisfied with what they used to have, and the workman has to produce a better-class article.

8206. Is machinery introduced into boot-making at all?—No; they appear to be slow to do so.

8207. There is no industry in which machinery has been applied in the same minute way as in boot-making in the great centers of England?—It is impossible for a small Committee to employ a teacher of boot-making, with equipment and appliances. The Department might employ a teacher in such a way with proper equipment, and let the local Committee, paying the cost for a season, have the use of his services in a particular district. My idea was that apprentices

should have an opportunity of seeing something more than they learn in the ordinary course of their employment. Apprentices are not taught in the old sense. They simply pick up what they can in the ordinary trade of their employers, and are not able to adapt themselves to any higher class of work.

8208. There would be rather an objection to what you mention, from this point of view. Supposing the Department sent down an instructor and equipment for boot-making classes corresponding in standard to what has been given in Cork under a local Committee. The pupils available for the class would only attend perhaps two nights a week at that work, and the instructor and his appliances would be standing idle for so many days in the season. Would it be possible if an arrangement on the lines of your suggestion was carried out to have honest, continuous work in Cookstown for three months, and get the pupils to make a special effort, and to put in four solid nights a week, so as to get the good out of the scheme, and then the teacher could go somewhere else?—Yes, I think that would be possible; so that they would have one season during their apprenticeship.

8209. In many parts of England employers are now setting apprentices free in groups during the afternoons to attend classes. If that scheme of yours was worked, do you think employers would be prepared to add to the inevitable evening some possibility of day instruction for apprentices during the limited time of your scheme?—I think employers would have no objection. If it came before me on the Committee I would make it a condition of any district getting in that the employers should enable their apprentices to have these extra afternoons.

8210. (Mr. Miska).—Have you any boot-makers in your area on a large scale?—No.

8211. Do you think there would be any use in their getting this specialised information unless there was a factory where their knowledge could be utilized?—I think it would be useful. I heard of boot-makers, who proposed to start a boot factory, but they backed out of it.

8212. If employment was not ready for those people who were taught, what would happen?—I would not teach anyone except the existing apprentices of a boot-maker; only to supplement the instruction in the practical work they get at present.

8213. How many boot-makers have you in your area?—I cannot say.

8214. Would you have half-a-dozen employers?—There are more than half-a-dozen. I think about a dozen.

8215. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Would you attach any importance to instruction in machine methods of making boots given to pupils who were themselves in the hand-making business—would you attach importance to that instruction from an educational point of view?—No, I do not think so from an educational point of view.

8216. You don't think it would enable them to understand the boots they had to repair better?—I don't know.

8217. The whole advantage of that would be its possible application in ultimate machine-making?—I should be disappointed if after one of those courses there would not be a better class of boots made and possibly a boot factory started. I think they might improve the hand output.

8218. I asked whether the educational effect of instruction in machine methods would be a benefit to those who were only going to apply hand methods?—I don't think there would be any educational benefit from it. I mean in the sense that Roper's capacity is supposed to provide a "moral and intellectual discipline," but I am certain that there would be educational benefit in the sense that Exhibitions are educational by affording a stimulus and incentive to improvement. As a journalist, I know a good deal about apprenticeship, but I have no authority to speak for anyone but myself. The Department have twenty farms in the south-west of Co. Down. The farmers are devoting one acre to fruit crops, and they get big grants on trees. That is done altogether outside the Agricultural Committee. And about cattle, I have to say that I have come across a good many of the small farmers, and I think the improvement in the cattle has been very marked.

8219. (Chairman).—Do you think it has reached the small farmers?—I am quite certain it has. The farmers were impressed with the advantage of having pedigree bulls. They frequently say how the stores are from certain pedigree bulls. Sometimes it is the

only thing they can say about a particular beast. I have been trying to get reforestation taken up in the mountain district, and to plant some of the moors on a commercial basis, with a particular object in view. I have mentioned the planting of larch, so as to have wood for wood-pulp, with the object of starting a paper factory.

8220. (Mr. Micks).—Are there grazing rights on the moors—are there commonage grazing rights in the mountains?—Very few that I know. There is only one estate I know on which there are generally in the hands of the landlords, and sometimes farmers have large tracts, and there is water available.

8221. Can you give the Committee the name of any large territory that is free of common grazing rights?—I don't know of any common grazing rights, except on one mountain.

Mr. R. M. ARCHDALE, D.L., examined.

8222. (Chairman).—I think you were formerly member of Parliament for North Fermanagh?—I was.

8223. You represent the County Committee of Agriculture and the County Council of Fermanagh?—Yes, I was for eighteen years honorary secretary of the Fermanagh Society, so I am pretty well acquainted with the farmers throughout the county. What I would like to say is that I think the working in connection with the Department has gone on very well in Fermanagh, and very smoothly, but there are one or two alterations, small alterations, I would like to suggest. One difficulty is—I find the premium bulls have done a tremendous amount of good, more especially to the small farmers, but in our county the poorer districts have not got farmers who will take premium bulls; all the poor parts of Fermanagh, Kesh, Bessies, Enniscostick, and Garrison, have no premium bulls. We did our best to get the Department's sanction to give premium bulls to farmers there, but we could not get it done. These men pay the penny rate, and they began to find themselves ill-used when they pay the penny rate and get no advantage from the bulls.

8227. You think the Department should supply bulls?—They have an objection rather to thoroughbred bulls. I think good half-bred bulls should be selected and given by the Department, to let these farmers have some advantage out of the county funds.

8228. They would rather prefer half-bred than thoroughbred bulls?—They would.

8229. (Mr. Brown).—Do you personally think they are right in that?—I think that in the districts bordering on the mountains they are. I am in favour of the thoroughbred bulls for any district where they could be kept.

8230. (Chairman).—Is that an account of the difficulty of keeping them?—Yes, for tanning them out on the mountains, where he will breed best, an animal will not stand the starvation and bad hay.

8231. The half-breds would be harder?—They would be much harder. The farmers in our county are rather go-ahead. They are almost the smallest county, but have had more premium bulls than any other county in Ireland, except these. I think the Department ought to allow us to arrange that our agricultural instructor and poultry instructor should give more practical work instead of so many lectures. The lectures don't answer half as well as practical lessons given round a man's house. We applied to the Department to allow that, and they would not allow us to give it—to give two each week unless there were so many lectures each week, and we found the lectures are not nearly so successful.

8232. What subjects are you speaking of?—Agriculture and poultry. And the agricultural instructor, who was supposed to be a practical man, has to give four lessons each week, and we also have a horticultural lecturer, and he has to give lectures, and these men are all very good practical men, and very much better at their practical work than at lecturing, and the farmers understand the practical work better.

8233. Are the lectures well attended?—Fairly well.

8234. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Did the Department object to your replacing lectures by practical lessons?—They did. They said we must have, we must give as many lessons, so many lectures each week in addition to the other work.

8220. Give me a case, please, that is free from it?—All the mountains in Cookstown rural district on the estate of the Earl of Castle Stuart; I believe Colonel Poe's, and I think Colonel Lorry's. I don't think there are any grazing rights on any of these.

8223. (Mr. Brown).—Would these gentlemen be willing to part with these moors for the purpose?—Probably for a consideration. They use them chiefly for shooting. Colonel Poe has been buying out some of the judicial tenants' rights, in order to have additional ground for grouse. In connection with reforestation, I tried to start an Arboretum Day some years ago. We have had three celebrations of it, and there is a considerable amount of trees being planted in our district in consequence.

8224. Are your Committee supplying forest trees at cost price?—No.

8225. (Mr. Brown).—At these lectures the instructor offers to go to the particular people who require his services?—Yes.

8226. The lecturer first of all brings the people of the district together, and the lecturer talks to them, and then he proposes that he will go and visit a farm if he is an agricultural instructor, or a garden if he is a horticultural instructor, if anyone requires his services. How could you fulfil that requirement if lectures were not given?—He could go to the houses. They are all very glad to see him when he comes. We don't find that the people who want the benefit go to the lectures. It is generally a man who is doing best on his farm that comes in.

8227. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You would rather reverse the process. Let him go to the house first, and then, say, generally explain all that to three or four—but you found it somewhat difficult?—It is a formal visit that we find is valuable.

8228. (Chairman).—And the value of the lecture depends on the individual capacity of the lecturer?—Yes.

8229. (Mr. Micks).—And also in the knowledge passed by the listener?—I think so, and I would also like to say that I would think it is a very bad thing indeed if the Vice-President was not allowed to be independent of Parliament. It is a very bad thing for him to be a member of Parliament, and Sir Horace Plunkett's present position is much better for Ireland than as originally intended to be, a member for some place. It makes him much freer of politics, and I would also like to say that I consider the plan of selecting premium bulls by the Department's officials, no matter how good the officials are, is not as good as the old plan of the Royal Dublin Society's—of the judges picking the various premium bulls.

8240. Did you hear Sir Nicholas Gosselin on that this morning?—Yes. I agree with him. The difficulty, I believe, is not at the show, but at Robeson's sale in Belfast, and the sale up here in Derry; there is no real show, and bulls might be bought which look prima in Dublin, and which were brought up here and registered by the Department's officials. I have also heard people say that the premium only benefits the breeder. I would be in favour of increasing the premium, if anything. The breeder must get sufficient to enable him to breed good bulls. We don't want to put runs about the country to spoil the cattle. I know the unanimous opinion in our county would be that the £15 premium is not a bit too much, nor does it all go into the profit of the breeder. Pigs are rather an important item about this county, and we find it almost impossible to get boars. I know the Department finds an equal difficulty. It is very hard to suggest what could be done. The Pig-breeders' Association, Mr. Shaw, and others, did supply boars at one time, and it would be a good thing if the premium was increased by the Department. It is too small at present—£5.

8241. (Mr. Brown).—What do they pay for the boars?—Between £5 and £7. We have no industry, I am sorry to say, in Fermanagh, except our woollen and a small shirt factory. There is a clergyman on our Committee, the Rev. Father McKenna, who is one of the most energetic clergymen in Ireland, who works our Technical Committee in the most excellent way. I am sorry he is not able to be here.

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Mr. E. H.
Archdale, &c.

3242. Is that side of the work working satisfactorily?—I think it is. I think it all works satisfactorily. I don't think anything has done so much good in Fermanagh as prizes for cottages and gardens. That has done an immensity of good, and I would suggest to the Department that they should add prizes for draining, like the old agricultural society did. Now the people have become the owners. Nearly all Fermanagh is bought by the tenants, and I think the men ought to get prizes for laying the drains properly.

3243. You think the prize system does good?—I think it does a great deal of good.

3244. You give prizes for small farms as well as cottages?—Yes.

3245. (Chairman).—Does it do good directly or indirectly?—Both directly and indirectly. Competition gets up along a road where a small farmer gets a prize. Then his neighbor thinks he will try to beat him next year. In Fermanagh we have 8,650 farms under £20 valuation out of a total of 11,800.

3246. Have you anything to say about the poultry scheme?—I think it is very satisfactory with us. I think the Tyrone scheme is better than ours in the experimental farms, and I expect we will come into that after a bit.

3247. There seems nothing whatever except the expenses to stand in the way of that?—No. I don't think there is. I am perfectly sure our Committee would be against subsidizing any industry that could compete with another Irish industry of any sort or kind. There are little enough industries in Ireland to subsidize others to compete against them.

3248. (Mr. Meade).—You have travelled a good deal over Ireland?—Over the North.

3249. From the point of view of forestry, have you met much land which is free of grazing rights owned by tenants, and which could be got for planting?—No, very little.

3250. Is most of the moor and mountain land in the North of Ireland subject to grazing rights?—Yes.

3251. Would a very large sum be required by tenants before they would give up their grazing rights?—I think it would be prohibitive.

3252. Do you think it possible if discreet inquiries were made in the locality as to what each particular tenant made in profit by his grazing rights from year to year, and if that amount were assured him in the

form of guaranteed employment, subject to his working properly for five or ten years' time, that he would be likely to forego claims for compensation in consideration of the guarantee of employment that would be necessary in making drains and improvements?—I am afraid not.

3253. Even for a yearly guaranteed income of a certain amount. Suppose it was found he profit from the sale of cattle would be £10 a year. Suppose he was guaranteed employment to that amount, at least, do you think he would be willing to let his grazing rights go for nothing?—He might in that case. There are mountains in Fermanagh where there are no grazing rights.

3254. It would be necessary to spend a good deal of money per acre?—Yes.

3255. And the tenants on the spot would be naturally the men to do the work?—Yes.

3256. If they were guaranteed a definite amount, do you think there would be a possibility of getting them to surrender?—It might, but it is very hard to get people on a mountain to surrender their rights.

3257. (Mr. Brown).—And the guarantee would extend whether the particular person lived or not?—Some mountains in Fermanagh are not suitable for grazing sheep. I have one myself. I planted part, and they did very well. The labour is very expensive there.

3258. (Mr. Meade).—How much an acre would it cost to plant them?—I could not get men to work draining at under 3s. a day.

3259. Did you bring the cost down to a per acre figure?—No.

3260. (Mr. O'Callaghan).—Did the men live on the moor when doing that?—Oh, yes. There were men up there that I thought could do it in the winter when there was nothing else to do.

3261. (Mr. Brown).—It is above the ordinary rate of wages?—It is above what does in the low lands.

3262. (Mr. O'Callaghan).—It is not possible to do that sort of work the way work is done on the hills in other countries, to get men to live in a camp and have huts built for them?—It might be done in that way.

3263. (Mr. Meade).—It would not be a popular thing in the locality?—It is very hard to get labour in the locality, so many men have gone to America and Canada.

Rev. JOHN HALL, Gortary, Enniskillen, examined.

Rev. John
Hall.

3264. (Chairman).—You represent the Technical Committee of Fermanagh?—Both the Technical and Agricultural Committee of Fermanagh. I agree with what Mr. Archdale said with one exception. I can hardly say, as he says, about the introduction of half-bred bulls for mountain districts. I think we have so many pure breeds that you can always find a pure breed that suits every locality in Fermanagh. Instead of introducing half-bred bulls I would suggest that we should introduce Kernes and Galloways. But I would not like, as far as I am concerned, that it should go out from me; and I believe I would have a great number of the Committee with me; it would hardly be the feeling of the Committee that they would like to introduce half-bred bulls into the county. I wish to say a word or two with regard to the pigs. I think the Department, if I might be allowed to say so, might do more in this respect. They have had a difficulty lately in getting boars. They say there is not enough bred in Ireland. I think the Department has themselves to blame for that. They have not sufficiently encouraged the breeding of pigs. I believe now they are amending their scheme, but I find that the original Congested Districts Board Scheme was very much better, and they had far less difficulty in getting the boars than the Department have, because what the Congested Districts Board did was to send the inspectors round to the people who bred the pig, and they were inspected at a certain rate. They paid the owner for keeping them so much a week until they wished to take them away, and then when they had an order for a boar all they had to do was to send down for it. Now the Department, instead of a boar being inspected at a certain age, have not been paying the price that would pay any farmer for breeding a pure-bred boar. With regard to sheep, I think they ought to make a new scheme

for sheep-breeding. They did issue a scheme which fell through, and I think some of their experts might consider the matter, considering wool is increasing in value and sheep are paying much better. I think sheep-breeding should be encouraged. Then with regard to the selection of premium bulls I think something has been said about that matter. I have had considerable experience in this respect, because for many years I have been purchasing and selling premium bulls. The Royal Dublin Society's scheme was a very good one. Under it all the bulls were brought to Dublin and selected there. Now the Department, having to deal with a larger number, select them here and in Belfast, Cork, and Dublin. I don't think at all it would be a good thing to go back to the original idea, and have them selected in the counties. I think it is far better to have them selected in a few large centres. Something has been said with regard to putting provisionally selected tickets out there, and that that should not be done until they are purchased. I think that should be done, because the ordinary farmer going up to the Dublin Show is, and must be, guided by what has been already done, and he has not sufficient judgment to be able to buy a bull and know whether it is of the type and description likely to be afterwards selected for a premium. The Royal Dublin Society had a system that was not so good a system as the Department's system. First of all you had to buy your bull, and then the Royal Dublin Society gave you an allocation for the bull. You might buy a bull under that system and not get allocated. The consequence was farmers hesitated. As it is arranged by the Department now, you go up; you have got your allocation; and all you have got to do is to lay out your money as well as you can, and buy a bull that has a ticket over him. There is no gambling in the

another. Another statement that has been made is that the £15 goes into the pockets of the breeder. I say most emphatically it does not, and having some experience of the matter, I say it is impossible for a breeder to breed a bull up to the present standard the Department require, for less money than he is receiving at present, and this £15 does not go into the hands of the breeder, but is owing to the keen competition for premium bulls. You go up to buy a Galloway bull. As a rule you can buy him for very little over £15, because there is no competition; but when you come to the short-horn—everyone acknowledges that, broadly speaking, the short-horn is the animal for improving cattle, and the whole rush is for the short-horn; and the reason farmers give high prices is because of the keen competition, and they have in their minds the idea that if they buy a good bull this year they will have him shipped to the Argentine next year for double the money. I would give with Mr. Archdale that I would increase the premium, because the farmer makes no money out of the transaction.

8265. (Mr. Finch).—It is the breeder!—As a breeder, I say it pays, and nothing more. The farmer doesn't make anything except the convenience he receives from buying and having a bull. It takes nearly £15 a year to feed him. If the scheme is to be carried out successfully instead of decreasing there should be an increase of the premium.

8266. (Mr. Brown).—Do you not look to the price of bulls going down owing to the large number being produced?—I don't think that is likely to occur for a year or two, because the Department cannot get enough in Ireland, and I don't find fault with them for going to England and Scotland for bulls. The Department have been in the habit of buying bulls at a very large price in England and Scotland, and my idea is that these bulls which are brought at a high figure should be brought into the short-horn contest and given to short-horn breeders at two guineas a cow, to encourage the production of first-class bulls at home, and prevent of them being obliged to leave the country to get animals to improve their stock.

8267. (Mr. O'Brien).—What has been done with them?—I am not in a position to say. I believe they are put to a useful purpose, and some of the best bulls are used for the ordinary cattle of the country.

8268. (Mr. Brown).—Not the high-priced bulls?—I am not in a position to say that; but if they are

putting them to pure-bred cows they are doing the very best thing.

8269. They have herds of pure-bred cows at various farms?—That is a very good idea. With regard to agriculture and horticulture generally in the country, I think, in Fermanagh the schemes have been working very successfully indeed. From the very beginning our relations with the Department have been of the happiest nature. We have had no friction. Of course, upon certain occasions, perhaps, we would have wished to have had it otherwise with the Department, for the Department have not seen eye to eye with us. We have at the present time a very excellent instructor in horticulture, and to my own knowledge he has been doing a very great work indeed, and has been the means of getting quite a large number of apple trees planted. He has also taken charge of the bee industry, and is quite an authority in that matter, and has introduced quite a number of new hives, and that, in a county like ours, where there is every facility for the production of honey—I believe in that sense alone he is worth his money. Prime farms on a small scale have been very useful, and within sight of my own place there are three of them round me, and it has tended to make the owners of these farms more industrious and to tone up other farms in the immediate neighbourhood.

8270. (Chairman).—What size are they?—Under 30 acres, and under 10 acres, it goes by valuation. Then we have an agricultural instructor. This is the first year, and I am not in a position to say very much about that. We have a number of experimental plots, and I believe these are calculated to do a great deal of good. Then with regard to the lectures. I endorse all Mr. Archdale has said in that respect. I think, perhaps, I ought to say this. In my opinion, for two or three months in the year the only thing an agricultural instructor can do is to lecture; he cannot go out in the field of the winter, in November, December and January. Then, I think, lectures are quite in their place. After that I think he would be very much better employed by going over the country and giving the people practical instruction.

8271. Poultry?—It has been very well attended to, and has been very successful. I might also say, with regard to technical instruction, it has been a great success in Fermanagh. The crochet and lace work has been taken up. I am sorry Father McKenna is not here. He understands all about it, and he takes a great interest in it, and owing largely to his energy the technical department in Fermanagh has been as well wrought as in any other county in Ireland.

Mr. W. H. West, examined.

8272. (Chairman).—You are Secretary of the Fermanagh County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes, sir. All I can say is that I endorse all that has been said by the two gentlemen sent here by the Committee. I think they have stated fully the view of the Committee on all subjects. All that we have done has been approved of by the general body of ratepayers, and has been a success, and has been warmly taken up by the people; and undoubtedly the horticultural instruction, and instruction in poultry-keeping, has been a very great success, and has recommended both industries, and has given the people an idea of the value of fruit trees and vegetables, and also led to different methods with regard to poultry. With regard to premium bulls, it is the poor people that it has benefited most, in my opinion, more than the other classes that have been referred to here. I may also say that the horse-breeding scheme has been a great success with us as well. Father McKenna is the Chairman of the Technical Instruction Committee, and I am Secretary also. We have no urban district except one in Fermanagh, Enniskillen, and owing to certain local peculiarities they could not pay us a rate in this year, and the Act has not been put in force in the urban district until the present year, but it has been in force in the rural districts all over the country; and we have given instruction in horse-riding and croquet and sprigging, and given instruction in domestic economy and manual instruction.

8273. (Mr. Brown).—The domestic economy class has been successful?—Very successful. At first manual instruction was not taken up warmly, but now people

have got to see the value of instruction, and we have more applications than we can possibly fit for a long West time.

8274. (Chairman).—I suppose the cottage industries you speak of are chiefly lace and sprigging?—Yes.

8275. You say you had some difficulty about finding teachers?—That is the greatest difficulty we have—to get sufficient qualified teachers. We have but one way for getting you to improve in lace and croquet. They may know sprigging and lace and croquet, but they have not got enough primary education to teach.

8276. What do you say about lectures?—I agree with the two gentlemen who have just spoken. But with regard to lectures in agriculture, I think we should adopt a system of having classes at night in the winter months, where young farmers could be brought in, and given practical instruction, instead of lectures—just practical agriculture, but theory of agriculture.

8277. (Mr. Brown).—You mean such classes as they have in Tyrone?—Yes. We think that would be a good plan.

8278. (Chairman).—You say you have got on well with the Department?—Yes. They have given me every assistance, as far as I am concerned, as Secretary.

8279. I suppose you have had your differences of opinion?—Yes.

8280. Do you get assistance from the officials?—Yes. Always when I needed it.

8281. Is there anything really that you wish to add?—No, sir. I think you have heard all we have to say.

8282. You confirm the evidence of the other witnesses?—Yes.

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Mr. W. F.
West.

8233. I see it stated in the last paragraph of the Committee's observations that the hope for technical instruction lies in giving a very practical character to the education in primary schools, and they recommend co-ordination among all the Boards for technical purposes.—That is the opinion of the Committee; and that before they leave the primary school, if they choose a certain trade to go to, they can get certain instructions for that in the primary school. The two things should go more together than at present.

8234. (Mr. O'Connell).—How far are the existing teachers qualified to give this sort of instruction?—That is the difficulty. We know they have not the knowledge.

8235. Do you contemplate having classes for the further education of teachers throughout the county, so as to enable teachers, by utilizing their Saturday evenings, to supplement what previous instruction they themselves have had?—By sending an instructor to the school at certain times during the year. Sending him to different districts at different times, and he could give the instruction in the schools, because we find it very hard also to get buildings. We find it very often difficult to get suitable places to meet in; and we think if the National Board and the Department

had an understanding about instruction in domestic economy, wood-work, and carving, co-ordination could be got in that way.

8236. Have you any difficulty in arranging for the use of school buildings locally?—No; but it is impossible to give instruction during the school hours. The school is a bad place for domestic economy. When you put all your outfit into the school you have to take them out for next day's work in the school.

8237. What kind of outfit would you have?—For a few tables, cooking utensils, and stoves. We cannot put that into a National school. We tried it in two instances, but it didn't work satisfactorily. We had to give some for building. And with regard to the instruction in wood-work and carpentry, we had the same difficulty. But there is hardly a district in the county where they don't want this class of students.

8238. What class of pupils attend carpentry?—In the country it is young farmers, and in the town we have a class for carpentry apprentices and masons, and a class for building construction and carpentry, and we have three other classes for boys.

8239. An organized course of drawing and calculation?—Yes.

On running after luncheon.

Rev. JAMES MANNING, D.D., Ballyshannon, examined.

Rev. James
Manning, D.D.

8240. (Chairman).—You represent the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in the County Donegal?—Yes, sir.

8241. You are probably prepared to take your own course in the evidence you have to give?—In just looking at the headings that I submitted to the Secretary, it might occur to you that I am somewhat hostile to the Department, but I am not. Let it be ended or mended, I have nothing to gain or lose, so my evidence is strictly impartial. With regard to my qualification to give evidence, I have been reared in an agricultural district, and studied agriculture in the National school. After that I spent some time in England and Holland, and four years in America. All during that time I was trying to observe how industries and agriculture progressed in those countries, and I have been pained to see so many Irishmen going abroad that would be better at home. When I returned I began to try and lecture them on agricultural matters, but I soon discovered that I was not with one insurmountable objection, and that was when I pointed out, as I thought, where they were in error, they told me they were unable, with the labour that was available, they were unable to bring about the changes I suggested, and then it would not pay them to pay the labour that would be necessary. So I discovered that in all cases the two difficulties were want of labour or capital, or both. Now, starting with that hypothesis, it would appear that most of the energies of the Department that are directed towards agriculture seem to be misplaced; because all of their agricultural schemes and all their prices and all their instruction presupposed the existence of labour and capital with the farmer, where it certainly does not exist with upwards of ninety per cent. of the farmers of Ireland. Then, it is alleged by the Department that their poverty is due to their ignorance; this is untrue, because, after all, the present generation of farmers in Ireland have the accumulated experience of several generations of expert farmers, and experience cannot be well set aside by theory. They are condemned that poverty is not due to ignorance in cultivating their own lands. I am not talking now of abstract instruction except on the question of agriculture. It may be very useful to get instruction on bee-keeping, horticulture, etc., that they have no experience of; but spending money in agricultural instruction if it benefits any, only benefits the richer classes, because the poor have not the means to compete with those. As they have not labour and capital in the country, the only means of improving their condition is to give them remunerative labour at home, and that can only be done by encouraging home industries. We have any amount of talent in the country and any amount of industrial labour, and there is little or no capital required for the industries to which I refer. With regard to labour, we have a considerable number of young men and young women, before they

have to emigrate, with plenty of time and talent, and ready and willing hands to work at any industry that will pay them rather than go abroad. It is a search of that remunerative employment they go abroad, not in search of amusement. I am fully conversant with this matter of industry, because I have myself in the last ten years started six different co-operative industry societies, and run them on my own responsibility; so I have lost a considerable amount of time and money, and had considerable experience, and I must say that the Department has neglected this question of industry very much, because in any isolated industry that we may start in the country we are left to compete alone with big firms, and long established places, and have not the means to advertise, and it is impossible for one industry to pay a traveller or anybody to advertise them. What they should have done would be to open an agency at some kind of emigration by which all the industries that are in Ireland would be advertised, some of them get instruction that would require it, and others subsidised until they would get over their difficulties, and the whole of them were encouraged and trusted. To show the necessity of that, we have travellers coming from America and other places looking for Irish products; and when they go to the Department they can't get directions where to go. They have not, apparently, a list of the schools. A body might think that the supply is equal to the demand. That is not true, because the demand could be increased tenfold if they were properly brought before the markets of the world. In France 500,000 girls are engaged at lace alone, and people in Paris who buy lace regard Irish lace as superior; they call it lace par excellence. The lace depot in Dublin did a great deal for the lace industry, and it has gone ahead, and that should be an inducement to the Department to take up these and other industries. The reason why the lace industry and other industries have suffered is because the Act constituted two Boards in Ireland—the Agricultural Board and the Technical Board. The duty of the Agricultural Board was to supervise agriculture and home industries. Strange as it may appear, they transferred the home industries to the Technical Board, and, therefore, assigned them to their doom; because on the Technical Board there was no representative for a County Committee or for any home industry. Between the two Boards the industries fell to the ground, though there was £100,000 available every year for agriculture and home industries, both combined; and £55,000 was to be expended on technical instruction as applicable to home industries. The definition, I think, means the refinements of science and art as applicable to home industries. That would convey the idea that technical instruction should be subordinate to home industries, or it presupposes the existence of them. So that something should be done, but up to the present nothing has been done. One other point that seemed

to be a rather serious drawback with regard to the working of the scheme, is that on all well-conducted committees anyone having a profit from an industry or being a contractor should not be a member of that Committee. According to the Act of Parliament, a member cannot be a District Councillor if he has a profit from the Council or is a councillor, neither can he be a County Councillor, or a member of any co-operative association. But he can be a member of the Agricultural and Technical Committee, and have a profit. I have known a rich man to make £20 on prizes last year—a member of the Committee, and that is the way the public money will soon be all wasted.

8280. You suggest that no member of the Committee should have a premium limit?—No. I say the same should be true of the County Councils that is true of the District Council or County Council, that he should be disqualified on being a member if he were getting a profit out of his particular work on the Committee. His action on the Committee would be very much biased in his own interest. The same exists with regard to every other Committee I know of, and I don't see why it should not exist on the County Agricultural and Technical Committee.

8281. I don't quite understand what you said just now about the Board of Technical Instruction?—I said the Act constituted two boards—an Agricultural Board and a Technical Board, and the duty of the Agricultural Board was to look after the interests of agriculture and horse industries both combined. For that purpose they had, approximately, £400,000 available. The Department transferred the industries from the Agricultural Board to the Technical Board, and I say that they have suffered very materially from that.

8284. (Mr. Ogilvie).—To get it quite right, the Act prohibits one Board to advise in connection with purposes of agriculture and for rural industries. Among the rural industries one group is horse industries, and that is the group that is transferred?—I believe all the rural industries are transferred to the Technical Board.

8285. Oh! no! "rural industries (including agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, dairying, the breeding of horses, cattle and other live stock and poultry, home and cottage industries, the cultivation and preparation of flax, inland fisheries, and so on).

8286. (Mr. Micks).—You mean handicrafts?—Chiefly.

8287. (Mr. Brown).—Are there industries you speak of carried on in the schools or the homes?—No, both, and they can make a respectable wage at it—10s. or 15s. a week, and are getting no encouragement; in our parish schools there are always 150 girls working and are making a respectable wage with little or no expenditure. The Department at the present time have nothing to do with these.

8288. What do you suggest they should do in this particular case?—In a general way they would not help the country very much by taking up isolated ones, but my suggestion would be that when industries are transferred from one Board to another the industry should have representation on that Board.

8289. Are not the County Councils represented on it?—Not on the Technical Board.

8290. (Chairman).—One person is appointed by the Council of each county borough, and one person by the Provincial Committee of each province?—That is very much less than the representation on the Agricultural Board.

8291. (Mr. Micks).—The Committee are smaller?—The funds are absolutely nothing. The funds are very limited for industry of all sorts.

8292. Therefore you would rather they were looked after than the larger funds on the agricultural side?—Yes, and if the Agricultural Board were not able to deal with them they should have appointed a sub-committee and not transferred them to another Board.

8293. I don't know whether these industries placed under the Technical Board are financed out of the Agricultural Grant?—Yes, they are.

8294. (Mr. Brown).—There is a certain sum allocated by the Agricultural Board to the Technical Board?—Yes, but it goes from the Technical Board earmarked to the County Councils.

8295. That is paid out of the money which are for agriculture?—Yes, and I complain that there is no individual committee to look after it. It is neglected between the two Boards, each Board looking after itself; the Technical Board chiefly looking to technical education and the Agricultural Board on the other

side to agriculture; and the home industries have lapsed between the two Boards. My suggestion is that the Agricultural Board if they would not look after the industries should appoint a sub-committee, and not transfer them to another Board that does not bother about them.

8296. I understand your view is that there should be more actual assistance, more money spent?—More money spent, and that they should appoint a sub-committee to look after industries.

8297. With the object of getting more real pecuniary assistance?—With the object of starting some kind of expansion or expansion whereby they would be advanced and their products put on the market of the world, not let each individual society struggle against the other established firms.

8298. Where does it appear that the promotion of industries of this class falls naturally to the Agricultural Board, not to the Board of Technical Instruction?—I saw it in the Act, if I read correctly.

8299. (Chairman).—What you say, and say truly, as far as I can see, is that the expression in the 26th section, "purposes of agriculture and other rural industries," includes the aiding and improving and developing of, amongst other things, cottage industries?—Surely.

8300. (Mr. Brown).—There are not merely home and cottage industries. They are generally conducted in a lace school?—They are in those schools, and when taught in the schools they create the work at home. They are working on co-operative lines.

8301. Do they continue the work in their homes entirely after they have got the instruction?—Yes, for the most part. They may work in either place; when they consider it necessary to get assistance they go to the schools.

8302. (Mr. Micks).—Are there any industries existing at present in Ballyvaughan?—We have three—two lace schools and a shirt-making industry.

8303. Has the shirt-making been going on long?—It has been going on in a precarious condition for ten years or twelve years.

8304. Worked from Omagh?—Yes, but it does not pay as well as lace.

8305. (Chairman).—You mentioned some?—Chiefly lace. We discovered that pays admirably, and there is not much difficulty in working it, and it keeps the people from going abroad.

8306. (Mr. Micks).—From Ballinac to the sea there is wonderful water power; is that utilized?—Not in the least.

8307. You have the owners of water power concerns on that four miles of river?—Yes; two or three.

8308. And in the town besides?—Yes.

8309. Has there been any attempt to derive any industry depending on that power?—Not to any extent.

8310. (Chairman).—Is Paris the chief market for the lace schools?—We send to Paris, London, New York.

8311. (Mr. Micks).—I suppose the lace depot takes a great deal of your work?—We consider we could get better prices elsewhere.

8312. (Chairman).—You say your schools are really flourishing in a commercial sense?—Yes, and pay well, and I say could be multiplied tenfold if properly advertised.

8313. What wages can the girls earn?—From 10s. to 15s. a week.

8314. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Is that after deducting something to allow for management?—Yes; after deducting that it is very little—five per cent.

8315. (Chairman).—Do you pay a salary to the manager?—We run it on co-operative lines strictly; any profit goes back to the worker after five per cent. for management.

8316. (Mr. Micks).—To the individual worker?—Yes.

8317. (Chairman).—Therefore, the wages are paid out of profits?—After their work is exported it is sent off, and the full money returned to the worker, minus five per cent. for management.

8318. (Mr. Micks).—Have they to wait until the sale is made?—Yes; it is very short.

8319. (Mr. Brown).—Are these co-operative societies you speak of all lace?—Five of them.

8320. (Mr. Micks).—You were not connected with Ennagh?—No. Those of these schools are in the Beekstown district. This resolution was passed at

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our County Council meeting in March 1924. Owing to the inopportune and unsatisfactory schemes of the Department, arising chiefly from the system of earmarking fixed sums of money for certain objects regardless of the views of the Committee, or the wants of the locality, we insist on recurring to the rights given us by the Act of 1899, and the original provision of the Department of having each district provide its own scheme, and expending its own money together with the Department's contribution, subject only to the supervision of the County Committee and the Department. The first year that the Department began to work there were district Committees appointed by the County Committee. They drew up schemes for the wants of the locality, and were well conversant with them, and in drawing one up for Ballyshannon we allocated a sum of money for the hawkey industry, but it has lapsed since for want of support.

8331. Would the district be as large as a parish?—As large as two or three parishes.

8332. Not as large as a rural district under the

Local Government Act 1—No. Our district was Buncrana, Ballyshannon, and Ballintra. We drew up a scheme, and gave prizes. It would appear that the Department could not find any fault with it, but they said it was too complicated, and drew their own through it, and there is a sort of universal Departmental delight in uniformity.

8333. You think it is wiser that the needs of the district should be dealt with by the people who understand the district?—Yes. The Congested Districts Board, with all their experience, are making their schemes more local every year.

8334. (Mr. Gifford).—Where do you find in the Act of Parliament that each district should draft their own scheme?—It suggests rural councils should be appointed, and we have the practice of the Department for it the first year; and if they are not right they should not have done it. In any case we did it the first year.

8335. The resolution speaks of it as a right given by the Act 1—It is suggested by the Act.

Mr. GEORGE E. ARMSTRONG, M.Sc., examined.

Mr. G. E.
Armstrong,
M.Sc.,

8336. (Chairman).—You represent the County Borough Technical Committee of Londonderry?—Yes, and we have no particular grievance, so any evidence need not be very long. I shall seek to answer any questions you care to put.

The methods of the Department in carrying out the provisions of the Act have proved very satisfactory in our case. They are admirably elastic and practical, and are not characterised by red tape. The Inspectors are enthusiastic, sympathetic, and understand our difficulties. Harmonious relations have always existed between the Technical Instruction Committee and the Department, and they have on all occasions when requested been willing to advise and assist the Committee in every way possible to carry out the local scheme of technical instruction. (2). Development of Local Scheme of Technical Instruction.—The chief industries of the City of Londonderry are—

(1) Shrimt-making, (2) Engineering, (3) Building Trades, (4) Baking and Biscuit Manufacture, (5) Distilling, (6) Printing, and (7) Flour Milling, and the schemes of work adopted by the Technical Instruction Committee have, as far as possible, been designed with a view to assist these industries. During the session 1903-4, the number of entries was about 460; this has increased to 815 during the present session. The science department, which more directly affects the local industries, having increased from 122 entries in 1902-3, to 451 during the present session. Incidentally, I may say that a very large percentage of these are taking courses of study closely allied to their everyday occupations. There have been applications for chemistry, bread-making, cake ornamentation, &c., but owing to want of accommodation and expense these have had to be refused. (3). Arrested Development due to Want of Funds.—This brings me to the question of funds: the Committee's income is, approximately £2,200 per annum. The expenditure, as shown by the last balance-sheet (1904-5), was £1,667, approximately, which leaves a surplus of £533, which has been placed to the credit of the equipment fund for the new building. Now, the Committee have applied to borrow £12,000 for the erection of a suitable school, which it is expected will be commenced in the course of a week or two, and the interest and sinking fund on this amounts to £750 per annum. We have, therefore, the prospect of not only not being able to develop, but rather of being compelled to curtail the present incomplete scheme. The Committee are, consequently, strongly of the opinion that more funds should be placed at the disposal of the Department, and that in the case of Londonderry, the increase in the Endowment Fund, to allow of a development should be not less than £3,000 per annum. Of course it will go to the Building Fund; it is really a matter of funds and nothing else.

8337. At present you are undertaking on a building which is to cost £12,000?—Yes, the Committee have considered that necessary for local wants.

8338. How do you contemplate raising that?—On a loan from the Board of Works, repayable in forty years.

8339. You cannot go above the penny rate: you have the half penny rate now?—Yes, the penny rate works out to £420 a year.

8340. Then to get the assistance you require for that you want some alteration in the law?—We want more money from some source or other. Even another penny rate, as far as we can see, would not supply the wants; we are already in four separate buildings.

8341. (Mr. M'Intyre).—What would be your requirement of the instalments of the £12,000—£200 the first year.

8342. (Chairman).—I looked into your present school the other day; the rooms are very big, but the accommodation is limited all the same?—It is very, very limited; we are in three separate buildings, inside the Diamond, Bishop-street, for dress-making, and one at the corner of the Diamond used for commercial work, and the Committee room in the Guildhall.

8343. The room on the ground floor fulfils a great many purposes?—It is used as a lecture-room and laboratory for mechanics, a lecture-room for engineering, electricity, and physics. We had to refuse several students in several classes; if the attendance had worked out more than 75 per cent. they would have had to sit on the stairs in some cases.

8344. Otherwise, except for the building accommodation, it is very satisfactory?—Very satisfactory.

8345. (Mr. Gifford).—The arrangement of the work with a view to the industries has gone on quite independently of the lack of accommodation?—So far as we have no engineering workshop, no carpentry or planing workshop; we do preliminary work leading up to such subjects as geometry and technical arithmetic; we give it a special twist in that direction.

8346. The plans for the new building give adequate room for all the different branches of work?—Yes, and for chemistry.

8347. Are the plans arranged so that if you had a difficulty in finding the funds for the whole at once you could take a part?—You could start off a Department.

8348. You are committing yourself to build the whole place to begin with?—Yes. It is very unsatisfactory to tack on a piece afterwards.

8349. The arrangement of the work is subject to the approval of the Department?—Oh, yes.

8350. In making the arrangements do the officers of the Department consult with your people?—Not unless they are specially asked. They come down to inspect us, and we talk about things that are of common interest.

8351. Then the scheme before it can be put into execution must have the approval of the Department. Probably you have by informal conversation come to an understanding with the Department about putting local points in, their officers mentioning suggestions from other places?—Yes.

8352. How about the preliminary stage and later stages of evening class work in Londonderry—have you any difficulty in organising that, probably?—There is no difficulty in organising it. There is a mechanical engineers' course and a course for electrical engineers and plumbers, and all that. We have to start very low. There are a certain percentage of students below the sixth standard of the National school, but we put them in the course all the same.

We give the mechanical engineering students, chiefly apprentices in the town, a certain amount of machine-drawing, geometry, and at the same time technical arithmetic.

8353. You are carrying on his arithmetic in the technical form?—In his home work and note-book we make a special point of that.

8354. How far is any part of that work connected with the National Board?—None of it.

8355. So that practically, although the National Board administers public funds for the completion of elementary education in evening schools, Londonderry makes no draft upon it.

8356. That is not because there is no necessity for such education. As a matter of fact, you are giving that education?—We are giving it, but not in that form that the National Board would give it. These boys that have left school in many cases have an aversion to go to school again under a National school teacher, but if we do the work in a slightly different way in the Technical School they come into the Technical School, and are under the impression that they are doing technical work when they are doing the other. It is distinctly so.

8357. In a National school a pupil has to be taught without any particular reference to what his occupation is to be, because that is the rule of the Board; but now you have got him under a system where the completion of his elementary education ought to be related to what he is doing in the day. That education, however, is of the elementary standard treated in a comprehensive way. You are doing that work at the charge of the endowment fund?—Yes.

8358. If that were changed against the proper section of public accounts the net result would be that you would bring into Londonderry a certain amount, perhaps a couple of hundred a year, from another fund altogether that would enable you to spend the whole of your Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction money upon a more restricted field?—Yes.

8359. It is rather a pity, is it not, that you cannot work it that way?—It practically works out this way—that a large number of these people would not go at all unless you gave the work a practical twist, and I don't think the ordinary National teacher has the experience to give it that twist.

8360. Yes, but the getting of funds from the National Board does not depend upon the teaching of the National teacher or the instruction being given in the National school, nor should it depend upon the instruction being free from a practical bias. Supposing you applied to the National Board, and said—"This is the elementary education course, and we are giving it a bias in the direction of the work that we know this man needs. We want you to recognize us, and pay us out of the money Parliament has put at your disposal," you don't know what they would say?—No. We have never tried them. Others have tried them, and the maximum amount is 17s. 6d. a head.

8361. 17s. 6d. is better than nothing?—But we get the Science and Arts grant at the present time for practical arithmetic. It is given a distinctly practical twist, and is of considerable use to the boys.

8362. Scarcely at the stage contemplated for grants?—It is similar work to what is being done in England.

8363. No, it is because of that I am asking you these questions. In a town of this size a considerable amount of the money comes from the Education Board for the

evening continuation schools?—As far as I am able to get information, continuation schools have not been a success. The attendance practically dropped to nothing about February or March.

8364. Even the continuation schools worked under the same Committee?—No; under the School Board.

8365. The same Committee works the others?—I have no experience of that.

8366. I would suggest your visiting a town where you get something like this?—Of the whole of the children who have left the elementary schools in the last two years, 90 per cent. are attending evening classes, and the average attendance for the whole session is 90 per cent. of that. That is good enough, is it not?—That is good enough.

8367. Like you, I attribute the success of that to the infusion of the practical work. I wanted to make sure that your evidence was in favour of incorporating with the lowest grade of evening work a certain flavour of practical education?—Yes. The idea of the work is to fill up the gap, and lead on to a first year's technical course.

8368. How many nights a session do you get that lowest stage of pupils to attend?—I would say on an average something over two and a half evenings each week. He would probably take three classes—a class in practical geometry, a class in technical arithmetic, and building construction or machine construction, and the work is specially arranged for a session of thirty weeks.

8369. That is only ninety hours. That would not qualify under the existing conditions of the National Board. Is that the objection to your part to the National Board schools that the minimum qualifying number of hours is too high?—I have not gone into that. I was under the impression it was three evenings per week. It is a couple of years since I went into that, and we have not been able to develop since.

8370. (Mr. Miles).—I think you said that harmonious relations have always existed between the Technical Committee and the Department?—Yes.

8371. Was there not rather an exception to that at the time of your own appointment?—I don't know.

8372. Kindly mention the circumstances under which you were appointed?—I was appointed four years ago last March.

8373. To what post were you appointed then?—Head of the Science and Technical Department.

8374. What is your present post?—Principal.

8375. At the time of your appointment as Principal were the relations between your Committee and the Department harmonious?—As far as I know.

8376. Tell me what took place when you were appointed principal?—A sub-committee was appointed to go into the financial aspect of the Committee's work, and as a result of that they asked the Department to send an official down to advise them as to what was the best thing to do. What they did in the sub-committee I don't know, but the result was I got a letter saying I was appointed principal.

8377. Was there any principal before you were appointed?—No. Well, I suppose Mr. Hamar was principal at one time of the Art School, with one or two science classes tacked on.

8378. Why did he leave?—He gave notice.

8379. His office was not determined by the Committee or the Department?—Not as far as I know. Perhaps my colleague, Dr. O'Kane, can tell you that.

MICHAEL O'KANE, J.P., M.A., examined.

8380. (Chairman).—You are a member of the same Committee?—I have been a member since the formation of it. Perhaps it would be as well we should enter on the question Mr. Miles raised, because I am in entire agreement with all the evidence Mr. Armstrong has given as to the relations between the Department and our Committee. What occurred was this—when the Technical Committee was formed we took over the old School of Science and Art, which had been in existence for many years in Derry, and with it Mr. Hamar, the head-master of the Art Depart-

ment. Mr. Hamar at that time was appointed Prin. of the school at a salary of £420 a year. The Department would not recognise Mr. Hamar as an official principal for a science school, and it was necessary for us to advertise for a head-master for the Science Department of the school, which we did. For several years we carried on a kind of dual management or principalship. Mr. Hamar being head-master of the Art Department, and Mr. Armstrong on the other side. About a year and a-half or two years ago we saw that we were

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greatly hampered for want of funds, and considered that a great deal too much money was being spent on the Art side of the school. We came to the conclusion we could not go on paying Mr. Hamer £200 considering the value we were getting, and we cut down Mr. Hamer's salary. He resigned rather than work at a lower salary, and Mr. Armstrong was appointed principal.

8341. (Mr. O'Keefe).—Mr. Hamer's work was entirely satisfactory, but did not lend itself to re-organization.—Oh, we had no fault to find with Mr. Hamer, but it was a question of keeping Mr. Hamer, and sacrificing the science side of the school.

8342. (Mr. Micks).—Then there was no pressure put on the Committee?—No; in fact, it originated with the Committee, and the Committee asked the Department to send an Inspector down to advise on the situation. I have been at nearly every meeting where there was an inspection. There was never any attempt at coercion. There was a friendly discussion, and we got a great deal of useful advice from the Inspector. On the other hand, the Inspector always recognized we ought to be the best judges of the local condition of affairs.

8343. (Chairman).—So you corroborate what Mr. Armstrong has said about the relations between the Department and the committee?—Yes.

8344. On the question of funds?—The question of funds has been constantly before us. Last year we were urged locally to take up that question of chemistry, and we found it would run into £100 or £150 a year, and we are not able to do it. In the same way we were hampered on the commercial side.

8345. As to buildings?—We have been considering that matter for several years and decided that at the beginning that we should erect a school that would be quite capable of carrying on an enlarged scheme.

8346. What you are about to do?—That is what we are about to do; the plans are with the Department for their approval.

8347. (Mr. Brown).—Unless you get help in some shape or form you will have to curtail your work?—

Unless we get help from other sources when we are repaying the amount expended on the buildings we will have to cut down the efficiency of the school. Our action was there should be fresh legislation to enable special grants to be given for the purpose of erecting buildings.

8348. (Mr. O'Keefe).—You are anticipating that in your programme?—We are not; we are taking the risk. Perhaps we may be able by a larger number of students to earn increased fees, so that it would be more productive that way.

8349. (Chairman).—There seems to be a great demand for it here?—A great demand in every respect except cookery, which turned out to be a failure here; I cannot account for it.

8350. (Mr. Brown).—They know enough already?—I don't know a place that requires more teaching in cookery.

8351. (Chairman).—It seems to be more popular in country districts than in towns?—So I am told; the other domestic economy subjects are very well patronised and very successful.

8352. (Mr. O'Keefe).—Is there any cookery instruction given in the elementary schools?—I believe in the County schools they do.

8353. Supposing your new building were ready, it has apartments, I have no doubt, for special instruction in cookery?—Yes.

8354. Will this be available for any useful purpose during the day as a centre for cookery instruction for schools that are not giving that instruction?—They could be available for that purpose.

8355. You say that as if you were not very sure it would be a good purpose?—Anything you could do to get people to take a greater interest in their own health, in cookery or hygiene, would be most beneficial.

8356. Is there any idea in the mind of your committee as to utilizing the new building in the day time?—Yes, at present we have classes in the day time; it is intended they should be utilized in the day time; it was not simply for evening work.

Mr. GEORGE E. ARMSTRONG recalled.

Mr. G. E. Armstrong.

8357. (Mr. O'Keefe).—About the possibilities of your utilizing this new building in connection with the day work?—I suggested to the committee that they start a trade preparatory school giving a three or four years' course.

8358. You think there is good room for that?—I think so; I started as an experiment certain day classes this year—mathematics, descriptive geometry, principles of mechanics and physics. Fourteen individuals attended in the different subjects, and I have had to refuse many. I have advised them to go to Belfast. One Derry boy in particular has been at the

Belfast Trades School; one has gone to Lond; and two to Glasgow.

8359. Do you see any difficulty in combining the utilization of one part of the building for a trade preparatory school with that of another as a centre for domestic arts for the elementary schools in the town?—I don't see any difficulty; in the case of cookery the accommodation would not be for more than sixteen, which is as many as one teacher could take, and there would be only one room for carpentry.

8360. How many branches would you have?—About twenty; in the engineering workshop there would be room for metal work in the day time.

Mr. MICHAEL CANNIDY, Ballyshannon, examined.

Mr. M. Cannidy.

8401. (Chairman).—You represent the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction of Donegal?—Yes, Sir.

8402. Will you tell us what you wish to say?—Well, I endorse the statement by the Rev. Father Maroon, and I want to make a short statement in reference to the live stock scheme of the county. I think that each rural district should be competent to prepare its own scheme, and should appoint a local committee, and that committee should have the distribution of the amount set apart for the improvement of the live stock in the district. The present system of providing bulls in rural districts is not satisfactory, as they can be purchased more cheaply and satisfactorily before the recommendation of premiums, as the recommendation increases the price of the animals. The committee of the district or members appointed should be competent to purchase the class of animals best suited for the requirements of the district, and the animal approved of by the local committee should also not be rejected after, and every bull purchased by the committee should be registered by the Department in their books.

8403. Without the Department having any means of saying whether they approve of the bull or not?—A bull that the committee should select or approve of should be registered.

8404. (Mr. Brown).—The local committee should not be interfered with in their discretion?—Yes, but they should be responsible to the County Committee and to the Department.

8405. How do you mean responsible?—After the bull had been selected and purchased by a competent committee appointed locally what would suit us in Ballyshannon would not suit the people of Glenties or Arlara.

8406. I think you said that once the local committee approve of the bull it should not be rejected?—That is when selected and purchased.

8407. Selected by whom?—By the local committee.

8408. After they had selected and purchased a bull it should not be competent for any authority to reject the bull?—No.

8409. (Chairman).—That is to say the Department

would register a bull that the local committee purchase?—Yes, but at the same time they are to be responsible to the County Committee and the Department.

8410. (Mr. O'Neill).—Responsible for what?—For how they spend the money.

8411. (Mr. Micks).—They are to account for it?—Yes, because they could be more cheaply purchased by a local committee in any part of the country.

8412. (Chairman).—Would the local committee have as good an opportunity of getting as good a bull?—Certainly, in England, Scotland, or Ireland.

8413. (Mr. Micks).—How would they go to these places to buy?—They could go to Perth, or elsewhere.

8414. By the time you paid the expenses of your committee over there it would be a dear bull?—Two of the committee could be appointed, that would be an after consideration of the County Committee; two or four could select animals for the whole of the county.

8415. (Chairman).—Then it would not be a local committee, because you said the bull that would suit one part of the County Donegal would not suit another part?—I think you misunderstood me; I think the local committee should prepare its own scheme; we

were asked by the Department when this came into force first to prepare a scheme, and we did, but the whole thing fell to the ground.

8416. (Mr. Brown).—Do you mean the persons appointed by the committee should buy the bull?—They should make the appointment of persons to buy the bull—a committee of the County Council.

8417. (Mr. O'Neill).—I suppose the local committee would arrange as to who was to keep the bull?—Certainly. There is one matter I forgot to mention; we have only in our district three premium bulls, and the valuation of the district is about £25,000, the Ballyshannon Rural District.

8418. (Mr. Brown).—Is it a congested district?—Portion is.

8419. (Mr. Micks).—It appears there are fifty bulls altogether in Donegal?—We have only three at Ballyshannon.

8420. (Mr. Brown).—Is not that the fault of the local committee?—It appears there were no funds for more.

(Mr. Brown).—You are a great deal better off than other counties, with fifty premium bulls, as against other counties which contribute more and have not half as many.

MR. ALEXANDER WICK, Lifford, continued.

8421. (Chairman).—You are, I believe, a farmer living at Strabane?—In Lifford, County Donegal.

8422. I understand you wish to give some evidence on agricultural matters; you are not a representative?—I am not a representative, except in the view that I give I represent a great many ratepayers—not officially. A great many of us about Strabane consider the Department have not gone as far as they might go; we think that an Agricultural College would be a great advantage, if so placed as to take in all Donegal and the greater portions of Counties Derry and Tyrone, and the Department might seriously consider the advisability of same without delay. All branches of agriculture could be taught practically and theoretically, as suitable lands could be got in Donegal or Tyrone; from 300 to 500 acres could be acquired, and the lands are suitable for all sorts of experimental farming.

8423. (Mr. Micks).—That would take in Fermanagh, too?—No, we could scarcely go so far; we would not prevent the Fermanagh people coming, but I don't think perhaps it would be the same advantage to Fermanagh as to the other counties.

8424. (Chairman).—What sort of an agricultural college are you thinking of: have you seen any of them?—I have not; I have read of them, similar to what are in the South; I believe the nearest to us is Devon; that is of no practical use to us.

8425. Would you have a certain number of pupils residing there, and going through courses of one, two, and three years?—Certainly; we had at one time quite close to Derry an agricultural college at Templemore; it was rather before my time, but a presentation or wage it did good service, but it did not. We think it is one of the things that could be with advantage revived in a position that would benefit those three counties, and land could be acquired that would be suitable for experimental farming.

8426. Whereabouts would you have it situated?—Either in Tyrone or Donegal, convenient to Strabane. The reason I say Strabane is that it has every railway facility, and we have also water connection with Derry here.

8427. If you had it at Omagh, would it not be a good centre?—I am not dissenting as to the place or towards it should be in, but Omagh would not have the same railway facilities that we have. I did not come to debate the terminal it would be worked in; if we get a college convenient it is not of such great importance; we want the college.

8428. How do you think such a college would work?—You would have a certain number of young farmers coming to learn there, men who are supposed to be going back to the land themselves?—Undoubtedly we would have that.

8429. What do you think is the great advantage of it: is it that it spreads knowledge?—It would give them set out practical knowledge of proper farming, but the theoretical, and they would be taught the suitable measures for certain soils, and the whole thing carried out.

8430. Just what is done now in the places that are established?—Yes, we consider that the North is not as well equipped in that respect as other portions of Ireland.

8431. (Mr. Micks).—The noisy portion?—If you don't make a noise you won't be heard.

8432. (Mr. Brown).—You don't make presents of farms and buildings in the North?—The Department are not paupers, and don't want presents.

8433. (Mr. Micks).—Mr. Brown means that one of these farms in the South was given as a present?—We have not many philanthropists of that sort in the North.

8434. (Mr. Brown).—I mean that would account for its being earlier in the South; it is only in that point of view I put it?—There are several farms in both counties that could be available if the parties were approached, but I don't think any of them would mean to present them. From that college smaller branches could be worked, on the principle of the cottage hospitals: have cottage instruction branches out at the extreme ends of the county, where a small branch of the college would be useful and not expensive to carry on. I may add, sir, that, that those I have been talking with consider the Department have done good work so far as they have gone, but in our opinion they have not gone far enough, and consider it can do much more for the county if supported by the various agricultural committees. In some of our opinions, I won't say in all, the Committee set themselves to block the Department, and have done so simply because the Department will not allow them to do as they like. The different schemes, in some of our opinions, could not be carried out by the Committee without a controlling power, as their enthusiasm very often runs away with their better judgment; I would say if all the Committee would assist the Department, and throw out suggestions for the Department to consider, and not say, "There are the rules we lay down, and you must bow to them," things would go on more harmoniously.

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Mr. A. Wals.

8435. (Chairman).—Do you think, in your part of Donegal, that any of the Department's schemes have resulted in good—have they reached the small people?—In the live stock scheme I consider a great deal of good has been done by the importing of pure-bred short-horn bulls changing the breeding, not breeding in and in with their own; also I consider that I have not yet heard a better method of selecting than that adopted.

8436. Do you think the scheme proposed by the last witness, that local committees should buy bulls themselves, and the Department be obliged to register the bulls they buy, do you think that that would work?—I think it would not work at all, and I am sure of it.

8437. Do you think you would be as likely to get good bulls that way?—We would not get as good bulls or have them as unselectively selected, and I consider we are not paying too much if we get the right article.

8438. Have you anything to say about the way in which the premium system is working?—I don't think you could allow judges selected by any society to go on judging how many bulls there are suitable for the Department to subsidise.

8439. You are referring to what Sir Nicholas Gascoigne said this morning?—Yes, I think it is much better

this way, and we have uniformity of bulls all over Ireland, because the Department fix a standard, and unless I can be shown there is a better standard I would not change from the old one we have. This I know, if we change the judge that would be at Derry, and have a different judge at Cork, a different judge at Belfast, and the one at Dublin different, all would have different ideas as to bulls, and there would be no uniformity in the thing. I think we are not paying too much, nor do the breeders get all the 425.

8440. (Mr. Michs).—You think the bulls you get are bulls that suit your part of the country?—Yes, they do.

8441. (Chairman).—What do you say on the subject of what a good many witnesses have said, that it would be better to have a half-bred bull?—I would not allow a half-bred bull in my district.

8442. (Mr. Brown).—You would not subsidise that I would not. I would always have a pure-bred one.

8443. (Mr. Gellie).—It has been urged that it is necessary in the mountainous part?—You can get a Gallo-way or West Highland or Angus or Shorthorn or Hereford, according to the district. And not many Kernes should be subsidised; a man that would be ashamed to keep a goat would not be ashamed to keep a Kerry cow, and they are not much better than goats.

The Committee adjourned.

TWENTY-SIXTH PUBLIC SITTING.—TUESDAY, JULY 17TH, 1906.

At the Municipal Buildings, Belfast.

Present:—

SIR KESSEL DODDY, K.C., Q.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGLETHORPE.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MILES.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Mr. R. T. HURSTON, Armagh, examined.

8444. (Chairman).—You are Secretary of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for the County Armagh?—I am, Sir.

8445. You are about to give evidence as to the views of that County Committee. Your first head, I see, is as to the qualifications of members of a committee of agriculture and technical instruction. Will you just say what you wish to say on that point?—I would like the Committee in the first instance to understand that though I am secretary to the Armagh Committee of Agriculture the views I give may not be the views of that committee. With regard to the first head, the qualification of members of a county committee, I consider they should be the same as for County Councils, and should not be beneficiaries in any county scheme; that is to say that they should not be in a position to benefit in any way by the schemes. I consider members administering schemes should not benefit by them.

8446. Is that much of an evil at present?—No, I don't know that it is, but it is a matter entirely of principle. I don't think it affects my committee on the least.

8447. (Mr. Miles).—That is any direct benefit?—No direct benefit.

8448. (Chairman).—You think it is a wrong principle?—It is as a matter of principle entirely that I bring it forward.

8449. Take the case, for instance, about the premium bells?—Of course if that was the principle they would not be entitled to the premiums.

8450. At first it was rather difficult to get people to take them up unless members of the committee themselves were allowed to go in for the premiums?—I don't think there would have been any difficulty. I am speaking of my own county.

8451. I dare say not?—With regard to the appointment of officers by the Department, I have heard and read a great deal about the appointment of English and Scotch officials and instructors—I have even heard the Vice-President defending himself for appointing those people. I consider his answer should have been "I have appointed the best men, and will always do so while I am in office." We want the very best instructors in agriculture in Ireland that we can get. We want men who will come in with new ideas. Although the Department are setting about the teaching of instructors I doubt if they will ever be as useful; they certainly will not bring the new ideas to Ireland which would be useful to the country.

8452. Do you approve of trying to train up Irishmen to take these positions?—Certainly I do, and to set as agricultural instructors all over the world as well as at home. We have at the present time hundreds of Scotchmen acting as stewards. If our Irishmen had been educated and taught technical agriculture the bulk of these positions to-day would have been filled with Irishmen, not with Scotchmen, as they are. I think it is most necessary that they should be taught, but at the same time not to close our doors against all comers when we want agricultural instructors for Ireland.

8453. Do you think the system of training instructors, as a beginning, will help in the way of qualifying Irishmen to fill these positions?—I have no experience, but it is bound to tell. Agricultural instruction, although it is only going on for a few years

in Armagh, is telling already, and telling in a very marked degree. July 17, 1906

8454. Now as to the third point, the constitution of the Agricultural Council?—I approve of the present constitution of the Agricultural Council. I consider that if it was entirely an elective body there would be men who are practical experts on certain schemes that are being worked by the Department who would be left off the Council. I think it would be a very great mistake to alter and make it an entirely elective body.

8455. Do you think that want is supplied, to a certain extent, by the nominated members?—Certainly it is. Many of the nominated members are experts on certain schemes that are being worked, and when they get up and speak on these schemes they speak with an authority that carries weight and that will be wanting if the Council was entirely elective.

8456. How far have the two elements of elected and nominated worked together—do you think they work well?—I think they work well. As for our present head of the Department I don't think we will ever have a better, and so far as being a member of Parliament, I think he should be entirely removed from politics, or as far as he possibly can, and he could not be so if he had a seat in Parliament.

8457. Now as to the agricultural schemes?—Now with regard to the work of the provincial committees, I represent County Armagh on the Council of Agriculture, and the provincial committees, that is the committees for Ulster, Munster, Leinster, and Connaught, meet to elect two members of the Board of Agriculture. Those their duty seems to begin and end. I think this is a mistake, they should consider schemes that are at work in their provinces, and when a provincial committee is unanimous on a certain scheme that scheme should be brought before the Council of Agriculture, and if approved of by the Council of Agriculture, the Department should run it, even if it were a separate scheme for the province. At present the schemes run for Ireland, horse breeding, cattle breeding, and with the exception of a few isolated places, there is practically one scheme for all Ireland.

8458. You would like to see a little more modification to improve the wants of different parts of Ireland?—Quite so. We have a Provincial Committee, who consider how schemes work provincially, and if the Committee was unanimous as to a scheme for its province they should bring it before the Council of Agriculture, and if the Council of Agriculture approve the Department should run a separate scheme for the province. What suits one province may not suit another, and as a matter of fact I know it does not.

8459. You left out your fourth head about agricultural schools?—The establishment of agricultural schools—we have had in the County Armagh nine or ten lectures, and no doubt they have borne fruit. They have given parents a wish that their sons should receive an agricultural education, but they have run for over three years, and the attendance at those lectures have become less. Last year we established classes instead. We ran two classes, one in Portadown and one in Markethill. I don't think that the teaching at these classes is thorough enough. As a matter of fact there would be only thirty-four lectures given at a class, and students were enrolled and came there on thirty-

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Mr. R. T.
Hutton.

four days during the winter. They had an agricultural instructor and a veterinary instructor, but to my mind the teaching is not as thorough as it should be. It will, therefore, give the idea, if it is persisted in, that this agricultural teaching is of very little use, simply because it is not done thoroughly. We pay the locomotive expenses of the students attending the class, and their dinner is paid for when they come there. It is given to them for nothing, and I am afraid they think very little of it. I will need for you a report of Colonel Steele, the veterinary teacher of the classes, which will bear out what I say.—"At Portadown about six ablest intelligent pupils were much disturbed by the behaviour of the rest of the class, consisting of persons too young and indolent."

8450 (Mr. Ogilvie).—Who selected the pupils? They sent in their names to me, as secretary, and they were submitted to an examination held by the Department of Agriculture, and out of the number of students that entered sixteen were selected for Portadown and fourteen for Maristhull.

8451 (Chairman).—Is there any limit of age? They were all over sixteen; that was the limit.

8452 (Mr. Ogilvie).—Did the Department select them?—They selected them and passed them on examination.

8453. But did the Department have before them, at the time they had to consider these applications, any information with reference to these students from you or the committees with whom you were working?—As a matter of fact the advertisement for running the classes was published rather late, and the agricultural instructor and myself went round the country where we thought there was a farmer's son likely to make a good student, and we asked the farmer if he would send his son, and in that way we raised the classes owing to the advertisement being published too late.

8454. Then I gather that the circumstances under which that class was started were rather unfavourable?—Not so far as getting good students were concerned.

8455. It does not seem to have had the effect that we have found described as a success in Cook, where the selection of students had been carried out with active co-operation on the part of the county officers and the local committees. Students were selected from who, apparently, were able to take advantage of the classes. I rather gather from you that the matter had been rushed here?—It was rushed.

8456. Then it would scarcely be a good case on which to condemn a system?—I don't think thirty-four lessons in any case would be sufficient teaching.

8457. Thirty-four lessons in what period of time?—They were held two days a week. Thirty-four lessons of five hours, perhaps there was half an hour off for an interval.

8458. You think that is not a useful period to spend?—I don't think the course is long enough to give a good impression of how agriculture should be taught. The students go away from these not knowing enough to make a good impression on their neighbours in the country, that they have learnt something.

8459. Are you quite certain that you fully appreciated the object of the course?—I presume the object of the course was to teach these agriculturists.

8460. Yes, but are you quite satisfied that the aim of the course was that these men should be careless of light and leading in their acres after thirty-four lessons of the kind?—Well, they are not.

8461. What reason have you to suppose that any person expected they would be?—If they were it would seem in running the course and encourage other farmers to send their sons to it. I may not think so, but the farmers expect him to be.

8462. Supposing a student had been selected for this course, after seeing he did well in the local course, and had been afforded the opportunity of thirty-four lessons of five hours each, would he be any better informed on agricultural matters than he was when he started?—He must be better informed.

8463. Would his information be sufficiently better to be obvious in his own work?—It might to a certain extent.

8474. That, presumably, would depend to a certain extent on the length of the course and the preparation of the student, a great deal on the preparation of the student, and on how far the students were all of a like type and like quality. That does not seem to have been secured in the case of the class to which you have been referring?—No.

8475. Then agricultural schools of this type do not have a fair chance?—They may not have a fair chance, but as the same time I am in favour of the establishment of a permanent agricultural school in the county, when the County Committee considers the time has arrived for establishing it, and of having a demonstration farm in connection with it.

8476. That is another business?—Yes.

8477 (Chairman).—Do you wish to say any more on the subject?—No more.

8478. Then we come to your seventh heading?—With regard to the existing agricultural societies, and the formation of new ones, I think that the Department, if they were to take this matter up, could make them a great deal more useful to the country than they are at present. We have a number of agricultural societies all over Ireland, and they hold agricultural shows, a show that is partly agricultural and partly otherwise, and there, they seem to think, their duty begins and ends. That is not my idea of what an agricultural society should be. I consider that these agricultural societies or the farmers who are members of it, should be met by the agricultural instructor of the county, that they should discuss the value of seeds, manure, and farming implements, and that the members should put their heads together, co-operate, and buy their manures and seeds. The manures and seeds should be selected for best to the Department. If the Department would meet these societies, and organise them in this way, a great deal of good could be done for the farmers, and they could make the society actually profitable to the farmers, and the membership of the societies would grow owing to the farmer getting actual value for his money.

8479 (Mr. Druden).—Is not work of that character done at present through the I.A.O.S.?—It may be, but there is no Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, except for working the creameries, in my county.

8480. That society to which I refer is for the purpose of organising all descriptions of agricultural societies?—I have never yet heard of that society being in communication with the existing Agricultural Society, and working it on the lines I have suggested.

8481. They will only do so on being asked to do so?—I think if the Department would take the matter up, and push it among the agricultural societies, a benefit would be derived.

8482 (Chairman).—Now shall we go to the breeding of horses, cattle, and swine?—The live stock schemes, with the exception of the cattle scheme, which has done a vast amount of good in our country, have been a complete failure. The horse and swine schemes are a failure. The horse scheme is not only a failure so far as the loss of money spent on it, but it has absolutely depreciated the value of the horses bred in the county. Twenty years ago the Royal Dublin Society commenced sending thoroughbred horses year after year to the county. There was a run on them of course. They came in as Government horses, and the farmers thought they were going to improve their stock wonderfully. They put their mares to the thoroughbred, and their fillies back to the thoroughbred horses, and kept on breeding in this way until they had only a bundle of words about the horse that they could neither sell nor work. The Department have now introduced a Clydesdale, which has been mated with very light mares, with the result that they are breeding a sort of mongrel, the head is the largest part of it, and the neck is turned upside down. Ireland has a name for horses—harness horses and hunters. It is no secret to anyone how these horses are bred, and why they should try to breed them on new lines is, to me, incomprehensible. These horses in Ireland were bred by mating light mares with the Irish half-bred horses, which was heavier than the thoroughbred, and mares bred in this way, mated with the thoroughbred horse, when they came back to him. The fillies got by this Clydesdale, hairy-legged animal, don't get good stock when mated with the thoroughbred horse. The Department, I understand, have at last decided to establish a farm to breed the Irish draught horse, which is really the horse I mean, or perhaps a lighter horse.

8483 (Mr. Druden).—Do you know whether any of these horses can be had now—the Irish draught horse which I have heard spoken of frequently?—There are very few of the type to be had now, but you could breed anything if you had time and money. The half-bred horse, a lighter horse, there would be no difficulty in breeding.

8534. (Mr. Micks).—Is there any place where we could see an old Irish horse?—No, sir; I think not. There is not one in the North of Ireland. There are one or two half-bred horses, but they are not heavy enough for draught horses.

8535. (Chairman).—What would be your suggestion; how do you think a better system of breeding could be started?—By establishing Government stud farms for breeding a horse of a certain type, and breed them there.

8536. (Mr. Brown).—How would you begin?—I would begin by buying the best draught mares—those are mares that you meet at the Royal Dublin Society's Show fifteen or sixteen stone hinders. These mares are big and strong enough to breed draft horses, and I would mate them with the best of the same type that can be got now. With regard to the half-bred horses, I would get strong mares, possibly as strong as for the draught horses, but I would mate these with the thoroughbred horse for breeding half-bred horses, the hunters, the carriage horses. They would both be graded on the same basis.

8537. (Mr. Dryden).—That would take a great many years to work out—It would, but if that had been started twenty years ago there would be plenty of them all over Ireland to-day.

8538. (Chairman).—On this point you don't approve of the Department's method?—Well, I understand they are about to start a stud farm for the purpose of breeding Irish draught horses. If they are they are getting on the right track at last.

8539. (Mr. Brown).—You are aware that they established a register for that class of horses?—They have established a half-bred register.

8540. And also for draught horses?—I have not heard of it. I believe thoroughly in breeding our own animals, and not changing the type. We have got good hunters and harness horses; we had pigs that got a name for Limerick bacon, and there was no necessity for introducing the large York. In England types of horses have been selected, and vast sums of money spent in grading them up; and the same thing in Scotland with the Clydesdale and also the Shire horses. Nothing of the kind has ever been done in Ireland. If it had we would have vastly better horses in Ireland than in England or Scotland. I hold the same opinion in regard to the Connemara pony. He is the best in the world of his kind, and we should have stuck to him.

8541. (Mr. Micks).—You know the Department at present has improved Connemara sires for the Connemara ponies?—They have bred Connemara sires for the purpose.

8542. Yes?—Then that is on the right lines.

8543. (Chairman).—You are speaking with a good deal of experience and knowledge of your own?—All my life I have been interested in horses.

8544. Are you a veterinary surgeon?—I am, practising in Armagh for the last twenty years, and was interested in horse-breeding before I went to the profession at all.

8545. Now, you say, you don't approve of the Yorkshire pig?—No, I approve of grading up our own sows. We introduced the large Yorkshire, and crossed them with the sows in the County Armagh, and at first I thought it was prejudice of the farmers against the pig. I followed the matter up myself, and I am now of the opinion that it is not.

8546. We have had some very strong evidence in the West about improvement in the produce of the sows by these boars?—Well, we have an exceedingly good breed in the neighbourhood where I come from, but any breed can be improved by grading up, and they could be graded up, too.

8547. (Mr. Dryden).—What would you think the farmer's object in breeding should be?—I would produce, according to the district I was in, the pig that would pay the farmer best.

8548. (Mr. Micks).—You would have the kind of pig the bacon merchant recommends?—Whatever pig they could make most money out of. Armagh is a pork market. All the pigs are slaughtered by the farmer himself, and carted into the market, and therefore I would watch the market and breed the one that would sell best.

8549. (Mr. Dryden).—What breed do those who handle the pigs recommend?—Different firms recommend different pigs.

8550. (Mr. Brown).—Do they travel outside the Yorkshire breeds, these bacon cures?—Yes, but if the Yorkshire breed won't pay the farmer best; if we

have a pig that will produce more bulk in the same time, and they will give the same price per cwt. for him, is he not the best for our purpose?

8551. (Mr. Micks).—Is there any particular breed you prefer?—Yes, the best breed; he is a pig almost devoid of hair, with a medium length head, and ears hanging down. With regard to all animals standing for service in Ireland, I consider they should, every one, be inspected and held harmless. No unsound animal of any breed should be allowed to serve.

8552. (Chairman).—Whether horses, cattle, or swine?—No matter what he is, he should not stand for public service without holding a license. He should be passed as sound, and be reasonably good of his type.

8553. When would you make the licensing authority?—The Department of Agriculture. They could inspect the animal, have him examined, and issue a license. There are many unsound animals in the country doing a great deal of harm.

8554. (Mr. Micks).—Would you allow a man to keep for his own use any kind of sire he liked?—Well, I think so.

8555. There might be the danger of a very cheap secretly given service?—It would be better to extend it, and not allow any animal at all to serve. In tuberculosis in cattle, I think I have a rather unique experience with regard to this disease; certainly I have with regard to submitting cattle in Ireland to the tuberculin test. For the past eight years I have tested hundreds of animals. I was looking over my records last night, and since the 1st of January, 1905, up to the present, I submitted 215 animals to the test. Of these, 164 passed, 45 failed to stand, and there were four doubtful cases. In other words, a quarter of the cattle in Ireland are tubercular. The point may be raised as to whether the test is satisfactory or not. Anyone with my experience of it could not have the smallest doubt. I have absolutely none.

8556. (Chairman).—That the test is satisfactory?—Yes, sir. An animal that fails to pass the test once, under fair, ordinary treatment, never passes it again. I am sure there are many breeders who can bear me out in this.

8557. (Mr. Dryden).—Is it not true that some of the worst cases won't react at all?—It is the case that when animals are so palpably affected that you would not require to test them at all.

8558. Not always?—I have seen some that looked very well, on the other side, but when you came to kill them you found they were pretty bad, and they would not react at all?—I don't mean to say that the man in the street would know it was a tubercular beast, nor a veterinary surgeon would be able to tell it without the test. I know there is a great difficulty in finding tuberculous in some animals that don't pass the test. Nodes of tubercles are very small, and it is quite possible you would not, on an ordinary examination, in the slaughter yard, find them. This brings us to the point of whether this disease should be scheduled or not. In my opinion it should be. We have had a Congress on tuberculosis considering the enormous death-rate from consumption in Ireland, and it is to be wondered at when a fourth of our cattle are suffering from it. Children are being fed with milk swimming with the bacilli of consumption. It is, therefore, no wonder the Irish death-rate is so high from that disease.

8559. (Mr. Micks).—Is it now accepted fact that animal tuberculosis is transmissible to the human subject?—I think it is generally accepted now, and where the udder becomes affected the germs are in the milk. If the udder of cows in milk, suffering from consumption, are carefully examined, it will be found that many are affected. We hear of a cow having faken in the udder, swelled udder, hard quarter; many of these things are consumption pure and simple.

8560. Before you leave that, what cattle disease is notifiable?—Yes.

8561. What are they?—Foot-and-mouth disease, pleuro-pneumonia, rinderpest.

8562. Anthrax?—No.

8563. Glendora?—That is a horse disease; it is notifiable, and sheep scab.

8564. To whom is it notified?—To the local authorities.

8565. Is it notified also to the Department?—The Department get notification from the local authority.

8566. So both the local and central authority have notice?—Yes. Now with regard to our premium bulls

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July 17, 1906. I consider premium bulls should be subjected to the tubercular test. No doubt it would be a big step, but it will have to be taken. We are in this position that in a county where they purchase first-class premium bulls these bulls stand as yearlings, and at the end of the year they are offered for sale. They are bought by exporters, and submitted to the tubercular test. If they fail to pass that test they remain in the county and serve cattle the following year, some for two years more. So by degrees we are just getting a county full of premium bulls that will not stand the test.

5517. You are aware that it is considered that tuberculosis is not hereditary in the human subject?—I am.

5518. In making the suggestion that the premium bulls should be tested for tuberculosis, do you think it is transmissible in the animal from the male to the progeny?—No, I don't say so, but you are keeping a tuberculous animal on a certain farm, and there he can spread his disease. The germ is on that farm, and cattle are brought to that farm for him to serve. In all probability they are put into a house that he has been turned out of, and he may have been breathing germs of consumption all through that house.

5519. It is to guard against direct contagion, not transmission?—Yes.

5520. (Mr. Dyden).—According to you tuberculosis would be in the farm before the bull came?—It might.

5521. You say that a quarter of the animals are affected?—My statistics show that.

5522. So that it would be no harm to bring in another infected animal into a herd that had it already?—It would; it would increase the amount of the infection.

5523. (Mr. Micks).—You would take what steps you could to eradicate the disease?—I would, considering the number of people who are dying of consumption. With regard to the Diseases of Animals Act I consider that this Act should be administered in each county by the Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction look after the animals in health and are trying to improve their breeds, and I think on them there should be a life responsibility of working that Act and dealing with them in disease.

5524. (Mr. Brown).—There is nothing at present to prevent the County Council appointing them; our county have done so?—It is not done in all counties; it is only a matter of the County Council conferring their authority on the committee.

5525. They don't delegate it to the committee as such, but they appoint members of the committee for the purpose of the Diseases of Animals Act?—I think it would be better if it was handed completely over to that committee to deal with. The secretary of the committee could act as secretary to the committee for the working of the Diseases of Animals Act, so that the police, instead of reporting to the secretary of the County Council, would report it direct to the Agricultural Committee. The County Council in my county have handed over the new Sheep Dipping Order to my committee, and the police communicate with me. There are many diseases that are rife in the county, and when the County Council appoint a small committee to work the Diseases of Animals Act they really think it is hardly worth considering at all. It is only a case of glands; order your inspector to see to it. That, as a rule, is all that is done. We have diseases in the County Armagh that are getting more prevalent every year, diseases that should be scheduled and looked after. I speak of distemper in horses. Twenty years ago you would have one or two cases of distemper in the winter; ten years ago you would have fifty;

now you have several hundred. It goes round nearly every person's farm, and it is spread from one house to another, and it is allowed just to go unchecked, no one taking any trouble—the most infectious disease in a horse, except influenza, which we don't have. There is another disease, dysentery in cattle, that we would require to investigate, and if the committee of agriculture who are interested in all these were to take the matter up and advise the Department, I am sure steps would be taken to deal with them, because, as far as my committee go we have got on most friendly with the Department, and every suggestion we have made has been taken notice of, and they have made many alterations in their schemes at our suggestion. I need not enumerate other diseases. They all could be worked by the committee.

5526. (Chairman).—I understand the general drift of this part of your evidence to be that there are a great many diseases of this kind that should be carefully attended to, and that there is room for a good deal of development?—Yes, the County Committee being made the notifiable authority.

5527. (Mr. Micks).—Do you want all these diseases scheduled, even the comparatively minor?—The diseases I am speaking of are not minor.

5528. Of course not, but they stand on a different footing to tuberculosis; you would wish them to be made notifiable diseases that are minor to tuberculosis?—I would.

5529. Would you be afraid that a tremendous disorganization in the cattle trade would follow such scheduling?—I would consider the matter; I would be careful of the disease. I would make it necessary to notify. I don't think disorganization would follow the notifying of certain diseases. In other words, I would not go in for a wholesale scheduling of all diseases that were infectious.

5530. (Chairman).—I see your last item is the cultivation of flax; have you personal experience of that?—I have.

5531. (Mr. Micks).—Are you a grower?—No, sir. With regard to the cultivation of flax it is particularly with a view to the extending of experiments that are at present being made by the Department, that is the bringing about the purchase of green flax on foot and being dealt with by the purchaser. Labour in Ireland is getting less in the country districts. Many farmers in the country would grow flax, but cannot get labour to handle it. If it could possibly be brought about that they would treat it as is in other countries, sell the green flax on being pulled, many farmers that don't now grow flax would grow it; it would be one way of encouraging the growth of flax.

5532. (Mr. Brown).—Would not the same amount of labour be required in any case?—Up to the pulling.

5533. (Mr. Micks).—It would become factory labour then?—Yes; the bulk of the labour is after the pulling.

5534. How do they deal with it in other countries?—They sell it green. It is brought to the factory and dealt with there, steeped and steamed, and the seed taken off.

5535. Can you give us a reference to any publication where we could find an account of that?—The Department's publications, the Department's leaflets.

5536. (Chairman).—I see at the end of the communication we have from the Council, signed by you as secretary, there is something about the burning of lime; that the Department should adopt some means of encouraging the burning of lime to bring it within the reach of small farmers; shall we have a witness who will speak to that?—I think so; I am not so expert on that.

Mr. ROBERT R. MURPHY, J.R., Ready, examined.

Mr. R. R. Murphy, J.R.

5537. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Armagh?—Yes.

5538. You appear here, I believe, as representative of the committee?—Yes.

5539. Do you put in a formal communication which the committee have signed?—Yes.

5540. Will you say then what you have to say about that; first of all, as to agricultural instruction?—It was the want of agricultural instruction, in my idea, that left the farming industry so far back. Mr. Huston has referred to the fact that there are lectures

by an agricultural instructor through the different parts of the districts and holding classes. We would wish more classes held in more centres. County Armagh is so divided, with a school in Portadown, and a school in Markethill, that no provision is made for the congested part of the county. I look on Portadown and Markethill, both, as the more enlightened part of the county. My own district is more congested, and there is no opportunity there for farmers' sons to get any instruction when they leave the National school, and since the system of reports has been done away with in the National school the far-

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ment sons, according to my experience, have gone back forty or fifty years. Their education now is no better than it was in the old hedge schools, or not so good. Though the metric examination was said to be all about my belief in that matter what was given to a boy he will hold some that will be of use to him in the future. Now the system of wire-twisting and paper-folding is only injuring the education of the farmers' sons, and I agree with Mr. Huston that the boys have not been able to receive the benefit from these schools that they should have. In former times, twenty years ago, the farmers' sons and daughters were taught agriculture, and it did not do anybody any harm; now the teaching of agriculture in the schools is in any of the National schools; there is nothing in it. I know boys that went into these examinations, both in Marlborough and Portlough, and for want of an agricultural education they were not fit to take advantage of them. In old times they were taught geography and grammar; now if you ask a child in a National school to point out that place or that he cannot do it. He is used to no map; it is only geographical readers. Their education is going backward instead of forward.

5541. You think there should be more agricultural teaching in National schools?—There should be more agricultural teaching.

5542. How would you have it given?—Twenty years ago there were certain hours in the National school for teaching purely agriculture. The children were examined on it by the inspector. The teacher got a prize on it, and got so much percentage for each child he passed.

5543. Do you think much might be done in teaching children by way of gardens, by having garden plots attached to the schools?—Certainly, I would approve of that, that they should have both instruction in the school and practical instruction outside, because the farmer's son is a poor object when he is turned out of the National school to make his way in the world at the present time, and if there were secondary schools, as I saw a suggestion made by Mr. Plunkett in an early pamphlet, when the children left the National school their education would be taken up then, and that would be a means of making different men of them.

5544. I see the next thing you speak about is the breeding of cattle?—Take me on either horses or cattle. To take horse-breeding first, I would say that I agree with Mr. Huston that we should see the half-bred steers through Ireland. These half-bred horses have done any amount of harm, and the mares are not fit to be mated with the thoroughbred mares. In the olden times—twenty years ago—there was a brood of horses that are in the County Down stall, the Harkaway strain, that were half-bred; part of the same blood came into Armagh. Corcoran was smothering of a hackney in his blood, and there were two or three of that strain of horse that were rather good horses, in Armagh, and remarkable looking horses. Now it is only some big, useless lumber of a horse, or some wood, that we can see, except what comes to us from the South or West.

5545. You agree with Mr. Huston's view as to that?—I do.

5546. As to cattle?—The scheme as it is working very well; but we want more money to work the cattle scheme—to work it on the proper lines that it should be wrought in. It may be said that in Armagh all the premiums for the bulls have been taken up. Such is the case these last one or two years past, but there are certain districts in the county where the farmers are not able to give the prohibitive price for yearling bulls that they are called upon to pay. The district I represent, I look upon it as a congested district, and I agitated with the Department on different occasions if it were possible for them to supply a bull on the same terms to it as to the South and West of Ireland, but the answer to it was that they would lead money for it, but that was all the benefit that could be got. If there was money enough to do it, and where it is proved to them that the farmers are not able to buy a bull there would be a great benefit conferred by doing it. For the thirty cows that a yearling shorthorn bull has to serve the list is filled at once, and very often a complaint is made, even by the bull owner, that it is not the more worthy parties that receive these services, but it is the larger farmers whose cows have calved earlier. Although it has been limited by our Committee to three cows for each man, still it is known that after getting his three cows served he can go to

another breeder's premium bull with three more, and here the poor man out.

5547. About swine?—It is, in my opinion, the most important. When this scheme was launched in Armagh first the large York was considered to be the proper thing. I think the premiums were all taken up at that time, but after the first crop was produced, and the large York came into the market, Armagh is one of the best markets for sucking pigs in the North of Ireland. When the produce of these hogs was brought to the market they would not be brought. I have known the breeders of them to bring them to market after market, but the farmers would not buy them. They object to a pig with a lot of hair about him. My idea would be that we should grade up the native head of pigs. We had a meeting, on the suggestion of the Department, that the rearing of pigs should be asked to allow an inspection of their pigs, and the best hogs picked out of them, and these hogs, if considered satisfactory, should be registered, and so on, improving the grade, because now it is a very odd, some deformity in the litter of pigs that is kept for a year; one that is fit for nothing else.

5548. Your next head is as to the establishment of secondary schools for commercial or vocational pursuits?—Yes, I spoke about that.

5549. Then, as to the supply of lime to farmers?—That is one of the most necessary things for the farmer in my district, as it is utterly removed from being a time-worn soil. The crop has gone down, the bearing capacities of the soil, and the weight of the produce. Years past when the lime industry was flourishing, and lime cheap, the farmers drew enormous quantities of lime. Now they cannot get any lime. What I would wish, if it was possible, would be that the Department would subsidize kilns. There are any amount of them left idle in the neighborhood, and try and spread the industry in that form. I think it could be done, and would pay. The County Monaghan has started on that; they saw the necessity of it.

5550. Have the County Committee taken any steps in that direction?—The Armagh County Committee have made a recommendation to the Department that such a thing should be done.

5551. What did the Department say to that?—I did not see any reply to that.

(Mr. Huston).—It was sent up, in the minutes, within the last month.

(Chairman).—You have raised the question?

(Mr. Huston).—Yes, sir.

5552. (Chairman).—Then as to the flax industry, Mr. Murphy?—That was one of the principal industries of the County Armagh, but of late days it has been looked upon as one of the dying industries, but since the Department has shown some little sympathy with the farmers it has improved, and there is a lot of room for improvement yet. I cannot agree with our secretary when he says all the green flax. I don't think there would be many farmers willing to do that. If that were the case we would have large farmers sowing flax, and running the poor men out. I think the men who grow his flax, and are able to handle it, should get every assistance possible. I don't say that we should assist the men with 100 acres that has no more trouble, only to sow his flax, and let it be well.

5553. Is flax grown to any extent by small men?—Flax is grown all by small men. There were 200 entries at Armagh Show, and nearly all were grown by farmers with ten or twenty acres.

5554. (Mr. Murphy).—I don't know what you mean by saying that the large farmer might sweep the small farmers if given facilities for selling his flax great?—The large farmer would grow fifteen or twenty or one hundred acres of flax. He would sell his flax to the Association. It would swell the bulk in opposition to what the small farmer has who handles it by his own help and family. He must pull it himself, dry it, and scotch it, and bring it to market.

5555. Is it not a fact that the amount of Irish flax is altogether insufficient for the requirements of the spinners?—Very often we see that the spinner has too much flax.

5556. If he has too much flax, is it not flax that he bought from abroad?—I do not know how much, or too little, the spinners keep themselves on the safe side, and will not give the farmer very much for it, in any case.

5557. Do you happen to know how much of the flax worked in the North of Ireland is assumed to be home-grown, and how much imported?—No, I am not up

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to that. Our Agricultural Committee, in Armagh, for years went on a scheme of prizes for flax sown. This year it has been changed to green flax. There has been a considerable quantity more flax sown. There is no demonstration plot to show the different manures, only what we can read out of the reports given to the Department, as to what manures or what quantities of these manures should be applied.

8558. Is it your opinion that if the large men grow ten times the amount of flax they do now it would injure the price for the small farmer?—Certainly, I think so, for when the spinners cannot give any more for a small quantity of flax, it is not likely that they won't keep themselves safe when the large quantity comes. When it was a small market the buyers were very keen, but when it is a large market the buyers can keep their coats on, and go about content. They know the quantity is there, and they can get it at any time. In Armagh we want more instruction on this. That is my view, and I have agitated it in the Armagh Flax Committee, as being the only flax-grower who was a member of that committee, that we want more instruction and more help from the Department. The Department in years past have been sending experts to the Continent. We cannot see much fruit from these experts. Working farmers have not been sent to the Continent who know something about the working of flax. "It was a few small

farmers who, for a cheap holiday, got influence brought on the Department to get out to the Continent men who never had flax in their hand. These are the men they have been sending to the Continent; the men of experience were kept at home, and saw nothing about this.

8559. You think more might be done in that way?—More might be done, and let the regular flax-growers see the Continental methods of handling flax. We should be able to grow as good flax as is grown on the Continent, if we had a proper training.

8560. (Mr. O'Connell).—The wrong men have been sent to the Continent?—The wrong men. I have seen no fruits yet of their labour, no benefits from any of the Continental experts yet.

8561. (Chairman).—What is done in the way of instruction in flax growing—have you got experimental plots?—We have no flax instructor; our agricultural instructor in Armagh is not a flax man.

8562. Do you say you have practically no instruction from the Department?—Practically no instruction.

8563. Has that been represented to the Department that you want more instruction in flax growing?—I don't know that it has been represented, but I give it as a flax grower all my life—a practical farmer.

8564. You are taking this opportunity of expressing your views on that point.

Mr. THOMAS A. M'CARTHY, J. R., Killybegs, examined.

Mr. T. A.
M'Carty, J. R.

8565. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Armagh?—Yes.

8566. You have heard Mr. Huston's evidence and Mr. Murphy's; do you wish to express agreement or disagreement with anything they said?—Just on one or two things I would express an opinion, and, unless for that, I thoroughly agree with what Mr. Huston has stated. About the premium bulls, I don't see how he could get out of having some of his committee holding the premiums. I must say that I have held one, under the Royal Dublin Society, I suppose for may be ten or twelve years before the County Committee took them up.

8567. At all events, it would be difficult to get the matter started?—I don't think you could get other men to take them up. You have practically more than half the members of the Committee holding the premium bulls; and another thing, about the diseases, I think there are some diseases that there should be an inquiry about. For instance, you have black quarter; you have got that practically prevented. Now we have got blood murrain in our district. We know how to cure it very well, but we would like to know a preventative. We have a preventative for black quarter. It puts cattle back six weeks to two months in thriving.

8568. You have very good advice ready to your hands in Armagh?—That is right enough, but what we want is a preventative. If we could get to know the cause of it we would be glad; we cannot get to know what really is the cause of it.

8569. Have you anything to say about the action of the Department in that respect; do you think that might be improved in any way?—I think they should try to inquire on the spot, and see if we can try to find out what is the cause of it.

8570. You know they have given a good deal of attention to that kind of thing?—As far as I know they have not, in our district. We have got no instruction about it. I think, as far as the creameries are concerned, they don't help to improve our cattle-breeding. I think you can make no substitute for the milk for fattening the calves.

8571. Do you think has it a bad effect?—Yes.

8572. Now, the live-stock schemes, generally, have you anything to say about them?—Not, unless about the swine, and I think both Mr. Huston and Mr. Murphy have gone into that. I think we might do something more for the swine. Our district of the

country is largely a pork-rearing district, and what you want is the pig you can put into the market the quickest.

8573. (Mr. Wright).—What weight do you sell them at?—About 2 cwt.

8574. Is that the size the bacon merchants in Belfast and Derry prefer?—What they give the most for they get.

8575. That is their size?—Yes; and they don't seem to give anything for a large York or any other one. They give all for weight, and when they come into the market, and want 11 cwt. they will get most for that.

8576. You don't think they look for quality?—They don't.

8577. (Mr. Dryden).—They give the same price to the man who produces a poor pig as the man who produces a good one?—I don't say that exactly, but for the weight they require they give much about the same price. A pig of 8 cwt. would be very much about the same quality.

8578. I understand they would not want one that weighed 8 cwt. 50 lbs., but I am speaking of the quality?—There is very little difference in the price—not more than 1s. a cwt. What I am speaking of is a cwt. is 112 lbs. We have the market all the year round.

8579. How many premium boars have you in this county?—Not very many. I think there are only two or three. We had a few at first, but the scheme is practically dead.

8580. The scheme does not injure you, at all events?—No.

8581. (Mr. Wright).—Is the bacon-curing altogether in Belfast?—Portadown is largely in it, too.

8582. (Mr. Brown).—On the question of the premium bulls, the premium is not given for the benefit of the bull owner; it is for the advantage of the locality?—Certainly; we always consider the locality in planning, and we try to give them to the outsiders first.

8583. If you have applications from some who are members, and some who are non-members, you give the preference to the non-members?—Yes, and to the outsiders; men away from another.

8584. You distribute them as well as you can for the county?—Yes.

8585. Is there any other point you wish to call attention to?—I don't think so.

5585. (Chairman).—You say, I understand, Principal of the Institute and Chief Executive Officer of the Technical Instruction Committee of Portadown—Yes, sir. If you will permit me, I would like to tell my story in my own way. May I be permitted to make one or two remarks as a result of what has transpired this morning with regard to the Agricultural Classes that our friend in the county has spoken of. These classes were conducted in my school, and as principal Executive Officer I watch them from an educational point of view very closely. My own opinion is that they must do a great deal of good, and I would not condemn them in such a wholesale fashion as that in which they have been already condemned this morning. Mr. Hinton says the instruction is in theory, and he thinks that is the main cause of failure. In saying that, I fancy Mr. Hinton does not mean to cast any reflection on the instructor; he simply means that the time is not sufficiently long for good agricultural instruction to be given. My own opinion was that if the classes had been held with considerably more rigid discipline they would have been much more profitable. There were many reasons why that possibly could not be done, but there, I think, is the principal cause of their failure; and then I would put it down also to the inertia of the farmer. We are a very conservative-minded country, and the methods that have been used up to the present have got fast hold of the older farmers. It is only the young people with whom these agricultural classes deal, and therefore it is only in the years to come that you can see the practical outcome of these agricultural classes.

5587. One of the witnesses in another part of Ireland told us he gave up the farmer after forty—I quite agree with that.

5588. (Mr. Brown).—These classes have not yet been held in rural districts—they are held in towns. They are held in towns, but they are only used as geographical centres for the district. We in our school don't want town students. We simply lead the room.

5589. I think it has been found from experience that the classes do better when held in the country districts—I am speaking of just what I found.

(Chairman).—No doubt it would be different in different parts of Ireland.

5590. (Mr. Micks).—Your school is a long distance from the town—Yes; we are surrounded by fields, and use these fields for recreation and many other objects of instruction. I would recommend, of course, a three years' course. I don't consider that anything could be done in less than three years, and I also think that experimental science, pure science, should be the ground work of that course. I don't think you can teach agriculture from the top; you must teach it from the bottom, from the soil, and experimental science and science work must be done. With regard to the reference to wine-making as a type of education, and so on, it is only the beginning of things. I don't think it is fair to criticize the type of education because it had to begin at the beginning. This manual training, of which wine-making was the germ, had never got a fair chance; it never developed into the tree; simply because they could not see the good of the seed they would not have to plant. That is another instance of our conservatism in this country, and with regard to the agricultural teaching in National schools, it seems to me that we want some more capable agricultural instructors than the ordinary National school teachers. The National school teacher has to give a general education, and that kind of instruction he gives. He can't be an expert in agriculture as well. I take it that our county schemes are for the introduction of expert advice on these things, and I think it would be a step back to do as Mr. Murphy suggests, to allow agriculture to be given in National schools to children. I would far rather that they would be allowed to give experimental science, and, perhaps, a little elementary botany, so that boys when they get into the fields would know what the field meant or the plant meant. I think it is the right thing to attack in schools. I know that it was a fact that in the old days the percentage of boys that Mr. Murphy talks about was far higher in the towns than in the country, which means to say that the agricultural work was measured by the intelligence of the student, not by the amount of agriculture that was taught. That is with regard to our own work, with which I, perhaps,

am more qualified to deal, for I only deal with the agricultural classes from an outsider's point of view. Dealing with our own work and our relations with the Department, I might go so far as to say we have nothing but praise for the Department and for its work. Possibly our method of dealing with grievances which will undoubtedly crop up in any public work, is different from that practiced by the rest of Ireland. Our method is first of all to read the regulations very carefully, and to find out what we may do and what we may not do. The Committee discuss these things very fully, and when we see that the regulations are binding on us, if they are doing us an injury we put these views before the Department officially. Probably we get no answer for a long time, and if so we go up and see them, or we invite them to come down and see us, and we have a talk about these matters among ourselves, and in nearly every case we are able to surmount the difficulty in some way or other without breaking the regulations. Perhaps a little difference of interpretation between two officials may give us all the latitude we require. Personally I am inclined to think that many difficulties that I have noticed in the Press in the evidence that has been given to this Commission while it has been sitting have largely arisen through the faults of the Committees themselves. Either they don't know what they may do or they did not know what they wanted. I would like to make that the text of what I have to say. In outlining the policy of the Committee I would like us to be understood that we have certainly met with difficulties, that some of our difficulties appeared to be insurmountable at first; but these difficulties have never been, shall I say, increased by the Department. The Department has always shown itself rather willing to smooth these difficulties over rather than increase them. Our principal difficulty, with regard to technical education particularly, was that to do technical instruction properly we must have a very extensive equipment, and our industry in Portadown, which is a linen-weaving industry, is of such a character that it is very difficult to see where technical instruction can really and that industry. You will understand better, perhaps, when I tell you that there is practically no damask-weaving done in Portadown. It is very simple weaving, more toweling and handkerchief weaving. They require no particular skill; it is the product of the machine.

5591. No designing?—No designing practically. You must not think because I say this that there is no damask-weaving done in Portadown. I could tell you of a dozen looms; but in the main our industry is of an automatic kind. It requires a worker to be very quick at handling broken threads, but no other skill is required. The factory takes a worker in as a learner, and pays five shillings a week until the learner can be put to the loom, and they then earn what they can make—what the machine earns. Technical instruction can hardly and such people, at any rate, in their work, but I do say that if we could make that loom more productive, if by means of lighting we could enable the worker to pick up his thread more easily, or we could by a systematic instruction in mechanism make him appreciate his machine, and see what it could do more slowly, if we could make him understand the value of efficient lubrication we ought to enable him to take more value out of his machine, and we would in that way increase his earning power, and ease his work. We have, therefore, held in front of us all the time the ideal of instituting an engineering course and practical workshop, where machine tools could be supplied, where ideas of machinery improvement could be actually worked out from the very beginning, from designing and pattern-making to the finishing, and actual breaking on the machine. And we have at least, partly through the generosity of the Department and partly through the generosity of the townspeople, succeeded in establishing such a workshop. It has been a very costly thing. Upwards of £500 has been spent on that alone. That, of course, has to some extent crippled our work. Money has gone in this direction which possibly ought to have gone in other directions.

5592. What machinery would it be, and what power?—We have a 15-horse-power gas engine working at present on suction gas, which gives a very much lower cost, and we have a suction gas plant, that is to say, we are teaching cheap power as well as efficiency in the machinery. We have a dynamo

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and all the necessary electrical fittings, two good lathes, milling machinery, a vertical drill, milling cutting grinders. We have a forge and a vice—all the necessary tools.

8593. Have you a loan?—We have no loan at present.

8594. Do you contemplate getting a loan?—That certainly will come in time. It has not come to that yet. In addition to this, we found that it was necessary to set up a laboratory in which the various days' work could be carried out. This has involved us in further expense, and our town having spent all this money on a water scheme, is unable to raise more money for technical instruction in the usual fashion. Consequently we have to provide this money from local sources. We have to express our gratitude to various members of the Committee who have gone to the bank, and signed bills which have enabled us to spend £500 or £600 in the laboratory in order that the school might have that necessary part of its equipment.

8595. (Mr. Reeves).—Then you have a good deal of voluntary assistance?—Quite so. We have to repay this in the course of years, and pay interest on the money we have borrowed, which has involved us to the extent of over £40 a year probably, and this £40 a year comes out of what would otherwise be applied to educational effort. My point in bringing this up is that I think it an unfair tax upon a technical school because it is a success, because it is doing the work for which it was created that it should have its income cut down.

It seems to me that the reasons that make these actions necessary ought to be sufficient for the increasing of this grant. I can't blame the Department for that. The Department have already given us their very best, but it seems to me that in view of this, in view of the fact that also the students in our town cost £3 per head per session, whereas their cost in anything from £8 to £24, shows that the money given in technical education in this country is not sufficient, and will not be sufficient as time goes on, and the only reason we can make it stretch at present is that we are not really doing trade technical work. We are only beginning at the teaching on the very fringe, and when we come to technical work we will want more money.

8596. (Mr. Ogilvie).—What scheme do you refer to as setting you £3 a head?—I am lumping our whole scheme. In London a commercial student costs £6, and the Senior Chemist or Senior Physics Student cost £24.

8597. Is that under the London County Council—the evening students?—Evening students.

8598. Your students to whom you refer are all evening students. I imagine the £24 would be a day student, but that was the highest rate I could pick out.

8599. I think that must be; it is not quite satisfactory to compare two things unless you are quite certain they are comparable?—That was the highest rate I could pick out, and the lowest £6.

Your rate is £3 for evening students. You had better make sure that for London you are quoting the amount for evening students.

8600. (Mr. Miles).—What is the highest cost per head on any grade in your school?—I simply took the lump, but I could give you each department.

8601. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You may take it from me that those figures you are quoting from London are day students representing a full day's work, and are not comparable with the expense in the same city for evening students, who would be giving only about six hours a week?—Even if we granted this point. We are looking forward to the time when we shall be doing this kind of work. Our institution is at present not doing the work for which it was actually intended, and we look forward to the time when we shall establish a day technical class, but how are we to do it if the cost is going to be £24 if we have only an income equal to £3.

8602. What class of students do you look forward to having in the school for all-day work?—We expect to do engineering work in the day-time.

8603. It is almost impossible to do a real engineering course in the evening. What type of students do you suggest?—Students who are getting in for mechanical engineering.

8604. At what age?—From fourteen upwards.

8605. Supposing such a school could be established where do you expect to get the students from for a third year's course—is it from Portadown?—We have a great many mills, each of which has a mill-wright

and seven or eight assistants; but even so, we are accustomed to look upon our school as not exactly a local thing. We take in county students, and there is no engineering course except in Belfast that any student within fifty miles of Portadown can take. We would expect to draw from a big district—perhaps the whole of Ulster. We are the biggest railway junction in Ulster, and we have people often now coming in from a very long distance along the main line.

8606. You contemplate in the future a course of three years for boys from fourteen or upwards. What probability do you think you would have of attracting to this school, boys of that type?—We should be satisfied with ten or twelve per year.

8607. Ten or twelve in the first year's course, and how many in the second?—We should have to make them sign for a three years' course if they did come.

8608. You would not take them unless they attended from fourteen to seventeen?—Perhaps it is not fair to have this thing thrustled out. I say we look in the future to this. I have not a scheme written out, and I have not one even at my hand at present; but I consider that the school must be developed on that side.

8609. (Chairman).—The point of your evidence is that you are looking forward to a large increase in the institution?—A necessary increase in the institution.

8610. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I want to be quite sure that there is any comparison at all between the things you are dealing with as to cost. I am not quite clear about that. You mentioned the London costs, and you will get the same costs in other towns, but it is the cost of a type of instruction starting at sixteen or seventeen, and going on for two or three years from that with expensive facilities, a case that would not be justified unless there was a fair probability that the provincial facilities would be taken advantage of?—Quite so.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—I want to get at your view as to the prospects of the advantage being taken of the equipment of that type when started in Portadown, if that was the aim of the school.

8611. (Mr. Miles).—You have in your immediate neighbourhood the valley of the Upper Burn, shaded all along with machinery?—Yes.

8612. So you have in your immediate neighbourhood a very large number of mills that would take up trained hands?—Quite so; and we have many spinning and weaving mills in the district within ten or twelve miles.

8613. (Mr. Ogilvie).—But you have formed no estimate as to the annual consumption of highly-trained mechanics from the school by these mills, and you have not gone into the question of how many students would be given places?—That would be a detail for them to be the engineer course. All this would have to come up before anything in that line was really set out on paper.

8614. It would have to go on certainly before an expenditure of capital or demand upon revenue was embarked upon?—We are not ready for that, and probably shall not be for the next half-dozen years. We have a certain limited income, but my point was that it is impossible to consider it in the long and end-of technical instruction. We must look forward to doing more work than we are doing now, and it must be day-work, which is naturally more expensive than evening work. In London they spend up to £20 on the student; that we can't afford.

8615. What you have not yet considered is whether it is desirable you should even if you could?—You may take it if it is not the Department won't let us.

8616. Then it is not a practical question you are discussing now?—It may come up in the future.

8617. But doesn't your present policy?—It does not affect the present policy; it is merely a little ahead.

8618. (Mr. Miles).—Is it not a very practical thing to try to train the youth of your neighbourhood in the ordinary knowledge they would require afterwards?—We consider so.

8619. And that is what you are looking forward to—perhaps a school that will train thirty for three years?—That we cannot do at present; our funds would not allow us. We have premises for that, and could do the work except for irritating expenses. Our funds won't allow us. I might give you, perhaps, as instance of this in our town. Gas is very dear, and many of the factories have taken out their gas lighting,

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and put in the electric light. Up to the present when anything has gone wrong with the electric light they had to send to Belfast for a man to put it right. They lost time, and had been obliged to pay fairly high rates for the work done, and perhaps indignantly so; but the loss of time in the working of the mill has been a far more serious loss. But with the boys who have been through our two years' course and at the end of this year's, we shall have no difficulty in providing this labour in the town. We can often now give our student such a job as estimating the amount of light required, the cost of the materials required for any electric lighting job likely to occur in our town. We can also put a man in charge of this, and the man will be able to take charge of the plant and of ordinary repairs.

8620. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You have been able to do this in the evening classes?—Yes.

8621. You found that mechanical engineers working in the mills are sufficiently intelligent and sufficiently anxious to increase their knowledge of correlated work to take up this energetically?—Quite so. I would not say you believe that out of a class of twelve students I would turn out twelve electricians, but of the twelve there would be three who will be able to do that work, and have a new profession open to them.

8622. And the other nine would probably gain enough knowledge to prevent them making mistakes and know when to bring in an expert man?—Certainly, or they may go on for another year or perhaps two years and acquire more knowledge. We have a very great difficulty in the low standard of general education. As an example I think I would like to give you this fact. The boys don't value education, of course, for its own sake. They value electricity because it has a high sounding name and they like to come to the electricity class; they would very much like to come to the electric light and power class the first year, but that we don't permit; but at the same time, if we told a man, "You are not sufficiently acquainted with mathematics to take the electricity course, and you must give this year to mathematics," that man will go off and we lose him for ever. We have, therefore, to give him electricity and mathematics, or to give him mathematics and call it electricity. We have to have an electrical class and devote all our time to teaching mathematics from an electrical point of view. All our examples are electrical examples. Instead of dealing with oranges and apples in baskets, as ordinary arithmetic does, we deal with electric light, bulbs and are lamps. You have to blind a man for a year or two until he sees the very wide ground which he has to cover and then he sits down, and we find him a very satisfactory student. We have taken two ways of dealing with this. We began before the war technical work; we began with arithmetic, which we called electricity, stage No. 1, and gave all our examples from an electrical point of view. We have also formed a preparatory class, and to show you how the Department have treated us, instead of finding fault with the committee, they allowed us to do our work in what we considered to be the right way. They have given us permission to use our rooms and equipment for National Board classes, that is for classes that claim grants under the National Board, and the Vice-President went even further than that and gave us two money donations in order to enable us to do the work more satisfactorily. We found that the grants obtainable from the National Board for this elementary work only about half covered the cost of the class. A further difficulty is the lack of educational appreciation.

8623. You don't mean to say that the method by which you make good the lack of primary education on the part of your pupils is not absolutely the right one from the educational point of view as well as from the practical necessities of the case?—I think it is the correct way.

8624. Quite. You conduct certain classes in connection with the National Board?—Yes.

8625. Is your only complaint about these classes that the grants are too small for them?—That is the only complaint.

8626. Do you as a matter of fact have many pupils who are of an older stage than that which would be required for placing them in the sixth class?—Yes.

8627. And those are the boys that you work in the preparatory school under the National Board?—Yes.

8628. How many hours a week?—Six hours a week for thirty weeks.

8629. So you have no difficulty in getting practically the maximum grant?—We never had any trouble in getting the maximum grant; it pays just about half the cost of the classes.

8630. There is no difficulty however in working these evening classes under the National Board in direct relation to the technical requirements of the students?—We were the first school, I think, in Ireland to take up this work, and we found considerable difficulties. We read through the regulations, and found we could not work the class at all under the circumstances, but we approached the National Board and said these regulations won't do for us. We want the regulations altered, and they granted us all these modifications. We got over the paper difficulty, but the grant is not sufficient.

8631. These liberties they gave you are embodied in the existing rules?—Some of them. I think it is placed in a sort of alternative fashion sometimes, and if any other school wishes to get over difficulties I would suggest to some of these—approach the National Board and see what they will do for you. In the main I think they are embodied in the new programme. Then with regard to the lack of educational appreciation, my committee very soon found that in Portlanoon at any rate nobody valued education to any very great extent, and they were inclined to dally with it as a sort of something up in the clouds that had no relation to work, every-day work. It was our business at the very first to show the practical value of the education, and since we were an agricultural county we held some agricultural classes, other than those you have heard of from Mr. Huston, classes which we organised ourselves for farmers' sons, and we ran them on the lines I suggested in the beginning of my remarks. We gave them ten weeks of solid work and a great deal of it in experimental science, and we found that the farmers took that splendidly. And I have been told many a time since that the greatest good that they got out of that course was the good they learned in the experimental science class, because they discovered why things happened instead of merely how to deal with them when they happened. The ordinary method of agricultural instruction seems to me to give them a large number of instances which are, more or less, how if anything, typical. They have nothing beyond that, and do not know how to deal with new or extraordinary matters when they arise. Our instruction went further, and gave them the reasons why they did various things, so that when they got a case which did not appear to be dealt with by any known regulation, they had acquired sufficient sense to use the knowledge gained in the experimental science class, and to devise a way out by reasoning upon experience gained therein. That was one thing the committee did quite early in its career. So far from throwing cold water on these schemes the Department, on being approached, paid the whole cost of them, and they didn't cost a penny, or the committee of the rate-payers, a penny. Secondly, we organised public lectures on interesting subjects in the hope of encouraging people to look into these and find out what they did not know. The Department were very good to us again. They approached South Kensington, and approached various other museums on my behalf, and obtained the loan of some apparatus for the illustration of these lectures, which we could not otherwise have obtained. The committee also decided that if our fee, which is a very nominal one, stood in the way of any one, the fee should be arranged to be paid at the rate of one penny per lesson. I am glad to be able to tell you that this was not availed of in a single instance. That effectively disposes of the question of fees. The fees, if anything, are too small.

8632. What are they?—5s. for a course or 2s. 6d. for a single class.

8633. (Mr. McKis).—They are not too big for Portlanoon?—Quite so. The Department made also a very great concession. They permitted us to arrange out own course wherever we wanted to give instruction in a special subject. They permitted us to say what form that instruction should take. They allowed us to make our own course. I think if that were generally understood throughout the country there would be a good deal less grumbling about departmental interference, and it seems to me the main difficulty which the committee experience is largely their own fault. They won't approach the Department properly. Then also we held classes for National school teachers in our schools, and we endeavoured to show them the direct utility of

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science-subjects in order that they might go to their own schools and teach science as well as they are able. There are one or two general remarks that if you pardon me I would make to you. I would say first that if technical instruction be not the success it ought to be it is, in my opinion, not the fault of the Department, its officers, or its methods; but is due, first, to the lack of educational appreciation throughout the country, and I think that is mainly brought about through the academic nature of the existing educational programmes and their efforts to produce scholars rather than workers. Second, to the tendency of boys to consider occupation which dirty their hands undignified. They are taught to try and be doctors rather than go into an industry, which, in I take it, also a consequence of the educational methods of the various Boards.

8634. (Mr. Micks).—The natural consequence of its being the only outlet for the scholar?—Quite so; and third, the expectation of direct and immediate results from education. Boys who have been one season, sixty hours in a technical school, an evening technical school, think the whole world a fair prize. They forget that to lift themselves out of the rank requires years of steady effort and constant endeavour, and it is the only way we can hope to take value out of technical schools. So far as I can see the Department can't be blamed for any of these three difficulties. A close study of educational methods in this and other countries shows the Department is alive to modern requirements. It is exercising a restraining influence in one direction in which considerable momentum has already been acquired—it is exerting a steady pressure on educational bodies to discontinue their present stagnant condition. These two efforts in the direction of influencing a mainly conservative country cannot fail to be unpopular at first. It is only a proof of the activity of the Department, but its unpopularity will pass, and as the country wakes up to the practical and useful industrial work it will cease to blame the Department which has opened its eyes. The larger the Department's work is delayed and the more it is hampered the longer will the stagnation of the country be unaltered. I consider it would be a disgrace for any country to reject the work so ably conducted by a fatherly Department, and to do so would be to condemn itself to further years of industrial and educational backwardness. I need the word fatherly then in the ordinary human sense. The Department chides where it is necessary to chide.

8635. (Mr. Micks).—In contradistinction to grand-motherly?—Quite so.

8636. (Mr. Gylfe).—I should like first to ask you about the class you are conferring for the further education of teachers, that is those engaged in teaching in National and elementary schools. What subjects do you find teachers most ready to take up, to come up to learn?—They take up experimental science more readily than any other; but I think they need drawing more; they adopt the experimental science because of the pressure put upon them from head quarters to do so, and I would like to see it extended to drawing.

8637. You mean by the National Commissioners?—Yes.

8638. You think they don't take kindly to steel drawing?—They don't take kindly to that at all.

8639. What numbers of teachers have attended this course?—We took about twenty each year. That is our maximum accommodation for practical work.

8640. What times do they meet?—From 12 to 3 on Saturdays. We are obliged to give thirty lessons. We may give more.

8641. That is a fairly substantial course if you get them all regularly?—I might tell you last year, out of a class of twenty students, only about three students missed one hour.

8642. And the others?—Attended every time.
8643. Then you find they benefit considerably by the course?—They benefit extremely by the course, and are delighted with it, and have sent in an urgent application for a second course next year.

8644. Have you tried at all to form classes in drawing?—We have tried. We have advertised them, and sent circulars to every teacher in the county, and called their special attention to the value of it, and also opened courses in black-board drawing, but had to give them up for non-attendance. Three students

only in the whole county would attend the course in black-board drawing.

8645. How far have those teachers already acquired a knowledge of the sections of natural history most likely to appeal to the pupils in the National schools?—I think their information is fairly wide.

8646. So that in that department of knowledge they did not require any special teaching?—I would not like to say that. We have not taken any natural history work with them at all.

8647. You attach considerable importance to these classes for teachers?—I attach a great deal of importance to them.

8648. You have had them now going for how long?—Three years.

8649. And there is no sign of any lack of interest in it?—This last year was the best of the three. The previous year we had only local teachers, and could do nothing with them at all. We threw the last year open to the whole county, and had county teachers, and not one local man among them.

8650. Do you think these teachers who have had this sort of adult training would be more likely to keep their senior pupils in the school, and give them satisfactory instruction?—We hope so. We hope, at any rate, that it will teach them to teach the ordinary subjects on educational lines. That is really the point. That, I hold, is more important than keeping the students later. If they keep the students later their own staff difficulties prevent them from doing anything for them. We get, for instance, a school of sixty boys, of all ages, between three and thirteen or fourteen, or even older than that, with one teacher; and they sometimes have six different classes—perhaps several sections of the one class in the one room—and the one man has to do the lot. So that is a staffing difficulty that would prevent him giving a special course to his elder boys. But if their course in scientific work has taught them to reason correctly, and taught them the value of inductive methods, then that appears in their reading composition and arithmetical lessons, and the boy is educated instead of crammed.

8651. I had the pleasure of looking through your own school. Unfortunately, it was a holiday. What is the constitution of your staff—what members of the staff are there?—To begin with, we have the building-trades department put under one man. He is qualified very highly with the City Guilds and South Kensington certificate. He is a draftsman in several subjects. He takes building construction, carpentry, and joinery, and manual training, practical plans and solid geometry.

8652. How is he occupied during the day?—We cannot find him work during the day, but he is supposed to be at our service during the day. He takes manual training in the afternoons. We share him with two other towns—Luggan and Basherbridge—and we club together. We do the same with our domestic mistress; who takes domestic economy, housewifery, cookery, and laundry. She is fully employed by the same three places. Our art master is a Belfast man, and is appointed by us simply for the time we require him. We have no call upon his other time.

8653. In practice, what part of his time do you take?—We take him for two evenings and one day. Our mechanical work is nearly all dealt with by myself at present, but the number of students and the increase in equipment has necessitated the appointment of an engineer, which is not yet made. This one engineer will be employed full time by our Committee, and will take up workshop manufacture, applied mechanics, machine construction, and design, workshop practice, and probably electric lighting. I am not sure whether we can get a man qualified in all these subjects. My own subject is practically experimental science. I deal with nearly all the experimental work in the school—physics, chemistry, experimental science, and electricity. In mathematics, we have a man who passed in honours at the Royal University, a B.A., who takes mathematics, and he also conducts the preparatory school under the National Board.

8654. A day school?—No; an evening school. He is a day National school teacher. He comes to us in the evening for mathematics and this preparatory school three evenings in the week; and then we have a commercial man of very high standing, who takes up the book-keeping classes, and another for shorthand.

8655. What is the population of Portadown?—30,000.

3555. (Chairman).—You are the Chairman of the Portadown Urban District Council and of the Technical School Committee?—Yes.

3557. You support the statement which has been sent in to us by the Committee?—Yes; I support that. I don't think I shall occupy the time of the members of this Committee very long. We have found, so far as our locality is concerned, that the Department's arrangements are thoroughly satisfactory. That is, that they appear to allow us to select the subjects for instruction, and they have in nearly every instance, supported us fairly well, and I am quite willing to admit that we consider the Department are managing affairs for the best of the country. We are also of opinion that the present head of the Department has been exercising a very useful influence, and that it would be decidedly to the disadvantage of the country if any idea were entertained of displacing him or of putting up any other person to occupy the position that he has held. Of course it should be understood that up to the present he and his staff have had to do a great deal—not only organising the Department, but educating the people to take advantage of the opportunities that they placed within their reach. We also find that where matters were put fairly before the Department, and anything that we required for the advantage of the people, the Department met us in a fairly businesslike way; and I would say, as far as I can see, they treat our business in a fairly businesslike manner—that is, they don't keep us waiting to clarify until we get what we want. They generally meet us, and if we are to get anything, we generally get it; and if not, they tell us the reason why. And, as a business man, I would say the Department is conducted in a satisfactory way, so far as it can be, to meet so many and so very varied requirements. I would also say that in arranging our school the Committee were composed of manufacturers and business men, and others in the district; and we tried to arrange the classes that would be most suitable for the industries and for the advantage of the people of our immediate district, and we did not find that the Department interfered unduly with us in that. I would say they are helping us; and in doing this we had regard, a good deal, to the leading industries—that is, the linen manufacture; and, as Dr. Woodlett has explained fairly fully, the attitude of our Committee towards that, and the classes of fabric produced there, I don't think I should go into the matter very fully. We do not make much damask. We do make some damasks in the neighbourhood, but they are made in power-loom factories, not by hand-loom; and, consequently, if we were training for that particular thing, we should be training only one or two people, who superintend the manufacture of the damask, in the only two factories where it is made. The hand-loom weaving was a very large industry in the district, but that has died out, and, consequently, we do not give our attention to teaching hand-loom weaving, though it would have been within our reach to give instruction in hand-loom weaving, and it was considered, but that is a dying industry. The linen is now nearly all produced in factories, and consequently, as Dr. Woodlett has explained, the several

factories trained their own workers in the particular class of goods they made.

3558. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Then you agree with Dr. Woodlett that the work they are doing is practically the only work that can be done in the school for the furtherance of the linen manufacture as carried on in Portadown?—In our present circumstances we agree with that. We are hoping that by and by, as the school develops and the methods are improved, we may be able to establish a practical training for the factory that is not within our reach at present.

3559. Practical training for factory hands?—More for tenters and overseers, and people of that sort, that they can take more advantage of the machinery at their disposal.

3560. Would you purpose having rooms available for those who already know how to work, but on the school rooms would have opportunities of trying out methods and seeing how they would work out?—That is what we think.

3561. It would be rather in the nature of an experimental course for those who had already acquired manual dexterity in the business to bring benefit to the town by improving methods: I mean people who were of the superintending classes and never require to be absolutely dexterous in the work in the ordinary way?—Yes; we think we could improve their methods a great deal and give them instruction that would be of value to them, and as there are in the neighbourhood different classes of fabrics produced, heavy linens and larns and other things, we think that the method of design as applied in these several things can be of advantage to them later on, but at present I am sorry to say our funds have not been equal to go into this particular end, and the principal aim is to train first the people, as Dr. Woodlett has explained, for agricultural training and the linen industry. We have two commercial classes, and they have been fairly successful. I might say in a general way that I have noted that in many cases subsidies are advocated for particular industries, and I would say that our Committee, from their experience, would strongly object to subsidies being given to any particular industry. We do recommend that for instruction a teacher will be given to people who want to engage in an industry to take the best they can out of it, but we think it unusual that any particular industry should be subsidised by public money.

3562. (Chairman).—You would draw the line between subsidising an industry and giving instruction?—Give the instruction, and let the people provide the money and labour too.

3563. (Mr. Micks).—Are you engaged in any industry yourself?—I am.

3564. What industry are you in?—It is one comparatively new in the district, of the making up and what would be known in the town here as shirt and blouse factory. It is altogether ladies' wear. It is principally linens we handle. We handle every class of goods there.

Mr. WILLIAM A. CROW.

3565. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Technical Instruction Committee in Portadown?—Yes.

3566. You have heard the previous witness?—I appear altogether of what Dr. Woodlett and Mr. Richardson have said. The only point I wish to raise is an independent point in the matter of co-ordination with National Schools. I don't know whether that comes directly under your purview or not.

3567. It is sufficiently within our purview to wish to hear what you have to say?—We feel we should get more help from the National Schools than we do. We have a thoroughly equipped educational establishment, and we find when we get a National School scholar he is the best pupil we can get. He is very much superior to the apprentice who is two or three years away from school, but we feel we are not getting sufficient help from the National Schools. They are not sending in as their pupils as they should, and we have tried to meet them. We have tried one experiment which has been entirely successful. Last year we had a cookery class and a domestic economy class for school children. We encouraged the school teachers to send us the girls in the fifth and sixth classes, and

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we charged a penny a lesson, and had splendid results and splendid classes. Now, I think we should have afternoon classes made up of these National School children. We have the equipment and the teachers there if we could get the children to come.

3568. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Is there any objection on the teachers' part arising from the fact that the building is so far from the other schools?—I don't think that. There may be this little difficulty, that we were only able to give an appointment to one local National School teacher. We could not give other teachers posts, and a little selfishness may have crept up in that respect; but, taking it from a general standpoint, there should be an understanding between the two departments, this Department and the National Board, whereby the latter would encourage the sending of their pupils or make it obligatory that pupils of a certain standard should attend these afternoon classes.

3569. Not evening classes?—I would rather have them in the afternoon, because, generally speaking, we can fill up the evening classes.

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A. Carr.

5670. These classes in the afternoon would count as part of the school-day for the National Schools?—I cannot say whether that is so or not, but it seems to be a great loss to the National Schools not to take advantage of the opportunities presented and at their hands. We let it be clearly understood that the manual training room, and the manual training teacher, are at the disposal of the National School scholars for the afternoon, but we did not get any of them to take advantage of it.

5671. Here in the clause from the regulations of the National Board:—"The minimum time constituting an attendance at the National School may include (a) any time given by instruction given elsewhere than at the school in cooking, laundry work, domestic economy, and wood-work, but all such arrangements must first receive the sanction of the Commissioners."

... So far as the regulations of the National Commissioners go, there is an obvious encouragement to what you suggest. If there are any difficulties they would be local difficulties?—Possibly; but, as a matter of fact, we never have been able to get them to look upon it in the light of an auxiliary or help.

5672. (Chairman).—I think your next point is as to the closer relations between the technical school and the proprietors of textile factories and master-builders?—Yes. We have been trying to establish that relationship in Peterdown in this way, that we have approached the foundry company and the master-builders, and said, "Will you give an increased wage for work to the pupils who present a certificate of attendance at the technical schools?" and they have agreed to do so; and it is productive of very considerable results of a very helpful character.

5673. Then as to the payment of a stipendium fee by the County Council for scholars taught at the Technical Schools?—We thought, perhaps, it would be well to mention this point for future consideration. In our present position we welcome a pupil, no matter where he comes from, because we have room; but, in the course of a year or two, as our classes get filled up, we must reserve the places for our town pupils; and we thought that at the present time, as our resources are taxed to their utmost limit, an arrangement might be made whereby County Council could give grants to urban schools where they themselves did

not contribute anything towards the support of the school or provide an alternative scheme.

5674. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Do you think there will be any difficulty in arranging with the County Council to do that when the time comes. If they are taking advantage of your schools, if you present the facts to them, do you think they would hesitate to include you in the scheme?—Our County Council have not recognised technical instruction so far. The only point on which they approached the idea was that they allowed a certain sum to go towards the teaching of two instructors in a short factory in the southern part of the county. That was the only point on which they recognised technical instruction, and we sent a deputation to them some time ago asking them to give us a grant, but they did not see their way to consider it. Our object in sending these ideas forward was that some of these things that are optional might be made mandatory.

5675. (Chairman).—I see at the end of the Technical Instruction Committee's Report questions raised about the disposition of the Department's endowment—two-thirds to agricultural and one-third to technical instruction, and the advance of technical instruction are put forward for a larger share?—That is Dr. Woollett's idea. The idea is that in the initial stages there is not the same opportunity of spending as much money in the matter of agricultural instruction, and in the initial stages of technical instruction the expenditure is greater than afterwards. The result has been seen in the fact that while the agricultural grant has not been spent up to the present, and there has been an accumulation, the technical grant has been expended every year. There has been a considerable accumulation on the agricultural side, whereas the technical proportion has been always spent.

5676. You think there has been a certain amount of debt due from the agricultural to the technical side?—We feel that they might have transferred some of the accumulations to the technical side and helped us in our buildings.

5677. I don't know what the agricultural side will say to that?—There is the plain fact before them that they have not been able to spend their money.

Dr. J. M. Moore, Lurgan, examined.

Dr. Moore.

5678. (Chairman).—You are Vice-Chairman of the Lurgan Urban District Council?—I am.

5679. You wish, I think, to speak about the deficiencies in the national education?—There are two points that I was requested by the Committee of the Technical School to refer to. One of these has been referred to already rather plainly, and that is the deficiency in education among our children. When we get them into our school we find they have not received a sufficiently good mathematical education to enable them to take advantage of technical instruction. I don't see after what has been said by Dr. Woollett that I need go into this matter any more. That depends in our town, Lurgan, a great deal on this, that as soon as children are thirteen years of age or a little older, their parents wish them to earn money, and the law allows them to be put into factories after they obtain a sufficient standard of efficiency; that is, if they have reached the sixth standard in National schools they are put into the factories and have not much mathematical training or knowledge. I may say of pupils in our technical school: at its beginning I joined it for the sake of helping, perhaps to get it up, and also that I might know how the school was conducted in a practical way, and in that sense only, I saw that this was a great deficiency.

5680. Do you find you have to do the work over again which ought to have been done in the schools?—Which ought to have been done in the schools; and in my younger days this would not have applied, for education was given in some of the ordinary schools that would have fitted the boys better for the present Technical Instruction Act. I think the Education Department would do well to pay some attention to this. In our school in Lurgan we are obliged to take up a class which goes under the name of workshop arithmetic. It is really arithmetic, and our principal is obliged to teach them mathematics too,

a thing which should not be taught in a technical school except that it is a means to an end and so with us.

5681. You would not advocate, I suppose, any very advanced teaching in the National Schools. What you complain of is they are not properly grounded. You have to do elementary work over again?—And that they are not allowed to stay long enough at school. As a Committee, we say that our school at Lurgan is a very marked success, and the boys are doing well in Lurgan, that we trained at our school.

5682. To what extent is attendance at the elementary school compulsory in Lurgan?—It is much limited, and the standard of education as well.

5683. (Mr. Nichol).—You have a compulsory attendance Committee?—Yes. That is under a different department.

5684. (Mr. Ogilvie).—But it works?—It works.

5685. (Chairman).—The other point you have down on your notes is the establishment of a second technical school in Lurgan?—No; it was the fact that the Committee of technical education felt, and so did the Council, that the principle of denominationalism was established in Lurgan by the Department. We had a good school building for technical education, and representation was made to the Department when it was being established that the pupils of a certain denomination could not go to that school because it was through a dangerous locality. An inquiry was held by the Department, and evidence was given by members of that faith that there was no risk whatever in their going to that particular place. Then the Department established another school in connection with the Roman Catholic body at the monastery, which we think was not for the benefit of the town.

5686. (Mr. Ogilvie).—For girls?—For girls. We have a similar class in the Urban Technical School.

3687. (Chairman).—You are Principal of the Technical School in Lurgan, and Secretary to the Technical Instruction Committee?—Yes.

3688. You have heard the evidence that has been given with regard to Portadown: does that apply at all to your school?—Some of the points on which I would have spoken have been touched on already. With regard to the matter of Lurgan and its connection with the Department, other than that incident which Dr. Moore has touched on with respect to the starting of a second school or rather giving a grant to a second school in Lurgan, our relations with the Department are of the most satisfactory nature. We have received every consideration at their hands. We have taken every step to find out what was right before we presented any case to them. On two occasions we received very favourable grants from the Department which they need not have given except to help us along. Recently they gave us a grant of £130 to supplement a little more than a like amount given by the local body in order to foster technical education in the locality in order to foster technical education in Lurgan. Of course I cannot say that we have not many tribulations, but our tribulations have nothing whatever to do with the Department, or rather not with the Department's opinion as to technical instruction in Ireland. They have always treated us most considerately. It is only fair that I should say that, because as the principal executive officer I am more in touch with them than anyone else in the town. They get our queries, but we have to clear them up. They would like some money as a rule, but it is no use being unfair or expecting unfair dealings. With regard to the school, as far as I can see, and I believe ought to be able to speak, and I am speaking now candidly, we have done hitherto a very good service in respect of education, of course bearing in mind that we have our initial difficulties, one of which that great deal has been said throughout this Commission, and has been touched on here, namely, the want of proper elementary education. Students come to us in such a condition that they are unable to benefit to the fullest extent from the training which you should give in a technical school.

3689. We have heard that all over Ireland?—I can tell you our town is a very important one. It has a population of something a little under 12,000 inhabitants.

3690. What are your industries?—The principal industry is that of linen. We teach in the school, science, electricity, machine and building construction, mechanics, carpentry, weaving, and textile classes. We have a room fitted with looms. We teach art, book-binding, typewriting, shorthand, laundry, cookery, domestic economy, and workshop arithmetic. Perhaps you would like to know the staffing arrangements. Our staff is an Art Master, A.R.C.A., a specialist in textile work, working in a very large factory in the city of Belfast. Then we have an important man, a coach and grinder, teaching typewriting and shorthand, better than whom I suppose it would be difficult to find. We have a chartered accountant teaching book-keeping. Then I chartered a good deal myself, electricity, science, machine construction, mathematics, electrical engineering, and workshop arithmetic. We have also a lady teacher who is completely employed with Benbridge and Portadown for cookery, brasswork, and laundry, and a lady teacher for needlework and dress-making. We have a teacher, highly qualified, of whom Dr. Woodliff has spoken, likewise jointly employed by the three towns, teaching building construction, carpentry, manual training, and so forth. I think that exhausts the list of our teachers. I might say that the Committee have always been alive to the importance of our work, and trying to make it suitable to local industries, and with that object in view they set about gathering some money, and the Department helped them, raised in all about £250 for equipment, which was spent on providing power and gas engines, a dynamo, and a lot of apparatus, and also a motor to drive the power loom; and since that, of course, further developments have taken place.

3691. (Mr. Micks).—Linen weaving?—Linen weaving. They have a very competent teacher there. The teacher designs, and uses the loom to teach them the principles of the loom and designing. The students fitted up the equipment themselves. They received a certain training to be able to turn a certain engine said that did not come up to specification, and a new

one was put in in its place. They fitted the dynamo and wired the place and attached a cross-hype power continuous current electric motor to the loom.

3692. What work is being done with the loom?—As an accessory to the training of the textile students.

3693. What class of students?—They are people who are employed in the linen business in some cases, as clerks who have some thought as to their future, no doubt who are being trained as managers for factories.

3694. You have no children or young people who intend hereafter to enter into a factory, in your weaving class?—We may have one or two young people.

3695. I mean young people without any practical experience in factory work?—We may have one or two cases.

3696. (Mr. Ogilvie).—That is not the main object of the establishment of the linen classes?—No. It is to help those already engaged in the linen industry.

3697. (Chairman).—Can you give us an idea of the numbers attending the school?—For the last session we had enrolled somewhere about 300 individuals. Our number is not too great in consequence of there being two schools in Lurgan with a population of a little over 12,000.

3698. Is the other school well attended?—That I have no means of knowing.

3699. (Mr. Brown).—I understand it is confined to domestic economy?—I could not answer that question either.

3700. And possibly elementary science?—I have no information on that point.

(Dr. Moore). And various forms of needlework.

3701. (Chairman).—It is a Convent school?—Yes, but it is subsidised by the Department.

3702. (Mr. Brown).—Is it confined to the pupils of the school or do they take in outsiders?—Anyone.

3703. (Mr. Brown).—When you say subsidised do you mean in the same sense as you are subsidised?—I don't know how they work. They get a grant. I suppose you would call it an endowment. We get an endowment from the Department and we get attendance grants. We get also from the local people a penny rate.

3704. Do they get anything different from that?—If it can be fitted out of the blue books issued by the Department, which is a grant in the same sense as we get the £300.

3705. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Do you get anything from the Commissioners of National Education?—We get absolutely nothing.

3706. Are there any evening schools in Lurgan in receipt of grants from the Commissioners of National Education?—I am not aware of any. We carried on a teachers' class for one year only, and it was very successful, and we repeatedly appealed to the National Board for some assistance in carrying on the place, but received no consideration.

3707. I had in mind rather a class for boys and girls who had left school before quite completing their elementary education, and who went to evening classes to make good that deficiency?—We get no help whatever. I might say I have tried to work with the local managers with a view to establishing classes in connection with them, but we have had no class up to the present.

3708. Then the lowest stage evening instruction available in Lurgan is that which is given in your lowest classes. So far as I can see I believe I am right in saying that. What stage do you find these people have reached before they come to you?—Are there any considerable number of them below the stage which is marked in the new regulations of the Department as "who have received such education as would entitle them to be placed in the sixth class of a school under the National Board"?—A large number would be considerably below that. Our trouble arises in this way. In starting a school we are getting students who have left school, say five years, so it is not fair to say that the National Board are wholly responsible for their education. They have got into a very helpless rusty condition, so I don't want it to go out through the Press that the local teachers are responsible for it. Two years ago I started a class in workshop arithmetic, and I had to go so low as short division in arithmetic. They were students who were getting fairly old, and had gone apparently through a respectable course of education in our elementary schools, but, nevertheless, that was the rusty condition into which they had dropped.

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Mr. W. J.
Lark.

8709. I quite understand that. You mean the condition of those students when they came to you is not necessarily the condition in which they were turned out from the National schools?—That is it.

8710. But they come to you at a stage below the sixth standard?—Yes.

8711. And therefore at a stage when the existing regulations of Government departments in Ireland contemplate their being a charge against the grants of the Commissioners of National Education, but as a matter of fact you have not made them any charge against that?—We have not.

8712. Can you explain how it is that that particular gold mine has not been worked?—Well, I suppose it is always difficult to obtain money. It is not for the want of trying. I have tried to get a source of revenue from that quarter.

8713. Do you mean to say that the regulations do not lend themselves to remunerative grants?—Yes.

8714. In what respect do you think their weakness lies?—What regulations are you referring to?

8715. If you are going to get grants through the sources that apparently the Government contemplate it would be through the regulations of the National Commissioners in this volume; do you think you can work it under these regulations?—I have not seen these new regulations, as to whether they are very much modified.

8716. What was the difficulty in the old ones?—I don't know that there was any difficulty that I met with. I think I have touched on all the points other than repeating what has been already said. The only thing I want to bear testimony to is the very valuable work which is being done in Lurgan by technical instruction, notwithstanding the initial difficulties and its tribulations; and that our relations with the Department are of the best order, the only one fault being that strong objection was taken at the time to the establishment of a second school in a town of the size of Lurgan.

8717. (Chairman).—When you talk of the established school, I don't gather that the school was established; the grant was made to an existing school?—It made its life possible by giving it a grant, and it was getting in the thin end of the wedge. Here is a school and there is a school.

8718. (Mr. Officer).—I had the pleasure of seeing your school and I saw your school register. They were all excellent, and you evidently give your people good work. The attendance at the girls' domestic economy classes was quite satisfactory; as there are now for two schools in Lurgan?—I think if the funds given to the other school were placed with the Urban District we could work the thing very successfully. It is introducing denominationalism. It is the very thing which in the opinion of those best qualified to judge is pernicious.

8719. Your class in that girls' section which the other school preached, so to say, is quite big enough for satisfactory working. If you had double the number of pupils it would not make your class any more efficient. It is not so much the case of making up a small piece of work as making unaccounted. That is not the question there?—Oh, no; I cannot voice that objection so far as that is concerned.

8720. It would be a stronger thing if the school commanded the undivided support of the community?—That is the point.

8721. (Mr. Mills).—Can you tell me the age of the pupils who attend the new school?—I cannot say. I have no information on that point. I never sought information.

8722. You have no general knowledge on the subject?—No, except that I know some who have gone there.

8723. Would they be over fifteen years of age?—Some of them, of course. I have no means of knowing how young some students would be. I could not tell.

On returning after luncheon.

Mr. WILLIAM WHITE, Lurgan, examined.

Mr. W.
White.

8724. (Chairman).—Do you represent the Lurgan Urban District Council?—I do.

8725. We have here a communication from the Council?—Yes; I support it generally, with some little explanation. The statement is:—

"Town Clerk's Office,

"Lurgan, 30th May, 1906.

"In reply to your communication of the 14th April, 1906, enclosing copy of a warrant issued by His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, appointing a Commission to inquire into the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and asking the views of the Urban District Council thereon, I am directed to lay some of their views before you—as requested in writing—on the subject matter thereof. This Council was one of the first in Ireland to take advantage of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, 1899, by appointing a deputation to visit the Scotch technical institutions, and by establishing a school in the autumn of 1901 as the result. The Urban District have a population of 12,000, the manufacture of linens being its staple industry, and that of the surrounding Rural district. The want of a school for technical training was a long felt want, so that the opportunity for establishing an Institute under this Act was welcomed as a boon to the commercial life of the town. To the local efforts in providing and equipping the school the Department responded with generosity, with the result that, at the present moment, the Council consider that an exceedingly well-furnished, thoroughly-equipped training school is now existing. The Council regret very much that the Department considered it within their province to enforce a denominational school in the town,

at the very outset thus establishing a distinction which it was the desire of the Council and all those who have the interests and prosperity of the country at heart to see eradicated. With the assistance of the Department to the local statutory bodies, the Council are aware and fully appreciate the lively interest which the Department took during the inception of the scheme for establishing the school and its progress during the past five years, and are strongly of opinion that, in dealing with municipal communities, the needs of that community as a whole should be viewed through its representatives, and no side issue allowed to divert its directness or subordinate diversity of opinion. Speaking for technical education in country districts, the Council consider that, on the whole, the methods adopted by the Department have been fairly suited to the conditions of Ireland; but a vast extent, viz., co-ordination between primary and technical education. The experience of the last five years has shown that the results have been rendered more or less nugatory among the working class students—a class for which the technical training was primarily intended, and from which the greatest amount of practical good is to be expected—owing to the absence of better primary education as applied to subjects of the first importance in technical training, such as mathematics, etc. The Council appreciate the difficulties surrounding the problem of primary education in a working class community, but it seems quite clear to them that a technical school can only be primarily treated as a continuation school, and that some system must be adopted whereby the standard of primary education may be reached to enable scientific training being applied with any degree of success. They are therefore strongly of opinion that the practical co-operation of the National School Board is imperatively

necessity in formulating some curriculum for laying the very foundation for successful application of technical knowledge in Ireland. The Department has not so far been able to meet this indicated want, nor has it—in the opinion of this Council—become associated with any educational body in the country with any degree of success which will overcome the deficiency. It seems, therefore, very clear that the large expenditure of money paid to the teaching staff of technical schools in various directions might have—had experience shown it in time—been more judiciously applied in building up and perpetuating training. With the relations of the Department to the Board of Technical Instruction this Council have no reason to find fault, as, in their opinion, much good harmony exists as the result of the able and self-sacrificing way in which the Vice-President of the Department discharges his onerous duties for the good of the country, and the statesmanlike application of the Acts with which he is entrusted to the peculiar needs of Ireland. As to the allocation and disposal of the funds by the Department, the Council think that these might be subject to revision periodically, inasmuch as the needs of a particular district may vary so much from the general scheme that a local committee—with the co-operation of the Department—ought to have some elasticity of control, so as to enable them to receive such attendance grants from the Board as the particular application of training—to suit the needs of the locality—demanded. The Council are informed no attendance grants are given for attendance in textile classes, a branch of training to which this district is so closely allied. Lastly, the Council are of opinion that as between the technical school and local trades some co-ordination might be fairly adopted, whereby experienced artisans attending technical classes under recognised teachers might, on obtaining a departmental standard of proficiency in conjunction with practical application to the trade, become entitled to a recognition of a portion of the attended period, and accepted by such trade association or employer as being qualified for journeymanship at an earlier date than his indentures entitled him, and also to give time and incentive for parents of further research in technical education. The Council feel, however, that for the better obtaining of information to guide the Commission to a finding, that sittings should be held in centres throughout Ireland, and the opinions of those interested in agricultural and technical subjects invited. If this were done, there can be no doubt a vast amount of information could be directly obtained from those taking a practical interest in the working of schemes and schools throughout the country.

8725. Will you please give any explanation you wish? I quite coincide with the gentlemen who came from Portadown, the adjacent town to one, not a very much smaller town, with regard to the need of getting a link between our National schools and the technical schools. That is admitted, I think, but I do not agree with either of those who came from Lurgan to-day or the gentlemen from Portadown, that technical instruction as carried out has been a success.

8726. In what respect do you think it has failed?—I say we in Lurgan during the last five years have spent over £4,000 of public money, and we have not, so far, seen any results to justify any such expenditure of public money; and that is not only my opinion but the opinion of a good many of the committee, and of the Urban Council as well as of the public at large.

8728. Are there any particular respects in which you think the money has been lost?—I think the statement made by the Principal should open the eyes of all you gentlemen with regard to the number of attendances, for instance, in a small school such as Lurgan—for I look upon it as a very small country school—and they are very much on the same par. We have a very fine staff.

8729. (Mr. O'Connell).—You mean the staff is excessive?—The staff is a very good staff and not excessive.

8730. Then I did not quite catch your point?—I say we have an excellent staff and an excellent school and excellently equipped, and we have everything to make for success, and yet it is not a success.

8731. In what respect?—The attendance and the results.

8732. You have about 300 students?—We have; but there are students and students. If you notice as our returns show are a very large number of those under the head of domestic economy. There is also a very

large number under art, a still larger number under ordinary English education, such as book-keeping, typewriting and shorthand. I should like some of you to ask our Principal how many attend his own class.

8733. There seem to be a very fair proportion of attendances of students for the science department and the technical classes on the regular which I saw. Of course in a town which is largely a factory town you don't have a very large constituency for advanced science classes. But if the town provides instruction for these, surely that is the duty in that respect of a technical school. Why do you write off all the domestic classes and English and composition in such a hurried manner?—I say that our Principal, for instance, has nothing whatever under heaven to do with those classes from the opening of the session to the close of it. He has nothing whatever to do with them, nor is he responsible for them in any shape or form.

8734. Are you a member of the governing body of these schools?—I was for years, but I resigned, not seeing results. I am the oldest representative man in the town of Lurgan, and an every respect representative. I represent the town on the County Council, and I am the oldest member of the Urban Council, and I have thirty years' intimate knowledge of the town.

8735. What sort of results would you like to have seen from the working of the school?—More passes, examination passes.

8736. Are there any examinations available which would really serve to test accurately the benefit that the pupils had derived with a view to the special needs in Lurgan?—There are ordinary examinations every year. Every department is examined for certificates, both under South Kensington and for other certificates.

8737. There are no South Kensington examinations definitely applicable to Lurgan. There are a few which come in and have a bearing on certain parts of the work, and those seem to be taken advantage of, but the bulk of the work in Lurgan is specialised so as to withdraw it from the test afforded by examinations that are necessarily general and applied to the whole country?—Mathematics for instance.

8738. In mathematics the instruction is adapted so far as the propensities of the school shows, to the position required for pupils in their specific industries?—I quite agree that the prospectus is very good in its own way, but carrying it out is very different.

8739. The exercises of the pupils which, as it happens, I saw in the school seem to show that the work of the students was closely identified with their industry or occupation, whatever that might be: have you any reason to doubt that?—I think I have every reason to doubt it. It is not taken advantage of at all except to a very limited extent; but at all commensurate with the extent of the business.

8740. The young men in business in Lurgan do not attend the school?—They do not in the way they ought, nor are they encouraged. They may be encouraged as much as possible by the committee, but there is a great lack of attendance except book-keeping and shorthand classes. We are told by the Department not to make much of typewriting.

8741. I saw the book-keeping and shorthand class records; who filled those classes?—Clerks, male and female.

8742. Is not that the sort of person the classes are intended for?—To a certain extent it is.

8743. Your complaint is that the school does not command a sufficient volume of attendance?—It does not, for a district such as ours.

8744. How many young people are engaged in businesses connected with commerce or with such industries as require the assistance of technical classes?—I could not give you anything like the adequate number, but the whole town is an industrial town.

8745. Yes, but a very large part of the community, so far as they are workers, are connected with industries which do not necessarily derive direct advantage from technical classes except in the general classes and domestic classes and commercial classes? What about their sons and daughters who are growing up?

8746. Those who are workers in mills; there is nothing for them but general classes and domestic classes, and you don't attach any importance to those?—I don't attach so much importance to domestic classes, and I don't attach importance when I know the class of people who do attend in our technical school.

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Wicks.

8743. (Mr. Minks).—What classes?—In all the departments very many of them are not the classes that the Technical Education Act was intended to instruct at all, the working classes. It was imposed upon myself as one of the deputation by the head of the Department in Dublin twice that our business was more to attract the working classes than any other classes that are well able to pay for their education.

8744. (Mr. O'Connell).—Surely the school is intended for every class?—It is, but in particular for the other classes, and as a matter of fact in order to assure the attendance the committee some two or three years ago initiated a new plan by what they called free scholarships, absolutely free to our National school in the town in order to feed the classes. They found it absolutely necessary to do that.

8745. That does not seem to have been very much of a success?—I think it is the only success that is attached to the school, and that is what keeps the attendance up.

8746. The scholarships from the National schools?—Yes, because although I heard some remarks passed to-day that were rather derogatory to our National school teachers I am of opinion that a great many of our National school teachers could teach many of our so-called Principals of schools. They merely attend these schools to keep themselves up to the requirements of the National Board, but for general education and knowledge I don't know any class of men who have a higher standard than our National school teachers.

8747. I don't think anyone made any observation to-day derogatory to the National school teachers?—Attending the classes in Portadown, for instance, and in Lurgan for two years left the impression that they wanted some teaching themselves.

8748. That is surely admitted when they attend to the number of twenty a class in Portadown and do not count any lesson in the whole session. That, surely, shows the instruction afforded was a benefit?—It does, sir; but it was to pass a particular examination.

8749. And obtain a specific knowledge to be of value to them in the work of the National schools?—That is one particular subject.

8750. Do you object to that?—I do not. I say it was a very useful class.

8751. Why should it be considered derogatory to the National school teachers that it should be remarked that they took advantage of this opportunity?—It left the impression on some people's minds that their general knowledge was deficient.

8752. I think that was a very wrong impression. If a man requires to have a special branch of his knowledge improved there is no imputation in that?—That was the reason of their attendance.

8753. For a specific subject not included in their previous education. I think it is very wrong for you to import into the evidence of the witness given to-day a meaning of that sort, which he did not intend to convey?—Possibly I may be wrong in taking that impression, but it struck me at the time, the way he expressed himself.

8754. I think it was the way you misunderstood it?—Maybe so.

8755. Will you kindly tell me why you judge that the working classes in Lurgan have not derived the benefit from the technical classes that they ought to have derived?—In the first place, I agree that their early education is not sufficiently carried on. They leave too soon, and when they join our technical school when we ask for results the first thing we are told is that the pupils are not fit to take in their instruction.

8756. That is to say, the education they receive in National schools has not been adequate?—It has not, or else it has been forgotten. They want a continuation school.

8757. How does it come that no direct continuation school has been established in Lurgan?—It has never really been considered by our Committee.

8758. The principal explained to-day that he had made serious efforts to secure such work?—I have never seen the efforts.

8759. What type of technical school do you think the working classes in Lurgan would most benefit by?—I certainly think it is not to teach them weaving we started our textile classes, but it was to teach the principles of the loom for young people who are going to the linen business.

8760. Do you mean the actual factory work?—Not so much the exact principles of the exceptional ones, but a great many that are connected with the trade.

8761. It would be quite exceptional for an actual factory worker to attend for instruction in the principles of the loom?—Oh, yes.

8762. Then what class of people would furnish the considerable number you would expect in these classes?—Clerks in the different factories; young men serving their time in the various factories and linen houses.

8763. How many of these would you expect in a year in the class?—There are hundreds in Lurgan for whom the work is suitable.

8764. How many factory workers are there in Lurgan?—We have three, and they are now opening a fourth factory.

8765. The total number of workers would be?—Certainly 1,500 or 1,600. There would be more men and women.

8766. Of that 1,500 I suppose 1,000 would be beyond the age at which you would expect to find them in the class at all?—They would never think of such a thing.

8767. That leaves something like 500 now that are of technical school age?—Yes, but the class I speak of are a different class. They are not in the factories. They are in offices connected with the factories.

8768. And there are 1,000 of them in Lurgan of technical school age?—Yes; young men.

8769. Hundreds of young men who ought to be learning about the principles of the loom in Lurgan?—Certainly. You know we have a large district—all a manufacturing district.

8770. (Mr. Minks).—When you were a member of the Committee did you bring forward your ideas before the Committee?—Several times. I was constantly doing it.

8771. In what form did you make any suggestions to them?—I criticised the work they were doing. They were sitting there as a Committee, and doing nothing but passing accounts.

8772. Besides criticism did you make any positive suggestions?—I have constantly done so.

8773. What suggestions did you make?—In the first place, it is perhaps a strong objection, I objected altogether in a country town such as ours with a limited grant, for a single individual—I am not making any charge against our principal, and would be the last to say I would not pay a man well for his work. We had a grant of £500. We were promised a larger grant at the start, and it was cut down afterwards to £300, and we have £200 from our municipal rate, and for my one man to take the half of that grant it starved the remainder of the school.

8774. (Mr. O'Connell).—That was a criticism, of course; but what suggestion did you make for changing the system?—I suggested the Committee should take the work in hand, and appoint teachers the same as they do primary teachers.

8775. Do you mean to say they should dismiss the principal, and deal directly with the teachers?—Yes, the same as they do with other departments—have no principal, and have a secretary instead to do that work.

8776. What was the decision of the Committee?—That was the feeling of a great many of the Committee.

8777. What was the decision you brought before them?—I resigned in consequence.

8778. They did not adopt your suggestion?—No.

8779. Had you any supporters at all?—Oh, yes.

8780. Do you happen to remember what the division was?—I could not remember. There is a sort of a general feeling that there was something wanting persuading the Committee. We look upon it that it is not the work of a gentleman who is supposed to be a principal teacher to do clerical work at all in connection with the school.

8781. (Mr. Brown).—Did you make any other constructive suggestion besides the dismissal of the Principal?—I did not suggest exactly the dismissal of the Principal?—I suggested a rearrangement of our teaching staff.

8782. That is a pleasant way of getting it?—There is just this objection to the Principal, looking at it from the outsider's point of view. Suppose there is a mistake made in the Principal, and he gets his appointment, and it is looked upon as practically permanent, there is very little hope of getting a change for the better; whereas if we appoint him from session to session, the same as we do our other teachers—

all our textile teachers and all our domestic teachers—we appoint them from within to reason, and if they are not found to be either personally capable of carrying out the work, or perhaps not pleasing the pupils or keeping the attendance up, we change them next year. There is no hardship in that. There does seem a hardship in changing a Principal.

8767. Is that the only constructive suggestion you made?—That is the only one I can think of now.

8768. (Chairman).—You support, generally, the recommendation from the Town Council?—Yes.

8769. There is one passage contained in that document which I should like to ask you agree with. They say:—"To the local efforts in providing and equipping the school the Department responded with generosity, with the result that at the present moment the Council consider that an exceedingly well-furnished, thoroughly-equipped training school is now existing."—That is quite right.

8770. I gather from your evidence that you don't approve of the Principal?—The school is in a thoroughly satisfactory state.

8771. There is no limitation in this statement?—I never saw any difficulty with the Department.

8772. It is not the Department. It is as to the conduct of the school. The Council consider "that an exceedingly well-furnished, thoroughly equipped training school is now existing." The natural inference is that the school is in a satisfactory state?—The school itself is in a satisfactory state.

8773. (Mr. Ogden).—Is Mr. Mahaffy coming here?—He is not.

8774. The tenor of your evidence is very different from the document that has been put forward with the Town Clerk's signature, or from your own views, at any rate, in so far as you represent the views of the Committee. It appears to find fault with but one thing to any purpose—that is the question of co-ordination between elementary and technical education. "The Council appreciate the difficulties surrounding the problem of primary

education in a working-class community, but it seems quite clear to them that a technical school can only be primarily treated as a continuation school, and that some system must be adopted whereby the standard of primary education may be raised to enable scientific training being applied with any degree of success. They are, therefore, strongly of opinion that the practical co-operation of the National School Board is imperatively necessary," and so on. There is not the slightest hint there of any want of satisfactory work on the part of the staff of the technical school. It is all somebody else's fault; but according to your evidence, the one thing that is wrong is the staff of the technical school. Can you explain that?—I hope you don't take me as against the staff of the technical school. I say they have an excellent staff.

8775. The Principal is bad?—In my opinion he does not suit the people. That is putting it in short.

8776. And in your opinion the absence of success which you believe the school shows is due to want of efficiency on the part of the Principal?—Well, not so much want of efficiency. I would not like to be taken that way; but when we started the school we had Mr. Fletcher and several members of the Department. They instructed us to be very particular with regard to the personnel of every teacher, and when we found the teacher did not suit or was not attractive or popular to have no hesitation whatever in changing him.

8777. You think the want of success in the work at Lurgan is due to the want of knowledge of his knowledge on the part of the Principal?—His personality.

8778. But this opinion of the Council refers to other cases altogether—are you in a minority of one on this?—No; I am not.

8779. You don't seem to have been in a majority when this document was drawn up?—I don't know about that. I am stating the feeling of the Board generally.

8780. You are a member of the Urban District Council?—I am.

Mr. J. S. FIDLEY M'CAIN, J.R., Drumratty, examined.

8801. (Chairman).—You represent the Antrim County Council?—Yes.

8802. And I believe you are also a member of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society?—Yes.

8803. We have here the letter of the Antrim County Council giving their views; do you generally support that letter?—Yes.

8804. Will you make any observations you desire about it?—I was going to give you one or two figures and facts with regard to the working-out of these schemes. The amount of money that is levied in the County Antrim for the purpose of this Act is about £1,200 per annum, which is supplemented by the Department with as much more, an equivalent grant, which makes the amount available for us about £2,500. The Committee have adopted the working of the Act from the start, and levied a rate in the first year, and they put a good many of the Department's schemes into operation on the whole, with, I believe, success to the county. In the livestock scheme we have offered 150 nominations for service of mares, and in each year they have been taken up. The last year we had over 350 applicants for 150 nominations, so that we had considerable competition for the premiums. In the premiums for bulls last year we offered forty-seven, and of these forty-two were placed in the county. Since the inception of the working of it in the first year we had only eighteen bulls placed, in the second year twenty-two, in the third year twenty-nine, the fourth year thirty-two, and in the fifth year forty-two, showing that the farmers year by year are becoming more willing to take advantage of this, and more desirous of securing the premiums that we offer. In the poultry section we have rather struck out a line of our own, different from anything which you have come across. We have an experimental poultry station at Cullybackey. The object of the Committee in starting it was twofold. In the first place, to be able to place in the county pure strains of fowl which had been tested as to their laying powers; second, with the object of testing for ourselves what were the most satisfactory breeds for the purpose that we wanted to see them for; and, third, as an object lesson to the farmers of the county as to how fowl ought to be kept. I think that in its entire working this has been proved to be more than up

to the expectations of the Committee. We have distributed this year over 1,200 eggs, and the farm has paid all its expenses, and has a small margin of £5 or £4 over. We have had over 1,000 visitors to the farm since it started, and many of them have gone home to profit by the buildings they have seen there, and put up similar or kindred buildings of their own. We certainly have fostered and encouraged a great desire on the part of many of the farmers to go in for poultry-keeping that they did not have before.

8805. Does that spread throughout the county?—It has spread very largely throughout the county, and we find that not only is it doing good directly, but indirectly, by numbers of persons having got their fowl from there, and brought their eggs to others.

8806. Has it reached down to the poorer people?—It has to a large extent reached the smaller farmers and cottagers. They are very willing to get the eggs, and we find we have more orders than we can supply.

8807. (Mr. Brown).—Have you an egg station?—We have no egg stations. This is instead of the egg-station scheme.

8808. (Chairman).—Do you think that farm has worked well?—We have found it most satisfactory, and it certainly gives satisfaction to everybody who has gone to see it. I may say that the Department were not very enthusiastic about it at the start; but I think they now agree with us that it has been a success.

8809. (Chairman).—Mr. Dryden has paid you a visit?—I had the pleasure of having Mr. Dryden down with me. I think that everybody who goes to see it will think that the money has been well laid out. In the horticultural and bee-keeping scheme we have only so far done pioneer lecture work. We have given a good many lectures, and a good many demonstrations for practical purposes on the farms of the people by sending our instructors there.

8810. Have you had a series of itinerant lectures?—We have. We have had itinerant poultry lectures and horticultural lectures.

8811. What do you say about the itinerant lectures?—They made the other work possible. I was going to deal with that later on. We have given the first

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scheme £150, which has been increased by the Department by a like amount, bringing it to £300, and we offer prizes for flax on foot. Until now we used to have it for scabbed flax, but found that was not satisfactory, and for the present year we have 625 entries for the competition for the flax scheme, and we cannot say that we are very much pleased.

8812. (Mr. Micks).—Is there any entrance fee?—It is absolutely free. Then we give £250 as a subsidy to the shows in the county. And when the work of the Department commenced there was only one Show in the county besides the Royal Agricultural Association's Show. That Show was at Ballymena. It has since been more than doubled in size. We have, in addition, a very successful Show held at Ballymoney by a North Antrim Association, and at Antrim by the Antrim Association, and we have also two small Shows for poultry and cottagers' prizes at Derock and Cushendall, and the interest aroused in the community we want to teach, the smaller farmers, by these Shows is very great. They come enormous distances to these local Shows, and are very enthusiastic in the working of it; and I just heard to-day that the amount of money lifted at the pole of Ballymoney Show this year was £156, which shows that the numbers were there to take advantage of the Show.

8813. A shilling entrance?—A shilling entrance.

8814. (Mr. Dryden).—Was that on one or two days?—A one-day's Show. All these local Shows are only one day.

8815. (Chairman).—You think the money that has been spent in assisting these Shows is money well spent?—Most assuredly I do. It starts a desire on the part of the farmers who are unsuccessful to improve up to the level of the ones who have been successful, and starts a very healthy rivalry among them, which is the first object to be attained.

8816. I suppose there is more improvement from that point of view than in the larger shows?—In my opinion there is. The larger shows are the feeding ground for the smaller shows, and are very useful in their own department, but the smaller shows are more potentiated. They are more within the reach of the smaller farmers. We then have another scheme that is peculiar to this county, I think. It is the Cushendall Pony Scheme, for trying to improve the breed of Cushendall ponies. There was a peculiar breed of ponies in the Glens of Antrim called the Cushendall ponies, and they have been allowed to fall into decay, in as far as they have no sires of their own class, and we have been subsidising a sire, and sending him down there with the object of endeavouring to keep up this breed of ponies in the district. They use them largely for carting iron ore to the pier, and they sell a number of them as young ponies for agricultural purposes, and they use some of them for the mines.

8817. Has that been going on long enough to show much result?—No; we have only had it going on five years, and one year was a failure, so we have not enough of experience to say. At present we are rather in a difficulty. The local Committee want to try the hackney blood, and the Department are not very sweet upon it. However, they are allowing us to try it.

8818. Can you get the pony sires now?—No. We have to get something else.

8819. (Mr. Micks).—How many hands high are these ponies?—About 14.2 or 14.5.

8820. You never had Welsh ponies there?—We never had Welsh ponies. We are at present discussing the expediency of having Exmoor ponies. We have had a small thoroughbred for three years, and now we are trying the hackney. We spent about £100 on the scheme, and served eighty mares at a nominal fee of 2s. 6d., and I certainly think it will do good.

8821. How many mares are there in that district of that type?—At the show of mares we had about 130 exhibited for the 50 premiums, but there are far more than that that did not come down. There are many more. I think there are two other bones in the district since we started. Our next scheme includes the agricultural classes, which we held in Ballymena. In the first two years we worked with itinerant lecturers outside, and sent a poultry expert and an agricultural expert all over the country with the object of arousing interest and enthusiasm, and getting the thing talked about, and then we thought the time had come to do something a little more practical; so we opened three years ago a class for farmers' sons in Ballymena in the Technical School kindly lent us for

that purpose, and we had a class for eight weeks for farmers' sons actually engaged in agriculture. We hoped to get 20, and we had 86 applicants, so we immediately communicated by wire with the Department, and they told us to hold two classes instead of one. We held them concurrently, and took the whole lot. The following year we had two classes, one before Christmas and one after. We had twenty at one and twenty-two at the other, and last year we had thirty-two classes. The work has been most successful. We need our itinerant instructors for the time being to give lectures, and such other assistance as we thought was necessary, and the boys have gone home, and they certainly carry a good deal of information with them, and I have heard of their endeavouring to spread the light a great deal when they went home. We think now the time has come, as far as we can go, for further development of the work in some shape or other, and we are very anxious in this county to see small agricultural stations established where we can give them practical training and more legitimate courses of training than we can give at present—a county farm.

8822. (Chairman).—Have you seen Aghery?—No. I have not seen any of the Department's farms yet, I am sorry to say. I hope to; but our idea is a small farm, somewhere about 100 acres, and we want that started as an object lesson in what can be done with a hundred-acre farm, and also for the purpose of instruction as well.

8823. You mean to have a number of residential pupils?—Yes.

8824. (Mr. Dryden).—That will mean considerable expense in building?—That will mean considerable expense in building, but we hope the Department will assist us in that.

8825. (Chairman).—They are undertaking it at Ballymena, in the County Council?—We personally, as far as our Committee are concerned, have always found the Department willing to meet us if we made a strong enough case, not willing to give us just at once, but quite willing to meet us if we showed we had a good case, and we hope they will give us on this point, too, in time; but we are clear the time has come for something of the kind, so far as our county is concerned. We are satisfied that itinerant work has prepared the way.

8826. Do you think itinerant work has very well done its work?—I think there is some itinerant work to be done still, but the greater amount of the work has been done.

8827. You hardly see how the more remote and poorer districts are to be reached, except by itinerant work?—That is so, but there is a great deal can be done by the County Committee following up places of that kind, and endeavouring to work for them. For instance, in Cushendall we could not get any enthusiasm raised as to the poultry scheme, and we sent them down a present of twenty or thirty cocks, and placed them there, and next year we had no difficulty in getting eggs supplied there. They would take any assistant when they saw the bird. A great deal can be done in that way. Of course, the difficulty is to get into touch with the remoter districts, but we have to fight that as well as we can. And this county is well situated for train services. They can come considerable distances even for day-classes if they choose to do it, at our classes in Ballymena, where they paid their train fare or gave them an allowance per week.

8828. Do many people come to Collymore to see the poultry farm?—A great many. We have had several thousand visitors, and I would think far more.

8829. (Mr. Dryden).—Are you contemplating changing the site of it?—We must do so. It is imperative that we should do so; and that is one of the reasons we are so anxious to settle the other question of agricultural stations, because if we started an agricultural station we would remove the poultry farm to it.

8830. Would you keep it as large as it is?—No. We would work it over the whole farm in turn.

8831. (Mr. Micks).—Penning them?—No; raising them loose.

8832. (Mr. Dryden).—You have twenty acres?—We have twenty-two acres at present. It is not large enough to keep the number of birds we have. We have over 1,000 head of birds. They take the ground, and we cannot work them continuously on the small amount of ground there. We are making temporary arrangements to do so for this season. I think that touches on nearly all our schemes. We have two tech-

nical instruction schemes, a cookery instruction, and a manual instruction, and they have only been working for about six months, but the reports on both classes are most satisfactory. The manual instruction is especially taking with the people, and the instruction reports of the progress of the pupils are very satisfactory also. We had one place where always they had the full number of pupils. We used to allow him to take sixteen for each class, and we had an application to allow us to keep him there longer when the class was over. Unfortunately we had to move them on. We are endeavouring to send all over the county to each district, first once, and then see where he is taking up best. The cookery classes are doing very well.

too. There is great difficulty in both classes getting a place in a country district where they can keep their components in the day time. Of course, the National schools have to be used for school purposes in the day time, and it is a matter of great difficulty to clear up the equipments each day.

8833. (Chairman).—Have you any difficulty in getting the use of the National schools?—None whatever, so far as I am aware of. They sometimes make a small nominal charge for cleaning up afterwards, but they allow us freely to use the schools. They cannot, of course, give us permission to use it for a thing like this, because it takes up the whole school.

MR. CHARLES MCCOY, Ballymena, examined.

8834. (Chairman).—You also are a member of the Antism County Council?—Yes.

8835. You have heard what Mr. McCauley has said; do you agree with it?—Yes; I agree with what Mr. McCauley has said as to the working of the different schemes in the county. In my opinion they have done very much good to the county, especially the district that I represent. I think something should be done, however, to encourage fishing off the Antism coast. Nothing has been done yet. There have lately been some representations made, but they have not taken any definite shape.

8836. Have you a large fishing population on the coast?—There are no facilities at present for fishing along the coast. I think if we had boat piers or some safety for the smaller boats the fishing industry could be increased.

8837. Is there much fishing there now?—Very little at present. I think the principal reason is that we have not any facilities for fishing.

8838. (Mr. Michel).—Have you any fishing at Glenties?—No; but at Waterfoot, near Cushendall. I think there would be fishing, but there is no boat pier. Something has been done at Ballymena. I think the Department sent down an Inspector, and something will be done at Cushendall. There have been representations made that if there was any accommodation there there would be some fishing carried on. This would give employment to a number of people there. I would like to say that the live-stock schemes have worked very well, and are doing considerable good in the county; and I would like to endorse what Mr. McCauley has said as to the spirit of enthusiasm created by local shows. Since the Department came into operation very good agricultural associations have been established in the county. The Ballymena Agricultural Association was established about the time the County Council came into operation, and since then we have a very important show at Ballymena and this year at Antism. These shows have done a great deal to improve the breeding of horses and cattle in the county. The poultry scheme did an immense lot of good in the county. I think the rearing of poultry has increased about fourfold. I have been over a great deal of the county, and made it my business to make inquiries of the farmers and cottagers, and they tell me that they keep four times the number of poultry that they used to keep. Dealers get four or five times the quantity, and are paying a better price, and the eggs have improved in quality.

8839. (Chairman).—Have you a good market for the eggs?—A very good market. There are several co-operative societies in the county that pick up the eggs, and give them the full market value. In the horse-breeding scheme we suffer from the want of thoroughbred horses in the county. We have not a sufficient number. We have only two thoroughbred horses on the register. The better of the two is located in one corner of the county, and it is with considerable expense a farmer can go there with his mare when he happens to get a nomination. The County Committee passed a resolution some time ago that we should get some assistance from the Department to procure a good thoroughbred horse. No private individual is likely to advance \$600 or \$700 on the success or non-success of thoroughbred horses. With reference to the Cushendall scheme to improve the breed of ponies, we had considerable discussion with the Department as to the site that should be placed there. What they

want in the Cushendall district is a stout, short-legged pony, from 14 to 14.5 hands, because they use them on the farms there from two to three years old, and afterwards use them carrying coals from the mines to Waterfoot, and they require an animal with some substance. The sub-committee thought, and their action was approved of by the full Committee, that a hackney would be best for that purpose. There would be a ready sale for them after keeping them to four or five years old, whereas by breeding from a thoroughbred they would be only breeding a weedy animal of 16½ to 17 up to four or five years old, and which could not be, at best, anything better than a servant.

8840. (Mr. Dryden).—Was the hackney an experiment on the part of the Committee?—We took evidence of local experts, veterinary surgeons, and extensive breeders, who knew the district well, and knew the ponies well.

8841. Was it their opinion you acted upon?—It was their experience.

8842. It was never tried before?—Yes, I was one of the small Committee, and I was going on my experience as a breeder. My observation is from the animals that I breed myself, what they do, and what I get for them when I want to sell them.

8843. (Mr. Brown).—Did you make any inquiries as to the result of introducing hackneys into Cushendall?—Yes; a member of the Committee and myself were in Dublin, and saw some of the hackney stallions they had in Commemora, and to my mind they were a very poor type of hackney.

8844. Did you make any inquiries as to the effect of introducing these hackneys?—We were told they were not very popular there, and the results were not good.

8845. The experiment was not successful?—It was not; but a different state of things exists in Cushendall.

8846. (Mr. Dryden).—You think they would be suitable for the farmers themselves?—I think so, and the horses that would be produced would be most useful to them.

8847. (Mr. Michel).—At all events, the introduction of the hackney would not preserve the old type of pony specially valued there?—It is very hard to say what the old type of pony was.

8848. Has it deteriorated so much as that?—I think so. I think that hardly anybody could buy his hands on the old type of pony. It is practically extinct.

8849. (Chairman).—You have read, no doubt, this formal letter of the County Council?—Yes. That was approved of by the County Committee and the County Council.

8850. Towards the close of the letter they say something about the constitution of the Department—that they don't think any changes or improvements are necessary?—I don't think so.

8851. They say:—"The constitution of the Department and the methods it has adopted in carrying out its projects have been admirably suited to this county, and we hope to all Ireland, and we cannot see that any changes of any importance are necessary. The constitution of the Council of Agriculture, having two-thirds of its members elected by the County Councils and one-third nominated by the Department, which applies the funds seems to me to be fair, and reasonable, and the nominations of the Department, so far as they have come under our notice, have been free from political or sectarian bias, and founded only on merit."—I quite agree with that.

Mr. FREDERICK L. TAYLOR, J.P., Aghalee, examined.

July 17, 1906.

8552. (Chairman).—I think you are a member of the County Council of Antrim?—Yes, sir.

8553. There is a general feeling on the part of the Committee that it would be desirable that this paper, of which I have read extracts, should go into the body of the report. You have read the paper, and agree with it, I suppose?—Yes. The letter is as follows:—

COUNTY OF ANTRIM.

Office of the County Council, Courthouse, Belfast.
11th May, 1906.

SIR,—At a meeting of the County Council of Antrim held on the 1st May, 1906, the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Committee was appointed to reply to the letter of the 14th April from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Inquiry Committee. We, the County Council, consider it wise to confine our observations as far as possible to our own county. Our County Council, in conjunction with the Department, have at present itinerant instructors giving public lectures and visiting farms, cottages, experimental plots over the entire county. The instructors lecture on agriculture, poultry, horticulture, and bee-keeping, manual instruction, and domestic economy. The County Council, with the assistance of the Department, have established a model poultry farm in the county with the object of showing how poultry can best be kept to advantage, and, further, of supplying eggs of pure breeds from approved laying stock tested by the best methods, and we are convinced that enormous benefit has been conferred by this scheme alone on the smaller farmers and cottagers of the county. Classes for farmers' sons have been held for three years in Ballynure under very capable instructors, and largely attended by the class your committee would like to benefit, and we feel convinced that further work in this direction will soon bear fruit in improved methods by the agriculturists of the county. Subsidies are given to district shows for cattle, horses, etc., and for agricultural produce. Premiums are given to encourage the best breeds of cattle and horses, to promote faggrowing, and for the best kept small farms and cottage gardens. All these schemes are working admirably, and the prosperity of the county is being largely increased thereby. The cost for the present year will amount to about £3,690, more than half of which is provided by the Department and the remainder by the County Council from the rates, which have only been increased by the very modest amount of 1d. in the £. While much remains to be done, for example, in assistance of sea fisheries, encouraging fruit-growing, and in other directions, we have every confidence that the Department will lend a willing ear to our fair demands in the future as in the past, and we trust that no change will be made in the constitution of the Department that will in any way hinder the beneficent work so well begun. We presume that many of the other counties of Ireland are benefitting in a similar manner, although some of them may not have taken as much advantage of the opportunity as County Antrim. The assistance which the Department is giving to the prosperity of the country as a whole is almost incalculable. The constitution of the Department, and the methods it has adopted in carrying out its projects, have been admirably suited to this county, and we would hope to all Ireland, and we cannot see that any changes of any importance are necessary. The constitution of the Council of Agriculture, having two-thirds of its members elected by the County Councils, and one-third nominated by the Department which supplies the funds, seems to us to be fair and reasonable, and the animosities of the Department, so far as they have come under our notice, have been free from political or sectarian bias, and founded only on merit. We cannot close this statement without offering our tribute of respect and admiration for the Department's Vice-President, Sir Horace Plunkett, to whose exertions so much is due, and whose work is so universally admired. We have only to add that, in case the Committee of Inquiry decide to receive evidence

from County Councils we trust that our Council will be given an opportunity of being heard.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

J. STOUTER F. McCORMACK,
Chairman of the Committee.

A. B. CLARKE,
Secretary of the County Committee.

J. J. Taylor, Esq.

8554. Do you agree generally with the evidence given by Mr. McCORMACK and Mr. MCCORMACK?—I do. I think there is no question but that the Department of Agriculture has been of very considerable advantage to the county at large, and especially I can speak for my own district. I think it only right to mention that a very short time ago, I suppose twelve years ago, there was no artificial manure used in the district of Aghalee. Now I know as a matter of fact of one man who has sold over 500 tons of artificial manure this year. I attribute that entirely to the Department of Agriculture, and I think very largely as a result of the lectures we have had in the district. And another thing about twelve years ago there was no such thing as spraying potatoes. Now every farmer I know is spraying, and I believe it is largely due to the lectures we have had from the Department.

8555. (Mr. MICKLE).—When was spraying first practised in the county?—I could not answer for the county, but I will answer for the district of Aghalee. I think I was the first to spray. That would be twelve years ago. I don't think there was spraying in the county very much earlier than that, so far as I know of.

8556. (Mr. O'NEILL).—To what extent did spraying become common before the Department began to organise and arrange for lectures?—I think up to about three years ago there were only three large farmers spraying in my district. In my district now they are all spraying. I am not aware of one this year that is not preparing for spraying potatoes.

8557. (Mr. MICKLE).—Are you aware that the agricultural department of the Land Commission had spraying experiments over many parts of Ireland twelve years ago or more?—No. I never heard of it. They may have had it.

8558. (Chairman).—At all events, it has now become general in this county?—This and of it.

8559. I don't think anything has been said by witnesses from Antrim about gardens, horticulture, and the cultivation of fruit trees?—In the district that I come from there are fruit trees grown very largely, and during the last two or three years I suppose orchards have been denuded, young trees planted, and what is recommended as better fruit having been planted in a modern way.

8560. Is that done for marketing?—Yes, for marketing. You know a farmer in our district who has over thirty acres of an orchard under apple trees.

8561. (Mr. BOYD).—Are they old trees?—He planted one orchard this year. I think they are all new; all planted within the last few years. The Department have recently taught us how to combat various diseases, both animal and in the trees.

8562. You agree with what has been said by the last witness about itinerant lectures, that it is more desirable to have a central institution than itinerant lectures?—Yes, but I believe experimental farms, for instance, in the shape of poultry farms, in our county would have more effect than the lectures. The lectures are very good in their way, that they start people to think. Farmers are not particularly anxious to think for themselves, and I think the lectures have the effect of starting them to think and perhaps experiment for themselves, and that in itself is very good.

8563. (Mr. GILLESPIE).—I see a reference in the letter of the County Council to itinerant instructors visiting farmers' cottages and experimental plots over the county—how has that worked?—Very well, I think; and so far as I know the people come to see the crops growing and meet the instructor on the farm, which is very important.

8854. Do the instructions to a considerable extent visit cottages and farms to advise on disease matters with the people on those farms?—They are very willing to do that. If they know the districts where improvements are being tried they are very willing to come and see any farms, and direct what should be done—at least from all I have heard. I have never been refused yet.

8855. (Chairman).—Have you a large farm yourself?—I suppose as large a farm as there is in the district; and I can say the breed of cattle has been improved very much as well. In my time I don't suppose you could find two thoroughbred bulls in any district; and I can say the breed of cattle has been very little else, and farmers are prepared to give a considerable fee for the service of a good bull.

8856. Are people willing to send their cows a considerable distance?—I suppose they would send them over three or four miles. They are quite willing to do that. I have got fees of £2 2s. for the service of a bull, an Angus bull, and in one case the man came over ten miles.

Mr. CHARLES McCONNELL, Dunmurry, recalled.

8855. (Mr. Micks).—Where do you reside?—In Ballymena, but I represent the Cushendall district of the Glens.

8876. You can tell me, generally, about Ballycastle and beyond that?—With reference to the Cushendall district, a lecturer was sent there about three years ago, and the year after they formed a flax society and got a grant of £100 to improve a flax mill.

8877. From your committee?—No; from the Department.

8878. How was that £100 expended?—On improving the flax mill.

8879. Now machinery?—New machinery, and I think they sent an instructor there to show them how to prepare the flax. There is no doubt within the last few years the average has very materially increased in the Glen district, and they have fairly good crops of flax, and I think one of the reasons for that is that there had been no flax sown there for a long time, and they knew more about the growing of flax there now than they did a few years ago, and that is due to the working of the flax society.

8880. Is that a flax society or committee?—That is a local effort helped by the Department. Of course the lecturer was all over the county.

8881. Was it done from your committee at all?—No. I think he has done of two or three counties. He is directed by the Department. He paid particular attention to the district of the Glens, because there was very little flax grown there for the first few years. They were anxious to revive it, and some of the land is well suited for the growth of flax; and last month I have noticed a very good growth of flax. They have a good mill, and the flax is well prepared and put on the market in the best way.

8882. There are a sufficient number of mills in the district?—Yes. With regard to Ballycastle there is not much flax grown there. Ballymena is one of the principal markets in the country. Ballymena has increased enormously for flax-growing. Ballymena used to be the principal market, but now Ballymena is the largest flax market in Ireland.

8883. This instructor has been put there, and one mill has been improved and new machinery brought in; is there anything else under the flax scheme?—I think the scheme of giving prizes to growing flax is better than giving prizes to seeders.

8884. Has that been carried out?—Last year was the first year that is under our committee, and we arrived at the decision to give the prizes to growers.

8885. Do you give prizes in seed or in money?—Money prizes.

8886. Was it suggested to you to give prizes in seed?—Under the system of giving prizes to seeders some of the prizes were given in seed. I think perhaps a money prize is better. The only that year is very largely in excess of last year, and last year there was very keen competition.

8887. Are there any steps being taken to secure good seed?—I think that get very good seed. The farmers are getting very wise, and they are very particular about the seed. I think the seed has improved, and many of the farmers avail themselves of the facilities for testing seeds and manures.

8888. What have you done under the cattle improvement schemes?—The principal is giving premiums for bulls.

8887. Do you wish to say anything special about the horse-breeding scheme?—I am not acquainted with that. That is more for the north of the county.

8888. (Mr. Ophrie).—Or pigs?—I have nothing to say about pigs. We are not great breeders of pigs.

8889. (Mr. Micks).—Can you not tell the Committee about what has been done in the north of the county?—Not of my own personal knowledge.

8890. I mean as a member of the committee; perhaps you remember some of the measures you took in the north of the county?—Which do you refer to particularly?

8891. Under any of your schemes?—I think that the flax-growing is improving. Certainly the average is.

8892. What have you done in the flax scheme?—We have had instructors.

8893. I refer to the district known as the Glens?—There have been instructors sent there.

8894. How many instructors?—I think Mr. McConnell could give you some information on the subject.

8895. How many premium bulls are there from Glens?—From Ballycastle?—We allocate the premiums to the different rural districts. Ballymena has something like eleven. Glensarm would be in Larne rural district, and they have seven or eight there. They would be nearly all shorthorns.

8896. In what district is Cushendall?—Part in Larne and part in Ballycastle. The Department purchased a couple of Galloways for that district, and they were given to two farmers at a reasonable price.

8897. When was that?—That is the second season for them.

8898. How many bulls are there now, either from the county or the Department?—From the Department two, and there would be, I think, seven premiums in Larne and five in Ballycastle.

8899. How many of these would be in the Glens, as distinguished from the other portions?—There is one premium bull that would serve the Glens and the two bulls sent by the Department. They are Galloways. There is not much demand for the shorthorns.

8900. Has anything been done besides the cattle schemes?—The effort to improve the bulls in the Glens, and lastly, within the last two years, an effort has been made to improve the poultry of the people. A poultry society has been established there.

8901. In connection with Cullybacky?—Oh, no, but we think it is due to the first little help we gave them from Cullybacky. We made them a present of some birds, and the following year we had a demand for eggs. Two or three of the turkeys were placed in that district.

8902. You have no egg station there?—No. The farm serves the purpose. We think it is much more effective.

8903. (Mr. Dryden).—How is that carried out on the farm?—We sell the eggs on the farm.

8904. (Mr. Micks).—How does that work?—It works very well.

8905. (Mr. Dryden).—I was trying to get on the advice the manner in which it was done; do the people apply personally?—The people apply for the eggs, and they get them in the order of their application. We send them out in little compartments home.

8906. (Mr. Micks).—By train?—Yes, and they are quite safe, and we send live chickens the same way.

(Mr. Dryden).—Do you know anything about the number?

(Mr. McConnell).—A small number, because it only started this year.

(Mr. Dryden).—The number of hatching eggs distributed was 12,000.

8907. (Mr. Micks).—All to the Glens?—No; all over the county. I think the county could do with more premiums and bulls.

8908. Have you used up all your powers in that way?—Some of the rural districts would take those times the number allotted, but they cannot get them. We give ten premiums in one rural district, and will have over thirty applications.

8909. Is there any technical instruction in the poorer portions of the Larne and Ballycastle unions?—This is the first year that we have made an effort in that direction, and we have now a manual instructor. He has not gone round much yet. The plant is costly to move, and he has to stay in each district a few weeks. Each district will get its turn.

Mr. C.
McConnell.

TWENTY-SEVENTH PUBLIC SITTING.—WEDNESDAY, JULY 18TH, 1906.

At the Technical Institute, Belfast.

Present:—

SIR KENELM E. DIBBY, K.C., Q.C.B. (Chairman).

THE HON. JAMES DRYDEN.

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.R., Secretary.

July 18, 1906.

Mr. E.
Patterson, J.P.

MR. RICHARD PATTERSON, J.P., examined.

6903. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Holywood Technical Instruction Committee?—I have been chairman since its establishment.

6904. You put in this letter which we have received from the Committee?—Yes, it is put in by the directions of the Committee. I think it would be better to read it. It gives the whole substance.

HOLYWOOD TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE. 22nd June, 1906.

DEAR SIR,—In response to Circular issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction Inquiry Committee, I am requested on behalf of the above committee to bring to your notice the following points in reference to that side of the Department's work which is concerned with secondary and technical schools.

I.—The value of the Department's work as a whole.

(1.) *Secondary Schools*.—Since the advent of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, education in Irish secondary schools has been in great measure revolutionised. Up to that time hardly any effort had been made to introduce the teaching of science in secondary schools. Six years ago there were only six school laboratories in Ireland (one of these being in connection with the Upper Sullivan School, Holywood). At present the great majority of intermediate schools have physical and chemical laboratories and regular art classes, where pupils are taught to interrogate nature for themselves, to acquire the most interesting and useful scientific facts, and to use their hands and eyes. Some nine thousand pupils of secondary schools are thus under training every year, an achievement which has been accomplished by the Vice-President, the Secretaries, and the Inspectors of the Department in the short space of a few years.

(2.) *Technical Schools*.—The technical schools established in the country have been doing excellent work for the people just in proportion as the people have appreciated and availed themselves of the advantages thus offered to them. In our experience these schools are attended better by women and girls than by young men and boys. As to the value of the science and art training offered at nominal rates in these schools, the remarks made above with regard to secondary schools may be repeated, except as regards the numbers attending. The average youth of the present day appears to find such training too tedious to endure, and of no importance as compared with "football" and similar pursuits. The Department is in no way to blame for this state of things; on the contrary, it has been trying to show the youth of the country the very great importance of the instruction offered in technical schools, both as mental training and for the sake of its practical utility in the pupil's future career.

II.—In general, even apart from the difficulty of building class-rooms, the operations of the committees are greatly hampered for lack of funds; and in particular there is serious injustice involved in the Department's mode of allocating the annual grants. These grants are estimated only on the basis of the total valuation of the urban district (by means of the amount of the "penny rate"), and have no regard to

the educational quality of the work done. The result is, that the annual grant to one school is much greater than another school where work of much greater educational value is being done. To illustrate from the Holywood Technical schools: The annual grant is only £200 per annum; the result is that the Principal is very insufficiently paid for his duties, as are also some of the class teachers.

III.—The Department's custom of ordering certain classes to be self-supporting unless attended by persons preparing to make a living out of the occupation taught in them, injures the work of certain schools with no corresponding benefit. The result is that in the case of lace-making, for example, numbers of respectable young women who would learn this occupation for the sake of making a little profit out of their handiwork, are precluded from attending classes in the subject (except at prohibitive fees) because they cannot declare that they intend to "make a living" by lace-making.

The points raised (II.) and (III.) are two serious occasions of dissatisfaction, in our opinion, in the valuable work of the Department. Both these points are of special importance in the smaller towns in the North of Ireland.

S. H. MILLER.

6905. Do you wish to add anything?—I should like to add a little to that. This school was established four years ago, and at the time the school was established I happened to be the chairman, and had been for many years chairman of the Urban Council, and it was largely through my instrumentality that Holywood adopted the Act, and since then we have been extremely satisfactory, but we are crippled for want of funds. It is a small town.

6906. The population is 4,000, the valuation £22,000, and the penny rate produces £281.—We take not only for the town, but for the district, and therefore I think we are entitled to more money from the Department. We raised money for the purpose of equipping a splendid laboratory there. That was more in connection with the Upper Sullivan School, built and endowed by the late Dr. Sullivan. Mr. Spence, our principal, one of the best teachers of science in the United Kingdom, is very much underpaid. He has only £100 a year for doing an immense amount of work every evening, as he attends at the school during the winter season, and the committee would like to see him better remunerated.

6907. You say you provide for a district over and above this population?—Yes, a good many of the surrounding districts come in from outside our boundary and do not contribute to the rate.

6908 (Mr. Micks).—Half-way between you and Bangor?—Yes, and also towards Belfast. I would like to enlarge a little on that question of lace-making. Many of our girls like to supplement their wages by learning lace-making and making a profit out of it, but your Department laid down a rule—

6909. (Chairman).—It is not my Department's rule, you represent the Department.

6910. Oh, no, I don't think they would recognise that at all. We are sitting upon them!—That is better with. At any rate in a place like this there are many girls who come into Belfast and earn small wages in

the large factories and workhouses, and are very glad to be able to supplement their small wages by learning to be-making at our technical school, but we had to live on it up entirely, to give up the subject of Irish girls in which we had a splendid class, and the girls were making a good deal out of it unless it were absolutely self-supporting. We could not do it out of the 2s. 6d. fee, and we were obliged to abandon it greatly to the detriment of many of the inhabitants of the town. This is an extract from the address I gave at the distribution of prizes in connection with our technical school, and this puts the matter how we stand in no disguise, and as I could give it to you: "Holywood now had for many years occupied a prominent position in educational matters. It had three excellent primary schools under good managers, and efficient teachers. It had also the Upper Bellvue School, where splendid work had been done under Mr. Adam Spence, whose name was so widely known and universally respected in the educational world. For a long period science, both elementary and advanced, had been carried on by Mr. Spence most successfully under the Department of Science and Art, Scotch Kensington, but as years passed on the Government gradually got so economical that all such science schools became crippled, and many of them ceased to exist; but, fortunately, relief was close at hand under the new Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. Many of them would remember that in the early part of the year 1902 the Holywood Urban Council decided to adopt the Technical Instruction Act and strike a rate of 12. in the pound for that purpose. By doing so the town was entitled to receive a sum of about £250 per annum from the Department towards the payment of teachers, besides substantial sums towards the necessary equipment of the Technical School. The Governors of the Bellvue Schools kindly offered the use of their splendid classrooms. But they did more. A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, when it was decided to make an appeal to the friends of education and to the 'old boys' for funds to enable them to build a new chemical laboratory and rooms suitable for classes of domestic economy, mental instruction, etc. That appeal had been so generously responded to that their rooms were built and equipped in the best manner possible, and between the money subscribed and the grants received towards equipment, only a comparatively small debt now remained, and Holywood was in the proud position of possessing one of the best technical schools in Ireland, and a staff of teachers second to none anywhere. Having given this brief account of the founding and formation of the Holywood Technical School, the Chairman said he was glad to state that the efforts of the Committee had been crowned with complete success during the past season, and they confidently anticipated that the work so well commenced would be of great and lasting benefit to their town and neighbourhood. We need not go into particulars of the work done, as the report of the Hon. Secretary would go into all the necessary details. The Committee were now arranging an attractive programme and time-table for the coming season, which they trusted would be taken advantage of by many in the town. There had been recently held in Belfast a Congress of Irish Technical Schools which he had had the pleasure of attending, and at which their head master, Mr. Spence, read a valuable and interesting paper on evening continuation schools, which was very well received. Many of the subjects discussed at the Congress were full of interest, and all tended to prove how largely the question of technical instruction had been taken up all over Ireland. Nearly all the speakers at that Congress laid great stress on the fact that if more generous grants could be made by the Department the great and noble work so well commenced by Sir Horace Plunkett might be extended and developed in many ways, and that by so doing the material and moral welfare and the happiness of the people would be greatly increased. Another matter which impressed him at the Congress was the number of headings under which grants of money were made by the Department, and the overlapping more or less of the various classes of education throughout the country. He felt sure there was an earnest desire amongst the various governing bodies to work together in perfect harmony, each forming a strong link in the educational chain, so that from the time a child entered an infant school until he took a degree in one of the Universities, there would be a number of well-defined grades which he must pass through in regular sequence. It would be

quite beyond his powers, he said, to draft a perfect scheme, but he would take the liberty of making a few suggestions for their consideration. They had throughout the country a splendid set of well-qualified teachers in their National schools, who, in his opinion, could do more work if they were permitted, and properly paid for doing so. The goal at present aimed at in these schools was the 'sixth standard,' and then when this was reached the education of many naturally intelligent boys and girls was finished, whereas it should really be considered as only just commenced. He would suggest that the Commissioners of National Education should take up the teaching of elementary science in their schools and provide the necessary apparatus. Their present staff of teachers, if not already qualified, could with little trouble qualify. This should certainly raise the standard of these schools, and at the same time raise the remuneration of underpaid teachers. The work of the Commissioners should not cease here. They should provide evening continuation schools, where young people who have left school and commenced to learn some trade or business could go on with their studies, paying special attention to science and technical instruction. As these continuation schools would be supported by the Commissioners, they would naturally be under their control, but if a regular technical school existed in the same town or district he had no doubt the local Committee would be willing to assist by giving careful supervision to these classes; the Commissioners' work might then cease. The next stage for the student would be the regular and fully-equipped technical school where both elementary and advanced science in all its branches could be acquired, and where many other practical and interesting subjects for both men and women would be taught in the best manner possible. The final stage, as far as technical schools were concerned, would be in large centres such as Belfast, where a system of co-education might be established with Queen's College. Negotiations had already been entered into on this subject, which would no doubt be carried into effect."

8911. (Mr. O'Grady).—What was your reason for giving up the lace?—Because the Department would not allow us to carry it on.

8912. What reason did they assign?—Because it was not self-supporting.

8913. What exactly does that mean?—It means that the fees we received from the pupils were not sufficient to pay the teacher.

8914. The Department would not recognize any expenditure of their grant upon instruction in lace?—Unless the fees were sufficient.

8915. If the fees were sufficient it would not entail any charge on the Department at all?—No; but we feel, working with people like that, it is impossible to get a fee that would make it self-supporting.

8916. Was the decision of the Department that none of their grant could be or ought to be spent on giving instruction in lace-making?—That is not exactly it, but in our accounts if this half-crown came up to the amount we were paying the teacher, nothing would be said, but when we felt about they would not allow any portion of their grant to supplement the fees.

8917. Did they state that view clearly?—They did.

8918. (Mr. Meeks).—These girls, I suppose, were all earning fair wages?—They were earning moderate wages in the workhouse.

8919. Out of the lace, were they making a fair wage?—Not a living wage, a supplementary wage.

8920. As soon as the girls got fairly proficient what would be the average wage?—I don't think they would earn more than 3s. a week in the workhouse.

8921. She would earn as much as that?—I think so.

8922. Did you think of asking the girls, in order to prevent the falling through of the industry, to contribute?—No, we did not ask them to contribute anything except the 2s. 6d.

8923. (Mr. O'Grady).—But I understand it was still a case of instruction. The class was for the instruction of girls in lace-making. They had not yet become proficient?—Not sufficiently proficient.

8924. (Mr. Meeks).—But sufficiently so to earn 3s. a week?—They could earn supplementary wages in addition to their earnings in the workhouse.

8925. (Mr. O'Grady).—Then really it was only an opportunity for enabling them to become more expert in processes with which they had already become familiar, in which they had already received all the training that instruction could give them?—That is precisely the position.

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8325. Then it ceased to become a school and became a commercial undertaking?—Without an increased fee they could not carry it on. They really required to have several hours more training than they got.

8327. I understand just now it was only practice they wanted?—There is more than that. There is designing.

8328. Did the Department disallow any part of their grant on the instruction in designing as applied to lace-making?—I don't know.

8329. (Mr. Micks).—Have you any girls who are engaged in the making of lace who are also designers anywhere in Ireland?—No, I have not.

8330. You could not say whether it is quite a distinct branch?—I could not say. For a long period science, both elementary and advanced, has been carried on by Mr. Speers, most necessarily under the Department of Science and Art, South Kensington. We have had an excellent class of National school-teachers in connection with our school.

8331. So the criticism on that point in your address does not hold now?—Not that portion. What I wanted to build up was a regular scheme from the child or infant till he entered in the University.

8332. Are you familiar with the arrangements for the recognition of the evening classes by the National Commissioners?—Not very familiar.

8333. They appear to provide for just such continuation work as you desire?—That is the point we were anxious about.

8334. You have not had any experience of whether they do provide it or not?—I have not.

8335. Have you ever been to any evening classes in Holywood under the National Commissioners?—No.

8336. Is there any question of having classes at Holywood of a lower grade than those provided for by the Department?—I don't think so.

8337. The pupils who leave the National schools are all up to the sixth standard?—They ought to be. I would like to express our sincere appreciation of educational schools, and of Sir Horace Plunkett's efforts, for we feel he has done a great deal for us, and we are very pleased to know that the matter is being investigated now, so that it will be put positively on a better basis.

8338. You mean as regards manner?—Yes, and also some little details. For instance, I wish to mention the matter of French. We have had a class of French. It has not been successful because it was Commercial French. They would not allow us to teach anything else. I think if we had Literary French, which would fairly embrace Commercial French, we could have a much better class, but our French being commercial we did not succeed.

8339. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You don't mean to say that the Department insisted on Commercial French before the pupils had been grounded in French originally?—They would not allow a teacher except in Commercial French.

8340. Were the pupils supposed to begin without any knowledge of French?—Yes.

8341. Without any knowledge, and start straight away to Commercial French?—Yes.

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8342. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Privy Council, a member of the Council of Agriculture, Vice-Chairman (and afterwards Chairman) of the County Council of Down since its formation, and Chairman of the Belfast and County Down Railway Company. You were also a member of the Recess Committee?—Yes.

8343. Are you a member of the Technical Board?—No, I am not. With a view to economize the time of yourself and your colleagues, last night I jotted down a few rough notes which I thought would enable me to condense my observations, and I propose simply to make these observations and leave you to ask me any questions you may desire. At the outset I desire to say that I approve of the constitution and methods of the Department, also of the Council of Agriculture, the Agricultural Board and the Board of Technical Instruction.

8344. That is to say you approve of the constitution of those Boards, consisting partly of an elected element and partly of a nominated element?—Quite right, and otherwise, but particularly as you have mentioned it.

8345. And you think that has worked well in practice?—Certainly I do.

8346. We have asked the question several times, and I think we always got the one answer, whether there has been any marked difference between the point of view or action of the nominated element and of the elected element?—No, so far as I am aware, there has not. In the Council of Agriculture, which I have attended regularly, I have never seen any distinction between the nominated and the elected elements. The fact is no one seems to know or care who is nominated and who is elected; and I think probably there could be no better proof that the nominations have given satisfaction than the fact, as I remark you have been previously informed—indeed I fear that, my examination coming so late in the work of the Commission, I should be only repeating an oft-told tale and wearying you.

8347. We have been getting our information from various quarters?—No greater proof could be given that the nominated element has been pleasing to the elected part of the Council than this. About three years ago nine members had to be elected to the different boards of the Council of Agriculture, and the Council elected for those boards five of the nominated element, and only four of the elected element. I think there could be no better proof that the Department's efforts to put the best men in this position

had been successful. I may further say that in my own county the County Council elected myself and a gentleman who is not present to represent them on the Council of Agriculture, and when the Department came to nominate a man they nominated my friend, Colonel Crawford, who is present, and the very man the Council had selected to be its vice-chairman, and the very man who, I have no doubt, would have been selected by the County Council if a third representative had been required. As you referred to the nominated element, perhaps I would not be travelling too far in giving my reasons for saying I hope that element won't disappear. In Ireland I fear we are not distinguished for considering these matters with an absence of all thought of political and denominational matters. These members are elected for the Board by the four Provincial Councils. It would not surprise anyone if those whom the provincial Councils chose should be chosen to a certain extent—I don't mean to make any charge against them, but that they would be chosen to a certain extent for denominational and political reasons. If that was general some of the best men in Ireland would be excluded, and the consequence would be that a Board would be produced which would not be the best. The Department having the power to nominate one-third of the men, can just take up those very men whom the Councils for reasons I have stated, and other reasons, may probably have omitted. I think there might be a cause of complaint if the proportion were the other way, the Department, say, nominating two-thirds, and the people through their County Councils had only the power to elect one-third, but so long as the elective element is two-thirds, it places the majority of the Board in the hands of the elected element.

8348. I should just like to ask you this—it is a matter which has been a good deal before us. Do you think more might be done, than at date at present, in taking the County Councils and local Committees into confidence by giving them much more knowledge of what takes place at meetings of the Agricultural Board?—I think a move has been made in that direction by the fact that it is now, I think, pretty well decided to have half-yearly instead of yearly meetings of the Council of Agriculture, and their proceedings being all published.

8349. I am speaking of the Board. What takes place at meetings of the Board, if I am not mistaken, is not made public in any way. It is obvious some part of their proceedings could hardly be made public, such as relating to pending negotiations; still we find great ignorance of what goes on at the

Agricultural Board all over the country?—I confess I have not given much thought to that for the simple reason that I thought it was working well.

8550. I am not questioning the working of the Board, but rather the knowledge which is possessed generally in the country of what is going on at the Board. They seem to have very little idea of the functions of the Board and how they are exercised. At the Council of Agriculture there are strings of resolutions proposed on work which different members of different County Councils wish to have done. When that County Council assembles at its next meeting, if those things have not been carried out by the Board, the Department is asked why.

8551. You think the more frequent meetings of the Council of Agriculture and the publication of the proceedings of those meetings will probably have the effect of taking the country more into confidence than it is at present?

8552. (Mr. Brown).—Perhaps I might remind Mr. Andrews that this very question was under discussion at the last meeting of the Council of Agriculture as to the publication of the various proceedings. I am not quite sure what the actual decision was, but I think the resolution was that the Board should publish such part of their proceedings as they thought of interest to the public. Yes; I can see a certain awkwardness in publishing part of the minutes and withholding the rest, but I am not sure that it would not be better to leave it as it is at present, with more frequent meetings. I need not trouble you with the endowment of the Department, of which I am sure you have heard a great deal—the amount of moneys they have, £156,000, £55,000 of which is expended on technical instruction, £10,000 on fisheries, and £100,000 roughly on agriculture; and with other moneys that bring the total income of the Department up to £210,000.

8553. Do you want to express an opinion about the sufficiency of it?—My own opinion is that up to the present it has been sufficient. I think last year was the first year in which the Department ever exceeded its income. It exceeded it by about £14,000, but then it has a considerable surplus. I think a mistake prevails as to that. Many people in the country are under the wrong impression that that surplus is there because the Department was unable to spend it, and I have heard suggestions that it should be taken from the Department and applied to other uses. I know that that reserve has been collected for a specific purpose. The Department proposes to establish a great many more agricultural schools and model farms. If they had begun with an insufficient fund and established these in one or two counties, indeed I believe they have done it in one or two, but if they did it in five or six counties, every other county in Ireland would be clamouring for it; and I think they exercised a wise discretion in retaining that money till a sum was collected that would justify them in proceeding. I have a firm belief that as time goes on, and these institutions are established, more money will be required, and I would have every hope that Parliament would supply it when it is really wanted, but I make no complaint of the insufficiency of the funds up to the present time. I should just like to mention that I came a great deal in contact with the principal officials of the Department—I do not mean solely with Sir Horace Plunkett, I mean with the officials grading down considerably below him—and I am under the impression that the Department enjoys the services of an admirable staff of men who are really devoting themselves to their work with patriotic intentions quite as much as in order to earn their salaries. They seem to know their business. Taking such men as Professor Campbell and Mr. Fletcher, they all seem to be admirable men. They not only know their business, but they are courteous and always glad to afford information. Mr. Gill, I should have mentioned too, the Secretary of the Department, and many others below him. I think they have been well selected, and do their work admirably. Then I may say that the Department, as at present constituted, was the result of what I might almost call a compact, certainly an understanding, between the commercial and industrial North and the agricultural South, by the Recesse Committee. That was well received in Ireland, I think universally well received, and it was afterwards endorsed by Parliament in the Act constituting the Department.

8554. (Mr. McKel).—Is what some was it an understanding?—In this way, with the Recesse Committee.

You no doubt knew its constitution. There was represented there every form of political and economical view, and every class of society. I should say, from several of the aristocracy down to men like myself, and in a much more humble position; and they came to the conclusion that that would be a proper basis on which to have the Department formed, and the Press of Ireland and the people of Ireland I believe not only sanctioned it, but approved of it; and the Chief Secretary for Ireland, Mr. Gerald Balfour, was so much impressed with that feeling that it became the basis of the Act so far as I know.

8555. Was not those recommendations of the Recesse Committee for a quite different body from the present Department; was it not for a nominated Board?—Yes, I think there is something in what you say, and I think that view was very much thought out.

8556. That was the reason I asked you, as the Recesse Committee's report was not adopted so far as the constitution of the Department went. Not thoroughly, but I suppose we are all agreed that if it had not been for the Recesse Committee there would have been probably no Department to-day.

8557. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—I suppose part of the change in the organization as between the idea embodied in the Recesse Committee's report and that embodied in the Act is owing to the fact that the Recesse Committee were not as a matter of fact drawing a bill, they were making a general recommendation. Quite right.

8558. And did not consider it to be part of their business to put it in such form as would be necessary to meet the Parliamentary requirements?—I quite agree.

8559. (Mr. McKel).—And the change would also probably be due to the passing of the Local Government Act in the meantime?—Quite right.

8560. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—Personally, you think that was an improvement?—I do. Had the Local Government Act been passed and the County Councils in the position they are now, I have not the slightest doubt that the recommendations of the Recesse Committee would have been different. Then, before leaving the Constitution—

8561. (Mr. McKel).—Before we leave the question of the income, do you think additional funds are necessary for building, on the technical side?—I certainly believe—I think I have already mentioned that—I believe that if the present reserve fund was expended—

8562. That could not be appropriated to the technical branch, that is altogether agricultural; so that the technical are here except for their annual income?—I am of opinion that it would be quite necessary. Kerry town cannot afford to do as Belfast has done, spend £140,000 on a school. There is no doubt that some of these small urban towns that are struggling at present with their technical schools are not all even as well situated as that which has been represented by my friend, Mr. Parsons, in Holywood. In some of these a penny in the pound only raises a few pounds.

8563. Forty-eight pounds in Holywood?—Yes; and they never could have a proper building unless they are helped with it, and I think they should be helped.

8564. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—There is one consideration to which I should be glad to have your view as knowing the local circumstances in a struggling area. We find a number of towns, not very large towns, have already got several laboratories equipped, in fact have got accommodation provided, with the assistance of the Department, which would be very suitable for technical work, but as a matter of fact are not available owing to local difficulties. In one town we found that there already exist four laboratories, and the Technical Committee are finding it necessary to build a fifth. Have you any recommendation to make as to the possibility of doing better than that?—I am not familiar with any instances of that, and I would rather not express an opinion upon it; but it would be a pity if money was wasted in duplicating buildings or schools. I dare say you will hear about the County Down of money that was left by an old gentleman a great many years ago, the Henry Trust. You will hear more of it from the witness who is to follow me. The income amounts to £400 a year, and they have given that with the Department contribution for the purpose of subsidizing an

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agricultural school on a farm in Downpatrick. As far as possible I think that example should be followed.

3665. In that case the dealing is with a trust?—The Court of Chancery, I think it was, approved of it.

3666. Have you any views as to the possibility of grants out of public money for school laboratories being made conditional upon the use of such buildings being available for technical purposes?—No. It would be safer for me not to touch on that. Each individual case might almost require to be considered. What would be fair enough in one case might be a great hardship in another. On the faith of the constitution of the Department as constituted under the Act, the County Council of Down have taxed their people. They have appointed officers—the Department, of course, appoints the itinerant instructors very largely, but they have appointed secretaries and other officers, and done a great deal of work in order to bring the Department's work into being and establish it. Then a very remarkable case is just beside us here, the new technical buildings costing that large sum of £140,000. Now, I hold that all the work that I have referred to, and a great deal more which I need not take up your time with, has been established on the understanding that the constitution would not be disturbed. I do not mean to say that the Department is to live for ever, and that there is to be no change. That would be rather a conservative doctrine for me to put forward, but I do say I do not think any fundamental change is justified in the constitution of the Department without the consent of those who on the faith that it would not be changed have laid out so much money and devoted so much work to bringing it into its present condition.

3667. I quite follow your view there.—That view may be right or be wrong, but if ever I felt strongly about anything, I feel strongly about that. I have a note here, but I have already referred to it, that my County Council co-operated with the Trustees of the Henry Trust in fitting an agricultural school and model farm, and I have referred to the school hard by here.

3668. (Mr. Brown).—Is that school yet actually established?—I cannot quite answer the question as to whether the students are actually in it, but if they are not in it, not only has this large sum of money, £140,000 been almost expended alongside us here, but 5,000 students in Belfast were also finding their home in it or in other buildings in Belfast, waiting till it is quite completed.

3669. I was referring to the Agricultural School?—Oh, I beg your pardon.

3670. Has it yet been established?—Certainly, and the farm purchased.

3671. And are these pupils there?—Certainly. A few of them, I believe are in residence, but a good many of them have been assisted by having their railway fares paid for them to the school where they were within a reasonable distance. Some of the Department's itinerant instructors assist in giving instruction in that school. Well, sir, I never think of this Act or give any attention to it that I don't feel that it has been a monument to the policy and foresight of Mr. Gerald Balfour and of those who were associated with him. I for one could scarcely have imagined that in a country like Ireland, where feeding on a good many matters runs high—a great deal higher than I could wish it—where we are all so prone to criticism, North as well as South, I could scarcely have imagined that a Department could be formed, brought into being, established and working, in the same way that this Department is doing now, inside six years. Our experience of Departments in other countries has been different. They have attained a very high state of efficiency and are doing excellent work. I quite admit that our Department had a great assistance in being able to benefit by their experience, and in a great measure we copy them. Nevertheless, many of them—notably, I have in my mind Denmark and Württemberg, two of the most successful—it was nearly a generation before they were able to show signs of good work. I would say it was a generation before they attained to what our Department has reached in six years. That an Act should have been so drafted as to have made that possible, I think I am justified in saying is a monu-

ment to its founder. At our last meeting of the Council of Agriculture there was a good deal of discussion about the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and it was quite evident that nine-tenths of the men, and probably myself included, did not thoroughly understand its working. I, however, made it my business to go more closely into that since, and I also approve of it. It has been thought by some that the Department has been rather lax in giving up its funds to this Irish Agricultural Organisation Society which has itself very large amounts from voluntary contributions. A great many men in Ireland have plucked down large sums for its assistance. Lord Iveagh gave one subscription of £5,000. I am not sure he did not give more since. Subscriptions are collected over all Ireland. I myself am a small subscriber.

3672. (Chairman).—It was stated here that subscriptions fell off after the Department was constituted, and it was supposed that the Department would do the work previously done by the Organisation Society?—That is so, sir. At the same time I believe that it has large funds outside the Department. If the Department took it over every one of those subscriptions would be lost, and the whole work of the Organisation Society would be thrown on the taxpayer or the Endowment Fund, which is the same thing. I hold that the Department could do work without the Organisation Society. It would have to found a very similar organisation in connection with itself. It could not work without it.

3673. Would you mind just varying that a little further and explaining in what way?—The principal function of the Organisation Society, I suppose, is organising co-operation and distribution by co-operative methods. I think I can put what I mean more concisely in this way. In 1900, Mr. Gerald Balfour came to this place and made a most excellent speech in which he gave us a great deal of instruction as to what the new Department was going to do for us. I suppose he recognised that we were rather stupid in understanding Acts of Parliament. I recollect that he said that that same Organisation Society—I think I recollect his words—that those societies which had been founded by Sir Horace Plunkett (and he made it clear afterwards that he referred to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society) would be the eyes, ears, and hands of the new Department. These societies are formed, as you know, all over Ireland; they do a vast amount of good; but they have made for the Organisation Society, and they have made for Sir Horace Plunkett, a great many enemies among the traders. No doubt those societies are enabling farmers to purchase artificial manure, seed, farming implements, and everything else at a great deal cheaper rate than they formerly got them from the traders, and are therefore not popular among village shopkeepers. Nevertheless, I believe they have done a vast amount of good. The co-operative idea has been invaluable and the *Roimheata* (units) and others. Whether it would be considered proper by the Department if that organisation was dissolved, whether it would be considered proper that under the Department a new organisation scheme should have all those powers and duties, I don't know, but they seem to me to be working well and doing good work; and, in point of fact, that Organisation Society was invaluable to the country before the Department was formed at all; and, being there, one argument for not dissolving it is that it has got a fund that would be lost if the Department takes it over. I think, however, it might be reasonably argued that the Department should have a stronger hold on that Society than it has at present, and I have no objection that it should.

3674. (Mr. Gribble).—Is it not the case that the Society has several functions which are quite outside the existing functions of the Department?—Yes, I rather referred to that, and if the Department extinguishes it that would be one of the evils of doing so.

3675. Those outside functions would be just—Quite right. I don't think they could be added to a Government Department.

3676. (Mr. Nicols).—You would be in favour of keeping on the present connection between the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and the Department?—I would.

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8977. Would you be in favour of continuing to give financial assistance which is now given?—I would, and that is fairly large. I don't know whether you would wish me to touch at all on urban industries.

8978. (Chairman).—If you please?—The assisting of urban industries is a very difficult subject. Mr. Gerald Balfour, in the speech to which I have already more than once referred, speaking in reference to the Art and the power which the Art gave, said, "Urban industries can only be assisted by the provision of technical instruction." Now I have no doubt that the difficulty was in his mind which is very prominently a mine at present, that is the difficulty of grants or loans for industries. The South of Ireland is sadly lacking in industries. Nothing would delight me more than that some big man would devise a scheme by which industries could be created and established there, and brought into prosperity. Nothing would stop the tide of migration, which we also sincerely regret, so much as that would. I have not the slightest fear or jealousy of any of our Belfast or North of Ireland industries generally being shifted away from us whether the Government assists southern industries or not; nevertheless I fear the principle would be a bad one if grants be given. The great element of success in the Department has been the principle of self-help. Those who have been willing to help themselves have received assistance from the Department, but I cannot name as present any industries which would be entirely new in the country which have not corresponding industries in this part of the country and in places where they are not so strong as Belfast, possibly in some of our smaller Belfast industries too. I cannot see my way to make subsidies work. That they should be assisted by education and advice I am clear upon that, as far as possible. I wish I could see my way to do more for them. Some perhaps who understand the matter better than I do, and who have studied it more, may devise some great scheme by which that can be done, and if it can so people in Ireland would be more delighted than those with whom I am associated in the North of Ireland. We have no jealousy with regard to that at all.

8979. (Mr. McElduff).—You think that urban industries can best be helped, as Mr. Gerald Balfour mentioned, by technical instruction?—Quite right, and I don't say that means any not be found to assist them that I have not been clever enough to think of. It has yet to be explained.

8980. In providing technical instruction has the disadvantage been kept in mind of adapting that instruction to the industries, other than agricultural, that are in existence in your own county?—I cannot quite say that it has. We have got several itinerant instructors in the County Down. I suppose those relating to technical instruction alone would be in manual instruction, and after all we have not yet been able to go deep enough with that to make it apply to particular industries. It is more in the use of tools, a sort of general education. Then we have domestic economy and cookery classes carried on by a young lady.

8981. I was referring more to the urban industries?—That class has given tremendous satisfaction. Our secretary yesterday told us if we had half a dozen more manufactories in the county they would all be needed.

8982. I am speaking of organized urban industries on a large scale?—I don't think we have been able to assist them.

8983. But it is the object of the Department that technical instruction should be framed having regard to the industries that exist in the locality?—True, but that would very much more apply to the school here in Belfast.

8984. Or in a place like Banbridge?—True. Part of Belfast is in the County Down. Therefore it is not a great stretch to have a good many Down people coming to Belfast. However I do not say that it may not be found well, in fact I am sure it will, in Banbridge and towns like it to have further technical instruction given.

8985. Do you agree in thinking it desirable that technical instruction should have in mind the industries that are in existence in the particular place?—Most undoubtedly.

8986. And that the people should be assisted to benefit their trade by their increased knowledge, and earn more wages for themselves?—Certainly. I have been in an industry all my life, namely, a far-spinning mill. I have some experience of workers and their

freemen, and where I think this technical instruction will be of very great service is this. I have heard one players say, "Oh, hang this technical instruction! Let them go to an industry or trade and learn it in a practical way." That is all very good, and no man or boy will become perfect in his trade or industry without it; but the difficulty that the boy feels is this, and I am rather ashamed to say it—the foreman don't want to make foremen, and in a large number of cases they don't give the boy assistance in understanding a complicated machine or the complicated manufactures that they are producing. Many foremen—I don't say all—are very jealous on that score, and a boy by working in his business and coming to a technical school and seeing a spinning frame or loom or designs on their frames used in large factories can ask his instructor in the technical school for the very information which probably he would have found it very hard to get out of a foreman.

8987. If there were not in the town any employment in the industry taught, can you say in what direction you think technical instruction might be framed to assist the youth?—I think that would be more a matter for the people in the locality.

8988. In your own locality?—Well, now, in our own locality, as I have explained, we have not been able to do anything more than I have stated, which I admit has only been touching on the fringe of it.

8989. Are you familiar enough with the state of affairs in Banbridge or towns near it—Lurgan and Portadown?—Not so familiar as to be able to give you much information.

8990-91. In those towns you think they ought to devise a scheme as far as possible that would take into consideration the existing employment in the places?—Certainly I do. In Banbridge and Lurgan they would require to get the same instruction on a smaller scale as is going to be given in Belfast.

8992. With regard to a town in which there is no wage-earning employment can you find a way in which technical instruction would be useful to the children in a wage-earning direction, excluding lace and household economy and embroidery work?—With the exception of starting an industry or farm which would require the technical instruction I really cannot. It would be putting the cart before the horse to begin and give the people technical instruction in an industry which perhaps might never be formed among them.

8997. If there were in the town an industry in process of formation, with buildings in the course of erection or erected, and the working capital found, would you be in favour of giving technical instruction to the people in that town, who are absolutely without manufactures or trade experience?—I would.

8998. So as to enable them to work in the mill?—Certainly I would.

8999. You would not consider that any unfair bonus or subsidy?—Indeed I would not. I only feel that hesitation in speaking when we come to make grants and loans.

9000. Taking your own experience as a manufacturer, if you could imagine yourself going to Cavan or any other town to found a similar business, and opening it, for what period would you bonus that instruction and supervision of teaching of the kind that would be necessary before you could let that industry fairly stand on its legs?—I think the instruction such as you refer to should go on for ever.

9001. If they were satisfied with those years and not any more afterwards do you think that would be reasonable?—I would certainly give it to them, and I would tell them that I thought they had been quite too modest, and we Northerners are not generally so.

9002. You are aware, of course, in an historical way that the main industry of the North of Ireland was fostered and established by such a system?—I am; the linen trade.

9003. And that assistance from Government funds was liberally bestowed to the extent of £250,000 a year for a very long period for assisting the linen manufactures?—Yes.

9004. From 1711 to 1837?—Something like that, and I am quite ashamed to look back on the history of those times when the industries of the South of Ireland were penalized as they never should have been.

9005. (Mr. Gifford).—You were mentioning that in the case of this hypothetical industry you might be establishing in Cavan or somewhere else you would be prepared to see technical instruction continued for

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over. It suggests to my mind that you do not mean any more definite technical instruction for the workers than that which is at present, or is in prospect, to be given in Belfast—Quite right.

9006. You do not mean that the young people should be actually taken and instructed at the public expense in the manipulation of the business till they had got experience in it?—Oh, certainly, I mean that they should do as they are doing in Belfast. A large number of those 5,000 young people are in the mills and factories and engineering workshops and twenty other industries during the day. They are there gaining the practical experience of the industry; in the evening they are gaining from the technical institute that theoretical information which it would be difficult for them to pick up in the workshop.

9007-12. That does not yet touch the point which I think some of us have in our minds, how far it is desirable to anticipate the establishment of the industry in a permanent way by actually obtaining those who will in a month or two become the workers in the mill, a commercial business, and giving them actual trade instruction as has to be done for them in an established business such as you have here by the mill owners practically?—Yes; well I can scarcely say that it would be practicable before an industry is really established in the district to begin giving the working people theoretical instruction in it. "There is many a slip between the cup and the lip." The industry might never come. It would be a very slight disadvantage a worker coming into a new business. They must learn first. They must learn to work with their hands first, and after a time it is then they begin to want the technical instruction.

9013. For this business, supposing you and I are going to form a company at Carron. We put down a mill and we put in machinery, and we say to the Department, "We are going to run this thing, but don't want to import people from Belfast or anywhere else. We want to educate those resident here in the actual manipulation of these looms." To what extent would you approve of public money being spent in giving that preliminary training?—Under the circumstances mentioned I would give it at once.

9014. For how long?—As long as it was required. If there were sufficient industries there to warrant it, I think it would have to go on for ever, just as this is going on in Belfast.

9015. I am now speaking of the actual working?—The Department has subsidised this school here with £11,000 a year.

9016. Then would you approve of the Department subsidising instruction in the actual working of the loom?—Undoubtedly.

9017. In the circumstances I have just mentioned?—Undoubtedly. And I would be very liberal.

9018. And you would go on doing that for ever?—Yes. For one solitary industry it would have to be done on a small scale, but if the industries grew it would have to grow, and I would begin with it on a small scale.

9019. After a few years this industry, were it established, would be in practically the same position as an established linen mill here, and if we are going to subsidise mills in the country, why not subsidise them here in Belfast?—True. Over forty years ago my two late brothers and myself commenced a spinning mill in Cumber. We were determined that we would have no outside hands that we could help. We were compelled to bring a few from Belfast, and with these we struggled on, and it was not five or six years before we had scarcely a hand in the place that was not a native of the county.

9020. That was secured without any expense of public money?—Yes, or any technical instruction. We gave them as much technical instruction as the firm or ourselves could do.

9021. Precisely the same technical instruction as is given in an established mill in Belfast to-day?—Yes.

9022. And you are clear you are prepared to see subsidies given for that class of work anywhere or everywhere?—I would.

9023. Notwithstanding that it would mean the payment of a sum of money to any manufacturer for training apprentices in his mill?—No; I would not pay money directly to the manufacturer, but I would establish a technical school like this here on a small scale and put in those who were competent to give instruction in that particular form of industry to

which you call attention. I never dreamed of such a thing as to begin to pay manufacturers for training apprentices for their own business.

9024. You mentioned that your county teacher is closely on Belfast that a good number of people from the county come into Belfast, and will come into this free institution. May I ask whether your county takes any share or purpose to take any share in the maintenance of this institution?—That I really cannot answer. It did not occur to me. I don't think they have come in large numbers yet. It is only those who live within a moderate distance.

9025. They are not numerous?—No.

9026. Because we have had that pointed out to us in other places, that what might be called the suburban districts do benefit directly by the existence of the larger district without contributing to the cost. That is scarcely fair.

9027. (Continued).—Would you kindly explain, in your own words the distinction you draw between what you consider legitimate State aid for instruction and illegitimate State aid towards subsidising an industry. Where do you draw the line?—I would draw the line at loans and grants. I cannot say any way at present. A better man may perhaps devise a scheme some day which I might approve of, but I present I cannot see any way, without doing harm ultimately, to subsidise new industries with loans and grants.

9028. (Mr. Nichol).—Take that town such as we have been talking of, and if a penny in the pound would not produce £100 a year, can you not see that it would be out of the power of that urban body to set up a technical school for the training in its own town of apprentices or hands?—I can.

9029. I am not supposing a case now. I am taking more than one case actually in existence in other parts of Ireland where a place has recently been erected and an industry lately started, and in some cases the Department have given financial aid for the training of hands in factories or undertakings. Would you think that where buildings would be quite impossible with costly apparatus such as looms and all that—do you think it would be wrong to carry out for a limited period in the factory trade instruction to make the starting of the industry possible? I think it is quite right that the thing should be done, and I should be glad to see it done. My only difficulty is, I don't like to see it done in a factory, which is too near a subsidy, and it may be containing persons from the benefit of it whom the employer would not care to employ, possibly for proper or improper reasons. I would rather have the instruction given in a separate school.

9030. If that were possible?—Well, necessity knows no law, but I cannot see any town where for one or two industries technical instruction is required. There are very few places that cannot produce a building of some kind.

9031. With motive power to work looms?—That is the difficulty. I would be liberal to them and educate them.

9032. And if the education cannot be given any where but in the factory would you give it there?—I might. I would rather not. The principle is bad.

9033. (Continued).—Do you think it would be proper to give it in the factory by the manager of the factory, and make him not only the manager but the instructor?—I see great awkwardness in it. It comes pretty much to subsidising the business, paying part of his salary. The employer will take advantage of it and say, "You are getting altogether £250 for this. Then I will only pay you £150, and that will make up the £200."

9034. I think you promised to say something about itinerant instruction?—I would almost like to say this, if the difficult subject is to be gone further with, and if it be thought right that a Board of Industry should be formed, I have no hesitation in saying that I believe it should be part of the Department. In Ireland we have got too many boards and department, and I would not multiply them, and if it is to be done at all it should be done by a board in connection with the present Department. I would just like to say another word on this subject. Sir Horace Plunkett changed his opinion by writing a book. He said some hard things. He dealt rather severely with Protestants in the North. At the time some of us felt rather hurt. But we have forgiven

all that. He was obviously sincere; he did it for our good. We look back with the greatest pleasure to the assistance he has conferred on the country, but I think it would have been better if he had not written that book.

9039. (Mr. Mich.)—Or if he had written it, but had not published it!—Yes. But I am grieved that others in Ireland should feel strong too that things in the book, and have not been quite so magnanimous as we in the North. And some, too, cherish an unfriendly feeling towards a man who has done so much to serve them, which, I think, they should have forgiven. I wanted to leave to some of my friends here a word or two about the County Down in particular, but they have asked me to just run quickly over our system and the work of the County Committee. I don't know whether it would interest you to know about the extent of our county. Its greatest length is fifty-one miles, and its greatest breadth thirty-eight miles. The area is 507,915 acres. In tillage we have 224,434 acres. In pasture we have nearly an equal amount, 224,623 acres; plantations, 13,500 acres; in waste bog and mountains, 23,542 acres; and under water, 2,825 acres. The valuation of the county in 1905 was £219,536. The population in 1901 was 130,560. We have seven itinerant instructors giving public lectures, visiting farms and cottages and experimental stations over the entire county. These instructors lecture on agriculture, poultry, horticulture, bee-keeping, dairy instruction, manual instruction, domestic economy, and handicrafts. In conjunction with the Henry Trust we have built an agricultural school in Downpatrick. We give subsidies to show for cattle and horses and agricultural produce. Premiums are given to encourage the best breeds of cattle and horses and promote sheep-growing, and for the best small farms and cottage gardens. The entire cost amounts to £4,500; £1,700 is contributed by the County Council from the rates and the rest by the Department. That is shortly, I think, the history of it. I think it is probably hardly necessary to touch on the demand which, I think, has been made by a body which now claims the title which it once deserved, but does not now, namely, "The County Council's General Council." That body, I understand, made a claim that the Department should be placed under its control and subordinate to it. It should scarcely be treated seriously, such a proposition. That body for a time had representatives from all the County Councils of Ireland. The body was established on the definite understanding, which was stated publicly and privately by its chairman that it would not interfere with political matters—I was a member of it—that we should con-

fine ourselves solely to the business of our County Councils. The body insisted afterwards on debating political matters, especially political matters which we Northerners found very distasteful to listen to. We begged that that would cease. They refused. I gave Sir Thomas Edmunds, the chairman, the greatest credit that he did his best to stop it. He said there was an understanding with us that it should not be. He was powerful, and we were powerless. They insisted. We were not going to sit there and enable the body to be called the County Council's General Council, and we sitting there in a minority hearing resolutions passed which we strongly disapproved of, and therefore we came away from it. Seven Northern County Councils came away. It is not now the County Council's General Council. I think it is a most audacious proposition, and one that should never have been put forward. If I felt quite sure that no gentleman present would think I meant to say anything discourteous, I would like to make another observation. There is nothing which would annoy me more than that I should say one word which any gentleman on the Commission, all of whom have treated me so kindly, would think was meant discourteously. But I cannot refrain from saying that to me it is almost inexplicable why this Commission ever issued. These are democratic days. The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction is the most democratic department of government which ever was founded in the United Kingdom. The people are intimately associated. I have shown you, and you know it before, with the entire work of the Department. That Board to which we have so often referred holds the purse strings, and the man who holds the purse-strings is always the master whose money requires to be spent. We have a great many other boards in Ireland, some of them very old, some people will say, perhaps, to a certain degree fossilised. I do not come here to complain of them, but I do say the youngest department, the department the people are so closely associated with, that Department is one of which no fair-minded man who keeps himself unbiased from political and doctrinal views can say otherwise than that it has done a vast amount of good, it is doing it, and it is equal to doing it. Why, before the child is more than six years old, that Department has been singled out by the Government for an inquiry which is impeding it to a certain degree in its work I cannot imagine. I have only to repeat what I have said, that I hope no one in the Commission will think I mean anything disrespectful to any of you.

9040. (Chairman).—We quite understand that, Mr. Andrews, and we forgive you.

Col. R. G. SEARNS-CRAWFORD, M.L., continued.

9037. (Chairman).—You are Vice-Chairman of the Down County Council, a member of the Agricultural and Technical Committee, and a member of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society!—Yes, sir. I have not sent in any heads of evidence because I knew Mr. Andrews would come before you and fully explain his. I will confine myself to the work of the Department in the County Down. I endorse what Mr. Andrews has said in every respect. I think the County Down might say it has had stronger and farther experience of the working of the Department so far as agriculture is concerned than any county in Ireland. We are the only county in Ireland, with one exception, to adopt it into the whole of the scheme of the Department—seven branches, with seven instructors. The Department is composed of mortals who, as we all are, are liable to mistakes; but, in working with the Department, the Agricultural Committee and the County Council, and also the Ulster Agricultural Association, have found them most fair. Of course we have made demands sometimes which have not been granted, but any fair demands made by us have been received by the Department, and in many cases granted to us.

9038. (Mr. Dwyer).—Have you made suggestions?—Suggestions for alterations in the schemes for the county. What I rather found fault with on the part of the Department first was that they treated the whole of Ireland as if the soil and climate were the same throughout; but regulations suitable for the

South of Ireland were not suitable for us, and we made alterations in the scheme to make it suitable to the County Down, and, as far as they could, they accepted our suggestions. As far as the working of the scheme in the county, I can say, being a large farmer myself, and observing the thing, that there has been a tremendous change in the character, especially of the animals reared in the country. I sometimes go to Shroswbury, where a large amount of Irish stores are sold, and the stock-buyers have told me that since the Department's work the value of Irish stores has considerably advanced.

9039. Would that be meant to apply all over Ireland or only in certain portions?—I am talking of the north part of Ireland, where we rear very few to keep, not having grass available. We sell them as young stores.

9040. (Mr. Brown).—I understand you to say that in the opinion of those persons the value of the stock exported generally from Ireland had gone up!—No; I am only speaking of the North of Ireland stores. I have known farmers with rough animals very bad in the old days. Now the animals have needed certainly from £2 to £3 a head better price than they used to get. It is a fact I know within my own knowledge, and I have been told it at Shroswbury. I rather agree with Mr. Andrews that it was a little premature to propose the sitting of this Commission at this period. It is rather too soon yet to criticise the Department, because the Department's working, as far as the North of

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Ireland, is only in its infancy. The North of Ireland farmers think that they probably know as much as anyone else, and have been rather slow to take advantage of the Department's working. But now there is a clear demonstration that the man who employs a premium bull or uses some of the schemes is getting more money; and as that is spreading, more use will be made of the Department's schemes. We employ the whole of the schemes, and I would respectfully emphasize again, I am one of those people that some other parts of Ireland are deriding and saying I have no business to be on the Agricultural Council, because I am nominated by the Agricultural Board, and the only reason I can say that I am not a failure is that I was elected not only by the nominated, but by the elected members as the first Chairman of the Provisional Council of Ulster at the Agricultural Board. I agree it would be a great pity to do away with the nominated members.

9061. (Chairman).—You agree with what Mr. Andrews has said about nominated members?—Certainly, as far as my experience goes. They are possibly people who would not have been elected on account of their politics or something else. One of the things which we think have been rather neglected is the question of industries and the protection of the fishing on the coast.

9062. (Mr. Micks).—Sea or inland fisheries or both?—Sea fisheries principally. The County Down has a very long sea-board, I think the third greatest in Ireland. We find it a great difficulty to get any grant or assistance from them at all, and we think we are entitled to more aid from the Fishery branch than we have received up to this.

9063. (Chairman).—In what direction do you want assistance—extension of piers?—We have a little of that. The industry of net-making is entirely dying out. I don't want any rivalry in the way of building boats.

9064. (Mr. Micks).—Is there any net-making place in Belfast?—Yes, but we think the fishermen could do it by themselves cheaper and better.

9065. They buy the unmounted nets?—Yes, they know how to mount them. I think there ought to be a net-factory in the Fishery district.

9066. Even with a second established factory in Belfast?—Yes. I think they could do it cheaper in the winter time.

9067. Do you know the length of the herring net?—I know it is of enormous length.

9068. Do you think any man could make one?—Well, I am not going into that. We have only had £150 from the Department towards the scheme.

9069. (Mr. O'Connell).—Is not net-making generally included among the subjects of technical instruction in your county?—It is not.

9070. Have you suggested to the Department the possibility of doing it?—It has been suggested to the Department by means of the itinerant instructors, but it has not been given.

9071. (Mr. Brown).—Has any reason been given for that?—No; no reason. Another scheme that is not working very well is the flax scheme. The area under flax has increased 80 per cent. in my county this year on account of the better prices. If it had not been for the assistance of the Department the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society would have been defeated. They aided us generally in our difficulties and we are now in a flourishing condition.

9072. (Chairman).—In what way?—In building and one thing and another we had insured such a large debt; and they agreed to give \$6,000, one pound for one pound, and in face of that we raised more than the \$6,000. We think the Department might make more use of associations that are in existence for the purpose of promulgating small schemes. We have large show grounds. It is called the Ulster Show, because we are connected with all the counties throughout Ulster. We think the Department might make more use of experimental plots. Many of the farmers, I am afraid, are ignorant in the best use of artificial manures. In the County Down there are districts where the manure salts that does not suit in other districts.

9073. Have you any experimental plots?—No.

9074. (Mr. Dryden).—You have no instructor in agriculture?—Oh, yes; we have an instructor who

does a great deal of good, but still there is no real demonstration. South Down men will use the same manure as the North Down men, although it is not suitable.

9075. (Mr. Brown).—Why is it your instructor does not carry out experimental plots?—We have experimental plots through the kindness of various landholders. I suggest that the Department should get the experimental plots under societies like the Royal Ulster Society.

9076. Would they have to acquire the land?—Yes.

9077. (Mr. Micks).—You mean in the same way as the Royal Dublin Society at Swinford?—Yes.

9078. (Mr. Brown).—Has the Royal Ulster Society suggested that?—It has been suggested, and we would be glad to do it ourselves but we have not funds. If the Department would use the Agricultural Association throughout the county more good might be done.

9079. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you think that would be better than the present scheme—that having plots in different farms in different districts would be better than to have them in a few places?—I would have them in different parts of the county, perhaps five or four. I am growing turnips for the Department. I would suggest that farms of the size that are in the County Down—twenty or thirty acres—would be more useful than my growing a couple of rods of potatoes or turnips.

9080. You would not call that a plot—it would be an experimental farm. Your idea is that small farms should be located in different parts of the county?—Yes. I believe agriculture could be made pay in the County Down.

9081. (Mr. Brown).—Would it not engage the instructor's whole time almost, looking after such farms?—I am only saying that weeks of that kind might be allotted to us to help the Department a doing it.

9082. (Chairman).—Would your Society look after farms of that sort?—They would if they were helped.

9083. (Mr. Dryden).—Financial assistance?—Yes.

9084. (Chairman).—That has been suggested, but the Department have not seen their way to adopt it?—Yes. And as to agriculture, I have three or four ideas of taking anything away from the agricultural grant and giving it to the technical grant. I think we want more money for those purposes, but technical people think we had too much money.

9085. (Mr. Micks).—Would you prefer that they should get an addition and leave you as you are?—We have no objection to their getting more, but not to take it away from us.

9086. (Mr. O'Connell).—Do you find the Agricultural School at Downpatrick has been doing satisfactory work?—Very satisfactory work. The Henry Trust was in existence before the Department had started, and of course they have been assisted. The results are very good.

9087. How long is the course?—Six months. There is a witness from the Henry Trust here.

9088. (Mr. Dryden).—Can you give us any idea of what have been the material advantages to the farmers, of the poultry schemes?—The increase has been very marked both in the price of fowl and eggs, and the knowledge of farmers to buy eggs from these selected stations. Now that they are going in for fattening purposes, they have proper broods and proper laying strains of hens.

9089. (Mr. Micks).—Is the egg trade run on co-operative lines?—No.

9090. (Mr. Dryden).—You think they are getting more money from poultry now?—Yes. The demand for fattening purposes is much better.

9091. I suppose that is what is aimed at—the practical result to the people?—In a good turkey country; where I live I know one of the tenants pays his rent out of the sale of his turkeys.

9092. I understand that the Department have improved the varieties of turkeys?—Yes, very much larger and fatter birds.

9093. (Mr. Micks).—Are they store birds, or fully fattened?—Nearly all the birds I allude to are fattened and shipped to England.

9094. Crammed?—No, only fattened.

9095. (Mr. Brown).—What about the swine scheme?—It is the only one not fully taken up here. The whole of the nominations for the bulls and the whole of the nominations for the mares have been taken up.

but only half the nominations for swine have been taken up.

Is that owing to the difficulty of procuring boars which is common to all Ireland?

1970. (Chairman).—What do you say about the breed?—Principally the long white Yorkshire.

1971. (Mr. Brown).—Do you consider that breed suitable?—Yes.

1972. And in as far as the scheme has been taken up, do you consider it an advantage?—It is an advantage.

1973. How many premiums?—Ten in boars; only five were taken up.

1974. (Mr. Dryden).—I noticed at the last Belfast show a sort of local breed, not, I think, a Yorkshire white, but a breed somewhat similar?—There is a breed that comes from the County Antrim, a local breed, and it is very good. It has a strong resemblance to the Yorkshire white.

1975. (Mr. Michs).—They seem to think it gets weight more rapidly?—There are 150 nominations to boars and sixty to sows, and they have all been taken up. We have been entirely satisfied both in the County Council and in the Royal Ulster Society with the work of the Department, and we think it would be better that the Vice-President should not be a political person, and that the Chief Secretary should be the person to ask questions of. We think it would be the greatest pity that the Vice-Presidency should be made a political office, and a reward for political services.

1976. (Chairman).—You would not have him a member of Parliament?—No.

1977. (Mr. Michs).—Would you wish a change in the Act in that respect?—Yes. The understanding was that he should be in Parliament.

1978. (Chairman).—That he should go in and out with the Ministry?—Yes; we think better that he should not.

1979. You put in this resolution of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society?—Yes.

Mr. GEORGE DICKSON, J.P., Newtownards, examined.

1980. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Council of Down and Chairman of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes, sir.

1981. And you are one of those who were asked to give evidence here?—Yes.

1982. You have heard the evidence that has been given. Do you know what has been said?—Yes, most of it, but between Mr. Andrews, our chairman and Colonel Crawford, they have left me exceedingly little to say. The principal thing that I came here for was to give you the statistics of our schemes that we are working under the Department. Of course we have 150 nominations; seventy-seven of these were put to thoroughbred sires and seventy-three to agriculture. Of bulls we have sixty, three four-year-olds, sixteen three-year-olds, twelve two-year-olds, and twenty-six yearlings. We started with sixteen bulls in the County Down. Now we have got sixty, but I am still of opinion that these sixteen will not meet the wants of the county, and I hope to live to see the day the Department will have funds enough at their disposal to give us at least a great many more.

1983. Would you go down in quality and have half-bred bulls?—I would not go down in quality. The cattle-saler in England and Wales and Scotland have given their experience in the last three years Irish store-cattle have gone up 25 to 30 per cent. in value. That I attribute to the shorthorn sires that the Department has been supplying to us in the county. They are still too few. They are almost seven miles apart, and farmers would rather take an inferior bull at their doorstep than send six or seven miles. I hope the Department will see their way to give us a larger subsidy in the shape of bulls.

1984. You must get your bulls first of all?—There is no trouble in getting bulls, none in the world. We could get them now locally, because some of our bulls have been sent to England and got some very large prices.

1985. (Mr. Michs).—Can you tell me how many bulls are stationed on the Milside from Bostrevor to Newcastle?—Three. We cannot get unfortunately

the people to take them there. In the distribution of the bulls we take the map and try to distribute them as evenly over the country, but with the southern end of the county I am not well acquainted.

1986. What breed are the three bulls that are there?

—The shorthorn is the breed all over this part of the county.

1987. They have not asked in that mountainous district for any other breed?—I think there are a few Friesian Anglons. Galloways are not a favourite with us in this district.

1988. Would they be on the mountain side?—I do not think they would.

1989. (Mr. Brown).—Do you allot the bulls by the county electoral divisions?—By valuation. The supply is so limited. Our object is to allocate them over the country as near as possible, so that the people will not have too far to send.

1990. Do you do that by allotting so many bulls to each county electoral division?—No, it is all districts, and on the Agricultural Committee they are mostly representatives of the Rural District Councils, who advocate the wants of their immediate districts.

1991. (Mr. Michs).—Can you tell me where the three bulls in that district are stationed?—Our secretary can give it. With regard to poultry, we have sixteen egg stations. From these we sold 2,456 dozen eggs from 856 hens, and twenty premium turkeys. County Down gets the best price for eggs in all Ireland. The duck scheme, as has already been stated, has not been as successful as we could wish. We have this year fifty-seven entries in Class A, valuation not to exceed £25, thirty-nine entries in Class B, valuation not to exceed £10, and we have twenty-two in Class C, exceeding £50.

1992. (Mr. Brown).—To what do you attribute this not being so successful as you would wish?—I am of opinion that all the prizes that we can afford will not induce any of our practical farmers to go in for the sake of the prize. The County Down farmer, the same as any other farmer, does not require anything to induce him to go in for a crop that will

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pay him, but it will take a great deal of prize money to induce him to grow a crop that will not pay him, and that said the security of hands at pulling time—that is the reason why the scheme was not a success.

9000. (Mr. Micks).—Very dirty work!—Yes.

9001. (Mr. Brown).—You think the prize scheme for fax should be dropped?—As an individual member of the committee I would say yes, it should be dropped at once.

9002. If the committee came to that conclusion the Department will have no objection?—I don't know. Then we expect the Department will give us the same amount of money to spend on something else.

9003. (Mr. Micks).—Was anything done towards the provision of good fax seed?—Yes; as part of it has been better attended to than that, because the manufacturers were so impressed with the growers getting a bad article that in many cases they imported the best quality they could get themselves.

9004. Then you don't think it necessary to give seed as prize?—We did do that, but it brought no more success to the scheme than when they paid money prizes.

9005. We have received suggestions that the crop should be sold standing, and all the subsequent steps taken in the factory?—If you could get them to do as they do on the Continent, and that private speculators or farmers would combine to buy up the fax standing and handle it, I have no doubt it would lead to a larger extent of fax being sown.

9006. Various estimates were given as to the net profit a farmer would be satisfied with for a acre of fax. Have you grown fax yourself?—Yes, sir.

9007. Could you give us an idea of what would be a fair profit on an English acre?—On a farm I bought I sowed close on two barrels of Riga fax-seed. An expert when he saw it said, "You need not trouble going further with this; it will be no use"; but the two and a half acres brought me 2000.

9008. What was your net profit?—I kept no account; it was haphazard.

9009. You don't know of any case in which accounts were kept that would enable you to say to 23 or 25 an acre?—I do not.

9010. Do you think a man would be satisfied with 23 to 25 an acre for his fax gross?—I don't think he would, or I don't think he would have any reason, taking the risk in it. A bad fax crop leaves nothing. If you have a bad crop of fax you have the straw. After the experience of the 450 I thoroughly-drained the ground, put it into what I thought was excellent condition, and allowed it to rest for seven years, and faxed it again, and that year I had 25 without the ninety; so I thought I knew nothing about fax-growing. But I think it may have been the seed.

9011. You still grow it?—No; I am in another business that I cannot afford the ground.

9012. Then you have no idea of what would be considered a fair profit per acre that would induce a farmer to grow fax and sell it green?—I would not be satisfied, having regard to the risk, with less than 27 or 28. One of our other schemes is a form of cottage scheme. In class one we have thirty-nine entries—cottages that were built as labourers' cottages; in class two 25-entrance entries, not exceeding 228 valuation; and in class three we have thirty-eight entries, not exceeding 450 valuation. In the cottage garden planting scheme for cottages created under the Labourers' Acts, prizes are given in fruit trees, potatoes, and seeds.

9013. (Chairman).—Do you think that has a good effect, giving those prizes?—The experiment is a new one here. It was only in the last two years we put up

any labourers' cottages, but I have been through most of the cottages and there is a vast improvement, and I have no doubt every year will lead to a further improvement and further satisfy the labourers in the houses they have got, for unfortunately they were very bad in a great many places. I was ashamed when the committee went through the selected sites to see where they were housed.

9014. (Mr. Giblin).—Anything about the pig scheme?—The pig scheme is another scheme that is not successful. You could not get a farmer to give you any money for a Yorkshire pig in my district. He is a cock-eyed fellow, and unless they have a great big fatty ear like the old Irish pig they won't look at him. But I am not in the pig trade, and the evidence I am giving is honest.

9015. (Chairman).—Is the ear the great attraction of the Irish pig?—It is one attraction in our district. You won't get an agricultural farmer to buy a York shire pig. The Newtownards Board of Guardians, of which I am a member, thought they would suppress the district by keeping a Yorkshire size, and when they had the property themselves they had to bring them back and feed them; they could not sell them.

9016. (Mr. Dryden).—They would get over that if they found there was more money in it?—They would all tell you that they come to maturity sooner than the Irish pig, but they won't buy them in the market.

9017. (Mr. Brown).—It is as simple as they don't sell so well?—No, it is as young pigs.

9018. But you have no experience of how they sell when fattened?—No; but there is a gentleman here largely interested in pig feeding and breeding, who will probably be able to give you that.

9019. (Mr. Micks).—You are from Newtownards. You can perhaps give us some of your experience of planting in Ireland. Do you think it would be a great advantage to press forward reforestation as a source of profit and employment?—I do.

9020. How much would it take to drain and prepare a moor or hillside per acre for planting?—Fornon or hillside they only use the open drain, and a good deal depends on the nature of the soil.

9021. Where there is no deep bog, but low moor?—We have very little of that here, but it would be the greatest advantage in many ways if we had the west lands of the County Down planted. We are a backward county, not adapted for fruit-growing on account of want of shelter and subject to late spring frosts. I have not been contracting lately for planting, but I used to contract and I think, as far as my memory serves me, it takes upwards of 3,000 to do an acre; and I think I used to put 41 a thousand for opening and filling pits, not slitting them the way they do in Scotland. They use seedlings; we use transplanted stock. From 25 to 45 an acre was looked upon as a first-class job with seedlings, and we get 6d. and 7d. per 1,000 and have them at hand. They could plant three acres for the time you would plant one, but we don't do that.

9022. Has there been much fruit-growing in the County Down on the west side?—Yes, but we are too bleak and bare; we are all surrounded by the sea.

9023. You could not do it east of the mountain?—Not unless we had some rising shelter. It has not any advantage for fruit-growing.

9024. Does your estimate of the cost of the planting include fencing?—Not at all. That is cost of my way altogether. We thought we had done very well when we got the ground planted and cleared off it without beginning on fencing. This was done by the owner.

Mr. ALEXANDER ROWE, A.P., Dundonald, examined.

Mr. A.
Rohk, J.P.

9025. (Chairman).—You are a member of the same Committee?—I am.

9026. What do you wish to add to what Mr. Dickson has told us?—I should like, in the first place, to remove an impression that appears to have been conveyed by Colonel Starnman-Crawford's evidence that farmers have not had an opportunity of judging the value of manures in the County Down. I think there are no districts in which, from my own knowledge, our agricultural instructor has not made experiments as to the value of artificial manures with different crops. I know of no district where it has not been done.

[Colonel Starnman-Crawford].—I did not say my experiments were not done, but they were not conveyed to the general public.]

9027. (Mr. Brown).—Did you publish the result of them?

[Colonel Starnman-Crawford].—Yes, but you know what published reports are.]

Witness.—Take the experiments, for instance, on turnips. They were generally done near a public road and boards were put up showing the manures used with each plot, and it was impossible for any man who was not blind or could not read not to have seen the effects of the different manures. Besides that, if you have an experiment of that kind in the country people are not so very dull that they won't go a mile to see it.

9028. (Chairman).—Did people go some distance to see it?—They did.

9125. Does the agricultural instructor ever attend after giving notice beforehand, and explain them?—As a matter of fact, he asked myself to go and see some experiments in clover about ten days ago. In some places they have had meetings of farmers.

9126. And the Agricultural Instructor has attended and explained matters?—In my own district I cannot say that that has been done.

9127. Do you think many people do get to know about those experiments?—They do. I know scores of people who never thought about artificial manures and simply bought what the dealer recommended, but who now judge for themselves.

9128. (Mr. Brown).—Do any of them mix their own manures?—Nearly all.

9129. (Mr. Dryden).—The purchase of manures seems to have increased enormously?—Then in connection with our flax scheme I am entirely with our Chairman, Col. Crawford, that it has not been a success. I believe the money expended in prizes could be much better expended in having competent instructors. That has been done in one part of the county. The district Mr. Barbour lived in was notorious for having the worst flax in the county, and they are now taking prizes for the best flax.

9130. (Mr. Micks).—He is in the Flax Advisory Committee?—I believe very much better results can be had by having an instructor going round for six months of the year till August, giving advice as to how flax should be grown than by giving the paltry little prizes that we give, which I don't think have any effect.

9131. How far did Mr. Barbour's instruction go?—did it go beyond pulling?—Yes, I think he had Belgians over to show.

9132. (Chairman).—Are your prizes given in money or seed?—Oh, it is given in money. About the pigs, again, that has not been a success, and I attribute it largely to the fact that the people are strongly wedded to their own ways. During the last eighteen months we have been conducting a series of experiments on feeding pigs at the Down asylum. We take six of the pure pig Yorkshire and half-a-dozen of the country breeds. They are weighed, put in alternate pens, and fed exactly alike and killed at the same time. The result of the eighteen months' experiments has been that there is little or no difference in growth. Mr. Sinclair, the expert, was sent to judge of the quality of the pigs for bacon purposes both before and after they were killed, and on the whole he very much preferred the long Yorks.

9133. (Mr. Dryden).—What they claim is that it makes better bacon. It is not a question of weight, but of the improved product?—We have got the weight down, and in some cases they were higher, and in some cases a little lower, but on the whole they were about equal.

9134. It would be then a question of quality in the product ultimately?—Yes.

9135. (Mr. Micks).—Do the buyers prefer the York to the other?—Sinclair's man would give more. We asked Sinclair's expert to say which was the better bacon-pig.

9136. (Mr. Brown).—The price in the district might increase, although the breeder might not get more, if those York pigs prevailed?—That may be so.

Mr. Dryden.—The question is, is the pig suitable for the market where it goes? if other countries pay attention to that, and Ireland neglects it, Ireland will be left behind in the end.

9140. (Chairman).—Do you put in this letter from the County Committee?—Yes, I agree to it.

Donaigh Horse, Lisharn,

19th May, 1906.

Brs.—At a meeting of the County Down Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction held on 3rd May a Committee of four was appointed to reply to the letter of the 14th April from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction Inquiry Committee. We desire to give expression to our sense of the importance of the work which is being done by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland as at present constituted, and consider that any alteration in its existing constitution would tend to check the progressive movements which have been inaugurated under the Department's influence, improving the condition of Agricultural and Technical work in Ireland. We consider the time has now come when the Department should provide an Agricultural Farm and School in each county for the training of

young men in practical agriculture; the school could be used as a centre for training craftsmen and others whose occupations are directly connected with agriculture. We also consider the revival of Irish industries is of vital importance in order to stop the drain of emigration. Greater power should be given to County Committees to adopt all or part of the annual schemes or very such schemes in accordance with special circumstances of the county. We have at present seven itinerant instructors working in the county, viz.—Agricultural, Horticultural, Poultry, Butter-making, Manual Instruction, Domestic Economy, and Embroidery. The following schemes are at present in full operation in the county, viz.—Agriculture, Agricultural Classes, Poultry, Egg Stations, Turkey Promoters, Horticulture and Bee-keeping, Dairy Instruction, Cottage and Farm Scheme, Cottage Garden Planting Scheme, Flax Scheme, Live-Stock, Subsidies to Sheep, Manual Instruction (Wood-work), Domestic Economy, and Embroidery. The cost of the different schemes for the present year amounts to £4,508, viz.—Payable from rates, £1,550 15s. 7d.; from Henry Trust Trustees, £290 0s. 0d.; from Department of Agriculture, £2,428 4s. 5d. We consider that a sitting of the Commission should be held in Belfast to suit the Northern Counties, and if verbal evidence is required we trust that our Committee will be given an opportunity to be heard.

J. J. Tarrice, Esq., C.E., &c., &c.

GEORGE DUNCAN, Chairman.

A. J. MANSOUE, Secretary.

There is one matter in connection with the scheme that I think could be improved on. At present there is a scheme sent down for approval to the County Committee. They can accept or reject any portion, but they cannot make any alteration in it. I think it would be very much better if the work of making the scheme was put on the County Committee, and that scheme sent up to the Department for their approval. I believe the County Committee know the wants of the different counties somewhat better than any Department in Dublin.

9141. You mean the County Council to have rather more initiative?—The County Committee of Technical Instruction.

9142. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Have you not got that power just now. The scheme are in operation now. Suppose you have an idea that a scheme ought to be amended in certain ways for next year. If you send that up to the Department before they have to send down something, that would be taking action at the time and stage you contemplate?—Possibly it might.

9143. Send it up before the date comes when the Department have necessarily to send something down. If you send it up in good time, while the thing is still under consideration, it would be possible for them to get it on the lines you suggest?—Possibly that might be done, but all I know at present is that a scheme is sent down. Generally an officer from the Department comes down with it, and we are supposed to either accept or reject that scheme.

9144. (Mr. Brown).—Or modify it?—We cannot modify it, as far as I know.

9145. (Chairman).—Is it not the practice of the Department to send something in the nature of a circular before the scheme is adopted, asking the Committee if they have any suggestions to make. Say it was something about the flax scheme. Supposing your Committee came to the conclusion that the present scheme was bad, and they would prefer to have some money expended on an instructor, and to write up to the Department in due time, before the preparation of next year's scheme—do you apprehend that the Department would make any difficulty?—I cannot say.

9146. Have you at all tried a case of that kind?—We have not, as far as I know.

9147. (Mr. Dryden).—Professor Campbell in his evidence stated that they always sent a communication to the Committee asking for suggestions?—I asked Dr. Hindeville last year could we modify the scheme. He said we could reject any portion, but could not alter it.

9148. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It might have been at too late a stage?—Yes.

9149. (Mr. Brown).—If during the year you had made any suggestion to the Department for amending the scheme it would probably have been embodied in the draft scheme?—Possibly. I may add that in the technical department our scheme has been thoroughly successful so far as we have money to ex-

Mr. A.—
Robt. A.

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Mr. A.
Robb, J.P.

pend. It has been very successful. Mr. Paterson, in giving his evidence, said that some people outside the town of Holywood got the advantage of the educational facilities there. He did not tell you, though,

that the County Down gave him £200 towards helping on his school, and every farthing of that came from the county funds. They give £100 to Bangor and £100 to Banbridge.

Mr. George
Bell, J.P.

9152. (Chairman).—Are you the Secretary of the County Down Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—No; the Secretary is behind me; but I am afraid I have not been left much to say.

9153. Do you agree with what has been said already?—Very largely. I might appropriate every word said. You have had our Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Chairman of the Agricultural Committee, and Mr. Robb, and I don't think there is much left to me to say. I quite agree with what they have said.

9154. Do you wish to say anything yourself?—With regard to the flax, about £5 or £6 an acre would pay no farmer. In the first place you take an acre of ground. It takes £1 to plough it. £1 would not prepare the ground and pick it. If you take two bushels of seed that would be another pound. It would take another pound to weed it. I am speaking after paying all these things.

9155. If a farmer had £5 over would he be satisfied?—Oh, he would. With regard to the pork, I have seen the experiments carried out in connection with the Asylum. There were two classes of pigs—the long York and the Irish, or local pig. It is not the real Irish pig, because he is coarse.

9156. (Mr. Dryden).—But he is a black pig?—That is not the Irish pig. The pig that Mr. Robb refers to is not the pig with the big legs and long legs and thick bones. These would not be more than the dif-

ference of between 5d. and 1s. a cwt. between the prices in the market of these two pigs the experiments were tried on, but the York has more lean meat.

9157. (Mr. Miskin).—Do you think the buyers for bacon purposes prefer him?—They prefer the long York.

9158. And give a higher price?—It would not be more than 1s. a cwt. between the two breeds.

9159. In favour of the Yorkshire?—Yes.

9160. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Therefore, the introduction of the Yorkshire is an advantage?—Certainly, if we could prevail on the farmers to adopt them.

9161. (Mr. Dryden).—As to the weights, they would be about the same, but what about the quality?—A shilling a cwt. is all the difference in the open market, but we prefer the long York.

9162. In every country now, I think, the Yorkshire pig is considered to be the most desirable?—Then there is the black Berkshire.

9163. (Mr. Miskin).—What is the present price of pork?—£22 to 24s. I quite agree with what has been said. I would regret any change in the Department. The Department has been working so hard, and everything is improving slowly but gradually.

9164. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Committee?—Yes.

9165. Then, perhaps, you express their opinion in this respect?—Yes.

Mr. A. J. Monnow examined.

Mr. A. J.
Monnow.

9166. (Chairman).—You are the Secretary of the County Down Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes.

9167. About these farms you speak of, what sort of farms are you contemplating; places where a certain number of pupils could reside?—My idea would be a farm of a couple of thousand acres for raising stock and experimenting. I would have a place for pupils, too—a miniature Glenties or Athenry.

9168. Do you think there ought to be one for every county?—I don't know. I think there ought to be one for the County Down. A halfpenny in the pound raises £24.

9169. Well, you still get a contribution from the Department?—If we have £1,400 we get five-ninths. We get five-ninths on all the schemes, except flax, and we get half on that.

9170. (Mr. Brown).—Is not all your money devoted to technical instruction?—£120. We only get £1,320 from the County Council. They deduct the vacancies. Half the full rate would give £1,438, and they deduct the vacancies for the whole county.

9171. (Chairman).—Have you expended the rate?—I am afraid it will be expended this year. We will not have a balance.

9172. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You will have to consider whether a penny rate will not be necessary?—Less than that would not do us; if we had the penny rate this year, and the halfpenny rate for the next two.

9173. What about the possibility of commencing suggestions to the Department on the scheme?—Any suggestions are always adopted by the Department.

9174. (Chairman).—Had you an opportunity, if you were not quite satisfied with any point on the scheme; had you an opportunity of making suggestions?—We have made no suggestions on the technical scheme, because it is only in operation about a year. The only thing the Department wrote down about is the live-stock scheme. Our report was that the live-stock scheme was working very well. With the exception of the wine there was no suggestion.

9175. (Mr. Brown).—You did not suggest how it could be amended?—No; the people won't take the young pigs from the long York boar.

9176. That would be the proper time if they wanted to alter the scheme for the Committee to make a suggestion?—Yes. Our relations with the Department have been very cordial since the Act came in.

9177. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Suppose your Committee agreed generally with the views expressed here on the flax scheme it would appear proper for them to communicate these views to the Department, and say next year they thought it better to have the scheme

put on another footing?—The scheme for next year will be arranged on the 1st of September, and we can communicate it at that time or substitute another scheme.

9178. (Mr. Brown).—Substitute a scheme of instruction in flax-growing, if you agree with Mr. Dickson?—Yes; with regard to that, a number of them, however, come down and dry. I generally send up what I bring before the Committee a week or two before, and if the Department approves of it the Committee very often disapproves of it.

9179. (Chairman).—Is what has been suggested now, that an official of the Department comes down with a scheme, and says you can accept it or reject it—is that the last stage?—Once it comes down it is the scheme for the year; but it is really the financial parts that we go into more on that day. The details of the working are left to ourselves.

9180. (Mr. Brown).—You have not determined how much will go to live stock and how much to flax-growing?—There is £1,400 allowed for the live stock scheme.

9181. How are the agricultural classes working in the County Down?—We have a class in Downpatrick. This is the third year, and the first year we had twenty-one pupils, as many as a teacher could teach, and the second year we had twenty, and this year we had eighteen, and there were one or two more that passed but did not come forward. We allow them £12 for the session of six months, and those who don't reside in Downpatrick, we allow them second-class train fare, and 1d. a mile bicycle allowance from the railway station to their homes. We pay them for coming to the school.

9182. Is it the opinion of the Committee that the work has been useful?—Most useful.

9183. When these men go back to their farms do they put in operation what they learn at the school?—Yes; and the agricultural instructor sees them afterwards for experiments.

9184. (Mr. Miskin).—I was asking some questions about the placing of balls in the district of Bostown?—There is not a ball from Bostown to Killybeg, and there is one there. There is another one two miles out from Killybeg on the Annaghlong side, and another side at Annaghlong.

9185. That has a good deal of the country covered?—There is a good deal of it mountainous.

9186. You go up to Newry?—Yes. We have five balls placed in Newry and Banbridge joins it. We go according to the valuation in each rural district.

9187. And the people that are the richest get the most?—No; Downpatrick on a valuation of £180,000

gals (fifteen). Castlereagh only has a valuation of £24,000 and it has two. It is very difficult to get people near Kilsall to buy bulls.

9255. The Committee have not considered any modification of the scheme for people in such straggling circumstances as those on the hill-sides!—No, none. We have any quantity of applications. We had sixty applications for twenty-six bulls last year from the whole district.

MR. JOHN RICHARD MCCONNELL, Downpatrick, examined.

9256. (Chairman).—Are you a member of the Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction of the County Down?—No, I am not a member. I merely come here on behalf of the Henry Trust. They merely state as this inquiry was being held that it would be well for their state of affairs to be put before you, and therefore for that purpose I come before you, and I submit you a copy of the scheme under which they act. (Copy produced).

(Witness).—That was a scheme approved of by the Lord Chancellor, filed on the 22nd of June, 1899, for the administration and management of that Trust.

9257. (Mr. Micks).—That is immediately before the Act came into operation?—Yes; it was with a view to getting assistance from the Act that they pushed the scheme for it. The present trustees are Baron Duniketh, John Tate, &c., and E. D. Percival Maxwell, &c. Under Section two the objects of the Trust are fully described.

9258. (Chairman).—What are the objects, generally? To encourage farming industry, to maintain, or assist in maintaining, an agricultural and dairy school and farm for the sons and daughters of farmers and other persons born in the province of Ulster, for the purpose of instructing them in the science and methods of agriculture and dairy-farming and stock-farming; the rearing and management of live stock, including poultry; in garden-farming, fruit-farming and bee-keeping and apiculture, also in forestry, and the planting and management of timber trees. The will is dated 1867, and Mr. Henry died two years afterwards. The funds he gave were insufficient to do anything, and the then trustees found it was impossible to set one would not set at all, and therefore they found it necessary to put the matter into Chancery for the purpose of accumulating, and the funds did so accumulate until 1899.

9259. What would be the amount of the funds?—The amount of the funds as shown in our report is £25,211 16s. 11d. at two-and-a-half per cent. Consols.

9260. (Mr. Micks).—What was it when it went in?—Merely nominal; some rents from property; the property still remains.

9261. (Chairman).—It was mounting up for fifty years?—Yes. There were considerable law expenses. There is £175 15s. 7d. balance in cash; the income is about £400 a year.

9262. (Mr. Brown).—Do you know how much went for law expenses?—After drafting this scheme and carrying it into operation it was £400.

9263. For the whole fifty years?—I could not tell you. Section 5 of the scheme was specially introduced for the purpose of enabling various public bodies to have a practical participation in the management, and if they so decided, to come to the aid of the trust. Then I give you a copy of the letter of the 15th December, 1899. (Letter produced). It was sent to the secretary of each County Council in Ulster. The trustees having got the order of the Lord Chancellor, considered what was best to be done. They had various interviews with Sir Horace Plunkett, and he decided, on careful consideration that the administration of the scheme should be extended to the entire of Ulster, that it might be participated in by outside parties. Then, originally, Mr. Henry, who gave it, said it was for the parish of Down, but the trustees got leave to extend the scheme. On the 30th September, 1899, they directed me to send a letter to the editors of the various newspapers circulating in, or published in Ulster, with a copy of this scheme. That was done. I submit here that under their scheme they were bound to publish an annual statement and hold annual meetings. That they have done during the seven years they have been working under the Lord Chancellor's order.

9264. From this mountain district have you any? July 18, 1899
—No, none from that district this year.

9265. Might it not be well to try some other plan?—We had four there last year. But the man selected, one, he was out at Newcastle.

9266. How many miles from Annaghlong to Newcastle?—Six miles.

I give you a report of the second annual meeting of the Governors, held under the Trust, 3rd of January, 1900, showing the efforts made to obtain assistance from the Department of Agriculture to erect farm buildings. But, having failed in that, they agreed to a suggestion to contribute £200 for 1001 to the expenses of providing agricultural instruction in the County Down. At that time the County Council had agreed to raise funds on the rates. That £200, after consultation between the County Council and the Trustees and the officers of the Department, was agreed to and has been paid over since. I give in a copy of the fifth report, 31st December, 1900, showing that on account of the Department of Agriculture and Committee of the County Council having agreed to appoint a class in Downpatrick for five months of the year with the object of instructing the sons of farmers in the county, and giving them instruction in scientific agriculture, they arranged to increase their contribution to £250. I give you then a copy of the last annual report for the year 1900, and it shows that the Governors had contributed £250 for 1900 towards the expenses of this scheme. It also shows how the funds stood on 31st December, 1900. The Governors under this Trust have been most anxious to have such assistance from the Department as would enable them to erect buildings on the land which they have acquired. Under the Lord Chancellor's order they were bound to acquire land. That they did to the extent of fifty-two acres on 999 years lease.

9267. (Mr. Micks).—Was a fine paid?—No, sir. The lands were given by Lord Duniketh without any fine on the rents they would be let by him to his tenants. The lands were so acquired in order to obtain such aid as would enable them to establish an agricultural and dairy-school and farm for sons and daughters of farmers, and others born in the province of Ulster. That failed; for the income from their own property is only £400 a year. That would not be sufficient for the purpose, but the trustees are in hopes that this will be supplemented by the Department of Agriculture in due time. They show that they are practically interested in the question of agricultural instruction in Down. They have already contributed £200 a year for two years, and subsequently increased that to £250 a year, and they gave that for three years. They have arranged to pay that, £250, for the present year. So that at the end of the present year they will have given £1,400 towards the expenses of the excellent work already carried out in Down. The object the Trustees have is to endeavour to get a model farm for the instruction of the general public established on these lands, and they thought, and still think, that that farm could be worked without loss, working it as a farm. It would be a spectacle of instruction for the general public, and as a farm it would be no loss whatever.

9268. (Chairman).—Are you in negotiation with the Department at present?—We have rather been deterred from going by our pressing them to do that, because, while they admit that under their Act such a Trust would come under the scheme that they are anxious, we have not yet been able to obtain the assistance the trustees were anxious to have. The assistance they wanted was for the purpose of getting suitable buildings.

9269. Assuming this project to be a desirable one there is no local difficulty in the matter, but the Department don't quite see their way at present to fall in with it?—The trustees know of no local difficulty. They have themselves certain funds and have to expend them on the performance of the Trust. They can't spend them any other way, and they are anxious and ready to spend them in that way if they had the necessary means to do it.

July 15, 1906.

Mr. J. R.
McConnell.

9200. You subscribe to the funds of the County Council?—Yes, and the understanding is that they give certain facilities which the Henry Trustees were most anxious to see going round. I must give my modes of credit to the manner in which the various departments of instruction have been going in the County Down. I am a member of the District Council, and as such am more or less in touch with the whole scheme, and I think they give much satisfaction and important benefit to the persons whom they were intended to benefit.

9201. You wish to bring these facts before us. Do you find any practical suggestion on them?—The idea of the trustees is to have a farm established on their lands. That would mean the equipment of the farm and maintaining a practical man, an intelligent man, a man who would be capable of giving instruction orally and practically to young men who would go there for the purpose of obtaining instruction.

9202. You would like to have a school those of the type of the Athlone school?—Yes, but on a much smaller scale, and it would be a practical lesson to the general public.

On resuming after luncheon.

Mr. WILLIAM S. YOUNG examined.

Mr. W. S.
Young.

9207. (Chairman).—You live at Kircubbin, County Down?—Yes.

9208. You are not a member of the Committee, but you are a practical farmer?—Yes, a farmer solely.

9209. Have you a large farm?—About 130 acres.

9210. Have you paid attention to the working of the schemes?—Yes; I have been intimately connected with it. I have had experiments carried out on my farm for a number of years.

9211. For the Department?—Yes; in connection with the Department's schemes.

9212. Before the time of the Department, or since?—Since the time of the Department.

9213. You wish to tell us about the work of the experiments on your farm?—As regards the working of the experiments on my farm, the general effect has been very satisfactory in the neighbourhood. They have had a good effect. Farmers took a great interest in the working of the experiments.

9214. Tell us the kind of experiment, and on what extent of ground?—The experiments were chiefly in the application of different classes of manure on small plots.

9215. How big would the plot be?—About the eighth of an acre, and they have been conducted for a series of years. The object of these experiments was to find out the best mixture of manure for the various crops, and there have been some very good lessons taught to the farmers in the neighbourhood. It is slowly revolutionising their mode of farming and the application of manure generally. Before that manure was applied in a more or less haphazard way, not according to any scientific method. A better method is now coming into vogue, and that is altogether and entirely as a result of these experiments and the instruction given in the winter lectures by our agricultural instructors. Of course there are a great many difficulties to contend with. Farmers are slow in adopting new methods. Indifference and prejudice have to be overcome. These are being satisfactorily overcome.

9216. Do many come from the neighbourhood to see these experiments?—Yes; everywhere there are experiments of this kind conducted in a sort of centre, and the farmer on whose farm they are conducted would meet with his fellow farmers, and these matters are constantly under discussion, and although men may never have seen a demonstration plot they are affected by the lectures and demonstrations.

9217. Do you think the interest in them is increasing?—Yes, it is increasing.

9218. What crops do you particularly experiment with?—The crops particularly are potatoes, which is our staple crop.

9219. (Mr. Brown).—Early potatoes?—No, early potatoes are not our staple crop in my immediate neighbourhood; the main crops are potatoes and oats and grass.

9220. (Mr. Micks).—Would your trustees still wish to retain their ownership?—We would expect that the Department would largely take the management and control, and have the direction of the matter. But I don't think the trustees could part with the ownership.

9221. As far as you go you would facilitate the working of it by the Department if there were?—I—Most certainly. They are most anxious about the matter. The late Mr. William Johnston, M.P., was one of the trustees, and when the Agricultural Bill was going through Parliament he made a strong effort to get £10,000 allocated for this Trust as it was done in the case of the Munster School, but he failed, and it was not put into the Act.

9222. (Chairman).—Speaking from your personal knowledge of the subject, do you know of other cases of funds of this kind being left to trusts which might be dealt with in the same way?—I don't know of any other in the County Down, but there is in the County Down.

9223. (Mr. Micks).—That is Templemore. That is an affair of long ago?—Yes; I heard of that.

9224. (Chairman).—Are they chiefly with manure or seeds or both?—There have been experiments with seeds and different kinds of oats, and what I regard as very important is the experiment in laying down land in pasture and hay, though it has not yet had time to be fully worked out.

9225. Is that carried out, too, on your farm?—Yes; and has evolved a great deal of interest in the neighbourhood.

9226. (Mr. Brown).—Do you find the people in the neighbourhood coming to find the effect of these experiments on your farm?—Yes; they come very often to see it.

9227. And taking an interest in it?—Yes.

9228. Do you think it would add to that interest if meetings were held at intervals, once or twice through out the year, with the agricultural lecturer present to explain what was done in each case?—Undoubtedly.

9229. That, of course, could be arranged?—I think it could with the instructor. I don't see why it should not be arranged.

9230. (Chairman).—Do you wish to say anything about the live stock schemes?—I think the live stock schemes as regards the premium bulls, is operating successfully. We have not enough bulls in our district. We could do with a great many more; it is our short another the raising of good cattle, and I don't know of any better way to improve cattle than by the introduction of good bulls. I think the horse scheme is a failure. We had put as good stoves in the neighbourhood before the scheme came into operation, and as many. I think it is the means of subsidising a few men who don't require to be subsidised.

9231. Do you think you have got the wrong breed of horses?—The breed is good enough, but it is not improving the horses; we had as good stoves before.

9232. (Mr. Brown).—Are they thoroughbred?—They are chiefly Clydesdale and Shires.

9233. Were the men standing before thoroughbred?—I think so. I don't think the scheme has improved the breed of horses.

9234. (Mr. O'Hara).—The lower fee, is it not an advantage?—Not very much. The men, before, were quite ready to pay for the stoves.

9235. (Mr. Brown).—Are all the nominations taken up in your county?—Oh, yes.

9236. And there is large competition for them?—Yes, there is pretty large competition; I competed for one myself, but I would have sent the mare to the best horse I could find, notwithstanding.

9237. Of course you would; but a great many others would not?—Speaking broadly, I think they would have sent their mares to the best horse.

9238. You must be very advanced?—We don't claim to be any better than our neighbours.

9239. Does that principle apply all round, that they would always send their animals to the best—does it apply in the case of the cattle schemes as well?

as the horses?—I think the scheme has had the effect of bringing a larger number of good bulls into the neighbourhood than otherwise would have been the case. It brings more pure-bred bulls of a high class. There were a good many mongrel bulls brought into the neighbourhood before that.

9235. Are the people sufficiently keen to send their cattle to pure-bred bulls instead of mongrels?—There were not enough of pure-bred bulls, and the operation of the scheme has the effect of bringing more pure-bred bulls into the neighbourhood, but it has not brought enough; we want a few more.

9236. (Chairman).—One of the other witnesses said there were not enough bulls?—Yes, I am in agreement with that gentleman, whoever he is, but I did not hear him.

9237. Have you anything to say about any of the other schemes?—Well, I think the poultry scheme has had a very beneficial effect. The egg distribution scheme has worked very satisfactorily, and the butter-making, although it has worked more slowly the effect is in the proper direction. I think it is worth the money expended on it in the matter of feeding those lectures have had a very important effect. They have stimulated a great interest and created a spirit of inquiry amongst farmers as to what a good feeding stuff should be composed of, and they are going in for them very much more largely. I have it from my own personal knowledge and from merchants. They are going in much more largely for cake of a high class. Some of those calf meals used to be sold in my neighbourhood at 25s. and 24s. per cwt., and as a result of more intelligent appreciation of what they should buy those have been given up.

9238. (Mr. Brown).—They are learning what the meal should be composed of?—Yes; it would be very hard to compose a meal worth 25s. a cwt. I don't know how they did it with the present prices of materials. With regard to the school in Downpatrick, I don't think it is very conveniently situated for the county of Down. Downpatrick is rather inaccessible, and the course of instruction is too limited and short. Young fellows coming to get an agricultural education would require to get a course extending more than over the winter months. It is not very satisfactory. There is no opportunity for demonstrations in the winter.

9239. (Chairman).—What is the size of the school in Downpatrick?—There were about eighteen pupils at its last year. That is very good as far as it goes, but it does not embrace enough.

9240. (Mr. Brown).—What buildings have they there?—They have no buildings; just the use of a schoolroom.

9241. And they have fifty-two acres of land to experiment with?—That is not in connection with the school at the present time; it is in possession of the Harro Trust.

9242. It has not been utilized?—Yes.

9243. (Chairman).—Are they day pupils—do they go home at night?—Those in reach of horse go home at night; but the majority, I think, remain in lodgings.

9244. And there is no land in connection with it?—None whatever.

9245. So they learn merely theoretically, not practically?—These young fellows are prepared to know something practical. There in the shape of lectures they hear veterinary lectures.

9246. (Mr. Brown).—If they had land and buildings suitable in the neighbourhood of Downpatrick would you then think it suitable?—I think it would be better to have the place more conveniently situated. All roads in the County Down lead to Belfast. Downpatrick is not conveniently situated.

9247. They have this 2500 a year?—Yes; that is the difficulty. I may say the use of natural grass has been greater than in past years. I think that to a great extent is the result of the lectures; better seed and manures are used. I think the farmers in our neighbourhood are further behind in the matter of laying down land and grass than in any other branch of their business. I think an attempt to revive the cultivation of flax in the North of Ireland would be a failure, because the prices have gone down below paying point, and you can't get a North of Ireland farmer to grow flax from patriotic motives.

9248. (Mr. Dryden).—It is a question of pounds, shillings, and pence?—Yes. In the district in which I live flax used to be largely grown when it was a paying crop, and there is not an acre of flax in my neighbourhood now.

9249. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say about swine?—The swine part of the scheme is not getting on in my neighbourhood. They don't like the produce of the long York. I don't go in for pork myself. The poultry is very successful and I think the butter-making will be good too. The schemes generally have been very successful in my neighbourhood as far as enlightening the people is concerned.

9250. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you creameries in your neighbourhood?—It is home-butter making. We have no creameries within reach.

9251. Have you noticed whether the instruction given by the itinerant instructors has accomplished anything?—We have had only one course in our neighbourhood. I think it will come to accomplish something. It takes time, and besides farmers' wives are very hard to move in the matter of making butter. Everyone thinks she is perfect. The class we had in our neighbourhood was very well attended.

9252. The same class of people are found in every country. It is not confined to Ireland?—I don't think it is. I don't think they are any worse than other people. I would say generally the scheme has been very satisfactory in our district.

9253. (Mr. Brown).—Do you find among the farmers generally a more enlightened interest in their own work than existed some years ago?—Yes, they have not the same selfish spirit, but a more enlightened interest.

9254. You would attribute that generally to the work?—Yes, it is lessening the whole lag.

9255. You would consider that one of the most important results?—Yes, it is from the farmers point of view.

9256. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you think agriculture generally is the foundation of the success of the country?—There is no doubt that agriculture is the industry of Ireland.

9257. And you think it is an important thing to educate the farmer to do the best he can?—I think so; it is an uphill work and it takes time.

9258. Every improvement is uphill?—Yes, agriculture is the most important industry in Ireland.

MR. ALEXANDER TATLER, Bangor, examined.

9259. (Chairman).—You are the Chairman of the Bangor Urban Committee of Technical Instruction?—Yes, sir.

9260. Do you hand in this letter from the Committee signed by yourself?—Yes, sir.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.

Bangor, Co. Down,
11th May, 1906.

We beg to submit the following remarks and suggestions in response to your request for the observations of our committee upon the matters contained in the warrant appointing an inquiry into the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland. We desire at the outset to acknowledge the beneficial effects of the Act of

1899, and also to state as far as we have had an opportunity of judging, it has been, in the main, administered with fairness and wisdom. But, our experience as a committee has convinced us that there are a number of changes which must be made if technical instruction is permanently to benefit our country. First we desire to point out that a great portion of the money allotted for technical instruction is spent in giving primary education which should be given in the National schools, and the National Board should be induced to raise the standard of instruction in National schools so as to qualify pupils to enter upon technical studies. Further, we desire to point out that the inadequacy of the grants and the unsuitability of school buildings have seriously retarded the progress of technical education. In Bangor

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we have had to transform a private house into a technical school at which over 300 students attend, the accommodation being so cramped that efficient teaching is almost impossible. Building grants are, in our opinion, absolutely necessary, as the smaller Urban Councils cannot be expected to add to their already too heavy responsibilities the cost of erecting technical schools. The grant of £250 per annum which we receive in Bangor is so inadequate that we have to forego holding classes in many subjects for which there is a demand, and furthermore our income is restricted by the non-payment of grants for technological and commercial subjects, and as these subjects are paid for in England, we desire to bring specially under your notice the serious disadvantage which technical education labours under in this respect. I understand that has been remedied by the new regulations. We are furthermore of the opinion that the Agricultural Board should pay for the teaching of horticulture, dairying, and poultry-keeping in urban as well as in rural centres, where there is a general demand for these subjects. Regarding your inquiry whether the method of the Department in carrying out the provisions of the Act is well suited to the condition of Ireland, we are of opinion that the following alterations are desirable:—

(a.) That the Technical Board should be entrusted with more administrative powers, as at present they have no voice in the appointment of officials of the Department.

(b.) We think the Department should send a report of the meetings of the Technical Board to all Technical Committees, so that they might be kept in touch with the work of the Board.

In conclusion we wish to emphasise the urgent necessity for co-operation between the Education Boards in Ireland, as until this is accomplished our educational methods must remain comparatively inefficient and expensive.

9252. Do you wish to add anything on your own account?—I think we had a fine opportunity at Bangor of showing how there should be co-operation and co-ordination. At the present time a secondary school is being built there. That school with very little addition would be capable of doing all that is required, I think, for technical as well as secondary education. We have not a suitable building at the present time, but if this secondary school had been made a little larger, the school and its laboratories, and the apparatus belonging to it, could have been used for technical instruction, and this would, of course, have conserved the funds of both secondary and technical education.

9253. What is the school used for in the day?—It is a boys' day secondary school. I should like to give an example of how we have attempted to co-ordinate at Bangor. We found children in the National schools got no teaching in domestic economy; we thought perhaps we could teach it a little and get all the schools to agree to send scholars in the sixth class down to the technical schools one evening in the week, and we empowered our teacher to use our apparatus for giving instruction. If that were done by the National Board you would have required five schools and possibly five teachers, and five sets of apparatus, and I venture to say one expert teacher in cookery could likely teach it much better than a National school teacher. At any rate our experiment tended to economy and efficiency.

9254. (Mr. O'Brien).—What is there to prevent a local arrangement being made by which the building of that secondary school could be made available for evening classes?—It is managed by trustees, and we have been able to make no arrangement. It is an endowed school.

9255. Did you endeavour to make any arrangement?—A proposal was made, but the school is managed by a committee, and we could not effect it.

9256. Was it communicated to the Department?—Not the Department. It was the trustees of the school in the first place.

9257. Here you have trustees of an endowed school starting the building of the school and that school includes a laboratory. I assume that for the purpose of building a laboratory they would receive sufficient grants from the Department?—I presume so.

9258. They by communicating with the Department and pointing out the position you might be able to secure the backing of the Department, and they might make it a condition in giving money for their

laboratory that it should be available?—It has been managed by a separate committee, and I don't know whether I am justified in using the word trustees, but there has been a good deal of delay in the creation of this school, and the governors of the endowed school prefer to act for themselves.

9259. So far the difficulty arises from there being several local bodies concerned in the management of the different schemes of education?—I think there are some difficulties with the local committee and the Department, or heads of the secondary school. The Intermediate Board might take a statesmanlike view and see if there could be co-ordination in a way similar to Bangor, which is a typical town.

9270. I quite agree with you, but one wants to find the whole of the difficulties that have to be overcome in carrying through such co-ordination. It is evidently not entirely difficult because of the want of co-ordination in the Department?—Not purely. The endowment is tied up. I don't know how, but they seem to be rather delicate about their delegating their power to an outside committee.

9271. They would not be prepared to grant even the evening use of this building?—I am not prepared to say they would not now. I throw it out with the possibility that it may result in something.

9272. (Chairman).—Is there any religious difficulty?—None whatever.

9273. (Mr. O'Brien).—The case seems to be one where negotiations ought surely to secure a way of doing it. Will there be any possibility then of also finding technical instruction in a town like Belfast and elsewhere?—I am a member of the committee in Belfast, and also a member of the Board in Dublin.

9274. (Chairman).—A member of the Technical Board?—Yes. Would there be any possibility of some action being taken to make National schools centres of technical schools?

9275. (Mr. O'Brien).—You mentioned you have 200 technical students. What class of students are they?—Evening students. Much more than half the number—270 or 280—would be females going in for domestic economy and cookery and dress-making, and subjects of that sort—lace-making.

9276. Practically all these would come from the National schools?—Some of them perhaps would not. Ladies who cultivate a sort of taste for it.

9277. Well, the great majority of the 300 would have come from the National schools?—Yes.

9278. What stage would they have reached in the National schools?—A number of them return themselves as having been in the sixth standard, but they have been in business in the meantime, and I suppose have not improved their knowledge.

9279. Are you familiar with the regulations of the National Commissioners?—Yes, fairly.

9280. Do you consider that the curriculum, as set out in the regulations, is not a suitable one for the preparation of pupils for technical work?—Well, I believe they are not able from the sixth class. Boys generally get to the sixth class about twelve or thirteen years of age, and they don't do much more until they go to business, some of them at fifteen; and there seems to be a loss of time between twelve and fourteen.

9281. What is the population of Bangor?—Over 8,000.

9282. (Chairman).—5,933?—That is in 1901. It has grown very quickly.

9283. (Mr. O'Brien).—Then the curriculum that is put forward by the National Commissioners says that the ordinary school subjects are English, including reading, spelling, composition, writing, and grammar, rudimentary geography, singing, drawing, including work for girls, manual instruction, object lessons in elementary science, kindergarten work, and hygiene. The course in elementary science seems to be directly aimed at making the closing years of the National schools specially preparing for technical work?—The curriculum may be very good, but I know the practical experience of teachers is that the boys are not fit to take up technical work.

9284. How far do you personally suppose that to be due to the fact that the teachers in National schools have not had the importance of this particular aspect of education borne in upon them?—I am sorry I can't say.

9285. Has there been anything done in your district to give them an opportunity of supplementing their own training in the matter of science?—There was a little done, but Belfast is so adjacent that any

of them who wish to go to Belfast to classes can do so.

9296. I would conclude then that there has been a supply of teachers' classes?—Yes.

9297. Is it within your knowledge whether Bangor teachers have taken advantage of them?—A few of them have.

9298. They would come in time to have a considerable influence on the effectual preparation of the National schoolboy for subsequent work?—Yes, but we have been now in operation in Belfast for four years, and there have been marked improvements within that time.

9299. But then only a few teachers have taken advantage of them, and until the knowledge taken by the teacher comes to be something tangible, the effect would not be very great?—But the necessity has been impressed upon them. Every year we have been spending funds intended for technical education in imparting primary education.

9300. Whether the pupils when they leave the National schools have reached the sixth standard or not, it is plain a large number of them who have come up to you are not beyond sixth standard?—The qualifications would not compare with the curriculum.

9301. Practically there would be a year at least omitted of evening school work to make good for what they did not have in the day school, or lost class?—For that year there might be a higher grade school to qualify after.

9302. Your view is that if there was definite and specific teaching provided for them in the day-school, that would tend to retain them in the day-school a little longer?—Quite so.

9303. You think there are many from twelve to fourteen years old that are practically marking time?—I think there is plenty of necessity for higher teaching or perhaps higher grade school.

9304. How far is there any possibility of day-schools in Bangor where boys over thirteen years of age could be sent?—I think there would be no difficulty. I think their parents would be anxious.

9305. That is a matter that might well be tackled locally?—Yes. It would be a matter for more funds. You would require more teachers—not a great deal more.

9306. If these boys were retained in doing better work, that would show itself in the grants of the National Commissioners?—It would.

9307. What about the evening classes for such elementary work. Are there classes conducted under the requirements of the National Board?—No; practically there are no evening continuation classes under National School Teachers.

9308. It doesn't matter who conducts the classes. They may be carried on by your own Committee under the National Board?—Work, the rules are very restricted, not such as to encourage them. Of course they are somewhat modified now, but at first they were required to attend three nights a week. You would not get boys who were working to attend three nights a week, a certain number of hours, to get the payment. If there was any money in it the National teachers would follow it up; but they have assured me that they have been actually discouraged from holding these classes and have been at a loss by the evening continuation classes.

9309. There are two points in that; the one that since they carried them on and were at a loss the regulations have been altered in favour of a simpler method. The other point is this, that if you were to retain pupils at that age and stage at evening classes, it is clear you must combine the ordinary work they are accustomed to with something that has a definite bearing on their future work?—That is so. The fact of its being a technical school attracts young men of business who would not go to a continuation class under the National Board.

9310. The pupils are not necessarily informed which Board it is under?—That is so.

9311. The important point is whether or not the instruction which is parveyed from them for the completion of their elementary education has got a definite practical turn about it, and then it comes to this, whether the teachers have taken the pains necessary to provide a course of that kind?—That is so. That is part of the grievance; that is spending our money and energy, funds supposed to

be for technical education we are giving for primary instruction.

9312. What I am getting to you now, is whether you are not discharging your duty wrongly in applying technical money to it when there is a definite grant provided by the National Commissioners available for this purpose, and whether it would not be much better for you to take steps to have that elementary work run under the National Board rules, so as to get for it the grants and public support intended for it?—I am afraid you won't get many teachers enthusiastic to work under the National Board, especially at night schools. The result has been so disastrous. They had been labouring for years without success. It is true the Commissioners have modified the rules, but not sufficiently, and besides there has been a troublesome interference. They made it repugnant. Then, if you only read the history of the Belfast school, you will find from time to time that there has been a very sharp correspondence between the managers and the Department.

9313. We will hear Belfast to-morrow. I am under the impression that the managers here are conducting classes under the National Board?—Yes, and that correspondence has resulted in some of the modifications.

9314. Very likely, as modifications do often arise. What I should have liked to have got from you is how far the rules, as they exist at present, are such as to discourage work that we all agree is very desirable to carry on?—I don't know. I think most technical committees think they have sufficient to do to attend to the business of the technical and deal with one Board. I don't think they care for taking that work up at all.

9315. You would rather have to spend so much of your technical money on this work than to have the trouble of coming to an arrangement with another Board?—We don't put it that way. We would rather we were relieved of the trouble.

9316. That is the same point. We come to the next step. You are familiar with the new regulations which have been published by the Department, and that starts off with the statement, "These regulations are intended to apply to pupils whose education before has been such as would entitle them to be placed in the sixth class of a school under the National Board." Would that exclude from the application many of your pupils?—If rigidly interpreted it might, but pupils might have been in the sixth class and consequently qualified for it. If you take it as the fact of being in the sixth class I don't believe it would disqualify them.

9317. Supposing the Department don't press the question too closely, and accept as proper material for their grant any pupil who has been admitted to the sixth class under the National Board, that would make the bulk of your work possible under these regulations?—Yes; that would be a great improvement.

9318. The grants under these regulations, which are ample, would become applicable to the education of the type of pupil you are mentioning?—Yes; and we anticipate good results from that scheme, because the work we are doing is largely commercial, and we get paid on results. We were not paid before.

9319. So you are looking forward for proper financial results from this new scheme—that is the reason for not worrying about getting the National Board regulations further improved?—I think so.

9320. It is possible then that the receipt of further grants under this new scheme may really go a long way to meet the difficulty to which your Committee pointed?—Yes; that is obviated to a great extent. We made an application to Dublin for permission to give instruction in agricultural teaching, and they said the rules prohibited them from doing so. There are a number of people in Bangor that go in for gardening, some for a hobby, and some for profit. Some have considerable gardens attached to their houses. We thought it desirable that these men should have opportunities of receiving instruction, and hearing lectures, but unless they come from rural districts we cannot, according to the Department's interpretation of the Act, devote money to that. I brought that up twice at Dublin at two meetings of the Department, and that was the answer.

9321. Do you know what section of the Act they founded that upon?—I do not.

9322. At any rate the fact remains that an urban area, such as Bangor, an urban area which is not a

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place covered continuously by houses, and which is not removed by considerable distances from green fields is often a place where people do carry on poultry-keeping and gardening, whether for profit by sale or profit by diminishing the expenditure in the house?—There is no doubt about it, and some take special interest in certain breeds. We had applications for classes.

9313. Are there any classes conducted within the area for rural people?—I think there are.

9314. But close enough to Bangor to allow the people of Bangor who wish to attend. Suppose there is an instructor at a mile out of Bangor, I don't suppose you would exclude people who happened to live in Bangor?—I dare say not, but we never heard of them. Our object is to have a school that would accommodate a number of people, and if an instructor had been sent there to give a number of lectures it would have made no extra expense.

9315. And the Department advised that they were unable to do that under existing conditions?—Under the agricultural conditions. We don't wish to take it out of the technical fund. There is not enough money for technical purposes, and there is a plethora for agricultural purposes.

9316. Would they object to the farmers' sons getting a benefit out of the fund, although the farmer did not happen to have a house on his farm, but lived in Bangor?—I don't know.

9317. One thing I wanted to ask you—about the arrangements for combined instruction in cookery, making the technical school a cookery centre. You spoke of that being conducted in the evening. There are obvious disadvantages in bringing out day-school children for instruction in any subject at that time?—Four o'clock in the afternoon, after their own school. The teacher came down earlier and gave two lectures—one at 4 o'clock for children, and another at 7.30 for adults.

9318. That was immediately after their day-school work?—Yes.

9319. Are you aware that that was not necessary so far as the regulations of the National Board are concerned. You know that under those regulations if that instruction had been given in school hours, though not in the school, but elsewhere, it would have been included in the ordinary school hours?—But they would not have recognised our teacher I think. They give that by their own teacher. I am one of the deputation that went up to the Commissioners of Education and saw Dr. Starke. At that time there was some attempt made to pass over the teaching of domestic economy from the National Commissioners to the Technical Board, but I think that did not come off exactly.

9320. Is there anything to prevent an arrangement by which whoever is responsible for the National schools might subcontract to you for the instruction of their domestic classes at a properly-equipped domestic-teaching centre?—That was partly the object of the visit Mr. McMeekin, the Chairman of the Urban Council, and myself waited on Dr. Starke and asked that we might get a grant if we used our teacher for this purpose, and pointed out the great advantage it was; but they were not prepared to do it.

9321. I quite understand that they might not be perhaps prepared to do it in the way you put it, but they indicate any way in which it could be done?—Dr. Starke said it was a most desirable thing, and a praiseworthy effort, but that there had been some meetings between the Department and themselves on this point, and that it was expected it would be transferred to the Technical Board. But it never has been.

9322. No, it has not; but is it not worth trying again?—It is for the people who are so busy at co-ordination—it is for them to arrange that.

9323. This is an arrangement that cannot be made in every town, and where it can be made the initiative should come from the locality?—I think it would be most desirable. It would be impossible to work it in Belfast. The majority we have of the sixth standard girls never attend the technical schools. If you had any means of giving them their instruction in the last year in the school—instruction in domestic economy—you would fit them for house work that they are not now fit for.

9324. (Chairman).—I see your Committee, in their letter, advocates giving the Technical Board more administrative powers, as at present they have no

voice in the appointment of officials of the Department. Is that meant to suggest that the Technical Board should have a voice in the appointment of the officials of the Department?—Oh, yes; clearly.

9325. On what grounds does that recommendation go?—The Board has, to a great extent, a responsibility for the work, and they should have some responsibility in choosing the officials that are to carry it out. You can scarcely attach any responsibility to a Board that has no voice in the appointment of its own officials.

9326. (Mr. O'Leary).—The Board is hardly responsible by the Act?—The Board has to approve of all the expenditure.

9327. (Mr. Brown).—And it is responsible to that extent?—It is responsible to that extent.

9328. (Chairman).—Still, that is a different thing, is it not?—I am not expressing any opinion—then choosing the officials of the Department?—No; it seems a corollary. If you have a Board expending money you should have some power in appointing the men at a salary where the expense comes in.

9329. (Mr. O'Leary).—That is, of course, a different constitution of the Department altogether from that which is laid down in the Act?—And another point is that it would give more confidence in their demands.

9330. (Chairman).—You think there has been a want of confidence arising from the appointment of the officials by the Department?—I think on the whole they have been very good appointments.

9331. You think the Technical Board would be as good an appointing body as the Department?—I don't think the Department would be any worse for the advice of the Technical Board. I say they should have a voice.

9332. To what extent do you think ought they to have a veto on the appointment of officials as they have on the expenditure?—I think so.

9333. (Mr. O'Leary).—All grades of officials?—With all important officials.

9334. (Chairman).—You mean the heads of departments?—Yes; heads of departments of course. I think it would bring them more into touch with the general body.

9335. (Mr. O'Leary).—You mean the officers holding the first half dozen posts?—Yes, the more important posts.

9336. (Mr. Brown).—Do you extend it to the Vice-President?—The Vice-President, I think, is appointed by Parliament.

9337. (Chairman).—Not by Parliament; by the Crown. (Witness).—By the Cabinet.

9338. (Mr. Brown).—You don't extend it to the Vice-President?—Oh, no.

9339. Or the Assistant-Secretary in respect of education or agriculture?—I am not quite sure that the only one I would except would be the Vice-President. That is a matter of opinion.

9340. And it makes no difference that the salaries of those officers are payable out of the Parliamentary Grant, not out of the endowment?—If there is a great amount of money spent in administering a small grant it means there would be less money voted for it. It is a well-known fact that in Ireland there is a large amount of money spent in administering the Technical Education Grant although it does not come out of the Technical Education Fund; it comes out of the Parliamentary Grant. Consequently Parliament would be less disposed to disburse that money for technical education. If, instead of £42,000 for administering £250,000, it only took £24,000—

9341. (Mr. O'Leary).—A great deal of the £42,000 is spent in doing a good deal of work apart from the administration?—It may be, but it seems, at all events, as far as I can see from the figures, that the administration is very costly.

9342. (Chairman).—You mean that the salaries are too high?—Very possibly. There are a good many soft jobs.

9343. What do you mean?—I am not quite sure, but there was one of them shown up in Parliament a very short time ago.

9344. What are you thinking of?—I did not intend that to come within my evidence at all.

9345. Still you have raised it, you know?—I think you will find a question was raised where an official has been in receipt of a high salary, and it was not known what he was doing for a year or two.

(Mr. Dwyer).—Is there anybody of that kind in connection with this Department?

9346. (Mr. Brown).—Which was the one case which was mentioned in Parliament?—I suppose you are all as familiar with it as I am. It is no part of my evidence.

9347. (Chairman).—I think it is?—It only came round, but of course I will adhere to this, that in my judgment the cost of administration is heavy.

9348. I think I must press you upon this, because you say the cost of administration is heavy, and the salaries of officials are heavy, and there are a good many soft jobs, and when you allude to one of them I am entitled to ask you which one?—I don't think I am particularly alluded to one. You asked for an instance. I said I thought you had sufficient knowledge of it not long since by a question that was raised in Parliament.

9349. That is a specific instance. I want to know who it was?—I cannot see the point of asking it.

9350. I do see the point, because it is a very important thing whether these officials are overpaid. It is one of the things we have got to consider. You say they are, and give an instance, and I want to know what that instance is. That is, one that has been alluded to in Parliament. There is no secret about it?—You have it then?

9351. I may recognise it if you mention it?—I don't remember the exact instance.

9352. Was it Mr. Porter?—Yes; I think so.

9353. I suspected that. That is the reason I pressed you. Do you know he was transferred under the Act of Parliament?—I only know what I saw in the paper.

9354. You read something in a paper which is probably quite inaccurate. Mr. Porter was an official who was transferred under the provisions of the Act of Parliament, and of course he carried his salary with him.

9355. (Mr. Ogilvie).—And was not appointed by the

Department at all?—Very possibly. Does not that July 15, 1894, bring us back to the point how little even the members of the Board know about the appointments? Mr. A. Taylor.

9356. (Chairman).—That is another point. That does not justify the quoting of a particular case and then building a generalisation upon it, when it turns out to be inaccurate?—It shows that even the members of this Board know practically nothing about the officials.

9357. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It does not. This man was appointed long before the Board?—He is receiving a very handsome salary at all events.

9358. (Chairman).—He was receiving the salary in the position in which he was before he came under the Board, and was transferred by the Act of Parliament.

9359. (Mr. Brown).—Surely if members of the Board desired information on that point and asked for it they would get it, because that matter was fully explained in the Council of Agriculture, and published in the papers?—(Witness).—Is it necessary to ask for it? Should a member of the Board not be cognizant of it?

9360. (Chairman).—Is this recommendation of your Committee mainly based on this instance of Mr. Porter?—By no means; as I stated, that was no part of my evidence—that case of Porter.

9361. This is part of your evidence?—Yes; the recommendation is, but that only came up as an incident. Of course it may not be correct, but it does not alter the contention or the opinion held.

9362. It shows the grounds on which you form your opinion?—It was the readiest case that came.

9363. (Mr. Brown).—Mention any other?—Oh, no. I held some of the salaries are extravagant, and far beyond the market value, and that is not an individual opinion; it is held generally.

The Committee adjourned.

-TWENTY-EIGHTH PUBLIC SITTING.—THURSDAY, JULY 19TH, 1906.

At the Technical Institute, Belfast.

Present:—

SIR KENELM DUNSTON, K.C., G.C.B., (*Chairman*).

THE HON. JOHN DRYDEN.

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OULVIE.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKEL.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., *Secretary*.

July 19, 1906.

Mr W. H.
Reed.

9364. (*Chairman*).—You are a representative of the Council of Agriculture, I understand?—Yes, sir.

9365. And you wish to give evidence here as to the relations in this country with the Department?—Yes, Mr. Chairman; may I explain in the beginning that I have been a farmer all my life. I don't know that I am qualified to give evidence in reference to the Council.

9366. You are speaking for yourself?—I am speaking for myself and also as a member of the Council, but if I may explain I have been farming all my life and making my living that way, and naturally I take an interest in any movement calculated to improve the industry. I was a member of the Ulster Chemical Agricultural Society for many years, which, under the direction of the late Professor Hodges and his son, Mr. J. F. W. Hodges, did in this locality what the Department is now doing.

9367. When did that work begin?—I think it is about twenty years ago since I was a member.

9368. What sort of work did they do?—Carrying out experiments.

9369. As to manures, seeds, and so on?—Yes; doing a great deal of what the Department is doing now, but, unfortunately, they had not very much public support or sympathy, and had no Government funds at their back; it was a voluntary association. I am also a member of the Abernethy Agricultural Research Association, which is carrying out good work under Professor Jameson in Scotland. I am also a member of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society; a member of the Council of Agriculture in Antrim, and one of the representatives on the Council of Agriculture appointed by the Antrim County Committee. I mention these facts to show that I have considerable opportunity to judge of the Department and of its working.

9370. Take your own case then?—With reference to the constitution of the Department there seems to be a good deal of difference of opinion about that, but, so far as I am able to judge, there is very little to say for its constitution or its methods of working; in my opinion the work entrusted to it has been carried out with marked ability and a very considerable measure of success. I believe the unfavourable criticisms of which we hear so much arise partly from want of appreciation of the intricate and far-reaching subjects with which the Department has to deal. But I think, from a feeling not confined alone to Irishmen, that looks on often think they can do things better than those who are engaged in the work. There seems to be a widespread idea that everything the Department touches should be at once a success. This is very unreasonable, considering the experimental nature of the work the Department has to take up. I have been trying experiments all my life in my own business, and I often gained as much or more information from the experiment that fails, so to speak, as from the one that succeeds. I think it is very regrettable that so many counties failed to derive the benefit of the Department's schemes by not adopting them in the earlier years owing to the unfortunate friction that cropped up between the County Committee and the Department. In most of these cases that came before the Council of Agriculture, as

far as I was able to observe, the fault lay with the County Committee, who seem to fail to recognize the fact that an authority like the Department require to have some rules laid down for its guidance; an authority entrusted with so much public money could not be expected to hand over its authority and privileges to the local bodies.

9371. (*Mr. Mickel*).—What committee are you referring to?—Several committees in Ireland; I think Cork was one.

9372. That is a long way off?—It is, and of course I speak of the early times of the Department.

9373. What are your sources of knowledge on that question?—I was a member of the Council of Agriculture, and very frequently those questions cropped up there, and statements were made by the members from that country. I would, if I might be allowed to make a recommendation, strongly recommend that the Department give its inspectors instructions to consult, as far as possible, the County Committee. Many members of these committees are enthusiastic and very useful men, and the Department itself admits that much of the success of its schemes depends on the enthusiasm with which the local bodies take up their efforts and second them. I have already stated that much of the criticism is without foundation; the same may be said of the grumblers who do not criticize. I often meet with people who are complaining that the Department is costing too much and doing too little. I know cases in which men are grumbling at paying the extra half-penny in the £ which is levied for the purposes of the Act, and yet the same men are reaping in direct benefit more than they are paying, not to speak of the advantages they get indirectly by the improved methods introduced abroad them. In my opinion the efforts of the Department, coming along with the advantages of the Land Purchase Acts, are having and must continue to have a marked effect in improving the condition of Irish agriculture. It is patent to anyone who lives, as I do, amongst farmers that the seed sown by the Department has already borne fruit, much as the people object to it and find fault with it.

9374. (*Chairman*).—In what direction do you think that is most conspicuous?—In the use of artificial manures and the development of better methods of tillage and the use of machinery, and in the working of the live-stock schemes and the poultry schemes. In the County Antrim we are not so much affected by the home-breeding scheme.

9375. It does not seem to have been so popular here?—It never was; home-breeding is not a North of Ireland industry. I was rather struck with one witness on Tuesday referring to the fact that the introduction of Shure and Clyde-draught had done away with the old Irish cart-horse, and some of your Commission asked if they could see an Irish draught horse. I don't see how in four or five years the introduction of these horses could so completely do away with the Irish draught horse as that witness intended to represent. A good many witnesses complained of the want of funds for starting new industries in their localities; that charge cannot be laid to the Department fairly; they must administer the funds at their disposal to the best advantage for the whole country. Another witness expressed the opinion that anyone wanting in

administering the funds of the Department should be debared from receiving any benefit therefrom.

9276. What do you say to that?—It strikes me that many of the most useful members of the agricultural committees are practical farmers, and it seems hard that they who are devoting their time gratuitously to this service should be debared from any of the advantages arising from the Department's work if otherwise qualified. I am a member of the County Antirra Committee, but I do not receive any benefit directly, inasmuch as the valuation restriction cuts me out, but there are many useful men who are members of the committee and would be qualified, and I think a hard and fast rule of that sort would act unfairly, and probably cause the committee to lose the services of these men.

9277. (Mr. Mich.)—It was principally mentioned I think as regards premium bulls; do you think it would press hardly on a member of the Committee not to be allowed to hold, for instance, a premium bull?—I don't see how it could affect the premium bull or the success of the Department's scheme; personally I keep a premium bull, but I cannot get any benefit from him. I get my own cows served, but then he is my own property; I have bought him. Of course the Department gives me something towards the service of the cows in the neighborhood. The people that are getting their cows served for a shilling fee are receiving the benefit. The Department encourage me for that too. I would otherwise charge 10s.

9278. You think what use the owner of the bull makes of the bull is not sufficient to shut out the neighbours' cows?—No, I think not. I cannot think of any case in which that would occur.

9279. (Mr. Brown.)—He is bound to serve a certain number of cows otherwise he does not get the premium; he only gets it in proportion to the number he serves?—Yes, in our country, in the case of a yearling thirty cows, and in the case of a two or three-year-old forty cows, and gets £15 for that.

9280. One witness went so far as that no member of a County Committee should compete at a show subsidised by the Department—I think that would interfere materially with the efficiency of the Department's schemes or the shows. I would at once resign my position as a member of the Agricultural Committee if I was precluded from exhibiting at shows or keeping a premium bull.

9281. (Mr. Mich.)—How many cows do you keep yourself?—Twenty cows for milking, and breeding shorthorns, and perhaps that bull would serve ten or twelve pedigree cows for others at a 10s. fee, besides my own cows and the farmers' cows, at 1s. fee.

9282. (Chairman.)—Then your own cows don't count among the cows that have to be served?—No, and that is quite a correct rule. I don't think the recommendation would work satisfactorily at all. I would suggest, but perhaps it is hardly the thing to suggest before your Commission, I might bring it before the Council of Agriculture, that the Department should in some districts where hired labour is required encourage the training in actual farm work of boys who intend to become farm labourers.

9283. How would you propose that should be done?—I have not worked the thing out fully, but I intend to bring it before the Council of Agriculture.

9284. Do you think it ought to be done at the National school?—It would be very difficult to begin at the National school, because most of the National teachers are not trained themselves in practical agriculture, and in the manipulation of farming tools. I employ a number of boys from twelve to fifteen years of age occasionally on the farm, much to the annoyance of the School Attendance Committee and their officers, at least work, nothing to interfere with the physique of the boys, but rather develop it, hoeing turnips and weeding potatoes.

9285. (Mr. Brown.)—You mean to give them some practical training in farm work?—Practical training is technical farming, the handling of tools.

9286. To some extent would not ploughing matches do that?—That would not do for boys; that does for adults. I find these lads that I have working on the farm when they grow up make very much better farm labourers than other boys who have had no opportunity in boyhood of becoming acquainted with work on the farm.

9287. (Mr. O'Brien.)—What happens in all other cases? Where do the young men spend their boyhood?—They learn hand-loom weaving, and then come to

the farm after that, or come out as casual labourers to assist in the harvest time and oblige the farmers whom they live in.

9288. But the boys who are brought up in the country, what happens to them from twelve to fifteen?—In some cases they idle about, unless some farmer like myself will employ them at a low rate of wages; their leisure is not very efficient.

9289. Do you mean that in the country districts they, as a rule, do nothing?—They run messengers for their parents, but it is represented to me locally that it is contrary to law to employ these boys under fourteen, but I have not found that to be the case.

9290. You would know if it was so because you have employed them from twelve to fifteen; you probably would have learned by this time?—I have been threatened repeatedly, but I said I would wait until I found it was wrong. I think by employing these boys and encouraging them to stay in the country I am doing a good turn not only to myself but to the boys and to the country. Our present system of education seems to take the boys away from farming. If you keep them always at books and train them to be shopkeepers and clerks they look on farm work as something beneath them.

9291. Do you mean it is quite exceptional for the hoeing of turnips to be done by other than men?—It is mostly done by women and men.

9292. Do the women in this part of the country take a considerable part of the work?—Very considerable. I often employ ten or twelve women at weeding or sorting potatoes.

9293. (Mr. Dryden.)—Done by hand?—Yes; we cannot use as much machinery here as in America.

9294. I notice as I go through the country they seem to be doing it on their hands and knees?—Yes; that is why these boys are so useful; an intelligent lad with nimble fingers can do as much as an adult.

9295. (Mr. O'Brien.)—Is it because that in the County Antirra you can get women to do the field work the boys from twelve to fifteen are conspicuous by their absence, taking the country generally?—I can only speak for my particular locality, but that is the general impression; as soon as they get old enough to leave school and safely get clear of the School Attendance officers they then try to get engaged with a farmer if they intend to become farm labourers, or else drift away to the towns.

9296. They try to engage with a farmer but the farmers won't take them as a rule?—They do after they leave school; lads can best learn how to thin turnips or handle a hook from eleven to fourteen years.

9297. Then the boys from twelve to fourteen are in attendance at the school?—They are.

9298. Are there any running about idle?—Well, during the Saturdays and holidays, but they do attend school I must say.

9299. (Chairman.)—Do these boys you employ also attend school?—Yes.

9300. Do they work for you on Saturdays only?—On Saturdays and occasionally, but it is when they ought to be at school; that is where the difficulty comes in; it is a question of whether they should be working for me or getting lessons at school.

9301. Must these boys have arrived at a certain standard before you employ them?—No; I employ them down as low as seven years old to mow crows and things of that kind.

9302. During the time they ought to be in school, but I try to encourage them to get a sufficient number of days' attendance, and in the matter of weeding crows I find a suit of clothes with a little lad in it makes a better scarecrow than a suit of clothes hung on a stick.

9303. (Mr. O'Brien.)—You cannot arrange with the crows to come at a time when boys can be spared from school?—That is difficult. With reference to the formation of the Council of Agriculture, in my opinion it would lose by the removal of the nominated members and the substitution of elected members. I think the Department ought to have the privilege of appointing some men from the country as members of that Council—because in Ireland we have a great tendency to get into political matters, and we might keep a man out of an appointment who was otherwise eminently fitted for it because of some political bias. It would be very much better to have

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the Council of Agriculture constituted as it is—two-thirds elected and one-third nominated. I think it is fully representative that way, and any person who has a practical suggestion to make in the work of the Department has not the least difficulty, if it is a practical suggestion, in bringing it forward. If he looks up his representative on the Council, or other representative on the Council of Agriculture, it will be brought forward for discussion, and if considered worthy of adoption will be almost surely adopted by the Department, and I would also suggest that the County Councils ought to consult with and direct and suggest to their representatives on the Council of Agriculture matters for consideration of the Council and the Department, and not leave it altogether to the initiative of the two members whom they elect.

9404. Is that done, do you think, now; do the members receive many suggestions?—Very few. As a matter of fact the first time I was delegated for the County Antrim—it was on the first Council of Agriculture—I suggested to my colleague that we should ask the other members of the Council to give us suggestions and information, and I got some circulars printed and sent them to all the members of the County Council, but they seemed to mark them read and failed to give us any suggestions. I would have been glad to have had suggestions from all or any member of the Council.

9405. (Mr. Brown).—Have you ever noticed any loss of cleavage between the elected and the nominated?—I never have; personally I am unable to distinguish between one and the other. I know some as nominated and some as elected, but I never noticed any tendency to separate or take different views.

9406. (Mr. Dryden).—Both classes hold independent opinions and don't hesitate to express them?—There seems no hesitation to express their opinions, at the Council of Agriculture, and our Vice-President gives us every latitude to express our opinions as long as they bear on the subject and the discussion is kept within reasonable bounds, and if it would not be out of place, I would like to bear testimony to the skill and politeness with which he guides such a cosmopolitan body, because we have there all shades of religion and political opinions; few men could do it better. I might refer to a remark of Mr. Andrews yesterday, in which he expressed some opinion about the necessity or want of it, for your Commission. I don't want to express an opinion about it, but I do want to say, I think it will have a very marked effect in assisting the work of the Department by clearing away a lot of misconception and unjust criticism that has gathered round it in its working. The publication of the evidence in the papers has been a very satisfactory step. I thought at first it might have been held in camera, but I think it was a wise decision to publish it. We may have a great deal to read yet, but so far it has been in favour of the Department.

9407. I was not here when you began your evidence. I don't know whether you referred to the importance of the work in connection with live-stock and poultry?—I mentioned that as far as I was able to see, it has been extremely successful, and it has done a great deal of good, especially the cattle scheme. In my county, I think that the horse-breeding scheme, seeing we are not a horse-breeding people in Antrim, has not had the same effect, but that is no fault of the scheme, and perhaps the swine scheme has not been taken up with as much interest as it ought to have been, but the live-stock and poultry and fruit culture has been very successful.

9408. Is dairying carried on in your district?—Not very largely.

9409. Have you any creameries?—No; there was a co-operative creamery started at Crumlin twice or fourteen years ago, but it did not succeed. I think the reason was proximity to Belfast, where the farmers are able to find a very good market for all their dairy produce without the assistance of co-operation.

9410. Some of the witnesses who have come before the Committee seem to think that the dairy industry interferes with cattle-rearing in the districts where the creameries are?—I have not any practical experience, but I saw that referred to in the evidence, and I felt to reconcile that statement and that of some of your witnesses yesterday, who proved that English cattle salesmen had told them distinctly that there was a marked improvement in Irish stores, and

there is no question that the experiments carried on by the Department in Cork show that calves can be reared very well with separated milk and cream substitutes. I was appointed by the Council of Agriculture to give evidence so far as the working of the Council with the Department during the last six or seven years. I think they have got on admirably. There has, of course, been some slight friction, but generally speaking, they have worked in harmony, and my reasonable suggestions made by the Council of Agriculture, and supported by a majority of the Council, were very carefully inquired into by the Department and taken up as a rule by them.

9411. (Chairman).—Do you think the suggestions made by the Council of Agriculture, although they have not legal power to give effect to them, are attended with good results?—I think they are. I think the Department find the advantage of getting suggestions from people from all parts of the country acting as an Advisory Committee.

9412. Do you see any necessity for increased powers being given to the Council of Agriculture?—I think it would not be safe to give it any compulsory powers, because we would want to take upon our shoulders too much of the duties of the Department.

9413. (Mr. Mick).—Any administrative powers?—I think not. I think its functions as an Advisory Committee are enough, because we as Provincial Committees have the opportunity of appointing two-thirds of the members of the Council, and in this way we can give force to our opinions.

9414. (Chairman).—A number of witnesses advocated the introduction of the principle of election of the principal officers of the Department—what would you say to that?—I am afraid I have hardly given enough thought to such things to give a useful opinion. Would you mean to give it occasionally?

9415. No, to substitute for the present system of appointment a system of election by a popular body?—I don't think it would work satisfactorily. We would want a Vice-President from Ulster and a Vice-President from each of the other provinces. We would need four Vice-Presidents. I think we are not ripe enough for that yet; we are hoping to become sufficiently unanimous in Ireland to do such things in the future.

9416. (Mr. Dryden).—You are a member of the County Committee. What is the number of the Committee?—I think it is about twenty, perhaps between twenty and thirty. I am not a member of the County Council this last year, but the County Council did me the honour of nominating me as their representative on the Council of Agriculture.

9417. Some of the Committees appear to be larger than that?—For a time our County Committee consisted of the whole County Council and other members appointed, but at the last re-arrangement that system was dropped, and only a number of the County Councillors who take a practical interest in the Department and its work put on the Committee.

9418. (Chairman).—Do you know how many added members there are?—Perhaps ten or a dozen; it was found in practice that many members of the County Council took no interest in the work of the Department because it is different work entirely, and that was why the change was made.

9419. (Mr. Dryden).—Now you have a smaller number, do you find that an advantage?—Rather an advantage; it was a cumbersome Committee, and a great many took no interest in it.

9420. And the discussions, where you have a large number, would be somewhat tedious?—Yes; in practice we found a small Sub-Committee can do more work than a large Committee.

9421. (Mr. Mick).—What has been done for the smaller people in the North of Antrim under your scheme?—Their principal benefit has been through the poultry scheme and the live-stock scheme. Do you refer to those so small that they would not benefit by the live-stock scheme?

9422. I suppose most even of the very small people keep a cow?—They do; but there are many who do not and are retailers.

9423. What has been done for the smaller class of farmers?—I think their principal benefit would be through the advantages of the live-stock scheme and the poultry scheme.

9424. They do, I suppose, get as much benefit as anybody else under the poultry scheme?—I think so.

9425. As regards the live-stock scheme, how far do you think they get any benefit from that?—I think they derive a very great benefit by getting the service of these selected thorough bulls; there is a sort of false economy sometimes practised by small holders who will send their cow to the cheapest, irrespective of quality, but if they can get the very best and the cheapest at the same time, they are quite wide-awake enough to take advantage of it.

9426. (Chairman).—Will they send them any distance?—Yes, several miles.

9427. (Mr. Micks).—Can you tell me how many bulls are located in the Glens district, that would be in the north part?—I cannot speak accurately of those districts, I reside in the extreme south.

9428. As a member of the Committee, have you informed yourself of what has been done?—Yes; they have been distributed as evenly as the Committee could do it.

9429. Could you tell me how many are serving in that neighbourhood?—I think eight in the Ballycastle district. I am only speaking from memory.

9430. Perhaps you could get a little sketch-map showing the location of the bulls?—Sometimes our Committee find a difficulty in getting men to take up the premium bulls. In other districts we could get men to take double the number we could give them.

9431. Have you considered the desirableness of varying your schemes for these poor districts so as to bring it within the reach of these people?—As a Committee we have not taken steps in that direction, but I have no doubt if the matter comes up some arrangement would be made; the only thing would be for the Committee to purchase bulls and hire them, because we cannot find small farmers willing to go to forty or fifty guineas for a bull.

9432. That was found to be the case in the West of Ireland, and it was found necessary to modify the scheme under the Congested Districts Board.

9433. As regards agricultural instruction, what benefit do these people get?—They have the privilege of attending lectures.

9434. At what centre?—All through the Rural District.

9435. What is the centre for the West portion of the Glens and the East portion?—I cannot say, but we have an itinerant instructor working always in the county.

9436. Can you give me any idea about what time

he spends in that poor district?—I cannot. I have not the figures.

9437. You could get your secretary to furnish that information?—Yes, we can give that information, where he has been working and how long. I know in my own district we had a very considerable turn of the itinerant instructor at the start, but since that we have not had him.

9438. What is your part?—Aghalee, in the extreme south of the county, for the last three years we have hardly known that such a man was in existence except by report.

9439. You have one for the whole county; do you happen to know where he is now?—I do not.

9440. (Mr. Dryden).—Did you put into operation the suggestions he made, and is that the reason he has not come back again?—The locality has proved very largely by the information he gave us, and we felt we had a good turn, and it was thought by the County Committee his services were more required in other parts.

9441. (Mr. Brown).—I presume these northern districts that have been referred to are represented on the Committee?—Certainly they are.

9442. And they look after their own district?—Yes, each one looks after his own district, and perhaps scramble as much as possible for the teacher.

9443. (Mr. Micks).—Have any representations been made by the Committee or the representatives of these districts where the poorer farmers are in a majority?—No particular complaint has been made, the representatives have always endeavoured to assist the Committee in getting men to take these bulls, and look after the people's interests generally.

9444. They have not thought, perhaps, of the desirableness of changing the system?—I don't think they have.

9445. Have they made any complaint about the instruction scheme?—I don't think the members of the Committee have. They do report complaints such as I was referring to in my locality by the people, but these people all the same are quite willing to benefit by it. One of the greatest difficulties we find is in getting the people to know that they require instruction. We cannot get the people to appreciate in some places the instruction offered, and sometimes the meetings are very small. At present we have a coöperative instructor working in our district.

9446. I was not referring to the technical side?—But even those who complain of the itinerant instructor's lectures and advice get it in promise gradually as they find their neighbours doing it and profiting by it.

9447. (Mr. Dryden).—It takes time?—It takes time.

Sir JAMES HENDERSON, B.L., examined.

9448. (Chairman).—You are the Chairman of the Library and Technical Instruction Committee?—Yes.

9449. For Belfast County Borough?—Yes.

9450. You propose to say something about technical instruction?—I occupy an official position, representing a committee of different religious persuasions, and I thought it best to put my evidence on paper. With the object of making clear to the Inquiry Committee the position in regard to technical instruction as it affects Belfast, I wish to open this statement with a brief review of the progress of technical instruction in the city since the year 1896. On the passing of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act of 1899, the Corporation of Belfast resolved to adopt the provisions of the new Act, and in the year 1900 they appointed a committee to take charge of the various steps necessary to put the Act into operation within the city. This committee is entitled the Library and Technical Instruction Committee. It now consists of twenty-five members, of whom fifteen are members of the Corporation, and ten are co-opted members, the latter being elected to represent local industries. Associated with the Corporation Committee there is a consultative committee, comprising representatives of industrial, manufacturing, educational, and professional interests. This committee comprises forty-eight members, and it meets quarterly. At the outset of its inquiries the Library and Technical Instruction Committee found that the provision existing in Belfast

for the requirements of a large industrial community. The buildings in which the then existing classes were held were in most cases quite unsuitable for their purpose, the teaching appliances and general equipment were imperfect, whilst the population of Belfast comprising in round numbers some 320,000 persons—the number of students in attendance at existing evening science, art, and technical classes was below eight hundred. As the result of the preliminary negotiations it was agreed that the various existing classes should be merged in the Corporation scheme, and this was duly carried out in the year 1901, with the full acquiescence of the committee controlling the institutions as merged. A rate was duly levied upon the city, as stipulated by the Act of 1899, and a scheme of instruction having been promulgated by the committee, and approved by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, the programme of technical instruction came into operation in October, 1901, with the result that before the end of that session over three thousand students had enrolled themselves in the classes conducted by the committee. At an early stage in the committee's operations it was recognised that, in order to carry on satisfactorily a programme of technical instruction, it would be necessary to provide a building to accommodate the classes, and as no suitable building could be found in the city of Belfast, the Corporation decided to erect one. A site having been secured at a rent of £1,350 per annum, plans for a Technical Institute, four stories in height, were pre-

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pared, and after careful examination and consideration, these plans were adopted by the Corporation. Early in the year 1902 it was found that the accommodation provided for in the present building was not sufficient to contain the number of students who had already enrolled themselves, and accordingly an extension of the plans took place. The erection of this building to the extended plans commenced in May, 1902. The contract price for the building was £81,000. In the second session (1902-1903) of the committee's operations a further increase in the number of students took place, and a still further increase in the third (or 1903-1904) session. At this stage it was found that the extended building accommodation which had been planned was insufficient, and accordingly the Corporation decided to add an additional, or fifth, story to their institute, this extension bringing the cost of the building up to £100,000. The building as thus extended is now nearing completion, and it is anticipated that it will be opened for teaching in September of the present year. This introductory statement having been made, I can now proceed to touch upon various matters referred to in the warrant of the Inquiry Committee. Concerning upon the inquiry as to whether the provisions of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Association of Technical Instruction Committee in Ireland. That deputation placed before the Chief Secretary, &c. also, the following facts, namely, that the great growth of technical instruction in Ireland had necessitated the erection of buildings to accommodate the work undertaken by technical instruction committees, that, as there were no accumulated funds available, committees have been compelled to provide for buildings out of their annual income, and that the charges thus incurred placed a heavy load upon the funds which were urgently needed for current educational work. It was the opinion of this deputation that special building grants were absolutely necessary in order to relieve the annual income of committees from these building charges. In order that your Committee may judge how heavily these charges bear upon the income of the Library and Technical Instruction Committee, Belfast, I wish to inform you that the annual sum for interest and sinking fund on the building loan chargeable on the funds of the institute is £4,400, and the rent of the site being £1,360, makes a total annual charge of £5,760. It may be mentioned that much the larger proportion of the students attending the Municipal Technical Institute, Belfast, belong to the artisan classes, and as a consequence it is not possible to increase the income of the institute by increasing the fees. Any increase in fees would inevitably result in the exclusion of a number of students, and consequently cause the institute to fail in one of the main objects for which it exists, viz., the encouragement of technical and technological study amongst the artisan classes. The new scheme of attendance grants which has just been announced by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, will, it is hoped enable committees to increase their earnings under the head of "attendances" but by such increase of income will be required for the expansion of educational work and does not reduce in any degree the strength of the claims for a building grant. Passing next to the paragraph in the warrant which asks for observations upon the position of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in regard to other departments, especially those charged with educational functions, I desire to bring most strongly under your notice the necessity for co-ordination between the various educational boards controlling primary, secondary, and technical education in Ireland. The Library and Technical Instruction Committee are aware that for the purpose of co-ordinating educational administration in Ireland, Section 25 of the "Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act of 1899" provides for the establishment of a consultative committee, consisting of representatives from the various Boards, but we cannot find that this consultative committee has produced any effective results, nor can particular be learnt as to the deliberations (if any), which have taken place between the members of the consultative committee. This last-named circumstance furnishes an argument for placing upon the consultative committee a representative from the province of Ulster. We find, too, that the programme of instruction in the National schools is quite inadequate to prepare pupils in a suitable manner for

entrance upon technical studies, the standard of attainment of the majority of students presenting themselves for technical instruction being far below what is required if effective results are to be produced in technical instruction. We have had from time to time discussions relative to this subject, and at a meeting on the 25th January last, pointed out the mode in which it is considered the link which is at present wanting in the educational chain could be supplied. The Library and Technical Instruction Committee's views on this matter are set out in a resolution of which the following is a copy:—"This is the opinion of this committee the National Board should bring its standard of education into co-ordination with the technical instruction scheme, in order to relieve the funds of the Technical Committee from the necessity of carrying on a trade preparatory school, the expense of which should be borne by the Board of National Education, and with that object a number of trade preparatory schools should be created and equipped by the Board in convenient centres in Belfast, into which suitably-prepared boys might be drafted from the ordinary National schools." We hope that whilst in Belfast you will find it possible to inspect the new Municipal Institute. The building is now approaching completion, and it is to be opened for the reception of students upon the 30th September next. I would like to say, gentlemen, that at the Board in Dublin, at which Sir Horace Plunkett presided, I was appointed to represent Ulster, and I have got several letters from the heads of various technical schools throughout Ulster—would you like to hear them now?

4521. I think so—I propose to read only a few that they sent us. This is from Mr. P. F. Gillies, of the Technical School, Ballymena. He says:—"There is no matter of any importance which the committee desire to have brought before the Commission, but they will be glad if you will express their confidence in Sir Horace Plunkett, as Vice-President of the Department. So far as Ballymena is concerned, the Department have been good enough to meet all reasonable demands of the committee, and have been generous in their assistance towards the equipment of the school. Of course we find the funds available insufficient for the amount of work to be done, and especially feel severely the heavy charge on our funds for sinking fund and interest on loan, otherwise the scheme has worked with great smoothness in the town." Mr. R. L. Wylie, of the Municipal Science, Art, and Technical School, Coleraine, states in his letter that the following resolution was passed:—"That this committee express their confidence in Sir Horace Plunkett, the Vice-Chairman of the Department, and their general approval of the work of the Department in regard to technical instruction." This is dated the 5th June, from Mr. E. Holden, Principal of the Municipal Technical School, Newry: "Adverting to your letter of the 29th May, I am to state that the relations between my committee and the Department have always been of the most cordial character, and I am expecting that at the meeting which is to take place on this night week a resolution will be adopted expressing confidence in the Department, and asking that the personnel shall not suffer any charge. Of course, we have had our little difficulties in connection with our scheme, but we are not met with the difficulty which faces most of the committees throughout the country—namely, the want of suitable premises. We in Newry have a most excellent building for our work, which is leased to my committee by the Urban District Council for the nominal sum of £5 per annum. The scheme was first put into operation in 1902, and so large was the number of students that my committee were overpaid to the amount of £200 on account of the engagement of special and additional teachers and the necessary equipment. The large numbers still continue, and we have consequently gone a little further into debt, until we are now overpaid to the extent of £208. My committee being informed some time ago that a re-allocation of the technical instruction funds would take place, sent up to the Department asking for more money, but were very courteously informed that there was none to spare, and that we should have to economise in some way, so that we are handicapped and prevented from the natural development which should follow in successive years of our work. At the present time we are receiving a number of students from the rural districts, and my committee have tried from time to time to get a special grant on their

account from the County Committee, but have not been successful. It is very necessary that our income should be augmented to the extent of from \$150 to \$200 per annum, so as to enable the scheme to be developed by the extension of advanced science and technical classes, and a more satisfactory grading of students.

I would like to add a little respecting the manner in which we have been assisted by the Department in the establishment of a new industry, which is unique for Ireland—namely, the manufacture of sand-time bricks and artificial stone. Some two years ago I took up this matter, and after getting all the information possible to show the feasibility of the scheme, the Department were asked to carry on investigations respecting the scheme. They put the services of an expert at our disposal, and he collected and obtained a great deal of valuable information, and as a result a company has been formed, with a local capital of £7,000. The company will cheapen brick, &c., to the extent of 25 to 35 per cent."

Mr. Thos. Clarkin, secretary to Technical Instruction Committee, states—"The first and greatest difficulty in the making of the Technical Instruction Act a success, especially in the smaller towns, is the want of suitable buildings, properly equipped. The rate which can be levied for technical instruction purposes would not repay the interest on a sum sufficient to build a suitable school, even if the Committee could afford to use it all for that purpose. Again, the want of co-ordination between the National schools and the technical schools is badly felt. It would seem to be a waste of public funds to equip, say, ten or twelve girls' National schools with apparatus for the teaching of coining and laundry-work in a small town where the Technical Committee could have one good central school thoroughly equipped, and taught by a well-qualified teacher who could get no pupils up to six o'clock in the evening except pupils from the National schools. The same applies to manual training for boys, and, indeed, to other subjects." Mr. Philip A. Cole, Principal of the Newtownards Municipal Technical School, submitted the following as the views of the Committee:—"With reference to the working of the Department with the Board of Technical Instruction, your Committee note that there is no County Council representation on the Board, and suggest that each county should have one representative (not necessarily one of its members), in order that matters connected with technical instruction within the county may have the fullest consideration. The Technical Instruction Committee of Newtownards desire to record the fact that the Department invariably have replied with promptness and courtesy to all communications relating to the scheme of technical instruction in the district. It is regretted that better facilities for building purposes are not available. There is a feeling of insecurity about the temporary premises, and technical instruction is placed at a serious disadvantage by not having premises which are specially adapted to the requirements. Your Committee consider that evening continuation classes, preparing students for the more advanced work of the technical schools, are inoperative. From experience they find that the grants to be earned by such classes are insufficient remuneration for the services rendered by the teachers, and they suggest that the Department should endeavour to arrange with the Commissioners of National Education for adequate salaries to be paid, which will be independent of such grants." Mr. Moore, of the Municipal Technical School, Banbridge, in the course of his letter says:—"The Department should be placed in a position to meet the legitimate demands of such places as Banbridge, for further subjects and instruction as well as for the provision of suitable and properly-equipped classrooms; at present the technical classes in Banbridge are seriously hampered by insufficient classroom accommodation, and it is absolutely imperative that money should be forthcoming for the purpose. The Vice-President, Sir Horace Plunkett, and the Secretary, Mr. Gill, have been appealed to when in this district, and while they were most anxious to assist they stated that there were no funds at the disposal of the Department for the purpose."

With regard to Holywood, Mr. Adam Speers, Principal of the Technical School, states that he could not express an opinion or offer a suggestion as regard to what the Department had done, or was doing, on the agricultural side. He further stated:—"I am absolutely certain, however, of the great im-

provement that has been wrought in the Secondary Schools of Ireland through the introduction of science teaching of a practical kind in properly-equipped laboratories, associated with corresponding instruction in drawing. Nearly every Secondary School in the country is now provided with a laboratory, whereas, only five years ago there were only six school laboratories in all Ireland, one of them being at this school. The teaching of science in Secondary Schools in consequence of an arrangement entered into by the Department with which the Board of Intermediate Education is now made compulsory, and the inspectors of the Department supervise the work and see that it is properly done."

9433. That is a most useful way of putting the evidence—That was the manner in which it was suggested I should obtain their views, and I took some trouble in the matter.

9433. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I was rather struck with your remark, Sir James, that the new scheme for grants, while it would increase the income of the school, did not touch the necessity for building grants. It seemed to me that there was a definite relation between the two. I should like to ask you one or two questions on the subject, not specifically referring to the Belfast institution, but taking them generally. The new scheme of grants is recognized as being one which is for the more advanced instruction, at any rate, on a pretty liberal scale?—Quite so.

9434. And the calculation is that it would go a very long way to meet the cost of instruction in three advanced classes. I think that is about how it stands. If at present any school governors saw their way to carry on the work at all before the issue of this scheme, while they had their building schemes against them, they would necessarily have funds which would be set free for building purposes, when their teaching requirements are met, to a large extent, by grants under this scheme; is not that so?—There is no doubt there would be some money, but it is entirely on account of the attendances that they would secure the money, and that money should be spent more on teachers than on the rent of the building.

9435. I am assuming that it is all spent on teaching; but if so, it will relieve certain other money which the Committee must have been looking forward to having to spend on teaching?—Unfortunately, the general tenor of all these remarks I have read is that they are all in a bankrupt condition. None of them admit having a surplus, or appear to contemplate having one.

9436. I am struck by the observation of the Principal of the Newry Municipal Technical School?—He admits that they are £200 in debt.

9437. Is it customary for public bodies to work on that system; to go on really overspending their income?—I am afraid there is a great deal of it in this country.

9438. Do they apply that principle to their private businesses?—That is quite a different affair.

9439. It seems rather a bold step for a public body to take, to go on year after year carrying on work which obviously they have no money to pay for—I think so far as Newry is concerned they might have been generous subscriptions would have cleared their debts and at the same time shown that an interest was taken in technical education.

9440. What I want to come to is this. You have two sources of income from the national funds for the purpose of education—roughly two. One is that which is represented by the present grants from the Department, and another is grants in respect of attendances. Now we have got to this stage, that grants in respect of attendances are being made very liberal. Paying of attendances are being made in the form of the increased Government subvention in the form of grants for attendances ought to be a more satisfactory method, because a more elastic one, of meeting requirements than by making specific grants for buildings?—Of course you are aware in regard to this money I am now coming under this scheme that we shall have to spend more money in teaching. We fully expect a large increase in teaching expenses in Belfast in order to secure the attendances, because if the class commences with a very large number the teachers could not instruct them all.

9441. Do you anticipate that the increased expenditure will not be met by the increased grants?—We certainly hope so, for we do not intend to go into debt.

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9452. Whatever increase in teaching you are called upon to make would be met by the increased grants.—That is what we hope. We do not, however, see any way to meet the large sum of £5,000 we have to find for rent and interest.

9453. How do you propose to meet it now?—Out of our portion of the £55,000, and we have a rate of 1d. in the £; that brings about £5,000.

9454. Practically the whole of the 1d. rate is swallowed up!—That is so.

9455. Putting those two against one another you would still have your existing grants available for practically the existing teaching, leaving the new grants to cover the new teaching?—I am distinctly of opinion that if we are going to earn an increased sum under this new scheme we will have to get more teachers.

9456. But the cost will be met by more grants?—I hope so.

9457. Suppose we assume that it is, then you would be in a healthy enough position without any building grant?—It is so very problematical to know how many teachers and pupils we require, because Belfast is a great place in which to get more pupils. It is really astonishing where they come from, and we do not know whether the pupils will not swamp us altogether, even with this new scheme.

9458. But if it were on such liberal terms as to leave a balance in favour of the amount between teaching and grants?—Then of course we would use it for whatever purposes we thought right.

9459. My point is, this new scheme may do away with the necessity for the large building grants that you contemplated when your representation was first made, which was before the new scheme was published?—But we have no expectation of the new grant exceeding £1,000 a year, and our rent and interest on the loan exceed £4,000.

9460. I think you are putting rather the efficiency of the institution or the grants on a low estimate?—I do not think we will get more than £1,000 a year from them.

9461. I should like to discuss that two years hence. I hope that Belfast will make more out of it than that?—I am much obliged to you for that compliment.

9462. On the question of the Consultative Committee, you think there ought to be upon it a representative of Ulster?—We consider that Ulster bulks very largely in regard to the Technical Education Scheme. Without boasting I think we are the powers, while the number of students and other circumstances show that we have grown in for it very seriously.

9463. I quite recognise that in dealing with the arrangement of education Ulster ought to be very properly and fully represented; but do you recognise that in making that suggestion you are proposing to change entirely the character of that Committee, and the nature of the work. I do not say it should not be changed, but your proposition is that there should be an essential change made in the nature and functions of the Committee?—We fully expected that we would have been represented long ago.

9464. The Committee is a small Committee, composed practically of the heads of Government departments, so that they may discuss matters, and arrange amongst

themselves how best to do certain things; your opinion is that it has not proved sufficiently effective?—I do not wish to find fault with it, for it has done so well; but we have made such strides in technical education, that we deserve to be at the meetings and to know all that goes on at the Consultative Committee meetings.

9465. It would come to be a committee of Departmental heads. You suggest the establishment of a committee which should have higher authority than the Technical Instruction Board?—We do not wish to make too great changes, but we think Ulster should be represented on the consultative committee.

9466. (Mr. Nichol).—About the Committee, I suppose your idea is that it would be well to have, in addition to the official element, a local element which is more specially acquainted with the needs and the working of the various educational systems?—That exactly hits off the situation.

9467. You would not merely claim it for Ulster, but for each Province?—Certainly.

9468. As regards the spending of money in excess of income, I did not quite gather to what extent that proceeded in Newry?—It was about £200.

9469. Was that £200 for one year only?—I am afraid it has been accumulating since they started.

9470. It was not in one year only?—No.

9471. So it would not be really serious or heavy for one year only?—I would not say that at all. I explained that in my opinion the townspeople might have been more generous in their subscriptions, and then this debt would not have been incurred.

9472. Might it be the result of really unforeseen circumstances to a certain extent?—I think the money was spent perfectly fairly; I have seen the accounts.

9473. And it was not a deliberate excess?—No, Holden would not do that; he is a smart and capable man.

9474. Might not such expenditure be looked upon really as the strongest possible argument for the increase of means. Having endeavoured to work their scheme they found, with all possible good intentions, they could not keep within their income and do justice to their establishment?—I would say if they do not get some assistance soon technical education will be seriously interfered with in Newry.

9475. Are you aware, if a body like that keeps such expenditure strictly within income, the reply would be made, "You have not spent what you have got?—I know some cases of the kind."

9476. And that it was relied upon as an argument for not increasing the fund?—That might be so.

9477. (Mr. O'Connell).—I was not throwing any particular aspersions upon Newry for doing their educational work well, but the fact that this debt is the accumulation of several years, is rather against the management there, in my opinion, because each year the Committee knew the result of the previous year, and as a public body they should have taken some step to have the matter put right?—I think they have troubled the Department often enough for increased funds. I believe this inquiry will do a great deal of good; some people have been finding fault with it, but I think it will prove that the Department in Dublin is, under very difficult circumstances, trying to do its best.

Mr. P. J. Macan,

&c., examined.

Mr. T. J.
 Magee, &c.

9478. (Chairman).—You are a member of the same Committee?—Yes, I am a member of the Belfast County Borough Technical Committee and a representative of the County Borough on the Board of Technical Instruction. The first part I wish to deal with is with regard to the constitution of the Department. That Department consists of the Chief Secretary and Vice-President, and the Department then has the administration of the nine subjects mentioned in section 2 of the Act of 1889 in addition to such other subjects as may from time to time be given to them under section 4. Then the Department has all the powers of appointment of officers under section 5. Section 7 provides for a Council of Agriculture and two Boards. What I want to refer to is this, that the Board of Technical Instruction has no power whatever except to advise on such matters as may be submitted to them by the Department; in other words, the Department may or may not submit matters to the Board of Technical Instruction. That appears under section 12. Under section 15, in the administration of the money in County Boroughs, all schemes are made subject to the approval of the Department. This matter with

regard to counties is, at first sight, somewhat different, because schemes are made subject to the consent of the Board, and to that extent the powers of the Board, as to counties, are somewhat more extensive than the powers of the Board as to Technical Education in Boroughs.

9479. (Mr. Brown).—It is not the Council of Agriculture, the Board of Agriculture?—But then there comes sub-section 5 of the same section, and that gives the Department the power to impose conditions which in effect takes away that additional power, which I thought the Board, as to counties, had in the first instance under the Act. It comes to this, that neither of these Boards have any power of initiative, no power of administration, and so far as the Board of Technical Instruction is concerned, all it has power to interfere with is matters submitted to it by the Department. In my view, then, of the Act of Parliament, the Department is absolutely supreme, and the result of that state of affairs is this, that there is not that interest, I think, taken in the work of the Board that would otherwise be taken if there was given to the members of the Board

some power and some authority. I heard mention made here to-day of some grumbling with regard to some matters connected with the County Councils and the Board of Agriculture, that there was a "scrumble" on the part of the representatives to get what they could, each for his own district. That is the result of the present constitution. All that the members of the Board of Technical Education do is to see how much they can get for their own particular districts, and to do the best they can for their own particular districts. I think that is a very serious defect in the proceedings. What I suggest with regard to that is that the Board should have some administration given to them, and should be responsible for the working of the Technical scheme and all appointments should be made by the Board and officers be responsible to the Board.

9430. (Chairman).—All appointments!—With the exception, of course, of the two principal appointments, the President and Vice-President.

9431. I don't quite catch—all appointments to be made by the Board. On the 11th of May, in the present year, in response to a request from the Department, the Corporation, through its Technical Committee, put forward their views, and in one paragraph they state:—"That they are of opinion that the Board might be given more extended functions, and those of an administrative nature; that it should meet more frequently, and that these meetings should be held at stated intervals." If the Board were given more extended functions it would of necessity have to meet more frequently. That the present system is not satisfactory I think is amply demonstrated by one fact that occurred here in the city of Belfast, that is with regard to the establishment of what is known as the Trade Preparatory School, which met with very considerable opposition from the local secondary schools and from a considerable section of the Technical Committee, because they felt that the establishment of these Trade Preparatory Schools as the city would be to compete with existing secondary schools, and that would have been a wrong application on the part of these technical funds. There was a great deal of friction with regard to the matter, and a good deal of discussion, both in the Committee and in the Press, and also with the Consultative Committee which was appointed; we had frequent interviews with the chief representative of the Department, Mr. Blair, and at a meeting at which he attended, he advised the Committee to pass a certain resolution on July 20th, 1903, which was as follows:—"That the Committee recommend the Council to approve of the establishment of a Trade Preparatory School on the lines of the scheme set out below, and that approval be given to the proposal to grant to Local Secondary Schools which establish a Mechanical Science Section, and follow up the programme of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, a capitation grant on mechanical science pupils, this grant to be equal to the expenditure per pupil incurred by the Committee over and above the grant received from the Department." The Committee were advised to offer to these secondary schools this capitation grant, but while advising the Committee to do that, Mr. Blair was also exceedingly careful to advise the Committee that he was perfectly satisfied there was not a secondary school in Belfast that would be able to adopt that mechanical science section, and consequently they would not be called upon to pay the capitation grant. And it was on that advice that the Technical Committee of the County Borough adopted that resolution. I think that that advice was not proper advice to be given. But for that advice that resolution would never have been carried. It got rid for the time being of the opposition, it checked off the opposition by this offer to do for them the same thing as we were doing for our own pupils. Contrary to expectations, one school did adopt this mechanical science section, and spent on equipment a sum of close upon £2,000, and under that resolution they earned for the first year £250, and last year, which was the second year of its existence, something about £500 odd. That is now felt by some of the Committee to be a very considerable drag on the funds available for technical instruction purposes, although in reality it is not a drag, but the Committee feel that they should be relieved from that and be allowed to use all the money coming from the various sources to technical instruction in connection with their proposed institute. The

result of the present situation is that the Corporation propose to rescind that resolution notwithstanding the fact that this one school has expended this amount of money, and a very considerable portion of this money has been subscribed by themselves, £200 or £300 by the owners of the school, and the rest has been obtained partly from the Department and from the Technical Committee of the city.

9432. (Mr. Micks).—Is it the Corporation or the Committee who propose to rescind?—It comes before the Committee in the first instance, and then is confirmed by the Corporation.

9433. (Mr. Ogilvie).—£250 and £500 come in the form of deductions from the money otherwise available for technical instruction under your Committee?

—Yes, because our Committee has to apply those two sums to this particular school, which is not under our management. The proposal to rescind that resolution has given rise to a good deal of discussion and a good deal of friction both in the Committee and elsewhere. And I think if the establishment of the trade preparatory school, and the objections that were made against it at the time, and the advice the local Committee was getting from Mr. Blair (who was representing the Department) has been submitted to a representative Board, such as the Technical Board should be, this matter could not have arisen. We were also troubled in this city for a long time with another scheme, and that scheme was the proposal to co-ordinate our Technical Institute with the Queen's College, Belfast. I need hardly say to anybody who knows the existing state of the mind of the people, it was productive of a very considerable amount of ill-feeling, that came to nothing although it gave rise to a good deal of discussion and friction, at least it is in abeyance, to be sprung upon us some day or other in the near future. I think the Department should keep itself away from anything of the sort, and should not countenance its being discussed in the Committee. If there is to be any scheme of co-ordination—

9434. From the Department?—Well, at least from the Government.

9435. You mean not from the Government of the Institution. You said if there were to be any scheme of co-ordination of the Queen's College?—If there is going to be a general scheme of co-ordination between primary, secondary, and higher education, that should emanate from the Government, and that is the only scheme that should go before the public.

9436. (Chairman).—That would require legislation?

—Yes, I think there should be legislation. I think there should be no tinkering with co-ordination; we should not commence co-ordinating in isolated places like Belfast. With regard to the relations of the Department with the Council of Agriculture and the Agricultural Board and the Board of Technical Education. I think there has been a desire shown on the part of the Department to co-ordinate everyone and work harmoniously; there are no general complaints in Belfast as to the manner in which the Department has endeavored to carry out the work in the city. We are peculiarly situated in Belfast, more so than in any city in Ireland, and matters affecting education sometimes give rise to a particular feeling. I wish to put in in connection with the Trade Preparatory school a letter which appeared from the Principal of one of the Secondary schools in the city, the Very Rev. Dr. Lavery; it was sent to the Department at the time, and I wish to put it in as showing his objections to the scheme.

9437. You are speaking of what scheme?—The Trade Preparatory School, and spending of the advice given by the representative at the time.

9438. Would you tell us the substance of the letter?

—Your Department must not have had before them the letter in which I pointed out to the Belfast Technical Instruction Committee the grounds upon which I felt obliged to oppose their scheme. This letter was read at the ordinary meeting of the Committee on the 30th ult., and placed, I believe, upon the minutes of the meeting. I now read respectfully ask the Department to take into consideration the views set forth in that letter, as well as the arguments advanced by the Catholic members of the Belfast Corporation at the quarterly meeting on the 4th inst., in opposition to the scheme of a day trade preparatory school. The Department may rest assured that the Catholics of Belfast will loudly protest against the establishment in their midst of a sinister board-school under secular management, and without religious instruction, for boys from twelve to sixteen

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Mr. F. J.
Mages, &c.

years of age. The proposal to erect such a school in Belfast rests on the assumption that neither the National schools nor the Secondary schools of the city are capable of imparting the necessary preliminary education required for lads who intend to avail themselves of the advantages of technical instruction before being approached by trades. Of course the further assumption is involved that the Belfast Technical Instruction Committee, none of whom, it may be taken for granted, are educational experts, and the authors of their scheme for a trade preparatory school are going to introduce, with the aid of the Department in Dublin, a new and improved and thoroughly efficient system of education into this country. The authors of this ill-considered and most incoherent scheme, and their scheme, must not be allowed to throw dust in the eyes of the public by the proposal to give a capitation grant to Secondary schools under certain conditions. I was present at the meeting of the Committee, on the 30th July, when that proposal was made. I regarded it then, and I regard it still, as a bait, and a clumsy one, devised to draw off opposition to the establishment of the proposed trade preparatory school."

9599. Is that the subject you referred to before in connection with Mr. Blair's advice?—Yes, and Dr. Lavery, the President of St. Malachy's College, Belfast, was also a member of the Committee Committee.

9600. (Mr. O'Donnell).—I am not very clear about the bearings of this matter, the trade preparatory school to which that letter refers is obviously a trade preparatory school carried on under the Committee of the Council?—Yes.

9601. That is carried on under themselves?—Yes.

9602. They belong the management?—Yes.

9603. Then that is not the trade preparatory school to which you referred before as being one not under their management?—No; the other one came into existence after Mr. Blair's advice had been adopted by the Committee.

9604. So the letter you have drawn attention to is one objecting to the County Borough Committee having established a trade preparatory school themselves?—Yes.

9605. And the objection you stated before to the grant of £250, and then of £500 having been paid from the Belfast Technical Instruction money for a trade preparatory school was as to the trade preparatory school outside the authority of the committee?—Yes.

9606. Do you personally object to both?—I opposed the establishment of a trade preparatory school by the Corporation on the grounds mentioned in that letter—on the ground that it really was a movement for the establishment in the city of secular education. I opposed it on that ground principally, and because of the age at which it was sought to take the pupils, twelve years of age.

9607. Do you object to it now?—No, I do not, because they have increased the age to fourteen or fifteen.

9608. Surely not so much as that?—There was a change made in the age.

9609. (Chairman).—That removed your objection? Not altogether, but it was the best we could do, and when we established this other school, it is our school, it was established by the money of the Catholic people themselves. That takes away any objection we have to the trade preparatory school.

9610. (Mr. Brown).—Provided your grant continues?—I provided our grant continues.

9611. (Mr. O'Donnell).—You object to the payment of the grant to this other school?—No; I am speaking from the standpoint of the committee, they object to the payment, I do not object.

9612. The committee object to the payment of £500 to a trade preparatory school which is not under their management?—Yes; of course that school is doing excellent work as a trade preparatory school; I don't know anything that could be better in the way of technical education than the establishment of trade preparatory schools throughout the city; I think there might be half a dozen in Belfast into which boys from National schools could be drafted with the aid of scholarships.

9613. Your committee have put that forward, they press for the establishment of a number of preparatory schools, but they couple that up with a recommendation that the expenses should be borne by the Board

of National Education?—Yes; the feeling in Belfast is this, that a technical committee should confine itself to purely technical work, but as the matter stands they are obliged to do work that is not within their province at all; they have to train boys to enable them to avail themselves of purely technical education.

9614. But the boys in the preparatory school under the management of the County Borough Committee are boys of fourteen or upwards?—Yes.

9615. It would be hardly a proper thing that a change for education of that sort should be against elementary education?—Having regard to the existing circumstances, I think it is. It is all brought about by want of knowledge on the part of the boys trained in the National schools—the necessity for a trade preparatory school originates there.

9616. In the other trade preparatory school you informed me the boys were much younger?—I did not say that.

9617. I thought you said twelve?—I am not quite certain; I would not like to express an opinion on that; they may be under the age fixed by the Corporation scheme.

9618. (Mr. Brown).—The age limit does not apply there?—It does not apply, and I am inclined to think they are from twelve up.

9619. (Mr. O'Donnell).—I saw them, I think they are about that, they are doing excellent work. I am not concerned about the one school or the other, but I am concerned about its relation to the elementary school. These boys in other preparatory schools are drawn directly by a system of selection from a wide range of National schools in the city?—Almost exclusively.

9620. They are drawn at the stage where they finish the National school programme about?—That is so.

9621. Therefore they are drawn after they have finished the only course of study provided by the Commissioners of National Education?—That is so.

9622. Their education beyond that point ought to be a charge against some other educational resource than those for elementary education?—That is a question of ways and means, a matter of convenience. It may be more convenient to extend the National Board scheme of instruction.

9623. Now the point is this, the proposition comes to this, that the field which is set before the Commissioners of National Education, and at present stops at the completion of an ordinary elementary education, your committee thinks should extend beyond that, and into what is at present regarded as the area, or age, or standard for intermediate or higher education?—We have not put forward any statement as to how it should be brought about, but we say that most of the boys at National schools finish about twelve years of age, they cannot go to work until they are fourteen years of age, and they are wasting practically two years of their time as matters now stand. If there were established a system of trade preparatory schools they could be drafted from the National school into these schools.

These trade preparatory schools might be put under the control of the Board of National Education. I don't think anyone would mind what board had control provided the work were done, but there is a want of the work being done.

9624. Your committee think there ought to be an extension of the curriculum of the National Commissioners programme so as to secure the full utilisation of the boys' time given to study up to fourteen years of age. You think at present it stops short of providing them with something of definite practical value, and only goes to twelve?—I am afraid the answer to that would be this, that the standard of education provided by the National Board is provided for the occupation of all the boys' or girls' time until they attain fourteen years of age, but many of them attain the full standard long before they reach that age—that is the way the difficulty comes in.

9625. That is what I say—what you want is that the facilities that are afforded for subsidising education by the National Commissioners should run to the further development of educational work in the trade preparatory schools so as to use most fully the time of boys up to fourteen qualified to the full extent of the National standard, and who had not attained fourteen.

9626. (Mr. Micks).—You think the expense of this preparatory school should not be placed on the Dub-

rial Committee funds?—Should not; they don't come within the definition of the Act of Parliament.

5587. (Mr. Ogilvie).—About co-ordination, I would like clearly to understand your view. Your opinion is that the co-ordination of different grades of education ought to be a matter of national concern, and should emanate from the Government in some form or other?—I cannot see how otherwise it could be effected.

5588. Am I right in supposing that co-ordination between this new Technical Institute and the Queen's College was something different from that in this respect that somebody had an idea that you should co-ordinate the most highly-developed and advanced section of this institution with the work of the Queen's College upon the same grade?—The intention seemed to be that this would be carried out by the government of the Queen's College and the Technical Committee of their own motion.

5589. The proposal was, however, in that case—I know nothing about it, I am asking?—Of course there was also a proposal for the establishment of three additional faculties, but that would have required Government assistance.

5590. Is the proposal as to co-ordination one of co-ordinating two things at the same grade, not different grades?—The Technical Institute was not of the same grade as the Queen's.

5591. The part that it was proposed to co-ordinate?—There was a scheme with regard to what, locally, was called higher technical education, and it was thought that that was proposed to be co-ordinated.

5592. That is what I was imagining?—The scheme never came further than a discussion, I believe, on the part of the Chamber of Commerce, the Queen's College, and some other bodies, and the Corporation, and it was more in the consultative stage. The body that was opposed to the co-ordination, and was desirous that the technical school should be kept absolutely free from any connection with the Queen's College, opposed it strongly, and passed resolutions on the matter which were submitted to the heads of the Government and the heads of the Department.

5593. Supposing the Technical Institute established a successful engineering course of day classes for young men from seventeen to twenty, a course that would be quite on the same grade with the education that is given in the Queen's College, was it your opinion that it would not be a proper thing for any steps to be taken locally to co-ordinate that work with

work in the Queen's College?—No, because the people I represent are of opinion that there should be no tinkering with this matter of education. It is a matter that really is entitled to be taken seriously in hand by the Government and settled on a broad basis to the satisfaction of all parties.

5594. Of course you are aware that the co-ordination in that sense of a technical college with a general college in the same town in work of the same grade has been carried out successfully in certain large towns in England and Scotland?—I can quite see how that may be, but, as I said, there are other matters. There are local matters and matters peculiar to Ireland that prevent that being done, which I don't wish to go into.

5595. (Chairman).—I don't quite follow you; what was the nature of the action Mr. Blair advised?—Mr. Blair advised the committee, in order to ward off the opposition of the secondary schools, to offer a certain thing, which, Mr. Blair said, "I am quite certain they won't accept." I don't think it was an honest advice. We were advised to hold this out in order to ward off the opposition of the secondary schools. He said, "You may offer that with an absolute certainty that none of the secondary schools will adopt this scheme."

5596. What was it they were to offer?—A capitation grant equal to the expenditure on the boys in the trade preparatory school. I am only giving this as an illustration, and as a reason why the whole technical instruction administration should not be in the hands of two gentlemen, one of whom by reason of his position cannot give much attention to it.

5597. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I understand you personally approve of the action of the committee in the matter?—At the time the advice was given I did not know whether Mr. Blair's advice was sound advice or not. As a matter of fact I did not know, nor did the members of the committee.

5598. Now apparently did Mr. Blair?—Well, I think Mr. Blair should have known by reason of his position.

5599. (Mr. Brown).—The Department did assist the secondary school in establishing itself?—It did.

5600. To what extent would you say?—The Technical Committee of the Corporation contributed £400, and the Department, I think, contributed £800 of the equipment cost.

5601. That is portion of the £2,000 you mentioned?—Yes.

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5602. (Chairman).—You are the Principal of the Municipal Technical Institute, Belfast?—Yes.

5603. I see your name is attached to the documents the substance of which Sir James Henderson gave us. I suppose you can have that part to the evidence of Sir James Henderson?—Yes, I propose to do so. With your permission I will give evidence on the following matters: The development of the work of Technical Instruction in Belfast since February, 1901; the organisation of the Municipal Institute of Belfast; the general administration of the Institute; the lack of co-ordination in the whole educational system, and the effect of this on the work of technical instruction. I will confine myself to these points. Also with a view to economise your time as much as possible I have collected a number of documents, sets of which I hand to each member of the Committee, and I hope in that way to make what I have to say as succinct as possible. Sir James Henderson has explained to you the steps taken in the earlier stages of the Corporation's work to put the Act of 1895 into operation. I will begin where Sir James left off, and explain how the administrative details were proceeded with, and—if I may so—the progress of technical instruction in Belfast has been so phenomenally rapid that you will perhaps excuse me if I deal with this part of my evidence somewhat at length. In 1900 the Corporation, in desiring to adopt the Act, sent a deputation, accompanied by an officer of the Department, to visit technical schools in Great Britain. That deputation acquainted itself with what was being done in Great Britain, and brought back a considerable amount of useful information. During the same period, 1900, the Department arranged for the delivery of a number of pioneer lectures in Belfast by specialists in

various branches, and very considerable interest was shown in these lectures. Professor Ransome, of the Fench.

Yorkshire College, lectured on the influence of technical education on the textile industries. Mr. Taylor lectured on the application of electricity to industry, and there were a number of other lectures which made known to the public at large the work the Department proposed to do. At all of those lectures there were very large audiences, and considerable enthusiasm was raised during that period. At the end of 1900 the Corporation appointed a Principal for the Institute (the Witness), and the early duties which I had to perform were to make known to the people throughout the city what were the educational aims of the Corporation. I should explain that at that time there were several evening schools in existence in the city. There was a school of art meeting in the building in which we are now assembled, giving instruction in the day and evening. There was a working men's institute giving science instruction in the evening, a technical school giving instruction chiefly in weaving and planing in the evening, and a school of applied science. So there was one institution giving instruction in the day time and three others giving evening instruction only. These schools were at the time working under great difficulties; their buildings were inferior, their equipment inferior, and they were greatly hampered for funds. At this time the Corporation distributed out of the Borough Fund £800 per annum among the different schools. A grant from the Science and Art Department was also gained to the extent of about £500, so that we may say all told there was only about £1,400 devoted to science and art instruction in Belfast at that period. So far as could be ascertained at the time preliminary inquiries were made by the

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Committee there were in the aggregate not more than 800 evening students attending these various institutions; 800, I think, is a little above the actual number. That then in a general way explains the state of technical education in the city at the time of the passing of the Act of 1899. In order to introduce the new scheme to the public, visits were paid to works in the city, and the workers were addressed and informed of what was going to be done by the Corporation. Interviews took place with the Trades Council, representing the trades of the city, and the scheme was explained to them, and discussion took place. The various workers' trade societies were visited upon; they often indeed invited an interview to discuss the matter, and a number of introductory lectures were delivered in the Free Library, so that generally a good deal of preliminary work was done prior to the opening of the municipal classes to the public under the auspices of the Corporation. The opening took place in October, 1901. It was seen in the beginning that if the various institutions which were in existence in 1890 were to continue in existence they would be only able to do imperfect work, and, moreover, that the Corporation work would be, to some extent, hampered, so the governing bodies of these institutions were approached by the Committee, and after a good deal of discussion, always conducted in the most harmonious spirit, the whole of these bodies decided to merge their work in that of the Corporation; as a result the Corporation became the sole technical education authority for the County Borough. To explain to you the programme of the Corporation, as outlined in 1901, I would ask you to be good enough to look at the uppermost book amongst the publications before you. That was the first prospectus issued by the Corporation, and if you will turn to page 21 of the prospectus, you will see there stated the object which the Corporation set before it; the introductory statement is: "The chief object of the Municipal Technical Institute is to provide instruction in the principles of those arts and sciences which bear directly or indirectly upon our trades and industries, and to show by experiment how these principles may be applied to their advancement." That paragraph outlines the objects which the Corporation had in view. In drafting the programme itself every care was taken to meet the requirements of the Belfast industries. I may say that at this time the Corporation found, as the result of their inquiries, that they would not be able to put into full operation a scheme of technical instruction, as this is generally understood, because the young people of Belfast were not prepared for technical instruction, at least a great number were not, and therefore it was decided also to establish a number of preparatory classes. In order to put preparatory instruction within easy reach of every resident of the city these preparatory classes were located in the suburbs; and if you again turn to the prospectus you will see inside the cover a map; on that map there are dots indicating the position of these branch classes in which preparatory work was carried on. There were also four central schools—this building, the building used by the Workmen's Institute, the new building in North-street where the School of Art is now held, and the Hastings-street school. In all ten buildings are in operation at present, and the work in them is to be transferred shortly to the new building. I would like to bring under your notice the branches of instruction provided. These were certain leading departments, which you will see detailed on page 7—preparatory, mathematics, mechanical engineering, naval architecture, physics and electrical engineering, building construction, textile industries, pure and applied chemistry, typography and lithography, miscellaneous trades and industries, natural science, commercial classes, domestic economy, and school of art. Now take any one of those branches—say, mechanical engineering—you will see there the range of subjects dealt with, viz.: geometrical drawing, practical geometry, machine construction, applied mechanics, steam, iron founding, and marine engineering. In building construction you have a number of trades dealt with, builders' quantities, carpentry and joinery, plasterers' work, painting and decorating, stone-setting, and so on. Taking the other departments, the trade appropriate to each department have instruction in the science of the subjects provided for them. I might say that at this early stage, great doubt was expressed, both in private and public, as to whether the technical instruction scheme would justify the expenditure pro-

posed to be incurred, and a great deal of cold water was thrown upon the Corporation's proposals.

6544. (Chairman).—This was printed in 1901. It was. I have prepared a diagram, and I will ask you at this point to be good enough to examine it, and you will see how far the fears which were felt have been really borne out. This column shows the number of science, technical, and art students in the year before the Corporation took the work up that was 896. The next column represents the number of students who took up technical instruction in the first year of the Corporation's efforts, 3,341. In the second year the students were 5,018; in the third year the students were 4,877; in the fourth year, 5,356 individuals; and in the last year just doing it is 4,960.

6545. (Mr. Mink).—At the time of the small number there were no funds?—There were no funds, the Department had not come into operation. There is another diagram here showing the number of students in the year now closing; you will see that we have a satisfactory state of things, viz.: that the great bulk of the students joined in the opening weeks of the session. After Christmas new classes began, and there is another jump, then coming to Easter when a few new classes began there is another slight rise, but the great point is that the bulk of the students join in the early weeks of the session, and to secure this is one of the principal aims of my committee. I would like next to speak of the attitude of employers and of workmen towards the work of technical instruction. Referring first of all to employers, I would like to say that a considerable number of employers in Belfast are very sympathetic and helpful; they encourage their employees to attend classes, and a number go the length of paying all the fees or a part of the fees, and some even give prizes. Amongst these employers are the representatives of the engineering trades, building trades, furniture and other trades. Then the railway companies also give prizes for special subjects. Other employers are indifferent; a few, if not exactly hostile, are distinctly unfriendly. Further, we have much encouragement and help from a good many private individuals.

6546. Is it any particular type of manufacturer that is hostile?—I would rather say unfriendly, if you allow me. Yes. I find unfriendliness in particular cases.

6547. In particular individuals or particular kinds of business?—Particular kinds of business.

6548. In which your instruction in their opinion does them an injury?—No; I should not say that. In the cases I am thinking of the persons are quite outside the question of instruction altogether.

6549. Do you see any objection to explain that more fully?—To explain that I should have to name the employers and the trades, and I think it would be undesirable at present to go into details. I hope that the firms in question may presently see things in a different light, and I would not like to jeopardise their return to paths of rectitude by naming them now. Then I would like to speak next of the attitude of the Workmen's Trade Societies. I find the trade societies are very sympathetic and helpful in the way of giving prizes out of the Societies' funds, and, speaking generally, most of the local trade societies do all they can to encourage their members, both journeymen and apprentices, and particularly apprentices, to attend the classes. In fact, I speak with great satisfaction on the matter, and with some pride, that there is a most admirable relationship between the trade and the trade societies of Belfast. A close bearing upon a particular comparison is generally formed and organised after consultation with the members of the trade, and we endeavour to consult their views on the matter, and where we can possibly do so, we meet them in their views. Amongst the trades which have given prizes are the bakers, stone-cutters, and sheet-metal workers. I have had interviews with representatives of the telegraphists, boiler-makers, printers, lithographers, machine trades, stone-cutters, hairdressers, sheet-metal workers, grocers, and others. In speaking of the programme for the first session, I directed the attention of the Enquiry Committee to the subjects taught, and I would also like to point out that the scale of fees is in all cases rubbish. The fees do not at all cover the cost of instruction. Possibly it will have come before your notice that up to the present it has only been possible to secure grants from the Department on what are known as section and

art subjects. There are a great many subjects which we have taught which have not been grant-earning subjects, though the question of whether a subject was grant-earning or not has not been allowed to interfere with the introduction of any useful subject into the programme. The point I wish to bring before you is that all the instruction given in the Institute is given considerably under cost. Even if you take a subject on which grants are earned the loss and grant together do not cover the cost of giving instruction. The fee is generally, roughly, a sixth to an eighth of the cost of giving instruction to an individual.

9590. These remarks apply mainly to Evening classes?—Yes. The fees in the Art school are higher, and if a Day technical school is established the fees will be still higher. I would next like to pass on to the organisation of the Institute for Evening work, and the staffing of the Institute. When the Committee first put its scheme into operation a large number of teachers were needed owing to the increase in the number of students. Advertisements were inserted in the local papers, and teachers appeared from amongst those who applied. At that time every subject stood by itself; there were no honours in the Institution, and much of the work had to be controlled from the office, but as the Institute developed the Committee appointed heads of departments, and now the work is sub-divided into very definite departments, four departments having official heads; in the case of other departments control is exercised through a senior teacher. The departments that have official heads are the mechanical engineering, the physics and electrical engineering, the textile and the art. The teaching staff may be broadly divided into the permanent staff, the members of which give their whole time to the work of the Institute, and the occasional staff, comprising teachers who give instruction mainly in the evening for such hours as their services are required.

9591. And who are otherwise occupied during the day?—Yes; and in the case of trade subjects are occupied in connection with their trades. I noticed, in reading the evidence which has been given before you in other towns, that now and again you have heard adverse criticism as to the importation into this country of what are termed "aliens"; perhaps you would like to hear how many such aliens we have on the staff of this Institution. At the present moment there are 255 persons employed in the Institution. Of these 152 were already living in Belfast at the time of these engagements—I cannot say whether they are all Irish-born people or not—of the remainder there are six who belong to other parts of Ireland, i.e., who are Irishmen, amongst whom I have the satisfaction of including myself, but were not living in Belfast at the time they were engaged; that leaves 101 of the staff who are not Irishmen, out of the 255. Now I ought to tell you that amongst these seven are four heads of departments, so that really the principal positions in the Institute are held by men who come from other parts of the kingdom, and are not Irishmen. The reason for that, as I think, perfectly clear, and this diagram shows you there was no technical instruction worthy of the name in Belfast prior to the Department's Act coming into operation, and consequently there was no opportunity of men being trained locally; it was impossible to obtain local men with the training and experience required for the headship of a department in an institution of the standing of a Municipal Technical Institute. Referring to the qualifications of the members of the staff the chief lecturer of the Mathematical Department is a Master of Science of Victoria University, and a B.A. of London University; the head of the Mechanical Engineering Department is a Doctor of Science of Victoria University, an Associate of the Royal College of Science, London, and a Whitworth Scholar. The head of the Physics Department is a B.A. of the Royal University, Ireland, and an Associate Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers. The head of the Art Department is an Associate of the Royal College of Art, London. The chief lecturer of the Chemical Department is an Associate of the Royal College of Science, Dublin, and a Fellow of the Chemical Society. Amongst the other members of the staff there are many men with degrees and considerable qualifications. I may say in reference to this matter of nationalities, that it has not been raised here in Belfast; I don't think the question has ever been

brought up, certainly not publicly, and I don't think July 18, 1908. it has arisen with my Committee. The Committee's whole object has been to secure the best men for the various positions, quite irrespective of any other consideration. Perhaps you would also allow me to mention that all the teachers are paid by a fixed payment, and that there is no teacher paid by a capitation grant.

9592. A fixed salary?—Yes, and none by capitation grants. I would next like to speak of the steps taken to render the instruction given in the Institute as thorough as possible. In Belfast it was not very difficult to obtain a considerable number of students who were very eager for technical instruction, but having enrolled them we had our work cut out to make their instruction as thorough as possible, and I would like to explain the steps we have taken to secure that end. We found at the beginning many students quite unprepared for technical studies; that condition exists at the present moment but in a less degree, and one of our first steps was to insist on the students not only coming to the school for instruction but carrying out a certain amount of study at home, and so a system of home work was put into operation. There is a pamphlet before you on the table which explains this. The whole information is set out there if you should feel any further interest in it. I should just like to show you the apparatus for this home-work scheme. Here (produces), as what we call the block; the pupils write on this and strip off the sheets one after the other; this is a lined sheet for directing their writing; this is a block used for the preparation of diagrams, and this is what we call the filing cover; when the students have done worked sheets referred to them by the teacher they file them in this cover and build up a collection of home work. We also found in the early days, and still find it I am sorry to say, that a very considerable number of students fall away from classes as the session progresses. These diagrams (produces), kept for administrative purposes prove that. The vertical lines show the number of students on the roll in each class; the horizontal lines show the weeks of the session. There are a variety of reasons for the falling away as the session progresses, some reasons good and some bad, but what I would ask you to look at is the way in which the attendance drops. I would not like you to think that that is peculiar to this Institute, because I have experience of other institutions where the falling off goes on in the same way.

9593. You mean in England?—Yes. In England also the attendance falls off, perhaps not quite so seriously. I may say these diagrams are kept for every class in the institution, and so we can see at a glance the progress of every department.

9594. (Chairman).—What do the top lines indicate?—That represents the gross number of students in the class. When we know students have left we take their number off the roll and that gives the net number on roll. The Elementary classes have the more serious falling away; in the advanced classes the falling off is not so serious, though it is even there too high. When we have done our best to test the students who present themselves we still get in every class a number of students quite unable to take advantage of the instruction, and these in a few weeks lose interest in their studies and cease to attend. We have done everything we could up to the present to remedy this, but have not yet succeeded, and shall not until we first get a much-improved system of primary education; in the meantime we have tried the system of postcarding the absences, and here (produces) are samples of the postcards sent out. We have three forms, one reminding the student of his absence, the second pointing out that he has not rejoined his class, and the third telling him if he does not rejoin at once his name will be removed from the register. You would perhaps like to know something about the replies we received to these postcards during the past session. I have a summary of the replies. Many of the cards are not replied to in writing, but the students on question just resume attendance. There are many who don't resume and don't reply. The gross number were absent through illness, and a considerable number were absent owing to working overtime; and others were absent due to working out of town, and others replied saying that they had left the classes, but assigning no reason.

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5555. (Mr. Nichols).—Would that be a large number?—Those who replied to say they had left the classes form only a small number of the total I have here; but many have left and don't reply at all. The other miscellaneous classes are those duties, those reasons coming principally from the women students; others say they are attending too many classes; that, however, is a complaint our students don't suffer from greatly, for if you take the diagram shown, the number of individuals at large as compared with the number of class entries. Then others say the subject is too advanced; but whilst Jones and working overtime is a fertile cause of absence, as also is being out of town the lack of power (due to imperfect preparation) to cope with the work accounts mainly for the large decrease of students that goes on throughout the season. Amongst the efforts which we shall have to make to ease this will be to secure a better preparatory training for our students and to grade the students better; that to some extent rests with ourselves. We are doing what we can to give more laboratory and practical work to supplement the theoretical instruction. In scattered buildings and under the hampered conditions hitherto existing, laboratory work and practical work has not been possible to the required extent, but in the new building all that will be provided for. May I re-echo the hope of my Chairman that you will visit the new building, because it will put a new aspect on much of what I have said here. The instruction in the Institute, as given at present, is far below that of true technical grade. We are also trying to encourage our students to take up definite courses of study; we have some difficulty with this, but we are getting nearer to it year by year. One finds most surprising integrities in the subjects selected by students, e.g., an engineering student will take up machine-drawing, which he needs, and type-writing, which is of no real use to him. We discourage that kind of thing. The number of subjects taken per student is too small; it averages one and a-half subjects per student; it ought to be about three per student. We have yet to train our young people into right habits of study, but we are getting nearer, as the diagram shows.

5556. (Mr. Oydine).—That depends very largely upon what you designate as a subject; from this document it appears that most of the subjects are one lesson a week.—Yes; our classes meet for two hours or one hour, and a subject may be, say, machine-drawing, which occupies two hours, or it may be a lecture in applied mechanics, which would take one hour; that is a subject may occupy a student one hour or two hours per week.

5557. So each subject means one or two hours' work a week.—Yes.

5558. Not more!—It may mean, in the case of a practical subject like physics an hour's lecture, and an hour and a half's practical work; we should call that two class entries.

5559. And chemistry?—The same would apply to theoretical chemistry and practical chemistry, we should call those two class entries. If a practical chemistry class met twice a week for one and a half hours we should issue to a student one class ticket for it. The practical work, however, has not been developed to the extent it should have been, because of the lack of laboratory accommodation.

5560. How would compulsory combination of subjects do to make a course?—At present we have no compulsory combination. We hope to bring that into operation soon.

5561. And anything by way of reduction of fees to introduce elementary science of a desirable character?—We have not done that up to the present. That, however, is in view. I would next treat of the occupations of students and the sex of students. There are in the institution in the current year 3,097 male students, and 1,665 women and girls, and a very wide range of occupations is represented. Perhaps I might give the different groups. The building trades, 127; the engineering trades, 790; the textile industries, 210; painters and decorators, 81; trades involving applied art, that is, jewellers, furniture designers and others of that kind, 115; salesmen, shopkeepers, warehousemen, &c., 267; clerks in commercial establishments, 230; clerks in banks, civil servants, law, assurance, and so on, 96; teachers, assistant teachers, and pupil teachers, 59, and there is a considerable number of others which I will not take up your time in enumerating. Amongst the women

we have domestic servants, 77; dressmakers, milliners, &c., 63; weavers and women engaged in textile trades, 69; other factory workers, 150; women clerks, 214; women teachers and assistant teachers, 171. Amongst the women students we have a very large number who don't enter any occupation on their forms. These cases are usually where they are engaged at home in domestic work, or married women, or girls at home helping their mothers. I would like to be allowed here to comment on a criticism which has been made at various times, and which has been refuted, though the refutation does not receive the same publicity as the charge, viz.: that the students attending this Institute are not working-class students, and secondly, that those attending trade classes are not connected with the trade. I will take one class and run this down to show you the nature of the occupations and the position in life of those attending the class. This is the English and arithmetic class for women and girls. There are fifty on the roll, and the occupations stated are: domestic, weaver and reeler, weaver and winder, knitter, machinist, messenger girl, shop assistant, smoother, vestmaker, nurse, clerk, post office learner, and housework.

5562. (Mr. Nichols).—How many clerks?—Six. I will take a class for men, in *entirement*. Pattern-makers, pattern-maker, joiner, timber trades, shipwrights, linen trades, warehousemen, druggists, and postmen, drapery, grocery, schoolboy, message boy, baker, apprentice jeweller, land agent, and two occupations not stated in a class of forty.

5563. How many of these are shop-assistants?—There are no shop-assistants. I may take a case to show the class of person attending a science subject bearing on a trade. Let us take machine-drawing. In a class of eighty-six students there are pattern-makers' apprentices and journeymen, fitter apprentices and journeymen, iron-turners, sewing-machine makers, wireworkers, electric engineers, tradesmen, timber trade, coopersmith, yarn-dresser. Take painting and decorative work, there are thirty-eight members in the class, these are five journeyman house-painters, and thirty-three apprentices, one schoolboy, and one Island Revenue Office. Carpenter and joinery, twenty-five in the class, there are twenty carpenters, two apprentice carpenters, one clerk, and two schoolboys. Take plumbing, is a class of twenty-one there are twenty apprentice plumbers, and one assistant building inspector. The rest of the figures I have here go to support the statement I have just made as to the students belonging mainly to a class for which the technical Institute was established. The great bulk of those attending this Institute are artisan students, or belonging to the working classes, using these words in the restricted sense in which they are often used, and those attending the trade classes are in the main trade students. The committee came into conflict with the trade societies at the beginning. The trade societies said, "You shall not admit anyone to trade classes except they are workers at the trade." The committee on the other hand said, "This is a public institution supported out of the rates, and anyone contributing to the rates has a right to the benefit of the rates," and they maintained their position. As a matter of fact, however, it works out in this way that none but those connected with the trade attend the trade classes, you find an odd exception here and there but the cases are so few it does not really affect the statement.

5564. (Chairman).—What reason do you give for that?—It is the intensely practical character of the Belfast man, he does not want to learn anything that is not practical. People have so many ways in which they can improve themselves that they don't care to waste their time studying things they cannot benefit by. I don't think I need detain you longer with that part of the matter, and, perhaps, you will now allow me to proceed with some remarks about the lack of co-ordination between our various educational agencies. I would say the great defect of our local educational system is the lack of co-ordination between primary, secondary and technical grades of instruction. It is obvious to anyone who gives the matter a moment's consideration that no technical instruction scheme can be thoroughly successful unless there is an adequate supply of trained students for both day and evening classes. The National Schools do not supply such students for the day work, and

the students who are coming forward for evening work are frequently very imperfectly prepared. The main reason is, I think, that the students do not remain sufficiently long at the National schools to attain that standard of education which is required as a basis for technical work. Then again I think that the low average attendance throughout Ireland also vitiated to a very considerable extent the instruction that is given in the schools. If you take Belfast for example there are about 62,000 children on the rolls of the National schools of Belfast, and the average daily attendance is about 45,000. Now in many schools across the water 85 per cent would be considered a low average attendance, but here about 70 per cent. is the average, and there is no doubt whatever that that tells very strongly against the efforts of the National school teachers to impart instruction. Then the programme of the National Commissioners does not allow for students being trained to fit them for entrance upon technical work. For instance, the very important subject of drawing is grossly neglected in the National schools. Then there is no provision in the National schools for giving that elementary manual training which has been found so helpful in well-graded schools across the water. Possibly you are familiar with the Programme for instruction for National schools, and in the publication this paragraph occurs:—
"In the 5th and higher standards the attendance of pupils at central classes for instruction in the subjects of manual and practical instruction, including bookery and manual work may, with the sanction of the Commissioners, be counted as part of the school attendance." That, of course, is a very admirable regulation on the part of the National Board, but if the Board don't make any provision for the pupils to get such instruction, if they don't provide workshops, or arrange for anybody to give that instruction, that paragraph might just as well not be there. The pupils don't come here, we have no facilities to give instruction of that kind, and if we had to take all the National schools in Belfast we would require a very large instruction indeed. That paragraph reads well in the introduction, but so far as can be seen it means nothing. I desire you know also that the National Board permit the adoption in National schools of the junior grades of the Intermediate Board's programme in order to make a 7th and 8th standard, but that, after all, is more or less a dead letter, because each school has to be complete within itself as the school system is at present organized, and there are very few schools in which they could retain sufficient students to form a 7th and 8th standard. Many schools have a difficulty in securing a 5th standard, much more would they have a difficulty in securing a 7th, and still more an 8th standard. What is needed is some system whereby the better students of each school can be gathered together in a centre, a sufficient number of them to form a class. Again, when you have taken a student from the National school up through the 6th standard and given him instruction in the 7th and 8th standards you leave him nowhere, you don't prepare him for anything in particular, he is not prepared for a University, and the instruction does not fit for industrial work. I will endeavour further on to explain how the Corporation, through the Technical Committee, have endeavoured to meet that case.

8565. (Mr. Ogilvie).—In the evening?—No, in the day. Before leaving this question of preparatory training I would like to say, speaking now of the evening department of our work, that one of the opponents of the National Board, which it was hoped would have a most beneficial effect, but which in our opinion has completely failed to realize expectations, is that dealing with the evening continuation school programme. We consider it has failed for this reason (I am speaking of course of Belfast), that the programme is unsuited to the requirements of industrial centres, that the grants paid for instruction are too low to encourage school managers and teachers to establish classes some of the requirements are too restrictive, and some even impossible. I would support my comments about the grants being too low, and further about the basis on which payments are made being unsatisfactory, by mentioning that in giving instruction in these classes during the session there comes a point in the session when it pays to stop the instruction, even though you have not completed the course, for if you go beyond that point you

actually begin to lose. I will illustrate that by a very simple case. The way in which the grant is calculated is this. You take a given class and add up all the attendances made by individuals in that class, and you divide that by the number of class meetings, and the quotient gives you the number of units on which you receive payment. For instance, a certain class made 2,500 attendances. There were seventy meetings of that class. You divide the 2,500 by seventy and you get forty, and you therefore had forty units on which you claimed payment. That made forty times 15s., or possibly 17s. 6d., if the inspectors are well satisfied. This same class, however, continued until eighty lessons were given. The total attendance in eighty lessons were 3,000, and if you divide 3,000 by eighty you get 37½. You give ten more lessons and you get 2½ times 15s. less, although those remaining ten lessons were perhaps required to round off the instruction and complete the course. It would have paid to stop that course at an imperfect stage if one had been merely seeking to make grants.

8566. (Mr. Micks).—You never, as a matter of fact, did stop a class to get maximum grants?—No, that is not our way in Belfast. We completed the course.

8567. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You might have done it. There was nothing in the regulations to prevent it?—Absolutely nothing.

8568. (Mr. Micks).—Have you any suggestion to make on that point?—Well, I have, but the suggestions are so numerous that it would take a long time to say all that I feel I ought to say if I began at all.

8569. (Mr. Brown).—Are the new regulations open to the same objection?—They are for the year now closing, but I am not aware of any changes having been made. I put these figures before you. We keep a careful record of our cost of carrying on the work in the various classes. I have before me the record of the classes taken under the National Board for the year which is just closing. We had 746 students on the rolls in four centres. The total cost of those classes for teaching, lighting the rooms, cleaning, heating, issue of tickets, and everything else, was £202. The maximum grant that we can obtain on those classes is £410. In other words, we can only earn about a third of our expenses.

8570. (Mr. Ogilvie).—What do you mean by maximum grant—you might get a grant of 15s. or 17s. 6d., and if you could have got it at 15s. on 746 students it would have been a great deal more?—You cannot calculate all students. That is not the basis of calculation.

8571. Obviously, if every one of those students attended 140 hours, you could get the 15s. maximum grant on the work done?—Those 746 students made a certain number of attendances, and calculating what we can earn on those attendances, the sum is £202 on the attendances made, and that is all, if paid at the 17s. 6d. rate. Of course had every one of those students made a perfect attendance, i.e., all the attendances possible, it would have given us a much larger grant; but that is utterly impossible in an evening school.

8572. From the figures you give me, I take it that each of those students only made about a fourth of the total attendances?—A considerable number of those students would leave, and we would not get a grant on them at all.

8573. The average number of hours that the students attended from the figures you gave me, would be something like thirty-five out of a maximum possible of 140?—I am not sure that I follow you there.

8574. With 746 students, if each of those had attended 140 times, the grant would have been 15s. on each?—Why do you say 140?

8575. 140 hours?—Better say seventy times, because the hours don't count.

8576. Seventy meetings, but they must be of two hours each. If each attended seventy meetings you would have got 15s. for each?—Yes. Let me explain. Seventy meetings assumes each student attends three nights per week throughout the Session. I am afraid your figures won't apply. The National Board say a student must make seventy attendances, and that assumes he attends on three nights per week to do that.

8577. It depends on how many weeks your session lasts?—Take a session of twenty-five weeks. The Board say he must attend seventy meetings. He may

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attend three nights a week, or four nights a week. You could not get seventy attendances in an ordinary session, at two nights a week.

9573. Your calculation includes students who only attend intermittently?—No, but it takes students who attend regularly on but one night per week. We have obtained a relaxation of the rule here, whereby we may include under this programme a student who attends one night a week, but attains a proportionate minimum. The whole question is as involved that the figures merely lead into further confusion. A student might attend one night a week and be claimed on. He is not compelled to make the seventy attendances.

9574. The weakness of the situation, so far as these grants are concerned, is that the number of students who can attend or follow the session, as is contemplated by these regulations, is comparatively limited?—Very, very limited.

9590. And that the regulations permit of only a proportionate grant on the students who cannot do that, but only attend for a short period?—That is so.

9591. That proportionate grant is too small to give what you consider adequate assistance for the maintenance of the class?—That is so.

9592. A student who attends seventeen times would

presumably get some valuable information and do good work in the course of it, but the grant that would be available in respect of that student would only be something under 4s. 1s. You would get a proportionate payment; but take it as you please, take the student who attends the full time required, or the student who attends a proportionate time, in neither case does the grant form a reasonable remuneration for the work done.

9593. And I assume that there is no other fund available?—That is the case when these classes are carried on in the National schools by the National teachers. One sees many shafts levelled at the Department for adhering too closely to rules. Had the Department done what they might have done they could have closed all our preparatory classes on the ground that we are doing elementary teaching out of technical funds; but they have allowed us to do a work of expediency, and to go outside our proper limits.

9594. (Chairman).—That was a necessary work. A very necessary work.

[Further evidence of witness adjourned.]

On resuming after luncheon.

Mr. Edward Carr, J.P., Merville, Whitehouse, examined.

Mr. E.
Carr, J.P.

9585. (Chairman).—You represent the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society?—Yes; I have been a member of the Council, and also a member of the Antrim County Council, and on the Agricultural Committee.

9586. Then, we had some evidence yesterday with regard to the Society from Colonel Crawford. Will you tell us what you wish to say as representing them?—I really have not much to say as representing the Royal Agricultural Society. I can say that the interest in agricultural affairs has deepened much through the counties on account of the work of the Department, and I think in Antrim the schemes of the Department have done a great deal of good, especially the cattle scheme, I should say.

9587. Do you wish to say anything at all about the other schemes?—The horse scheme, we have been told, is not working quite as well in the County Antrim. Well, in some districts there have not been enough mares coming forward to avail themselves of the amount we would have allotted, but we have always been able to fill them up with the extra number from other districts.

9588. A resolution of the Royal Ulster Society was put in yesterday—I have it here?—And the pig scheme. The Antrim farmers, after giving it a

fair trial, found that the long York was not as paying a pig to keep as the local breed. I believe the Department are carrying out experiments on their farm in the County Antrim with regard to that matter.

9589. We had evidence yesterday from the Antrim witnesses on the subject, and there seems to be a considerable difference of opinion as to the respective breeds. You say the Department are carrying out experiments to see which is really the best?—Yes.

9590. Is there anything else which you wish particularly to call attention to?—I think not. I think I could only corroborate what you heard yesterday.

9591. Well, we have heard that evidence pretty fully, and I take your corroboration, generally?—Yes.

9592. Is there anything else you care to add?—I think I might say that I consider that the Vice-President of the Department should be out of Parliament. His time would only be taken up with answering questions on trivial matters if he were in Parliament.

9593. And you think it would be better that the Vice-President should be in the nature of a permanent official, independent of party and not going in and out with his party?—I do.

Mr. Patrick McQuinn, Lisdoogh, Coochill, examined.

Mr. P.
McQuinn.

9594. (Chairman).—You represent the County Cavan Committee of Agriculture?—Yes, sir.

9595. Will you kindly tell us the evidence you wish to give?—Well, sir, I was appointed by the Cavan County Committee to come here and give evidence at your inquiry, and first, sir, I intend taking up the live-stock. At the introduction of the scheme in 1900 I would say that two-thirds of the population of Cavan were in favour of it. One-third was not. They had different opinions about it. Some thought it came to assist the landlords. Others said it would increase the rent when the judicial term expired. That died away by all the estates in the County Cavan, nearly, being sold, and people became the owners of their own land. I will take up the bull scheme. For the first and second years people took it up very warmly, and we had some co-operative societies in Cavan who purchased bulls. We had the Napier Co-operative Society, and they raised some money from members of the Society, and went to Dublin, and bought two bulls that got county premiums that year, and the people were not so well pleased with the animals, and they took them back to Dublin, and sold them.

9596. What were they?—They were shorthorns, sir; and then they bought one bull. He was a white bull, and he came home, and was an excellent bull. At the time he was purchased in Dublin he took his choice between taking the Royal Dublin Society's premium or the County Council premium, and he

took the County Council premium. So he remained for that year in the county, and at that time the Department ordered shows to be held in each town, that the bulls might be selected for the second year's premium, or young bulls might be selected to fill the nominations. He came forward in Coochill in 1903, and the owner was told he passed. Let me mention that the County Committee at the time had the option of appointing a judge to assist the Department's judge at that time who was approved of by the judge belonging to the County Committee, a gentleman named Mr. Crawford, representing the Department. There were four or five bulls to be selected, and Mr. Crawford wanted to select a bull that Mr. Smith, the County Committee's judge, would not approve of. So when Mr. Smith would not approve of the bull that Mr. Crawford was in favour of Mr. Crawford rejected the bull belonging to the Society. Then the owner, Mr. Crossan, was not told, and got no notification of this, and let his bull go to the cattle at 1s. each, and when he had got twenty cows served he got a notice that his bull was not selected. The county felt annoyed, and passed resolution after resolution to rescind, but the Department refused to do so. They asked the Department to send down an inspector to inspect the bull a second time, or that he might tell Mr. Crossan what his bull was rejected for. They passed a resolution asking that Professor Campbell would come down, and tell the owner why his bull did not get a premium, because it was damaging the scheme for the whole year; but they refused to give

any satisfaction. I may tell you that from 1893 to the present day there has not been a premium bull from Cootahill to Malagh, a distance of twenty-four miles. There is one immediately at the edge of Cootahill with a man of the name of Arthur Thompson, and since that year the premium bulls that are in the Cootahill district belong to gentlemen who had them before over the Department and Mr. Browne, the landlords close round the town. There is one out in the county at Stranahan with a gentleman named Plunkett. There is another at Liscany. They are the only two that go into the rural district of the Union. We consider it as a great hardship. And along with that the Department prevented the County Committee from ever appointing a judge again. What we complain of is that the County Committee have not a representative at the sales in Dublin or Belfast to assist the farmers in selecting bulls, so that bulls could be selected by them before they are ticketed, as we believe the ticketing of the bulls increases the value considerably. We believe that when the owner sees a bull is selected for premiums he adds £30 or more to its price, and it would be better if that mode of action were not gone on with, and if the Department's judges and the Committee's went through the show-yard, and said to a man—"We believe if you purchase that bull we can pass him."

9607. (Mr. Dryden).—Can you give us any evidence of that, except your opinion?—I can't give you evidence personally myself, but I think you will have a gentleman coming here to-morrow from Cavan—General Clifford—and if you ask him that same question I think he can give you evidence about it. You can easily see it yourself. I don't think you require much evidence about a matter like that.

9608. I don't see through that, because I think if I owned a beast I would know its value whether it was ticketed or not?—Here is what I want to point out to you. Before the Department came into action at all a bull that you would buy now for £40 you could buy for £20.

9609. That is a different question. There is so much more demanded?—There are so many bulls in the show-yard. If a bull was ticketed you could buy him easily in the market. If you ask the Department to change that it will work for the benefit of the district as regards bulls.

9610. (Chairman).—This question has been a good deal considered, whether it is wise to put the ticket on before or after?—It has been a good deal considered. I would give him a trial without tickets for a while—of they tried that for a while.

9611. (Mr. Dryden).—I do not see how you would work it out?—I was showing you how it could be worked out. If the Department allows our County Committee to have their representative as a judge, he is a man that will know the bull that would be taken for a premium, and if he says to any man sent up from Cavan who gets a promise of a bull, "There is a bull that I can engage will pass for a premium," this man can buy that bull before it is ticketed.

9612. (Mr. Brown).—Suppose it does not pass for a premium?—Then I would say he should not be sent as a judge; he does not know his business.

9613. (Chairman).—He might make a mistake?—Yes, and may not the Department's judge be mistaken too?—There should be a referee.

9614. (Mr. Mike).—You mean that the County Council's representative and the Department's representative should work the show together?—No; the County Committee's representative.

9615. Walk round in arms with their list, and mark privately a bull?—Yes.

9616. (Mr. Dryden).—How would the private man know what they marked?—He would go to his County Committee man.

9617. But some might be left out, and have a cause of complaint?—How would he be left out?—There are a good deal more bulls in Dublin than would get a premium. I think that limiting bulls or giving them £15 of a premium to thirty cows is rather a small number to limit them to.

9618. (Chairman).—It is the second year's that are limited to thirty cows?—One-year-old, two-year-old, and upwards, forty cows. It means 115 a section.

9619. They get the service for 1s. 1s.—There is 10s. paid by the Department to 1s. paid by the owner of the cow. I consider for a young bull fifty cows would not be a bit too much.

9620. The 10s. comes out of the £15 1s.—It comes out of the premium of £15. And then a two-year-old bull and upwards has forty cows.

9621. You think there ought to be more?—I think there ought to be more.

9622. (Mr. Brown).—Has your Committee made that suggestion to the Department?—Several times, but they would not accept it; and, in fact, they would not accept anything. We were only just there to pass what they handed to us, and if we did not do that we might stop at home. The bulls selected are selected by the Department's judge, not knowing the locality they are going into. I listened to some of the lectures who lectured on the prosperity of other countries, and how they became prosperous, such as the Belgians and Holland and Denmark, and I always found the word-up was that the people actually made it a study to send the class of animal that suited the locality. Well, now, take one of those premium bulls; say he was bred in Dublin, or no matter where he was reared, he gets the best care an animal can get; he is put on the market in the best form he can be put on; and that bull comes home to one of the North-Western or North-Eastern bulls of Cavan. You might as well take a baby out of Belfast, and bring him into the country, and throw him on a bleak hill, as to take one of those premium bulls and put him in a wild country with rocks and heather. Doesn't your own sense tell you that one of those bulls is not the best for Cavan?

9623. (Mr. Mike).—On the hills of Glenties?—Yes, one of those dolls of bulls up in Glenties. Why do you not allow the County Committee to select bulls from Longford or Roscommon?—I myself since 1894 have gone down to Croghan, Longford, Boyle, and Elphin, and bought a bull every year of my life, and brought them from fifteen to seventeen months old, and from £14 to £18 per animal, and bring them home to Cavan or Cootahill. Some of those bulls for twelve months have got as many as 250 or 270 cows, and I know in Belfast challenge any man to say that there was ever these named cows from any of the bulls. I fed that bull on crushed oats and grass; in the winter time with hay and cold water. What we are striving time after time to induce the Department to do, by resolution, is to induce them to take at least three or four bulls from Longford. They may not be in the hard-bred though they are pure-bred bulls. They are of a good milking strain.

9624. (Chairman).—What breed are they?—They are Longford and Roscommon short-horns. I can't say the Roscommon cattle would not suit the County Cavan as well as the Longford. The Roscommon cattle are larger cattle, but the Longford cattle all over are good beef cattle.

9625. (Mr. Mike).—Would you pick them in Glenties?—Well Longford or Edgewoodstown are the best towns to buy bulls in. You get a thick good bull. As far as the bull scheme has gone, I think that all the Department change their way and allow the County Committee some little say in the management of affairs it will not go on in the way it started. Secondly, and coming to the nomination of men—

9626. Before you leave the bulls, how many are there in the County Cavan?—Thirty-one.

9627. (Mr. Brown).—How many of those were taken up?—In some of the divisions they are not taken up at all. They are nearly all taken up, but they are not located through the districts. They are all in the centre with the gentlemen.

9628. Is not that the fault of your County Committee?—It is not.

9629. Don't they select the persons who are to get the bulls?—They won't buy them or give the price. But Croghan's bull was disallowed by the Department. Everybody got afraid and say, "If you are not a friend you had better leave it there."

9630. The persons who have bulls are selected by the County Committee?—They must be selected, but they are not the first choice.

9631. (Mr. Mike).—How many bulls from Bannagh to Blackhall?—I don't think there is one at all in the rural district of Enniskillen.

9632. That is where the poorest people are?—Yes. The Enniskillen premiums are given to Cootahill, because there are short-horn breeders there such as Mr. Bowler. They have a bull always on hand, and if any person takes up a premium they have the bull there the whole time, and five bulls are within three miles of each other—Alick Brown's, Mr. Bowler's, and

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Mr. Adams's. Arthur Thompson is immediately beside Cootshill. There is not a premium bull from that to Mullagh in the County Sligo. I think the premium bull in Bowney belongs to a gentleman of the name of Mr. Griffith, who has a large farm. He has a premium bull at Belmullet, and I think he got the premium on his out-farm in Bowney district. Putting to the mare, the Department select twenty mares. They give ninety nominations to mares at £2 each. We wanted them to give 180 at £1 each, and they refused to do so. And the reason why we asked the Department to do that was this. The owners of the stallions who got £2 nomination fee for a selected mare in the district will let that stallion outside for £1 or 25s.

9625. (Mr. Brown).—What breed would the sire be?—I could not tell you, but they are weighty heavy horses. I suppose they would be Shire or Clydesdale. We thought it was not unfair to ask the Department when the owner of the stallion would let his mare to outside mares for 25s., we did not see that it was unreasonable to ask them to give nominations to 120 mares, and it would benefit a lot of the poor of the district; but they refused to do so.

9626. (Mr. Dryden).—Did they give any reason?—They never gave any reason. They referred you to some rule in Appendix C, or something. They keep themselves very safe; they will give no reason. We did not think it was any way unfair to ask them to do that, but they refused to do it. Another thing we thought was not fair either. They are giving subsidies to some stallions, and to some they are not, and they would not tell us the stallions they are giving no assistance to, though I know of my own knowledge there are stallions in the County Cavan who are getting travelling expenses.

9627. (Mr. Micks).—Would not the secretary of your Committee be able to tell you?—If the Department told him privately they have sufficient wit not to tell us. He might incur some displeasure. I know we could not get the information at the County Committee. The next portion of the scheme that comes in is the agricultural portion. That has been a great success; that has been a marked success, and the people, everyone, has taken to it, and I think I can account to you why they took to it so much. First, there was £50 set aside by the County Committee for experimental plots, and when the agricultural instructor came out at first he was not received as warmly as the other portions of the scheme were; but he insisted on them to try measures and went through the district, and had certain experimental plots and showed them the measures, and told them the nature of the soil he was treating, and everywhere he had his experimental plots and had a great success; and after five years this year was the greatest success of any of the years he ever had, and he got more people to attend his lectures on that and on cattle feeding; and when he showed them that in foreign countries anything they got had to be raised by men who had to make a living and profit out of it he made a great impression, and the people of the county have laboured a third more this year than they have for the last fifteen years. I think there is a lot of it due to his manner, because last year there were splendid crops of oats and potatoes, and we say he was a great success. And I think the whole cause of it was the few pounds of money that was set aside for experimental plots. I believe that. I think the poultry was a success, but the only thing that is about the poultry is this that when the people went the whole length of taking the advice they got from the instructor they had no better market than they had the first day for their fowl or eggs. The only increase which increased the value of the eggs was this. She taught them the grading and the cleaning of the eggs, which did increase their value 1s. 6d. per hundred.

9628. They are getting a higher price?—Yes. This last year we have got a better instructions. She is doing a lot of good. She is teaching the people to get away from the old methods of working the butter with their hands and using the boards, which is a great improvement; but, like the egg industry, we have no market for the butter. We are not getting a farthing more in the market than for inferior butter, for the

reason that merchants coming in there are buying butter of every colour and kind, and taking it home and having it manufactured on butter tables in their towns. They are able to give it uniformity of colour and do a hundred and one things with it that make it look well; but whether it is as good as clean home-made butter I am afraid it is not. But what we want, and what is the unanimous resolution of the County Committee I represent, is that we want the Department to consent that we will have a judge appointed by the County Committee to accompany the Department judge in everything that is done, but there is no use, the Department tell you, in framing a live stock scheme. They are assisted by an Advisory Committee. I know two men that are on that Committee—Mr. Lough was one of them—and they told me for a fact that they had not one single thing to do with the framing of the live stock scheme. They got it there in an iron shape and there was no bending in it. Mr. Gordon comes to us every year, and the summer that comes out is to attend to assist the Department inspector in framing the different schemes for the year 1905-07 or 1906-06; and when we go there and ask Mr. Gordon have we any power to alter the scheme he says "No, you cannot do it; you may make suggestions for next year."

9627. (Continued).—That is when it is too late. Not at all. We asked to have a man associated in framing the scheme, Mr. Vincent Smith. We hold, and we are sure of it, that men in Dublin, or Cork, or Limerick, or Meath, or any of the rich counties don't know the requirements of the poor hills of Cavan. It is men actually that see it, and are looking at it, and know it that would be the best judges of the animals that that climate suits. I suppose it is the soil scheme throughout Ireland that will grow oats and potatoes and the different things. I think oats and potatoes take the same kind of ingredients out of any land, but when it comes to the live stock scheme we want animals to suit the locality and not a dog.

9628. A short-horn bull is rather a big do-it-for-you; I will get you a five-year-old that you would be was not a yearling. But worse than all is this, that if any gentleman in our district succeeds in purchasing a good short-horn bull, and he is brought into the county, we have an American agent coming round the following year to give a good price for that animal and take him away out of the county.

9629. (Mr. Dryden).—Or South America?—I don't know where they come from. I know there is a Mr. Hughes has his agents through the county to pick up any good bull; and we passed a resolution asking the Department to stop that. If a bull is purchased and the man gets a premium he should be compelled to keep that animal in the district. When there is a good bull he is taken away from you, and you get a play-boy next year. But if one is going to improve the breed they will allow that man to come then and give a fabulous price for it and take it away. That is not fair.

9630. (Mr. Micks).—About the agricultural instruction, that you like thoroughly?—That has been a success.

9631. What rural districts does the agricultural instructor give instruction in?—In all.

9632. Have you one man for the whole county?—We have an agricultural instructor for Cavan.

9633. How long has he been in the rural district of Cootshill?—The first year he stopped a month, and the second year a month. He would stop about a month in each district and go right round.

9634. Do you know whether he has been in the Enniskillen portion of the County Cavan?—I know he has been at Ballyconnell and Derna, and they refused to take instruction the first year.

9635. Was he in Glenties?—Yes, for he told me himself, Mr. Reeves, that he stopped three weeks out in Glenties some country hotel.

9636. What year was that?—I suppose in 1905.

9637. Does he go there regularly?—I don't think he went to it last year. I think there are some districts that would not take advice from him.

9638. And that is one of them?—I will not say it is; I don't know; but General Clifford would tell you tomorrow, for he borders on that county.

9639. (Chairman).—You appear for the Monaghan County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Chiefly with reference to the agricultural department.

9640. Will you tell me what you wish to say on the subject. I have the observations of the County Monaghan Committee?—Yes, I have seen that.

9641. Do you wish it read?—No. I just wanted to say that I think the Department are doing a great deal of good in the county. I have only been there four years, and I think when I came there first they were very slow in taking advice from the people of the county. As the last witness said, when any suggestion was made they always referred to some rule, but as regards Sir Horace Plunkett, I don't think they could get a better man to fill his position. It took some time to get the Department into working order, it being a new body, but now I think it is doing a great deal of good in the county, and in the rest of Ireland as far as I have seen. But there is one thing I think ought to be impressed upon them, that the Agricultural Department ought to always consider the small farmer more particularly than the larger farmer. I would like to impress that upon them, because in some parts of our county the farmers are very small, and it is not easy for those men to take advantage of the various branches of the scheme.

9642. How do you think the small farmer could most effectively be reached?—There are a good many ways in which he can be reached. One thing is to supply him in some way that is available for him, and the Department at first have tried to help us in that way. They have used their influence with the Great Northern to lower their freight from Clones, where there are any amount of line tillas, into districts where there is no line, and the Company have asked us if we would guarantee a certain amount of line in the year, which we have undertaken to do. In Monaghan there are 7,300 farms of between five to fifteen acres, and these men are in an awkward condition unless something is done for them, unless they use their farms as market gardens.

9643. (Mr. Mickel).—Are not a great number of those men beyond any means of communication, which would prevent them from using their farms as market gardens?—I don't think so, if they endeavored to take all the information they could from the agricultural instructor, but they are not in a position to grasp the thing. They cannot take notes of his lectures. It would be much better, to my mind, if the instructor went about more from farm to farm and collected a few farmers in a district together, when he might give a lecture in the evening, and give them some practical knowledge on the farm and show them what is wrong with a certain field.

9644. (Mr. Dryden).—Has that never been done in your county?—No. He goes about, but he only gets one man and the time is wasted.

9645. In other counties it is done?—I have not heard of its being done here. I know it is done in parts of England. He does not get the men together here, so that they could begin to ask him questions and get knowledge on the subject.

9646. (Chairman).—Have you demonstration place?—Yes, we have a good many, and they have been very fairly satisfactory. When I went there first we had a very good instructor, but unfortunately there was a difference with the Department about over-expenditure, and he left and went to Scotland.

9647. (Mr. Brown).—Do you ever hold meetings on these experimental plots where the instructor could attend and explain to the farmers?—Yes, we have; but I would like him to go at different times of the year. For instance for hay-making, that he should go and show them in showery weather how to dry their hay, and in hedge-cutting time he should show them how to lay their hedges.

9648. (Mr. Dryden).—It would be difficult to dry hay in showery weather?—Well, there could be tripods put up where they could dry their hay.

9649. Is not your instructor under the County Committee?—Yes, but unfortunately we can't always secure that. He comes down with rules from the Department and we cannot interfere with them. I think it would be advisable to give the County Committee a little more say over the instructor. At present

our instructor has gone to Belgium under this far scheme. The Department asked permission to have him, or at least appointed him, on the visiting body, and then asked our permission. The last witness was speaking about premium bulls. To my mind the system of choosing bulls for premiums is not on very good lines. For instance, if anyone in the county has a pure-bred shorthorn bull that he has reared, he can't get a premium for that bull unless he goes to the expense of taking him to Dublin or Belfast. There is no means of getting him examined at home. He must go to Dublin or Belfast, and then he is not sure that he can get a premium. I showed a two-year-old bull to Belfast. He was looked at by two very good judges, as good judges, I think, as there are in that class of animal—Mr. Cameron of Caledon, and Mr. Marshall of Stranraer. He said the Department ought to be very glad to get the chance of such a bull. When he went into the ring Mr. Gordon went up and asked the man who was holding him what age he was. He said a two-year-old. Then my bull had to come out without a premium. I did not want to sell him, so I took him home. The entrance for the premium alone was 15s. If I intended him for sale the entrance fee would have been 12s. I think it is hardly right that Department officials should be the sole judges. When men are brought from Scotland and England to judge the best bull in the show I don't see why they should not be made use of to take our premium bulls. The officials of the Department go about giving the premiums, with a catalogue in their hands. They are not only judging the bull but judging the owner; at least there is that little liability. I think if they judge for premiums they ought to judge a beast on its merits. There was a good deal of complaint last spring at the Belfast show, that the judges, after giving premiums, were given a part of honour in the sale ring where they could buy bulls, for some reason or other, which upset the arrangements of a good many Monaghan men that came to buy bulls. The bulls that they had their minds on to buy were bought up by the Department officials who had those men out of the market.

9650. (Mr. Mickel).—You mean the officials of the Department bought?—Mr. Gordon was sitting up in the window in the sale yard and buying up these premium bulls, and a good many grumbled at that.

9651. Anybody else might have bought?—Certainly.

9652. (Chairman).—Do you object to the Department buying bulls?—I certainly do; at a public sale. It is to the detriment of the men who have possessions. If a man has got a good bull in his own country he can't have a possession unless he takes it to Dublin or Belfast, and then there is always put before him that it would be much better to sell it and buy another one. I would like to come back again to the instruction in the lectures. About the Ballisodare school, it seems to me that they have gone on rather too expensive lines. I think the prospectus sets forth that the young men are to be educated to become farmers in Ireland; and in these districts, seeing the farms range from ten to thirty acres, I think it is rather ridiculous to take a boy and put him on a 400-acre farm, give him a beautiful house to live in during his training, and then send him back to a fifteen or twenty-acre farm to live in the house he was brought up in. It leaves his mind a little bit higher than he has been bred up to, and instead of keeping him at home it is giving him ideas that would take him off to America or somewhere else, and he will give up the idea of farming a fifteen or twenty-acre farm of land.

9653. (Mr. Dryden).—What would be your remedy?—We have a technical school at Monaghan. It is only a winter school. The conditions the boys have there are quite ample for any boy brought up on a small farm. He has a little culture to himself. His meals are plain, but good and clean. He is taught also habits of living. But unfortunately we have not a model farm; the Department will not allow us. We have fourteen acres of land round this school and we have sent deputations up to Dublin to ask them to let us have this model farm, without result. At first we were promised we would have it, and then got notice to say it could not possibly be done.

9654. (Chairman).—I don't know whether you have had your attention called to this explanation which

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July 19, 1906. Professor Campbell gave of the practice, when he was examined?—I think I did read something about it.

9655. Well at question 1796 he explains. (Reads answer.)—Yes; I remember that now. I think that could be obtained to a certain extent if a strong judge that comes to pick out the cattle were made use of instead of the Department officials. Now the official walks about with a catalogue among the bulls and picks them out as he likes; and then goes and sets up in a window to get full advantage of everything. There ought to be some little change in it; the judges who grant the premiums should not have a catalogue, but judge the bull on the merits. I think when a judge comes across to distribute the prizes there should be some advantage taken of his judging the premium bulls.

9656. (Mr. McKee).—That he should mark the premium bulls as well as the prize bulls?—Yes.

9657. (Mr. Brown).—We had a complaint from the last witness that even the Department's inspector was not acquainted with the wants of the county. Would not that apply still more strongly to the English judge?—Yes; but let the man that is buying the bull for the district be the judge.

9658. Instead of those judges from the other side? I thought you were suggesting judges from the other side?—Let him pick out the animals of proper physique that we should have to breed from, and let the man that is going to buy the bull pick out the bull that would suit his district.

9659. He can do that now?—But if this gentleman that gives the premiums to the bulls then goes up and bids against him he has not the same advantage as the other has.

9660. (Mr. Dryden).—These two things ought not to be expected, because even if Mr. Gordon did give the premiums he could bid at the sale?—Yes, but at the same time, when he has selected them he then goes and bids.

9661. I don't see the connection?—Well, I am assuming the existence of the committee. When two or three bulls went into the ring and a man said "There's a bull that would suit me," Mr. Gordon begins to bid, and that man gives it up at once.

9662. But what connection has that with the fact that he passed the bull?—Well, people will take these ideas. People do get these ideas.

9663. I don't understand. Perhaps I am dull. I don't see the connection. The fact of whether he passes it or does not pass it makes no difference?—At the same time I can quite see what they feel. There is just one more little point about that. With regard to the appointment of instructors and inspectors in the county, the Department imposes on the County Committee that no local person should be taken for that appointment; but the two gentlemen who judge the premiums for the Ulster districts are both Ulstermen.

9664. (Chairman).—That is a different thing. They have laid down a rule that he should not be in his own county?—One is just a scale larger than the other.

9665. (Mr. Brown).—On the same principle you would exclude Irishmen from acting in Ireland?—Yes, if you make it still bigger.

9666. (Mr. Dryden).—Then you would have to depend altogether on Canada?—You would not certainly mention England I know.

DR. JAMES CAMPBELL HALL Monaghan, examined.

Dr. James Campbell Hall. 9667. (Chairman).—Would you please say what you wish to call attention to?—I am glad to say I have got no fault to find.

9668. (Mr. Dryden).—You represent the same Committee? The same Committee. On the whole I approve of the work the Department has done since I have been in Monaghan. I have taken a great interest in the farming classes, and the work generally about the country, and I see the greatest improvement in the people since the Department started. Formerly any agricultural work was looked upon as more or less degrading. Young people tried to get off the land as quickly as they could, to get to be shop-boys or young ladies in shops, nurses very often; and now I am very glad to say that is not so much the case. Young people are now discussing agricultural problems, and bringing their minds more to bear on agricultural work than they did formerly. Instead of looking on farming as degrading, and only in for slaves, they now begin to bring their minds to bear on it, and take a greater interest in farming than formerly; and I attribute that to a great extent to the fact that all the different instructors have been doing their duty as far as they can. The domestic economists in our county have done great work. They have been teaching the young girls how to keep their houses clean and tidy, which, I think, if it can be carried out, will work wonders for our county. I think the duty surroundings have had a great deal to do with the numbers that have left our country from time to time, for when young people leave their own homes and go more to the towns and see what cleanliness and comfort are, and go back to their miserable surroundings, they get disgusted and get out of it as quickly as they can. But the Department is, to a great extent, remedying that. I would suggest, that considering Monaghan is a county of small farms—there are something like 7,600 farms under fifteen acres, and about 7,000 more between fifteen and thirty—if this rural work were carried out more in the horticultural line it would pay better, if we could extend the horticultural work, and try and get the farmers to go in more for small fruit-growing. And even in some instances I don't see why they should not grow flowers for profit; for some of the localities are very well suited for that purpose. Fruit-growing has greatly increased, but I think a great deal more might be done; and I would suggest that the Department should choose out farms in certain districts and raise them more or less experimental farms. I do not wish the Department to have model farms, but

more experimental farms to find out what sort of small fruits suits best the small localities; and in time I don't see why the co-operative system should not be brought into work, and these small farmers might join to send their produce to the markets.

9669. (Chairman).—I suppose those farms should be something between a model farm and an experimental plot?—Yes.

9670. How would you have them managed—would you have a Departmental officer in charge of them, or put in an ordinary tenant-farmer under advice?—Yes, to farm under advice. Get some farmer about and say "Are you willing to be guided by our instruction, and we will help you to market your produce?"

9671. Taking the farmer, as he is on the land?—Yes; not taking up the farm at all, but merely trying to get hold of the farmer and get him to work under the instructor.

9672. The same thing has been suggested elsewhere?—Then the county shows are doing a great work. They have encouraged fruit-growing in our county.

9673. Do you consider fruit-growing to be profitable?—I do, very profitable.

9674. (Mr. Dryden).—You have an instructor in horticulture?—We have; a very good man, too; but I don't think one would be enough for the county. We should have one for north Monaghan and another for the south. Another very important thing that the Department should help in is local shows. I think they should give us a larger grant; because they are certainly a great educational institution, and, judging from our county show, which is now five years in existence, it has done great work, and it has gone on increasing year after year.

9675. (Mr. Brown).—How much do you allocate for show purposes altogether in Monaghan?—We collect about £250.

9676. How much does the County Committee give?—The County Committee and the Department give £250. We collect £250 ourselves.

9677. I am glad to see that, notwithstanding the difficulty about the bulls that we have been told of, that in the County Monaghan you are able to fill up all the premiums?—I think they are all filled up. I don't take much interest in the live-stock.

9678. Was the premium awarded of £25 taken up?—Yes.

9679. (Chairman).—Do you farm yourself?—No, I go in for rose-growing and fruit.

5680. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Monaghan County Committee of Agriculture. Will you kindly give us your views?

(Mr. M'Kenna).—Kindly state in what part of the county your parish is.—My parish lies between Castleblayney, Carrickmacross and Ballybay, South Monaghan.

5681. Do you know North Monaghan?—I know it well. Perhaps properly to set about the matter it would be well to consider the present condition of the county of Ireland. Your inquiry, I think, is to see how the Department in its constitution and administration suits the condition of the country. Now I am to look at the condition of the country the first thing that strikes me is my own parish. I will take the civil parish, and I wish to give authority to prove the accuracy of my statement. In 1851, according to Lewis's Topographical Dictionary, the parish had 15,328 inhabitants. In 1896 it had at least 19,400. At present it was not one-third that population. And we learn, on the same authority—an excellent authority—that the highest portion of the parish is 900 feet above the level of the sea. Our streams are flowing down with a great incline, and on one of those streams there were 14 mills, in one of them 300 hands employed.

5682. (Mr. Dryden).—What sort of mills?—Linen mills, linen bleaching mills and flour mills. That thing is all changed. There is hardly a mill there now, except for flax-cranking. I attribute that very largely to the difficulty of paying railway freight, sending goods and bringing goods from a distance.

5683. (Mr. O'Connell).—At what time were the mills there?—In 1850. It is in Lewis's Topographical Dictionary, page ninety-six and ninety-seven. They are now gone. All round me I see the old mills in ruins. The County Monaghan has suffered a diminution in population from 305,000 in 1841 to 24,000 in 1901. That is the case nearly in all parts of Ireland. There are six counties in Ireland, leaving out the county boroughs of Drogheda, Galway, and Kilkenny—and those six are Clare, Limerick, Cork, Tipperary, Galway and Mayo—that have lost on the average a quarter of a million each. In 1841 they had two-and-a-half millions, and now they have one million. In 1841 they had a population two-thirds the size of Canada, and now Canada has ten times the population of those six counties. Rural Ireland has lost 4,300,000 and Urban Ireland has gained 200,000. The question is, does the present Department suit that condition of things? I think not. I am sorry for saying that. I would like to say a friendly word if I could, but I must be candid. The Department is too arbitrary in its constitution; it is autocratic; it is not elective; it is not appointed by the people or their representatives. The conventional boards have the same fault. I am sorry to say. Take for instance the Agricultural Council, consisting of 69 members—two from each county, sixty-six; and the Department, thirty-three. Well, now, I am sorry to say I cannot agree with that arrangement, and I will tell you my reasons why, though I do not like to say anything that would appear as wrangling. Take Wales or Scotland, and supposing that a Department appointed by the Government, as this is indirectly, appoint a third, and supposing Wales (they are very Liberal in politics there and in Scotland the same) if a blend of the Conservative element and those appointed by the Department outweighed the others, say that 5,000 votes outweighed 30,000, you would create 30,000 slaves by this kind of misnaming. It is possible by this arrangement to have the people altogether powerless, and the same is the case with regard to the Agricultural Council and the Board of Agriculture.

5684. (Mr. M'Kenna).—Before you give from the Council of Agriculture, you are assuming that the persons appointed by the Department are appointed on political grounds?—Oh, no, I am not assuming that exactly. I am assuming what would happen in the natural course of events.

5685. Have you made any examination of the names of the persons appointed?—Oh, no; it is the principle. It is the principle I object to. The reason may work out very fairly for a few years, but if the principle is there, it is the principle I object to whether this can be done and may be done at any time. I am sorry for saying a word that is unpleasant to anybody, but I want honestly to give my

observations. The Advisory Board can only advise, but there is this feature in it. There might be a sort of scandal. The Government, I am sure, would not like it, or the Department, to have these Councils and Boards advising in one direction and they acting in another. But that is saved by the composition of these boards. Take the Agricultural Board. It consists of eight members, or, let me say, twelve, two appointed by each province and four by the Department. Suppose that you take two from one province and add them to the four and the casting vote of the chairman, there is a majority, and the same is the case with regard to the board of twenty-five. There is eleven on the majority. You don't claim one-third there, but they have a majority without that.

5686. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you know whether they have ever divided in that way in the past?—Ah, no, it is the principle I object to. The principle is there in its constitution, and also it is arbitrary in its administration of the work and arbitrary all through. These are the reasons why I object to its constitution and to its administration. The best way to prove the arbitrary acts of the administration is to give a concrete case. Now this is well shown by our minutes. Only a few days ago there was at our County Committee a question with regard to horticultural instruction. We had a bee-keeping instructor who went to Scotland. He had a salary of £76 a year, and the horticultural instructor has £104, with £50 of perquisites. The horticultural instructor is a good expert at bee-keeping, a very zealous, earnest man, and he is in the same district where the bee-keeping becomes could be given. He is quite competent, and the Department admit that. I should add too that in the County Fermanagh, the adjoining county, with a smaller population and a smaller valuation, the joint salary of the bee-instructor and the salary of the horticultural instructor are enjoyed by the same person, and the salary is £200 and £51 of perquisites. The County Committee of Monaghan, admiring this young man, the horticultural instructor, appointed him to the joint office and agreed to give him £150 for the two, that is £50 less than Fermanagh, and £50 less than the two when in single hands. The Department would not give more than £120, and the county was not willing to lose his services, but the Department would not yield. We cannot understand why in Fermanagh they allow £200 and in Monaghan only £150, and I have no hesitation in saying that the Monaghan instructor is not second to the Fermanagh man.

5687. Did they give no reason?—They gave no reason. They are exceedingly arbitrary in their administrative capacity, and this was a new rule they made, and we know from the best jurists that it is contrary to good administration to make any arrangement except in accordance with a well-known law that is promulgated. An arbitrary (per dict or decree of any sort that way is admitted to be contrary to good management, good government and the feeling of the people. Here is another instance. There was a lace instructor in the County Monaghan, and the County Committee passed a resolution to appoint a lace instructor for the county. Then they fixed on a certain young lady who was, they believed, competent, and the Department would not acknowledge her competency. There was a second appointed, and thirdly and lastly, they fixed on a lace instructor who had been previously appointed under the Department in the County Galway, and the Department refused to sanction her too.

5688. Because she was not qualified?—She was approved of in Galway, and left because she was sick. She was appointed in 1901, and worked there for a year and a half, and last year the Monaghan County Committee appointed her and the Department would not accept her. What they said was this, that she was principally when in Galway, engaged at raised lace, and that fine lace work was required for Clones and Monaghan. When she was appointed in 1901 it was on fine lace she was examined, and it was the same thread, and one of the best pieces approved of in 1901 was sent up and another equally good, yet they refused to acknowledge her competency though she was approved of previously. That is what we can not understand. We consider it very arbitrary, and we can find no remedy for this. They appointed in

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Monaghan an agricultural lecturer and he was exceedingly incompetent. He went to one part of the county. I was at a committee meeting in Monaghan, and there were complaints from people of that district of different professors, very upright men, who would eat off their hand rather than do an injury to anybody. They complained of this lecturer. It was in the vicinity I lived in that the lectures were given. I was asked and I said I did not hear his lectures, but I knew those who had written, and had the greatest confidence in their veracity and uprightness. The Committee wrote to the Department and the Department sent down an inspector to go to the lectures. I remember one night in a school convenient to where I reside there was a lecture to be delivered, and there was an inspector there. I presided, and I introduced the lecturer and did what I could to encourage him on, but the lecture was a sad failure, and at the end I did not like to say anything. It was a showery night, and all I said was that as it was a showery night better proceed homewards. The next thing was that the Department sent down word to the committee that the committee if they liked might dispense with his services.

9680. It was the County Committee selected him?—The County Committee had to take him or leave him. The Department says, "We have two or three, you can take one of them." This young man's services were dispensed with, and we got no one that year. Again there we had an excellent agricultural lecturer, but he disagreed with the Department. He was from England, and his successor was this young man, and after this young man left the county we had none that year. It is for this reason that I pronounce the Department arbitrary in its get up and its construction and administration. Besides, they seem to be very partial in some parts. For instance, the County Monaghan contributes about £1,300 by the rate. The Department gives £1,300. In some parts of Ireland they give 400 or 500 per cent. for every pound contributed by the locality. If there is £1,000 contributed by one locality they give perhaps £4,000 or £5,000. We object to that. We think these should be some fixed arrangement.

9681. (Mr. McKenna).—Can you mention the counties?—All I know is that there was an inspector down at the Monaghan Committee, and he was asked was it true that in some places such as Belfast, and perhaps Cork, they give 300 or 400 per cent. more in proportion to the local contribution.

9682. Are you speaking of the agricultural side?—I am speaking of both together. He said no, but he admitted afterwards there was 400 per cent. more given to Belfast in proportion to what they contributed locally.

9683. Do you take Belfast as an instance?—It was mentioned on this occasion—Belfast and Cork—and he admitted that it was so. I remember that distinctly. We think there should be some fixed arrangement, or the law defined.

9684. Of course you are aware that there are County Boroughs, and the Act of Parliament itself divides a sum of £35,000 amongst these County Boroughs in proportion to population?—I remember now I heard something about that.

(Chairman).—It is not done by the Department at all. The Act of Parliament does it.

9685. (Mr. Brown).—There is a sum of £35,000 set apart for technical instruction, and then that is divided by the Board of Technical Instruction between the County Boroughs and the rest of the country, and what goes to the County Boroughs is given to them in proportion to the population according to the Act of Parliament. Are you aware that that is the fact?—I may say just now that I remember.

9686. Does not that do away with your objection?—It would shift the blame from the Department for that arrangement; it would shift the blame from the shoulders of one to the shoulders of another. I think the country should get more. The country has lost 4,000,000, and the towns have gained 200,000.

9687. (Mr. O'Brien).—To Parliament?—Yes.

9688. (Chairman).—I thought you objected to the County Boroughs getting too much?—No, sir; but to show the disparity. In my opinion none of them get enough. I consider that, for these reasons, the Department, in place of being arbitrary in its constitution and administrative power, should be elective in its constitution, and definite with regard to the law. I think, too, it should be elected. There is the question of *de jure* and *de facto* with regard to

a judge and jury; the judge defining the law. I think the Department should not satiate itself with defining the law and leave the elective portion to decide other things. I am afraid it will come worse until that is done. The country, at the start, grumbled at this because they were becoming poor and depressed, and thought any change should be for the better, but I think the more they are of this the more they will not be satisfied unless there is something like an elective method. With regard to teaching, I think the National schools should give more facilities in rural districts for agricultural instruction, and in urban districts for technical, and let the Department be able to confine its work to real technical instruction, and I think, too, as far as possible, that instruction imparted by the officials of the Department should be rather practical, except what is necessary in theoretical instruction to explain practical lessons. There is a hollow space existing to this effect that Intermediate Education is for the middle-class people, and the University for the wealthier classes. In my judgment University education should be specially for the poorer classes. The rich man is able to take care of himself; and I think, under any free government, were things progressive feeling, this condition of things should exist, that the well-conducted talented son of the poor man in the country should have free education in the University if his talents and good conduct fit him for it. I think we should have more University education, that all classes of people could avail themselves of, and even the present Government, or their predecessors, admitted that in the Scandanavian, where they instituted a University for the Scandinavians. Unless you have talented people with cultured minds, who have ability to turn enterprises and establish factories, and so forth, you cannot have the country prospering. The reason for the depopulation of the country is the want of employment, and this thing is checked you cannot have the condition of the population of Ireland changed; and, for these reasons, if you have the facilities for University education that you would have the talented men that can assist in establishing and developing the industries of the country; but unfortunately the wealthy classes of this country do not take an interest in it. Till lately there were a great many absentees, and they invested their money in South America and in the Valley of the Euphrates, and not in their own country. There should be some arrangement in future—legislation by which some should be obliged to give some for factories.

9689. I am afraid we are going a long way beyond what we are to inquire into. We are inquiring into the methods of the Department, and what you are saying is much outside that?—Excuse me, sir; I will obey your ruling, but some days ago evidence was given before this Committee very misleading and prejudicial to myself and my friends, and I considered that while travelling over the same ground, I would be permitted to correct it.

9690. Do you think the people in your parish have been improved in any way in the last five or six years?—are they in any way better off?—I don't think there is much improvement effected yet. The Department, I think, has done some good, but if you contrast that with the expense it is difficult to find it has done much good.

9691. In what respect do you think they have done good?—They have done some little good in the life of poultry, but that is a small matter. And lambs is a small matter.

9692. Poultry is a very important industry for poor people?—It is, but I meant to say this—it would be a long time in bringing back the population of the country. I admit it is some good, but the Department, if contrasted with some other department that should be in its place, keeping another department out, has done harm rather than good. Moving about in my district I meet men who say that the Department is worthless, and others say it is a good thing. They both mean the same if you understand them. One man means that the Department is worthless as at present constituted, and another man says it is good because he thinks the idea is good. Some witnesses here who have been kindly treated by the Department, approve of it and others condemn the principle of the Department. There was some evidence that affects, to some extent, myself, and partly directly and indirectly the Committee I represent. For instance, some days

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ago Mr. Starkie made a remark with regard to the primary schools. He said that it was useless to ask the teachers to teach agriculture, inasmuch as the teachers did not understand the names of vegetables even. I could not understand that at all. He made another remark. He blamed both managers and his predecessors for building so many schools within the last twenty-five or thirty years. I wish to meet that, up to, and until recently, they could not get sites for schools.

9702. We have nothing at all to do with the National Board—except to correct that as it reflects on us. The evidence was given before you, and I wish to see it. He says there was a great waste of public money in the last twenty-five years in building schools. I will take concrete cases from my own parish, and you may learn hundreds of similar cases from them. When I went there seventeen years ago there were three schools in the parish. My predecessors could not get a site, and built two of those schools on sites given in the 18th century for churches, and another came into their hands by accidental means. There were two other districts in which no site could be got. About sixteen years ago I hired a cottage house and spent £200 on raising the walls and giving it a better appearance. Then I had to treat with the tenant who had a judicial lease. By some action of the law I had to appoint the teacher as caretaker, in order to save the school, and that went on all two or three years ago when the townland was sold and the Land Commission gave a site. That is the reason we had to build so many schools within the last twenty-five years although the population was going down. Yesterday Mr. Andrews made a remark that is not quite accurate, and one of them was even misleading. He said he would not approve at all of the County Council's General Council having any management such as the Department now has, and his reasons were that seven Northern counties had withdrawn from the General Council. That statement is not quite correct. It is misleading. There nine counties in the North, and six only withdrew. Then there is another thing I would like to say. He is a decent man I am sure. I know he is from his remarks and all that, but I must explain it in this way. There are two of the other counties—namely, a strange thing, although the County Councils are advocates of Imperial Government in place of Local Government in those counties, the majority of the people of the householders, are for Irish Local Government in the widest sense. The two

counties are Fermanagh and Tyrone, and I will give you information of how this is managed sometimes. Now at the time of the late Extension of the Franchise Bill in 1879 or 1880, counties were divided, and there was a Commission came to Fermanagh to divide the County Fermanagh. Now, Fermanagh is a county about forty-eight miles long. One party asked for division in this way. Down at Belleek, at the Northern end of Fermanagh—

9703 (Mr. McKel).—Has this any reference to any of the Department's schemes?—It has not, exactly. Well, I will be brief. It means this, that although in the County Fermanagh, and in Tyrone the County Council is for Imperial Government rather than Irish Local Government; that happens by some accident in the administration of the law and some division of the counties. In 1881, on the Parliamentary Register of both divisions of Fermanagh, in the North division of Fermanagh there were 350 of a majority, and the thing was changed in this way. At that time the Legislature intended all householders to have a vote. That was the intention of the Legislature, but some judge decided that any house that is let to a tenant, if the tenant lives on the premises and that there are twenty other tenants in the house, and he has his door and looks like the other tenants are roomkeepers in the eyes of the law.

9704. (Chairman).—We are going a long way from anything we have to do with it—I was stating that this statement might prejudice the Commission and I wanted to show it was misleading. The next point was this. He said there were democratic days, and that the Department was the most democratic form of Government ever founded in the United Kingdom.

9705. We know your view, that it is quite the reverse of democratic. Precisely. Then I would suggest, if it be within the scope of the Inquiry, that there should be an attempt made to start industries, as I was saying, some legislation to enable companies to be formed, and land to be given by the occupiers and the landlord, and also facilities given if possible in the way of borrowing. For instance, in this country you cannot borrow for anything of the kind unless on the principle of "Jointly and severally." That scares small farmers. In Denmark they can borrow \$4,000 and \$5,000 on individual security and it will frighten nobody, each being responsible for only a small amount. The banks in Denmark are required to give this accommodation. If that were embodied in some legislation here companies could be formed.

MR. THOMAS MONTAG, D.D., CHAIRMAN.

9706. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction of Monaghan?—Yes. To start with, I have no question or fault to find with the Department or their way of managing. Of course they are a bit arbitrary. It is very difficult to satisfy all classes. There is no question about it, they have done some good, but not at all in comparison to the amount of money given through the county, at least not at all to the advantage of the small farmer that we understood this Act was for when passed. I have been a member of the Monaghan County Council, and we would never have taken the benefit of the Act were we not told that it was for the benefit of the small struggling farmer, and that man has actually got no benefit whatever, at least he has got no benefit in comparison with the money that is expended.

9707. Those two principles are rather wide apart. Do you mean no one has got a benefit?—Probably two people out of 100, or three individuals, have reaped some benefit.

9708. You mean to say few people have been reached?—A man who keeps a poultry station may derive some benefit, but the people who frequent that station have got no benefit, because the breeds they have got may not be fruitful, and the wrong breeds are certainly being supplied.

9709. (Mr. Brown).—Is it not for the Committee themselves to decide what breeds they will have?—No, they are over-ridden.

9710. (Chairman).—Do you suggest that if the Committee want a black mirror they send down a white legless?—No, I did not say that.

9711. (Mr. Brown).—But I should like you to explain that. How has the judgment of the County Committee been over-ridden about poultry?—The poultry supplied to the stations has not given satisfaction.

9712. Your statement was practically that if the County Committee selected a particular breed they were over-ridden by the Department?—If they were not over-ridden the Department was not able to supply the proper stock.

9713. Have they been over-ridden?—In some cases I think they have. They may not have been over-ridden in that particular point.

9714. Then are we to take it that they have not been over-ridden?—I cannot bring definite evidence, and probably nothing else will convince you.

9715. (Chairman).—I should think not?—I have not documentary evidence, but I have heard that people have not got proper breeds.

9716. (Mr. Brown).—Do you think that the committee having selected one breed, the Department was over-ridden?—I cannot say. I think we will pass down another?—I cannot say. I think that the on to something of which I can give proof. The lectures in the county are attended by very few, and lectures in the county are attended by very few, and only by the youth of the county who have nothing else to do. They derive no benefit there. I heard one of the lecturers appointed by the Department on one or two occasions, and I think I would have paid somebody to take him away. It was all very good for the poultry farmer, but to make money the lecture was not the thing. The lecture on farming was something similar. The only thing I think the Department could attend to more would be the fruit and vegetables, and any lectures they give, if they want.

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on a farm and demonstrated and showed a man how he had done wrong it would be good, but to carry on a lecture for an hour it was money wasted. We had a good lecturer first. He was really too practical a man. He was an Englishman and went on the farm and did this, but he ran contrary to some of the officials in Dublin and he could not stay. What was wanted by the Department was a man to lecture, not to show the people. He was doing both, and had to go away.

9717. We were told by another member of your committee that it was a question of money!—I don't think so. I refer to a man named Percival. He was a lecturer we had.

9718. That was the statement, that it was on some question of money he differed with the Department!—I have it from himself that he was too anxious to turn it on a practical basis. He lectured round and worked well. Whatever it may be he gave satisfaction to the farmers while he was there. And another thing that I might observe too at that the part I represent, you could not call them farms. They are only small little plots of six or seven acres, and for a radius of five miles it was more a manufacturing district than a rural one, and it should be considered by the Department that it was more like an urban district owing to the linen factories, that were once in it, and water power which is still useless to a certain extent.

9719. (Mr. O'Griffin).—For linen?—Not for linen, but for bleaching and dyeing. And there were 300 people employed there, and the people have got into the habit of having some little industry. But whatever business you give in the country, the people want something in the shape of wages. I myself put a statement before the Department, and I thought they might have given it a little consideration. I largely deal in a commodity that could be manufactured. I deal in the manufacture of leather. I offered to supply a house and have an outlet beyond a doubt for the stuff produced if the Department would aid me. They replied that they would aid so far as advice, but their advice in this matter would not be anybody wrong, because they would advise on a matter they knew nothing whatever about.

9720. (Chairman).—You didn't want that advice?—Certainly not.

9721. You wanted their money!—I wanted neither one nor the other, and could live without either.

9722. You wanted their assistance!—I asked for their assistance to teach the people how to manufacture knitted hosiery. Instead of that they went to the Continent. They sent to the Continent one of their officials to ask some manufacturers to remove their plant to Ireland to start the making of gloves. They thought it a very absurd proposition. I suggested to the Department if they ever wanted to raise any industry in Ireland, let them send four or six boys from each county to the Continent to learn a trade after they had been at school here, and come back with that knowledge, otherwise they would be groping in the dark.

9723. (Mr. O'Griffin).—Do you say your business was leather manufacture?—No, I buy raw skins, and send them to the Continent to be dressed there and send them to Grenville to make into gloves. Here is a return of two months' trading (produces).

9724. Do you get the leather from the Continent?—No, Ireland produces the raw material. We have to send the skins to the Continent to get dressed, as there is no technical knowledge here. With all their technical schemes they have no technical knowledge of dressing or dyeing skins.

9725. Your suggestion to the Department was that they should give instruction in the manufacturing of leather in the County of Monaghan?—Yes; that they should just give the proper instruction, which could only be done by sending a few youths out of the country to learn the business or bring men in to teach them. It is a new business.

9726. I think youths have been sent from Limerick and Cork to schools in London and Leeds for the purpose of learning the manufacture of leather!—That would be the heavy leather. They could learn tanning at home in Limerick.

9727. The Limerick people seem to think that it was necessary to send them away!—What I speak of is glove leather. The raw material is produced in Ireland.

9728. Perhaps there was some difficulty in getting a teacher!—None whatever.

9729. I thought you said the youths should be taught!—To teach the youths you must get a practical man who knows his business.

9730. He must be a teacher!—You may call him that.

9731. (Chairman).—What would you call him?—A practical teacher. What is the use of teaching anything with a book or pencil?

9732. (Mr. O'Griffin).—Quite so. That is how it would teach. But it was a teacher that you suggested that the Department should supply!—But they would not do that.

9733. (Mr. Brown).—Did you want a particular person employed?—Oh, dear no. Any person that is a competent man to teach any subject with a view to the business being proceeded with, not to stop it there when they are taught. There is no use in giving them technical knowledge to leave the country with.

9734. (Mr. O'Griffin).—You made a very valuable suggestion to the Department. I am sorry I am not yet clear what the suggestion was. As far as I have got, it is that they should employ some one acquainted with the manufacture of glove leather and bring him to the County Monaghan and ask him to do something which you say is not teaching!—You may put what name you like on it, it is practical teaching. We have been accustomed to nothing but lecturing.

9735. Lecturing may be teaching, but teaching includes a great deal more than lecturing. In what way did you suggest he should give the instruction?—We will get away from the word "teaching"!—As an inquiry of this sort I really think I could not give you that information. It would be a technical business.

9736. Certainly, but the point is what was the suggestion you made to the Department?—That if they could supply a competent teacher, a practical man that had learnt the business, to go through observation and teach a youth and turn him out a fully completed workman in any one branch, and they have never yet done in our district.

9737. If they did that, what then?—I think the business would continue. It is a sound brain when you take into consideration that every article connected with it leaves the country and must come out manufactured.

9738. You don't know whether they had a difficulty in securing a man, or difficulty in getting facilities for him to continue the instruction—how long ago is it since you made the suggestion?—About three years ago. It was the committee and not I made it. And also with reference to knitted gloves, which were manufactured by the same people. They would do nothing in that class, only teach and leave the matter there.

9739. (Mr. Brown).—Then they were willing to teach!—They were willing to send an instructor to teach them in six weeks how to do a business that it would be very foolish to expect could be learned in six months, even if it was not learned in twelve months. Of course I dropped it. And it would enlighten the committee on railway rates if you look at those railway returns. There is a parcel of profit, 2 cwt. 2 quarters. From Waterford to Castleblayney it costs 6s. 6d., and the same goods will go from Castleblayney to Brussels for 5s. 9d. It is impossible for any industry to flourish if the railway rates are not reduced.

9740. (Mr. O'Griffin).—That might have been one of the reasons for stopping it!—No; I would not give them the credit for going so far. In our part of the country what the people want most is fuel. They are accustomed to bogs, and the turf is running out, and unless the people get something in the nature of fuel they will be very badly off. The committee asked the Department to send down an engineer to look after the minerals that are in the locality, and they did send an engineer, which I considered a very good thing. I went myself at my own expense with that engineer for a week. He went walking round the country, a very capable man, but it was impossible for him to make bricks without straw. He was only walking the land, spending his expense. I am sure he made and sent a report to the Department, and that is all we heard about it. We asked them to make some bearings for coal when it had been formerly, and they answered they had no money to supply a diamond drill or any other apparatus; if they did that local effort would come in then. But they could

not expect local people or small farmers to invest or go into anything till they see whether it is there or not. They might supply at least one diamond drill for the whole of Ireland and get a competent man to see whether this coal or other minerals were there.

9731. You say the man was competent?—He was.

9732. Had he not available the Geological Survey of Ireland?—Then why would they send a man at all if that was available?

9733. They sent him to meet the views of the committee?—If they had it already in the Department why send a man?

9734. Don't speak like that. It is not quite fair to me or anybody else. I put it to you that this man had available before he left the office the records of the Geological Survey, and naturally he would prime himself with all the information available from that source, and he would then use his eyes and knowledge and whatever methods a mining engineer would employ in order to find if there was any support for the idea that there had been existed some valuable outcrop of coal?—I saw what the report was, very favourable, that there was coal, but it dropped there and nothing more was done.

9735. (Chairman).—I think you are making out a very good case for the Department. What did he report?—That there seemed to be a fair appearance

of coal being there, because older people who lived there saw it lifted there.

9736. (Mr. O'Brien).—The question not only was whether there was coal there, but whether it was worth while to work it?—If he could know that by walking over the ground, the man who walked over there before when the geological survey was made would also know.

9737. No; it is a different thing altogether. One was making a scientific survey, and the other making an economical application of that?—At any rate we felt he was expending the public money.

9738. At your own request?—At the committee's request. They objected to any such farce. They thought he should come with a practical design of using what was there.

9739. And digging for it?—No, but of following it up.

9740. You considered the report was—?—Fairly favourable.

9741. That it was worth while following up, and some commercial company going into the business?—Quite so.

9742. Then I suppose we were waiting for the company to be formed?—Yes, and you will wait a long time. We asked them to get a diamond drill, and there would be something practical for a company then to go upon.

Mr. HENRY MCCARTHY, Portlerry, examined.

9753. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Down Committee of Agriculture?—Yes, sir.

9754. Will you just tell us what you have to say?—You had the members of my County Committee yesterday. I don't entirely agree with the evidence they gave. I think that the Department have too much theory; they don't consult local opinion; that is my impression, and I think they are not representative enough of the people of the country; that is another objection I have. Our chairman, Mr. Andrews, in his evidence objected to the suggestion that had been made that the General Council of the County Councils should have something to do with the control of the Department. I take exception to that remark of Mr. Andrews. I think they should, because they are nominated exactly by the County Councils the same as the Agricultural Council is. We nominate two members to the General Council and two members to the Agricultural Board. I think Sir Horace Plunkett is doing his best as far as his lights will lead him, but I think he is overruled too much by the head office. I saw Mr. Andrews referred to Sir Horace Plunkett's book. I never read the book. He evidently had a double dose of original sin, as you said about something else, when he attacked both the Catholics and the Protestants. I don't see what that had to do with the Department. But the Department is not in touch with the Agricultural Councils in its administration. When we prepared a scheme in the first instance, the first year Mr. Gordon came down from the Department and said: "Either take it or leave it; that is our scheme, and you will have to either take it or leave it." And last year when the scheme was being prepared Dr. Hinchiffe said the same thing. In my opinion the two members who are representatives of the County Councils are not enough.

9755. You mean on the Council of Agriculture?—Yes, on the Council of Agriculture. We have only two, and I think the Rural Councils, who are more in touch with the working of agriculture, should be represented. The members of the County Councils are generally gentlemen and merchants and are not farmers, whereas the Rural Councils are farmers.

9756. Is not the General Council of County Councils appointed by the same body that appoints its representatives to the Council of Agriculture?—Not the same persons.

9757. They are appointed by the same body?—I stated so. The General Council of County Councils are appointed by the same body and may be the same persons or not.

9758. Would not your objection to the Council of Agriculture also apply to the General Council; are they not elected by the very same bodies as the Council of Agriculture?—They are.

9759. Why do you object to one and not to the other?—I say that the members who are appointed are not sufficiently representative.

9760. That is your own fault?—Not representative people; the Rural Councils are because they are a smaller body.

9761. Then the Rural Councils ought also to appoint the Irish General Council of County Councils?—I admit you are right there. They should both have representation and our local bodies should have greater power in preparing the schemes necessary for local needs. About the technical side, we have a lecturer, Mr. Auld, and a lecturer in sprigging, Miss Irvine. The objection that Miss Irvine has is this, that she cannot get labourers' wives to attend. Her lectures are doing good but they should be extended to dress-making and shirt-making, and the Department should supply material to schools where the poor children are. I think the lectures from Miss Irvine's standpoint are doing good.

9762. (Mr. Brown).—What schools do you refer to? National schools. Mr. Auld in his wood-work is very good in theory, but by the time he has conducted the six weeks' course over the county and is back again to the centre they have forgotten all about it. One lecturer is not enough, but we only get £200 for the whole County Down for technical instruction; that is almost useless for technical instruction in a county with 165,000 of a population. I want to give you some information about the fisheries, that is the sea fisheries. I understand £10,000 is earmarked for fisheries under the control of Mr. Greene and his staff, and the Advisory Committee, of whom we have no knowledge in the County Down, but if we get our fair proportion, there are eleven maritime counties in Ireland, we should get £800, but the entire amount we got since the Department came into existence was £150 for the entire seven years, and that was absolutely useless. We promoted a pier at Portlerry, and had a visit from an official who promised a third of the cost up to £700; we had plans prepared that would cost £8,000, and we thought we would be able to erect the pier, but we found out in the course of progress that the County Council could not spend more than £200 on the pier by an old Act of William IV. We modified our plans to make it £1,000, expecting the Department to give us £700, but they would only give us one-third, so we had to cut it down to a stump of a pier at £350.

9763. (Mr. O'Brien).—Do you go on adding to it?—It is a matter for futurity; it was the only thing we could do. The County Council have power to spend as a pier, but they are controlled to £300 for a new pier.

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9764. Is it old now?—I suppose once it is a day in existence it is an old pier. The Department say they spend money on a steamboat, the *Hedge*, for the purpose of keeping travellers off the coast. I have never seen that *Hedge* off the County Down coast. I was out on the 24th of July, and I saw two steam trawlers waiting away on the Sunday and they were not two miles off the coast. They are supposed to be three miles away, but I am told by the people that they come in at night time and travel off the shore.

9765. (Mr. Brown).—Has any information been given to the Department about that?—I am sure there has. I don't know whether there was any official letter from any county about it, but it should be their business to find it out.

9766. (Chairman).—People should tell them!—They come as far as Cranford Point. The *Hedge* discovered a trawler off Drogheda and prosecuted her.

9767. (Mr. Brown).—Why should not the people locally give the information to the Department?—I think they should if the Department would give any effort to it. It does not take £10,000 a year to keep that up. I understand the provisions of the Act are that they are to supply boats for deep-sea fishery and nets. I think they have two inspectors at present taking evidence about trawlers off the coast of Donegal. Mr. Greene came down and paid one day's flying visit. There was a meeting of the fishermen to meet him in Portaferry, and they wanted some money to buy boats. Mr. Greene said they could get loans under the old Act, not under the Department, by paying 2½ per cent. and giving security. A poor fisherman living in a hovel could get no security. They should take the case of Ballinure where the Baroness Burdett-Coutts came and gave the fishermen loans without any security, with the result that she was paid off every penny, and it is now a prosperous town. I think the Department should have followed in her line. The Congested Districts Board have promised the fishermen of the Glenties that they will supply them with money for boats, and I don't see why the Department should not follow the same line. Colonel Crawford and myself and other members were asked to get information for preparing a scheme connected with the fishing business. They asked us to prepare details. We would not have the same information the Department would have, and the Department, I think, should launch a scheme for the County Down. There is fish-curing, it has done an enormous amount for Scotland; there is herring-curing; there are oyster beds and fish tanks, and they should consider the transit of fish, making material for sails, net-making and boat-building; these things should be considered by the Department.

9768. (Chairman).—You think the Department ought to divide the £10,000 and give so much to each county?—I think that would be only fair.

9769. (Mr. O'Leary).—What about those purposes which are general—the £200 you would claim to be your share—for the construction of piers and harbours, supply of fishing boats, imparting instruction in fishing and encouragement of industries, investigation into the habits of fish, methods of fishing and supervision, and protection of fishing grounds and bylaws relating to fishing; they would have to keep a certain proportion of the £10,000 for those purposes in the county as a whole?—I don't want all that. They spend £66,000 of the whole grant on salaries.

9770. (Mr. Brown).—Out of which grant?—The entire grant for the Department.

9771. Out of the Department's endowment?—Out of the entire grant they get. For twenty-one years Government subsidised the Scotch fisheries and they have a Scotch Board there. Scotland is divided into twenty-six districts, and there is an official over each district, and I think the same thing should be done in Ireland. The Government for twenty-one years subsidised it in Scotland with the result that 40,000 barrels were sent from Scotland last year and only 10,000 from Ireland.

9772. (Mr. O'Leary).—What form did the subsidy take? A Government grant for fisheries in Scotland.

9773. Applied in what way, boats or piers?—I don't know what way; I presume the Fishery Board administer it for every requirement of the district.

9774. It might correspond with this £10,000?—Exactly the same way, but they get it for twenty-one years. There are 240,000 people working in fisheries in Scotland and only 25,000 in Ireland. I know the Department built 320 boats, but they got them all

built in Scotland; the Congested Districts Board built boats in Ireland. They could have got them built in Portaferry or Portlough or Belfast, but they got them built in Scotland.

9775. Do you know if they took evidence for them?—I do not know. In 1904 the value of the fish taken in Scotland was £2,307,000 and the value of the fish taken in Ireland was £268,630, and we have as large a maritime coast as they have.

9776. Do you know whether you have as many fish?—I think we have.

9777. That is one of the things the Department have got to investigate; it is of great importance to discover if the fish are there?—To prove that they are there, the first man that comes to Anglin and Kilkeel; you will always find Scotchmen following the gold.

9778. How long do they fish there?—From April to July off Anglin and Kilkeel, and I fancy they go to the mackerel fishing then. I think there should be a Board responsible to the people, as in Scotland, over the Fisheries, and that would have a good effect.

9779. The Board is not responsible to the people in Scotland. Ireland is the only place where agriculture or anything else is under a Board responsible to the people. The Government does it absolutely!—Then I apologise for having made that statement, but I read it somewhere. Now about the live stock scheme; I think the scheme carried out by the Department is exactly on the lines of the scheme carried out by the Royal Dublin Society for a long number of years. I think that did no benefit whatever to horse-breeding, and I will tell you my own opinion of the reason: they don't get the proper class of sires; they get weekly thoroughbreds; he has a very good pedigree, but is not the horse to breed a high-class animal, and the only horses that will be in demand shortly will be a high-class hunter or a horse for heavy draught; the medium horse will not be required because the motor cars will drive him off the road. You want to aid the small farmer, and the small farmer cannot breed a hunter. I think the better plan would be if you could enable farmers to keep a sound young mare until she bred three or four foals, and if you take my advice I would say take the entire money for horse-breeding and put it into the bull scheme; the bull scheme is an excellent one, but we have not enough bulls. We have only sixty in the County Down, and in my parish there are only two bulls confined to thirty cows each, and we have 500 or 700 cows in the parish.

9780. (Mr. Brown).—Did the County Committee ever agree to abandon the horse-breeding scheme?—No, I asked them to do it, but I could not get them to agree. They are enamoured of horse-breeding, but I will try again, and perhaps I could say you support me!—With regard to the bull scheme we are utterly opposed to the mode of selection. You must select your bull at Robert's sale-yard, and the enhanced price when he gets a premium goes into the pockets of the breeder; between the auctioneer and the breeder they get the profits; the man has to give £15 more than the value of the bull to get him. The County Committee held a meeting of the breeders of the County Down and unanimously agreed that the bulls should be selected in local centres. They appointed a committee, and I was on it, to see Sir Horace Plunkett, but we found out we had to pay our own expenses and we did not go. It is a hardship on a man if he has a well-bred bull that the people like, that he has to send him to Belfast to be selected for the premium of the Department, and I would be very glad to see that remedied and ceased. I have not seen a scheme for the improvement of sheep-breeding in any part of Ireland, and I think that is a scheme that should be taken up. The farmers through the County Down are largely in the habit of going to Scotland to buy ewes to breed from, and they have discovered a class of ewe, the Wensleydale ewe, and he is the best ewe with the hardest ewe. They discovered that for themselves; that should naturally have come under the knowledge of the Department. I think there should be a sheep scheme. Regarding the pig scheme I think we are going to drop it; it is no service. We tried it at the Avonham farm. We bought six of the old Irish and six of the Yorkshire, and there was practically no difference in appearance between one and the other when finished off.

9781. No difference?—In weights and appearance.

9782. Did you get them examined by an expert?—We did; his opinion was that there was no difference.

9783. In quality?—Oh, I don't know about that; you mean about the quality of the bacon; I don't know; he did not give an opinion on that.

9784. (Chairman).—That is rather important; is it not?—That would be rather important; I don't know; I have not been at the meetings for some time.

9785. We were informed he did give an opinion?—Mr. Rabb would know. That fair scheme, I think we will drop it; it is no use to us in County Down. I would not subsidise shows, for I don't think the poorer class of farmers compete there at all.

9786. (Mr. Brown).—Your committee have that in their own hands?—They have; my own individual opinion is that shows are no use because it is the wealthier men compete there.

9787. Have you no classes for farmers under a certain valuation?—We have, but they don't benefit many of them; they don't do the amount of good that the people expected them to do.

9788. I suppose nothing does that?—I beg your pardon, I hope this Committee will. About these lectures, Mr. McGaw is our agricultural expert. They are very good in way, but until you have demonstration plots it will not have any effect. If you had a farm where County Down farmers could see the results it would have a great advantage. We have facilities in the County Down if the Department would aid us. There is the Henry Trust at Downpatrick; if the Department aided us to start that farm it would be a most valuable addition.

9789. Some of your other members say it is in an inconvenient situation?—They always say that because they live near Belfast, and they think Belfast is the hub of the district.

9790. The gentlemen who gave that evidence were not from Belfast?—They always think that because they take their committee meetings to Belfast. When this committee came into operation they were not able to get milk at the asylum, but the result is we are now able to supply them with milk for the entire year, and the land made a profit of £2,100 for the year.

9791. (Mr. O'Connell).—There are probably very small wages on the asylum farm?—The inmates don't get much wages. I am very much enamoured of the horticultural lectures, Mr. Scott, that we get from Wexford. I think he will do great good in the county. He is anxious to aid the occupants of the labourers' cottages, and I think that scheme will be valuable in the future. These demonstration plots will let the labourers see what is being done. The

Education Board used to teach agriculture in schools. July 16, 1899.
I knew a teacher in Portlough who would get 7s. 6d. a head for teaching boys, but he had to send a practical gardener to learn how to plant seeds in his own garden.

9792. (Mr. Brown).—Have you no demonstration plots under the agricultural scheme?—Yes, Mr. McGaw selects plots; it adds the particular man, but the neighbours won't go. Of course it is doing more or less good, but it would be much more useful if they had the farms in existence where they could see cattle and everything else.

9793. (Mr. O'Connell).—Any of these demonstration plots near your residence?—Yes, I saw one the other day four miles from me.

9794. Nobody else goes to see it except the farmer? I don't know.

9795. (Chairman).—Is it on the side of the road? It is, but they don't come there to get explanations, and I hear them saying afterwards in the farm and markets that it is all rubbish. About our poultry instructors, it is also the theory with her. I believe she is starting a fattening station, and I believe the Department subsidises £100 for a fattening station, and I was advising our committee to get one started. I think she should select one farm in the neighbourhood and have poultry there, and have the instructors come and carry out things practically. They only get it in theory in the school, and she drives away and they know no more about it. I heard some gentlemen talking about a reforestation scheme. I understand the Department have bought Mr. Parnell's estate at Arundale. I was speaking to Mr. McGaw, and he says it is all nonsense, they will never launch it as a scheme for reforestation of the country. I think that is a great mistake. The Commissioners of Woods and Forests collect £33,000 in Ireland, and we only get £2,000 of that. I agree with a witness who says the Department should subsidise industries. There are many industries that could be established for the County Down, and if the Department subsidised them they would be very useful for the people. I know one industry started in Portlough by a Catholic curate and it broke him, but it is giving employment to about seventy girls, earning up to 15s. a week; I think they should subsidise these things. Advice is very good, but we want money along with it. If advice and money came to several districts it would be an advantage to the country generally.

MR. JOHN W. FRANKS, F.R.S., EXAMINED.

9796. (Chairman).—You are President of the Irish Mill Owners' Defence Association?—Yes, sir.

9797. I believe you come with reference to certain evidence given at Derry?—Yes, I sent in a pencil of my evidence, and perhaps it would save time in the long run if I read it. I am Chairman of Frusey and Houghton, Limited, who carry on a bleaching and finishing business on the river Maine, near Oully-begley. We employ between 200 and 300 hands, and pay about £8,000 per annum in wages at our Oully-begley works. There are twenty-three mills on the Maine and its tributaries, the majority of which are large and important concerns, each paying several thousands a year in wages. It has been estimated as the result of private inquiry that the wages paid by the concerns estimate on the Maine and its tributaries amount to at least £250,000 per annum, and this is only one of the many rivers in the North of Ireland where similar industries are to be found. The powers vested in the Department of Agriculture under the fishery laws are already very extensive and very drastic, and an effort is being made to greatly enlarge those powers by means of a draft bill at present under consideration by the Government. Even as they stand the powers of the Department are capable of being used in such a manner as to seriously embarrass, and in many cases perhaps altogether hinder, the operations of the milling industry. For instance, at the law at present stands, where turbine wheels are used it is not only necessary to have a salmon lattice over the wheel itself, but also to have a lattice at each end of the mill race, unless exemption is granted by the inspectors on the ground that such exemption is necessary for the effective working of the machinery.

If an inspector were to refuse exemption, the mill-owner would have no appeal and no redress of any kind, but the refusal of the exemption would mean the stoppage of the mill, as it would be impossible to keep the lattice clean, or to obtain a sufficient flow of water through the race. I desire to cast no reflection whatever on the ability or impartiality of the present inspectors, but the fact remains that they are appointed as inspectors of fisheries pure and simple, and for the purpose of protecting the fisheries, and that there is no representation whatever in the Department of Agriculture of the enormous and highly valuable mill-owning industry, and no controlling or mediating power to ensure that the very large power of the inspectors shall not through over zeal or want of knowledge of the requirements of the manufacturing industry be used to the prejudice of the latter. I would suggest that the powers of the inspectors should not be uncontrolled, but that in all cases the millowners should have a right of appeal from the ruling of the inspectors to the Board of Agriculture itself, and that the Board should have power to remit the question to a skilled party or parties to report on the best practicable and available means for rendering harmless the manufacturing effluents, or otherwise taking due provision for the safety of the fish (if necessary), the nature and cost of the works and apparatus required, and the reasonableness of the expense involved, and as to the industrial interests involved in the question, and the circumstances and requirements of the locality. I beg to refer to the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876, under which a similar course is prescribed. I would also suggest that in all matters relating to the consideration by the Depart-

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ment of proposed fishery legislation, persons entitled to speak as experts on behalf of the manufacturing industries of the country, should be taken into consultation. I am quite aware that upon a recent occasion two gentlemen were asked by the Board to go up and confer with them with reference to the consideration of the proposed Bill, but what I would suggest would be to go a great deal further. The gentlemen referred to were invited by the Board as individuals. The Board themselves made the selection of the individuals whom they would invite. The gentlemen who went up were courteously received and were given the opportunity of discussing with the Board a number of matters, but at that point their opportunity terminated, and they had to go away and leave the Board to consider the matter with no expert guidance except that of their fishery inspectors. I think that there should be in connection with the Board for such occasions either (1) an expert adviser acquainted with manufacturing conditions and the requirements of manufacturing industries; (2) a power of reference to some outside expert for advice, or (3) what I might describe, for want of a better term, as an industrial and advisory committee. I desire to take exception to certain statements made by Mr. Thomas McDermott in his evidence given at Londonderry, as reported in the Northern Whig of the 16th inst. It is not the fact that mills are raising the fish. On the contrary, speaking for my own firm and from a large experience of my brother millowners, we are most anxious as to carry on our manufactures as to avoid doing any injury whatever to the fish. The two turbine wheels which we own at Cullybackey are of an improved and modern construction which, as is well known, and has been proved by experiment, do not kill fish, and in my experience of twenty-five years, since these wheels were put up, I have not known any fish to be killed by either of them. Further, it is not the fact that fish are poisoned by the waste let off from the mills. I am aware that at least nine-tenths of the millowners, including all the larger and more important firms, go to very great expense and trouble to prevent any poisonous waste from entering the river, and there is no sympathy whatever on the part of the millowners as a body, or on the part of the association, of which I am president, with any manufacturer who neglects to take reasonable precautions in this respect. Mr. McDermott's statement that he has seen thousands of fish poisoned is misleading, as he has often been informed by myself, and I cannot understand his persistence in such a statement if he desires to be candid or fair. So far from the poisoning of fish being a habitual or daily occurrence, as Mr. McDermott's statement would lead one to believe, it is the fact that in spite of great vigilance on the part of the Conservators, and the constant patrolling of the waters by their hulkets, they have not been able in any prosecution brought against millowners within recent years to produce any dead fish, or to allege that any fish have been in fact killed, with the exception of one small fish measuring less than an inch, which was produced on one occasion. An accident did occur upon one occasion six years ago when a number of fish were killed, and ever since then Mr. McDermott has been making the statement that he has seen thousands of fish poisoned, as if it were a usual and a daily occurrence.

9795. What was the nature of that accident?—The accident was the giving way of a plug or valve which controlled the chloride of lime and let off some

into the river during the night, and in the morning when it was discovered probably several hundred fish down the river were destroyed. The firm that I belonged to then took steps to have such a change made in the chloride of lime tank that not only was it very unlikely that such a thing would ever occur again, but such a change was made in the run off that if it did occur it would not run into the river, so that it is impossible for it to occur again. I have every accident that it is possible to foresee guarded against.

9796. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Can you or your association give any information as to how far water is being used as power in the mills of Ireland? I assume that your association is interested in water not as power, but as a vehicle and useful assistance to manufactures?—In nearly all the mills water is the motive power supplemented by steam for use in dry weather. Of course in hot dry weather when the water is low it is more likely that some accident will occur, when the river is in a normal condition a small leakage means nothing.

9800. Is there much utilisation of the streams other than as power as far as your association is concerned?—No, I think it is altogether as power. In all businesses the river is used more or less as a kind of natural sewer, but it is only when poisonous matter gets in and destroys fish that anybody objects to it, and we think that at least we ought to have representation on the Board of Agriculture, so that statements which are rashly made by people interested in other industries should not be allowed to pass. That is our sole reason for taking any cognizance of Mr. McDermott's evidence at all. If you allow a statement to pass uncontradicted it is supposed by ninety-nine people out of 100 that it is unassailable.

9801. Your constituents are too scattered to secure representation through the ordinary means on the Council of Agriculture?—We have now, I think, several members of our board who are also on the Board of Agriculture for different counties, and in that way they are able to bring before the Board of Agriculture the necessity of what you would call an Industrial Board, not a Fishery Board. A Fishery Board, it goes without saying, must sympathise with fish, that is its raison d'être. We don't cast any doubt whatever upon their impartiality and desire to do justice, but they start from the wrong end from our point of view, and at least we should be heard. Our industry is, of course, a hundred times more valuable than that of the Bann and Foyle Fishery Company.

9802. But the fact that you are so well represented on the Board of Agriculture does not meet the case?—No, we are not well represented; it is an accidental representation.

9803. But you have several members?—I can only recall one.

9804. (Mr. Brown).—You have some very good friends there, if they are not representatives. I am sorry if you depreciate their efforts on behalf of the millowners?—I think if you look at it from another point of view you will see I am championing the Board of Agriculture because Mr. McDermott's evidence at Derry was altogether aimed at you that you did not take the precautions you ought to take.

9805. I am speaking of the discussions which have taken place at the Council of Agriculture in which gentlemen have taken part advocating the interests of the millowners. I am sorry to hear you depreciating their efforts. They not only did it well, but very successfully?—I don't depreciate them.

Mr. W. HUGHES WHEAT, A.M., Bandalstown, examined.

Mr. W. Herbert
Webb, J.A.

9806. (Chairman).—You represent the Mill Owners' Defence Association?—I am the hon. secretary of the association. I am a director of the Old Bush Linn Company, Limited, of Bandalstown, County Antrim, and am Secretary of the Millowners' Association. My firm employs 350 hands, and pays £10,000 per annum in wages. I have read the evidence of Mr. Fraser, president of the association, and concur with it generally. It was not my intention to trouble this Commission with any details in connection with the ancient controversy between the millowners and the Fishery Conservators, but I am forced to do so by a statement made by Mr. McDermott in London.

derry conveying the idea "that Riparian millowners with their turbine wheels and trade effluents were killing fish by thousands and ruining the salmon fishing industry, and that the Department were neglecting their duty by not sending down their inspectors to stop this wholesale slaughter." In the first place under the existing law the inspectors have no authority whatever in connection with fry-guards on turbine wheels or with river pollution, so they could hardly be expected to interfere. And in the second place I can put a few facts before you which will rather upset Mr. McDermott's statement. Messrs. Fraser and Houghton, Limited, and the York-street

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Flax Spinning Company, Limited, were prosecuted last year for river pollution. In both cases water-birds were employed to watch their premises night and day for months beforehand. In *Messrs. Fraser and Houghton's* case it was admitted that they had not been able to find a single dead fish. In the case of the York-street Flax Spinning Company one fish was produced less than one inch long. In both cases, however, they obtained convictions, the court of the *King's Bench* holding that under the law as it now stands in Ireland, the fact of putting the slightest quantity of foreign matter or liquid into a river, constitutes a breach of the law. In the face of these two verdicts Mr. McDermott's statement with regard to the pollution of rivers falls rather flat, and the Department's fishery inspectors may be excused for not immediately existing themselves. The Old Blach Lissen Co. only existing themselves. They are all of modern type four turbine wheels. They are all of modern construction. I was present when the members of the recent Vice-regal Commission experimented with these wheels. Mr. McDermott, who gave evidence in London, was present at the same experiment. A *dentist*, was present at the Commission. Professor McIntosh, member of the Commission, Professor McIntosh, brought a number of fish which he put into the water above the wheels while they were working at full speed. The fish passed through the wheels and came out at the other side absolutely unharmed. I personally told Professor McIntosh that I did not consider the experiment a satisfactory one, as the fish were too small, and I ran off a pond in the mill grounds where there were a number of large perch, and gave him seventy-eight good-sized fish. With these he conducted the second experiment. Mr. McDermott being again present. The whole seventy-eight passed through the turbines, not one of them sustaining the slightest injury, and Professor McIntosh thought my perch so much better for experimenting purposes that he brought them with him taking them in the carrying bottles to Bushmills for an experiment the next day. I was not present myself at the Bushmills experiment, but I had the result from the manager of the company. About 400 fish were put through a Hercules turbine wheel, which is a wheel of modern construction, and not one of the 400 were injured. About the same number of fish were then put through a very antiquated type of turbine wheel, with the result that four out of the 400 were killed. None of these fish would have passed through any of the wheels had not special means been adopted to fence them through. An estimate was made in 1894 by my father of the annual output of the mills on the river Maine, not including its tributaries, and it was estimated at that time that the annual output of manufactured goods was about one million pounds worth. I was one of those who was invited to attend a meeting of the Department of Agriculture to discuss with them the proposed legislation. I was constantly received, and the chairman of the proposed Bill was very fully discussed, and anything I had to say was listened to, but at the same time I felt when going away that the matter would remain for consideration by a tribunal on which manufacturing interest had no proper representation, and who had no proper expert advice from the manufacturer's point of view. I agree with Mr. Fraser's suggestion as to the means by which this might be remedied, and I also agree with his suggestion, which I regard as an absolutely necessary protection for the millowning industry, that any mill-owner aggrieved by the ruling of the Fishery Inspectors should have a right of appeal to the Board, and that the Board should, in such circumstances, have the power of obtaining outside and independent advice. As secretary of the Millowners' Association I have a large acquaintance among millowners, and very considerable knowledge of their views on the subjects of trade effluents and the means adopted by them of protecting same. I have also been personally present at the recent prosecutions instituted by the Board of Conservators against the various millowners, and I am aware that very great precautions are taken, practically by the entire body of millowners, certainly by all the important and respectable firms, to protect the waters of the rivers from pollution in any way which would be detrimental to fishing, and that no sympathy whatever is felt for any few exceptional cases where such precautions are neglected. We have been pressing

the Department of Agriculture for several years to use their influence to get the law altered so as to put industrial users of water on a more satisfactory footing, and have been inclined to chafe at their delay in this matter, but a new Bill is at the present moment being drafted, which we have reason to believe will be an improvement, and under which it is intended that the Department will have authority in the matters of trade effluents and fry gardens at turbine wheels, our only objection being that we are entirely at the mercy of the Fishery Inspectors—who are appointed for the express purpose of looking after the interests of Irish fisheries, and who would have it in his power to practically ruin all industries which depended on water, either for motive power or other purposes. The suggestion, however, which we have made with regard to the right of appeal to the Board of Agriculture we believe would be satisfactory. I am inclined to think that the personnel of the Department would be strengthened by having the services of an official with a practical knowledge of manufacturing industries—a similar position to the Inspector of Fisheries. I also fully agree with Mr. Andrew's suggestion that there should be a Board of Manufacturing Industries in connection with the Department.

9907. (Mr. Brown).—As regards the right of appeal that you suggest should be given to the mill-owners, do you suggest an appeal against the inspector's decision should be given to the fishery owners as well?—Certainly; all we want is an impartial tribunal to try us, and not the Fishery Inspectors.

9908. (Chairman).—You want an appeal from the Fishery Inspectors?—We don't want to be left entirely at their mercy. He may be a very just and fair man, but on the other hand he may be a fishery crank who does not care at all about manufacturers.

9909. Have you had cases in which the decision of a Fishery Inspector seemed hardly upon you?—No; we have not. It is a question of principle entirely. Mr. Greene has treated us with the kindest fairness.

9910. (Mr. Brown).—The fishery owners are complaining of the inspectors?—I am afraid the fishery owners will never be without a grievance.

9911. (Chairman).—Do you think it was a better Board in the old days—the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries, before the Act of 1859?—The inspectors are now under the Department. Oh, you mean when they were away from the Department. Oh, no, I would very much rather have them under the Department.

9912. You approve of the change made by the Act of 1859?—We only want to go a little bit further, and give us an appeal. They have very large powers in their hands—they can stop our mills at any time; it is rather a serious position.

9913. The Rivers Pollution Act applies to Ireland?—It does; but unfortunately it is a dead-letter, because there is another law—a law that was framed for poachers against poisoning rivers to catch fish, and they have managed to work it up against us, and apply that law to us. The only thing that saves us is that most of the Fishery Boards are bankrupt.

9914. Then you are not hit by the Rivers' Pollution Act?—We want to get under that. It is the old poisoning law we are prosecuted under. We are treated as common criminals who are trying to catch fish. Manufacturers generally take very great precautions.

9915. Is the charge made against you, the principal charge, that you turn deleterious substances into the river, or do harm by your turbines?—They first ran one for a little while, and then the other; it used to be turbines some time ago, and they rather gave that up after Mr. McDermott had seen the experiments that were carried on. He saw that there was really no harm done, and then they turned their attention to pollution, and prosecuted Messrs. Fraser and Houghton, then when no one takes greater care in Ireland to get the discharge purified from their mills.

9916. Are all these mills of the same character?—On the river Maine they are very much the same—bleaches or dyers or finishers. We are manufacturers as well as bleachers. I would like to say we did very much appreciate the action of the Council of Agriculture and the way they backed us up, but unfortunately it did not go any farther.

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Professor GREGG WILSON, M.A., B.Sc., examined.

Prof. Gregg
Wilson, M.A.,
B.Sc.

5617. (Chairman).—You are Director of the Laboratory of the Ulster Fisheries and Biology Association of the Queen's College?—Yes. Well, it is not connected directly with the College; it has a natural connection. I am Director of the Laboratory that has been in existence for three years or rather more. I have taken a considerable interest in fishery matters and marine zoology at Larne Harbour. I would like to say I have got great admiration for the Department of Agriculture, and especially the fisheries branch. It has done a great deal of good, and the Helge, which has been spoken of rather slightly, has done excellent work; not only paired work, but scientific work. We do see the Helge frequently at Larne Harbour, and get very valuable information from her when she does visit us, and we could not be better treated than by Mr. Holt, the scientific investigation editor. He approached me soon after I came to Ireland rather less than four years ago, and arranged that we should do some work for the Department, and all our dealings with him have been accordingly pleasant; he has been kind throughout in every way. I should just like very shortly to state the facts with regard to our marine station. Rather more than three years ago we started this Ulster Fisheries and Biology Association to study marine zoology, and do anything that would be useful in connection with fisheries. The Department gave us a subsidy—£150 the first year and £100 in each of the following years. We started a little laboratory at Larne Harbour in a cottage with four rooms and a bath. We got a steam launch, a naturalist and boatman, and the membership of the Association has been considerable, and has consisted to a considerable extent of men accustomed to scientific work. I need not trouble you with the details of the work we have done. I may just shortly say it has been systematic, on the groups of plants and animals. For instance, with regard to the animals I might say we have had one or two very good workers employed on the lowest group of animals—one very good worker has studied the local fauna, and one of his papers on protozoa is being published by the Department. Another paper published by the Department is on the copepods of Ireland, and our naturalist is now working at another group, working up the material collected by the Helge in various parts of Ireland. We had our geologist at Queen's College working at the geological character of the bottom in relation to the animals found upon it. What I want to impress on you is we can do scientific work, because a considerable number of our members have had very good scientific training on the special subjects we have worked at the request of the Department. I would like to mention next that we have been working at the facts with regard to the herring, its condition at different times of the year, its racial characters and its age characters. These we are engaged on at present. We have examined some 2,000 or 3,000 herring, and it has been a most laborious and sometimes very dirty bit of work. Our little laboratory, which is normally sweet-smelling, is very frequently very foul, but we don't complain of that. We are pleased to do the work, because we know it is useful. Then, we have been doing some useful work on surface drift. Our surface drift work has been very interesting, because it has given us definite facts with regard to the drift of bottles. We place postcards in the bottles, and throw them by hundreds into the sea at various places. They are picked up on the coast, and we get them back, and tabulate the results. One of our most energetic workers is engaged at this year after year. The bottle is weighted so as just to float, and no more, very little exposed to the wind. We had about 50 per cent. of our postcards returned, and we are getting very interesting information about the surface drift here. We are at a very important part of the Irish Sea, at the neck of the bottle, and the work done here is not only of interest to us, but to people on the English Coast and all parts of the Irish Sea. Another special bit of work done at the request of the Department is the study of the ascent of glycogen, the reserve store found in the oysters, which is more abundant at one time of the year than another, differs, of course, at different places. We can get that kind of work done, because we have a first-rate physiological chemist at Queen's College who does it gratuitously for us. Another bit of work I might mention, because I think

it is specially interesting. We had one of our members working at mussels and oysters. He has not only gone through a good deal of general work in connection with the distribution of bacteria in our waters, but he has experimented in transplanting animals from the very impure water of Belfast Lough to the relatively pure water of Larne. He has found exactly the rate at which the bacteria that indicate sewage contamination disappear. He has given us a paper, and it is now in the hands of the Department for publication.

5618. Your relation with the Department is that you don't conduct these investigations for them on their behalf. You are independent of the Department, but they assist you?—Some of our work is done largely on our own account. We have a number of assistants. We have one manufacturer in Belfast who is an expert on crabs. He knew nothing about them three years ago, but he knows every crab in our waters, and we have a worker on prawns. That work is not done exactly at the request of the Department, but they ask us to do certain work in return for the £200 they have been giving us. A short time ago we were exceedingly sorry to learn that the grant was going to cease. I understand the Department have very little money to spend on scientific investigation of the fisheries. We were informed that the grant was going to cease. They have acted very kindly, I think, in temporarily continuing the grant, because apparently they are pressed for money. They must reduce expenditure somewhere, and I suppose they would rather reduce it in our direction than in another. They very kindly continued the grant this year, and intimated that they would probably give £200 next year on condition that we carried out certain pieces of work, some of which I have enumerated. I think it is a great pity that these grants should be withdrawn, and I would like you to recommend that such grants should be continued for local fisheries and marine and zoological work. Fisheries require local investigation. It is necessary with a view to by-laws. You cannot make by-laws without local investigation. Besides, fish vary in different localities, and the age at which they are mature, and so on. There must be a local inquiry, and in connection with the recent international fisheries movement there has been a great demand for a careful study of the Irish Sea—North, South, East, and West. We can do the work at the North. We control the entrance to the Lough. Ireland also is distinctly, it seems to me, under-supplied with marine laboratories. There is practically only one, other than ours. The laboratory run by Mr. Holt is a very excellent one, but it is far from large—at Ballinacorney, in Galway. It is a marvellous laboratory, a floating ship that they can move about. There is no other laboratory in the North for the study of fishes and marine zoology, because it is not only the fish we require to study, but their life and conditions and drift. Our Association is particularly fortunate in being able to do good work for the Department, because we have several specially-trained workers who can do chemical and bacteriological work, and are willing to do it. It is no unusual thing for institutions, other than Government institutions, to be supported by Government money; it is done in England and Scotland. The Plymouth Marine Station, which has no bigger membership than our own, £1,000 a year. The Liverpool Marine Biological Committee gets a large grant from the Isle of Man, and is supported by the Sea Fisheries Committee in the Lancashire district. The Scotch Fisheries Board have supported various laboratories, and at present are regularly paying one of our workers here to do work for them.

5619. This argument is being urged to induce us to recommend the continuation of the Department's grant?—That is all. I would just like to add this. We would rather have more money than less; we need it very badly, and it would be a very proper thing to encourage an association such as ours, which, though young, is beginning to produce work which I think I may say will be quite reliable. May I give two illustrations of the way in which we have been helped by this withdrawal. At the time it was intimated that the £200 would cease we were negotiating for a second steam launch to be kept on Lough Neagh. It is a very important place. The Department wanted us to work it up. We began to do so, but our friend who lent us a steam launch died. We were negotiating

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Fret Greig
Wheat & Co.
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for the purchase of an old steam launch as £35, when the information came that the £300 was to be with-
drawn. We had to give up the thought of purchasing
that steam launch, and give up doing work in con-
nection with the pollen and its food, the shrimp-
like creature called mysids. We are all out
of pocket for private expenses in connection with
the thing. Another illustration of how the fact that
we were about to lose the money has injuriously
affected us is seen in the fact that it has stopped
our negotiating for greatly-improved buildings at
Larne Harbour. We have no place in which we can
have satisfactory tanks, and we are very anxious to
have those where we can study our animals after
we bring them in. We have only a few small tanks in
which to keep animals alive. We were negotiating
for the lease of a new building, when an intimation
that the grant was not likely to continue came to us,
and we had to stop. We really feel very strongly that
we are not selfish in the matter in asking for a con-
tinuation at least of the grant that we are getting.
We think we are doing useful work for the country,
and as there is only one other marine station in Ire-
land it would be a very great misfortune if we were to
go down.

6639. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—The work you have been doing
for the Department is work that has a distinct and
definite value in connection with Irish Fisheries?—
Certainly.

6640. Whether at the moment or as the basis for
some future investigation?—Yes.

6641. And that work is necessarily work which, if
it had to be done by payment for all services rendered,
would cost a great deal?—Undoubtedly; such work
as is being done by our chemical friend at Queen's
College is done also for the Scotch Fishery Board, and
is well paid for.

6642. The results of the work done at the request of
the Department are shown in the Department's re-
ports?—Yes; we are just beginning to get our papers
out. They have three papers now to come out; only
one has come. They are very slow in publishing, but
they are very good in the matter of printing what we
want them to print. There are a number of papers in
their hands now. At first we were greatly taken up
with the faunistic work. You cannot expect good
scientific work to come out with a rush in the first
years of an Association like this.

6643. The object of the Association is not merely
general in the matter of making biological investiga-
tions, but also special in organising the local ability
in the matter so as to make it available for this or
other special services?—That is so. We believe any
work as marine biology may come in very useful in
connection with fisheries. We are doing general work,
but also very special work, such as at the herring,
mussel, and oyster, and that drift work. I think we
are doing a great deal of work that is specially fishery
work, as well as the general marine zoological and
botanical that may, and probably will, be important
for the fishery specialists.

The Committee adjourned.

TWENTY-NINTH PUBLIC SITTING.—FRIDAY, JULY 20TH, 1906.

At the Technical Institute, Belfast.

Present:—

SIR KENELM E. DIGBY, K.C. Q.C.B., (Chairman)

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MCKEE.

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OGBURN.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

MR. R. H. READE, D.L., examined.

July 20, 1906.

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MR. R. H.

READE, D.L.

1905. (Chairman).—You are the President of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce—Yes, sir.
1906. And you come as representing the Chamber, and you refer, I think, to a resolution recently passed?—I propose to commence by putting in a document which carries infinitely greater weight than any personal evidence, that is the unanimous resolution passed on the 10th May, 1906, by the Council of the Chamber of Commerce, which adequately represents the commercial community of Belfast and indeed a very much wider area. The resolution is:—"The Council of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce have had their attention directed to a resolution recently passed by the General Council of County Councils of Ireland relative to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, demanding (a) 'that the Agricultural Council and the Agricultural Board shall consist solely of elected members, and that, therefore, none of these members shall, as at present, be nominated by the Department of Agriculture,' and (b) that the Department itself shall be totally separated from the English Government and be nominated by the General Council of the Irish Councils, and be answerable to and under its control." As representing the chief industrial and mercantile interests of Belfast and district, the Council of the Chamber of Commerce respectfully claim to be heard by His Majesty's Government with reference to this resolution. The Council would observe that they have closely watched the operations of the Department, towards the establishment of which they need every effort, and are satisfied that under its auspices excellent and enduring work has already been accomplished in the development of agriculture and allied industries on practical and profitable lines, as well as in the creation of machinery for the effective promotion of sound technical instruction. As illustrative of the indispensable utility of the Department's efforts locally, they would point to the Municipal Technical Institute, now rapidly approaching completion, upon which no less a sum than £140,000 will have been expended, and in connection with which almost 5,000 students are already now enrolled; and to the most helpful assistance accorded to the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society on its recent general and financial reorganization. The Council submit that the beneficial results directly traceable to the operations of the Department in all parts of the country give irresistible proof of the real and efficiency with which these operations have been invariably carried on, and vindicate their confidence that the maintenance of the existing composition and management of the Department on non-political and non-sectarian will be attended with still greater and more far-reaching results in the future. They would further submit that inasmuch as two-thirds of the membership of the Council of Agriculture are elected by the County Councils, the representative character of this Council is adequate, and that the assistance of the remaining third, experts chosen from every part of Ireland by the Department, on the ground of merit alone, has proved of the utmost importance and value. The Council are strongly of the opinion that it is essential to the continued success of the Department that it shall remain under the immediate control of the Imperial Parliament, in order that its funds provided by Government may be administered under the supervision of the Chief Secretary, or of a Vice-President directly responsible to Parliament and unaffected by

local influences. The Council in the name of the Chamber desire to bear testimony to the inspiring influence continuously and successfully exercised by the distinguished Vice-President of the Department, the Right Honourable Sir Horace Plunkett, to his great impartiality in the administration of all the affairs of his onerous and responsible office, and to the exceptional sincerity and single-mindedness of his labours, as evidenced by the fact that his official salary in its entirety has been consistently devoted to the furtherance of the agricultural welfare of the land.

1907. Do you wish to add any observations of your own?—I propose just to say that I think the resolution expresses the opinion of the Chamber on the chief branch of the inquiry, namely as to the constitution and administration of the Department. It answers both in a favourable sense. The constitution appears to have been devised with great care and skill, and to have, happily, combined elective opinion with State control. It endowed the Boards of Agriculture and Technical Instruction with powers not very dissimilar to those possessed by the House of Commons, for it gave them the practical control of the purse to enable them to stop supplies for any object of which they don't approve. It has been said their office is critical, and without control. That is not so. In the House of Commons the initiative of important legislation proceeds from the government. The House criticises, and stops supplies, if dissatisfied. Therefore we are of opinion that the constitution is satisfactory, and we are also satisfied with its administration. Then it is suggested that the constitution should be altered by limiting the nominated members, and to vest the appointment of all officials in an elective assembly. This, it seems to me, would be alike opposed to principle and precedent. It is unreasonable to expect that any government would abandon the entire disposition of funds, granted by the State, to an elected assembly in no way responsible for raising the funds, and which is not responsible to any department of State. Then I say the Department has been reproached for not making grants in aid of new industries. It has no such powers conferred on it by the Act. The intentions of the Act were clearly explained by Mr. Balfour in a speech delivered in Belfast in January, 1900. Where he says:—"There is this difference between the provisions of the Act as they apply to technical instruction and the provisions as applied to agriculture, that so far as technical instruction is concerned, so far as urban industries are concerned, it is by technical instruction alone the Act proposes to give encouragement and assistance to industries." This clearly defines that assistance is to be given to industries by educating the people, and the question arises how could the Act be altered. Our opinion (that of the Chamber of Commerce) is that nothing could be more dangerous or more likely to produce ill consequences than a Department of State creating and assisting industries out of the funds of the State. I think the disadvantages of that are very obnoxious to all of you gentlemen, and I need scarcely dwell on them. The Chamber consider it undesirable that the State should be opposing existing industries and that certain establishments should be favoured by the aid of the State funds. That is opposed to all economic rules, but, on the other hand, it is opposed that the northern people are not very friendly to

the southern. That is not so at all. Of course we have different views upon some political matters, but we feel they are our fellow-countrymen, and we desire as much to see them prosperous as to see our own part of the country prosperous, and I would not be inclined to draw too tight a line about that, though I think State aid to industries, which should be developed by private effort, is indefensible economically. The only cases that could be established economically are where there is some special product, and where private enterprise will not give the aid to develop it. Suppose the case of pottery clay, such as was supposed to be found at Belleek, but unfortunately was not found, supposing any private individual comes forward to develop that, I think the State would be justified in assisting him, but such case would have to be judged on its own merits, and I am afraid there are very few cases that would justify the aid of a loan of capital from the State for developing such industries.

9828. Do you mean to say you would endorse it to cases where there was no reasonable prospect of any other industry of the kind being established in Ireland?—Where, owing to the fact of some special local circumstances, and an industry being developed in a part of Ireland that did not exist in any other part of the United Kingdom.

9829. There must be some security in a case such as a special product, that the industry only could exist in reference to that particular subject matter?—Of course that industry would, in one way, invalidate my principle, because it would oppose the Staffordshire principle, but the circumstances are peculiar.

9830. How would you deal with the carpet or woollen industry?—The woollen industry I think not; there is plenty of private enterprise already devoted to that in Ireland, but the carpet industry, perhaps, different. I don't think it has been a financial success in Donegal. It has been most successful in producing a very beautiful article, but unless you can make a business financially successful there is no use in starting it.

9831. How do you apply your principle to such industries as lace and crochet?—These are cottage industries; it does not apply to them at all. I think cottage industries a very legitimate thing for the State to aid, but I think, in this country, cottage industries do not require State aid.

9832. Do you think, as a matter of fact, that the assistance given to the lace industry in its various branches is very beneficial?—I should think it is. I have not followed the matter very closely, but I think it is. Of course, in some industries they don't require it. Of course, embroidery, private enterprise has helped, for instance, embroidery, private enterprise has taken that up very widely in Ireland. Immense employment is given in this and adjacent counties, and in some southern counties, and an immense amount of work is supplied by the northern people in the linen trade.

9833. Do you draw a line between assistance of that kind and instruction in industries—the sort of instruction of which we have a specimen close by in the new building?—Of course technical instruction, we are all agreed upon, is advantageous, but it must be given in a different way in the country districts, and by means of itinerant instructors. There would be no use in putting up new buildings for such a purpose in such districts.

9834. Can you draw a line about assisting industries?—Of course technical instruction materially assists industries. By increasing knowledge of that kind you do assist industry, but there is a step further than that, and when you actually give pecuniary assistance, by paying the wages and salaries of foremen and that sort of thing, there is a distinction between that and technical instruction. I don't think really, in this case, we have been considering that it is necessary to go further than furnish the instruction. It might be desirable to provide people with some employment to help them at first at the start, but I think finally it would not be required, and really after all, it is the education, showing them how to do the thing, and perhaps providing them, in some instances, with the necessities to enable them to conduct it. For instance to take the case of fisheries, the Government gave loans to the people at first, and that was a very legitimate thing to do.

9835. That has been productive of very great good?—Yes, that is a local industry; that must be specialised on the spot.

9836. (Mr. O'Brien).—Would you similarly approve of capital being lent, at a low rate of interest, to men who are prepared to start a small industry in a new district?—It would depend upon circumstances. I should not like to answer that in a general way. If I had to answer it "yes" or "no" I would be rather inclined to say it was an unsafe thing to do, but each case would have to be considered on the merits.

9837. Throughout your evidence these stand out the necessity of considering cases on their merits. Do you think it would be a satisfactory arrangement that the Department, and the Government, should be charged with the responsibility of considering industrial cases on their merits, and that a responsibility of that sort could be discharged by them without serious risk of difficulties?—It would have to be carefully carried out. It would raise great difficulties. I quite grant, but of course they would have the assistance of the elected elements on the Board, who probably possess local knowledge.

9838. In fact the consideration of such things would come, in the end, to be very largely a matter of reference to the Board which would have an elective element, and which, if not considering individual cases, would at least lay down general principles. I see the danger of that, for people are generally disposed to support their own locality, but I think the advantage of their opinion would be that it would supply the local information required. The decision would ultimately rest with the Department.

9839. Decisions of that kind would naturally rest upon rather complicated considerations, and you would be likely prepared to see the responsibility for the decisions thrown upon the chiefs of the Department?—It would have to rest there.

9840. In these views are you expressing the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce?—Well, I should not like to tie the Chamber to these last observations of mine. It is a subject they have not, I think, considered. I am expressing my own views on that matter. Then I would pass to what the Department has done for agriculture here in the north of Ireland. They have made a grant which is allotted to in the resolution, a grant to the North-East Agricultural Association, which has been of very great use. It has put that Association, which I think is admittedly of immense benefit to the north of Ireland, upon a sound financial footing. Of course this was not done without asking for an effort on our own part, which I think was very judicious. The Association was in debt, as Associations often are in England as well as in Ireland, and the applied to the Department for some aid and the Department said "Very well, we will help you to the extent; if you raise one half we will give you the other half." That was done; we raised one half, and the other half was given by the Department.

9841. (Mr. Dryden).—Has not the Association its headquarters here in Belfast?—Yes, it is going to hold its show this week, and it has been able to extend its operations and give more praise.

9842. (Chairman).—That is the principal scope and object of the Association, to have shows and give prizes?—Oh yes, it is interested in raising good stock.

9843. (Mr. Dryden).—They have two or three exhibitions here?—Yes, it has proved a great stimulus. The next point I just wish to say a few words upon is the assistance it has given to the growing of flax in Ireland. That is a matter of very considerable importance to the industrial community here. As you know, flax spinning is the principal industry in Belfast, and we have been obliged to look some distance for a very large portion of our supplies from abroad, about three-fourths, and it is also of very considerable importance to the agricultural community. Some people say "You are flax growers, and you are only looking to the interests of your own department." But to show what a valuable crop it is to the farmer I have got some figures here which were furnished to me by a friend who is a farmer in the Co. Down, a gentleman farming his own land, and it will show you the profit per acre which he made during the years 1903-1904-1905, after charging all the outgoings. After charging rent at 43 per acre in the year 1903

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the profit per acre was £9 4s. 6d. In the year 1904, which was a very bad year for flax, his profit was £6 6s. 4d. per acre, and in the year 1905, which was a good crop, the profit was £11 7s. 6d.

9844. (Mr. O'Grady).—Was that his profit after the payment of rent only or after the payment of working expenses?—Everything is charged. I will put in the details for you. He charges the seed, labour, scutching, etc., etc., and rent.

9845. (Mr. Micks).—Is it for one year, or for a series of years?—A series of three years, which are very fair years to take, because it so happened, in 1904 the crop was exceptionally bad, and the crop for 1905 was exceptionally good, but the remarkable feature is the large yield per acre. In 1903 he had 45 stons per acre; in 1904, 43½ stons; in 1905, 52½ stons per acre. The average for all Ireland is a little over 30 stons, showing how badly and imperfectly flax is grown in Ireland. It is grown at present by a small class of farmers who don't till their land with care, and starve it for want of manure, and the result is they grow these small crops which cannot pay them.

9846. (Chairman).—Some witnesses have said it is mainly a question of seed?—The Department has done a great deal of good in drawing the attention of farmers to the necessity of having good seed. I think they were very much inclined at one time to buy cheap seed, not recognizing that the value was in the germination and growth, and the Department has been making very valuable experiments.

9847. Is there any reason why the small farmer could not grow flax profitably?—There is no reason why he should not if he goes in for intensive cultivation, as Sir Horace Plunket said it, such as is practised in Belgium, surpasses these results.

9848. (Mr. Bruce).—Do you know the average produce per acre of Belgium?—I have not it here, but I don't think they get as many stons per acre as in these instances, but the flax is of a higher quality. Here flax is sold per stone. I might say the price of Irish flax runs from 6s. to 8s. a stone generally, and to 9s., occasionally even, 10s. In Belgium the price will begin at about 7s., from 7s. up to 8s., and 12s. very generally, and at very much higher prices. For some choice qualities they run up to even about £1.

9849. Is not that due to the superior way in which the flax is dealt with in Belgium; not the growth; does not the flax come cleaner and finer than the Irish flax, more free from weeds?—They are more careful in their methods of cultivation, no doubt about it.

9850. The quality of the flax itself is affected, is it not by the cultivation, the cleaner it is grown, and the finer it is from dirt and extraneous matter?—Yes; and then, besides, the process it is subjected to afterwards; it is connected with that that there is an experiment that is being carried on here in the County of Down, by the Department. They are very superior in their methods of treating flax after being pulled.

9851. The lengths are better?—Yes. In Ireland in 1894 there were over 100,000 acres sown. That dropped in 1899, when it was at its minimum, 34,000 acres. It has since been increasing, but on the whole it has been on the ascending scale, and this year there is probably 50,000 to 55,000 acres in flax. A great stimulus has been given to the growth of flax by the operations of the Department. I have no doubt that if the Department had not stepped in about 1890 flax cultivation would have diminished still further. They have been giving prizes for samples of flax for dress and finish, and also for seeds. They have sent out instructions over the country, and they have had experimental plots for testing the various manures, and they have issued very useful little tracts about seed, and they have a distinct branch for seeds, so that anyone can send and there, and test its germinating power. All that has been done, but at the instance of the Flax Supply Association of Belfast they have started a small experiment, for which they made a grant of £250, while flax-spinners have granted a larger sum than that to aid in seeing whether the methods of drying flax customary in Belgium could be applied here.

9852. Is it your own personal opinion that there is no reason why these improved methods could not be applied?—My own personal opinion is strongly that

it can be done; but others think the opposite, and, therefore, I asked the Department to try it on a small scale. The reason that flax-growing has decreased is that it has not paid very well. I attribute that to the small farmers not treating it with sufficient skill, and where others want to grow it there has been a scarcity of labour. Flax is not like other crops. When you have grown it you have also to cut it and scutch it, and at the time of scutching, etc., haven't operations are an full blast. The remedy should be to adopt a scientific system under which the farmer, having grown the flax, is done with it and sells it to the millman, who generally has a retting place and a place for scutching.

9853. (Mr. Micks).—What you might call a factory?—Yes.

9854. In the first place it has to be pulled and tested, and then he takes it away?—He may leave it there or remove it; he can do one or the other. Next season, as soon as the weather becomes warm, he begins the retting process. Before he does that he diverts the stalks of the seeds, and when he has it retted properly, twice steeped, as is the custom there, and finally, the following season, during the winter, he scutches that flax which he has occupied his men in retting during the summer. So he has a steady, regular supply of labour. There is no difficulty in getting labour, nor would there be in Ireland, provided facilities of that kind could be established.

9855. Has any manufacturer ever tried the experiment in Ireland?—No; it has not been properly tried. It is being tried in this experiment in the County Down. The place is rented from a man, who was a large farmer, and had scutching mills, and was very experienced in both growing and treating flax. Probably he grew crops such as I have described to you as grown by my friend in the County Down, and he was very skilled in the scutching, too.

9856. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you think it would be possible to work that up with a co-operative society, among the farmers?—It would be admirably adapted for co-operative societies, as I have always pointed out to Sir Horace Plunket, but the difficulty I have been met with in that people said—"The Irish climate is so much more humid than the Belgian climate that you are stopped by the initial difficulty; you cannot dry the flax in the field." I have reason to believe we can. We have had four years' experience which proves that even under the most adverse circumstances, if the flax is properly treated, you can dry it. The first year was 1905. It was the wettest August and September that I remember, but, in spite of that, the crop was sown, although it suffered a little damage. We have got at present a Belgian instructor over here, and he considers that you can artificially provide methods of protecting flax in the field by sheds. I happened to be talking to a clever agriculturist from Scotland not long ago, telling him about this difficulty, and I said it seemed to me that if we were in America the Americans would soon overcome that by throwing up rough sheds. "Oh," said he, "the thing has been done in Scotland for years, and they dry both hay and oats." If hay and oats will pay for erecting sheds of that nature, which are very much less valuable an acre, I think it would pay to put up sheds for flax, although I think we have not much need for them, after an experience of three years. I will read a few lines put into the Flax Supply Association report.

9857. (Mr. O'Grady).—The experiment is conducted by the Flax Supply Association?—Under the auspices of the Department, with a small grant from them.

9858. What is the amount of the grant?—£250.

9859. And the balance of the cost is being found by the Flax Supply Association?—Yes. I would add, if you will allow me, this reference to the Midland retting experiments:—"They promise to be of the highest importance to the flax industry, and to serve as extensive development of the growing of flax in Ireland, as they will enable any farmer in Ireland to grow and market the crop without having to conduct the delicate and difficult process of retting." If you can dry flax it is then a marketable commodity. At present the farmer rets the flax immediately after being pulled. He then has to use whatever show of water is near him; sometimes it is part of the best quality, and it would be of immense advantage for him to be able to transport the flax.

9850. (Mr. Micks).—Is bog water good or bad?—The two bad things are rust or lines in water. Bog water discolors flax. Where the retting is carried on to the greatest perfection in the Lys River in Belgium, and flax is sent from Holland and Normandy there. There is nothing peculiar in the Lys water, except that it is free from iron or lime, and has a sluggish current, which carries off the products of fermentation, and leaves the flax a clear yellow colour. It also improves, with the removal of the effects of fermentation, the quality and strength of the flax.

9851. (Mr. Dryden).—There would be no difficulty in getting a suitable river in Ireland?—This experiment was made first to try whether we could dry the flax in the field. That has been proved, and it was also to test an ingenious system of Loppens and Deswarte of retting flax in vats through which a current slowly flows, and gives precisely the same result of retting as the Lys gives, and you will hear what the result of a comparison of the two processes has been. The experiments are being carried out by a Special Committee of the Flax Supply Association on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, who have made two grants in aid of £600 and £350 respectively. They were submitted four years ago. Two years' operations have been completed, and a third will be completed during next winter. The results are highly encouraging, having demonstrated that flax can be dried successfully in this climate when proper methods are adopted. This is the first and most important point in developing Irish flax culture on a wider basis than hitherto, and is absolutely essential if a flax industry is to be established on Continental lines. The seed, worth £2 to £3 per acre, was sown, and when sown gave an good return as the best Dutch seed. By desire of the Department (which has taken up the position of an impartial critic of the experiment) a quantity of flax straw was divided in two equal lots. One part was retted at Millhills by the patent system of Loppens and Deswarte. The other was sent to Cortright, and steeped in the Lys. Both lots when retted and scutched were examined by an inspector of the Department and by several flax spinners. That which was retted at Millhills was pronounced superior to the other. Rather more than a year ago the services of a skilled Belgian expert were secured. His knowledge and experience enabled him to suggest some valuable modifications of the methods previously adopted, so that still more satisfactory results may be confidently expected for 1905 and 1906 crops. To summarize results up to date:—(1) It has been proved that flax can be thoroughly dried in the field in Ireland; (2) that the seed can be saved, and is of first quality; (3) that the system of retting (Loppens and Deswarte's patent) is at least equal to the Lys as to quality of yield and fibre produced. The following figures showing the profitable nature of the flax crop when grown on suitable and well-farmed land, even under the present Irish system, must be considered as of great interest to farmers. The name of the grower, who lives in County Down, can, on application to the Secretary of the Flax Supply Association, be given to anyone interested in the matter.

The question whether it will be a commercial success, we cannot answer yet, as the experiment is on a very small scale; but I do not see any reason why it should not. It may be said that the introduction of artificial heat is a costly way. I do not know that on a large scale that would be too costly, as on the Lys they have to pay a high rent for the use of that river, so that the cost of producing the flax is probably not greater than the cost.

9852. (Mr. Brown).—Does the allowing of the seeds to ripen produce any injurious effect on the fibre of the flax?—Oh, no. The best flax that is produced in Belgium is said as high as 90s. a stone, and that has all the seed kept on. When the flax is dry the seed remains. The flax then is scutched during the winter, and before it is plunged into the water the seed is removed from the stalk.

9853. (Mr. Micks).—Is it hand-picked or machine? By rollers, sometimes by passing it through combs; but the more modern way is by means of rollers.

9854. (Mr. Dryden).—I understand that the ordinary farmer practically wastes the seed; he does not save it?—He wastes the seed. We have £2 to £3 an acre for it.

9855. That seed is a fair profit?—Yes; and the rest of land is about 15s. in Ireland, probably less; so it seems worth making an effort to save that.

9856. It seems to me a very desirable thing to start a co-operative movement?—What I have asked the Department to consider is this. We go step by step. Our first step is to see if the thing is possible. I think we have proved that, and we have much improved the quality of the flax, and saved the seed. The next question is can it be made a pecuniary success?—That can only be tested on a large scale, and I have suggested that this is a case in which we might ask the pecuniary assistance. The flax-spinners would be prepared to put down a corresponding sum to test it on a larger scale.

9857. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Do you believe that flax-growing could extend to a great part of Ireland?—Certainly. They can grow better flax in the South of Ireland than the North, having a better soil, and in some degree a better climate. The South has produced some of the best flax that has been produced in Ireland.

9858. (Mr. Micks).—It used to be grown largely in the South and West-Ireland think not largely, but to a larger extent than now. I now want to refer to the Technical School in Belfast.

9859. (Chairman).—You have finished about the flax?—Yes.

9860. (Mr. Brown).—I understand you to say that the presence of lime in the water is injurious to the retting process?—Yes.

9861. That would create a difficulty as to the growing of flax in a district which was all limestone?—That is quite true, unless you could transport the flax to another place for retting. It would be an objection if the common Irish system had to be resorted to; but if you got the Continental system the flax could be transported to some place where you have water of good quality which would get over that. I don't allude to the Technical School further than to say that we think it gives us some ideas upon the consideration of the Government that we have committed ourselves so largely in Belfast in the confidence that the Department would continue on its present footing. When the Department was first started there was a certain degree of suspicion felt by a great many here on one side in politics, that it perhaps was being managed more in the interests of the Southern people than the Northern. That has completely—I think I might say, disappeared, and confidence is felt by the commercial community of the North of Ireland in the fairness of the Department, and in the efficiency of the staff, so far as we can see. Mistakes must be made at the outset of any new Department, such as this Department of Agriculture, and mistakes have been made. I know in connection with flax that they took up very strongly at one time the idea of improving the scutching of flax. To improve the scutching was quite right; but you could not improve the scutching unless you first improved the retting of the flax. The effect of the retting is to detach the fibres part from the woody part. It rots the woody part, so that it can be easily taken off. Once they went in strongly for improving the scutching, but if the retting is not properly done the scutching can never be done right; and they soon recognised and corrected the

	1902.	1904	1905.
Acres sown.	74	8	11
Number of barrels seed used.	4	4 tons 9 cwt.	2 tons 7 cwt.
Number of staves scutched Flax produced.	500	360	28
Staves per acre scutched Flax produced.	6.75	45	2.54
RECEIPTS	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Price received per stone.	8 11 0	9 1 0	9 5 10
Total cash received.	128 12 0	129 3 10	108 14 0
EXPENDITURE			
Seed at 25 per acre.	18 0 0	24 0 0	28 0 0
Seed, labour, scutching, &c.	56 2 0	24 12 4	15 7 3
	16 10 0	10 12 4	108 7 3
Balance not profit.	55 4 0	119 10 6	100 6 0
Cost per acre.	9 10 0	5 10 7	9 17 0
Net profit per acre.	6 4 0	6 4 4	11 17 0

when the Department give money for shows they would lay down a rule—I am speaking now for the County Council—that at least two-thirds of what they give should be allocated to farmers whose valuation does not exceed £15.

9900. (Mr. Brown).—Is it not open to the County Committee to do that—to make a condition of that kind?—Yes, but the County Committee does not consist of small farmers but of big farmers.

9901. (Mr. Brown).—They are not generous enough, you think, to the smaller farmers?—They are not generous enough to the smaller farmers. Too much money goes into the pocket of the big farmer.

9902. (Chairman).—You think this should be a condition of the grant from the Department?—Yes.

(Mr. Brown).—The grant is out of the joint fund.

(Mr. Brown).—They could easily lay down a rule.

9903. (Mr. Drayton).—Supposing the Department did lay down such a rule as that two-thirds of the money they contributed should be restricted to competition among farmers whose valuation was under £15 would the County Committee be likely to kick at this rule?—I don't think so. The County Committee and the Department don't quarrel. I will pass presently to a point on which the County Committee would like the Department to give way. They seem small complaints that we have, but I think you will find the County Committee accepts as a rule what the Department wishes.

9904. (Mr. Drayton).—The County Committee would not control the Agricultural Society where those prizes are given?—I must tell you I have brought this question up before the County Committee before and the County Committee agreed to it, but when it was referred to the Department the Department would not have it. That resolution was passed by the County Committee, but the Department vetoed it. I may mention that this should be considerably more given in Cambs than now. The Department give prize-money for it and that money was thrown away. As a matter of fact I believe that money did not go into the pockets of the growers. What is wanted is an expert instructor in flax-growing. I may also mention that manual instruction classes have been a great benefit in Cambs, and the lace industry. The lace industry brings in a considerable amount to small farmers' daughters. The payment of instructors in lace is a great boon and most instructors are wanted. A very small amount is spent in the county on lace instruction—I think only £150, and there is a great demand for instructors in lace, and it would be a great boon to the county, for, as I told you, the holdings are small and the farmers' means are small, and some of the lace-workers make money readily by it.

9905. (Mr. Mickle).—In what parts of Cambs is instruction given in lace-making?—Instruction is given in Belton. I live five and a half Irish miles from Belton on the south side.

9906. Where else besides Belton is this instruction given?—I was just going to tell you. In Belton the instruction is given in the Convent. My daughter is rather interested in lace and she went to the Convent, and in fact she has been there often. She is rather a friend of the Lady Superior though not of the same religion. She said, "Now there are a lot of young girls who want instruction in lace and they are always coming to me to ask you to put them on the class." The Lady Superior said, "We cannot. Our class is so large that we can't take any more. Why don't you start a class of your own, and I will lend you one of our instructors to help you?" and my daughter has done so.

9907. Was this altogether outside any county scheme?—Yes, outside the Department; and my daughter has a class of forty girls, not in rivalry to the Convent, but the Convent cannot take them in.

9908. Does the Convent market the lace that your daughter's class produces—how is the lace marketed?—The lace is marketed by my daughter.

9909. Through the lace depot?—No, through friends in England. In fact she frequently sells lace from the Convent. If there are orders for more lace than she can do she goes to the Convent, gets the lace from the Convent, and markets it for the Convent.

9910. (Chairman).—Marketing through friends, not through any commercial house?—Not through any firm. Now there is a class of forty girls.

9911. What is the name of the class?—Gresham.

9912. (Mr. Mickle).—Where do they get the pattern?—My daughter is an old lace-worker herself

and she procures them. And of course the instructor who is lent by the Convent is paid by the lace class. Every girl on joining pays a couple of shillings. Now there is a young industry, and although I am against subsidising industries I am very much in favour of helping them with instructors.

9913. Where else are there any classes in the County Cambs in lace?—There are none near me. I am not on the Technical Committee, so my knowledge is limited.

9914. You have not heard your daughter speaking of any other classes in the county?—No, except Cambs.

9915. That is Monaghan. There is none west of Banbury?—None. In fact some girls from near Banbury came to my daughter's class. Now I come to my complaint against the Department. We find them in some matters rather unsympathetic. We had pointed out, and they took no notice of our pointing out, one great grievance, and that is with regard to their system of selecting bulls for premiums. There is a show here, we will say, in Belfast—a bull show, and the Department's inspectors walk round before the show and tick off this bull, that bull, and the other bull, and they go for twice the price they otherwise would. It is a splendid thing for the breeder, but a very bad thing for the small farmer. We have asked them over and over again to select the bulls after the farmers have purchased them. Our farmers are not fools. They know a good bull nearly as well as some of the inspectors do. Let the farmer select the bull first.

9916. That would lead to great hardship if the bull purchased by the farmer was not given a premium?—The bull purchased by the farmer now stands him in good stead all the same. There is no hardship in it. The farmers with it. They are howling for that change.

9917. (Mr. Drayton).—Don't you think that the farmer would buy a good deal louder if he brought a bull and the inspector did not pass it?—He would not.

9918. He could not keep it for a premium bull?—No; but they make largely by the bulls that are not premium bulls, now they have to pay so very much higher for their premium bulls.

9919. Can you give us evidence of the fact—many people entertain the opinion that that is the case, but whether it is actually so or not, can you give us a concrete case?—What sort of evidence can I give you? I can only tell you that I live altogether in the country. I am five and a half miles from the nearest town. I am a good deal among farmers, and I know what the farmers say, and this is one of their complaints. I do not say how I can give you an instance of it.

9920. I have been trying to get an instance so that I could fully understand whether that is the case or not. Being a breeder myself I have a personal knowledge of how a breeder would feel. He knows the value of his own beast, and I am not sure he would put it up for £20 because the inspector approved of it. He would know beforehand whether it was a likely beast or not?—That does not enter into it, because they are sold by auction.

9921. Then it does not enter at all?—Pardon me.

9922. If it is sold by auction it is an open market and the highest bidder gets it?—It is an open market and the farmer wants to get a premium bull, and because it is ticketed beforehand he has to pay twice as much as he otherwise would.

9923. The ticketing is only the selection of twenty-five or thirty animals in the show that he considers are suitable for this purpose. You can buy any of those and they will be passed by the Department. You would not have them buy one that might be afterwards turned down?—Can you not understand that if the bull were not ticketed beforehand the farmer would get him for from £20 to £25, and afterwards he has to pay £40 or £50?

9924. How can you convince me that that is the case?—Try it for one year and then you will see.

9925. I have not a farm here. Otherwise I would try it?—Try it for one year and you will find that the bulls that eventually secure premiums will be bought for fifty per cent. of what they cost during the past few years.

9926. There may be too many people clamouring for them. That is what puts the price up. If you have half-a-dozen men who want to secure a bull at a

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public auction that bull is bound to sell for a large price!—Why does the man want that particular bull? 9917. Because it is better than the others!—Pardon me, that is not it. I will give you one instance to disprove that. Three years ago at an auction here of bulls there was a splendid young bull that was not selected because it had been born five days too late. The bulls selected for premiums must be born between the 1st of October and the 1st of May.

9918. That would be he is over a year old!—No, no; it is a calf this young bull was really. All the farmers and everybody else said he was worth twice as much as the animal that stood next to him, but the animal that stood next to him was selected. The bull that was born five days too late went for £22, and the other for something over £40. You see there are a dozen men standing round wanting to buy the one animal. Why do they want to buy him? It is because he is tickled for a premium.

9919. That is not the only reason!—Pardon me, it is the only reason.

9920. I would not say so!—Try it for one year and you will see.

9921. (Mr. Nichols).—They could not get an allowance if they did not buy a premium bull!—They could not.

9922. (Mr. Bruce).—Supposing a farmer had bought this young bull he would not have got a premium!—The man that bought the bull that was five days too young did not get a premium.

9923. If there had been no marking at all and a farmer had bought this bull, intending to use him as a premium bull, he would have found himself disappointed afterwards!—He would.

9924. (Mr. Dryden).—He would not feel very good about that!—They are not fools. They know what animal to buy.

9925. (Chairman).—Then if they are not fools the mere selecting of the animal does not raise the price, because they are able to judge the price of the animal without it!—It establishes a monopoly, and they are the sufferers by it. Another thing of which our Committee has often made representations, and without effect, is that these inspectors that come round to our local shows select the bulls for premiums. We want very much to have an inspector of our own joined with the Department's inspector. He would not be a county man at all, but outside the county.

9926. (Mr. Dryden).—Supposing the two disagreed, what would you do then?—They could call in a third.

9927. Who would the third be?—Not a county man, some man they would agree on. The fact is the inspectors of the Department, at least one of them, has not given satisfaction in the county. We think it is only reasonable that some noted judge should be appointed, a man whose name we would submit to the Department, and we would agree to the Department approving of him. Another complaint that I have to make against the Department is this. I happen to be chairman of the Killeshandra Co-operative Creamery, perhaps one of the largest in the north of Ireland. It has a membership of about 1,400. The Department sent down Professor Carroll three years ago to inspect our dairy and everything about it. He made certain suggestions. He said that, that and the other ought to be done. We did all that. The next year, that was last year, there came down another inspector, and he said "Oh, you must build a new room for your cream ripening." You must remember that these Co-operative Dairy Societies have been started practically with no capital except what is subscribed in one-pound shares by the milk-suppliers, and I told you our farmers in the Co. Cavan all have small holdings, and to turn round and tell them that they must spend £20 to £100 on a room when we are only creeping out of debt is not practical. If our cream did not ripen properly will you tell me how it is that our Killeshandra Creamery has obtained these prizes—Two challenge cups, two gold medals, one champion silver medal, twenty-three first prizes, seventeen second and seven third prizes! The building for the manufacture of butter alone, that is where the churning and separating takes place and where the engine is, covers an area of 267 square yards. Is it practical for an inspector to come down and, with a building of that size, to say "You want a new cream room? That was last year. We paid no attention to it. This year another inspector comes down and says nothing about a new cream-room. He

is perfectly satisfied with this, except that he wants some minor arrangements in other matters.

9928. Is he a different man from the other two!—A different man. But another thing that is very badly wanted is a butter inspector. Within the last month we have had a letter from a firm in England asking us to supply them with butter. I must tell you we make over a ton of butter a day at this time of the year. We have had a letter from a firm in England asking us to supply them with butter in boxes with no label, and no label inside. We knew very well that a large amount of Irish creamery butter is sold in England as Danish.

9929. (Mr. Nichols).—Have you satisfied yourself about that?—No, I have not satisfied myself about it, but I have it from a man who told me he had satisfied himself about it; and may I not ask if you don't think that suspicious? They said they must not have any name on the packages, and must not have any label inside showing where made. Is not that suspicious?

9930. (Mr. Gifford).—Do you say a butter inspector or inspector?—A butter inspector.

9931. (Chairman).—The Co. Cavan has an inspector in butter-making!—That is for handmade butter. I am talking of creamery butter. An inspector both in England and in Ireland.

9932. (Mr. Nichols).—Was the butter consigned in unmarked packages?—No; we wrote and told them we would have nothing to do with it; our butter would only go in our own packages and under our own name. It is not the first letter we had. It is the first letter from that firm, but we had a previous letter from another firm asking for the same.

9933. The reason of that I suppose is that the demand in England is for Danish butter!—Is for Danish butter.

9934. Did they offer you a higher price if you set it in unmarked packages?—No. One of those gold medals was for Ashdon-under-Lyne Show, where the Killeshandra butter beat all Danish butter in competition, the first time the Danish butter was beaten in twelve years. I would like to say a word about the Irish Agricultural Organization Society. When that society was started it was the greatest blessing to the country. It is due to the L.A.O.S. that the Killeshandra Dairy Society was ever started, and also the Killeshandra Agricultural Bank, of which I happen to be Chairman, and if the Organization Society had stuck to its original programme it would have been a blessing to every man in Ireland. But the original programme, as set forth in one of its annual reports, says that after co-operation had been fairly established in Ireland—I think they set five or six years—that they would effect themselves and give place to a body elected by the co-operatives themselves. Well, they have not effected themselves. I suppose once men get into a certain set they like to stay there. I used to be a member of the Organization Society, and at a meeting of theirs three years ago, with another gentleman from Cavan, Mr. Leigh, brought forward a proposal. The committee of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society consists, among others, of three members from each province. Well, the members from Ulster all live in a ring fence in the County Tyrone, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Forbes, and the Rev. Mr. Campbell; and I pointed out what did these gentlemen know of the needs of Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan, and what I proposed was that, that all these co-operative societies should nominate delegates to the county society, and the county societies to the provincial society, and the provincial societies should select four members to sit on the Irish Agricultural Organization Society Committee. Well, they would not have it. They continued in office, and by way of proving their reason *offere* they have interfered continually in matters in which they have no business. They interfered with us. We used to be affiliated with them, but they interfered with us considerably.

9935. Is there not an annual election of the officers and committee of management of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society?—Yes.

9936. Have candidates been put forward at such elections by you or any persons acting for you?—Yes.

9937. And they were defeated?—They were defeated. The whole thing lies in a ring in the County Tyrone. What the Irish Agricultural Organization Society did was this. They co-opted a man from Cavan. They took care to co-opt a man who would always

say "title to Mr. Burke," who would always say what the secretary, Mr. Anderson, wanted. I will give you an instance of their interference. We used to go affiliated to them and paid them an affiliation fee, but the members of the Killeeshandra Cessary stopped, and said, "They are no use to us at all; they are very good in the past; they are no good now." The next thing that happened was that the secretary of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society wrote a letter to our manager, whom we got over from Scotland, offering to put him a better-paid appointment under the Department of Agriculture. I met Mr. Gordon of the Department of Agriculture very shortly afterwards and I said, "What do you mean by that?" He said, "I know nothing about it. Not only have I not authorized the secretary of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society to offer your manager an appointment, but we have not an appointment to give him."

0830. Was that by letter or verbally?—By letter. The man brought the letter to me signed by the secretary of the Irish Agricultural Organisations Society. The result was that we had to raise our manager's salary from £120 by annual increments to £150 to keep him.

0032. (Chairman).—You spoke of being chairman of an agricultural bank. Have you anything to tell us about that?—It is a very small agricultural bank I have brought our last balance sheet for you if you like to read it (produces).

9662. (Mr. Dryden).—I should like to hear how you make your loans?—There is a committee consisting of five members. Originally we wanted to have seven but the farmers about asked us to have five. In fact they said three, but we said, "We must have five that is as low as possible," because they did not wish their members' expenditures talked about.

0043. (Chairman).—It is essential in these bands that you should know everything about everybody.—Yes, and we only give loans to men who are known to one of us. We only give a loan to a man who first of all becomes a member. The liability is unlimited. A man can only become a member if he is certain to be a dependable man to have by one or some of the committee.

Q92. That is to say in point of character, not in point of means?—In point of character. Well, if the man was known to be in a state of bankruptcy—that is a rule first of all that we give no loan exceeding £25, and no loan shall run for longer than a year, because we want to help the small man. We determine when the loan during the year is to be repaid, the man has to tell us what he wishes the loan for. Suppose he wanted to buy young pigs. We say, "Those pigs will be fat in six or seven months, and you will sell them then, and you must repay us then." Or, if he wanted to buy a milch cow, we know he will be selling the milk during a certain period, and he has to repay by instalments. We must bring two sureties approved of by the committee. We have an overdraft with the Bank of Ireland, for which the committee are personally responsible for £100. We have deposited something like £50, and we give from £300 to £400 a year in loans. We pay 4 per cent. to the Bank

9943 (*Mr. Dryden*).—Not £15 each—your loans below £151—£15 is the maximum.

66434. What would be the average of the loans roughly?—Loans ran from \$25 or \$24 up to \$15, perhaps, but the average would be \$9 or so. We asked the Department to advance us money at a less interest than that of 4 per cent, and they agreed to do so, provided we all signed a guarantee that they could call up the loans at any time. That made the loans

9044. Was ght instead of the overdraft at Bank of Ireland—instead of the overdraft.

9045. You found you could not agree to the partner's terms and adopted the system of having overheads?—We had the overhead system before.

overdraft.—We had the overdraft spoken of.
 5946. (Mr. Mich.)—Don't you think you could have safely trusted the Department not to have called the loan in a way that would have caused inconvenience to the bank?—There was a risk in it, should have broken with the Bank of Ireland, we were giving up the money at 4 per cent., but say a bank would have charged 5 per cent.

Q247. What would the Department give it for?—
Three and a quarter. As any rate the members of
the commission did not accept it.

Q948. (Mr. Brown).—What rate of interest do the borrowers pay?—Five per cent, and we give depositors 4 per cent. We have no clerical expense. The manager of the creamery kindly acts as honorary secretary to the bank.

had debt. One wild young chap—*it speaks badly for education*—a National school master, came to us and borrowed \$15 on the strength of a farm he was about to purchase, but he went off to America without purchasing the farm, met only with our sympathy but a great many chaps. I first heard of him from a teacher, who liked one of my place and said, "That scoundrel bolted" and paid up.

9390. (Chairman).—Do you often have recourse to the surties?—No. We often have to write to the surties and say, "We will come down on you if the principal does not pay up," and then they put ^{pressure on the principal}.

9951. (Mr. Mfibre).—That was a hardly legitimate loan—he was not a farmer at the time!—He was not a farmer, but our loans are not necessarily to farmers.

9492. (Chairman).—Are there many applications that you have to refuse?—At first we had a good many that we refused, because the members were not satisfied with the character of the applicants. But now it is so pretty well known that I don't think we refuse a lot at all of late, except to one or two men who have given trouble about payment of former loans.

9963. I see the number of loans granted from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1936, was thirteen—Yes.

2254. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You have told us about the success of the lectures, that three years ago you were present when only ten people turned up, and now the school is full of young farmers taking notes?—Yes.

1933. Then one may gather that the lectures, as given in the County Court at any rate, are proving to be a boon to the people. Very much so.

1995. And also that the young farmers are capable of making such records of what they hear at the lectures as they think will be useful afterwards!—
Taking notes. I can't tell you unless I read the notes, how at these were taking notes their ardently

1967. If they were taking notes they evidently thought they were going to get something out of them afterwards. Do you find that they are taking the trouble to read agricultural newspapers, or agricultural notes in the ordinary papers?—They very much appreciate the leaflets of the Department. The leaflets of the Department are gladly welcomed.

1964. Are these leaflets 'reproduced in the local papers'?—The leaflets are not, and I wish Mr. Mason's lectures had been printed, but they were not. May I be permitted to ask the members of the Department?

9600. I am not!—I asked it in order that you might represent it to the Department that it would be a very great boon to the farmers of the county if they could have a shorthand reporter present to take down these lectures.

2650 You have answered what I wished to know, whether any information that is made available in the form of literature, whether lectures or otherwise, reports of lectures or anything of that sort, would be taken advantage of by the young farmers of the State? B-10-13

9901. (Mr. Micks).—As regards the creamery at Killashandra, I infer from the success it has met with in the manufacture of butter that it is on a good basis at present.—Fairly satisfactory. It is gradually working out of debt.

9092. It is in a fairly satisfactory condition—It is, it is doing very good work, a large amount of business, making over a ton of butter a day, selling it for a good price. Our average price for June was

9963. Are you in any way associated or joined with any other Cavan creosotes?—No. Killestrand has some auxiliaries dotted all round it. An auxiliary is

where the milk is separated, but the cream not churned off. There are other creameries where butter is

Q665. Are you connected with any of these factories?

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terwood
Clifford, &c.

9966. You mentioned early in your evidence that you thought rather too much was done for the large as distinguished from the smaller farmers. Do you know the County Census west of Bownby?—Yes.

9967. Taking all round by Dowers and Glan, to Black Lion—I have been there. I live nine miles from Bownby, south-east.

9968. You have been in that district more than once?—Yes.

9969. Can you describe generally the kind of farms that are there, say in the Glan district?—I have not been in Glan, but about Dowers, where the farms are very poor and very backward.

9970. Are the holdings small?—The holdings are small.

9971. From your general knowledge of county business, are you aware that the farms in Glan are very small and valued at a low amount?—I have heard so.

9972. Can you tell me what has been done in the districts west and south-west of Bownby by your Committee?—The County Instructor, Mr. Reeves, used to go there and give lectures and advise the

people generally. He would go out and advise any man with regard to the cultivation of his farm who asked him questions. He would go out to the farm.

9973. Do you know to what extent he has advised that part of the county?—I can't tell you. I think his visits to that part of the county were just as frequent as to the other parts, but I can't vouch for it.

9974. Does he furnish a diary to your Committee?—No.

9975. Then you don't think you would have any means of ascertaining or finding out for us to what extent he gave instruction in those districts?—I would recommend your Secretary to write to Mr. Gannon, the Secretary of the County Committee. He could tell you exactly.

9976. You think he could?—I know he could, exactly the number of visits that Mr. Reeves paid.

9977. He could also tell us the extent to which the schemes of the Committee were put into operation in that district?—Yes, fully.

Mr. ROBERT THOMPSON EXAMINED.

Mr. R.
Thompson.

9978. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Belfast Chamber of Commerce?—I am.

9979. Mr. Roade has put in this resolution, which expresses some of his own views fully?—I might say I moved that resolution of the Chamber of Commerce, and it was carried unanimously.

9980. We have it on the notes, and he has explained the views of the Chamber of Commerce. I don't know what you desire to add?—I have no evidence prepared, but I am ready to answer any questions you ask me. I have had many years' experience of flax-spinning, bleaching, dyeing, printing, and various departments connected with the flax business.

9981. Mr. Roade went very fully into the question of the flax-growing and the treatment of flax?—I was a member of the old Technical Committee that existed for many years before this Technical Institute was started. We kept that up by voluntary contributions, so I know a little of the working of the thing, and I was co-opted on the Technical Institute Committee after it started, for a time, but I found that the attendance was rather heavy, and unless I neglected my own business I should give it up.

9982. We have had evidence of the prospects of the new building and the excellent accommodation?—Speaking of my own knowledge as a manufacturer, I would like to say I regard the Institute as a complete success, both in numbers and the principles underlying manufacturing which they could not really otherwise acquire. There are many distinct calculations in connection with the subject of weaving that the heads of departments don't teach young men, and I have more faith in the evening classes than in the day classes, and I think the attendance proves so.

9983. Certainly the evidence is in that direction. All the evening classes mean to be very largely attended?—Apprentices in mills and factories and warehouses have an opportunity of going to these evening classes after work. Apprentices see the practical work going on under their noses every day, and they find out the principles underlying these things by inquiring at the classes.

9984. Do you think that people who have worked all day are willing to come and get more theoretical instruction?—I am sure of it. When I was a young man learning my business I attended evening classes four evenings in the week, but of course they were not technical classes.

9985. As to the results which you look to from that, do you think that those people who attend in such large numbers benefit the trade or commerce?—I think we will turn out a better class of men for commerce in the future, and competition with foreign countries is so keen that I look to the technical schools to assist us in keeping our position. In flax-spinning we are the finest spinners in the world, and in manufacturing we have had keener competition than in spinning, but we want to keep to the point in both. I also think technical classes with regard to bleaching and dyeing and the other textile industries are of value, for there is great room for the extension of knowledge.

9986. (Mr. Ogilvie).—From the point of view of industries of that sort you evidently regard instruction in the scientific basis of the work as being the more important aspect of the assistance that technical instruction can give?—I would not say so in regard to spinning or probably manufacturing, but I think with regard to bleaching and printing and dyeing, chemical knowledge is most important.

9987. In reference to spinning and weaving, you think it is necessary to have, in addition to instruction in mechanics and all that sort of thing, some definite instruction on machines which would enable the student to have an opportunity of facing the possibilities of work?—And with regard to the calculations necessary to successfully carry on operations of that kind, the cost of goods and the calculations necessary to make out the cost accurately from the materials provided. A man to be a successful manufacturer must be an adept in these things.

9988. How far do you consider the provision of instruction in modern languages to be a necessity, and in what relation?—I regard French and German as absolutely necessary for carrying on the linen manufacture successfully. That knowledge, to be of value, must be carried to the extent that it enables a man to read and speak the language. That is desirable. I have had a good many years' experience myself, and know a little of both languages, but I don't profess to be a linguist. I can read a French letter with as great ease as an English one or a German, and German I can read a little and write out a cheque in it; and if I were younger I would go back to school and learn more.

9989. A young man learning it now ought to know it to the extent that he could speak it?—He ought. I often wish I was younger and I would be glad to go into it again.

9990. Are you satisfied with the methods used in the giving of instruction in the direction of commerce, office routine and all that sort of thing in connection with the technical education of the Institute?—I have not gone into that department of the business. I am a member of the Consultative Committee in connection with the technical school, but these things don't come before us.

9991. (Mr. Micks).—Do you think the giving of instruction in the principles underlying a mechanical trade tend greatly to improve the condition of the trade and also the efficiency of the worker?—It improves the efficiency of the worker, and that all goes to improve the efficiency of the trade.

9992. And the more efficient the worker becomes the more likely the worker would be to get higher wages?—Yes, he would be more likely to get to be a foreman, and consequently to get higher wages. It is absolutely necessary for a foreman. Take a foreman carpenter or mechanic. They must understand calculations and drawing a little, and we pay them higher accordingly.

9993. You would be in favour of adopting the technical instruction in a school like Belfast in the trades that exist in the place?—I would be in favour of that, but if we could introduce other trades I would be only too glad.

9994. Take your trades as they are. You would be in favour of adapting the instruction to the trades that exist there?—I would.

10006. If you were to leave Belfast and go to some other place where there is no trade existing, on what basis would you start technical instruction?—If I lived in a district of that kind and wanted to start a business, I would engage the best men.

10006. I am not talking of any business now. There are many towns in Ireland where a large sum of money in reality is spent on technical instruction and so trade is carried on there?—If these men were likely to come to Belfast they should learn there, but if not they should stay at home and learn agriculture.

10007. We had evidence from Mr. Andrews, of Comer, and he mentioned that he introduced spinning at Comer?—I am quite aware.

10008. That was a case of introducing a trade into a place where there was no trade then. He started by employing foremen and teachers, and by degrees, in process of time, all the people in the factory there were residents of the town. That would show that in a town, provided there was capital, an industry might be put on its feet?—It is quite possible to start new industries. To do so successfully you must take trained people from a district where the industry is known—to start it successfully.

10009. And would you see any objection to technical instruction being combined with the practice of the trade at the start of the industry in the town?—I quite approve of that.

10010. If that trade were ultimately intended to be a commercial undertaking?—Well, I think it would be quite right to help it for a time—two or three years, say—and then, if it was going to compete with other industries, and do so successfully, let

it stand on its own legs. It is the way I would do myself. July 15, 1906.

10011. (Mr. O'Grady).—You would be prepared to see the industry helped by what?—By such a Department as this.

10012. By the Department putting money into the business?

10013. (Mr. Micks).—Teachers?—I would not go so far as that, but to assist by undertaking to provide teachers, and if it was a new industry entirely, I would not object to assist that by money for a time, two or three years.

10014. (Mr. O'Grady).—Oh, you would be prepared to have the Department join hands with the directors of the company, so that the Department might pay so much, and the directors pay so much of the salaries of the men who would be at once the instructors for the Department and the foremen for the managers?—I quite approve of that under certain conditions—of course, that it is a new industry.

10015. (Mr. Micks).—A non-competitive industry?—Yes, I think a new industry ought to get help of that kind.

10016. (Mr. O'Grady).—What do you mean by a new industry?—Something that had not existed in the neighbourhood.

10017. It might be a flax mill, say, in Cork?—Yes, and I would be glad to see other industries in the South of Ireland. We don't want to keep all the success to the North.

10018. You are quite prepared to see public money expended in that way?—I would be quite prepared to support that view.

Mr. THOMAS INCH, Newry, examined.

10019. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Newry Chamber of Commerce?—Yes, sir.

10020. You put in this resolution which I have before me?—I do. At a meeting of the Council of the Newry Chamber of Commerce, held on the 23rd day of May, 1906, it was resolved:—"That the Council of the Newry Chamber of Commerce, having ample knowledge of the working of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act of 1899, particularly in its administration and operations in the Counties of Down and Armagh, respectfully affirm, that the new spirit it has created in agricultural affairs, in the arousing of farmers to the necessity of adapting themselves to the altered and modern conditions of their industry, in ways too numerous to mention, but from which we may select, as evidence of vigorous action, the improving of the breeds of cattle, the possibilities of a more profitable and successful management of poultry, and the better preparation for the marketing of their agricultural and dairy produce; also transit facilities, the advantages of which are already felt in the attention now given to the cattle traffic in our cross-channel services, the close and helpful attention which is given to the introduction of new industries, the fostering and improving of those already existing, and their development on more profitable and practical lines, as well as in the creation of an effective system of technical education, in our opinion are irrefutable and abundant proofs of the thoroughly practical, impartial, and faithful way in which this important Department has been administered by the distinguished Vice-President, the Right Honourable Sir Horace Plunkett, B.C.V.O., and his staff, and we regard with apprehension the proposed changes in the organisation of the Department, failing, as we do, to see the defects they are intended to remedy, and firmly convinced that these proposed changes would injuriously affect and interrupt the course which has proved efficacious, and thereby lose the benefit of a continuous policy, which experience has proved to have been successful in attaining the objects and aims of this beneficent Act.

10021. What are the proposed changes that you refer to these?—In its constitution.

10022. I should like to know what the Chamber of Commerce had in their mind?—I am not speaking as an expert or as an official. I rather represent the views of the man in the street.

10023. The proposed changes, I suppose, refer to an increase in the elective element?—Yes. They

have never, so far as we know, acted in a partial way. They have acted with the utmost impartiality and fairness, and endeavoured always to get the best material, and therefore we would not like a change.

10024. Now, and your observations of your own?—I will mention some of the results which we notice in the working of the thing. First of all we find that the hopeless tone amongst farmers with regard to agriculture as a source of profit is rapidly passing away. They are much more hopeful of being able to make money, not only just to live, but to make a success.

10025. (Mr. Micks).—"Live and thrive"?—"Live and thrive." We find the tone amongst the people is utterly different to what it was five years ago, and we do attribute that to the operation of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Department.

10026. And somewhat to the Land Act, too?—Decidedly; the two things conjointly. Now with regard to specific matters, I was listening with great interest to the evidence about lectures in the County Down, in Mid-Armagh, and in North Armagh. I cannot say so much about South Armagh. We find that the lectures have really had very satisfactory practical results. They have been largely attended. Of course we find this, that a great many come who do not put into practice what they are taught there.

10027. (Mr. Drayton).—At all events not immediately?—Not immediately. No, but a great many do, and one of the results of that is in the use of artificial manures. They are far more extensively used, and with far more discrimination. Before, of course, some manure was thought the thing for every purpose, or somebody would have a parcel for something else. But now we find that the farmers look very closely to the conditions of the soil and situation as having something to do with the crop that ought to be put in. I speak from my connection with the seed trade. I have been connected with it for over thirty years. I am not in it at present, but still interested in the working of the thing, and we regard that as one of the most important results. Farmers are beginning to see now that it will not do indiscriminately to carry out a routine and sow crops in a regular succession without any reference to the condition of the soil or situation. They are now beginning to see it is necessary to discriminate about that. Another thing is this, it is dawning on the farmers now that a catch crop is a thing that might come within the arrangements of a thoughtful or practical man.

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10018. Even though he had a very small holding?—Yes. If he saw he had a field of good, rich top soil, well situated, he might take an acre or so of onions. Well, an acre of onions; if the rest of the farm provided the working expenses and paid his rent, a successful acre of onions would be a very nice little thing to lay by after a year's work. If they had soil that would suit a strawberry crop, that would be a three-year course, and it would not cost much more than a field of grass. It would be an enormous profit if they had a good crop of strawberries, and in the same way that catch crop there would be a surplus of profit. Everything else would pay the expenses, and he would have that for the surplus of profit. I simply give those as ideas that are cropping up in men's minds now, and I trace it directly to lectures that have been given and are being given in the districts. In a town-land if you have two men who are giving practical application to what they learn at lectures it will really have an effect all round. But the great hope that we see, I don't know whether we are correct in this or not, but we attach a vast importance to technical training in giving a knowledge of chemistry in nearly all the things that are taught there, for instance, domestic economy. We think the education now that is going on is really the hope of the future. One gentleman spoke of the young fellows reading morning papers and taking notes at lectures. You will find these men are lately out of school where elementary science has been taught, and the knowledge of facts that can be easily applied. I consider the Department are secretly gauging the future of agriculture when they attach so much importance to the education at the present time of the young people, because now in schools the trend of things is really changing. Before this anyone who stayed a little longer at school than usual, it was to be a clerk or enter commerce. Now a little more attention is being given to training in the matter of agriculture, and turning the attention of the young people to that. I would like to emphasize this if you permit me that I believe the Technical Department is exercising a wise provision with regard to that. They are really pressing on the education of the young people, because just as I have mentioned, a great many of the old people were too old to change their methods, but the young people coming in with their knowledge and training will step out of those ruts and go on making further advances.

10019. (Chairman).—Some witnesses have told us that for educational purposes they give up a farmer after forty!—Indeed you may, the population is so strong.

10020. (Mr. Dryden).—And some a long while before that!—I am afraid so. I can give you an instance of that in the matter of poultry. You would have heard in the market such a remark as this, on an objection being made to the size of the eggs. Well I have heard the reply myself that the worst of the eggs was a busy day's work for the hen, and that you could not expect from the hen more than a good day's work. They thought that nature's law was so stringent that they could not be interfered with. But now they see that by getting a better breed of poultry and attending to the feeding a better day's work can be done by the hen. I don't think anyone estimates the addition to the value that the farmer holds in the quantities of poultry that have now accumulated. They don't take stock and balance things at the end of the year, but the poultry is growing in numbers and quality. Formerly the poultry was just an adjunct to the farm for the use of the family. Now it is made a source of profit, and an exceedingly valuable source of profit. I was going to refer to the creameries. I have heard a good deal said about them, and we may at once admit that there is a difference of opinion with regard to the creameries, considered in themselves, first of all as a source of profit to the people who lactate in them, and as a source of advantage in the quality of the cattle produced. In some places they will tell you that with the substitutes for milk they will rear as good young calves as with the milk. Others will tell you that they do not. All we know is that the stock of cattle is increasing. We will not give an opinion about the quality. I do not speak as an expert, but merely as a practical man, who knows what he is talking about. The quantity of cattle in the country has very much increased—I don't know about the quality—and there is this that has come about, a better method of making butter, and especially now in the new method adopted by the Department. In-

stead of creameries they are sending women lactaries, going to farmers' houses and teaching how to make butter. We believe that that is going to be the best solution of the difficulty. The butter used to be wretchedly made in rural districts, and after the Danish competition Irish butter was a few years ago practically unsaleable till the creameries were produced.

10021. It had no definite quality?—It had no definite quality.

10022. Have you had experience of buying it from farmers and compounding it and making it one grade, which is not always a very good grade?—It is not, indeed. It had got Irish butter a name that will take years to do away with. But now things are changed, the markets are again open, the creameries send their butter directly across the Channel. But now farmers who have received instruction from the lectures are making delicious butter, and a demand has set in for it, and they are able to sell their butter at a little more than the creameries can sell theirs at, and I think it is possible that the creameries will be a thing of the past if this goes on, and it will be a great advantage to the country.

10023. Don't you think there is room for both?—Oh, yes; the creameries were really the means of introducing the latter thing, and it shows, I think, that the Department is wide awake to better methods in producing by the point that they have realised and endeavouring to do better. Now you come to the question of fruit, and that in relation to this catch profit too, I think at least in the district where I come from, wherever the Department has taken the thing in hand. For instance, some fruit must have a limestone district. Other fruit must have a district where there is no lime, and now the Department are giving evidence and instruction in that; and in every district where the fruit has been introduced it is nearly in every case a success, and they are going into making preserves and ciders, and increasing their income unconsciously to the farmers themselves. And what is clear to business people is that they have rather more money to spend, and they are living better, and things are more hopeful and prosperous all round. I wanted to mention a matter which gave me a right to speak with regard to the Department. I was introduced to the Department by a gentleman in our own district, who had studied its methods most carefully, the late Mr. Michael Magre. He was really an enthusiast with regard to this matter. After he had mastered the methods and aims of the society he set himself to support it in the district, and went and got meetings held in the different quarters. I may tell you one fact. The result of this man's efforts was to produce such a union amongst all different sects and denominations in the county that really differences in religion and differences in politics were altogether overlooked, and they were united together everywhere, on the same platform, exercising this common interest. You would have priests and presbyters presiding at the one meeting. You would have on the committee farmers, doctors, solicitors, veterinary surgeons, and clergy of the different denominations all on committees who formed opinions on what the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction offered. Now, I don't know any other influence that has ever been a greater blessing to the district I come from.

10024. You attach a great deal of value to this union?—I do. We got to know each other; we were very much separated. That day is gone, and I think, gone for ever, and mainly through the influence of our united action in taking advantage of the Department of Agriculture. Now I was concerned in the promotion of a railway. We wanted to open up a district. Mr. Magre introduced me to Sir Horace Plunkett. I put our scheme before him; he was exceedingly courteous. He said he was very sympathetic with anything of the kind; it was not on their programme, but still anything that affected the welfare of the country he was glad to look into. That was the Newry, Reading, and Tynagh line. Sir Horace was very courteous, but said he would report on the matter. I made the acquaintance of a gentleman who is no longer with us, but whose name is green in the memory of all Ireland, the late Mr. W. F. Cope. If I had received no other advantage from the Department but the making of that man's acquaintance, I would still think it to have been worth it to me, at

all events. He was an ex-minister in the Royal University, but Sir Horace Plunkett got him somehow as a student for the Department, and what he has done for this country in the classification he has done for the groups and forms of agriculture previous I think will be of lasting benefit. I made calling the assistance of others. Mr. Coyne was sent down to go over the whole of the district and route of the railway. He came and reported on it. The Vice-President, not satisfied with that, sent a man down to inspect our harbour and see what our cross-Channel accommodation was. After these two had reported, Sir Horace came down himself to see our harbour and moored through the district himself, and called at some of the creameries, the Whitecross Creamery, paying his visit there and putting his finger on the weak spot, the management of the railway. We spent the entire day looking at points of interest. He took up our railway. It was not on their programme, but had a bearing on the interests of the country and therefore came within their purview, and he gave us all the help he could. He prepared a report which had a powerful effect with the Board of Works, and, indeed, the Chief Secretary, and he has given us very important help in all we have done with regard to that railway, because the Department of Agriculture considers transit a matter of the most vital importance.

10025. Very closely connected with agriculture?—Yes. I merely mention that, that the Department served the country, and had time to do it, and helped us in that matter.

10026. (Mr. Micks).—Did the public subscribe to the railway?—The town of Newry guaranteed £50,000 of the stock.

10027. Was there any other?—We are now completing our arrangements for working with the Coghlin Valley line, and our stock will then be dealt with.

10028. It has not reached the stage when the public will subscribe?—Not yet. We have no doubt of being able to get our stock placed. I wanted simply to say on that what I think will suggest itself to anyone, that is that, after all, a thing that is producing results of this kind is proving its value as an agency in the country, and we would not like, I must say, to see Sir Horace Plunkett displaced, a man who spends his time and his strength, and who has let whatever financial advantage he is deriving from it go to the benefit of agriculture. I do not see how anyone better than he can be put in his place, and we have expressed our views that if changes are made in the constitution now, you will put an arrow on the progress of the thing. If you begin to try new methods, and put in new men, you put in men who are not thoroughly up in the questions of the present time, and there will be a breach in the continuity of the policy; and we think as matters are they could not well be improved.

10029. Owing to your having been in the seed trade, I suppose you have an extensive knowledge of the condition of the country about Newry?—I have.

10030. Do you know the part of the country from Crossmaglen to Forkhill?—I do.

10031. That is very largely a country of small holdings?—Very small holdings.

10032. Can you tell me how far the operations of the County Committee have reached that part of the country. Newry is in two counties, do you know to what extent the operations of the County Committee have reached those people?—I am afraid in South Armagh they have not received as much benefit as Mid-Armagh and North Armagh. The farms are larger, and perhaps the farmers are more up-to-date in their methods.

10033. You know the district on the western slopes of the Mourne Mountains?—Very well.

10034. Does your observation also apply to the

small holdings therein?—Unless in one narrow area July 22, 1906.

about Rostrevor it would not apply.

10035. If you take the west side of the mountain from Killybeg to Newcastle, the slopes of the hills between the sea and the mountains?—The situation is so different; they all have the advantage of fishing there, and sea-stack, and the conditions are so different you can hardly compare them.

10036. They are small holdings there?—They are.

10037. In a good many instances very poor?—Yes.

10038. Especially on the mountains between Rostrevor and Killybeg?—Yes, actually on the spur of the mountain, but there is a long stretch of rich, level land where the road runs.

10039. On the higher slopes, however?—I am afraid they are not so well off.

10040. Can you tell me how far the operations of the County Committee have reached the people on the higher slopes?—I could not. I could hardly differentiate a part of the district. I rather think they are gaining by it, because they are planting early potatoes.

10041. On the higher ground?—They would, indeed. They have the sun all day, and can shelter them from frosts, and they are entirely sheltered from the north.

10042. On what townlands would they plant early potatoes?—I don't know the townlands; it is the estate I would know. There are many exceptional features peculiar to itself in Mourne, and on the whole it is a very prosperous district.

10043. On the slopes of the Carrington Mountains?—There is not much relief there. It has not done much good there.

10044. And Cooley?—Cooley is not so bad. They had very good wheat ground there. Now they grow barley and oats. In Omagh and Cooley the fathers of the families go away to England. They are poor, and naturally they are not so badly off.

10045. That is owing to their earnings in England?—Yes.

10046. With regard to agricultural matters. Do you know whether much has been done there?—I am afraid I could not speak about Carrington. We were thinking of entering upon a new industry, and we went to the Department for information. They placed their geological expert at our disposal, and by their advice saved us from making a great mistake and incurring a heavy loss. It was the making of cement. We thought we had pure limestone. When the expert examined the matter there was impure granite through it, and it could not be used. But we have started a new industry in Newry, the making of brick, and they have obtained for us most valuable information from the Continent.

10047. What means of transit have you?—We are situated near the Quay, and have the railway station near us.

10048. (Mr. Brown).—Has there not been a great development in the growing of early potatoes in the district?—Very great.

10049. Within what period has that arisen?—Within the last four years.

10050. Did the growing of early potatoes as an industry exist before that?—It did not. The Department there again saved us. We wanted to get the Rostrevor people to take up the planting of early potatoes. I interested myself about it, and the Department advised us not. The thing was becoming really pretty well done, and it was better not to take it up. There was as much produced as could be marketed.

10051. That is beyond Rostrevor and on to Killybeg?—No; that is the district where it exists at present. We were going to do it further up the valley, and we were advised not, and we did not do it.

10052. (Mr. Micks).—How was that advice conveyed?—By a man who came down from the Department.

Mr. THOMAS TROT, J.P., examined.

10053. (Chairman).—You represent the Monaghan County Council?—Yes. I am sorry that my remarks will be less or more a criticism of the work of the Department.

10054. We want criticism?—I am sure you wish to know the true facts of the state of affairs in the

county that I have the honour to represent. From the very passing of the Act our County Council were determined that they would take full advantage of the benefits under the different schemes. The County Council at once selected a Committee, and, in doing so, they were very careful in selecting the men, regardless of politics or religion, who, they believed,

Mr. T. TROT, J.P.

July 20, 1906. had wide experience of agriculture and technical instruction.

Mr. T. Tuck, &c.

10053. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you remember the members on that Committee?—A very large number, something like fifty or sixty members. Later we have reduced it. The members of the County Council are members of the County Committee.

10054. (Chairman).—All the members of the County Council are members of the Committee?—Yes; heard to be, I think.

10055. Why do you think it an advantage that all the members of the Council should be members of the Committee?—I understood they were supposed to be.

10056. A Committee, one should suppose, is a body selected for special reasons, out of a larger body?—We were anxious to have representatives from each district of the county who thoroughly understood the requirements of the district. I must say we are rather disappointed with the results accruing from the scheme.

10057. Which scheme?—The agricultural principal. We believed that the Department would be more elastic, that they would be more agreeable to suggestions sent forward by our Committee, and that they would agree to what was most beneficial for the different localities of the county, as what suits one part of our county would altogether be unsuitable for other parts of it, and we considered that the Department should allow the Committee to modify the scheme a bit, because our county is different, say, from Meath. Ours is an agricultural county, Meath is more for grazing, and we believed that a good deal could be done by having an experimental farm or model farm, or whatever you may choose to call it. The average farm in our county would be about ten acres, and our Committee has always felt that it would bring home to farmers the great advantages that could be derived by having an experimental farm in each district.

10058. (Mr. Dryden).—Would you take a farm of about the size of ten acres and ask the Department to send someone there to manage it?—Oh, no; we believe that a farm such as that could be looked after by the agricultural instructor.

10059. (Chairman).—Would the instructor reside on or visit it occasionally?—We have an agricultural instructor in the county. He goes all over the county. He could visit the different districts, and supervise the proper working of these farms.

10060. I want to know how you would carry it out. Would you take a particular farm, leaving the present occupier of the farm where he is, and the carrying on of the farm under the superintendence of the instructor?—That might be very good where you could get that done.

10061. I want to know your plan?—I believe the County Council could acquire these farms, not altogether purchase them out, but take a lease of them for five years or four years as the case may be.

10062. Supposing the County Council went so far, what is the next step?—The County Committee might do that with the consent of the Department.

10063. (Mr. Dryden).—What do you want to do—how are you going to proceed with the affair?—You take the farm at a certain rent.

10064. We have got to that point. Now the next?—The County Committee must take charge of that farm subject to the approval of the Department.

10065. There are seventy-five or eighty people on that Committee. How would you then manage the farm?—The County Committee always make a rule of appointing sub-committees in their districts. They could entrust it to the working of a small sub-committee.

10066. (Mr. Micks).—Would you have any paid instructor?—The county instructor.

10067. (Chairman).—But he would not reside on the farm; he would be wandering about and doing other things. You must have some one on the farm to look after it?—Oh, yes.

10068. You require a man in charge of it?—A labouring man, that you could get on reasonable terms who would reside on the farm, or you would pay him a certain salary or rate of wages, and he would take proper care of the farm and carry out all the work under the direction of the instructor.

10069. (Mr. Dryden).—How many such farms do you think you should have?—I think we should not

venture on too many of them at once. We would be inclined to have one in each rural district. When we feel more aggrieved about it, we have always felt we should have one at least in connection with our School of Agriculture at Monaghan.

10070. (Chairman).—Where is that?—It is in the town of Monaghan, and moreover, to show the anxiety of the people, it was purchased by local contributions.

10071. (Mr. Brown).—When was it established?—It was established about six years ago. Sir Horace Plunkett came down at the opening of that school, and I must say that he assisted us considerably.

10072. (Mr. Dryden).—What is it called?—The Monaghan School of Agriculture. It has been started under the Department, and they have issued us in the endowment of the school, and paid the wages and salaries of the instructors, but what we believe would be very useful, we have through the generosity of Lord Rossmore, the necessary land of twelve or fourteen acres, and we felt that experiments should be carried out on that land by the different instructors, which would be a source of great information to the people, and show clearly the advantage when people from different directions of the county came there to Ashtown and Quarter Sessions and meetings of the County Council and County Commission, and show them there what had been done and was capable of doing.

10073. Do you think that farm would fairly represent all the soil of the county?—I think it would be a fair representation. The soil is not extra good.

10074. In some counties you would have an entirely different and in one part of it from what you would have in the other?—Yes.

10075. (Mr. Micks).—Does it represent the land of the better-class holdings or the land on the poorer holdings?—I believe it would be a fair representation.

10076. Where is your own farm?—Five miles from Monaghan, towards Smithborough. I am a member of the Council of Agriculture, and I feel very strongly that that Council should be allowed, and I believe, too, it would have a very useful effect if some information of the working of the Council of Agriculture and Technical Instruction was given to the public. I don't say every detail should be given, but a certain amount of information should be given.

10077. (Mr. Brown).—You mean by the Board?—Yes; there was a resolution to that effect, and some details were given to the Press after that, and I see more information in that than I do by the printing of the proceedings of the Council of Agriculture.

10078. (Chairman).—You think it would be better to have much more information?—Yes. We could not expect that every little thing should be made public.

10079. (Mr. Brown).—That has been actually done now?—That is what I say. I approve of what has been done.

10080. In deference to a resolution of the Council of Agriculture, passed at the last meeting?—Yes. I hope that that will be continued. Our Council also feel that there is a large amount of money used up in administrative purposes; that the officials in red about the Department swallow up a great deal of revenue that should be used for other useful purposes.

10081. (Mr. Dryden).—Can you suggest any remedy for that?—We are low or more groping in the dark, because we don't know exactly what the amount spent on the salaries of officials and the expenditure. It is well known even to the Council of Agriculture that would have a very good effect.

10082. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose that you know that the salaries are all paid out of the Parliamentary Vote, the details of which are exhibited to everybody?—There is a great deal of expenditure even with the officials. Take travelling expenses in our own county.

10083. Are you speaking of your own administration?—The whole thing in general.

10084. Do you mean the expense of the central staff or your own expenses?—I am taking first the central staff.

10085. As I said before they are paid out of the Parliamentary Vote.

10086. (Mr. Micks).—I suppose as a taxpayer you would like that to be as low as possible?

10087. (Mr. Glynn).—As a matter of fact you know this is all published. It is not within your knowledge,

but you can see it any day—I am afraid the salaries of all the officials in connection with the Department are not published.

10088. (Chairman).—Oh! yes, they are!—And the expenses in working the whole thing.

10089. (Mr. O'Grady).—Travelling expenses and everything?—Should some of that go to the efficient working of the Agriculture and Technical Aids?

10090. (Chairman).—Does it not? You must have officials, and you must have them paid, and all these are voted, and go through Parliament, where there are Irish members. It is all published in the Estimates, and can be criticised.

(Mr. Dryden).—Another thing, if you are trying to get the best men, you are in competition with the whole world!—We say that in selecting men as officials they have been selecting to a great measure from a class that has been always hostile to the views of the people in this country.

10091. Going outside the country?—Yes.

10092. (Chairman).—Is it the objection that they are not Irishmen, or that they are Irishmen who are not in sympathy with the people?—We believe in having Irishmen. Of course you must have capable Irishmen, and when you can find them they are more in sympathy with the prosperity of the country.

10093. You want, don't you, officials and instructors who have been highly trained?—Yes.

10094. In Ireland, unfortunately, until recent years you have not had any system for training these people?—Not a proper system.

10095. Therefore, it is not very much to be wondered at that at the first starting of the system there was not a sufficient number of Irishmen who had been trained?—That is so. But there is a very strong feeling that some Irishmen have been passed over.

10096. But it is so that at the outset there was not a sufficient number of Irishmen who had received the technical training wanted for these places?—We had not a sufficient number, we all admit that, but even with the few that we had we had a feeling that some of them had been passed over and led to leave the country to make others more prosperous.

10097. (Mr. Brown).—Are you speaking of specific instances?—I could give you some instances, but I hope you won't press me to that. Dealing with the small farmers in our country we feel a great deal could be done by introducing lime and putting lime within reach of the small farmers.

10098. (Mr. Micks).—You have a scheme for that? We have. We have several times approached the Department.

10099. We heard about the scheme for bringing lime from Clonsilla?—We think that is a mistake. It was felt that would be a great advantage if some policy concessions were made by the railway company. That will not work out very well, but we think something should be done for the farmers in the different districts of our country where it was thought necessary that they should have lime for the proper working of the land.

10100. Do you mean a distribution at cost price or under cost price?—I know the Department is opposed to giving subsidies, still I think it would not be any more injurious to give a subsidy to that than to a premium bull.

10101. Would it not be a tremendous expenditure if lime were to be supplied to every farmer all over the districts where there is no lime?—If the Department were agreed to pay an expert and sent an expert to the district, they would have the thing properly carried out for a year or two, and set apart some subsidies for the building of a few kilns.

10102. Would not the income of the Department be quite insufficient to supply the lime to the people who would be applying for it? The whole income would be hardly sufficient?—There is a certain grant to each county, and we would not wish to go beyond that, but we believe some other things could be dropped, and this would be more useful.

10103. (Mr. Brown).—Which of the schemes do you propose to drop?—We have dropped one agricultural scheme in different centres of the county, agricultural classes. There would be some saving from that part of our scheme, and other little things too.

10104. Did you drop any of the live stock schemes?—No, but indeed we have our grievances here.

10105. (Mr. O'Grady).—Did I understand you would like an expert to be sent down to the country to show

how dressed limekilns could be opened or used for lime July 20, 1905. and opened again?—Yes.

10106. That lime to be given to the farmers at cost price?—Slightly over the price to cover some expenses.

10107. Then the only expense you think should be undertaken is that of sending an expert down to have the thing started. You would have the limekilns run as a commercial business and paying their way?—Yes. In the poorer districts we do consider that the Department might give a loan or sufficient guarantee at a small rate of interest. That would assist the people in that district to get limekilns working.

10108. Are there no banks available in those districts that are doing that just now?—Co-operative banks?—They are not doing exactly that, but of course they are giving loans to the farmers. I think that that would not be within their scope.

10109. You don't think that the giving of loans for the purchase of lime would be within their scope?—I don't think so.

10110. They would give loans for the purchase of implements or stock, or manure, but not for lime?—I think too much money is spent on manure. Of course it improves the land, but it is very expensive, and in our district farmers involve themselves too much in the purchase of artificial manure. They purchase a great deal on the credit system. They are getting six or twelve months' credit as the case may be, and they are inclined to purchase more manure than perhaps they can meet when the time comes for payment.

10111. (Mr. Micks).—Do you think they neglect to gather farmyard manure?—That has been improved a great deal by the lectures from the instructors.

10112. (Mr. O'Grady).—Is it also, do you think, owing to advice as to the proper artificial manures?—Yes.

10113. Have his efforts gone at all to diminish the disadvantage you have just mentioned about their spending too much on artificial manures?—No, they are encouraged to purchase artificial manures, but one would expect that they would be purchased according to the means of the people. Under the live stock scheme I see a number of people have touched on this question of awarding premiums to bulls. I differ slightly from the other witnesses. I think if the Department could see their way to allow their inspector to go round, say, when he is awarding premiums or appraising of premiums that have been given for the past year, that he should have a show, or different shows, in two or three centres in the county where the pure-bred bulls in the county could be taken, and say that that was worth a fee awarded a premium, he should do so there, because I hold that the best bull of our county is taken out of it, for instance, when the good breeders bring their bulls to the Dublin or Belfast Show.

10114. (Mr. Dryden).—What is the present system?—The county awards the premium, but whoever is awarded the premium must go up to Dublin or Belfast and buy their bull, and if they were judged locally we would have better blood, because as a rule men that are awarded a premium go to Belfast and Dublin Show and buy a premium bull. They don't mind much about the breeding only that it has a premium.

10115. Do I understand you to suggest that all the bulls used in your county ought to be bought there. They would be owned in the county if they were judged there?—What we would recommend is this, that an inspector from the Department would visit the county a certain time before the Dublin or Belfast Show; that there should be a show of bulls in each district, and that he would award to the bull worthy of it a premium.

10116. (Mr. Brown).—By private inspection where he was bred?—Yes; then the man who owned the bull could apply to the County Committee that he had that bull, and I am sure the County Committee would award the premium to the man who had the best bull.

10117. (Mr. Dryden).—You would not be introducing any outside blood into the county under that form?—I think some of the blood introduced from outside is not the best.

10118. (Chairman).—The best bulls in the county should be the premium bulls—the only competition would be between the premium bulls in the county already?—There would be more. Of course some people would go outside the county and buy their premium bull and bring him in, as we award so many to each district.

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10138. (Mr. Brown).—Would you make it obligatory on the holders of premiums to buy their bulls in the county?—I don't think so. In our county a poor man may have a very good animal, splendid blood, well worthy of a premium, but his means can't take him to Dublin or Belfast. I may say the first year the Department did agree to that course, and it was very satisfactory. The horse scheme has not been very successful. We are not satisfied with the breed of horses. As a general plan we think some from the old draught horse would be suitable.

10139. (Mr. Dryden).—I have asked some of the witnesses where that class of horse could be obtained? We want the Department to find that out for us if possible.

10140. They have been hunting for it and can't find it.—The railway rates is, of course, a general grievance all over. I know that at every meeting of the Council of Agriculture resolutions are passed recommending the Department to do something. Of course the results have not been published. I am sure they are trying to do their best.

10141. (Mr. Micks).—You see there is a Commission on the subject now?—The reason I suggest that the Board of Agriculture should be elected is this. As it stands at present some of the counties in Ireland are not represented on the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction at all. We are all human nature and have all less or more interest in our own county, and we think with regard to nominated members—I am sure it was useful at the start the same as with the County Council—but I think we have arrived at the stage when we could very well get on without nominated members, and each county should have elected members on the Boards of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

10142. (Mr. Brown).—Have you been on the Council for some time?—Yes, from the formation.

10143. Have you ever known much difference of opinion between the nominated members and elected members of the Council—have they looked on things in different ways?—The general body of the members that are not in close touch with the working of the Council.

10144. I am not talking of that. I ask you as a matter of experience have you known of cases where the bulk of the nominated members took one view and the bulk of the elected members took another?—I can't give you an instance of that.

10145. Have they worked very well?—We feel we can do very little at the Council of Agriculture.

10146. That is another point?—The members of the Board of Agriculture are in close touch with the business, and the ordinary member of the Council of Agriculture going up if they raise a question every official of the Department is sitting round there who have the whole information, and they are easily thwarted, and we have not sufficient information to fight out a case there. But indeed, if a representative from every county was on the Board we would have sufficient information to see that justice was done to every county.

10147. You would have one representative on each board?—One or two as the case may be.

10148. Would you have any other members on it except representatives of the counties, for instance, the Board of Technical Education—would you not have the cities and towns represented?—Certainly, it is not altogether from the County Council I would recommend them to be elected, but there are the County Councils. We have capable men in each county to serve on the Technical Board.

10149. What other representatives would you have on those bodies—would you have any other representatives?—The County Council and County Councils.

10150. (Mr. Micks).—Would you have any but the elected members?—I don't think so. You could have advice from your officials, and there must be a vice-president or president who need not be elected.

10151. (Mr. Brown).—These boards would have to sit practically continuously if the new duties you suggest were cast upon them?—I don't think so.

10152. How often should they meet?—Once a month.

10153. That would be at least thirty-two persons would have to meet once a month?—Yes.

10154. Do you see any difficulty in that?—The expense might be pretty heavy. The Council of Agriculture, however, generally pay the expense of mem-

bers attending meetings of the Council. I don't see why the expense of the Board should not be the same.

10155. I suppose you know each meeting of the Council costs £200?—I have heard that.

10156. Each meeting of the Board would cost half of that?—Oh, no, it would not. Less than £100. That would be got over.

10157. The Board of Technical Instruction should also meet once a month, and their expense also paid?—Yes, I think we could get capable men to attend the meeting that, perhaps, would do so without their expenses being paid.

10158. From each county in Ireland?—Oh, no, I don't say that.

10159. I am afraid that would make a big hole in the endowment. You think already there is too much money spent in administration?—I think that would be well spent.

10160. And the larger the committee the more efficient it is likely to be?—I don't say that. It is possible they might elect a working committee and the general committee would only meet occasionally; that there would be a standing committee elected.

10161. (Mr. Dryden).—Now, coming back to these itinerant instructors, I am quite in sympathy with your view that there should be as many Irishmen as possible. Do you know how many itinerant instructors there are in all employed, taking the country all over?—I am not aware of the numbers employed in Ireland.

10162. Professor Campbell informed us there were 108 at work—would you like to make a guess how many are Irishmen?—I know a number have been appointed in the last two years.

10163. I think he told us in his evidence there are ninety-six out of 364 who had been trained in Ireland, and the other six were selected by the County Councils and the other six were selected by a committee elected themselves?—I don't make a complaint altogether against the instructors being non-Irishmen, but I find there are a number of men appointed not altogether on merits. Take Mr. Porter's case. Of course I will be met by the statement that Mr. Porter was handed over from the Congested Districts Board. We told all appointments should be on merits. We would be all anxious to know what Mr. Porter's qualifications are for the position he holds. We think in making appointments they should be made solely on merit.

10164. (Mr. Brown).—In this case Mr. Porter was a member of a board that was handed over to the Department?—Yes, that was the narrow the Vice-President gave me on the last occasion I asked the question.

10165. Was that not satisfactory to you as far as the Department is concerned?—It is not satisfactory. From the accounts we see published, Mr. Porter is in receipt of a salary no matter from what source it is coming of something approaching £1,000, and I think it would be more satisfactory if that man had been appointed on his merits, and not allow the Government or any other body to hand over men from other boards whose qualifications might not stand investigation.

10166. (Mr. Dryden).—You see Parliament did it?—It is not the first thing Parliament did wrong.

10167. (Mr. Micks).—I am sure you would not be rashly to attack the reputation of any man?—No.

10168. Do you really know anything of your own personal knowledge of Mr. Porter?—Not of my own personal knowledge, but you know his appointment has been questioned, and you can't stop the country people who read the Press from the feeling that we have been appointed to positions not on merits but simply because they were in some other position before that was discontinued, and they are handed over as pensioners.

10169. I served in the same department with Mr. Porter for six or eight years, and I can't help testifying to his capacity?—For the position he holds?

10170. For any position of the kind?—If you kindly publish his qualifications you will stop a good deal of criticism.

10171. (Mr. O'Grady).—Has he been doing work in your neighbourhood?—No.

10172. Or any neighbourhood you know about?—No.

10173. Has he been criticized by people who have been in contact with his work?—He is enjoying a salary of £900, while other men, looked on as capable men, take for instance Mr. Gordon, whom I hold is a capable man, he has only got a salary of £500. This naturally creates the suspicion in the

heads of the people that there is some favoritism going on.

10153. You don't question his efficiency, but you think he is being paid more than the market value of his services?—We have no information as to the value of his capacity.

10154. Is it necessary you should have?—I think so. I think every man appointed to a position of that sort should be appointed on merit. When I asked the question I was told that he was handed over from the Unopposed Districts Board, and the Department had nothing to do with his appointment. Is that satisfactory?

10155. So far as the Department is concerned that was all they could possibly say. What you want to get at is who appointed him before that, and why?—Could the Department not say this much—this man

has been handed over and we have investigated his qualification, and are satisfied he is thoroughly qualified for the position he holds.

10156. Did they not say that?—They did not.

10157. (Mr. Brown).—I think you are mistaken. The Vice-President used words practically to the effect now in answering your question?—Oh, no! He told me he was handed over. As you may remember, the Vice-President in his address referred to the appointment and invited criticism on his address, and when I raised the question it was partly ruled out of order, but some little discussion got up on it, and we got a side answer to the question I put. The Chairman of the Rural District Council, Mr. Whelan, who was appointed here to give evidence, said he cannot attend and has sent in a written statement.

Mr. Denis CARROLL ROSSER examined.

10158. (Chairman).—You are Secretary of the Monaghan County Council?—Secretary of the County Council, and I have been asked by both that body and the County Committee to come here. There was one question put to Mr. Toole about the construction of the committee. It was originally much larger than it is now, but as he states half the committee consists of the entire County Council, and the other half of persons nominated from districts where there was no representation on the County Council.

10159. (Mr. Dryden).—How many does that make now?—Twenty-seven county councillors and twenty-seven others. It was much larger before, and there were one or two taken off, and one or two added recently.—It is about fifty-four.

10160. (Mr. Brown).—Originally it was sixty?—It was something like 100 the first time.

10161. (Chairman).—That is rather large!—A quorum could never be got then but it works exceedingly well now. There is no complaint from any part of the district where a person can be got to attend that they are not represented. There are now only one or two little places where nobody can be got to come from. It works exceedingly well, because every grievance and trouble in the county is brought up to the committee.

10162. (Mr. Dryden).—Don't you think it would be better to call it by some other name than that of a committee?—It might. There are a number of sub-committees. We meet in two parts of the county. In the early days when the county was being divided for the purposes of the working of the Act a different division was made than that arbitrarily made by the Local Government Board, so that the poorer districts would be served by themselves. The mountain districts near Slieve Donard, Trough and Trough were cut off and made the size of an original rural district, and the two other rural districts where the people are better off were put together. We have got instructions in almost everything we can possibly get them in, and as far as the work in the county goes every possible advantage has been taken of the Act from the beginning. We were unfortunate in the early days in not always being able to get instructions. In the statement sent in to you there are three or four complaints. I am not giving them as my own, but as set out by the committee.

10163. We have had those in writing and Mr. Toole has told us about them?—About the school; it was purchased altogether by voluntary subscriptions and money raised locally, the Department paying the agricultural teacher and paying the manager of the school and the free places and other expenses being contributed to by the county.

10164. (Chairman).—That existed before the time of the Department?—No, it was purchased at the instance of the County Committee, the county could not buy it themselves. The fitting up of the school cost £350, that was subscribed, paid out of the ordinary county funds, subscribed proportionately five to four by the county and the Department. About our shows, we consider there are the natural corollary to the work carried on through the county. Some observations were made about the poorer people not getting the advantage of them. I was asked myself to draft the original programme of the shows. We took the greatest care that everything should be open to the poorer man, and that in classes where the poor

could compete, in no case should a well-to-do person compete with a poorer man so well off. In every one of such classes we made two divisions, and in some three. Any person who reads the programme will see at once that the greatest care was taken. In all the work of the Department exceptional care was taken to try wherever we had the power to put it in the reach of the poorer farmers. An exceptionally large number of the farms in the county are very small. The late Mr. Coyne published the statistics. There were 7,300 farmers between £5 and £15 valuations, and 7,000 between £15 and £30. It is the smallest county in Ulster, and there are very few farmers outside these two groups. There can't be 2,000 outside, above or below these. We took great care that as much as possible of the lectures should be delivered to the poorer places. These lectures were very well attended everywhere. The agricultural instructor who had the smallest attendance had an average attendance of forty. We came to loggishade with the Department, and we thought them very arbitrary sometimes as to the appointment of the instructors. We had a splendid agricultural instructor originally. He got fed of the Department in some way not explained to me, so it was intimated he should leave the county, and he is now running experiments for the English Cotton-growing Association in West Africa. Another gentleman was sent to us by the Department, and he broke down completely. After the five or six lectures an intimation was received by us from the localities he was speaking in to get a stop to his lectures. He was doing more harm than good. He came with large ideas from a big farm in England and recommended the farmers to purchase machinery worth more than his farm. Then an inspector came down from Dublin, and he resigned.

10165. (Mr. Frick).—How did you come to appoint him?—Dr. Hinchliff recommended him. On the time question there was a scheme drawn up by the County Committee, and the question of salary was raised at once. The original booklets were all very small in the county, as the people in the old times carried their stone to their farms and had plenty of turf of their own, and could burn them, but since that fuel has been used up, the burning of lime has fallen off.

10166. (Mr. O'Connell).—The old booklets could not be re-established without carrying fuel to them?—Yes, that is the reason the lime has raised such a furor among the farmers. Everywhere through the country one could see small booklets. There is another matter that has given as a good deal of trouble—what is called the technical branches, as it is described in a county like ours into agriculture, and when the first instructors came down they confined themselves to the towns, and when they went to the country they gave instruction in sawing wood, which is no use to the country people. We wanted to get leave to have them make some things that were useful for a farm, so that instead of getting a hatch in the gap that the farmer could make a gate. We had some trouble in getting the Department round to our view, but since then the manual classes are most popular in the country; I see a number of benches made by the pupils about the country. The instructor in bee-keeping is very popular there, and we are about the third county in Ireland in apiculture. In our fruit culture we have not got to the point of marketing

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Ranta.

yet, but there are over 30,000 fruit trees planted. Father O'Keefe took the thing up very heartily and succeeded in getting 9,000 trees planted by the Magdalen people, the first year, and there are 14,000 in his parish now. He is on the Council of Agriculture and I may say where the clergy have taken up any part of the work it has been very successful and very popular. Unfortunately, when the Act passed there was a good deal of hostility to it from the source it came from, and many people were not inclined to take it up. The only people who were inclined were those previously connected with the co-operative societies. The clergy, principally the Roman Catholic clergy, at 75 per cent. of the people of our county are Catholics, took up the work very warmly, and by their advice the people entered into the scheme as you see by the returns; they generally come to the meetings, preside at the first lecture, and encourage people to attend to the instruction. Another matter I didn't intend to say anything about is that arising out of General Clifford's evidence. I hope this Committee will ask some of the gentlemen connected with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society to come before you before you dissolve. It is a most unfair thing the way this organisation has been dealt with in parts of the country. There are plenty of witnesses in the neighbourhood in which it has been attacked who could have come forward to defend it. I was present at the debates referred to, and he was beaten each time. General Clifford and Mr. Lough, and one other were against the whole of Ireland at that meeting; he and his friend, Mr. Lough, were in too great a hurry and would not wait, but the organisation is proceeding slowly, and everything is being done that was possible.

10159. (Chairman).—The Organisation Society have estimated that they will give evidence before us. It has worked very well in the country. All the small societies have not been successful, but they have organised very well. The only people who were willing to receive the Department fact, if the clergy hadn't taken it up, were the people who had been in this organisation society. There is a great deal of enmity still existing in the public mind against the Department, and it takes Mr. Teal and others a great deal of trouble every year to get the rate struck. I think a good many of those who publicly attack the Department from time to time in the country should have come before this Committee. In our county the two most hostile men to it came here and stated their views, and I think it is unfair to the rest of Ireland that men in public positions, who have consistently attacked the Department, should not have come before this Committee and stated for the benefit of the public the grounds of their hostility.

10170. (Mr. O'Grady).—But they have come from Monaghan?—Yes; you had both here yesterday. One is on the County Committee. He objects to it, but he takes the full advantage out of it—a dogman who constantly disapproves of the principles of the Department, but there is not a single thing in the working of it that he doesn't bring to his parish. The other gentleman is against it, look in principle and practice.

10171. (Chairman).—What is your own feeling as to the working of it—has it been good or not good?—My private opinion is that it has done a great deal of good. Of course there is a great deal more to be done in a county like ours—we see a great amount of work that still remains to be done. Some gentlemen made an observation about late. We have two lace in-

stretches, and some of us are not as enthusiastic as others about this lace work. We always had a good deal of it in the county—at the one end of Clonsilla creek lace, and at the other end Carrickmacross lace. We had always this industry with us, and it has blossomed out now to an extraordinary extent. Unfortunately, the desire for money, the economic circumstances in which our people live, has caused the desire for money to come first. It would be much more to their advantage if we could get the domestic economy side taken up with the same enthusiasm as the lace, but there are large sums of money coming into the small farmers' homes for lace. Our principal object is to get the best workers, and get them to produce the best quality of lace; because when the slump comes the good quality will remain with us.

10172. Do you think the quality of the lace is suffering now?—It is, in some cases.

10173. (Mr. Micks).—Untrained workers?—There are classes got up by commercial undertakings. There is one firm that trains classes themselves. The clergy had some complaints against them for taking the children from school; but it is inferior—the quality of the work that often comes from outside. The whole object of the County Council is to keep up the standard. We have two instructors. They were in the southern end of the county last year and this year they are in the northern end. They are the only instructors that we keep for a long time in a place. There is a butter-making instructors in the county, but she is wanted off in part of the county where there are creameries. It is still very hard to get the people who live on the mountains and poorer places to take up the work.

10174. Has it extended to them much?—We managed to get the particularists to take their attention. The growing of black currants was the very best thing that made his impression. With regard to the veterinary lectures, it is needless to say that anything Professor Mason told them is taken up very enthusiastically.

10175. (Mr. O'Grady).—Has the bee culture been extended to the hill regions?—That is one of the things we are constantly striving to get. We have got very few bees there yet. There are twenty miles of heather there.

10176. (Mr. Brown).—Has the poultry scheme reached the poorer people?—It has. We made an effort to get statistics from the railway for this inquiry, but I am sorry to say that the railway didn't facilitate us, unless we paid somebody to do it. We wanted to get the number of eggs exported before the Act and after it.

10177. I suppose it is a matter of common knowledge that the weight has increased?—The size of the eggs; by the increase in the different breeds of poultry. I would not say about the quantity.

10178. Has the number of poultry increased that are kept by the people?—We always had a large supply of poultry in the country. Most of the farmers leave the poultry to the women, and they support the house out of the money. You have an exceptionally large number of fowl about our county houses. We have a number of egg stretchers, and the whole thing is carried out as perfectly as possible. There is a lady going about instructing; and then, further, we have a set of lectures on training fowls. We try to bring the best of everything we produce into the county shows, and that does accomplish a good effect.

On resuming after luncheon.

Mr. JOHN F. O'HANLON, Cavan, examined.

10179. (Chairman).—You represent the Cavan Joint Technical Instruction Committee?—Yes.

10180. There is one point to which I understand you wish to direct our attention—that is, as to the question of building funds?—That is all the Committee, as a body, want to bring forward. They consider if there were cheap loans or grants given for the building of halls in rural districts, many districts of the country that have not been able to send of instruction, could be brought in. It is very difficult in a county like Cavan, where railway commu-

nication is bad, and through lack of suitable buildings to give every district a turn. It is hard to have proper arrangements carried out in many districts that require instruction. Any money spent that way, we consider, should not be spent out of the money for instruction, which is small enough at present.

10181. You would like some system of loans on easy terms?—Yes; these buildings could be raised in the County Committee, and under the control of the County Committee, with probably a local committee to look after them. The technical schemes, generally,

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in the county have worked very well, and the relations with the Department have been very harmonious so far. There have not been many differences between us.

10182. Now, in the country districts, what places have you at present where technical instruction can be given?—In the country districts the National schools.

10183. Are the National schools available generally?—They are available in some instances, but, of course, there is a slight difficulty about that. In manual instruction it is necessary to give two classes a day, and one of these classes must clash with the school hours. There are certain places where there are old, disused schools where equipment can be fitted up, and these are used. There are districts that want the instruction, but from the fact that they have not got a building in which we can give the instruction, we must let them go.

10184. (Mr. Brown).—You would not want very expensive buildings?—No; four walls and a fire place is all we want.

10185. Or an iron and wood building?—Yes; and it could be used for any lectures—agricultural lectures as well as technical classes.

10186. It would not mean a very large thing?—It would not. But we don't want the cost of these buildings to come out of the funds for instruction. We administer £800 altogether, the local contribution is £200 and the Department's £400. This is fully apportioned every season. There are some unexpended funds, as the first couple of years we didn't use all the funds, and we put on extra classes, and have given scholarships for boys in the last two years in secondary schools to use up the unexpended funds. We have put on two extra instructors—one in domestic economy and one in manual work.

10187. In about how many districts in the county would you require these new buildings?—Roughly speaking, six or seven. We have not figured it out yet. The first thing we must consider when we get an application for instruction is where the instruction is going to be given. If there is not a suitable school, we have to try and get somewhere else as near as possible where there is a suitable place.

10188. (Mr. Dryden).—You have not gone personally into the cost of such a building as you think suitable?—I have not; but I think the cost would be materially reduced in this way. At present we have to pay a pretty stiff rent for school halls, because we have no alternative but to take these places. This would go to the reduction of loans, and reduce the expense.

10189. (Mr. Brown).—Would you not still have to have attendants to look after these places? Would that not mean as much as you pay at present?—No. I think the local committees would volunteer that work. There are really not attendants necessary at these classes. You would want a caretaker sometimes to look after the equipment in the school—the apparatus for different instruction.

10190. (Chairman).—Do you think that is the principal difficulty—that if there were proper buildings technical instruction would be appreciated?—It is appreciated; but it would be more generally valued if we had proper buildings. For lace-making, we give capitation grants. This last year there were capitation grants given to workers in the lace class who put in a certain number of hours' attendance at the domestic economy class. They earned a capitation of £2 a head. Next year we intend to work that by itinerant instruction instead of giving a capitation grant. Our proposal really is to be allowed the option of using either one or the other—capitation grants or itinerant instruction, for lace-making—a sum of £150 is laid aside for that.

10191. That is, technical classes for girls?—Yes. Most of this money administered under the technical scheme is going to girls. The annual income only provides for one manual instructor, which is very little for the boys in the county.

10192. You have many itinerant teachers in domestic economy?—We have three now—one out of our unexpended funds. That is only a temporary appointment. My own personal view is that there should be more attention paid to the boys. Lace-making is very good if well done; but there is a tendency in too many places to run into lace-making.

These are my own views, not the views of the Committee. I believe a lot of places will go in for lace-making, and as a consequence an inferior quality will be made; in that way the lace-making industry may be injured.

10193. You heard Mr. Rush exclaim; do you agree with him?—I do. I think there should be a selection of lace workers. At present almost any girl is taken into the lace classes, whether adapted for the work or not, and I think that tendency should be checked.

10194. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—To what extent does manual instruction enter into the courses of the National schools?—To no extent. In my opinion the Department's technical work is practically useless unless there is co-ordination with the primary schools.

10195. You would, I presume, be prepared to see manual instruction carried on in direct relation to their work in the elementary schools?—I think that is the proper way.

10196. It is included in one of the subjects of instruction for work in elementary schools?—I don't think it is put into practice.

10197. It is desirable, for two reasons, it should be put into practice. First, to relieve the funds of the Technical Committee for other purposes for which they are most applicable; and, secondly, because that is the proper time to give the instruction to boys?—I don't think there is sufficient attention paid to the future of the boys. Boys are allowed to go wild, and up to a certain age have no idea of the work they are going to do. I think if elementary science and hand-and-eye training were given more extensively in the primary schools the boys would have their minds sharpened when they left the schools. The average age of boys attending manual instruction is over twenty-two. I think, for practical purposes—for the purpose of providing a livelihood—manual instruction is practically useless. It is really a hobby.

10198. The manual instruction you are giving to pupils of an average age of twenty-two is with a view to their being able to do some work in connection with agricultural industry?—Quite so. The majority of those availing of manual instruction are farmers. It is very good to show them how to make a gate and keep their farms in order, but I think the boys are neglected.

10199. (Mr. Dryden).—If those of a younger age were employed, don't you think it would be educational in its character in other directions?—I don't approve of it. I think it is no good for shaping the livelihood of the boys.

10200. (Mr. Brown).—You don't expect that every boy who takes part in the course of manual instruction is going to make his livelihood in that way, or even a very large number of them?—Certainly not; but I say if elementary science and hand-and-eye training were given in the elementary schools, or in connection with them, it would be far more beneficial to the country. I think the Department is not sufficiently in touch with the agricultural labourers. The agricultural labourer is a very important factor in Ireland, in fact, the most important at present, and he is really left out in the cold; he is no man's child. There should be something done to encourage and keep the agricultural labourer at home. If that subject was tackled, emigration would be tackled. It is the agricultural labourer who is leaving the country.

10201. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Have you got plenty of them?—We have not plenty, they are leaving.

10202. (Mr. Dryden).—They are doing something for the better breeding of them?—It is no good. At present the labourers' cottages, built for agricultural labourers, are in many cases occupied by artisans, shopkeepers, and even unmarried women are accepted as tenants.

10203. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—What do you suggest?—I think the Department should get more in sympathy with the agricultural labourer, and do something to keep him in the country.

10204. (Chairman).—In what direction?—I think the first step would be, perhaps, outside the province of the Department, and that is the abolition of the hiring system.

10205. The hiring system in which county?—I think it is pretty general all over Ireland. The system is this—that a man hires in May and November for six months with a farmer. He lives in the farmer's house. If that system were abolished, and the

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labourers of Ireland get weekly wages, they would remain in the country; and, of course, you have the Labourers Act coming now, with fine cottages, and they would be able to occupy the cottages. At present the cottages are useless. There is no use in building cottages for men whom the custom of the country says must live in their employers' houses.

10205. (Mr. O'Givvie).—When they get married?—There is no prospect of marriage. The agricultural labourer in Ireland has no prospect of marriage if he is going to continue as a hired servant one can't get married.

10207. Well, that will soon come to an end?—They are coming to end by emigration and not adding to the population; as a class they will soon become extinct.

10208. (Chairman).—I am familiar with the hiring system, because it prevails to a large extent in the Midland counties in England; but I didn't hear of the prevailing in Ireland to a large extent—It does; and largely contributes to emigration. If a man has no prospect of having a house and family of his own he thinks it better to get £7 or £8 together and leave the country.

10209. What do you say the Department should do?—There is a very good prize cottage scheme in operation that affects small farmers, and I think there is one class for labourers. What I would suggest is that when there are prizes for small farmers there should be prizes also given to the labourers working on the farm. It would be getting into touch with the labourer and do something for him. The prize for the best kept farm is given to the owner of the farm.

10210. (Mr. Brown).—Are there not classes for labourers?—There is a class for labourers' cottages.

10211. (Mr. O'Givvie).—But then the labourers are not in the cottages?—There are some labourers. I don't make that sweeping statement that there are none. Another matter was mentioned about the model farms. I think the labourers could be dealt with through the model farms. If a County Committee took a couple of model farms in the county, and showed what could be done with a farm of average size, and if they gave one of these farms as a prize to the labourer you would have much more efficient labour in the county. The hiring system is, I think, against efficiency. There is no use in telling the farmer to till the land if the

labourer is not inclined to till it for a longer time than until he gets money to go out of the country.

10212. (Mr. Dryden).—The farmer can change that?—They can't in any part of the country.

10213. (Mr. Brown).—If both farmers and labourers agreed to change the system—the system of hiring otherwise than by the week—where is the difficulty?—I am afraid the farmers would object to the change. The labourer at present is bound to the farmer six months. When they go into these hiring farms there is nothing to indicate who is a good labourer and who is a bad labourer. The farmer takes what comes his way. He brings a boy home who may have made up his mind to do as little as he can. The farmer may have intended to break up four or five acres of tillage. The farmer goes home and finds he has a lazy boy, and gives up the idea of doing it. If you had weekly wages, and the labourers plenty round the place, the farmers could select good labourers. I have nothing else to say in my representative capacity except that my experience is that the schemes generally agricultural and technical have worked well and are being worked well. But without local sympathy and proper organization the schemes would be very little good.

10214. (Mr. Dryden).—The Department intended them to be worked by the local authorities?—The local authority can either make the scheme a good one or a bad one. The best scheme if badly worked locally would be useless.

10215. You think that where the authorities have been endeavouring to work them well they have succeeded?—I do.

10216. (Mr. O'Givvie).—In point of fact you would regard the Act as having been most important in that it provided a mechanism by which local authorities could be prepared and charged with authority to do work for their own locality?—Certainly.

10217. And you think that as far as the scheme mentioned here been worked in your neighbourhood they have really intended to encourage local effort and bring local effort into operation?—I am confident the money spent on schemes in the County Council has been returned many fold on extra crops. But there has been particularly fortunate in its agricultural structure.

MR. EDWARD W. LOCKHART EXAMINED.

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10218. (Chairman).—You are a farmer from Jerrett's Pass, Newry?—Yes, County Antrim. Jerrett's Pass is just on the borders dividing Armagh and Down.

10219. You are not a member of the County Committee, but wish to say something about the working of the schemes of agriculture?—Partly. With regard to the agricultural lecturing part of the business it has been very successful in our district. It is in the south part of the County Down. I heard it stated here to-day that it was very successful in the midland part, and I think in the southern, where the population is comprised mostly of small farmers, it has been very successful.

10220. What have the small farmers benefited mostly by?—By being taught a knowledge of the different uses of artificial manures and what would be good for the different crops. In former times farmers went to the merchants and bought other superphosphates or a kind of manure for some crops. Now they have learned more from the agricultural instructor. They buy their own unmanured manures and mix them themselves, and I may say that the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society have largely helped the Department's schemes in this, I think, lectures from them explaining all these things too. The local societies and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and the Department, I think, should all work together. In fact I think the Department should foster all these schemes or societies.

10221. You think the work of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society has been successful?—It has.

10222. Do you think there is room for it to continue its work now?—I think there is, in conjunction with the local agricultural societies, and I would think that they would be far more useful if they were helped or fostered in some way by the Department.

10223. One of the matters for which the Department is criticised is the giving of very substantial aid to the Organisation Society. You would not agree with that at all?—I would not at all. I think if all societies worked in conjunction with each other and had as little jockeying as they could they would do more for the benefit of the people.

10224. Then do you think a useful part of the work of the Society is organisation, distribution, marketing, and getting rid of the products?—Yes; equally with regard to manures and seeds; and the agricultural lecturer has brought the people to think more of their own business, and how to manage it profitably. I heard it mentioned here that there is no use in talking to a farmer after forty years of age.

10225. I don't say that. I am only repeating what other people said?—I met a man the other day who some years ago told me he could actually taste the sulphate of copper on the potatoes. I met him the other day on going out to Newry, and I asked him what he was about. He told me he was in for some agency in that stuff. "That's strange," I said, "John, you can't be able—Oh, that's all nonsense," said he, "the man is right, I would have had as crop the last two years but for it." He was a man of seventy years of age. You will notice in the some parts round our district the difference in the quality of the grasses and the pasture land. Well that I attribute largely to the different grasses. Our instructor is a good man on grass, at least we believe him to be so, and have acted up to his instruction in a good to be so, and have better grass, and I remember instance, and we have better grass, and I believe there is an improvement in the quality of the grazing attributable altogether to that and perhaps the judicious use of artificial top-dressing; and I see another thing, a tendency on the part of the farmers to cut their hay a bit earlier. Our district would be a

great district for saving—grazing district—pastoral
res grass. I think there is no person could take with
what the ryas grass costs there—when they take every-
thing into consideration—the deterioration in the
quality of the hay, and the waste of after-grass, and
the deterioration of the farm as well, because they
would have to put something to bring it up to what it
had lost through this seed to what it was paying.
Well, there was a great temptation to save seed, and
money came in at a very useful time of the year when
nothing else was going on.

10220. Well they hardly know how much it was costing
them otherwise—I have talked to people on that
subject and never could get anybody who could reckon
it up, but still I believe there was a loss on the one
hand and a gain of the convenience of getting the
money for the seed. I have known people to buy what
they called bone manure, and I have seen it when it
came to me; it was ordinary superphosphate. With
the aid of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society
prizes have been given also in our district for those
manures and the merchants are not at all satisfied
with the action of the Organisation Society.

10227. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you think the mer-
chants understand that if they made the farmer
richer they could do more business with him?—They
can't see so far. I may say, as I live on the borders of
the County Down, I can see from my own place visible
signs of improvement in the growing of the crops, and
you will hear them speak as very laudatory terms of
their agricultural instructor, in fact they would make
us believe they have a better man than we have. One
man in the County Down, in Banbridge, has told me of
a field he had that he got no good of all his life until
he applied to the County Down instructor, and he
says it was a little mine of wealth since to him.

10228. By new manure?—By judicious manure and
the crops that he was putting into it. The effect so
far can be seen in our neighbourhood, that the classes
have been a thorough success. Up round our Southern
end, so far as the borders of the County Louth, I know
that a man on the borders of the county where I live
would not see a spoonful of artificial manure some time
ago and he is considered now one of the best farmers
in the district, and uses any amount of this artificial
manure that he blamed for doing all the damage owing
to growing weeds on his farm. He is another old man,
but has a young family. I would wish to say in con-
nection with the live stock schemes the pensioner bulls
should be all sound; they should be all tested, and bear
the test; young. I have known bulls to be sold to
foreigners to take abroad were accepted on this test
and they were refused.

10229. (Mr. Dryden).—The bulls are perfectly
healthy. I saw one the other day?—They may be
perfectly healthy; but they may have the germs in
them, and may transmit the germs to all the other
countries, inasmuch as it is I think we ought to do—

10230. But they are tired of testing on it and are
going to make a change; you had better wait and see?
—If tuberculosis can be transmitted to the progeny of
a bull I don't see it is right to have it encouraged
with pensions.

10231. But do you know the authorities say it is not
transmitted in the ordinary way. If there were
half a dozen cows in a herd affected in the
same way you would gain nothing, unless you
were sure they were absolutely clear of it. Now you
don't gain a great deal by asking for every animal
to be tested?—Yes, but we are making it worse by having
it brought in amongst us, and the consequences are multiplied.

10232. I think it is the same in the live stock as in
the human family and should be treated in somewhat
the same way, with plenty of fresh air?—More—the
Department reside on sandbars in the slaters.

10233. That is a different thing. The test for tuber-
culosis is such a curious thing; you get into as many
blunders. I have had a great deal of experience of
it in connection with our Agricultural College. We
slaughter a great many animals, and the animal that
you can't detect it in with the ordinary microscope
is the animal that costs the most when tested?—If
there is a disease ought we not to try to keep clear
of it, or find whether there is any doubt with regard
to the matter. You say it is a peculiar thing al-
together. Well it would be better to keep clear of it
as far as you can.

10234. (Chairman).—I am not an expert—it seems
as if the matter is not yet sufficiently ascertained.

There are different opinions about it. It is very
difficult to say what is the right thing to do.

10235. (Mr. Dryden).—If I were to give my own
opinion it is simply this. There are so many ways of
preventing the return of the tuberculosis you need to
have half a dozen constables or somebody watching the
whole thing. Otherwise a very little medicine would
prevent the reaction. You have all these things to
work against. In other words the dishonest man gets
an advantage, and the honest man is turned down and
the animal comes in all the same, perhaps the worst
animal?—I have heard it stated by a gentleman, who
is a professor in one of our medical schools, it was a
man's own fault if he died of consumption.

10236. Testing with tuberculin won't save him?—
If there is such a thing as that it is transmitted. I
should think it would be well to guard against it as
far as possible.

10237. The stables in Ireland—I have seen a great
many of them—are exactly adapted to spread it from
one animal to another—no light, no air, no circula-
tion, a dark box. If you keep a number of animals
there, if any one of them has it in the lungs he
is bound to spread it round, and it is the same thing
in a man's own house, if tuberculosis gets in, and
there is no air?—If it is restricted to Ireland, where
there is a clean climate, why do they guard against
it so much in clear, fine climates, such as those, par-
ticularly in Canada and the States.

10238. (Mr. Dryden).—The same thing occurs
there. We have very cold weather, and some people
never let the cold air get in at all; they try to get all
the heat they can.

10239. (Mr. Mide).—Then, have you anything
else?—I think, with regard to swine, the York pig
is not suitable for our district. We have a good useful
breed of pigs—shute pigs, and some white and black.
In fact, the young pigs, and the sows from the
York boar, pigs eight or nine or ten weeks' old, you
can't sell them in our markets to advantage. The
people have tried them, people who fatten them and
make pork, and they don't think that they are profit-
able. They believe they could bring a pig, all ready
for the butcher, in a much shorter time than trying
that species. I have experience of them myself.

10240. (Mr. Dryden).—Do they take the quality of
the pig into consideration?—The quality of the pig
might be better, but it is very little. In the long,
cornered animal of any sort you have a thicker
hide.

10241. I suppose you know that what the beam-
curses are asking for is a superior animal with finish?
—That may quite be. It may be a better pig for the
cure, but it is not as good a pig for the poor man
that tests it and fattens it.

10242. Do you think it is definitely stated that
one of these pigs makes a better product when it is
finished that it would be in the interests of Ireland
to forfeit the production of this pig; because all the
world is sending to the same market you are sending
to, and we in Canada are doing the same thing, and
we have been all through it—the same prejudices to
work against—and our people have now settled down
to think that that breed is the best?—If we can get
a bit of Irish bacon we will not touch the Canadian
or American. I believe the quality of the pig very
largely depends on the feeding they get.

10243. No; it is more lean meat in one than the
other; that is what they are asking for. It is not
what you want in Ireland, it is what they want in
England?—That may all be; but there is one thing
that we do want—we want something that will pay
us.

10244. We are actually testing in Canada as to
the difference in cost and the difference in weight of
the pig under the same feeding and conditions,
and as far as we have gone in Canada the Yorkshire
pig seems to work out the best. We have a number
of them there. It is the Berkshire that they were
accustomed to fatten before, but they are be-
ginning to find out by actual tests that it is only
imagination. If the pig you have is better than any
other I would keep to it?—But then the Department
won't give us any assistance in that unless we use the
York boar.

10245. This other is not a pure-breed animal, I
suppose?—No. There is a great amount of pork made

the application of artificial manures, and my father, who died when I was only two years old, so I had no power to instruct me, and I have been picking it up ever since as best I could from anybody I could get information from. With the instruction the Department are giving the farmers in my district, we are able to use manures intelligently, and do not use different manures necessary to grow successful crops, and it is a matter of discussion in our farms. "What did you do with the particular field that is doing better than your neighbours' field?" You say you applied a dressing. "How did you know how to apply that?" "I attended a certain lecture at the Four-Mile-House, and the instructor, Dr. McGovern, is telling all over my district. I am told how to do it, and I followed his instructions." These things are telling all over my district. I am told in saying that the use of artificial manures is in my district is double what it was. Owing to this, for analysing the Department have given facilities for analysing the manures very much improved. Strange to us, the quality has very much improved. Strange to us, as the quality increases the price has come down. I remember buying bone composed at £5 10s. a ton, this season I bought the same class of manure at £3 10s. with exactly the same analysis.

10262. (Mr. Dryden).—How do you account for that? I believe the co-operative societies have done that, and got the people to know what the ingredients were in the manures.

10263. There were some riddances making a profit before—Yes. It was not one, but several riddances. With regard to seeds, I think they are very much purer than they were. I am speaking of Slieve and Bessborough. Shopkeepers generally say that unless their seeds stand a fair test the farmers round about won't purchase them, and my experience is that the seeds have very much improved in quality. With regard to feeding stuffs, that is a very important thing with us in Ireland. We make beef, stores, and supply milk. I do the three things myself, and, of course, all these things require different classes of feeding. Beef requires one class of feeding, production of stores another class, and production of milk another. Owing to the instruction given through our instructor, I find we can feed more economically and have better results by a combination of feeding, and not giving one sort of food. I remember some years ago we fed altogether on Indian meal. We made beef on Indian meal, we produced milk by Indian meal, and we have produced stores by Indian meal. Now we have learned to combine other food with Indian meal, and we are using it more intelligently. That is the case over the whole country, and there is nothing we have had greater improvement in than the production of milk. Our instructor has explained to us very fully how useful cotton cake is in the production of milk of a high standard, and we use it largely. With regard to the experimental farms of the county, I would be in favour not of a ten-acre farm, but of a 100-acre estate in each county, and my idea would be to have them managed by the instructor of the county; and if he desired, it could be arranged for an inspector under him to superintend while he was absent giving lectures. Of course, there are a great many details to be touched on it, but I think it could be made very useful to farmers in the county.

10264. (Chairman).—Have you seen any of the experimental farms?—I have seen Glanerin, that is all.

10265. (Mr. Dryden).—They are much the same, except that they only give one year's course at Athlery—I would think those experimental farms should not be devoted so much to young men. They should be visited by farmers in the district, and situated convenient to a railway station, so that the farmers of the whole country could visit them.

10266. (Chairman).—Of course, an experimental farm may not be a paying affair, because you are acquiring knowledge instead of rearing it on commercial principles—I would cut off a certain quantity for experimental plots, and use the rest in rotation.

10267. One idea of these farms situated in counties is in order to show how the farm can be made to pay as a profitable concern?—That is the real test of farming.

10268. (Mr. Dryden).—When you are carrying it on, giving many experiments, it is difficult to make it pay?—You could cut off ten acres for experimental plots.

10269. Don't you think the work of the instructor July 20 1906. in having some smaller plots here and there in different parts of the country, and lecturing in reference to them and explaining them, suits the same purpose?—It does, to a certain extent; but I don't think it serves it fully. My idea is that these plots are too small.

10270. (Mr. Dryden).—It is not necessary; he could have got the plots larger.—We understood he could not have more than a certain amount. These small plots are very hard to handle, and the cleaning and keeping of seeds needs a great deal of work for the men. Whereas if the plots were larger the farmer could do it more economically, and he would have less trouble.

10271. (Mr. O'Neill).—What you have just described would no doubt be an excellent thing, but I don't think it at all increases the value of what other people have been suggesting—a ten-acre farm. I understood it rather to be an example to people who were themselves farming ten to twenty acres; and where ten to twenty-acre farms were the rule in the district, and it was rather to show the methods applicable to that farm—as a farm of that size. This is rather a different subject?—Yes.

10272. In your particular district what is the average size of the farms?—About forty acres. With regard to better-making, I consider the instruction has been a great success, and the classes have been generally well attended. In several cases the instructors had to refuse applications of intending pupils who wished to attend the classes.

10273. (Chairman).—That is the lady instructor?—Yes. I consider that dairy instruction is a great improvement on the creameries.

10274. (Mr. Dryden).—You mean home butter-making?—Yes; that is very much better, and if we could just keep the creameries on one side and adopt dairy instruction all over these localities in close reach of towns. I don't say backward districts should do away with the creameries, but places near towns, where there was a market for butter; if dairy instruction was more widely used butter-making would be successful. The stock is deteriorating in creamery districts, but quality is quite as large as ever, perhaps larger, but then the quality at the end of the farm would show the creameries affect calves.

10275. Would that not be due to neglect in breeding cows? They don't rear their calves in the immediate district—I beg your pardon, in the district I refer to they rear their calves, and their profits depend largely on them; they keep them to one and a half or two years old. We make stores and sell to other people, and we fatten some ourselves. The prices have increased in butter and dairy instruction has improved the quality of the butter immensely. The co-operative movement is an excellent movement, and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society has done a great deal for the improvement of the farmers of Ireland certainly in my district, and my idea would be that the Department should amalgamate with the Organisation Society, should take it under their own direction and care, and not have it a separate organisation. In fact, without the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society I don't see how the Department could work successfully; you want organisation no matter what you are doing. If you start a local show you want somebody to organise it. If you leave the people to themselves, they go back, and won't assist themselves. There is another matter I would like to bring before you with regard to those who won't join the co-operative movement. I had an idea that if the Department could connect the producer directly with the consumer in large cities, and have his stuff conveyed weekly or bi-weekly that it would suit the consumer, and these people would be greatly benefited, and an organizer or canvasser could be appointed in large cities to get up customers and get them connected with the farmers in the country for the supply of farm produce, butter, eggs, &c.

10276. That would affect a great many people imperiously. I don't say I would agree with you?—The idea of the Department is to improve Ireland as a nation and not to improve one class at the expense of another class, and agriculture is the principal industry in Ireland, and I think it should be fostered.

10277. And if it is fostered?—It would improve all others. With regard to the Poultry Scheme, I think

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It is one of the most successful of the whole lot. In my district the poultry have increased by at least fifty per cent. and the egg production I would say seventy-five per cent. That is, in quantity, and certainly the grade of eggs has improved. There are very few small ones now in a collection of eggs where the proper breeds of poultry are kept.

10277. Have you any regular markets for your collections?—Yes; they go to Glasgow from my district.

10278. How do you gather them?—By a merchant in Foyots Pass. The farmers take them in baskets; he sends them away twice a week. There is a very large market for eggs in Newry, but we always send to Foyots Pass. With regard to the poultry instruction, it has been very well carried out, and there has been a marked improvement in the decrease in the disease in poultry owing to it. I know a lady who rears between 500 and 600 chicks and ducklings annually, and she informed me last night that within the last four years she had not a single death from disease, and she attributes that largely to instruction given by the poultry instructors. The instruction given is to house them out in the fields, keep them away from the yard, and give clean water to drink, and the attributes this largely to carrying out this instruction. There is another point with regard to domestic economy. That is a very useful thing too. There was a gentleman here before me talked about the agricultural labourers. I disagree with him altogether with regard to that hired system. The hired system could not be done without in the district that I am in because it is utterly impossible to get agricultural labourers with families to settle down in houses in the district. You have to go to Mough, Fethill, and Donohoe to get young fellows as labourers, and they must sleep in the farmers' houses. I have just one workman, and four servant boys, and could not get my farm labour done except for the servant boys.

10279. (Chairman).—What is the size of your farm?—120 acres.

10280. (Mr. Dryden).—How old are these boys?—The oldest nineteen or twenty, and down to sixteen. I think the Labourers Act that is coming in will certainly remedy to a large extent the want of labourers. I find there is a great want of skill with regard to labour on the farms, for these young fellows coming from these small farms have no knowledge of machinery and no knowledge got individually, because half the winter they sit in the house doing nothing and half the summer perhaps they are out shearing with a look when they could do more profitable work. If there was some system of educating these labourers how to do farm-work it would give them an interest in the farm. If you try to educate these young fellows they will say I know as much as you do. They won't take instruction from their employers, and if there were some means to benefit them. I believe they have not, to the present, anything of this sort that would instruct boys how to do farm-work; it would be a great benefit to them; for instance, in the actual details of ploughing your farm. It is not everybody who can plough a straight furrow, or make a straight drill, or poke a pair of horses, or start and follow a mowing-machine. They don't know anything about machinery.

10281. (Mr. O'Grady).—How—the actual operations—Is there any difficulty for arranging for instruction in actual agricultural operations. I should have thought that was an easy thing to arrange for?—If you had a number of these boys under you I don't think you would say that.

10282. I don't mean making the horse drink, but putting the water in front of him?—But the horse will get no benefit except he drinks.

10283. But in the matter for the arranging for the instruction of these who were willing to take it, that is about all you could do?—That is all.

10284. Is there any difficulty about arranging for the instruction?—There is no instruction except what each employer gives to his man.

10285. Would it not be quite a simple thing to select a man who is a good ploughman and have him give instruction, perhaps one evening a week, in one place, and another evening in another place?—It could be done.

10286. You remarked you had no scheme in your own mind, but anyone who could bring one forward would be doing a very great service; it does not seem to be difficult to produce a scheme to fit the taking up by the local authority?—Yes.

10287. If your Committee suggested something of that sort that could be tried in an experimental way you might move in that?—It would be a great boon to the farmers working with these green boys.

(Mr. Dryden).—This gentleman wants the boys trained somewhere before they come to him.

10288-91. (Mr. O'Grady).—Not necessarily. You don't want them to be trained as agricultural labourers before they come to work on the land; you would be quite content with such a scheme as I suggest as representing what is wanted, that a good ploughman might give instruction one evening a week at the ploughing season at a particular farm, or the farm next you, and that you and the farmer there should send your boys to be shown how to plough by that man, and that would be the instruction they would get in ploughing for the week and all the rest of their time, except that on that particular evening they would be working for you?—Thank you very much for that suggestion, but the idea struck me that you could make use of these lads on experimental farms throughout the country, and teach them on these farms.

10290. That is what I wanted to get at, whether your view is that they ought to be taught to do this farming apart altogether from the paid employment?—That is quite right.

10291. That is rather a more ambitious scheme, and rather more difficult to put into operation; that means cultivating them, and other things?—These experimental farms could be worked by young labourers.

10292. (Mr. Brown).—How many would it take to work a 100 acre farm?—Sixteen hands.

(Mr. Brown).—That would make much impression on the labourers of the district.

(Chairman).—I don't think that we could elaborate a scheme in this room, but you have given the Department something to think about.

10293. (Mr. O'Grady).—Would the operations you would like to have on be something like this—ploughing, care of stock, shepherding, teamster, washer, milker?—Yes, all that sort of thing.

10294. My view of it is that neither you nor I will get up a scheme satisfactorily, but the thirty counties of Ireland might run thirty different schemes, and by-and-by get to something like efficiency?—I hope your suggestions will be carried out in some shape or other.

10295. (Chairman).—This system of hiring which rather interests me, does it extend to many parts of Ireland?—Oh, it does. I am sure I am safe in saying it extends all over Ireland. I don't say the men are all hired, but there are a great many hired.

10296. (Mr. Brown).—It does not extend all over Ireland, does it?—Well, I am speaking of the North, and we consider the North all Ireland.

10297. (Mr. Dryden).—When you say hired out you mean engaged for a certain period?—For six months. I am giving these boys ten guineas each for six months, and also boarding them and lodging them.

10298. (Mr. O'Grady).—The only weakness suggested is that there is an insufficient supply of houses, with a little bit of ground attached, in which these men ought to live when they come to be married?—I had an unmarried man, one of the best men I ever had; he and my servant girl took the notion that they would get married and join hands. I have not any cottage under the Labourers Scheme. I have two houses of my own, but they were occupied at the time. He could not find a house in the country and he and his wife went to Scotland, and remained there for two or three years and came back. He had been working in a coal mine, and was very much, and was very glad to get back. Now if I had had a labourer's cottage that young man and his wife would have remained on my farm.

10299. (Mr. Dryden).—Then it is not the system of hiring?—It is not. It is the want of labourers' accommodation.

10300. What is the opposite scheme to hiring?—To engage them by the week.

10301. What advantage is there in that?—The farmer doesn't board the man, he employs him by the week. He lives in a labourer's cottage and his wife makes his meat and he goes home to it.

10302. (Mr. Brown).—In the case of an unmarried man?—They go home and live in their father's and mother's house.

10307. Which may be a long way from their work—
 in May or May be.
 10308. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Why didn't that boy of yours
 who went to Scotland go as an agricultural labourer?—
 As a rule Irish labourers go over there don't go to
 agriculture. They go to coal mines and brick-making.
 I don't think the Irish labourers are good as
 farm labour in England and Scotland. With regard
 to subsidies to local shows I think the Department
 should give local shows a monetary help, because I

think it is through the local shows that the greatest July 26, 1906.
 improvements to stock have come. Of course it is all
 right to subsidise large centres, but I think it would
 be carrying out the scheme far better if local show
 societies were subsidised. There is a gentleman here,
 if you permit me, I asked him to come down, Mr.
 Bell, of Newry, who has taken a great interest in the
 Newry Show, and I would like he would give some evi-
 dence referring to the working of it.

Mr. F.

P. Small.

Mr. JAMES McCLELL, BIRKENHEAD, DARTMOUTH, examined.

Mr. J.

McClell.

(Mr. McClell).—I may tell you, Mr. Chairman,
 since I got word I was coming here I hadn't time to
 prepare any notes.

10309. (Chairman).—You have been sitting in the
 room, I see, for a long time!—I have been sitting in
 the room, and I think a great deal of what I might
 like to say has been said. With regard to the part
 of the country I come from; I am an Antrim, near the
 Giant's Causeway. With regard to the Department's
 work, I have paid as much attention to Sir Horace
 Plunkett and the Department's work as any man, and
 I like to say some things I know better than anybody.
 When anybody talks to me I say how do you know;
 give me your authority; and when they talk about
 creameries and several things I know that those people
 talk about things they do not know a single thing
 about. With regard to the Department's work, I
 must say that it has done a great improvement and
 good in our part of the country; we started very early.
 The gentleman who has been instructor in the County
 Down was in our county before he went there; and we
 began very early, and we have been plodding on as well as
 we could. We could not arrange very well until we got
 Mr. Anderson down to organize the society, and to put
 us in working order. I may say my opinion about the
 whole matter is that the Irish Agricultural Organiza-
 tion Society must be helped and kept intact. The people
 in our neighbourhood work with the Organization
 Society far better than they do with the Department.
 I blame them for that, but somehow they look against
 at the Department and go into the Organization
 Society. When we introduced our lectures, and our
 lectures were splendid, we could not get a good meeting;
 but when we held a meeting in regard to the Creamery
 or Poultry Society we could get a house full, and what
 was the reason I could not get full. One reason was that
 our lectures were very badly advertised. I happen to
 be a member of the Rural Council, and when our
 lecturer was coming round I said, "Send the advertise-
 ments to us and we will have them posted up." They did
 not do that; and if ever the thing came up again I
 will make a strong protest that our lectures should be
 properly advertised. Our lecturer has given a good
 deal of instruction, and the young men who attended his
 lectures have benefited very greatly. I have a neigh-
 bour, a young man who has attended two seasons, and
 he has made a wonderful improvement in the district
 by what he is doing on his farm. These are the things
 that I think should be attended to in a very large de-
 gree by the Agricultural Board and get the people to
 co-operate together. Now, for instance, we have a
 large creamery in our neighbourhood, and it has brought
 all sections of the people together. I happen to be a
 member of the Committee. It would do you good to
 be at a meeting of that Committee. There are two Episco-
 palian clergy, two or three Presbyterians, and a very
 respected Parish Priest in the chair, and these men de-
 liberate on the subject before them, and what is to be
 done to forward our movement. These are the things
 that I think benefit the country. We have a Poultry
 Society, which has been a great success. We had a
 Scotch deputation over visiting us lately. We have a
 show, which is to come off next Wednesday, and we got
 something from the Agricultural Board to help it.
 It is a Poultry, Gardening, and Industrial Society, all
 working together. It is about the most interesting
 thing you can imagine in any neighbourhood, and it
 has created the greatest fun, and brought the people
 together, and everybody is looking to it. They wanted
 us to amalgamate with the Ballymoney Show; but we
 would not do that; we are sticking to ourselves. Now
 I think I should go to the cattle, for I know as much
 about cattle as any man; and it has been a very great
 success. We have not enough bulls in our neighbour-
 hood. We can't get enough men to purchase them and
 have them in the neighbourhood. The farmers com-

plain that they are not prolific. That is thrown in
 my face everywhere I go; but I think they get too
 much to do. I happen to be in the cattle trade as well
 as a farmer, and I have been collecting cattle through
 the country, and whenever they go I say buy the wee
 calves off the bull and bring them home and let them
 lie there. They are always good cattle. I think there
 could be no better recommendation for the bull.

10310. (Mr. Ogilvie).—How many cattle do the
 bulls serve in your neighbourhood?—I think 100 some
 of them; that is far too much. I was insisted upon
 as being a large farmer to have one, but my circum-
 stances didn't allow me. The quality of the young
 stock has improved tremendously. Then with regard
 to the creamery business, it has improved the quality
 of the cows in the country. A man who had only four
 or five has now six or seven, and keeping the calves,
 rearing and feeding them. With regard to some re-
 marks I heard to-day, I could not agree that the calves
 were not as good as they were formerly. I think I could
 prove that it is not so. I have been buying calves for
 years and years, and the calves, as a rule, are now far
 better than they were five or six years ago; and I
 think it speaks well for the breed of cattle and for the
 creamery system.

10311. (Chairman).—You have given your opinion,
 which is a very valuable one, on this scheme—would
 you quite shortly say whether there is any other
 scheme you think is working well and doing good?—
 Extend the present scheme. I heard some remarks
 here about the choosing of the bulls. I have been at
 the shows and seen the bulls chosen, and, of course,
 I might not agree with the judges in the case. That
 always occurs. The bulls must be selected by some-
 body, and let them be selected by the best judges and
 brought into the country, and let more of them, in
 my opinion, be brought in. As to the horses, I don't
 really know what to say. I used to talk about being
 a judge of horses, but the horse scheme has not done
 as much good as I would have liked to have seen it
 do. There is too much of the wrong about the
 horses that have been bred. We want the good old
 Irish horse. We got four of them from the County
 Cook last week, and if you saw them, they were some-
 thing worth to have seen. They were from Cahirmore.

10312. (Mr. Dryden).—They are not stallions?—
 No, just horses; my son has got them.

10313. (Mr. Bewes).—You don't know their breed?—
 They didn't ask any questions. They went to buy
 more, but they were too dear; they could only get the
 four. They are not the good old Irish horse that I
 remember. Then to go into the pig business, I heard
 lately here remarks with regard to the pig business.
 I think it is not wrought up at all, at least in our
 neighbourhood, as it ought to be. The man who
 keeps these pigs is generally a poor man, and he goes
 to the market to buy a pig. But we have not the
 real thing. What I would want would be to assist
 the poor man in getting these pigs from the hands of
 the Department at a fair value. We are not able
 to pay the large price we have to pay for the boars.
 Let the poor man get them on an easy scale.

10314. (Mr. Dryden).—I don't think there is any
 difficulty in getting them?—And to prove the fallacy
 of some things I heard here to-day. I was in the pig
 business myself. I had a large farm, and I got the
 best breed of pigs I could get to keep on this farm,
 and I was keeping a man on it attending to it, and
 the people would not have them at all. I had to say
 to the dealing fellow get me pigs, and he went and
 brought me some other. They could get as much more
 for the ones of the common pig. I would like to say
 something about the flax scheme. I have been in flax
 all my life, and I think if there could be anything
 done to improve the flax we'd get it. We have
 lately been getting a class of flax and, which has no

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Mr. J.
McClure.

resemblance to what we got long ago. When it began to grow it looked very well, and when it came up a certain length white blossoms came on it, and if there was no good in it it grew up to be some length. Our co-operative society took up the matter last year and sent to Rotterdam ourselves, and I believe we have got far better flax seed this year than ever before.

10315. (Chairman).—We know great attention is being paid to it, and you agree that that is an important thing—I intend this year to choose myself some of this flax. With regard to saving flax seed, I did that myself for some years, and it would pay anybody who would pay attention to it and save it. It pays very well, and it is a pity it is not done. It is said you are spoiling the flax, but it is far easier handled afterwards and spread.

10316. What we want to know is do you think the Department is doing well, or is there anything in it that ought to be criticised—I have no fault to find with it. I would want it extended, and with regard to the live stock scheme, it should be extended. My

remarks about their horse-breeding do not go forward, because there must be mistakes made under these schemes. And let it be done the best way it can be because the horses in Ireland have gone out of the country. With regard to the flax scheme, I think you have got some evidence at some of the meetings that I would not agree with, and I think the party who gave the evidence may be biased on the subject, because we have no co-operative movement in our neighbourhood at present. I have been doing the best I could, but I can't get any co-operative men to start it, but I am acquainted with parties who have, and they say it is a decided success, and I can say this much, it has improved the whole handling of flax in our markets, and if we could establish the co-operative movement all over the country I think it would be the salvation of Ireland. But we have got a creamery started, we have got a poultry society with a turn over of £5,000 a year in good working order free of debt, and we have a show next week, and I think we will be able to stand before the country.

Mr. F. G. FORMS, Assoc. R.C.S.I., further examined.

Mr. F. G.
Form.

10317. (Chairman).—Now will you just take up where you left off yesterday?—Yesterday I outlined the early steps taken to develop technical instruction in Belfast; I then proceeded to give you some particulars as to the number of evening students before the Belfast Technical Committee was formed, and since that time, and I illustrated my remarks by means of large wall diagrams. Then I proceeded to speak of the efforts that had been made to systematise the work of the institution. Referring to the home work scheme, I spoke of the irregularity in attendance, and explained the efforts we are making to remedy this; attention was made to the fact that the primary education system was unsatisfactory in a number of ways, and I made reference to the evening continuation classes, and said that our experience of that scheme had up to the present been very disappointing. I brought before you at the same time some data regarding the scale of payment, and pointed out that the scheme of payment had not worked very satisfactorily, also that the sum that could be earned by any school carrying on the evening continuation school programme was much below what was required to cover the cost of giving the instruction. I wish to go on from that point.

10318. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You are now on the fourth of your headings, the co-ordination of the educational system?—That is so. It is important that we should receive our students adequately prepared, if work of a really technical character is to be carried on. In my opinion the present elementary school system does not provide for a supply of such pupils. Further, I wish to say that I do not see in sight at present a supply of such pupils through the medium of the secondary schools. The number of secondary school pupils in Belfast is far below what may be considered a due proportion of the population, and the figures I submit in support of that statement are these. The population of Belfast is about 300,000. It is considered by competent educational authorities that if only one per hundred of the population is receiving secondary education, the proportion is distinctly low. Now one per 100 of our population would be 3,000 persons (boys and girls), but I cannot trace in the secondary schools of Belfast a total of more than 1,200 persons. A fairer percentage for a community such as Belfast would be 2 per cent. of the population. I have used 1 per cent. so as not to place the matter in an unduly strong light. If there are only 1,200, and there ought to be 3,000, you will see how small a proportion of the population are receiving education of secondary grade, one-third of what might be very reasonably expected. May I add that I do not see any likelihood of a supply of pupils for the technical schools through the medium of secondary schools. My experience, and that of others similarly situated is that the secondary schools have not got for their aim and end technical instruction. They are mainly aimed at university education. They look up to the universities as the object to be worked for, and not to the technical institute. It would be a very proper question to ask from a witness—(from whence do you expect your supply for your technical school? and I must say that in

my opinion we must look to the elementary schools, but the elementary school system will have to be much improved before the supply of adequately trained students can be counted upon. I would now like to tell you what the Technical Education Committee of Belfast have done to fill the gap lying between the primary school and the technical school. The committee very early recognised that they must make some effort of their own to obtain properly trained pupils, and so they decided at an early stage to establish a trade preparatory school. This was referred to by one of the witnesses yesterday. The trade preparatory school requires all applicants for admission to have an education equal to that of the 6th standard of the National School. Applicants must be at least 12 years of age, and in order to secure admission to the trade preparatory school the pupil must pass an entrance examination in arithmetic, English and drawing. When the proposal for this school was first brought forward it was debated time and time again. There was very considerable opposition locally; opposition from the secondary schools; opposition for other reasons which were mentioned to you by a witness yesterday. But, however, it was established eventually, with the approval of the Department. In the first year we had twenty-four candidates for admission; in the second year we had sixty-four; in the third year we had seventy-nine; and in the fourth year (the year that is now opening) 138 candidates. In the first year there were a number of scholarships given which admitted the pupils to the school without the payment of a fee, and carried also books and instruments. The same arrangement held good for the second year. In the third year a maintenance scholarship may be gained by pupils, carrying with it a payment of £10 for the year. And in the fourth year a maintenance scholarship of £15 may be gained. The whole effort of this school has been to prepare the pupils for entrance into industrial life. The programme of instruction comprises mathematics, chemistry, physics, English, a modern language (German), manual training in wood-work and iron-work, and gymnastics. The instruction occupies thirty hours in each week, and the session is four weeks long. On the table, along with the papers which I have placed before you, are the examination question sets in the various years. I don't propose to occupy your time going into these questions, but I would ask you to look at the third year course questions. I think you will see at a glance that the work done in the third year is work of a high order. I have here before me the German paper, from which you will see that pupils are expected to translate German into English, and English into German. In addition they are put through a nice test. There are also the papers for mechanics, physics and machine drawing. The drawing paper you will see is one of some difficulty, and the mathematical questions we consider are of a fairly high order. In the third year the pupils are taken through the elements of the differential and integral calculus. Generally, we consider the standard of education in one of which the school has reason to be proud. The work of the pupils is closely supervised, and daily home work is required from all pupils.

10319. How many pupils were there in the third year course last year?—The year just closed—twenty-one. This is only the third year of the existence of the school. My opinion of this trade preparatory school is that there is no other branch of the Committee's work which will, in proportion to numbers, be productive of so much good. We have no difficulty in obtaining employment for these boys on their leaving school. Most of the boys who have left this year are actually in employment or have employment to go to. The school is the first of its kind in Ireland, but has been copied in other schools, e.g., Limerick, Queens-town, and Pembroke. A school on these lines has just been opened in Leeds. They are discussing the establishment of such a school in Birmingham, and in Liverpool, and we have had a number of inquiries from the London County Council asking for information as to how the school is organised. So it appears this branch of the Committee's work has created more interest outside the County Borough of Belfast. Another effort which the Committee has made to fill the gap is the establishment of a day course for apprenticeship. This is held on Mondays, and employers have given permission to their apprentices to attend. The course has only been taken up to a limited extent. This is the first year, and it needs more thorough organisation. Referring again to the trade preparatory school, it has been said that better class parents are sending their children to us and taking advantage of the benefits of the school, when they might quite well have paid to send their sons to a higher class school. This matter was gone into very carefully. We were not able to make what would have been an impartial investigation into parents' incomes, but we took the valuation of the houses in which the parents lived. In the case of 166 parents we found thirty-eight lived in houses rated at £10 and under; seventy-seven lived in houses rated between £11 and £20; thirty-four lived in houses rated between £20 and £30; and only seventeen lived in houses rated at above £30. I have a very lengthy statement here which was got out on that particular matter to deal with the charges which had been made. I might also mention the observation which I think is very interesting. It has been suggested at times that scholarships should only be given to boys whose parents have an income below a certain amount. We have always considered that the boys who need the scholarships most are the boys who gain them, and here is an interesting table, of which I give you a summary. In our third year we have a number of scholarships carrying a maintenance allowance. There are also ordinary scholarships, these giving admission and books only, and no payment. There are also boys who don't hold scholarships and pay fees. Taking the boys who paid fees, and averaging the rateable value of the house occupied by their parents—the rateable value was £25. Of those who got ordinary scholarships the average rateable value was £27; and of the boys who got maintenance scholarships the average rateable value of their parents' houses was £31, so that the boys who got the most valuable scholarships lived in the lowest-rated houses.

10320. They would do that without there being any residential institution on them?—Yes.

10321. Open to the sons of all employers of Belfast?—That is so. Continuing I may say that although pupils are admitted at twelve the greater number come in at about thirteen. They cannot pass the Entrance Examination at twelve; but we don't want to fix our Entrance Examination at a lower standard because we do not want the pupils from the National schools to be not able to do any more for them. We prefer them to remain at the National schools until the National school has done all it can for them. Next with regard to the occupation of the parents of the boys; they include practically every trade in town. Mention was made yesterday by a witness of a proposal of the Technical Committee to withdraw the grant from a local secondary school. I would like to allude to that. At the time the Technical Committee established the trade preparatory school the Department made it a stipulation that the Committee must give to any other local secondary school which established a trade preparatory school a capital grant equal to what the Corporation school costs the Committee. That is a little involved, but I can explain it by an illustration. Supposing the Corporation school costs £15 per pupil, and the Department gives £6 per pupil as a grant, the net cost

to the Committee is £9 per head. Therefore, if any other local secondary school established a trade preparatory school the Corporation must pay that school £9 per pupil. The Committee agreed to that, and has faithfully fulfilled all its obligations up to date. Recently, however, the Department of Agriculture promised a new scheme of payment of trade preparatory schools, and the basis of the new scheme is this, that they will pay capitation fees as before, but they will pay in addition three-fourths of the balance of the cost. Hence if I take the case which I have just mentioned of a school costing the Committee £15 per head, the Department pay £6 a head and three-fourths of the balance of £9, leaving the Committee to find only one-fourth of the balance. The Committee have therefore said to the local secondary school concerned, "Now that the Department have put you on a new basis we propose to pay you practically one-eighth of your total expenditure, because the Department are going to find approximately seven-eighths." That is all the Committee have done. They have not proposed to withdraw the grant from the local secondary school, but to pay them annually as much as will make up their expenditure, but not to continue to pay the higher rate as before. I mention that by way of explanation. On the question of co-ordination, I will conclude with some points which appear to me worthy of reference. The Technical Committee has made other efforts to encourage young persons besides to further their education. They found that a great many of our students had no knowledge of the many facilities open to them in the way of scholarships, prizes, exhibitions, and so on. Consequently a book entitled "A Guide to prizes and scholarships" was prepared. A copy of this is before each member of the Committee. This gives what we call the educational ladder, and shows how the pupil may climb the educational ladder from the very lowest rung to the very highest. On page nine there is a diagram which was prepared to help those who had difficulty in understanding the statement. That diagram shows the student how he can begin at the elementary school, pass to the trade preparatory school, evening technical school, and industrial life, or to higher positions in the industrial world; or if he wishes he can go from the secondary school up to the University, and then into professional life. This book also sets out a list of prizes offered by the Committee and by local donors for science and art and technology, and gives particulars of the conditions under which they may be gained. I merely allude to this as indicating one of the branches of effort of the Committee to foster technical instruction. I would like to say here that there is very little done on the part of the Belfast students to compete for the scholarships offered by the Department of Agriculture, namely of the Royal College of Science and elsewhere. I am inclined to think that that is due to the fact that most of our students are already in situations. Their object in studying is to improve themselves in the occupations they are already engaged with, and they don't want to break their connection with their occupations, and go away to a centre which is perhaps not so well suited to the object they have in view. We have at this institution three local exhibitions, each valued £50. They have been offered for the first time this year, and we have only a very limited competition for them. We do find, however, amongst our students and younger teachers, a desire to attend summer classes at London and Dublin, and so to improve their education, and make themselves more fitted for their work. A further direction in which we have tried to intensify the work of this institution is explained in another pamphlet on the table before you—"Method in education" (instructions)—this pamphlet explains the basic organisation of the institution. I put this in to show the efforts that have been made to systematise the organisation of the institution, and place it on a sound basis. I think it would be a very proper question to ask and have me to reply to—what results would have accrued from the technical instruction movement up to date; what has been the good of all this work? My answer would be this: that we have trained a large number of young people, on an average 5,000 annually. Practically all these young people would not have studied had it not been for this institute; so there has been a very distinct intellectual gain. Another result that has accrued is this, that many of our young students have improved themselves pecuniarily, and have obtained better situa-

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Fenby.

tions than they could have done had this institution not existed, and I have been better in proof of that from those who have so improved themselves. Of course it is very difficult to tabulate that kind of thing, but we have many evidences of it, and our teachers can tell of their students getting better positions through the training given in the Institute. Then we may take examination results and put these in as evidence of progress. To take just one case, that of the City and Guilds Examinations. Last year six medals (three silver and three bronze) were gained by Irish schools. The whole of these medals came to Belfast. The year before thirteen medals were gained in Ireland; six came to Belfast; the year before that nine medals were gained in Ireland; eight came to Belfast. Last year this institution stood alone with in the United Kingdom in the number of medals gained in the City and Guilds Examinations. If you would like me to mention one or two cases of individuals I might cite one case where a student was promoted to an important position in a mill, from a comparatively humble position. One of our pupils has been appointed Principal of the Armagh Technical School. I could give other cases where students trained in the art school received good positions as designers.

10332. (Chairman).—Have many got employment in England or other countries?—Some go away, but I don't think there is any large number going away. We frequently have employers sending to us for references for pupils, to know what work they have done, and I know cases where pupils have been promoted to good positions principally on the fact that they had studied in the Institute.

10333. What you would claim as one of the results is you take a young fellow who has started his ordinary work and train him up in the evenings to fit him for higher positions?—That is so.

10334. Were it not for your institution he would remain where he was?—That is the case. I would certainly claim that, and could produce to you considerable evidence in support of the claim. Then there are other directions of intellectual activity that I think this institution has very definitely stimulated. I have been before me—I put this in as evidence of the intellectual stimulus that the institution is creating, and also as evidence of the high quality of the teaching staff—I have here a book on mathematics which has been produced by a member of the staff, and is being used all over the Kingdom. It is by Mr. Saxsilly, head of the Mathematical Department. Here is a work on naval architecture written by our teacher of naval architecture, Mr. Lorrain. Here is a work on carpet manufacture by Mr. Bradbury, head of the Textile Department. Here is a book, of which we are very proud, on experiments on hot water systems written by Mr. Dwyer, and is a record of original research carried out in the plumbing department of this institution. This work has been highly spoken of in the Technical Press. These experiments were continued three or four years. The committee have rewarded this by giving this teacher, who has fostered a student here, the Duffin bronze medal, a medal which is only awarded for original research. We have also a small book by our master in German, Mr. Rosold, "A German Reader." Then as evidence of the way in which the Institute has stimulated invention, I produce a new ink well devised by one of our staff. It has been patented and taken up extensively. It is the invention of Mr. Davidson, our wood-working instructor. He has also just invented a new pattern of T square and patented it, and this has arisen from the influence of the institution. I have a number of letters here. I will read a letter from Mr. S. Henry, the student who was promoted "You will wonder at my writing to you, but I received the prize from you this morning from Belfast, as I am working in Portadown for the past six months as a spinning master, being the successful candidate in gaining the situation through the recommendation of Mr. McIlhenny" (his former instructor). I have got a number of other letters. That is very briefly some of the evidence I have put in as to the influence that this institution has had upon the intellectual life of Belfast during the past five years. I will now pass on to make a few remarks on the financial position of this institution. I feel some difficulty in opening this

question after some comment made yesterday by members of the committee. Speaking to a witness one member said that you never spend the whole of your annual income, so that you don't need any more money, whereas another member criticised adversely the case in Nerry, where they had spent beyond their income. We have adopted the former course, always, so that we are not in debt; we are absolutely solvent at this moment, but we have got into that position to some extent by checking the development of our work. It has been a rigid rule of the committee that we should not enter upon obligations we were not in a position to fulfil. I would just outline very briefly the financial position at the moment, and as we are entering upon the year's work on the 1st of August, I will give you the estimate for the coming season. We estimate that our total income next year will be £20,000; and that that amount will be made up as follows:—We estimate that we shall receive in science and art fees, and trade preparatory school fees, £1,800. Then we shall receive in grants from the Department, £2,000, and I think under the new scheme which has just been announced, and was not available at the time the estimate was prepared, that that amount will be increased somewhat. The rate levied on the city will realise £4,700. The Department's Endowment Grant will furnish £11,000, which on moneys which are invested to pay for equipment we estimate we shall receive about £500 in interest. That makes the £20,000. Now our expenditure will be, for teaching and clerical work about £12,000, for heating and ventilation, lighting, cleaning, insurance, repairs, scholarships, printing, and other miscellaneous expenses, £5,000, the payment of the interest on sinking fund for loan on the building will take £4,400, and the ground rent £1,500. It will be seen that out of our total income of £20,000 very nearly £5,000 is taken up by ground rent and interest on sinking fund payment. The whole of our receipts will be absorbed by the amounts which I have named. The scheme of grants, which has just been issued by the Department, will, I hope, enable us to increase our income from scholarships, though to what extent is at the moment very problematical, and will depend in some degree on the interpretation of the rules by the Department. The teaching now is carried on at a very distinct loss. The Department's endowment goes to make up the deficit. I don't see that under this scheme we are going to get such grants as will pay the additional cost of carrying on the instruction, so that the demand on our endowment fund will still continue.

10335. (Mr. O'Connell).—You don't think that the grant that will be payable under the new scheme would even be sufficient to pay the salaries of the teachers that give the instruction carried on under that scheme?—No. I do not. I say that quite definitely. So we shall have, as before, to call on the endowment fund for the balance. I would like to make it quite clear. This scheme is a new scheme and has to be tested yet. All we can do is to make certain estimates based on our experience, leaving the proof or disproof of our estimates to be established later. There is a diagram I would ask your permission to draw attention to, showing the amounts we receive from science and art. It is an increasing quantity and went up to £2,200 last year. After all it is only a small fraction of the Committee's total income, though I may say this Institute obtained one-fourth of all the science and art grants gained by Ireland last year. Seventy-nine schools obtained science and art grants, so that the whole science and art grant is exceedingly small. In the coming year we estimate we shall earn \$900 for grant on the trade preparatory school. It has been practically decided to cease the working of the evening continuation school scheme of the National Board. At this point, speaking of the financial position, I should like again to dwell on the very large portion of our income which is required to pay the interest on sinking fund, and the cost of the building—£4,400, and if we were relieved of that payment we should be in a much better position than we are at present to expand certain departments that need expansion. I think that we could very reasonably and very equitably ask for a grant for building considering the circumstances of this institution as compared with any other institution in England. Technical instruction in England has been a plant of fairly slow

growth. It has been growing for the past thirty or forty years. So that year after year Committees have accumulated funds and apparatus, and all that goes to build up their institutions whereas here in Ireland nothing was done until the passing of the Act of 1889. Then the whole burden was thrown on the Committee at one stroke. They had no accumulated funds and no apparatus. They had not gathered together appliances as committees in England had done, and I think for that reason reason committees here are entitled to special help with regard to the erection of buildings. Had the burden increased gradually the committees might have provided for it, but they had not the opportunity of doing so. It seems as if the endowment grants were intended more to help committees to carry on their educational work than to erect buildings.

10336. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—You are aware the greater number of buildings that have been erected in England have not been erected by the slow process to which you refer, but by the towns concerned borrowing and undertaking to repay in the same way you are doing here?—I am aware of that, and particularly in Manchester, where I had a number of years' experience. It is a question of degree. In Manchester they borrowed to erect their income is relatively very much larger than ours, moreover they had accumulated a considerable amount of material which was of very practical use in going into the new building.

10337. Apparatus and so on?—Yes.

10338. A comparatively small part of the whole cost involved?—Yes but here in Belfast we had practically nothing at the beginning.

10339. I don't see that it helped very much the buildings in England?—When I speak of Manchester I take a very exceptional case—the worst case for my own argument.

10340. Oh, not?—Well certainly within my own range of knowledge; but the smaller schools have been very much helped by their accumulations.

10341. Of apparatus?—And all that goes to make a school.

10342. Not building. You are speaking of a building grant. The apparatus does not make a building?—Let me elaborate what I mean. Leaving out of the argument Liverpool and Manchester, if you take the towns in England many have had a technical instruction scheme in operation for thirty years, certainly since the passing of the Act of 1889. All these schools have been in a far more favourable position than Belfast or any other centre in Ireland. They had an income from the Customs and Excise which enabled them to gather together a considerable mass of material for their work. Amongst one of that they have developed along the lines they are now following—Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, to a limited extent—and these schools are consequently in a much more favourable position than we are.

10343. The money to which you refer that was supplied from the Customs and Excise money was applicable for relief of rates or for technical instruction. Instead of devoting it to relieving the rates they set it aside to technical instruction purposes?—Yes; it was applicable to be devoted to the relief of rates, but very few authorities did that; it did actually go to technical instruction. I don't think you need trouble you with any more figures in regard to the financial aspect of the institution. I ask permission to put in a very special plea for the making of building grants for schools in this country. In the first instance, we ourselves only had permission to borrow for forty years; then when the Local Government Board took into account the quality of the building being erected they agreed to extend the period of repayment over another ten years.

10344. I think they allowed you to borrow on the fifty years repayment scheme to meet the cost of appliances as well as building?—No, only for building. Much of the cost of the appliances will be met out of money put aside to meet that cost each year since the institute opened.

10345. The fifty years' loan is on the shell of the building?—On the building pure and simple.

10346. Now, to return to the question of grants on attendance; taking a single class—say the class in practical mathematics which you give in the first year of the course—and estimating that there would be an average attendance of twenty pupils to a teacher, I make out that grant per class-hour for the attendance you gave us yesterday, would probably amount to 8s. 4d. on twenty pupils taking the rate at 5s. Assuming the average attendance was thirty or forty hours per year, do you pay your teachers, and the lowest teachers in practical mathematics, more than 8s. 4d. an hour?—We do not. I only hope your estimate will work out in practice, because if it does we shall be in a very happy position.

10347. I take the tables you gave us which showed the attendance of the class—where would the weakness come in exactly?—I won't say I am going to demonstrate where the weakness comes in, but I will put this before you. The Department exact from us an undertaking that the student must go through a course of study, their definition of a course of study being two subjects. There is a table over there which shows that the entries per student average one and a half subjects. Now we in the first instance have got to increase the number of entries. There are students, who are not taking a course as defined by the Department, and consequently there will be a considerable number of students on whom we shall not be able to make any claim. I am afraid that number will be considerable. We have at the present moment no power to compel students to take a course. We are not strong enough yet to say to a student "You must take two subjects or not come here, so I am afraid we are going to lose very heavily on that."

10348. On that point I want to put to you if you are not strong enough to insist on a student taking two subjects, which altogether would not imply more than an attendance of, say, three hours on two evenings, that is, one and a half hours twice a week,—if you are not strong enough to secure by such a regulation that they really are getting the full advantage of the facilities that the institution is going to confer?—I grant you that.

10349. Do you think you would not be in a position to put on the screw sufficiently strong to do that?—Not in the coming year; we shall presently.

10350. Not in the first year of a brand new institution like this?—I am afraid not.

10351. Then if you are not, I think probably neither these grants nor any grant would enable you to get sufficient value from the work?—It is difficult in Belfast. We have got to increase the pressure gradually. The students come to us as very ill-trained for technical work. We have to make the best of the material. We are putting on pressure wherever we can. I fear we shall not realize your estimate for the following, for one reason. Take a single technical subject—trade subject—for example, take sheet metal-work. A student attends sheet metal work and may be very unwilling to attend any other class.

10352. Would you allow him without taking another class, without taking either a class of arithmetic bearing on it, or geometrical drawing bearing on it?—We certainly should if he had already known the other subject.

10353. You would not ask him to take some other subject that would be of further benefit to himself and relating to his sheet-metal-work class?—We should ask him, but if he came to us and knew the arithmetic required for the class we should allow him to take the sheet metal class alone.

10354. Without asking him to take another subject?—We would ask him, but not force him. Supposing he said I want to join this class and I don't want another, and if you don't allow me I shall not join the class.

10355. Do you think you are putting on the utmost pressure that the character of your students would bear in accepting that?—I would not like to say it was the utmost pressure they could bear, but we have had examples of this kind, that is that students prefer to go away rather than take another class. I would not like to stamp all the students as of that calibre.

10356. Everybody recognizes that there are idle sheep in the flock, but the average would surely rise to the small demand put on them by the definition in the

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July 12, 1902. Department's regulations, of course?—We hope so. I have a resolution of my committee that they are agreeable to pressure being put on students to take a course of study.

10357. Let me put an alternative. On a very low estimate of attention on the part of the students, these lessons would at any rate involve no loss upon the town, but if you allow students to play fast and loose, taking only a class when they ought to be, by everyone's agreement, taking a course, that would be entailing considerable loss. Had you not authority you think it would be right to call upon them to give the necessary loss—and so tax whoever would not save the town from that expense?—I do think it would be perfectly right to call upon them. Whether we shall be able to enforce it or not, we shall call upon them, and intend to go as far as we can with it.

10358. You might go further than two subjects—two subjects seem so small?—Again I refer you to the diagram showing the result, even though we have been trying to induce students.

10359. There is a great difference between trying to induce students when you have had to try to induce them to take up work in all sorts of holes and corners scattered over Belfast. No one would find fault with them for that, but when you have a brand new institution with every facility for every student, you could say the town has done its part and you must do yours?—That is what we propose to do.

10360. Now as to rates of grant, we find a probable rate of 4s. 4d. per class-hour for practical mathematics; for workshop arithmetic, thirty-five students at 3d. gives 8s. 6d. We have machine instruction first year, twenty students, 10s.; second year, twenty students, 12s. 4d.—surely these sums would meet the cost?—Oh, certainly; if we could earn these sums we would undoubtedly cover the cost of teaching.

10361. Assuming the pupils were to take advantage of the facilities offered them, did their part, you should be in a position to earn these sums?—Assuming they did, I grant you that.

10362. If they do, any extension of the institution desirable in the direction of increased teaching would be possible under this scheme without entailing any further net cost on the town than is entailed at the present moment?—Yes; if your estimates are borne out that is the case.

10363. And therefore in getting the Treasury and the Government to agree to scales of payment of grants like these, the Department have, to a certain extent, exhibited the necessity for any special building grant. The balance-sheet you showed just now upon the old grant showed that your finances, including the endowment grant of £11,000, were in a healthy enough state. Any further extensions of work being made through the grants, the Department have provided the means of financing the further growth of technical instruction in an automatic way—I see your point, but I am afraid I don't agree with them. You said our figures are in a healthy state. They are because they have been kept in a healthy state. But we have kept them in a healthy state by checking certain developments of the work.

10364. Precisely, and I put it to you that this enables you to make these developments without making any further call for money except through the Parliamentary Grants; and the one thing that would prevent your earning it would be that the youth of Belfast would not be prepared to give what is, from my point of view, the minimum attendance in a technical institution?—No; I say that in Belfast they are not at the present time capable of giving what is required. Take a subject like mathematics. You estimate we will earn so much under certain conditions. The amount may be 8s. 4d., which will more than pay for the instruction, but I put it to you this way. Take sheet-metal work. We shall have students who will want to come and study a subject like this and are not prepared to take another class. They will therefore not be great earning students. We may be in a position to say, if you will not take another subject we shall charge you double fees, or in some way penalise them, but that remains to be seen. I refer you to page 3 of the regulations.—The work of this year is intended for students who possess only the minimum requirements for admission to an evening technical school. Students registered in

this section must have received such an education as would entitle them to be placed in the sixth standard of a school under the National Board. These kinds of young people leave the national schools every year who have not reached a standard higher than the fourth or fifth. These young people go to work; they serve an apprenticeship. To this extent they get some training in matters pertaining to their trades, but they have not qualified in the sixth class; and if it is a condition that people in this class must have qualified in the sixth standard then there are hundreds of working men attending here who are going to be set out of these advantages of the institute, and the estimate you make fails to take account of this factor.

10365. I don't accept that. These people who have left the elementary schools before they reach the sixth class are not proper subjects for State aid under these Regulations. They are proper subjects for State aid under the Regulations of the Commissioners of the National Education Board, and therefore whatever fault there is as to rates or anything else would be a charge against the rates and regulations for the lower grade of work, not for the higher?—Then how are you going to provide for these people? Are you going to say, "you shall not come into the technical school until the National Board have done what they can for you?"

10366. I am not answering questions—I am not putting it to you as a question, but as a question which has to be answered by someone. Let me put it as a question that I shall answer for myself. What is to be said to a student of the kind referred to? "I'm sorry to go away and get your information from the National Board." But Dr. Swetlow told you recently that the evening continuation school system was not for urban districts. Then if his statement be true, we in Belfast have no right to any Continuation School Scheme and there is no school open to the students I have referred to.

10367. You see, Mr. Forth, I think you are rather wandering from the point. The point we are now considering is the efficacy of work under this Department, and how far the requirements of this Department have been put in such a form as to enable that work to be done satisfactorily. Another point is the relations of this Department to other departments; what you have already said has been sufficient to show the existing difficulty in that matter, and I don't want to discuss it under two heads. We have already heard you explain fully that the grant for elementary work under the National Commission are insufficient, and that the regulations that they make are unworkable. We have it all recorded completely, and we set that on one side. We don't want to deal with these higher questions on the same term. It is good enough for the argument on one point, but you can't set it on both. We had that and accept that from you as a quite good and sufficient evidence, but we don't want to discuss the second point on the same old evidence?—Then I must summarise my remarks, I say make, if you shall have further evidence on that point.

10368. Not in the least. It is not for me to shadow evidence. You have read stated evidence on that point, and you see now on another case and you may make any remarks you like, but, as far as I am concerned, I would like to see each deal with on its own bottom, and we have that dealt with. Let us have the other?—I come back to this that you have taken a case when we may earn so much on a particular subject. I say I can't accept that because there are means connected with the primary education system which will prevent us from earning the grants you quote. Of course if you are satisfied that what I said earlier concerning that, I need not deal with the point further. In concluding all I want to say, gentlemen, is this, before you have got the prospectus for the current year, showing the developments that will take place. There is also a small set of plans of the new building. Some of the members of the Committee have already seen the buildings, so that it is not necessary to explain these plans. I would like to tell you with regard to the equipment of the building; this is a work which has been in hands for the last eighteen months or two years. Every effort has been made to render the equipment as complete as possible. Members of the Library and Technical Instruction Committee have visited the leading technical schools in England and Scotland,

and heads of departments have visited all the important technical instruction centres in Great Britain and Ireland. I myself have visited most of the important centres in Germany and other parts of the Continent to collect information; and we are doing all we can to make this equipment thoroughly suitable for its purpose. You have also before you a tabular statement showing how £36,000 has been divided between the different departments. But I may tell you at this stage that this amount will not completely equip the departments. It is all we could see our way to spend, and we have to do the best we can with it. I would conclude by saying this: that the Committee have in view in regard to future developments, the establishment of a day technical school, the expansion of existing departments, and the introduction of some new departments. There is great need for improved facilities for practical instruction, and I think that will be met in the new building. The possibilities for development in Belfast are very great indeed. In my opinion we are at present only on the fringe of the possible educational expansion, and I think in the course of a few years this new institute will produce an effect far beyond anything that has been attained in the last five years. I put in, at this stage, a list of the documents and papers that have been furnished to the Committee.

10359. (Chairman).—I am afraid you are being rather hurried now. If there is anything you feel you have omitted and should like to submit to us in writing we should be glad to receive it—I thank

you, I shall be glad to do so. I would like to make this remark. There has been very considerable criticism of the attitude of the Department towards the work of Technical Instruction Committees. We in Belfast have had from time to time differences with the Department, but these difficulties have been argued out fairly and squarely, and one has always felt that the Department was endeavouring to arrive at the solution which was best for the district. We have got every possible encouragement and the utmost help, and speaking for myself, personally, I have nothing but words of the greatest commendation to extend to the Department and the officers of the Department, although we have differed from them frequently on points which have come under discussion, as I differed from my friend Mr. Ogilvie, a moment ago.

10360. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Where we differ is that I don't think you attach in your calculations sufficient importance to the great power you will have in what is going to be one of the finest technical institutes in the United Kingdom. When you have got that behind you, you have a motive power sufficient to surmount almost anything. Believe me we shall not fail to use our power to the utmost, although at the moment we don't want to say too much about it. We shall throw away no opportunity of rendering our work more efficient.

(Chairman).—Well the Committee will now adjourn, and I am not able, at present, to say at what time or place we shall meet again, but it will probably not be until the middle of October.

The Committee adjourned.

July 16, 1906.

Mr. F. G.
Ferdin.

THIRTIETH PUBLIC SITTING—MONDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 1906.

At the Courthouse, Waterford.

Present:—

SIR KENELM DIGBY, K.C., Q.C.B. (Chairman).

Mr. F. O. O'GILVIE

Mr. W. L. MILES.

Mr. J. J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Most Rev. R. A. SHEEHAN, D.D., *ex officio*.

Oct. 15, 1906.

Most Rev. R. A. Sheehan, D.D.

10364. (Chairman).—I believe, my Lord, you are the Bishop of Waterford and Lismore?—Yes, sir.

10365. And I think you wish to confirm your evidence principally to the technical side of the work of the Department?—Yes, if you please.

10366. Will you kindly take your own course in what you wish to tell us?—Thank you. I begin by remarking that shortly after the Technical Act came into operation the Council of the County Borough of Waterford appointed a Committee to carry it out in the city, and the members of that Committee did me the honour of electing me their Chairman, and that position I have held ever since. Perhaps I might also add that the County Waterford constituted similarly a Committee for Agricultural and Technical Instruction, and of that Committee I was also Chairman for a few years, but as the meetings were held at Dungarven, which is a considerable distance from Waterford, I had reluctantly to ask the members to accept my resignation of the position. I remained, therefore, Chairman of the Technical Committee of the city. The City of Waterford had in the year 1901 a population of 21,353, and its valuation was £40,360. The Committee set to work at once in order to discharge the task that had been committed to them, but they found very considerable difficulties. There was, of course, the apathy, the ignorance, and the prejudice that exist in this country, as I have no doubt would have existed in every other country in the world under similar circumstances. These had to be overcome. Then there was the further difficulty of finding any place or places in which we could be housed for the doing of our work. We had a building, such as it was, for one portion of our work, namely, the Arts; there was an old Art School in the city. We then looked about for a place in which to carry on the remainder of our work, and we found it impossible to get any building. In the end we hired a disused bank, in which to carry on the female instruction of cooking, laundry, and needlework; and for the male population the Christian Brothers came to our aid, and put up at their own expense a temporary building, and I think it right to say that were it not for the aid which we received from the Christian Brothers we should not have been able to begin our work when we did, or for a long time after. In January, 1902, we opened the female school, and thenceforth the Art may be said to have been in full operation in the town.

10367. That was the school in the disused bank, was it?—Yes. In 1902—that year is the last for which I have any returns on the subject—we had on the rolls in the Domestic Economy School 324, in the Art School, 46, and in the Evening School under the care of the Christian Brothers at Mount St. John, we had 230, making a total of 584 pupils. Our income was, from the Technical Department, £247 12s. 11d.

10368. Was that the grant from the Department?—Yes, the grant given us for the County Borough. A penny rate in the city made £630, and these two sums together with such fees as we were able to get in the Domestic School and in the Art School, formed our entire income. As I shall presently have to say, we have since built a new school, and we have now occupied it, and our income is somewhat increased, not only by reason of the fees which we naturally expect to receive in larger amounts, but also by a sum of £250 which the Department has given us for the purpose of setting up a special department of commercial instruction.

They have given us that £250 in order that we might pay a teacher £150 a year.

10369. That is an annual sum?—An annual sum, £150, and the balance will go towards the payment of expenses, providing equipment, and so on.

10370. This new school that you have built is a male school?—No, sir, it is a Central Technical School, but I shall have something more to say about that presently. Now, if I were to express an opinion with regard to the effects of the introduction of the Technical Instruction movement and the establishment of the Department in Ireland I would say that unquestionably it has done good, and considerable good, and that particularly in reference to Science, especially in boys' schools and in reference to domestic economy for girls. These two subjects were practically unknown, I think, I may say, in the country at the time that the Department was set up, and we as this part of the country had good reason for thinking that a fair knowledge, both of the one and of the other, has been imparted through the instrumentality of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. I say a fair knowledge, because I believe that if the Department were properly supported, particularly financially, by the Government, very much better work could be done. I attribute the merit to which I have referred, namely, that the work of the Department has not been as successful as it might be, principally to three causes. First of all, there was a certain amount of unpopularity attaching to establishments that were made originally in the Department and through the Department. I don't think there is any need, probably, of going into this matter at length beyond expressing my own opinion that there was no sufficient reason for that unpopularity. The officials to whom I refer were amongst the best, to my mind, that could be obtained for the purpose, and that being the case I think that nothing need be said on that head. I believe, too, that the unpopularity to which I have referred has not waned out as judiciously as, perhaps, might be supposed. But a much graver cause has been the want of funds.

10371. Did the unpopularity arise chiefly from the fact that they were not Irish?—Yes, but in one important exception it arose out of other grounds, partly political and partly religious. The second cause, and far more important than the first, was the want of funds, and that want of funds has manifested itself in a variety of directions to the injury of the working and the success of the Department in Ireland. There was a want of funds for the adequate multiplication of inspectors and teachers, there was a want of funds for the purposes of scholarships, there was a want of funds, because I believe it was to want of funds it was due—although it is not a matter of first-rate importance—in the Correspondence Department, and, above all, there was a want of funds for the erection of proper buildings in which to carry on technical work. With regard to the Inspectors, to my mind we had not, and we have not, by any means, a sufficient number. It must be borne in mind that there is, and there should be, in the nature of the case, a very considerable want of knowledge amongst the members of our Committees, in the working of this Act. They were dealing with a subject which was altogether new to them, and which was

complex almost at every step. To my mind it should have been able to get frequent help from the Inspectors. I mean, of the proper kind, that is to say, help from the superior knowledge which the Inspectors possess, and which he would give with tact and in a manner that could not fail to be very useful to the Committee. I have always found that while the Committee very properly would resent any attempt at interfering their independence in the working of the Act, they were very glad to receive information when that information was given to them in the manner in which it should be given.

10360. Is that defect owing to there not being enough Inspectors?—Yes, we have not a sufficient number.

10359. I suppose the supply was limited at first?—I believe it was want of funds.

10371. Partly from want of funds and partly from the difficulty of getting proper people?—I could not say that.

10372. I mean that when you see starting a new organisation like this, the supply of persons specially qualified for that particular post is more limited than it would subsequently be—Of course it would be, naturally. Then again, I think there was not a sufficient number of teachers, and particularly in the rural districts I think the teachers have not got into touch with individuals and families. They have got into touch with districts by attending the people and lecturing to them, but in my mind, considering the circumstances of this country, it would have been clearly desirable that the teachers would go round through the houses of the people, would speak to them there, and would give them the proper guidance, instruction, and assistance in a variety of ways, but there, again, it would have required a very much larger number of teachers than we have to do that work, and there, again, I suppose I may take it, that the question of funds comes in.

10373. You don't complain, I suppose, of the way in which the teachers have done their work?—No, I do not.

10374. You simply say there ought to be more of the same kind and class to do the same kind of work they have been doing?—Precisely. There is another evil arising out of the insufficiency of the number of teachers, that the teachers could only devote a certain length of time, six or eight weeks, in a district, and then they went away and came back again after a year. In the six weeks or two months they could give very little instruction. The people have learned very little more than their own ignorance, but they have forgotten all they learned before the teacher comes back again. There is another fault in this connection—it is with the Correspondence Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. We have had frequent reason to feel that that particular branch is not by any means working as we should expect, that is to say, we find a great difficulty in getting replies to our letters. At I said a moment ago, we meet with difficulties almost at every meeting that we are not able to solve. We communicate with the Department, we meet again in a month, and there is no reply. The matter may be of urgency and importance at the time, and a number of business men leave their business and come there to do work, and naturally they feel disappointed and sore in the end at their receiving no speedy reply, or, within reasonable limits, no reply to their letter. I have myself had very considerable correspondence with a large number of public Departments in my life, but I have never met any Department in which I found it more difficult to get a reply to an official letter. While I say this, there is one thing I ought to add, I have frequently myself communicated with the Department upon matters. Of course my communication could not be regarded under the circumstances, I suppose, as of an official character, but I certainly met with the utmost kindness and readiness at their hands at all times, and if I were to speak only from my own personal experience, an distinguished from the experience which I know Committee, not merely here, but elsewhere, have had, I should have nothing but praise for this Department. But as it is, I do think that greater attention should be paid to the correspondence; but, here again, I have heard it stated—I don't know, of course, I have no means of obtaining perfectly reliable knowledge, but I have heard that

the difficulty is want of money. The two greatest difficulties arise from the want of money for scholarships and for building purposes. This Act was set up in a country, which I shall presently have reason to explain, was altogether unprepared for it. Then, again, there were those difficulties to which I referred already, that our people which is so strong and prevails so widely everywhere. Then, again, our people, they are highly conservative in regard to old ways. I have sometimes asked myself is it the result of that conservatism or is it in opposition to that conservatism, but at all events they are very impatient to see the results of what is done. One would imagine that a Government dealing with a people of that kind, knowing so little of the subject, having such an innate aversion in one point of view to the introduction of such a completely new system among them, one would imagine that a Government would do everything they could to induce the people to avail of the opportunities that were afforded to them, and scholarships would clearly have been one and not the least of the means that would suggest themselves for adoption in a case of the kind. Well, now the funds at the disposal of the Committee through the country are so small as to leave little or no margin for the purpose of granting scholarships. We have found it the case ourselves in Waterford, and I know a similar feeling is entertained elsewhere. I have heard it stated in a vague way that there are scholarships, but apart from the scholarships which are given to intending teachers, so far as I know the other scholarships are given upon impossible conditions; that is to say, the Department will contribute part providing the local Committee will contribute part. But here the difficulty comes in, the local Committees have not the power to contribute because of their want of funds. Either the Department should give the entire of the funds for the scholarships, or what would be very much better, I should be strongly in favour of requiring the local Committees to contribute portion if it were possible. The Department should contribute the whole or else let local Committees get funds that would be sufficient in order to enable them to give a part. The want of funds is felt in this country still more because of that fact—every other country round us has had for years its opportunities for obtaining technical instruction, and has been liberally aided by public funds. In England, between 1890 and 1903, there were £7,500,000 received from the Local Taxation Account, and Ireland had no Technical Department at the time, and from that source it did not receive a penny. There was an Equivalent Grant made for Ireland to which I shall have occasion to refer later on, and that, I believe, in those years amounted to something like £11,000. But here the fact stands that England received £7,500,000 from the Local Taxation Account, and not one penny is coming from that or any similar source to Ireland. In 1900-01, I see England received £918,000 from that source; we are receiving for technical purposes in Ireland, £55,000, to which £7,000 was added recently, making a total of £62,000, and I think that we have a very good cause to appeal to the Government and say to them, "Treat us as you treat England. You give England the surplus of the Local Taxation Account after payment to Police Superannuation, you give it to local bodies in England, and empower them to devote either the whole or part of it to technical instruction, do the same thing for us." Our Local Taxation money last year amounted to £112,000. "Give us that money to carry on our work of technical instruction as you are giving a similar fund in England, and we will not ask you for a penny for the purpose of technical instruction from other sources."

10375. (Mr. O'Brien).—Have you got any idea of what that £112,000 was devoted to?—I have, sir; £82,500 of it was handed over to the Agricultural and Technical Department, and that forms part of the total funds of the Department. Of this there was £55,000 allocated by the Technical Instruction Act for technical instruction.

10376. (Chairman).—You are speaking of the £55,000 mentioned in the Act?—Yes; I may say the total of the funds received by the Department were made up in part of a sum of £678,000 which the National Board, I believe, had been previously receiving out of the Local Taxation Account. When the Department got its money there were £55,000, as required by the Act, allocated to technical instruction; there was a further sum of

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£7,500 voted by the Agricultural Board to technical instruction in Ireland, and the remaining £50,565 6s. 10d. was handed over to the Intermediate Education Department. What appears to me is this, if the Intermediate Education Department has a claim for £50,000, or any sum you like, let it get it by all means, but why take it out of the sum that ought to be devoted in Ireland as in England to technical education; to take out of that sum such a proportion to hand it over to the Intermediate Education Board. I think the Intermediate Education Board ought to establish its own claims, to use the phrase once used by an eminent Irish Judge, "Every herring should hang by its own tail."

10377. (Chairman).—I don't quite gather whether your criticism is directed against the Act of 1889, which provides for the allocation of this £50,000, or whether you are complaining of that and saying that more funds ought to be provided by the Government!—What I say first, sir, is that more funds ought to be provided, and secondly, I point to a ready source from which they could be provided. I say, here is £112,000 from the Local Taxation Account. Every penny of the Local Taxation Account after the withdrawal of money for Police Superannuation in England, is given to the local authorities with power to devote it to technical purposes. I say, do the same thing in Ireland, give the £112,000, as you would give it in England.

10378. (Mr. O'Connell).—May I point out that the £112,000 which is given to England from Local Taxation remains has to be spent in England not on technical instruction alone, but on technical education, together with secondary, and has to meet also any other expenditure on higher education that is incurred by the local authorities, so as a matter of fact the destination of the £112,000 is precisely the same as the destination of the whole £112,500, the difference being that in Ireland, £50,000 which is spent upon secondary education goes through one Board, while the £72,500 that goes towards agricultural and technical education goes through another Board, but the sum total in each case has to cover both technical and secondary education—I speak under correction, of course. I remember reading in Balfour's "System of Education," a statement to the effect that the Local Taxation Account was handed over to the local bodies in England with power to devote the whole or any part of it to technical instruction.

10379. That is quite accurate; they have power to spend it all on technical instruction, if they like, but they have also to finance secondary education out of it, and as a matter of fact they spend a very large part on secondary education, I should say quite as large as is spent in Ireland; they have it in their option to spend it on one or the other, but they have got to do both!—We have a big education question besides into which we could not go just now, and the discussion of which would come in there, but I go back to my point, we ought to get the money in this country with power to spend it as we like.

10380. (Chairman).—That would involve the re-creating of the system of Secondary Education!—Yes, that will go into the melting-pot very soon, and no one knows what will come out of it.

10381. If this money is devoted to technical education you will have to find money for secondary education from another source!—Yes. The third cause of the want of success of the Department in Ireland is the want of preparedness of the country for such a system of education at the time it was established. Take the subject of Science, which underlies the whole system of technical instruction in Ireland. For a very long time we had a very effective system of scientific instruction. In 1868 I see that a Commission of the Committee of the Council of Education reported that the teaching of science in Ireland was most successful, and so it continued until the year 1881, or thereabouts. Unfortunately, just about the time that the Intermediate Education Board got hold of this money which should have come, in my contention, to technical education, they converted the secondary system which they have to administer into a grammar system, with the most fatal consequences to the teaching of science. I think you had these figures before, but it may be no harm to say this much, that in 1889 the Science and Art grant for Ireland amounted to £8,875, and in 1890 it fell down to £4,071. In 1891

2,385 boys were presented for examination in science, in 1890 the number fell down to 673, and during that interval the total number presented for examination under the Intermediate Education Department increased by fifty per cent. That was the condition in which science was at the time when the Technical Department was set on foot. Now, let us go to primary education, and we have the report of Lord Balfour's Commission in 1897, which is very significant at this point. "Elementary science, as a subject, is virtually extinct, woodwork and hand-and-eye training practically unknown. Kindergarten teaching was given in 325 out of 8,633 National Schools in 1897, and physical exercises were very little practised outside the kindergarten classes." Drawing in 1897 was taught only to 33,935 children out of 271,568 eligible to learn it. The general verdict of the Commission on the education given in National Schools is, that while it fits the boys for the Irish Intermediate Schools it leaves them not fit to enter a technical school, even if they had such a school at their doors. That is the condition we were in Ireland when the Act was introduced. It is easy to see that an Act introduced under such circumstances was bound to work out as an inefficient and wasteful measure. We had to put teachers who were paid very high salaries to teach young boys and girls their A-B-C of every branch of technical instruction. In that way, of course, we cannot expect to get results for any very considerable time, and in this country every system of that kind exposes itself to some unpopularity for that very reason. We complain of the fact that we are not getting sufficient funds, still more because we believe, rightly or wrongly, but we strongly believe that we have been deprived of monies which were voted to us by Parliament for that purpose in the Act of 1889. For a number of years before 1889 we were receiving from South Kensington two classes of grants for what we now call technical instruction. South Kensington separated Science and Art from Technical Instruction, and it gave a grant for Science and Art, and another grant for Technical Instruction. The grant for technical instruction was one penny for every penny that was levied and spent locally for the purpose of technical instruction in the restricted sense of the word. The Act of 1889 came to be passed, and in that Act, as clearly, to the layman, at all events, as the English language could possibly express it, there was given to Ireland this Equivalent Grant, as it was called, for the purpose of technical instruction. The Act of 1889 stated in section two:—"There shall be transferred to the Department at such dates respectively as the Lord Lieutenant by order appoints—(c.) The administration of the grant for Science and Art in Ireland. (j.) The administration of the grant in aid of Technical Instruction, as defined by the Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1889." Our contention is that under these sub-sections of the Act we were clearly entitled to get money. I believe it has been said that this clause was an enabling clause simply giving the Department power to give the money if they got it, but I might be allowed to reply to that and say that it looks a strange thing that Parliament would go through the solemn form of setting up a Department in Ireland for the purpose of administering a non-existent grant. Furthermore, we are confirmed in the view that we have a right to that money under the Act of Parliament by the opinion of the Irish Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and of South Kensington itself. When this Act was put into operation, we all remember that the Agricultural and Technical Department took every opportunity, as they were bound to, to instruct the people regarding the nature of the Act and the monies placed at its disposal for the purpose of carrying it out, and in every single instance, I think I am correct in stating, the Department held out to the Irish people the promise of a penny for every penny levied locally for the purpose of technical instruction, and, not only that, but on the faith of that promise the various counties and county boroughs in Ireland agreed to levy the rate. I hold that that was a contract, a binding contract, made by a Government Department with the people of Ireland. But again in 1900, the year in which the Act came into operation, in the Official Directory of South Kensington there was express mention made of this grant. That being so, I think we have a clear right to it. Again, if we had not got this Equivalent Grant in Ireland the counties in Ireland will be worse

all then they were if the Act had never been passed. If the Act had never been passed the counties in Ireland if they levied a penny rate would have received from South Kensington £22,577; the valuation of Ireland being £12,615,903. A penny rate that would amount to £22,577, but they only received £23,000; and, therefore, they have lost £27,000 a year by the passing of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act.

10302. (Mr. Ogilvie).—What becomes of the other £20,000 that is spent on technical instruction?—£25,000 goes to the six county boroughs and the balance is devoted to purposes common to counties and county boroughs, I believe.

10303. Your £22,000 referred to the counties as distinguished from the county boroughs?—Purely. With regard to expenses for buildings, everyone knows that when you set up a new system of education in a country it is only right and necessary that proper buildings should be provided, and I believe there is no instance on record—I read it somewhere—of an educational system being set up for the first time in a civilized country in which provision was not made for specially supplying schools; at all events, this system of technical instruction was set up in this country without any provision for schools, and the Department have persistently stated that they have no money to give for that purpose. I have described what occurred to us in Waterford in order to provide some place in which to house our people, and up to the present moment we have not got one penny. I owe to the kindness of the Board of Education in England and the Scotch Board of Education I have obtained with regard to the assistance given in those countries for the purpose of building schools. I have here a return from the English Board of Education, a summary of the Regulations of the Department of Science and Art, 1900, showing the building grants to Science and Art schools in England and Wales since 1882. They have given me a complete list of the schools that received aid for this purpose on the various years from 1890 up to 1900, when the regulations covering these grants ceased to be in operation.

10304. Since which no further grants have been made?—Since which no further grants have been made. I see from this return that 101 towns in England received building grants, and I have culled out the names of some twenty-five towns, roughly circumstanced as to population and area as Waterford is, and I have noted the grants that they received, be it remembered for the purpose of building science schools and art schools. I don't know whether it is needless to trouble you with a list of those towns. The general result is that, that these twenty-five places I have referred to, having a general resemblance in their conditions to Waterford, received aid from the Government, from the Board of Education to build schools in England between 1890 and 1898. Now, of course, it will be observed at once by anyone who reads these returns that the amount received was not very large, it varied from £1,000 to £500. But I would remark as to that that at this very time England was receiving this enormous sum from the Local Taxation Account for the purposes of technical education, and, further, that the money was given for the purpose simply of constructing schools to carry on two branches of technical work, namely science and art. Now, in the new school which we have put up in Waterford, and which we have recently occupied, we have our science class and we have also our art class, we have our domestic economy class, with different rooms for cooking, laundry, and needlework. We have a commercial class, and we have a Day Trades' Preparatory School. I think that we ought certainly to receive some help in order to put up our buildings, and I think it would be impossible to carry on the work effectively anywhere until such assistance is granted. What has happened to us in Waterford? We were absolutely driven by the necessities of the case under the conditions I have already described, to erect a Central Technical School, and in doing so we have crippled them immensely for the carrying out of our work, and, perhaps, if I am not deceiving the Commission too long, to throw some light upon the condition of things in this country, I might tell what exactly occurred in relation to our building project. When we determined to build, of course, we asked the Department for authority first, and we received it, and then we got an architect, and plans were drawn up and submitted to the Depart-

ment and passed by them. We asked the Department if we could pledge our penny rate and portion of the Department's grant in order to borrow money. We were told we could. We applied to the Board of Works, and the Board of Works, after considering the matter for a very long time, told us they could not give us the money, not that they differed in their view from the Department, but because the portion of the city rates on which alone security of that kind could be based, the borrowing powers of the Corporation over the portion of the city rates on which a loan could be levied, had been exhausted. We then applied to different banks in the town, and they told us it was not a banking transaction, and they could not help us, but by that time we had bought the ground and paid £1,100 for it. Then, we were in this difficulty, we wanted a school badly, we had paid out as much as we had of the £1,100, and when we went to get the remainder we did not know. One of the banks, with great public spirit, came to our aid and gave us a temporary loan. I say a temporary loan, because we engaged when we asked for the loan that in the Bill which was then being projected by the Corporation of Waterford and has since become law (the Waterford Corporation and Bridge Act), that a clause would be inserted by which the Corporation would be enabled to give the security that was required. Certain reproductive works had been included in the loans previously, by reason of which they were prevented from giving the security. By the clause in the Act these loans were withdrawn, and the result was that the Corporation have power which, no doubt, they will presently exercise, and we then will pay the bank back and go and borrow the money. But what is the result, we have a public Board set up in this country with Government money, which, I suppose, are obtained at a cheaper rate than by individuals, but actually the bank is giving us money at a lower rate of interest than we can get it from the Board of Works. We are paying the bank four per cent., and when unfortunately we have to fall back upon the public funds of the country in order to carry on an important public work we do so at our own cost, having to pay a quarter per cent. more for the money than we are paying at present.*

10305. (Mr. Miles).—Won't the Government pay 4 per cent. over repayment of principal and interest?—No, sir, because in both cases that is provided for; the money is borrowed for forty years on condition that each year one-fourth is paid off.

10306. (Mr. Ogilvie).—At present your arrangement with the bank is four per cent. on the portion remaining due in addition to which you repay one-fourth each year?—Yes.

10307. In the case of the Board of Works the four-and-a-quarter per cent. will include the interest upon what remains due and whatever sum annually goes towards repayment?—The conditions exactly are the same in the case of the bank and of the Board of Works, except that, that there is four-and-a-quarter per cent. to be paid to the Board of Works, and only four per cent. to the bank.

10308. Would you also have to pay to the Board of Works a portion each year in addition to the four-and-a-quarter per cent.?—Yes; you borrow £5,000; you pay £100 a year, and you pay £160 or £170, as the case may be, for interest. I think that is pretty much what I have to say, except that there is one point I would like to insist upon most emphatically before I close, and that is the absolute need of some steps being taken at once for the creation of industries in this country. I don't know, sir, whether it quite distinctly comes under your Commission.

10309. We have heard a great deal about it?—It is closely allied to the work which forms the proper subject of your inquiry. In one point of view, the greater the success of the Department in Ireland the greater the injury that will be done to the people, for this reason, if the people have no market for their labour in Ireland naturally enough they won't remain here but will go to swell the number of those emigrating to foreign lands. Up to this the Department had a very fair answer to those who called upon them to establish industries, they said, "You have not workers for the purpose." But the workers are now being trained, the Department has been six years in operation, and has, to my mind, done very fair work. There are now industrial workers, and there is an imperative and immediate need that something should be done for the creation of industries, and particularly, I might say, of

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Wm. E. R.
A. Macdonald,
D.S.

* Some by the Most Rev. R. A. Sheahan, D.D.—"Since giving evidence as above, I have learned that the rate of interest referred to has been reduced to 4 per cent., but even at that rate there is reason to complain that the Government with its power of obtaining money cheaply should charge for public purposes a rate of interest as large as a Banking Company which has to make a profit for its shareholders."

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Most Rev. R.
A. Stevens,
D.D.

SMALL industries in Ireland, both in towns and country, and if that be not done then the Department will not be able to contribute towards the prosperity of this country in the manner in which it was intended by Government, I believe that they should, and in which we all desire they should.

10390. (Chairman).—That criticism of yours again is directed rather to the law than to the action of the Department?—Oh, yes.

10391. You would like to see increased power given to the Department?—I carefully guarded myself in that, my point was that something should be done, and I introduced it as having some bearing indirectly, at all events indirectly, on your inquiry.

10392. You are aware, no doubt, that there is a somewhat marked distinction in the Act (as to) between agriculture and other rural industries, and industries which do not fall under that category?—Yes.

10393. The Department have a much freer hand in one case than the other?—Of course I am concerned with agricultural industries, but I am more concerned as a member of the Technical Committee with technical industries.

10394. Your suggestion goes rather to an amendment of the law?—I quite see that the Department have no power in the matter I refer to, and I am not sure that it would be a desirable thing to give them power. I have nothing further to say.

10395. (Mr. O'Connell).—I should like to ask you, my lord, one or two questions with reference to the hearing of the preparation that the primary schools and secondary schools, respectively, give to the pupils in them for technical work. You referred to Lord Belmore's Commission, and the report on primary schools. Since then the primary schools seem to have moved forward considerably in the improvement of their work in matters on which they were unfavourably criticised by that Commission. Are you now satisfied with the provision which is being made in the primary schools in these matters?—They have moved backward again. They took a very important departure some years ago in that matter, and I am very sorry to say it was not sustained, but just at the moment I cannot enter into the particulars of it. We have witnesses here who will probably be better able to speak on that point than I am; but I think it is generally felt that the National Board has taken a backward step in relation to that matter.

10396. In the secondary and intermediate schools the position appears to have been improving, and, whereas in 1884-85, the science and art teaching, then directly under the Science and Art Department, had been fostered to an extent that was leading to results that promised at least satisfactorily, in the years that succeeded that, between that and 1890 there was an actual discouragement of science teaching?—Yes.

10397. I am less concerned with past history than with the possibility for the future. Since that time the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction has been operating in the secondary schools in the matter of science classes and drawing?—In conjunction with the Intermediate Board.

10398. In conjunction with the Intermediate Board. Are you satisfied with the prospects of the teaching of science and drawing and technical preparation generally in the secondary schools as it is now?—Personally I have no connection with that matter, and can only speak from a general knowledge, but I hear from a great many sources that the work of teaching science is progressing satisfactorily in secondary schools in Ireland at the present moment.

10399. Have you any opinion based on information as to the manner in which the work done directly under the Intermediate Board re-acts or does not re-act favourably on the teaching of science in secondary schools?—No, sir, I have no opinion on that point.

10400. With reference to the buildings we have been rather struck in several places by the unnecessary multiplication of buildings for science and technical purposes—unnecessary so far as the science and technical work is concerned. We found, for instance, that in several towns there are two or more laboratories for science teaching of precisely the same character in day schools, and none of those

available for evening classes, so that a separate provision has to be made for the evening classes, a provision made largely with money supplied by the Department, at least as far as the day schools are concerned, and, therefore, what money has been available for the equipment of science class rooms has not been fully utilized, that is to say, it stands idle for a considerable time?—We took exactly the course which I think you have in your mind. As I said a while ago, our schools were not opened here for perhaps more than a year after the passing of the Act. We received from the Technical Department the amount of money to which we would have been entitled had we been in operation during that year, and we discussed at very considerable length the best means of spending that money for our purpose, and we agreed we could do nothing better than divide it amongst the secondary schools in the city, on this ground, that although they would not have any formal connection with the Technical Committee in the city afterwards, at the same time they would prepare pupils for it, and in that way we would get over a certain quantity of that apprehension to which I alluded, and we did the pupils coming to our schools being prepared than they otherwise would be, and they are thus better able to avail of the advantages of our school.

10401. In Waterford you had Government money spent in equipping the equipment of science class-rooms in the Christian Brothers' schools at Mount Sion?—Yes.

10402. These class-rooms were for a time used in evening classes as well?—Yes.

10403. Here, therefore, we had a case where there was an economical expenditure of public money?—Yes.

10404. That economy is now rather lost I gather?—Not quite, the Christian Brothers' got three distinct kind of grants from us for equipment purposes. In the beginning they got a grant as did the other secondary schools in the city, an absolute grant of a certain sum for obtaining equipment. Later on they applied for another grant. We had not sufficient money to provide them with what they required, and accordingly the Department agreed we should adopt a system that was adopted elsewhere in the country, according to which the Department supplied a certain portion of the fuel, the Christian Brothers' themselves supplied another portion, and we supplied the remainder. The portions were four-ninths, three-ninths, and two-ninths. They got a second instalment for equipment in that way. Later on another equipment was necessary for them, and when we were supplying that third equipment it was on the condition that when we opened a central technical school it should be referred to us, and it has been and is in our school now.

10405. My point rather is that you did some for a time at least full utilization of the equipment in Waterford; is it possible for anything to be done to make more fully useful for evening classes equipment which stands idle in the evening, which has been put down in various places for day work?—I don't think we require it, because I think we can provide for that evening work in our central school for all the pupils we can get. I think it would be a disadvantage using other schools.

10406. In Waterford you have a provision of two or three laboratories, which in an English town of the same size would be represented by one laboratory, because that one laboratory would be used both by day and in the evening. The cost of providing many laboratories is necessarily greater than the cost of providing a single laboratory?—Oh, then, yes; but I still think it was the best way we could have spent that year's money.

10407. I entirely concur in that, not only in the saving for the time, but inducing that school to give a very distinct technical turn to the education given. The point is that the multiplication of laboratories is inevitable?—I think it is. There is another thing to be borne in mind, these schools are private schools and managed for the most part, for example by Nuns, and for men by Monks, it is not always possible for them to open evening classes in their places, and, naturally enough, they may have a sufficient objection to placing these laboratories at

the disposal of persons who are not known to them, in the evening.

10408. With reference to the supply of teachers and supply of inspection I rather found there was a difficulty in getting teachers properly qualified for carrying on technical work. You describe the work done in technical instruction in so far as it has been done, as most satisfactory, and your principal regret in that matter is that there had not been more teachers available to make the work more extensive. From experience in other parts of Britain and in Ireland as well, one finds that a great deal of harm has been done by the starting of work of this kind by teachers who were not fully qualified. The number of teachers fully qualified is very greatly less than the number required whether in England or Ireland at the present moment. Don't you think it would have been a serious disadvantage if there had been brought into the field a number of teachers who were not qualified?—Yes, quite so, but you have a sufficient number of teachers to draw from in order to carry on the work that I had in my mind—for instance, that work would be largely one of domestic economy. There is a superabundance of those teachers in the country just at present.

10409. Is there?—Yes, if any position becomes vacant you will get an immense number of applicants for it of all kinds.

10410. Of all kinds?—Well, I should not have put it in that form. What I had in my mind was possessing certificates of different kinds. They give two classes of certificates in Kildare-street, and you may not get the superior certificate that we require for our city school, but you could get one with a sufficient certificate. Then again, with regard to science masters, there is a superabundance of those that would be available for the purpose.

10411. That is quite contrary to the information we had got before. We understand that the Kildare-street certificated teachers have never any difficulty in finding appointments, and they are generally pretty fully engaged long before the end of the season?—At the present moment I could not tell you the exact number, but we had some experience here recently, because we were called upon to appoint almost a complete staff of new teachers. Even the domestic economy teacher that we had up to this, left us, and went to South Africa. We had to appoint a science teacher, and manual instructor, and domestic economy teacher, and we got an immense number of applications for the post of headmaster and domestic economy teacher. We only got one for the manual instructor.

10412. I don't think that proves the case, because most of these applicants would be people who were already in appointments and desired to come to Waterford as a better appointment?—Some were and some were not. There was a teacher here in Waterford who had been temporarily employed by us before in the school. She applied for a position and did not get it, and when we opened our school here we found the number coming for domestic economy instruction was so large that we had to get a second teacher, and we fell back on that teacher.

10413. If you had not fallen back on that teacher do you think she would have found any difficulty in getting employment elsewhere?—She was disengaged for a long time.

10414. The Department apparently finds it necessary to go on carrying on extensive courses of supplementary instruction for science teachers in the summer time still?—Yes.

10415. Courses which, while in themselves excellent, are not equivalent to the complete training desirable for a science teacher?—By no means, when I speak of the superabundance of science teachers I mean of highly-qualified science teachers. As well as I remember there were seventy applicants for the position in Waterford.

10416. But, then, again, from men in appointments, what I am putting to you is that even although an unlimited amount of money had been available for the encouragement of teachers and instructors that there was not an unlimited supply of men whose employment in those capacities would really have benefited the country. If you take in men who are not qualified they do very serious damage?—We got severely here in Waterford.

10417. They would have been removed from seventy Oct. 15, 1906. other places?—I think there is pretty much a supply and demand. They were all English except five.

10418. Which indicates that you are paying higher salaries or offering better terms of work than in England?—I think it is only right to add that we did offer particularly good terms in Waterford.

10419. Incidentally, I rather think that we got at the position with reference to the local taxation money. So far as I understand your view is that in place of the £112,000 being in Ireland destined, as to so much of it definitely for secondary education, and as to the other part definitely for technical or agricultural education, as compared with England, where the whole money is indefinitely allocated to those same purposes, you would prefer to have the whole in Ireland allocated to technical, and leave Ireland to find some other source of income for secondary schools?—I am not quite wedded exactly to the opinion that the whole of it should be so allocated, but I certainly think that seeing that we have such a grievous need of money for technical education we ought to get such portion of it that would be thought reasonable. I don't mean that there is such a hard and fast obligation of handing over the whole £20,000.

10420. Do you think any considerable portion of that £20,000 could be removed from Intermediate education without any detriment to it?—I should not like to express an opinion on that point; that would be for the Intermediate Board.

10421. On the grant for technical instruction may I remind you of the origin of that grant?—May I ask what grant you are referring to?

10422. The grant by which the Science and Art Department paid £1 for every £1 contributed—what you call the equivalent grant; but the term equivalent grant has another meaning, so I am not prepared to adopt it. With reference to that particular grant, it was at one time a grant common to England and Ireland?—Yes, for a year or two.

10423. At the close of that time the local taxation money was given to England, and because the local taxation money was available for such a purpose this grant was withdrawn in England?—That is what is said, I am aware.

10424. That was the fact?—But my contention is against that is that Parliament gave us the money.

10425. But I am speaking of England. The Science and Art Department was a Department which spent money from year to year which it received from year to year from the Government for definite purposes?—Quite so.

10426. Previous to the local taxation money being made available for technical education in England part of the grant that Parliament voted annually to the Science and Art Department was spent in this way, but when the technical education money became available this grant was withdrawn in England?—Yes.

10427. Therefore, when local taxation money was devoted in Ireland to a corresponding purpose, apart for the moment from the fact that it was a double purpose, elementary as well as technical in Ireland, it would on the same reasoning have followed that this ought to have been dropped?—Quite so.

10428. But it was not dropped at once, and did not, as a matter of fact, drop until the local taxation money had been, in Ireland, allocated as we have now discussed, that is, partly to Intermediate and partly to technical?—But another thing happened in the interval—Parliament passed an Act giving us the money. We would not have the position we have got in the matter of this claim, if the Act of Parliament did not say that the administration of the grant-in-aid of technical instruction as defined by the Act of 1869 in England was to be continued; we would not have the same position at all.

10429. That (c) is read as being with reference to money which has already been granted for that purpose, or voted. This Act came into operation in the middle of the financial year, when a certain sum of money had already been voted for the purposes to which you refer. In the following year the South Kensington put in its Directory that the grant would be continued.

10430. (Mr. Micks).—There is no limitation in the Act?—There is no limitation. This is the Act of 1869, in which these words occur. If they were going to withdraw the money from Ireland why did they go

Mont Rev. R.
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A. Skelton,
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to the trouble of setting up a department to continue the administration of it, and why did South Kensington say the following year, "We are going to continue it to you?"

10431. (Mr. O'Brien).—The following year after what?—In 1893, after the Act of 1889 was passed.

10432. Did you apply to them for money?—We did; we applied to the Department first. What happened was this, the Technical Department took every opportunity of impressing upon the minds of the people of this country that we were to get that money, and asked us to borrow a penny rate in order that they might be able to get it, and we agreed to do so; then the administration of the technical grant in accordance with the provisions of the Act was handed over to the Department, and we did not find any money coming, and tried to get some definite promise from the Department, but by that time they found they had committed themselves. We waited on Mr. Wyndham, and represented the matter to him. Meanwhile, the Department, seeing they were in such a difficult position, induced the Board of Education to continue this £3,500 for three years, and accordingly the schools which had been getting it up to that—unfortunately we in Waterford were not among them—continued to receive it, and then Mr. Wyndham, by his exertions with the Treasury, succeeded in getting the £3,500 increased to £7,000, and made permanent.

10433. (Chairman).—In the Technical Instruction Minutes there is a statement by the Vice-President that "it was understood that the Treasury had consented to provide for the present an annual sum of £7,000 in lieu of the Equivalent Grant." That is what you are referring to?—That was the final decision.

10434. (Mr. O'Brien).—Your view is that that money ought to be available to the full; do you attach any importance to the fact that supposing there had never been any Act, and the Science and Art Department had remained working this grant it was open to the Department to refuse it to half the rate or make it nothing at all if Parliament so wished?—No.

10435. You base your claim upon the interpretation of these clauses (a) and (b)?—(a) has reference to the Science and Art grants, and (b) has reference to the purely technical grant.

10436. That that clause practically committed Parliament to making a grant of some sort annually?—Precisely; we are perfectly aware that South Kensington had the power at any time of increasing or diminishing, as a matter of fact it occurred that power, as you said a moment ago in relation to Ireland. We were quite well aware and were quite prepared for it, but I think it is a most anomalous thing that the counties should have lost a large sum of money by the passing of an Act which was given to us as a great boon.

10437. Of course the very same argument would hold in England or anywhere else, because they had the similar possibility of getting greatly increased grants if they raised the money themselves?—Yes, but what I mean to convey is that, that it was very wrong in face of the fact that the Customs and Excise Act was not given to us; it was very unfair to take away from us the money previously given and that had been secured to us by Act of Parliament.

10438. You refer to the building grants which had been made for the building of Science and Art buildings in England during the years to which you refer; the grants were available on exactly the same terms in Ireland—the building grants?—Yes, but unfortunately we had no Department of Technical Instruction in Ireland at the time, and we had no means of carrying on the work; we were in what a deplorable condition things were in Ireland then when we were only able to earn in ten years £11,000 in the shape of the Equivalent Grant from South Kensington.

10439. But with reference to the building grants, the years that you quoted when a number of English towns of the same size as Waterford received grants, those English towns bore exactly the same relation to the Department of Science and Art that Waterford did, and the Irish towns bore exactly the same relation that the English towns did, so it was open to any Irish towns to obtain building grants on the same terms as those English towns?—I quite see that, but it is one thing to put a country into the position of being conveniently able to get money and another thing when it had a Government department to work the system.

10440. I understand your argument one of parallelism between England and Ireland, and in this case precisely the same powers have existed in the two cases but as a matter of fact I think you will find that some Irish towns did receive building grants?—They possibly may, but they necessarily would be very small. With regard to that matter, the only thing I have to say is this, that the whole condition of this country was of such a kind that there was no encouragement to people to build those schools.

10441. The same thing applies; there are a very large number of towns in England that never received building grants and would be glad to have them. Of course there would be; there were only 100 towns in all. I forget to say that in Scotland, in March of this very year, there is an order of the Board allowing £100,000 for three purposes, and one purpose is the building of technical schools.

10442. That money has been taken from other purposes in Scotland and I would like to know whether you suggest any other source of money available in Ireland corresponding to that which Scotland is using for these building purposes that might be tapped?—I don't know sufficient of Scotland to say what fund beyond the general fund it received for secondary education purposes.

10443. In Scotland they allocate their educational moneys differently?—Quite so; a different system.

10444. They have got the same money practically to allocate and allocate it in different ways. Suppose you contemplate that we were to repeat that just in Scotland had been able to give grants-in-aid of buildings, so the Irish Department ought to do, if we did that we should necessarily have to suggest that there might be some source that could be tapped to find money for the other?—I don't feel myself bound to say from what source the money ought to come, but it might come from some public source in the same way as in England or Scotland.

10445. I expect you will find that there is more raised by rates in Scotland towards educational purposes than in Ireland?—Unquestionably.

10446. If they raise it one way they don't require to use up those grants for it; do you suggest it would be possible to raise more money here for educational purposes?—The people of this country say they are running too much money by rates and taxes. They would say, "Give us two or three millions as we are paying in over-taxation and we will raise any rate you like."

10447. They don't object to the size of the rate but to the fact that none of it goes to education, they won't increase their rate but they would put it otherwise?—They would put it very otherwise; they would say, "Give us back what we have overpaid you and strike off three millions from our burdens."

10448. (Mr. Webb).—I infer from what you have said that the main object of technical instruction is to enable those who are taught to earn wages and get more wages?—Certainly.

10449. I suppose, my lord, your connection with Waterford goes over a period of thirty or forty years?—No; about half that.

10450. Are you aware, from general knowledge of the place, that a great many industries have existed in Waterford in the near past?—Yes.

10451. In your own time, have you seen ship-building carried on there?—Not as late as my time.

10452. There has been, within the last twenty years, iron and wood ship-building carried on here?—Well, within living memory.

10453. Glass-works also had great fame here?—Yes.

10454. They have been closed since 1855?—Some where about that.

10455. The quality of the glass was so good, and its cutting so fine, it is now practically as valuable as silver?—Locally it was in this "History of the 18th Century" that it was boasted that the glass made at Waterford fully equalled the best article of English manufacture.

10456. Within a comparatively short period we have cotton mills twelve miles from Waterford at which there were a large number of hands employed?—An immense number.

10457. That has failed; there was also a linen factory worked by the same firm—Messrs. Malcomson, & Carrick-on-Suir?—Yes; that has gone too.

10457. And near Carrick, Mr. Kenny, at Millvale, had a frieze and wood factory driven by water-power?—I have heard of that.

10458. That has ceased?—I desecry it has.

10459. He had another establishment at Carrick where he employed steam-power?—I did not know anything of that.

10460. Before the year 1830 Waterford was celebrated for its woollen factories?—Yes.

10461. And they are practically non-existent, with the exception of one owned by Mr. Stephenson?—Yes, and Lord Waterford's at Kilnashannon.

10462. They are the only two you now know of?—In the county.

10463. There was also a brush factory in Waterford?—I don't know that.

10464. Candle-making and soap-making was carried on there as not extinct?—Practically.

10465. A very common article is boots; are most of the boots in Waterford imported?—I am thankful to say we have a boot factory in the town, which is working very successfully.

10466. Where is the leather got?—It is Irish leather I think; I cannot say any more about it, but I believe the factory is working very successfully.

10467. Whereabouts is that factory?—Not very far from here.

10468. There is also a bottle factory?—That is working, I believe, not very satisfactorily.

10469. A very good brick factory?—Yes.

10470. Then the great industry of Waterford is bone-curing?—The principal industry.

10471. Do you see, in the existing industries of Waterford, any sufficient opening for the young people who are being taught in the technical schools, or do you think it necessary that further industries should be opened in or near Waterford to find employment for the people receiving technical instruction?—The present industries could be further developed, but I have no doubt that new industries must be started to give employment to the people trained in our technical schools.

10472. I rather gather you have not made up in your own mind any scheme by which such industries should be started?—I have not; I have a profound horror of discrimination in matters of this kind.

10473. You would rather have the establishment of industries to commercial men?—They are sorely needed, and if we allow things to go on as they are they would not be provided in our lifetime; I would not like to go much further than that.

10474. Would you say that they could be provided by private enterprise in the city or districts, or do you think some outside initiative and money would be necessary?—If I were compelled to give a reply I should say it would; initiative both in the shape of money and skilled advice, as help in the beginning at all events would be absolutely necessary; the tradition of industries has died out more or less in this country, and, to a considerable extent, the power of initiative has been killed.

10475. But the people did show up to twenty or thirty years ago that they were competent?—They have the natural power still, and I think if it was properly fostered and developed the people would be able to restore the industries for themselves if only they got some help in the initial stages by way of destroying the baneful influence of the past.

10476. For instance, practical instruction in teaching on the spot for the first couple of years?—Practically; and I am not sure too it may not be necessary to afford them, under proper safeguards, some financial aid by way of loan.

10477. That would mean from a public department?—From a public department.

10478. (Mr. O'Leary).—My lord, I omitted, in reference to what we have been describing as the Equivalent Grant, to recall to your memory that that grant was originally intended to enable the authorities to meet the expenses of giving technical instruction in

subjects which were not at the time aided by the Department of Science and Art?—Certainly.

10479. These were the subjects of science as distinctly applied to particular industries, the wood-working industry, furniture industry, or anything of that sort, teaching directly adapted to the requirements of an industry and not included in the list of "subjects" of the Department; I wish to ask you whether you do not think that now that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction have issued very greatly extended regulations affecting the basis of grants, a basis which now includes all the subjects for which the payment at that time was to be made by the Equivalent Grant the object of that grant is not now fulfilled by the other grants under these revised regulations?—We have not had time yet to see how that will work out. The Department have been telling us that we will obtain a very great additional sum annually under the new system of grants, but I could not speak for myself, because we are only beginning the first year of working under these grants.

10480. I am not particular as to the amount but as to the principle and ground it was intended to cover; the Equivalent Grant was intended to cover just the ground by which this new programme exhausts the old programme of the Department of Science and Art?—Yes; but I rather think there are some new developments. I have not read that recently, but as well as I remember the old list of South Kensington, the supplementary list, a trade school for instance, would not come under that.

10481. No; it would not affect that?—And the Department are providing that separately now.

10482. This new programme is essentially for the evening class school, that there might be definite instruction given of a practical kind, bearing on textile industries, leather, carriage-building, and chemical industries, the industrial work which was intended to be covered by the lump Equivalent Grant; instead of covering it by a lump grant they are covering it by including it in the subjects for which they give grants; does not that meet the case?—I don't think, to begin with, that the amount that we will receive under this amended scheme of payments will be sufficient for our purpose; of course I speak with some diffidence upon the point, seeing we cannot exactly say yet how much we will receive, but, from my general knowledge, I don't think it is at all likely we will. And I have always in my mind when I speak of the purpose for which additional grants are needed, I have always in my mind the crying need for buildings. We have now £1,150, or thereabouts, of an income in Waterford apart from the Commercial classes; we have to pay £250 a year of that for our buildings; of course that will diminish slightly year after year. It is a dreadful tax upon us to have to pay such an immense sum. We have a very large staff; we have our head master; we have a manual instructor and a commercial teacher; we have our two domestic economy teachers. Then, we have a man-servant and woman-servant, and the large general expenses of the buildings, and we are crippled immensely by having to pay this money.

10483. (Chairman).—I gather that the general result of your evidence is this, you have not very much fault to find with the methods of the Department or the way in which they have done their work within their means and within their power?—No, sir, I have not. I think the Department have done their work with great intelligence, and great energy, and I have knowledge of this fact that the staff has had no idle time—rather the other way.

10484. Your evidence has been mainly directed to this; you want to have increased powers, especially as regards providing the teaching staff and buildings?—Yes; that is the general drift.

10485. (Mr. Micks).—And industries properly supported?—I wish to lead up to that very strongly. My interest in the technical education of this country would be gone in the morning if I found there was no prospect of creating industries out of it. Otherwise we will merely feed emigration.

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Mr. Richard
Rose.

10486. (Chairman).—You are a farmer living at Ballygarra, New Ross?—Yes.

10487. I think you wish to speak about some points connected with agriculture, and firstly about the live-stock scheme?—We have not derived much advantage from the live-stock scheme in my district, there are very few bulls stationed there, and it is not a dairy country, it is more devoted to tillage and that sort of thing, the farms are small, and the farmers as a rule don't go much in for dairying, they rear young stock, but any of the bulls that have been introduced have been a very great benefit.

10488. Do you think there ought to be more?—Yes, if possible.

10489. Has your county taken up all the bulls you might have had?—I think they have done so.

10490. Do you know how many there are?—I cannot say.

10491. Have you anything to say about the live-stock scheme generally, do you approve of the system?—We fully approve of it; the greatest benefit to us in that district has been from the advice and instruction we have got from the agricultural expert as to the rearing of young stock; they are very well reared at the present time, and fetch a very high price in consequence. We know a good deal more about them than five years ago, since these lectures were introduced. Our great grievance is that we don't get enough of them.

10492. Are they well attended by the people?—Yes.

10493. Do they teach the poorer people?—Yes, they are very interested, they are starting classes down there at Nash, and they have had a very good attendance.

10494. You think that is doing a great deal of good?—I cannot speak of the good these may do, because they are only started recently, a few days ago.

10495. But the people take an interest in them?—They do take a great interest.

10496. Do you wish to say anything about the veterinary instruction; has Professor Mason did some lectures in your parts?—Professor Mason did come once and another gentleman. I think we have only had three lectures within the last two or three years, and the people appreciate them very much, but unfortunately we didn't seem to get all we require or wish for, we want more of it.

10497. Then you speak of the need of co-operation?—Yes, sir.

10498. What do you say about that?—With reference to that, it was brought home to my mind over some butter that was made in the locality, this was made on modern principles according to the instruction that was given, and I know a couple of cases where the people are getting very high prices for it in England, but unfortunately the cost of carriage, sending it by post, and that, is so high, it takes a good deal away from it, and some farmers have been talking about co-operating, and their idea would be to buy a house and put in a manager in some populous district in England or Wales. The new railway connects with Wales, and their idea would be to establish a shop there where butter and eggs and farm produce could be sold; they seem to think that would be a good idea, but the difficulty is to get men with means enough to start it.

10499. Have you had any communication with the Department on that subject?—No, sir, we have not.

10500. Is it a subject which falls within their scope?—I was not aware that it was.

10501. However, you say, as a good many other people have said, that that is a great want?—It is a great want; the difficulty seems to get some one to start it.

10502. This is mainly a dairy country, is it?—Oh, it is not mainly a dairy country, the dairies are very very small, and there are no creameries whatever, and the butter is made pretty nearly in the old style. Unfortunately the people don't follow the new methods. The best instruction would be if the lecturer would go to the people's homes and show them how to make it, but some farmer's wife are a bit shy about letting the instructors come to show them how to make it. I have known cases of that myself.

10503. They don't like giving up their old methods?—Yes, they are conservative.

10504. Or, being criticised too much?—However they have done a lot of good in showing people how it should be done.

10505. Does that instruction now come mostly in the form of lectures—you say they don't often go to the people's houses?—They don't, in fact they are not welcome to go to the people's houses. The agricultural instructor goes to some people's houses; he has come of my own, for instance, and they derive far more benefit from that than from the lectures.

10506. Is much being done in the way of horticulture, gardens, and fruit trees?—The lecturer has only been once round there, and certainly the people have established a good many little orchards and put down trees to grow, and they are delighted with the result.

10507. Have you any of these experimental plots?—Any experimental plots in my district, demonstration plots, are little ones of an eighth of an acre, where there are manures to be put on; these are almost too small to be any practical use to us; of course we see an improvement in the crop that grows, but when it comes to the harvest time, it is too small to compare it with another part of the field. I have been speaking to some farmers on the matter, and they have an idea that if the Department took up an average-sized farm of thirty to sixty acres, and put in a manager, and worked it on modern lines, and kept an account of the expenditure and of the produce said, it might be a good idea as an object lesson.

10508. Do you mean managing and working it as a farm, not as a place to make experiments, which as a general rule do not pay?—Simply as a farm, and then if it was properly and scientifically managed it should cost the Department nothing at all.

10509. (Mr. Gifford).—What size?—The average size of the district, thirty to sixty acres.

10510. (Chairman).—I suppose you have a large number of farms of that size?—A great number of farms of that size in Wexford, the holdings don't run into big acreages.

10511. Or very small?—Not very small; we reckon a sixty-acre farm a fair-sized one.

10512. You have not got so great a proportion of the very small people that are to be found in other parts of Ireland?—Oh, no, there are not; it is not so in my district.

10513. Has the poultry scheme taken up in your county?—Yes, it has; they raise a lot of poultry in Wexford, and of course that would come under the co-operation, too, if they could get it away cheaply, the new railway runs through a large agricultural district.

10514. (Mr. Meale).—Are you getting better rates by the new route, can you get your stuff cheaper to the English market?—We scarcely have trial enough of that yet; speaking of cattle, they have not established cattle boats across yet. I am chiefly interested in cattle.

10515. Goods would go that way?—Not to a very large extent yet, it is not fully developed, but it has been of a worked benefit to us this year in the barley business, when people could not sell in the town of New Ross, they now have the option of sending it to Cork, Waterford, or Wexford, in fact it has been so much taken advantage of that the railway staff had to be increased.

10516. And you get a better price for barley?—Presumably, and there is less handling, it is a great boon in that way.

10517. You have not yet any experience of how it will affect charges and freight to England for cattle?—Well, no, sir, we have not; my own personal experience only extends to buying cattle and bringing them home on that line; they are not particularly cheap, but exporting would be of great importance, and I should fancy they could give us very good rates, and we are hoping that buyers from those populous districts of Wales, now that there are such facilities, will come over to buy.

10518. At Wexford fair?—No, the system is to sell at the house without bringing them to fair.

10519. Where you have a good lot?—Oh, yes, and they will go to the smaller places also, and then they

raise, of course, a good many pigs in this district also, pigs and poultry.

10522. (Chairman).—Pigs and poultry, and so on; are you working at all under the scheme of the Department of Agriculture, have you a poultry instructor?—We have a poultry instructor; I don't know so much about poultry.

10523. Have you anything to say about the pigs?—The owners of the collars in Waterford supply bones at cost price, some whose produce will be suitable for the bacon industry.

10524. (Mr. Mole).—All the bones come from Waterford?—Nearly all; they give them round to the men who will keep them, small men, they need not be farmers at all; in fact I know a blacksmith who keeps one, and they are a great benefit.

10525. (Chairman).—Who, do you say, do that?—The bacon merchants.

10526. Developing their own trade?—Yes.

10527. Then you are not working in connection with the Department's scheme?—No, I don't think the Department's scheme touches us very much in regard to pigs at all.

10528. Is there anything else you wish to tell us?—With reference to Nash, that I spoke of just now, we established this little hall by voluntary subscriptions from the people, and it has been an immense benefit to the people of the locality generally, and I am sure that nearly all the ratepayers, in my district at least, would be very willing to have more of these halls established in villages or any centre, quite cheap little things, where the average working boys could go in the evening to sit down and rest themselves.

Rev. BARNARD THOMAS examined.

10529. (Chairman).—You come, I think, from the De La Salle Training College, and represent also the County Borough Committee of Technical Instruction?—Yes, Sir.

10530. You were present this morning when the Bishop of Waterford was giving his evidence?—Yes.

10531. Do you concur with the evidence that he has given?—Yes; I have certainly very little to add to his exhaustive statement.

10532. We shall be very glad to hear anything you have to say?—Anything I would say would be, perhaps, more to express current feelings and sentiments in reference to one of his points, that the success of technical schools will depend on the development given to the industrial arts, and that the reluctance which exists to a certain extent, to support the technical schools, appears to arise in a great measure from the want of opportunities for young men to exercise what they have learned, the want of industries and arts for which the technical school supplies workers.

10533. What kind of technical instruction do you think is of most importance here, manual instruction or domestic economy? I could not say any particular one; I believe that would depend on the locality; if a development be given to them a technical school of itself will spring up, but if they remain dwarfed and stunted, without life—

10534. There is no reality in the teaching; it is in the air, if there is no practical work to apply it to?—In what respect?

10535. I was trying to see if I knew what you meant. Unless there is something in the nature of practical work, practical movement, and so on, to which the teaching can be directed, you say it will come to very little?—It will come to very little unless industries and arts are more developed.

10536. Do you think any steps can be taken to develop the industries?—Nothing but what his lordship, Dr. Sheehan, referred to; they must be assisted in the beginning, as we need other successful countries have done, even to the extent of subsidising these industries in their first beginning, until they are able of themselves to control the markets. And no sooner are they subsidised and assisted in this way to enable them to hold their own, it is their interest to employ the best technical skill in the business, and as soon as the best technical skill comes into the business the technical school will flourish. The history of other places shows that.

Working, as they do on farms, they have no place to go to when the night comes but the public-house; there is an idea that these little halls would be a great attraction to the people.

10537. Reading rooms?—Yes, a simple little affair, one room. Then, of course, we have benefited from the knowledge of spraying potatoes and charcoal.

10538. Do you do much in the way of early potatoes?—I don't do very much, but a gentleman with whom I was speaking yesterday, Major Bertram-Hamilton, went in largely for these early potatoes, and he was telling me that this year he could not get rid of them at a reasonable profit, taking into consideration railway rates; his great grievance is he cannot get satisfactory railway rates, but as a general thing early potatoes are not gone in for to any great extent.

10539. The climate is suited for it?—Yes, we get very little frost near the sea; most of the farms down there have been purchased under the Land Act, and I must say there is an evident improvement in the look of the place.

10540. They take more pride in them?—Yes. They are better kept and better managed, and I fancy there is more work being done on them; there is more industry and a more thriving look about the place.

10541. Then, as far as I can gather, what you say is that you wish the Department's influence and action were more extended?—Yes; the people appreciate the lectures and any information given to them, and would be only too pleased if they could get more of them; they have done an immense amount of good, as I personally know, and I know the country fairly well.

10542. (Mr. Oystice).—The Bishop referred to the suitability of the programme of instruction in elementary schools as affording preliminary instruction for those who were to be engaged in more or less technical occupations, and he indicated his belief that the success was dependent on the extent to which attention was given to the technical aspect of elementary education. It rather distressed him in the course of the last six years. I would be glad if you would give us any experience you may have had which would either corroborate or modify that view?—These certainly was a great decline in Science and Art instruction as carried out by the South Kensington Department, whatever may be the reason; many restrictions were placed in the way of obtaining grants from the Science and Art Department.

10543. But in the elementary schools?—In the elementary schools.

10544. The Science and Art grants did not apply to elementary schools. I refer to the teaching in the elementary schools, where the pupils were much below the standard of getting grants from the Science and Art Department, and where the grants would depend largely on whether the teaching in English, arithmetic, and elementary science was based on principles that would be of advantage to pupils when they went to work?—I do not think it was, as the Report of the Balfour Commission showed; it was entirely too much of mere rote work.

10545. But since that Commission the Commissioner of National Education have been publishing successive sets of regulations, each of which appears to give a great deal of importance to that aspect of the work. In the current one we find it appearing in the English arithmetic and geography, and then there is a very complete programme of suggested lessons on teaching in elementary science and also in manual work and drawing?—It is noted on to a very small extent.

10546. As being encouraged?—It is carried out to a small extent and not encouraged.

10547. Does the want of encouragement apply to personal influence more particularly because the grants appear to be on all fours with the grants for other subjects and the programme of work is on paper quite different, I should like to know where the want of encouragement becomes effective?—Partly from the utility of the subjects not being properly understood, and partly on account of the want of the funds. To illustrate, the courses that had been established in Hand and Eye work were in very successful opera-

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Rev. BARNARD
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tion for two or three years, but the Treasury stopped all the grants, refused to give any further salary to the organisers through the country, and the whole thing came to a stop, and was put off the programme just when it was beginning to take a footing in the schools and show some effect on the children.

10644. (Mr. Micks).—That was under the National Board?—Under the National Board.

10645. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Your view appears to be that the teachers are not in themselves so qualified by preparation and sympathy as to make the most of the programme as it stands?—A large number are not.

10646. And, therefore, it has with the Department to improve the existing teachers in the manner they were doing by these special instructions before that facility was withdrawn?—Yes.

10649. Do I rightly interpret your view in thinking that what you would urge is that such provision for further education of teachers and modification of their sympathies as the National Commissioners did establish in that particular case should be re-established there and extended in other aspects of the work?—Yes.

10650. That is the point, the want of encouragement is the want of encouragement that follows from a want of knowledge and sympathy on the part of teachers who have been trained otherwise?—Yes; and also the want of proper grants and equipment.

10651. That the grants which the National Board gave are not sufficient to enable the schools to provide themselves with the equipment necessary for the proper instruction in these subjects?—They are not. Take the teaching of Science, for which there is such a fairly elaborate scheme in their programme. The latest action of the Treasury as regards that was that if a school once gets a stock it will never get another supply. The result is, that as soon as a stock, which takes place very soon, that equipment is exhausted, the teaching comes to a stop.

10652. If the teachers had been adequately prepared for the conduct of work of that sort there would not be a very considerable wear and tear in the equipment, because for that particular stage of the work teachers would constantly be adding to it as part of their ordi-

nary work, but as the matter at present stands your view is that the supply of teachers qualified in that respect is too little to leave it on that basis?—Yes. With regard to the teaching of practical Science, which was put on the programme of the National Schools in view of preparing for technical work, that was proposed in all schools, and it was found that for many schools it practically failed.

10653. Yes, but for country schools it would be proper to have a course very much modified from this, modified in the direction of applicability to rural interests based on the sort of things pupils would be coming across every day?—Certainly.

10654. Can you tell us how far in the Training Colleges with which you happen to be acquainted in Ireland, budding teachers are being equipped with the knowledge?—The Science course as prescribed under the National Board, the preparation for that Science teaching forms part of the course of the Training Colleges.

10655. Do the Training Colleges take special cognisance of the requirements of Natural Science teaching such as to prepare teachers more adequately for rural schools?—I may say that it is about commencing in Ireland, because it was only this year when the last code came out that there were any definite instructions laid down for that. We ourselves have this year for the first time organised in the College a distinct course of Natural Science for preparing teachers to carry out the programme, the object lessons in botany and zoology.

10656. You would urge a general extension of the work throughout the Training Colleges of Ireland in a real direction?—It has to be done if the programme is to be properly carried out.

10657. You feel that in as far as teachers already in office are defective or deficient in this particular matter, you would afford facilities for the improvement of their knowledge or extending it?—That is what we contemplated by the Science organizers throughout the country.

10658. (Chairman).—Is there anything you wish to add?—Nothing more than has been already said.

Mr. JOHN BOLGER examined.

Mr John
Bolger.

10659. (Chairman).—You are, I believe, a member of the Wexford County Committee of Agriculture?—And a member of the County Council also.

10660. I don't know whether you have seen it, but we have a long and carefully prepared Memorandum from the Wexford Committee?—Yes, I am aware of that.

10661. Does that express your view?—Although I was appointed on that Committee I could not attend on it. I agree with a good many of the items.

10662. Perhaps you would like to put your views in your own way?—Do you mean the one that commences with the Live Stock Schemes?

10663. Yes. The Committee considered the scheme generally satisfactory. I fall in with that part of it. So far as agricultural bodies go, I suppose if they were directly under the Agricultural Department they might do good to small farmers and working men, but I don't think there is very much in them. Then, going on to the next thing, Fisheries.

10664. Do you wish to say anything about that?—I quite fall in with the views. I think the County Council, being a representative body, should have something to say in the arrangement of the inland fisheries.

10665. It does not fall within the scope of the functions of the Council at present; do you think they ought to be extended to that?—Yes; the present Commissioners are not a representative body. That is the feeling of the county at present.

10666. The functions of the former Inspectors of Fisheries were transferred to the Department of Agriculture?—Yes.

10667. (Mr. Micks).—What powers do you think the County Council ought to have over salmon or eel fisheries?—The County Council should be at least represented on the Board of Commissioners.

10668. Power to nominate one or two members?—Or three representatives.

10669. (Mr. Ogilvie).—They should be represented on the Board of Commissioners, who have the fishery control of the river?—Yes.

10670. (Chairman).—Then, the next point I see here is as to the schools?—I think that is a very good point. I think it would be most essential if agricultural teaching was brought into the National Schools, particularly in the rural districts, because it is what the whole Department is aiming at to try to teach the young farmers agriculture on scientific principles, and you see them going to National Schools for five or six years, and they are never taught a single thing about agriculture.

10671. (Mr. Ogilvie).—At what age do they generally leave the National Schools?—Thirteen or fourteen.

10672. Do you think they could effectively learn much of agriculture in that time?—From ten to fourteen they could learn a great deal if there was a farmer attached to the National School, and there was a gentleman to take them up and give them occasional lessons. It would help them afterwards.

10673. A general knowledge of plants?—Yes.

10674. (Chairman).—One difficulty is that at present perhaps the teachers have little knowledge on the subject, such only as they derive from text-books?—It would not be much to learn the primary propositions.

10675. (Mr. Ogilvie).—There has been a great deal of harm done by a teacher learning a very little and then trying to teach it. Your Committee say the County instructors should be allowed to take classes in the schools; do you concur in that view?—I am afraid we could not go for the whole of the schools in the county. I think it should be adapted in some shape or form.

10676. (Chairman).—You think they ought to get some taste or knowledge of it?—Yes; the more they would apply to give in their work, so far as cooking and all useful things.

10677. Then the County Council goes on to speak of

agricultural stations?—I think that is really one of the most important parts of the whole thing.

10578. What sort of stations have you got in your mind?—What I have got in my mind would be an agricultural school.

10579. Do you know Clonsilla?—I have an idea of it. I heard a great deal about it: that is the very kind of thing, with a fair proportion of land, say 100 acres. We have at present a very fine place in the north of Wexford, Camille Park, a beautiful house to accommodate twenty or thirty students, and there is a demesne of 800 acres, and the Commissioners are willing to give over this house and any complement of land that would be necessary, and I think it could be got on very favourable terms.

10580. (Mr. Micks).—What Commissioners?—The Estate Commissioners. They have got hold of this from the landlord; we have used this before our Committee on several occasions. I was lately up in Dublin on a deputation to Sir Horace Plunkett, and he fell in with our views very much. The different instructions did good for the first year or two, but interest is lost in them now; they are going over the same beaten track; you want something to follow; you want to teach the young farmers. When a boy leaves school at thirteen or fourteen he wants something to follow, to get on; there is a missing link; he wants some school to go on; he does not know enough, and my idea is that if the money, or at least a portion of it, that is being expended on the itinerant instruction was supplemented by some more to establish a school in each agricultural county. Wexford could be a most suitable county for this; it is nearly all agricultural, at least the northern part of it where I live, and it is made up principally of small farms of thirty or forty or fifty acres, and the farmers' sons have really no occupation. They must all go very, and it would be better for them to go away with knowledge than without it.

10581. (Mr. O'Brien).—Go away where?—They migrate, unfortunately, and can only take up itinerant work when they go abroad.

10582. Would you be prepared to teach them agriculture with a view that they should migrate afterwards?—I would not. My idea would be to keep the people at home, because they would make more out of the land, and if farming cannot be done in the future, in the absence of Protection, on more scientific principles, and unless we get more out of the land, the people cannot hold on in this country; they cannot hold on against foreign competition at all, for everything is against us as compared with foreign countries.

10583. In some counties they have got an intermediate stage between young men giving up their whole time for a period to attend a College of that sort and the purely itinerant instruction, they have established a winter course?—Yes, we had one of them; I had everything to do with that. We got a class of eighteen, and we had it for three months, it ran three days a week, so many hours a day. First of all, we had a great difficulty in getting a place to give it; we had to fit up an old barn. However, we succeeded in doing that. They attended very well, and took a great interest in it, and at the end of three months they were just beginning to get on in the way of learning, when they stopped. That thing is done in my district for this year; it is now in another district.

10584. They had given up that three months presumably without serious interruption to their ordinary employment, they could not have continued that sort of course any longer at the time; would you propose that should be continued the following year for the same year for a further extended course of study?—Yes, sir; but I think it would be much better if they had an agricultural school to which a farmer could send his son for twelve months; it should come within the reach of small farmers, and they should be charged a low premium, say £5, according to their valuation, and that be supplemented by the Board, and board them and keep them in the school.

10585. That is that there should be more agricultural schools, and one for this district?—Yes, one, I think, for Wexford County.

10586. That would be a step in advance of anything you have got now?—Yes, that would be my idea. I watched the itinerant instruction very closely, and I attended every meeting we had in my district.

10587. You would not like to discontinue all that?—I would not like to discontinue it, but if we had

a school we could send the instructors out from the school.

10588. (Chairman).—There is one difficulty in establishing a school for itinerant instruction. In a school you must necessarily teach only a few people?—Suppose we had thirty and it was a success, there is no reason that we could not have another in the North of Wexford.

10589. There are a great many other counties in Ireland asking for the same thing, it is a very general idea that these schools ought to be established?—I am speaking for Wexford County, the people there have got tired of the lecturers, it is the beaten track, they have not the same interest, but there is no doubt they did a great deal of good.

10590. (Mr. O'Brien).—As far as the adults are concerned you may take it for granted that you have given that generation all that can be done for them, but it is the young men you want to attack now?—If you are sending your son to learn a trade you don't send him at fifty.

10591. We have had evidence that a man of over seventy has been at an itinerant lecture and derived great advantage from it?—That is my principal point from my experience of that.

10592. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say about the matter of veterinary dispensaries?—I think it would be a very good idea, in rural districts where you are a considerable distance from a town, there are numbers of farmers, and if they have any of these animals sick they are often neglected because they have such a distance to drive for a veterinary surgeon, that they will almost let the animals die before they go for one, but when they do go it is too late. Whereas, if they had a veterinary dispensary in the district and could get advice and medicine on cheap terms—

10593. (Mr. Micks).—Red tickets?—Something that way; I think it would do an immense amount of good. Professor Mason, I know very well, I had a long talk with him, and he is in favour of that.

10594. (Chairman).—What other points are there?—So far as the technical part goes, I may say I agree very largely with his leadership that it has been working very well, with the exception of the need of more funds and the proper houses and equipment. I think that is the general idea.

10595. (Mr. O'Brien).—The lines of work have been quite satisfactory?—Yes.

10596. (Mr. Micks).—What do you consider the best lines for technical instruction to take?—I am living in a rural district, and we have a technical school.

10597. You were just saying you approved of the lines they were on?—The lines they are working at present I consider they are working fairly well.

10598. What do you think are the best lines to go on, what ought to be the lines of technical instruction?—The object of technical instruction I think would be to teach young men the most useful things in the way of drawing and mathematics, and drawing and all that sort of thing, that is one of the first objects.

10599. General education?—Yes, a general object of technical work. It is only a few months ago when we wanted two surgeons in Wexford, and we only had in the whole County Wexford two qualified men. It is a very simple thing, and does not require a wonderful education at all; we wanted three, and had only two qualified at all.

10600. (Mr. O'Brien).—What was the want that most affected the local men?—The men had no opportunities of schools after leaving the ordinary schools. Of course, they must pass an examination by the Local Government Board. We had several openings in the Department for various instructors, and had not one to fill it, we had to import them from England and Scotland.

10601. The supply of people qualified for the sort of work you would like to see done is limited?—Very limited, indeed.

10602. And if you don't have proper men to do the work it is better to leave it until you do?—Yes.

10603. But you have got to take steps to see the proper men are provided?—Yes. Then, in technical instruction there should be a general knowledge of principles.

10604. (Mr. Micks).—What do you mean by a general knowledge of principles?—Mechanical, house, carpentry, iron work, and all the various trades.

10605. A general knowledge of the principles underlying each trade?—That is it.

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- Oct. 15, 1906. 10606. That is all you would go for?—That embraces nearly the whole of it.
 Mr. John 10607. Do you think you could start a trade if you
 Bolton. had a certain number of people educated in the prin-

ciples underlying the trade?—And if you could get the energy along with it, there is plenty of room for industrial.

Mr. WILLIAM ROCHFORD, A.P., *Cahir, examined.*

- Mr. William 10608. (Chairman).—You have come here from the
 Rochford, A.P. County Tipperary. I believe, you wish to tell us about the inland fisheries?—Yes, sir.

10609. You have been a Conservator for twenty years?—I am a Conservator for twenty years for the Waterford fishery district, which includes the Suir, Nore, and Barrow, and is the second largest fishery district in Ireland. I am also the secretary of an association, called the Sair Anglers' Association, which takes particular care of the upper water fishing; I am also the owner of a small fresh-water fishery, and I am agent for several of the largest proprietors on the upper waters of the Suir. Immediately prior to 1901 I was aware the preservation in the close season of the waters in the Waterford district was seriously hampered by insufficiency of funds to pay water-bailiffs. At this juncture the Department of Agriculture, through their fishery branch, came to the rescue, and made pecuniary grants to the Board of Conservators as follows: in 1901-02, £200; in 1902-03, £200; in 1903-04, £200; in 1904-05, £200. Total, £800.

10610. These grants were made to the Conservators of the Waterford Fishery District?—Yes, to disburse them as they thought fit in the inland rivers in their charge. These money grants were of the greatest use, and enabled the Board of Conservators to persist during the close season the midn river and tributaries, and with satisfactory results in regard to the Suir, which is now fairly well stocked with breeding fish. In this connection I would venture to suggest that a certain proportion of the income of the Department of Agriculture should be annually set apart or earmarked for the assistance of fresh water fisheries, as is, I understand, already done in the case of the sea fisheries. The salmon harvest from the tide-rivers is very valuable, but cannot be maintained if the protection of the upper waters of salmon rivers is inadequate, and it might be preferentially given in the case of those rivers where the owners and others interested in the fishing can show that local efforts are made to help themselves. In the case of the River Suir the Anglers' Association, with which I am connected, has done useful work—first by providing and paying for three extra water bailiffs for the whole year; secondly, by renting privately owned fishings so as to keep off nets; and thirdly, in paying rewards for successful fishery prosecutions and low expenses connected therewith. Then, I should like to say a few words on salmon hatcheries. The Department of Agriculture have also assisted a privately-owned salmon hatchery established near Cahir by Lady Margaret Chatterton, owner of fresh water fishings. Their assistance took the form of deputing their scientific adviser Mr. Holt, and their engineer, Mr. Oliver, to guide the local manager in the incubation of the salmon hatchery, and, secondly, by making a small grant of 1s. 6d. per thousand for all salmon fry reared and turned into the river. Under this arrangement 101,000 salmon fry have been put into the tributaries of the Suir near Cahir in 1905-06. The last witness stated that in his opinion the County Councils should have representation on the Board of Conservators for Fisheries, but I am not aware of any reason why such representation should be afforded unless the County Councils contribute to the funds of the Board of Conservators, and in the latter case the representation of County Councils is already provided for under the recent Local Government Act, so if they are not represented it is because they don't contribute. Owing to the migratory habits of salmon which breed in the upper waters of the river and attain their growth and condition in the sea the proper management of the salmon rivers can only be efficiently carried out by a strong central authority with adequate powers,

pecuniary resources and expert advisers. In each of the breeding grounds in the upper reaches of the main rivers and tributaries, where a good edible fish is now taken by net or rod, no local interest is taken in the preservation of the fish. It is also desirable that there should be a strong central fishery authority to hold the balance between the conflicting interests of net men and anglers. The local side of that continued authority already exists in the Board of Conservators, but they need the advice, assistance, and in some cases the control, of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries Branch, and it is for that reason I should like to see its powers in some respects enlarged and its resources for aiding fresh water fisheries augmented.

10611. Your case for State assistance to inland rivers is short hatcheries and other means of preserving a public interest?—Yes.

10612. The numbers of salmon are increased and the total wealth of the people?—It is a valuable national asset, and cannot be realized by protecting the salmon in the sea.

10613. (Mr. Micks).—They have not come at your fish in the sea with long drift nets?—I could not say.

10614. (Chairman).—You have had experience of hatcheries?—Some experience.

10615. Do you think their utility is scientifically established?—I don't think it is scientifically established, but there is some reason to hope it may do some good. On the Bogue I believe they turn out some 500,000 fry every year, but what proportion come back is quite unknown. On the American seaboard they have brought back fish which had disappeared altogether at one time—shad and other fish have been brought back by artificial propagation.

10616. I suppose it is largely a scientific question at present; it is a matter on which we want a good deal more scientific research and information?—It is a question of practical results. You don't know how many fish you get back, you know how many you turn out, but how many survive and come back to the sea artificially reared is a very difficult matter to establish. My main point was that the upper waters under an enlightened management ought not to be looked upon as a place to be neglected; if the upper water interests are not consulted, and the angler does not get his chance, there is no reason why he should trouble about the river at all, and if the upper waters become derelict the fishing is gone. Where the fish meet most protection is in the upper waters, where they breed, and where a good fish perhaps never reaches in the angling season. Then there are middle reaches of the river in which local proprietors would be interested because they get some angling.

10617. (Mr. Micks).—How much of the river does your Board exercise control over?—The Suir, the Nore and the Barrow, from the source to the sea; it is the largest in Ireland, except the Shannon, and it is very inadequately protected from want of funds now.

10618. (Chairman).—Take your own case: you want public assistance in order to enable you to protect the upper waters?—Yes, and that to some extent has been granted; these grants I have just mentioned, but if they could be put on a more secure footing and augmented it would be a great benefit to the river and the general salmon harvest.

10619. (Mr. Gifford).—The salmon harvest is not restricted to a certain limited number of private owners?—Most of the fish are taken in the tideway, where the fishing is public; all the best fish is the result are taken in the tideway.

10620. So that it would be a benefit to a limited extent to private owners, but mainly to what is a public fishing ground?—Yes, that is so.

Dr. P. R. DENNEY examined.

- Dr. P. R. 10620. (Chairman).—You are Chairman of the
 Denney. Waterford County Committee of Agriculture and

Technical Instruction?—I am, sir, for about three years.

10621. We have a Memorandum before us which, I suppose, you are aware of?—No, sir, I am not.

10622. We desire to succeed our satisfaction at the cordial relations which exist between us and the Department from its inception?—That expresses the view of the Committee?—Thoroughly.

10623. Taking into account the difficulties surrounding the carrying into effect of an unprecedented Act of Parliament, so complex in its nature and operations as the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act of Ireland, and the urgent and general anxiety to avail of its advantages, involving thereby important and pressing demands upon the Department for information, guidance, and financial aid, it was unavoidable that some mistakes should be made, but, on the whole, this Committee are of opinion that the Department deserves well of the country for the manner in which they have hitherto administered the Act. Have you anything further to say with regard to the relations of the Department with the County Committee?—No, sir, I have not; they have always been cordial.

10624. As to the schemes in operation in the county?—They have been all fairly successful, the only thing that has not taken on well is the scholarship scheme in the domestic economy school; we have offered them for competition, and the last competition has not been there; we offered seven last year, and there was only one applicant.

10625. What do you infer from that?—The people don't take much interest in it and in all the subjects they are taught; they are also taught by the itinerant teachers domestic economy and laundry work; all the others have taken well, manual instruction and art teaching, and the same applies to the agricultural schemes. The country takes more interest, day by day in them, and in every third-class carriage you can hear the farmers now discussing spraying and other things of that kind.

10626. Do you think that has been the work of the Department?—I believe it has.

10627. Is spraying practised very largely now in the county?—This year it has been more than any other year.

10628. (Mr. Miché).—How is the home-breeding scheme going?—The home-breeding scheme works admirably. The bulls are not taken up so eagerly, and the ewine scheme is not taken up either, but the poultry scheme is taken up—in fact all have been taken up practically.

10629. (Chairman).—Have you your full staff of instructors here?—We have the agricultural, the horticultural, the poultry and domestic economy instructors, and the manual teachers, and the art teachers on the other side.

10630. Do you agree with what Mr. Bolger was saying just now—be taught the interest in the itinerant lectures was fading, people had got rather tired of them?—I do not. Of course with regard to the teaching of cookery, the intermediate schools now have taken that up, and after a little time I don't think we will want to keep on cookery teachers.

10631. It will be taught in the National schools?—Yes, I think our procedure might be improved; I think all the teaching ought to be the province of one Committee, and agricultural, fishing, and industries ought to be the province of the other Committee. I had intended devoting some time to the question of differentiation, and also to the question of veterinary dispensaries, but I have had the advantage of reading the draft evidence prepared by our secretary, and on those points I am in absolute accord with him.

10632. You adopt his evidence?—I do thoroughly; the only point I think I would take exception to is the question of university scholarships, which, I think, he goes in for. I think that if the County Councils take up that question and provide university scholarships they will simply relieve the Government of the obligation they are under towards this country in the matter of university education, and I don't think we ought to take the burden of their shoulders and put it on the small funds that we have for technical business.

10633. That refers to something that the secretary is going to say?—Yes. I have been interested in the fishery question; I think it is absurd that the public boards should not have representation on the Conservancy Boards. You have had evidence here by Mr. Rochford of public funds that have been actually given for the purpose of adding inland fisheries, and when that is the case why should there not be public representation on those Boards? In the case of the

Lisegore district I am a Conservator there, and the whole river is practically the property of the Duke of Devonshire.

10634. That is an exceptional case?—Yes, it is from Youghal to Lisegore; bad soil and everything else is his, and public funds have been given there also.

10635. Are you sure of that?—For a hatchery.

10636. As I was suggesting just now, the justification for spending public money on what may from one point of view be regarded as a matter of private property is that it secures the outside fisheries, and so is for the public benefit?—I think the English Board of Conservators consist of three classes, representatives of the County Councils, owners of several fisheries, ex-officio members, and members elected by the holders of licenses; I think the County Councils ought to have the appointment of half our Board of Conservators.

10637. (Mr. Miché).—Without giving any assistance from the rates?—Even so, because it must come afterwards.

10638. You would not propose any more assistance from the rates?—I would under certain circumstances.

10639. You would not make the representation contingent on a contribution from the rates?—I would not; I would help them, but I would not be contingent; I don't see why it should be contingent in Ireland when it is not contingent in England. At the present time these Boards of Conservators are practically powerless; they cannot do anything; they have not got funds, and there is no public audit of the accounts. I hold in my hand here the last accounts and they are audited by a member of the board; that is hardly good enough. The income comes from licenses, fees and subscriptions. The principal subscriber to our funds is the man who is notoriously breaking the law. The Lismore weir has a gap in it, but none of the requirements of the Act of Parliament are fulfilled. They got a kind of certificate practically dispensing them from the requirements of the Act. Whenever they have been pulled up since that they have pleaded this certificate, and also that the Lismore weir is such a unique instrument that they cannot comply with the Act of Parliament. If you will allow me, sir, I will put in the report published on the Blackwater fishery made by Mr. Fennell, who is, I think, editor of *Land and Water*; it deals with the whole subject.

10640. There has been a little litigation. I think, about that river?—There has been. This is the point I am coming to, that the Conservators cannot fight a case of that kind, and I think a strong central body would be the only possible body to fight the matter.

10641. (Chairman).—I am not quite sure that we are not going perhaps a little beyond our duty in entertaining a question of that sort. No doubt the Department (under the Act of Parliament) have transferred to them the powers and duties of the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries; I am not quite sure that we could deal under that with the contribution of the Boards of Conservators. The subject of our inquiry is rather whether the methods of the Department in this and other things are proper methods?—We want the Department to have extra powers.

10642. That is an illustration of the fact. I think anything you have to say with regard to increasing the powers of the Department is quite within our jurisdiction?—I think that the Department ought to have power to initiate a prosecution in a case such as I have mentioned; there is no use in throwing the onus on a private individual, as has been done lately on the Board of Conservators, it would mean too much cost. It cost them some time ago about £1,500, and the whole income is not more than about £1,121 6s. 8d.

10643. (Mr. O'Grady).—And we have it that the Department has contributed about £250 a year lately?—To our Conservators? Mr. Rochford's evidence referred to this district here.

10644. Have you any idea of the approximate income of the Conservators of the district here?—I have not.

10645. Have the Department contributed any substantial amount to the Conservators of the district you are speaking of?—No, I don't think they have.

(Mr. Dromm).—They have contributed their portion to the establishment of the hatchery at Lismore and Redcliffe, and also given £100 for the improvement of the fish pass at Glendalough on the main river.

10646. (Mr. O'Grady).—But nothing in proportion to the representation you suggest as the representation in respect of the contribution?—Yes.

10647. You suggest that in view of the fact that public money was being contributed to those bodies

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the County Council should have one half of the representation?—I said one-half, but I put it on the same principle as in the English Boards.

10548. Would you be content to have representation in proportion to the amount of public funds subscribed?—Yes, if they have it in England. In the case of sea fisheries there are not any boards in Ireland, and we think that legislation ought to provide for that. I would suggest that in the maritime counties the Agricultural Committee could act, and to

illustrate the advantage of that, at a meeting we had some three months ago a member came in and reported that travellers were trespassing within the limits. We were the Agricultural Committee, but we took it on ourselves to telegraph to the Department. The *Hedge* was sent down, and within twelve hours three of them were caught. One man was fined £100, and the other two £50 each, and all their gear confiscated, but it ought to be the duty of the Agricultural Committee in the maritime counties.

Mr. JOHN F. BOWEN examined.

Mr. John F.
Bowen.

10549. (Chairman).—You are the Secretary to the Waterford County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes, sir.

10550. I suppose you will put in this Memorandum which has been already read?—Yes, I have a copy of it here.

10551. Will you give your evidence in your own way?—I prepared the evidence under two heads, agricultural and technical instruction, and then I intend to hand in some records and give you copies of the reports and schemes. With regard to the agricultural scheme for the year 1905-6 the following schemes were in operation:—Agricultural instruction, poultry-keeping, butter-making, horticulture, including distribution of fruit and forest trees at cost price, cottage and farm prizes, live stock, subsidies to shows, Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act. The estimated cost of these schemes was £1,955, of which amount £705 15s. 8d. was payable from rates, and £1,182 4s. 4d. by the Department. Of the amount payable from the rates there was levied in the year only £538, or a half-penny in the pound for agricultural purposes, leaving a balance of £247 15s. 8d. This was met by an unexpended balance of rates from previous years, £192, and a special contribution from the Department of £265 15s. 8d. Under the above scheme the poultry instructor, although originally engaged for fifty-two weeks in the year, was employed only for thirty-eight weeks, and the butter-making instructor was employed only for thirty-two weeks. In my opinion both these instructors should be whole-time officials.

10552. That was in accordance with the scheme that they were only employed during that time?—Yes, sir; we had not sufficient funds; that was the reason of the reduction.

10553. (Mr. O'Grady).—Was the rest of their time spent with some other county?—No, they were thrown idle. Similar schemes to foregoing have been adopted for the year 1906-7, but, owing to want of funds, at a reduced estimate of £1,648. The amount payable from rates under Scheme, 1905-7, has been set down at £645 15s. 8d., whereas only the half-penny rate or £538 is available from rates. The Department has been good enough to state that it will be prepared to increase its contribution by £105 15s. 8d. provided next year the Committee arrange either that more money shall be set aside for the agricultural schemes from the present rate; or that an additional rate be raised.

10554. (Chairman).—What is the rate now?—One half-penny rate. I do not see how the County Committee of Agriculture can make good either of these conditions unless by undesirable appropriation of the funds for technical instruction purposes, thereby truncating these schemes and inflicting hardships upon the technical instruction officials. The Committee of Agriculture being subordinate to the Rating Authority or the County Council cannot of themselves guarantee that an additional rate will be raised. There is another source, and as far as I can see, the only source to which the Committee can look for the making good of this deficiency, viz., the Department, and a hope is very generally entertained that one of the practical results of this enquiry will be, a strong recommendation that the funds at the disposal of the Department for agricultural purposes will be largely and reasonably increased.

10555. (Mr. O'Grady).—Is the half-penny rate for agricultural purposes independent of the rate for technical instruction?—Yes, sir.

10556. What is the rate for technical instruction?—A half-penny. We struck a penny rate and gave a half-penny to each. The grounds of this expectation are that Ireland is a poor country dependent on agriculture, that it is still imperfectly tilled, its area

under cultivation decreasing, and a diminishing population without industrial habits or technical skill, a condition of things brought about by "legislation that left her no chance, that struck at all her industries, not excepting agriculture." (See Report of House Committee, pp. 4, 5.) The depressed condition of Ireland as regards manufactures and agriculture has been of artificial creation, and therefore deserves exceptional treatment. I do not agree with those who say that Ireland should not be treated with more consideration by the English Parliament than Great Britain. Ireland is more dependent for her existence upon agriculture than either England, Scotland, or Wales. The English Parliament has not treated there as it has treated Ireland, and therefore in remedial measures Ireland should be treated as exceptionally as compared with them; and instead of "striking at all her industries, not excepting agriculture," Parliament should foster and develop all, including agriculture.

10557. (Chairman).—What are you referring to there, are you referring to the past history of legislation with regard to trade, and so on?—Yes. Returning to observations upon the county scheme for 1905-7. The result of the shortage of funds or of the energetic activity of the Committee in carrying out their schemes, is that they could not provide, as they had hoped, for agricultural classes for which the Department had an instructor ready. They had to still further reduce the time of their poultry instructor to thirty-two weeks, to bring down the rate of nominations to males from 63 to 52, their colts and farm prices from £25 to £24, the number of premiums to bulls from 12 to 8 or by £60, and their subsidies to shows from £180 to £150.

10558. Are those the economies you suggest?—They are the result of want of funds, they are not economies at all, they are simply the inability of the County Committee to carry out the schemes properly.

10559. They are reductions?—Reductions because of want of funds. Our schemes are penalised by the economy of our efforts in carrying them out. The schemes are administered in accordance with the Department's general scheme. A short account of the manner in which they are administered in Waterford County is necessary. (1.) Agricultural instruction is given by means of lectures, experimental and demonstration plots. Lectures run from October to end of February. The county is divided into centres co-extensive with its rural districts. Each centre consists of five circuits, determined by selected National schools where lectures are given. Each lecture costs the Committee 2s. 6d. (not an extravagant sum) for light, fire, and cleaning. On an average, three lectures in three consecutive weeks are given in each circuit. The number of lectures given under 1905-06 scheme was sixty-five, cost £2 2s. 6d.

10560. (Mr. O'Grady).—This is exclusive of time and lighting?—It is for fire, lighting, and cleaning.

10561. Is that general in a school?—Yes. Our lectures cost us 2s. 6d., that is a regular arrangement we have made all around.

10562. It is not what is actually required to be paid, but that is your standing fee?—Yes, we think it small enough.

10563. The subjects of lectures given on agriculture last year were:—(1.) Manures, experiments, and results. (2.) Seeds, pastures, and plant diseases. (3.) Feeding and management of stock. From the beginning of March to end of period for which the scheme runs, the agriculturist is employed attending to experimental and demonstration plots. Lectures were delivered last year at twenty-five National schools. Total attendance, 2,642. Average, forty a lecture.

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article. Fruit culture, in addition to being a profitable occupation, is an agreeable pursuit. This county was at one period extensively planted with fruit trees. The fame of the Blackwater cider has come down to the present day, and further evidence of the fruit industry of the past may be seen in the old orchards that still exist. They bear witness, however, to the primitive treatment they received, being covered with hicks and moss, and the growths densely crowded. Such trees bear crops, but always of an inferior quality. New plantations of fruit trees, when properly treated with regard to planting, pruning, spraying, and intelligent methods of culture pursued, would yield superior fruit, and be a valuable asset to the farmer. He cannot produce any crop of the kind approaching the value of a well grown crop of fruit. The cider industry, once so famous in this county, has been allowed to become almost extinct. This is to be deplored, as it is a most wholesome beverage to drink. Strong efforts are, however, being made to revive the industry; and the cider manufactured at Dungannon is of very good quality, much superior to the foreign stuff sold in many towns in the country.

10675-0. (Chairman).—Are those articles entirely by private persons?—Yes, Sir, Mr. Thomas Power, of Dungannon. Where an abundance of fruit is grown other industries arise, such as jam manufacture, bottling of fruit, and jelly making; all desirable to stir the amount of foreign and generally inferior articles sent to this country and passed on a galeous people. Reafforestation and Reclamation of Waste Land.—There are in the County Waterford 110,398 acres of waste, bog and mountain. This condition of desolation was to a great extent caused by the general policy of the Government throughout the last century. Lady (as quoted in Report of Recesse Committee) says, "Wholesale destruction of woods took place under Government sanction the granaries of civilized lands making a practice of cutting down and realising on the timber, often so wastefully, as to sell large trees for sixpence each." (Recesse Report, p. 23.) This report states that "No one can quarrel with any thoroughness into the subject of Forestry without being convinced that this is one of the most important of all the directions in which, with the aid of the State, the wealth of Ireland may be increased." Adopting the generous estimate of the Recesse Committee as regards cost of preparing, planting, and fencing of these waste lands, viz., 27 an acre, the total cost of reafforesting the waste lands of this county would be £770,000. If this be undertaken at the rate of 5,000 acres a year it would cost £35,000 per year. The Government, who are bound to assist in the undertaking in view of their previous sanction to the wholesale destruction of our woods as pointed out, should make an absolute grant of at least three-fourths of the amount, and should lend the necessary balance at a low rate of interest, say, five per cent. for repayment of principal and interest in twenty-five years. The amount required to be borrowed at this rate would be £3,750 for every 5,000 acres, which at five per cent. for repayment of principal and interest would be £437 per annum. This would require a rate of less than a halfpenny in the pound to realise. Against this outlay should be placed the returns from planting. The following are opinions of experts given in Recesse Committee's Report:—(1.) Hewitt is of opinion that in three years after planting several portions of the forests would begin to give a return. The others planted for basket-making would be quite available in that time. In six years the thinnings of the forests would take place, and the development of the charcoal industry would begin. In twenty-five years the forests would begin to give their full return to the country. (2.) Hartland says, "Forests, after periods ranging from twenty-four to twenty-eight years, realised sums ranging from £33, the lowest, to £73, the highest, per acre for the period, i.e., a profit of from £1 to £2 per acre." Advantages of reafforestation as stated in Recesse Committee's Report (p. 27).—"A shelter belt along the west coast would protect lands from the violence of the Atlantic storms. The planting of mountains would tend to equalise rainfall and temperature and prevent upland soils being washed away by torrents and rivers being silted up and lowlands flooded. Forests help the preservation of birds which prey on insects harmful to crops. When planted on the banks of rivers they encourage the increase of fish by reason of their shade, the steady supply of water they promote and the insects and animal-culcs they bring, which trout and salmon and other

try find their best food. They lead to the propagation of forest game (such as pheasants, cock, teal, lark). After a certain period the grazing of the woods becomes very valuable. There is, further, the value of the timber itself, and of the bye-products (bark, staves, coal, leaves, grasses, mosses, shrubs, weeds, false breasies, resin, pitch, tar, turpentine); the true mediate agricultural products (flax, corn, potatoes, roots, fruits, trifolium), and the series of wood-using industries (sawing, pole-making, cart and wheel making, stove-making, basket-making, basket-vening). The value of timber imported from abroad in 1894 was £11,150,000." Cottage and Farm Prizes.—These schemes are in operation for the past three years. In 1894-5 forty-nine entries. Judge in his report states:—"Decided improvement. Standard in some districts very high, making work of judging very difficult." In 1895-6, entries fifty-three. Judge reports—"Standard of excellence of the majority of cottages extremely high." Notwithstanding these reports, testifying to the satisfactory and improving character of our cottages and small farmers, the Committee, this year were obliged for want of funds to cut down the amount allocated under the scheme from £24 to £25, and to exclude small farmers from the benefit of healthy competition created by it. The judges' reports testify to continuing improvement. It is too bad that the chief of this has been to penalise the scheme. Evidently more funds are required under this head.

10680. (Mr. Gysler).—In that particular scheme did your Committee consider whether or not they had not reached so far on the way of establishing a standard of excellence in keeping up of farms that the particular one might be set aside. It continually happens that one scheme may be necessary for a year, and having established a certain standard you strike it off and apply the money to something slightly Committee were not at all of that opinion.

10681. They think it is necessary to continue it permanently—I would not say permanently, but I know they are inclined to have it continue for some time to come.

10682. It has not become the prerogative of a limited number of farmers without affecting a large number of others that don't come forward. There is always the possibility that after a few years a scheme of this sort might have established a standard in a limited number of farms!—And the same people will get the prize.

10683. Not necessarily the same people, but the people who are competing for it are of the same lot. Probably all the fifty-three have got into fair condition?—We exclude those who get first or second prize in the previous scheme and establish championship prizes through the whole county among those who have got prizes.

10684. There are fifty-three out of 500 people competing?—Yes. I would expect we would have more than fifty-three, the number of entries are small.

10685. But they are probably years after year entries of the same people?—Many of the same people do enter in subsequent years.

10686. Therefore, so far as the scheme is concerned you have established among those fifty farms a fair standard of excellence, but among a large number of others you have not had any influence at all?—They have not come into the operation of the scheme.

10687. Has your Committee considered whether it was worth while continuing to spend money as the fifty-three instead of doing something else to push up the laggards?—That is one of the difficulties of my Committee, they are hoping and trying to do that.

10688. (Chairman).—As a matter of fact, did the same people get prizes over and over again?—Yes, for two years. The Horse Scheme has been a decided success from the beginning. In 1895 there were 128 nominations for names offered, entries at shows, 367; number of names served, 111.

10689. What breed?—Thoroughbred.

10690. Are you breeding hunters?—We are going in this year for the Irish hunter and the half-bred. In 1896 there were 305 entries, the reason for the decrease being that there were excluded from competition many whose owners were valued at over £120. Nominations offered, 115; all were allocated. Extract from official Report on Shows of March:—"More select than usual were exhibited, and few deserved rejection. Judge and Veterinary Surgeon highly pleased." In the scheme for 1907, as already stated, the Committee as a result of the success of their schemes in former years were obliged to reduce the value of nominations

from £3 to £2. In my opinion, success should lead to expansion of scheme, not to shrinkage or deterioration, and, therefore, the financial means of keeping pace with their success should be placed in the hands of the Committee. The Bull Scheme, 1903, limited to Shorthorns and Friesian Ayrshire. Twelve premiums offered, eight taken up. Premium holders state that the amount allowed, £15, is not sufficient, and I am inclined to agree with them, as after careful enquiry I find the following a fair estimate of the dealer and creditor sides of the cost, etc., of a bull:—

	£	s.	d.
Dr. Original cost as a yearling	35	0	0
4 years' keep, at 10s. a week	104	0	0
Total Dr.	139	0	0
	£	s.	d.
Cr. 4 years' Premiums @ £15	60	0	0
" " Service of 120 cows @ 1s.	3	0	0
Owner's own cows, say 20, i.e., 20 @ 5s.	20	0	0
Value of beast after 4 years (Butcher)	25	0	0
Total Cr.	113	0	0
Loss	26	0	0

This is not encouraging either to premium holders or to the Committee as regards the prospective success of this scheme, and, therefore, the value of premiums should be at least £25. Evidently more funds should be available for purposes of Cattle Scheme.

10691. (Mr. Gyllie).—You are satisfied as to your 20s. a week?—I am; I have spoken to several, and they told me I was too low. No later than yesterday I spoke to a very intelligent man on that point. I said I would rather be below the mark than above it; he said, "You are too low, you should put down 15s. 6d."

10692. If there was so great a loss by the premium bull, how do you account for anyone keeping a premium bull?—For the sake of the breed.

10693. What is the usual charge for a service in the district?—In the case of a thoroughbred, we allow 3s. for his own cows, each.

10694. Suppose it is not a premium bull at all?—It might not be a thoroughbred then.

10695. Are there any farmers who keep thoroughbred bulls for service in Waterford except premium ones?—I am not aware of any; some gentlemen do keep bulls and give the service at a low rate to their tenants. Our local scheme is only partially successful, owing to the high price at which they must be purchased, viz., £5 or £7. In this connection I append copy of resolution adopted by the Committee at their meeting of the 25th January, 1905:—"That we call the attention of the Department to the fact that the Hungarian Government purchase pedigree pigs in Yorkshire and throughout England, and sell them to farmers at one-third cost. The Committee are of opinion that if the Department adopted a similar scheme it would work satisfactorily." This proposal was not approved by the Department, not being in accordance with their schemes, but in the opinion of the Committee it merits favorable consideration. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1903.—This is a cumbersome Act, and most unreasonably troublesome in the regulations it gives or implies as regards the taking of samples. V.G. Department's Amendment Regulations, 1904, Sec. 3:—"When the fertiliser is delivered in a bag or other package the bag or package is to be wrapped up in a clean and dry stone or wooden floor, surmounted with a spade, and two spadeblades set aside, &c., and then the elaborate further regulations of Sec. 15 are to be attended to. Evidently the manufacturers of fertilisers were consulted as to the taking of samples for purposes of analysis, when this Act was being framed. A sampler and as essential means of drawing samples would be by means of an instrument similar to a butter beater in former times, which could be inserted anywhere into any bag the sampler would pitch upon, and by which he could draw at once more than sufficient for purposes of analysis. The Act is also defective in not providing for official samplers instead of allowing attempts being made to impose a duty upon Secretaries of Committees quite inconsistent with secretarial work. In connection with this subject, the following

extract from minutes of meeting of the Committee, held 30th November, 1903, is given. Moved by Very Rev. Paul Canon Power, P.P., in accordance with motion seconded by James Harty, and passed:—"That as in pursuance of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, the powers and duties of the Lord Lieutenant (acting by advice of the Privy Council), under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1903, were transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, we strongly and urgently appeal to the above Department to use their extensive powers for the purpose of simplifying the process of carrying out the valuable but complicated provisions of the said Act; and which is at present practically inoperative. And we further suggest to the Department the advisability of placing this Act on the same working basis as the Food and Drugs Act or the Weights and Measures Act; and that the Inspectors under these latter Acts be appointed agents and executive officers under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act to enforce strictly (after simplification of its working powers) the provisions of this Act; and thereby afford to agriculturists, as well as to the community at large, a much-needed protection against the appalling losses resulting from fraudulent adulteration of 'feeding stuffs' and 'artificial manures' by dishonest manufacturers." The Department in acknowledging receipt of foregoing resolution, wrote under date 18th December, 1903, that "they have been considering what action with the best results could be taken to prevent 'fraudulent transactions.' This action appears to be the issue of Leaflet 150, entitled 'Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Amendment) Regulations, 1904,' and an intimation in a subsequent communication that provision is about to be made for the appointment of an official sampler." In my opinion, the Department should go further, and have simplified still more the very cumbersome Regulations under the Act, 1903, as to sampling, &c. Subsidies to showmen. In former years the Committee were able to allocate £380 to showmen. This year, because of lack of funds arising from their success in carrying out their schemes, they had to reduce their subsidies to £100.

10696. Your Committee are of opinion that there is no falling off in the necessity of spending money on showmen?—They are. In connection with the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, the following are extracts from Committee's minutes of 19th April, 1905:—"Chairman (Dr. Donnelly), under date 21st instant, forwards suggestions for Scheme of Veterinary Inspectorships as follows:—That the whole county be divided into four administrative areas, viz.—(a.) Waterford Rural District, (b.) Kilmacshannon Rural District, (c.) Dungarvan Rural District, and when vacancy occurs, portions of Youghal and Glenmalur, Unions in the County; (d.) Lismore Rural District. Qualified Veterinary Surgeons to be appointed who will reside in the respective areas and further who will reside in the respective areas on the following conditions:—(a.) To perform the duties prescribed by the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act; (b.) To attend all fairs held in their districts; (c.) to report monthly to the County Agricultural Committee for the information of the Committee and of the Department of Agriculture the absence or presence of contagious disease in their districts, and the steps necessary to be taken to prevent the spread of contagion where such exists or has existed; (d.) To attend and treat when called on all cases of disease in animals within their respective districts at a scheduled rate of fees to be paid by the owners of the animals in proportion to their rating; (e.) When summoned at the instance of the local authority to visit a case of contagious disease, to prescribe and give all necessary directions for proper treatment of said case gratis on the occasion of the first visit where the valuation of the owner of the animal affected does not exceed £15 per annum; in the event of further professional attendance scheduled fees to be payable. Salary.—The initial salary for each proposed area to be £100, or a proportionate sum, until such time as the entire area comes under the veterinary surgeon's charge. General conditions.—At present the stipendiaries pay about £200 per year for mere inspection, and pay extra fees for attendance at fairs (amounting to £25 in Lismore district). Were the proposed scheme to come into immediate opera-

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Can it could only involve an extra expenditure of about £138 per annum on the county. An inconsiderable sum considering the enormous interests at stake and the loss annually sustained by farmers from disease and lack of facilities for properly coping therewith. In reference to foregoing proposal, the Committee resolved as follows:—The main features of scheme outlined by the Chairman of the County Committee to be adopted. Veterinary Inspectors to treat as well as to inspect and report disease. Their attendance to be secured on system analogous to that in force as regards Dispensary Medical Officers upon tickets issuable by members of the County Council, the County Committee, Rural District Councils, members of the local authority, and by members of all denominations. Scale of fees for services up to three visits in addition to salary to be for retainer per annum at £25 or under, 2s. 6d.; between £25 and up to £50, 5s.; between £50 and up to £100, 7s. 6d.; over £100, 10s.

1907. The Veterinary Surgeons were to receive these fees and see for them in their own name if necessary.—Yes.

1908. And the only part the County Committee took was to fix the scale of fees?—Yes.

1909. (Chairman).—Now, let us have what you wish to say about the technical side?—The Technical Instruction Scheme, 1st August, 1903, to 31st July, 1905.

—The scheme, subject to the provisions requiring local contributions from the rates (see finance), is applicable to the Urban District of Dungarvan, as well as the rural districts within the administrative area of the County Council. Population of county: Urban District of Dungarvan, 4,851. Rural Districts, 55,558. Total, 60,418. Valuation of county: Urban District of Dungarvan, £8,321. Rural Districts, £257,322. Total, £365,643. Chief Industries.—The most important industries (excluding agriculture and allied industries) of the Urban and Rural Districts of the county are carpentry, building, tailoring, boot manufacture by hand, dressmaking, woollen manufacture, dyeing, milling, plumbing, corkcutting by hand, shipping, mineral water manufacture, cider manufacture, brewing, fishing, saddlery, printing. Object of the Scheme.—The object of the scheme is to provide, by means of evening schools and itinerant classes, and in accordance with the Technical Instruction Acts of 1889 and 1891, and the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act of 1899, instruction in science, art, technological, and domestic economy subjects, chiefly for those engaged in various industries during the day.

1.—FINANCE.

(a.) Estimated Income:

1. County Council contribution from the Rural Districts, being rate levied in financial year ending 31st March, 1905.	£538
2. Contribution from the Dungarvan Urban District Council, being full value of the 1d. rate levied in the financial year ending 31st March, 1905.	£34
3. Department's contribution.	£500
4. Fees, sales of materials, &c.	£50
Total.	£1,122

(b.) Estimated Expenditure:

1. Two Itinerant Instructors in Woodwork (salaries and expenses)	£260
2. Two Itinerant Instructors in Domestic Economy (salaries and expenses)	£200
3. Contribution towards the salary of the Domestic Economy Instructors at the Carrick-on-Suir Residential School of Domestic Training.	£20
4. Seven Scholarships for Girls, tenable at Residential Schools of Domestic Training.	£155
5. One Domestic Economy Scholarship, tenable at the Kildare-street Training College.	£10
6. Salary of an Art Teacher for three days per week at Dungarvan, Lismore, Tralee, and Mount Maloney.	£78

7. One-fifth salary of the Married Instructor employed at the Christian Brothers' Schools, Mount St. Waterford.	£20
8. Travelling expenses of Teachers referred to at 6 and 7.	£25
9. Contributions towards salary and expenses of a Teacher of Commercial Subjects.	£25
10. Administrative and incidental expenses.	£32
Total.	£1,122

2.—ITINERANT INSTRUCTION.

Itinerant Instruction was given at different centres throughout the county directed to:—

1. Woodwork and Drawing.
2. Woodwork, Drawing, and Building Construction.
3. Woodwork, Carving, and Turnery.
4. Art, consisting of Freehand Drawing, including Drawing from Nature, Plants, Flowers, and leading up to Flower Painting, Medal and Object Drawing, Geometrical Drawing and Design.
5. Domestic Economy, consisting of Cooking, Laundry, Needlework.

There were in all twenty-nine centres. Woodwork and Drawing was taught in eleven centres for three months in each centre, one of the instructors working two centres concurrently. Woodwork, Drawing and Building Construction was taught for seven months at one centre. Woodwork, Woodcarving, and Turnery was taught at one centre for seven months. Art was taught at three centres from October to June, one day in the week at each; and Domestic Economy at thirteen centres, six weeks being given to each course. The following table gives the number of instruction days of students, and of attendance at these classes:—

SCHOOLS.	No. of Days of Instruction.	Students.	Attendance.
No. 1 above.	210	304	1,077
No. 2 above.	85	14	66
No. 3 above.	31	31	160
No. 4 above.	85	92	56
No. 5 above.	180	378	1,679

The following is a return of occupations of persons attending above Classes of Instruction:

OCCUPATIONS.	Males					Females	
	Subjects.					Students.	Attendance.
	No.	1.	2.	3.	4.	No.	Attendance.
Persons engaged in Agriculture.	10	-	2	-	-	-	4
Building Trades.	7	10	2	4	-	-	-
Dressmakers.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Architects.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Printing Trades.	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Painters.	2	5	-	3	-	-	-
Flourishers.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clerks.	-	9	1	1	-	-	-
Shopkeepers.	-	-	3	3	1	6	7
Teachers.	10	5	4	12	7	-	-
Domestic Servants.	-	-	-	-	-	27	27
Tenants.	-	-	-	-	-	27	27
Sail at School.	60	7	-	-	-	-	-
No Occupation stated.	55	35	14	15	15	100	100
Total.	204	44	11	18	18	28	277

The estimated cost of carrying out these Bimram Instruction Schemes was £335 for salaries, £125 for expenses. The latter amount was entirely inadequate, the actual cost of the sub-head "Expenses" being as follows:—

Travelling expenses and maintenance allowances of instructors, . . .	£140
Care-takers and attendants, . . .	£20
Rent of rooms for classes, . . .	£23
Equipment, materials, . . .	£30
Cost materials (three Manual Instruction Classes and two Domestic Economy Classes), . . .	£24
	<hr/> £233

The amount estimated in schemes fell short of actual cost as regards expenses by nearly £100. It is clear, therefore, that additional funds are necessary under this head. The Committee offered seven Scholarships for Girls, tenable at Residential School of Domestic Economy Training, and decided that the selection to them should be by competitive examination. The value of a Scholarship is £15. The object of these Scholarships is to enable girls to obtain a regular course of instruction and training such as will cultivate intelligence and resourcefulness, and under them more practical in the performance of home duties of all kinds. The course of instruction includes:—

(a.) Essential Subjects:

- Household Management (including keeping of accounts).
- Cookery (including selection of menus for small incomes), Needlework (sewing, shaping, and dressmaking), Laundry-work.
- Hygiene (including sick nursing and care of the young).

(b.) Optional Subjects:

- Dairy-work, Bee-keeping, Poultry-rearing, Horticulture.

SYLLABUS OF EXAMINATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS IN DOMESTIC ECONOMY TRAINING, SESSION, 1905-6.

Arithmetic.—The principles of vulgar and decimal fractions, with examples involving addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Proportion, simple interest, practice, unitary method. The Metric System. Methods of weighing and Measurement. Measurement of lengths, areas, volumes.

English.—Composition. A short essay or letter of thirty or forty lines, with correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation, on some familiar subject. Ability to answer in fully formed sentences questions on the meaning of words and phrases and on the matter of a passage read. Grammar, the construction of words, prefixes, affixes, roots. Analysis of simple and complex sentences. Correction of faulty sentences. Paraphrasing a short poetical extract.

General Knowledge.—Questions on familiar subjects which a pupil would be expected to be acquainted with from home or school life, and from general observation and reading.

Drawing 1.—Freehand Drawing.

- 2.—Simple exercises in design.
- 3.—Model drawing of simple common objects.
- 4.—Simple geometrical drawing.
- 5.—Memory drawing.

Eight girls of the required age, i.e., between sixteen and twenty years presented themselves for examination. Only four reached the standard of qualification. Under the Schemes, 1906-7, a like number of Scholarships was offered to girls. Only one girl sat for the examination. She passed.

10700. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Is that because the schools are not provided with a suitable preparation for examination?—I give an opinion later in the case of boys. Scholarships for Boys, tenable during the academic year, 1906-7. The scheme provides for an

expenditure of a sum of £50 in respect of Scholarships for Boys who have received a satisfactory primary education. The following Scholarships were offered as a result of the examination held by the Department on the 30th June, 1906:—

- (1.) Three Scholarships of £5 each.
- (2.) Two Scholarships of 27 10s. each, tenable only by boys whose homes are situated more than three miles from any recognised secondary school.
- (3.) Two Scholarships of £20 each, tenable only by boys whose homes are situated more than six miles from any recognised secondary school.

SYLLABUS OF EXAMINATIONS.

Arithmetic.—Saturday, June 30th, 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The principles of vulgar and decimal fractions, with examples involving addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Proportion, simple interest, practice, unitary method. The Metric System. Methods of weighing and measurement. Measurement of lengths, areas, and volumes.

English.—Saturday, June 30th. 1 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. Composition. A short essay or letter of thirty or forty lines—with correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation—on some familiar subject. Ability to answer in fully formed sentences questions on the meaning of words and phrases and on the matter of a passage read. Grammar, the construction of words, prefixes, affixes, roots. Analysis of simple and complex sentences. Correction of faulty sentences. Paraphrasing a short poetical extract.

Drawing.—Saturday, June 30th. 2.30 to 3.30 p.m.

- (1.)—Freehand drawing.
- (2.)—Simple exercises in design.
- (3.)—Model drawing of simple common objects.
- (4.)—Simple geometrical drawing.

Candidates may be examined on any part of these Syllabuses. One hundred marks will be assigned for Arithmetic, one hundred for English (including general knowledge), and fifty for drawing.

Only those candidates will be eligible for admission to the examination:—

- (a.) Who will be over twelve and under fifteen years of age on the 1st June, 1907.
- (b.) Who have not already been in attendance at a secondary school; and
- (c.) Whose parents or guardians will have been resident in the area administered by the Technical Instruction Committee for at least one year immediately preceding the 1st June, 1907.

These Scholarships were duly advertised. Eight boys presented for the examination. Three passed—a clear indication of want of coordination between the primary and secondary schools of the county. In my opinion Scholarships of the amounts offered are almost valueless. There is not much to attract competition in County Scholarships of £5 for boys within a radius of three miles of a secondary school; 27 10s. for a boy living nearly six miles from a secondary school which he must attend; is of less value than a £25 Scholarship; and £20 to a boy more than six miles from a secondary school, and who must, during the Scholarship, live close to the secondary school, if he wishes to properly avail of it, would involve a loss to him. These Scholarships should be of the respective values of £15, £25, and £30 each, and be renewable for a second and a third year, and tenable at boarding or day secondary schools in the county. In addition, as recommended by the County Committee, three University Scholarships of £40 each should be established, tenable for three years in University College, Dublin, or in some institute of University rank, to be competed for by the intermediate students of the County Waterford schools, pending solution of the University question by Government.

10701. This is out of technical instruction money?—Yes.

10702. And your Committee was of opinion that the University was sufficiently technical to be a justifiable object of expenditure?—They did not go into the

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Oct. 15 1896. question of the technical character of the education at the University.

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10703. But you are only authorised to spend money on technical instruction?—The scheme would allow a scholarship even at the University.

10704. Technical instruction is very carefully defined, you know, instruction in the principles of Science and Art applicable to industries?—A University deserving of the name must include technical instruction.

10705. I assume your Committee took the view that the University was sufficiently technical?—If the idea we associate with a University be correct, all sciences are taught.

10706. Universities don't all state that they are prepared to give instruction in the principles of Science or Art as applied to industries. The Committee assume that?

(Dr. Donnelly).—The Committee did not ultimately go in for that?—(Witness).—No, I believe not. I would call special attention to the high-grade and satisfactory character of accommodation in the way of buildings in the contingent use both of the Technical Instruction Committee and of the Committee of Agriculture. The first condition of a school is that the building should be substantial, of sufficient accommodation, and attractive, giving no worry to teachers. The County Committee, owing to want of buildings in their own, or, rather in the possession of the County Council, have been obliged to hold their classes, in many cases, in very unsuitable buildings, secured, often after waste of time and expense, run, schoolhouses whether in use or disused, private houses, courtyards, unoccupied old stores and mills, out-buildings of farmhouses, &c. Technical instruction had to be given in twenty-nine centres. The Committee had to pay last year for technical instruction purposes rent amounting to £31, and under agricultural side, £38; besides having, in some cases, to incur preliminary expenses for cleaning and necessary repairs, about £11. Total, £80. These rents and expenses capitalised at 4 per cent. would give £2,000. Of this amount Government should give at least one-half, the education of a community being a national as well as a local asset. The balance, £1,000 might come from rates. This amount borrowed for twenty-five years at 5 per cent. for principal and interest would cost £265, i.e., a rate less than a twentieth of a penny in the pound. Estimating the cost of each building at £150, we should have about fourteen throughout the county, where could be held not only itinerant technical instruction classes, but classes for agriculture, poultry-keeping, horticulture, bee-keeping, butter-making, &c., and which if also used for village halls and libraries would become centres of thought and intelligence in their respective localities, useful as bureaux of information on the wants and capabilities of the district, and a ready means of organisation for the several purposes of education under both sides of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act. A glance at the scheme for technical instruction which the contribution from the Department and the rates have enabled the Waterford County Committee to endeavour to work will show that in this county we have as yet but entered the threshold of an academic technical education. This is no fault either of the Department or of the Committee. The Department, so to speak, have been "cribbled, cabined, and confined" by an Act of Parliament enjoining out of, but very far from being imbued with the spirit of the Report of the Huxley Committee. Our legislators, not forgetting, that urban and rural Ireland was very backward as regards technical education, appear to have lost sight of the fact that their "pence-courses in title" directly created or sanctioned the creation of this lamentable condition of the country. The causes of Ireland's condition, in the matter of technical education and of manufactures, are, so far as spirit of which in the matter of the consideration of the provisions of the Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, and other Acts relating to it, I would take leave Parliament. As regards suggestions, I beg to submit the following extracts from a Paper on the Lapsed and Possible Industries of the County written by me in June last.

WATERFORD COUNTY.

Its Lapsed and Possible Industries.

The industries of a locality depend upon its geographical position, its physical characteristics and geological structure, and the intelligence, will, and enterprise of its inhabitants. Waterford is a maritime county. The surges are mountains, the principal ranges being the Comeragh, including Muncullagh from Carrigroh to Dargavran, north of which they stretch onward to Knockmallock, whilst from east to west lay the mountains of Drom, of which Drom-Pinson forms the physical division of this portion of the county into the old baronies of Decatur-within-Drom and Decatur-without-Drom. Towards the east the land is low and marshy. The prevailing rock in the vicinity of the city of Waterford and throughout the county, except where limestone prevails, is argillaceous schist in many places combined with silver. The county is twenty-eight miles in length from north to south and fifty-two miles in breadth, it comprises 458,108 acres, of which 76,375 are under tillage, 243,385 in pasture, 19,821 in plantations, 119,395 waste, bog, and mountain, and 5,333 under water. Valuation, including the city, £316,100; population in 1851, 164,035; in 1861, 87,187. Along with the city of Waterford it contains the seaport towns of Dargavran, Dunmore East, Tallow, and Passage West, the market towns of Lismore, Cappoquin, and Tallow, the rural villages and towns of Clankmore, Portlaoise, and Kilmacshannon, and the maritime villages of Bannahoe, Strifally, Ring, and Ardmore. The industries of the county will be referred to under the heads manufacturing and agricultural, the former in connection with the city, some towns and localities, the latter in connection with the county rural. At the outset the following extract from Sir Robert Kane's standard work on the Industrial Resources of Ireland is not inappropriate. "The two great branches of human occupation, manufacturing and agricultural, so far from being opposed or inconsistent are really bound together by the strongest ties, the same principles of science regulate the operations of both and afford similar means of emancipation, the products of both are equally necessary for the subsistence of a civilised people, and each depends for the disposal of his stock on the capability of the other to purchase and pay for it. No population that is exclusively devoted to the one or the other mode of existence can have a healthy organisation or be considered in a natural state. It is therefore important to seek for the means of advancing both together." From whatever point we view the subject the statistics quoted afford evidence of decline. More than half the county is in pasture, a fourth under waste, bog, and mountain, whilst a little over a sixth is devoted to tillage. It is not therefore surprising to find that, in half a century, a short time in the life of a country, its population has decreased by half. Mr. Blacker, in his essay on the management of landed property in Ireland, which secured a gold medal from the Royal Dublin Society in the early forties, shows that Ireland is adequate to the support of over thirty-five millions of people. Upon this basis Waterford county and city should be supporting to-day not 37,000 but 700,000 persons. Waterford city from its situation and importance was at one time the centre of communication with England as well as one of the chief places of trade in Ireland. Its exports were mostly agricultural. The value of its principal articles exported in 1855 were bacon and pork, £225,000; butter, £475,000; grain, £250,000; pigs and meat, £410,000; cattle, sheep, and pigs, £140,000; total (including minor articles), £1,800,000. The export of salmon to Bristol amounted to 20,822, weighing 151,645 lbs., the produce of the Suir, Nore, and Barrow. The exports of Waterford in 1855 were over £2,300,000. The Waterford fishery district extended from the east bank of the Banow Ferry to Ballyville Head, comprising seventy-six miles of maritime boundaries, and had in 1845, 390 registered fishing vessels employing 1,500 men and boys. Although Ryland and others state that it was never much distinguished for its manufactures they admit it had some celebrity for the weaving of a narrow woollen stuff (called "Rabben") which was in great demand in every part of Ireland, and was also exported in considerable quantities. The Lismore Papers, Vol. V., year 1653, contains a pointed reference to Waterford twice, which was largely won by the residents of the county. Waterford had also

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Carew as a present. In seven years the forementioned enterprising nobleman exported from Tallow 21,000 tons of bar iron at £18 per ton. Cannon and shot from local iron were cast at Cappoquin in 1853.—(See *Waterford News*, 12th October, 1906.) All these industries have lapsed. Besides the foregoing industries there were hundreds of small mills throughout the county employed in the grinding of wheat, oats, etc., for home consumption, and Indian corn, not one of which exists at present. Linen, too, was largely manufactured for home use, but not for commercial purposes. Before treating of the non-existent but possible industries of the county we should note in passing the widely-known bacon industry of Waterford, its parent hells and brack manufacturers, the flourishing Wooden Mills of Kilmacode, Kilmacurran, and Ballinacree; the recently established poultry industry of Waterford, the resuscitated Knockmahon mines, the Blackwater Cider industry at Dungarvan, established only two years ago, but already the winner of medals and prizes in competition open to all comers in Dublin and London. The extensive and efficient printing works of Harvey and Co., Waterford, are amongst the most deservedly flourishing of our local industries. Hearns and Cahill's boot factories.

The Waterford shirt and collar factory is referred to in a recent issue of the *Cork Examiner* in the following terms:—"It is a pleasing fact, in connection with industrial revival in Waterford, to be able to recognise and appreciate the efforts which have resulted in establishing a shirt factory in the city. The gentlemen who formed the initiative committee deserve, indeed, exceptional credit for their enterprise. The North of Ireland, particularly the City of Derry, is the great home of this extensive industry, but there is no reason why the South of Ireland should not share in the advantages of it by establishing on a sound basis an industry of the same kind. But the singular fact remains that we in the South are slow to appreciate, unlike our Northern friends, the importance of local industries, which would ensure a prosperity which presently we cannot boast of. The Waterford shirt factory is now established about two years. The premises acquired in the Glen, both from a health point of view and situation, are not surpassed by any factory in the country. They are well ventilated and lighted, and there is space for considerable extension. The company is a limited liability one, and was at the time it first commenced work under the chairmanship of Mr. David McDonald, &c., who took a deep interest in its formation, but his other business demands compelled him to relinquish the position. Dr. J. J. O'Sullivan, &c., another advocate of Irish industry, was then appointed. The late Mr. Michael Nellis, who for many years was connected with the same trade in Derry, was the first manager. Many experienced Derry workmen were employed, who were able to train the local labour which the factory gave. There are at present seventy workmen in this interesting and progressive industry. The buildings can easily accommodate 500 workmen, but it is a regrettable fact that the support which this industry deserves locally is not extended to it in a more liberal manner. Amongst the conditions necessary for the development of the industries of a locality mention has been made of the intelligence, will, and enterprise of its inhabitants. Smith, in his History of the County, shrewdly observes that it suffers one disadvantage in common with the greatest part of the kingdom. It exports greater quantities of the natural growth (or raw material) of the country, e.g., beef, butter, corn, copper ore, waxed, &c., than of goods which are completely manufactured. No doubt, he says, much might be thought of promoting a greater consumption of our own and of lessening that of foreign commodities. Smith wrote about the year 1780, and his observations are as pertinent to our times as to his own. In that suggestive work, "*Ireland, Industrial and Agricultural*," so ably edited by the late Mr. Byrne, of the Department of Agriculture, the following words are used:—"There is a general consensus of opinion that the prosperity of the poorer districts of Ireland may be promoted by technical instruction in handicrafts and home industries. There is a conviction not less general, and it is one which exists have fully confirmed in our minds, that the children and young people of Ireland possess great manual dexterity and aptitude which only require to be developed, in order to be useful to themselves and to those amongst whom they live. As evidence of this

we need only refer to the remarkable success of the Christian Brothers and to that of the ladies of Religious Orders in training children and young persons for handicrafts in Industrial Schools and institutions of a like nature." What is here said of the children referred to applies equally to the sons and daughters of farmers in matters agricultural if proper education and means were placed within their reach. It is but simple justice to state that considering the inadequacy of their resources, both the managers and teachers of our National schools are doing good service in the education of our rural children. The second branch of human competition is that of manufacturing. This depends for its materials upon what grows upon the land and is found below its surface. For little attention has been given to the mineral resources of our county; yet it abounds with them and in claps of various and most useful kinds. We have never been taught to take a single human interest in our surroundings. We know little or nothing of the elements of the physical geography, geology, physiography, or mineralogy of our respective school districts, and as a consequence we have grown up in utter ignorance of the vast material resources of our county. It is high time that an end should be put to this drifting, aimless state of youth and method. Every man and woman, boy, and child, should give his first and best attention and observation to his own neighbourhood. Make proper searches into everything curious, the grasses, the weeds, the flora, the fauna, the rocks and streams, our mountains and valleys, and forward his remarks to the County Committee for transmission to the Bureau of Industrial Information of the Department. If this is done the natural history of our county and its industrial resources will soon be put into proper light. Local Search Associations should be formed for each school district, or in connection with technical and agricultural buildings recommended; and experts from the Department should make formal enquiry upon all data furnished, geological or otherwise. They should ascertain and report what the materials found are fit for commercially—and these materials should be worked up in the several localities to their fullest uses under expert teachers or managers recommended or supplied by the Department. *Mineral Resources*.—Near the junction of the streams that form the river "Nahon" are veins of quartz comprising granulated lead ore, and in the same mineralogical tract near Mountain Creek there is a fine vein of lead ore. The rocks to the north of Lisnare are also rich in mineral veins. Iron, copper, and lead ore are of frequent occurrence. Lisnare Castle stands on a dark limestone rock which, partly separated from the clay slate by a border of fine grained sandstone, extends in a narrow range down the vale of the Blackwater to the Innamint recesses of Dungarvan harbour. In several places the rock assumes the character of marble, as at Tannin where it is variegated with many colours. Near Ahasc it is black and white, in the parish of Whitechurch it is both black and grey. Minerals containing lead ore and copper were formerly worked between the Drum mountain and the coast, and were very productive. At Minkhead and Ardmore, as already stated, very valuable iron ore was produced and worked into finest steel. The eastern portion of the county consists almost entirely of clay-slate. Limestone, however, embedded in indurated clay, is found on the sea-coast at Lady's Cove in the immediate vicinity of Tramore. It is of the primitive kind and capable of receiving a very high polish. Near Anneslow, further westward, occur both conglomerate and basalt, and a range of trap rock of a columnar tendency projects into the sea. In the highland extending from Donhill towards Waterford are found large masses of very beautiful gneiss. Along the coast the rocks are rich in metallic veins and the elevation and abruptness of the cliffs greatly facilitate their discovery. Lead and copper ore have been found at Anneslow and Bormanah, near the copper mines at Knockmahon. A lead mine, the ore of which contains a considerable portion of silver, in the parish of Ballylennan, belonged to the Mining Company of Ireland, but was never worked. In the Grouse hill of Oranish, in the parish of Bock, a rich vein of lead ore, containing a large portion of silver, was formerly worked to a great extent. On the strand of Kilmacurran lead ore, containing a large portion of silver, was found among the sand, and amply repaid a number of country people, who were

constantly employed in seeking for it, by turning up the surface with their spades. This ore produced from 24 to 40 cwt. of pure silver per ton. At Templemore and Carrigrohilly are mineral veins. To the southwest of Liscarrow lies Deepcreek, a large tract of land containing 1,192 acres, and well enclosed. A lead vein runs through the middle of it from west to east. On the verge of the parish of Moonlogh lies Arglint, noted for its iron works in former times. On the north side of the road from Durgarvan to Toghach are some large pits, out of which iron ore was formerly dug. Near Gorteen there is a productive mine, closed by winter torrents. These torrents discover the material of the ramps of hills, which is red sandstone.

In some places the rock is of a soft slaty nature, readily decomposing by the action of air and water and forming a yellow ochreous earth sufficiently pure to be used in manufacture. It occurs in large quantities and may be easily procured. The summit of the hill which bounds Dromana Demesne is a fine white sandstone resembling Portland stone. In a large and deep hollow in the demesne there is a white clay resembling white powdered sugar, which, it is said, was successfully employed in the manufacture of glass. Traces of copper ore are discoverable in the rocks near the river, and at no great distance lead has been found. Near Mountain Castle, on the lands of Mr. Chenevix, there is a fine lead mine. The ore, in a powdered state, has been taken up with a shovel in considerable quantities, and used by potters for glazing. The ore is close to the surface, and is visible to the most casual observer. From the place where the lead appears there is a deep ravine, affording the greatest facility to carry off the water if the mine was worked. There is copper ore at Ballymacarney, the mining of which was abandoned in 1856. The writer has been informed by good authority that this was spring to the drainage having been pitched too high. At the old road near Tinslin and the River Fisk, toward Ballynagloragh, near Woodhouse, specimens of copper were found by the late Mr. Matthew Beary, who was connected with the Ordnance Survey, and upon analysis found to be rich. North-east of Sherry Rock there are indications of minerals. There is excellent marble near Cappagh and Ballyhenry, lying deep in the adjacent bog. A marble found at Affane, on the banks of the Blackwater, being shown in plaster near Lismore, on the banks of the Blackwater, but is rejected, and not used for improving the land. There is a good slate quarry at Ballynamona, and an excellent one of green and purple slate on the lands of Mr. Coughlan, in the townland of Knockbreck, near Clashmore. Good slates for roofing are raised in the Glen of Overash, near Lismore, and in Glenpatrick, near Clonmel. Glenribben, on the road between Cappagh and Lismore, contains an excellent slate quarry. Near, within 350 yards of Carroll's Cross railway station, well known as the "Slane Quarries," produced, and is still capable of producing excellent slabs. Glencliffy—or the Glen of the Flies—has a good flag quarry; so also Sherry Rock Hill, on the lands of Patrick Mulcahy, Steady. The last named are said to be very like Killaloe flag. Among the several kinds of useful earths the following have been discovered in the county:—*viz.*, potter's clay of various kinds, pipe clay, ochre, bole. The potter or brickmaker can scarce at down in any part of the west of the county but he may find materials for his purpose. Round the whole of Durgarvan and adjacent places there is a great plenty of a stiff yellow clay, in fact, a considerable portion of the town was formerly only known as "the Yellow Clay," and is still so called. At Ballyntaylor, in the parish of Whitechurch, there is also a white kind of potter's clay. Between Lismore and a mount called the Round Hill is a fine white clay, formerly used and mistaken for marble. Milk-white clay, resembling pipe clay exists at Ringaragh. It looks like chalk.

Near Magaha, in the parish of Whitechurch, is a good potter's clay, of which earthenware has been formed. At Ballyduff, near the west bounds of the parish, on the right hand of the road leading to Cork, there is a good pipe clay. A good kind (pipe clay) has also been discovered at Dromana and at Ballyntaylor, in the parish of Whitechurch. At Ballyntaylor, for ochre, very fit for painters' use, is found. At Ballyduff, above mentioned, there is a red earth which has all the appearance of the true American bole. The clay at Liscarrow, near Tramore, was exhibited at the late Cork Exhibition, and favorably reported upon. Some of the clays above mentioned take grease upon. Others, but fall short of Fuller's earth. It may be worth while to try if pipe clay will separate from its sand and would not serve instead of Fuller's earth for the scouring of cloth. Froestone, as beautiful and lasting as any to be met in other places, is found near Dromana. It is no way inferior to Portland stone. Near Carrigrohilly is an uncommon kind of freestone, which, though white, is beautifully sprinkled with veins of reddish colour. It works well, and stands the air and weather. In a quarry near Ballynemo, in the parish of Whitechurch, there is a good kind of grinding stone fit for the cutter, carpenter, and other artificers. There is a variegated kind of marble at Taurin, composed of several colours as browns, chocolate colour, white, yellow, and blue blended into various shades and figures. Takes a good polish. Near Affane, at no great distance from the above-mentioned (Taurin), there is a black and white marble, which also takes a good polish. A black marble, without mixture of white, has been found at Mount Odell, in the parish of Whitechurch. In the same parish, at Ballymacarney, there is a grey marble, beautifully clouded with white and spotted like some sorts of Shagreen. Takes a good polish. In the neighbourhood of Cappaghin there is said to be a green marble quarry of high quality, procured by Dublin sculptors to be as valuable as a gold mine. Great quantities of spar may be easily gathered on our sea coast. They make a good ingredient in glass works. Limestone exists near Tramore, Donagh (or Donahill), Tuckardstown, near Clonmel, Lismore, Saltbride, Durgarvan, and Keshinahan. The foregoing by no means exhaust our mineral resources. It is, however, hoped that the consideration of them will quicken our determination to be up and doing, searching and enquiring how best to turn our neglected resources to our immediate and lasting benefit. We must remember that man is born to understand as well as to act. Whilst, therefore, we have a right to an education for our children, that will awaken in them a knowledge of what the arts of agriculture and manufacture available to our country really depend upon, we must not forget that we owe a duty through our children to the teachers of our country. Finally we must lift our minds to the dignity of honest and remunerative skilled labour, acting behind as the contemptible notion of associating industry and work with the idea "of a vulgar or depressed caste."

18707. (Chairman).—What are the Bonmahon mines?—Celebrated copper mines. Mr. Lybore, one of the experts of the Department, went down there a few years ago and sent in his report, with the result that the mines have been reopened since.

18708. (Mr. O'Leary).—Received by?—By a company; things of that sort, I say, should be done in this country. If we have minerals in the county send them up to the Department and get experts to inquire into their use commercially, and send down an expert and, if necessary, let us start companies locally if we can.

18709. (Chairman).—That is done now; it was done in this particular instance, and we have had other instances of the same kind?—Yes.

18710. You have been the Secretary of the Committee all along?—Yes.

18711. Do you see much progress?—We are on the way to progress. There is not much money yet in the efforts we are making, but we hope it will lead to it both on the agricultural and technical side.

The Committee adjourned.

THIRTY-FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.—TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 1906.

At the Courthouse, Waterford.

Present:—

Sir KENELM DUFFY, K.C., Q.C.R. (Chairman).

Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. F. G. O'GILVER.

Mr. W. L. MECKE.

Mr. J. J. TAYLOR, C.M., Secretary.

Mr. EDMOND HORN, J.P., examined.

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Mr Edmund
Horn, J.P.

10712. (Chairman).—You are a Justice of the Peace and a member of the Wexford County Council?—Yes, sir.

10713. I don't know whether you are a member of the Committee of Agriculture?—I am; it is from the Committee of Agriculture that I am deputed to give evidence here.

10714. We have before us the resolutions of the Wexford County Council, which I think, were read yesterday. Will you take your own line as to what you wish to tell us?—It is as a farmer, a member of the Agricultural Committee that I am here; but, then, as a member of the County Council there was one matter that I would wish to speak about—that is, the constitution of the Department. Our County Council have already pronounced on that; that is that they wish to have the constitution of the Department changed; they wish it to be elective—that it would be elected from the County Council.

10715. What exactly is the change they wish; how many should it consist of?—Well, I would say two from each County Council, that is, the Council at present—the Agricultural Council. There is an Agricultural Board with two from each province, and I think if these were elected to the management of the Council it would be more popular. The people are altogether in favour of having the Department elected. They think it would be more in sympathy.

10716. What precisely is the change they wish—how many should it consist of?—Well, I would say two from each County Council.

10717. That this elected Board should take the place of the present Department?—Yes; that it would take the place of the present Department—not of the office, but of the management. I don't mean to say that they should replace the officers of the Department, but the management of the Department.

10718. That is to say, instead of the Vice-President and Secretary?—Well, the Vice-President—yes.

10719. Instead of the Vice-President?—They would elect a Vice-President from the body elected to manage it.

10720. What is it contemplated their functions should be—how often would they meet. Of course, in a great change of that sort one wants to know how it would work out in detail?—How often they met would be a matter of arrangement.

10721. That depends on their functions—if their functions are to carry on the administration day by day they should meet very often?—There should be about four of these appointed as a Board of Management, and elected from this body.

10722. Would they be paid?—I would say they should be.

10723. Would the counties be prepared to bear their share of paying them?—I think they would bear their share. How are they paid at the present time; would not the money of the Department be sufficient to pay them then as it is now. The Department draws from the Treasury. The people feel that the management of the present Department is not sufficiently in sympathy with the people.

10724. In what respect, could you give me any instance in which it has not been found to be in sympathy?—They have not paid sufficient attention to

the recommendations of the Council of Agriculture and the Committees.

10725. Is that the experience in this county?—That is with regard to Wexford.

10726. Could you give me any cases in which that has happened with regard to Wexford?—I would not like to give evidence on any particular case, because Mr. Kenny is to go into it.

10727. What, then, do you wish to say?—We have that the Department should expend the money entrusted to them themselves, and not entrust any other organisation with the spending of their money.

10728. You are referring to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—Yes; the people have no control whatever over the Organisation Society. That is the principal reason. I know several members of the I.A.O.S., and I believe them to be thoroughly shrewd and upright men, but then the people have no control whatever over the Society.

10729. Do you think that the functions of the I.A.O.S. so far as they are a separate and independent Body should be vested in the Department?—That is what I think, the Department should do these powers themselves.

10730. Instead of contributing, as they do now, pretty largely, to the I.A.O.S.?—Instead of leaving it to them.

10731. You would abolish the I.A.O.S., and vest their powers in the Department?—So far as the Department is concerned, but they existed without the assistance of the Department up to a certain time, and the Department have taken them on lately, and people don't seem to be altogether satisfied about that.

10732. Is there any other matter?—With regard to agricultural stations, our Council are very much in favour of the Department taking up this question of the agricultural stations, and wish to give evidence on it, our Council are in favour of it, and would be glad to see the Department taking up these stations generally. There are two or three in Ireland already.

10733. You would like one in your own county?—We would like one in our own county. It is most suitable for it.

10734. A great many counties have told us that?—Wexford is to a great extent a tillage county—more so than any other county in Ireland. We think it would assist young boys a good deal if they got a training in a college or a station like this, seeing it is a tillage county.

10735. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Before we leave the agricultural stations, from what you say I understand you mean essentially a college for the training of young farmers?—Yes; something on the lines of Clooskilly. I believe that has been a success.

10736. Do you mean that the agricultural station should be anything else besides such a college; should it have any other function than that of training young men from eighteen to twenty for workers and farmers?—I don't think it should. Their education might be improved in other ways while they would be there, but that would be the principal thing.

10737. What other things besides the education of the young men who are attending it would you like

template 1.—The education of farmers' sons. Very often they have only a National school education.

10736. I don't mean that. Do you mean that the agricultural stations should have any other business than that of training young men who are sent to it for the purpose of getting a practical training in agriculture?—I don't know any other business they could take up.

10736. (Chairman).—You intend to say something about the live-stock scheme?—Yes; we think that the live-stock scheme is working very well, but we think the Department has not given us money enough for that. We have not bulls enough in the county. We have only twenty-seven bulls for the County Waterford. That often leaves five or six miles or more between the bulls, and there is no poor man going to send cows that distance. We think we ought to get more money, and be able to get more bulls. I think we were better off before the Department took up this question with the scheme we worked ourselves down there. In the Waterford Union we had at one time seventeen pedigree bulls. That gave two bulls to each parish. A small society got together, and got money in the bank, and bought these bulls, and we were able to pay the money back by a charge of 5s. per cow, and I think on the whole it did more good than the Department's live-stock scheme.

10740. How many bulls have you?—Twenty-seven for the county for last season.

10741. Your scheme operated over a much smaller area?—Yes; only a fourth of the county.

10742. And I suppose it was rather a scheme which could only be worked by tolerably well-to-do people—the charge of 5s. a cow, for instance?—Those who took it up were fairly well-to-do people, but poor people sent their cows, and paid 5s. They paid 2s. 6d.

at first to become a member, and then when they sent the cow they sent another 2s. 6d. Still, it was a very great success. I think that is all the evidence I want to give.

10743. One of the witnesses from your county yesterday said they very much preferred agricultural stations to itinerant lecturers. What do you say about the working of the itinerant lecturers?—I think they have done a great deal of good up to the present time. I dare say the time will soon come when they may not do so much good.

10744. Do you think a system of stations would be sufficiently widespread to reach the poorer people as well as the well-to-do—as well as the lecturers would do?—I think after the lectures in every county where these gentlemen have been giving lectures—I think you will get a few boys out of each county that will go to these agricultural stations, still the agricultural stations unless they are multiplied to a large extent that probably is practicable, can only affect a comparatively small number. At Glenahilly I think there is only 30.

10745. It does not reach a very large number of people except indirectly. Of course, they learn a great deal there, and go to different parts of the country, and carry their knowledge with them, and spread the instruction?—If we had an agricultural station in Waterford with thirty students from the county these would be scattered over a wide area, and when these came back their improved methods would tell.

10746. (Mr. Miles).—It would be thirty each year? They would only get a year's training, I suppose.

10747. In any case you would take in thirty. Supposing it was a two years' course thirty would go out. It would come to thirty a year?—Yes.

10748. That ought to soon educate the majority of those who go in for education?—I think so.

Dr. O'BRIEN, &c., Waterford, examined.

10749. (Chairman).—You are, I think, a member of the Waterford County Borough Committee of Technical Education?—Yes, sir.

10750. And I think you heard the Bishop's evidence yesterday?—The greater part of it, with which I quite agree, and I am very strongly of opinion that we were assured almost by the Department with regard to the so-called Equivalent Grant, when we were advised to formulate our scheme, we were told that on raising 1d. in the 5s. we would get an equivalent grant from the Department. So that it would appear from that the Department were of opinion that from the reading of the Act they were entitled to give that, but of course they found they were not able from some cause or other, but although they found themselves not able we still feel we have a grievance. We were allowed to believe we would get it, and did not get it, and were disappointed, and at present are suffering very seriously from want of funds.

10751. (Mr. Miles).—The work contained 1.—The work entirely executed. At present in the central school which we have established the standing expenses for salaries run into £385 10s., which is made up as follows:—£250, head-master; manual instructor, £150; commercial teacher, £150; art master, £120; domestic economy instructress, £80; assistant domestic economy instructress, £50; and then there is a porter and assistant laboratory hand, taken together, £85 10s. To that we have to add interest and principal of the loan for building and equipping of the school, which I calculate will be £387 10s., making the total of £1,513. Against that we get a grant of £847 15s. 11d. That is our proportion of the £85,000 divided amongst the County Boroughs—that is our proportion based on population.

10752. Is that based on the population of 1901?—Yes; the last Census. We expected more at first based on our previous population. It was larger then, but in 1901 the population was reduced; therefore we got a less amount.

10753. Your population in 1901 was a good deal larger than your population in 1891?—That may be so, but it would operate in this way that other county boroughs increased their population, and we lost; in that way our share was less. We had a disappointment from our calculated amount. Besides £847 15s. 11d. we got about £250 towards the commercial classes, and we got from the rates £125. That makes

a total of £1,277 15s. 11d., which gives us only a balance of £235 15s. 11d. to meet all other central expenses. We may, of course, add to that less which we cannot now estimate, except, roughly speaking, it might be between £70 and £80. Take the outside £30 for less for the year; that will give us £144 15s. 11d. to carry on all the work of the school, meaning the providing of material for the workshop, material for the domestic economy classes, light and coal, advertising and printing, and prizes for the classes, which, it is quite evident, is absolutely impossible. When the first financial year of our school comes to be balanced up we will find ourselves on the wrong side of the ledger, and unless some means is found to increase our revenue I don't see how we are to go on. Another thing strikes me with regard to the technical scheme. For the years past there were very indifferent reports with regard to the operating of the scheme here. When I say indifferent reports I mean reports of the inspectors.

10754. (Chairman).—Are you speaking of the period since the establishment of the Department?—I mean since the operation of the Act in Waterford. The inspectors appointed by the Department who came down and made their annual report frequently reported that the schools were not on the whole well attended, and these appeared to be an apathy on the part of the students and people of Waterford. That was one reason they gave for the shortcoming of the school. Another reason was that the work was carried on in three different institutions, and it was not so easy to induce people to come. I am inclined to think that there is another factor besides either of those. While I agree that having the school separated in three different parts was a drawback to the general management of the place and the benefit of it, still I don't think that the apathy which was apparent—I don't think it was real; it was more apparent than real—and the reason I say that is this—I look upon the work of the scheme so far as it has gone in the past four years as more secondary school work. It did not appear to me to be pure technical work at all, and I think if the technical school is to succeed it must be worked on purely technical lines. We have here in Waterford very good secondary schools and primary schools, and a technical school here should fill the gap of the want of pure technical training. I am very

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strong on the point that we should have a strict primary curriculum and a secondary curriculum, and the secondary school should lead up to technical or University education; branch off one from the other according to the requirements of the student. Why I say that the work carried out by our scheme was more secondary is because all the subjects were practically secondary. Chemistry as taught here is secondary work, science is secondary school work, and woodwork is the only subject outside the ordinary secondary work. When the scheme was first inaugurated here there was a circular from the Department advising the Committee to strike out a scheme on each line as they would think most suitable for the requirements of the town, but which when doing that they were helped by the Department to formulate a scheme, and the scheme had to have the sanction and approval of the Department before it could be carried out, so that as a matter of fact we were in the hands of the Department with regard to the scheme adopted. With regard to the nature of the scheme, I urged at some of the committees that we were not doing what we should do of a technical character, and referred to the advice of the Department to adapt ourselves to the requirements of the place, and I pointed out the great necessity for commercial education. A great number of boys went into offices of different kinds through Waterford and elsewhere, and there was no system of commercial education, except the ordinary secondary education. When I mentioned that I was told that they could not sanction money for commercial work. When I looked into the matter again, at a later date, I urged it again, and pointed out that at Bathmore they spent money on commercial work. It appears we are bound by our scheme so far, and I presume the Inspector had in his mind that it was not worth starting commercial classes until the new school was built, and I take that as the explanation why there was very little attention paid to my urging the commercial classes. Apart from that, I would like to bring under your notice that while we have no very large industry in Waterford we have a number of small ones.

10755. (Mr. O'Grady).—When you said that physics and chemistry were essentially parts of secondary education, I suppose you were not referring to the physical and chemical instruction given in the evening classes?—I say the education given to the boys, but I think in the future there is an effort to specialise it more, and bring it more in line with commercial requirements.

10756. I don't quite see the distinction you are aiming at drawing between technical and secondary, because one generally regards secondary school work as that which is given to pupils at the time they are giving their whole time to study, and regards as technical any instruction which is to help them in their further work, and is to be given whether in day classes, where they can give their whole time, or given along with the time when they are engaged in occupations.—Chemistry, as taught during the past four years, was more elementary than specialised, and I regard that altogether as chemistry, such as would be taught in an ordinary educational establishment.

10757. I quite agree as to the matter of instruction, but I want to know what you are drawing from that; because, obviously, men could not be taught in the application of chemistry to any particular industry without their having an elementary knowledge of chemistry, and if they did not have that in the secondary school—if they never were in a secondary school, for instance—they would have to get it as the first step of their technical education. I don't quite gather the declaration you made from the fact that chemistry, as hitherto taught in the evening classes, is essentially the same matter of instruction as in the secondary.—My point is this—that while chemistry must be regarded as a technical subject, still the requirements of the students in Waterford for chemistry is very small. There are very few commercial branches in Waterford where applied chemistry is useful.

10758. I understand that. Do you deduce from that that it is a mistake to include chemistry in the course of study in the evening classes—is that what you wish to get at?—I mean to say to make chemistry a principal technical subject is not good, that is what I mean; because chemistry was one of the principal subjects taught within the past four years, and regarded as a technical subject, and the result was there was very small attendance at the classes, simply because very few of the young men in the town required

chemistry for their commercial pursuits. In the One Works they found it very useful to have a few men to understand chemistry; the by-products of the rendered at a purely technical work. Of course, a chemist's shops the young men don't find it useful, because when they go to qualify they have to take a course laid down by the different bodies they have to be examined by. They don't make use of the classes here, it is only as that way I shall be chemistry.

10759. Your objection is to the prominence of the subject.—Exactly so, in the past, because then as other industries in the town that might be helped. I have it in my mind that there is very little use as training young men in any particular technical line unless there is a market for their work after they have left school; if there is no market for their work there is no inducement for them to attend classes to acquire the knowledge. In that way we ought to lay out our schemes to enhance the subjects that would be useful to young men. In Waterford here there are certain trades and callings which are general, probably, everywhere, and in which technical training would materially improve those who follow those callings. There are three coach-building places on a small scale, and there is nothing in our curriculum to show that young men who go as apprentices to these trades will get a special training in that calling. We have a coach-building or coach-painting in our school.

10760. (Mr. Michel).—Or upholstery?—Or upholstery. We have a furniture shop, and there are one or two good houses in that.

10761. Who makes as well as sells?—Who makes as well as sell, and there is nothing to cater for the young men who attend those callings. Take, for example, the tailoring trade, which is general everywhere, there are as classes to teach cutting. Fine that go on to the plumbing, plumbing is not being taught. Then you come on to ordinary painting and decorating, another very useful trade, the painting of houses, graining and lettering, that is not being taught here. Then you go on to the motor industry; we have two motor industries here, they are small, but still they are very good ones.

10762. Repairing?—Repairing, but they build. Each of the places have built motors. Then as young men attending these places, and if they were employed in these particular motor factories when they have finished their time they would benefit if there was a school to teach them further details of the work.

10763. (Mr. O'Grady).—You have in the school classes of engineering and machine construction and general subjects.—That is all that in a town of the kind can be done; it is only in very large centres it is possible to form a class for motor industries.

10764. You probably would not have more than ten or twelve lads that could possibly attend the class in motor work?—I am sure that is about as many as you could have.

10765. Of those, more than half would in any particular year be requiring independent instruction rather than specialised motor instruction?—I presume that is a fact, that there would be no necessity for a class of that kind. But what is urgent is that these lads should be brought to instruction; that the instruction provided in machine construction, mechanism and engineering work generally is definite technical instruction of exactly the kind they require, and that they ought to be there. Do you happen to know whether any considerable proportion of these lads are attending such schools?—I could not tell you. There were very few in the past, whatever may come in the future. Our technical school is only just started, and the school just filled.

10766. I was going to suggest that much of the defect that is obvious from what you say will probably be remedied as the school goes on—carpenter, plumber's work; plumbers' apprentices are, no doubt, this year attending building construction. Carriage-building people would be attending geometrical drawing, and you may find yourself in a position in a year or two to establish one specialised class for one subject and another year one for another. Then, again, you mentioned house-painting and decorating—I think there is a good deal of work being done in connection with the School of Art for house-painters and decorators.—I am not aware of it.

10767. I visited the school some months ago, and that was the information I received, but not special trade instruction in painting and decorating, but the preliminary work in drawing, and that sort of thing.

which is necessary if a man is to become a good designer in his trade. What you will have to face presently is whether, with the facilities afforded in the new school, you might not establish every alternate year a practical class in painters' work; the difficulty you have pointed out is quite natural, and may be expected in the case of a school which is only just established, for you have been working under great difficulties for a number of years, and have not had a chance, but now with a school established, presumably these defects might come to be remedied. I am quite with you that our curriculum, as at present laid out, is a very good curriculum for a first year's course. As you suggest, the building construction will be useful for carriage-builders, and people of that kind, and geometrical drawing and the Art School will afford a good opportunity to painters and decorators for learning design; but my contention is that there is no inducement to boys to join either of those classes unless they can see that that class can be followed up next year, with an advanced stage, or more specialised work, that will apply to their own calling. You may tell me that it is in the hands of the committee to make these arrangements; my answer is we cannot; we have no money to do it.

10766. I am not quite certain that even in the absence of any prospect of a specialised class in the future these boys might not be persuaded, if their masters and foremen co-operated with the committee, might not be persuaded to take advantage of the opportunity they already have, which goes so far to help them to benefit by the workshop instruction. As to the future, I would like to refer to the balance-sheet you gave us, in which you brought out a balance of £245 for materials, advertisements, prizes, and so on, and which, as you properly said, is quite inadequate, and which obviously puts you in a position, if it were all that is to be said on the matter, that you could not possibly do any more in the future, may I ask if that is the official estimate of your future income and expenditure?—I think so.

10769. I notice a very important omission on the income side—there is nothing put down for income from grants on attendance?—I put down £80 for fees.

10770. That is, fees paid by the students; the grants on attendance ought to make a very substantial increase, and an increase which would be as elastic as the work does. We need not go to previous regulations, but under the new regulations for grants on attendance by the Department, there is a provision made for most liberal grants, which would almost pay for any additional facilities of that sort. I presume that during the present year the school is working under the new regulations, and, therefore, for the present year you will have a very considerable amount of funds from that source?—No, we have no access.

10771. You ought to have them if the school is doing work, and working under these regulations, there would be a very considerable amount available for grants?—In the past the amount paid for grants was very small.

10772. Your condition of working in the past was most unfavourable for earning grants under any regulations. Your conditions now are very much better, and not only that, but the grants offered are immensely increased, and increased upon lines which make it possible to get the best grants by working precisely as you desire to work, on work directly applicable to the pupils' careers. There are grants for higher commercial subjects, involving mechanical operations, shorthand, type-writing, book-keeping, copying, indexing, and filing of correspondence; for that there is a grant which may be anything from 5d. to 5s. an hour per pupil for attending?—The conditions then of that grant, we have to consider with this, that before any pupil can be registered as entitled to that grant, he must be of the sixth standard; I don't think we can get that; our pupils won't come up to that standard, and any work done we don't get paid for.

10773. If they are not up to the sixth standard you must have them in some preliminary course, and, therefore, the preliminary work would have to be on another basis?—There you see, there we are at present. Our sources of pupils are not; most of the young men are in secondary schools; they won't come to a night school; they have quite enough work to do. Then you take those who leave school; they lost as time, and if they have attained the sixth standard they have forgotten all about it, and go back, perhaps, to the fourth standard; and they are not capable of benefit-

ing by the training, and are not inclined to come. A gentleman met me yesterday, and complained that his boy could not get the education which he wanted at the technical school; he wanted a particular line of training. I pointed out to him that neither he nor his son was a judge of what was good for them, and that the course laid out in these curricula of ours was laid out by experts—by men who were the best judges of the line of training each boy required for his particular walk in life, and if his boy would take on all the subjects of this particular class it would be very much better for him. But he could not see that. His boy only wanted a particular thing. I pointed out that he would require other things as well to lead up to the perfect accomplishment of the work; still I could not persuade him. A good many more have that idea in their minds, that they would not take on the regular course, and if they don't, we won't earn grants, so that as far as our revenue from grants is concerned, we must put that down as very small and inconsiderable at present; perhaps in the future things may be better. If we could see our way in laying out our courses to say, "Here is a Trade Preparatory Course, we will require every boy to follow that course."

10774. I am speaking of evening courses?—The day preparatory course I look upon as not likely to succeed.

10775. So far as finances is concerned, the day preparatory course is not going to form any dip upon your funds?—I don't see that. Do you think the £250 would cover that?

10776. That is on a different basis of grant from the day preparatory course; it is not calculated to cost you anything?—It is part of our work.

10777. It is not part of this balance-sheet you give?—Oh, yes.

10778. Then you receive a considerable grant in respect of it from the Department?—I am not aware that we do. I have given you the full grants, so far as I am aware, and have been informed, as to the amount we have been entitled to from the Department.

10779. Let us stick to the evening classes?—What I wish to point out is that if we could, after a preparatory course, hold out to the young men that they could specialise in the following year, then we would have some inducement to hold out to them to bring them to our evening classes.

10780. That difficulty and the education of the parents, and the young men to realise what is best for them, is one that has got to be met with in every town in the United Kingdom, and can only be got over slowly, so that there you are dealing with a general course, and the point is whether you have got facilities in the way of grants to be just a little ahead of the demand; there is no good establishing these schools if you have no pupils to go to them, and those who have fallen back from the sixth standard necessarily require a preparatory course, and it is no use putting them into specialised courses—you have such a preparatory course?—Yes.

10781. That preparatory course cannot get any grant from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; but, on the other hand, there are grants set forth offered by the Commissioners of National Education. Have you considered the possibility of earning grants in that way?—No; I don't think that came into our consideration at all.

10782. There are such grants, and that is part of the scheme of assistance of education that the continuation of day school work up to the fifth standard should be aided by grants from the National Board, and beyond the fifth standard work it should be aided by these grants. The National Board grants are not very great, but those that come on after the fifth standard stage are very considerable and definitely applicable to commercial or direct technical instruction?—I remember hearing the matter discussed on a former occasion, and I am aware that the Board are prepared to pay, but I don't think we could form a class sufficient to entitle us. It would mean reorganising our scheme. We would have to make a special class.

10783. I gather there is not a sufficient supply of pupils prepared for the specialised work, because a great many of them have dropped behind the fifth standard, and if that is the condition there must be enough to form a class?—That is not what I wish to

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imply. What I mean to say is this—that when I alluded to the young men who dropped behind the tech standard they are unwilling to begin again, and the inducement is not there for them to begin. If we could hold out an inducement to these young men to come and start these courses, and say to them—“Next year we will give you a course in your own particular trade.” We cannot do that now for want of funds.

10784. What I want to put is this—that the Department's grants and the revised scheme are so definitely stated and so liberal for just such trade classes as you allude to, that it would be quite certain if you had the pupils you could afford to teach them, and therefore it is a matter of organisation to get the institution brought sufficiently closely in contact with the tradesmen, whether employers, foremen, journeymen, or apprentices, to get the matter affixed; it takes time. May I add one thing more—that while we have a new school established, our school is very small, and I doubt if we had to reconstitute our school again we would have room to accommodate additional classes.

10785. I should hope it would not require reconstituting. I should mention that when the plans of our school were being drawn up we were entirely bound by the amount of money we could afford to spend on the building. Our hands were tied. On the first occasion when a plan was put before the Committee I myself recommended it was quite clear that when the matter was discussed the plan would not do at all; it was quite inadequate. That led to a further reconstituting of the scheme, and new plans were got up, and as much economy as we were allowed to practise was practised in the construction of the school, and we have now got a very nice school for its size, but for physics, practical chemistry, and theoretical chemistry we have only got one room.

10786. It is an excellent arrangement. It may be to your mind, but as far as we are concerned, the room is so inadequate that it is not excellent. If you think it is an excellent arrangement to know you can seat sixteen pupils in a school for theoretical and physical work, I don't know that it is a very large room.

10787. Do you attach more importance to physics as an item in the curriculum than you do to chemistry?—That is not my point. My point is as regarding the size of our school, and to show how cramped they are. I consider physics and chemistry should go together.

10788. I gather from you that chemistry and physics ought not to be the principal items of the curriculum afforded in the school, and therefore it ought not to be such a subject as ought to have a large number of pupils?—Yes; I alluded to it as having been given greater prominence to.

10789. You think still notwithstanding that contention that you ought to have accommodation for teaching it larger than the present class-room affords?—I think if you undertake to teach a thing you ought to have sufficient accommodation.

10790. Do you think the number of pupils likely to be properly qualified and to require it, would exceed the number the present class-room can accommodate?—If you take chemistry and physics as part of the preliminary course it is not a specialised course then. If you speak of chemistry as a specialised course or simply as a preparatory course it makes a great deal of difference. What I said was that chemistry as a specialised course in itself would not have a large attendance, but where you take chemistry as simply a preliminary course to other things the class is considerably larger.

10791. You think it ought to be included as part of the preliminary course in Waterford?—I do.

10792. And therefore it ought to have in that particular region a considerable number of pupils?—It ought.

10793. And the lecture-room cannot seat more than sixteen—the lecture-room, not the laboratory?—It is composite; the laboratory is so constructed that there are sixteen pupils at the benches. There is no room for sitting accommodation between the benches and part of the room not occupied by the benches is laid out in desks.

10794. Did the course for which the building was erected include chemistry and physics as part of the preliminary stages to be taken by a large number of pupils?—I have not the curriculum in my hand at

present. I don't think I have studied the curriculum sufficiently well to answer you upon it. It is only just out, and I have been pretty busy, and have not gone closely into it. My knowledge is more of the past than of the future.

10795. It is the part I want to get at, because if it were included as part of the preliminary course, and your plans were approved by the Department, it would indicate a considerable error of judgment on the part of the Department in accepting plans that did not permit of the instruction being given which was regarded as essentially part of the curriculum. If the curriculum which this school was calculated to provide for included physics and chemistry as part of the preliminary course, and therefore part of the course that would be attended by a large number of pupils, the Department must have committed a considerable error in judgment in accepting plans which provided accommodation only for sixteen at a time in the room?—My opinion of the matter is that there was an error of judgment on the part of the Department. The Department may not think so, but it is my opinion that there should be more accommodation, and I hold it from the first.

10796. On the main point, which is that of finance and the financing of classes for practical trade subjects, I rather gather that your Committee have not yet considered the possibilities of extension by the aid of grants available through these regulations upon attendance 1-5a; we could not; we have had no means of knowing that.

10797. It is set out in the regulations, and you may see how very greatly these grants may be increased. Speaking frankly, as one who has worked these grants, I think you will find that these regulations afford grants that will do pretty well all you want. I am very glad to hear it, but what I understand is that we will not be able to avail of many of these grants. Our headmaster was very anxious to avail of all of these grants, but I think he found he could not reach on them.

10798 (Mr. Mick).—Because the children are not of the 6th standard?—Because they are not of the 6th standard and for other reasons. I did not go into the matter with him. I am giving you a kind of outsider's general knowledge. I know that that work you are questioning me on is so technical that I would not like to make a statement that might mislead anybody afterwards.

10799 (Mr. O'Sullivan).—You are not prepared to say what are the particular difficulties that would prevent advantage being taken at once 1-5a; except as regards the 6th standard.

10800. The 5th standard difficulty is one that will be always with you and there must be provision made for getting them over that hurdle, so to speak. The crux of the situation is getting them to attend classes preparatory to the trade work, and making these classes pay their way?—Quite so.

10801. And the only provision for that is not from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, because it is no part of their function. It ought to be and is part of the function of the Commissioner of National Education, and they offer grants. I also gather that your Committee have not considered the possibility of getting assistance for that class from the National Board grants?—I will take a note of that.

10802. I don't say that they make sufficient provision. If your Committee had considered it, and found it was insufficient that would be an important item of information?—If you wish the information before I go I might find it.

(Mr. O'Sullivan).—It is no good having excellent grants under this if you cannot get the pupils up to it, and we want to find in these sufficient provision in the country to enable them to get up to it.

10803 (Mr. Mick).—Do you agree with the Bishop and Brother Thomas and the other witnesses yesterday that the main object of technical education in this country is to fit young people to earn wages?—Certainly.

10804. Is your idea at present that instruction cannot be given in your technical school to fit young men or young women to earn wages in employment?—In some respects.

10805. If there are not trade preparatory schools for giving instruction. Exactly.

10806. Having regard to the difficulties that exist in this country, what would your opinion be as regards

a proposal to pay an apprenticeship fee instead of taking a boy into your school—do pay an apprenticeship fee if the law permitted, to learn a trade, and from that step into employment until you can get your technical school straight of the technical schools on the other side of the water?—I don't think I would be in favour of that, for the following reason, that I am of opinion that apprenticeship, as I understand it now in the different trades, is so short that sufficient attention is not paid to the boys—I mean the length of time and the general hurry and scurry of business will not permit it.

10607. Would it be two or three years?—It is generally about three years.

10608. Say, for argument, three years?—I don't think three years is sufficient for a boy to grasp all the particulars of the trade in that time, and consequently that those who ought to instruct that boy have not time to do so; they are doing a particular job, and their master says—"You must have that done at a particular time." The apprentice does not see that work, or he won't take the trouble of showing it to the apprentice. The apprentice is sent to do some trivial job.

10609. That is an argument against learning one's business by apprenticeship?—So it is. At present there are certain trade rules in which the number of apprentices is limited to the size of the workshop, and, perhaps, to the class of boy presenting himself, possibly, say, a carpenter's son, should get preference before anybody else, so a boy who would come to our school for a preparatory course, and would be ready to drop into a trade, a carpenter's trade, cannot get to that trade simply because he is excluded by previous applicants, or not being a carpenter's son or something of that kind.

10610. Take the case of a carpenter's son—do you see any objection to give an apprenticeship to a carpenter's son?—What I would like to see done is this—I would like to see an apprentice to each and every trade compelled to put in an attendance at the school in a preparatory class, and then in a specialised class afterwards.

10611. That is as soon as you are able to give instruction. At present you cannot give it?—We can only give a preparatory course.

10612. Don't you say you are not able to give a preparatory course?—We have what we call preparatory training, but it is not specialised to anything. The boy is probably not fit to take a specialised course, but he would be fit for the preparatory course. What I would like to see would be this—that every

apprentice should be compelled to put in a certain period of attendance at the technical school—such period as may be necessary for teaching him all the technical details of his trade, and the master of that apprentice might be aided by some fee.

10613. That is the scheme for the future. I am talking of the present. Until your future hope can be realised, until you are able to give such instruction, what do you propose?—I think as that case as a tentative measure I would be in favour of your suggestion, because we would have an interest in a boy like that, and he would put in more attendance, and learn something besides, as a tentative measure pending some more useful method.

10614. You said just now you were in favour of a commercial school in Waterford?—Yes.

10615. I suppose the difficulty about that was want of money?—Want of money.

10616. How much does your penny in the pound produce in Waterford?—£350.

10617. I have it £208 in your return?—That is calculated exactly on the valuation of the town, but then there are deductions and remissions.

10618. Do you know that Rathfriland one penny produces £596?—But they spend a large amount on their schools.

10619. That would explain why it was possible in one place and not in another?—When I mention Rathfriland it is a purely commercial school, and all the funds are devoted to commercial work.

10620. The population of Waterford is up a great deal for the last ten years—since 1861. Can you tell me whether that is due to the inclusion of any fresh area or to the ordinary increase in the number of persons born and living here?—Fresh area; the town has been extended.

10621. Can you give me an idea of the number of people inhabiting the fresh area?—I could not; I could get it for you.

10622. The population in the Census of 1861 was 20,858, and in the recent Census it is 25,769. The Census of 1891 was a considerable drop on the Census of 1861—32,457—so that there was a tendency to drop. The question is whether the great jump up in 1901 is really only an apparent rise?—It is only apparent.

10623. You think the population of Waterford City proper is rather down for the last ten years?—I should think so. I have learned just now from the Borough Surveyor that the population of the new area is 7,160.

(Chairman).—That is rather more than the apparent increase.

Mr. James Conn, J.P., examined.

10624. (Chairman).—You are a Justice of the Peace and a member of the Wexford County Council, and, I suppose, of the Agricultural Committee?—Yes, sir.

10625. You have heard Mr. Hore's evidence given this morning. Do you agree with what Mr. Hore told us?—Yes; I corroborate what Mr. Hore said. I have scarcely anything to add to that. I might say that the Agricultural Committee would wish if there was money to spare from one source that they could apply it to another. They find a difficulty in last year.

10626. (Mr. Meale).—If you spent too little on cattle you would like to spend more on poultry?—Very often all laid out for cattle was not taken up; poultry it has been taken up. This year there was an application for money, and the Council were unanimous in granting it to an individual association, but we would not be allowed by the officials of the Department, although the County Council and the County Committee were unanimous in granting it.

10627. (Chairman).—Was that refused on the ground that they did not approve of the appropriation of the money?—It was not for the same purpose, it was for an industrial purpose.

10628. Not an agricultural purpose at all?—I look on it in that light. It was an Industrial Exhibition, and they wished to give £20 to it, but would not be allowed by the Department.

10629. Do you know on what ground?—They said this was not in any of the forms laid out under the scheme, although at the same time we granted to an official an increase of salary on the same occasion, but there seems to be no limit on that point at all, on every other thing there seemed to be a limit. Except

on the scheme for getting more sheep, bulls and horses, I don't think I have anything to add.

10630. You agree that you want more bulls?—Oh, yes. I am living in a barony where there were four parishes, and we had eight bulls.

10631. (Mr. Meale).—What is your barony?—The barony of Forth; I think they are looked on as the smallest parishes in the county.

10632. It is one of the most thickly populated baronies?—Yes; and we have a difficulty there, because we have small holders and don't keep as many cows, and you can hardly get a man to go to the expense of purchasing these bulls. I think there should be a different scheme for different counties.

10633. Have you made any suggestion on that to the Department?—I am not aware there were up to this.

10634. It would come from yourselves best. You know your own wants?—The Department did give in a good deal in that way, they gave premiums for three or four years first, and then only for one year.

10635. (Chairman).—Giving it for one year and then going on?—Yes, you get it for the same bull now.

10636. In this part of the county you say the tenants are small, and they have a difficulty in raising the money for purchasing bulls?—Yes, you have not man of means to bring a bull into the country, they are very poor now to what they were some time ago.

10637. What breeds of bulls do you have here?—Primarily Shorthorns, there is an odd one, a purebred bull, formerly we had 16 or 17 purebred bulls in that district.

10638. That was the voluntary association Mr. Hore referred to?—Yes, it was rather hard to keep it up.

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10830. Is that particular part of the county, just, I think, about a fourth, you say you had a larger supply of bulls than you have since?—Oh, in that particular spot, all the Owners did not take up the scheme we had before, and there were 17 in about half the Wexford district.

Mr. N. J. Farnham examined.

Mr. N. J.
Farnham.

10832. (Chairman).—You say, I think, the secretary of the County Wexford Committee of Agriculture?—Yes, sir, and also secretary of the County Council.

10833. I desire you will put in what was alluded to yesterday, the Memorandum dated 30th May, 1904, which was prepared by the Committee of Agriculture?—Yes, sir.

10834. Do you wish to go through that, or would you rather put your evidence in any other form?—I would like to make some general observations first. Bearing out what Mr. Hore said, there is a strong feeling in favour of the Council of Agriculture being elected; they could appoint four members who, with two others appointed by the Borough Councils and Urban Districts, would run the Department. They could elect their own chairman, and they would remain in office three years, for the life of the County Councils. The complaint is made that the Agricultural Board and Technical Instruction Board have no initiative, that so far as the Act of Parliament goes, it is perfectly within the power of the Department to take the advice of those Boards, in so much and so little as they like, it is only on the question of veto that the power of these Boards comes into operation.

10835. That is a very strong power?—I don't know if it is.

10836. (Mr. Nichols).—You don't know if it is in practice?—That is what I mean to say; it may look strong on paper, but I would not like to say it is strong in practice.

10837. (Mr. O'Grady).—You propose that the Council of Agriculture should be elected and should appoint the Agricultural Board, to consist of four members, that the Borough Councils and Urban Districts would appoint two others—these members, of course, would be paid—an Agricultural Board of six members?—Agricultural and Technical Instruction Board to manage the whole Department.

10838. To elect their own chairman?—Yes, to remain in office for three years.

10839. (Mr. Nichols).—He would be the Vice-President?—He would be the Vice-President.

10840. You would leave the Chief Secretary?—Yes, as President. As an official dealing with the officials of the Department, I think it only right that I should say something as to my relations with the officials. The relations between my committee and the officials on the Agricultural side have been most cordial, I have come in contact with the principal members of the staff on the Agricultural side and found them, without exception, obliging and courteous, most anxious to consult local opinion and to act on it when possible, well up to their work, and never sparing themselves to discharge it properly. I would like to specially mention Professor Campbell and Mr. Gordon, because I have had constant business relations with them. It would, in my opinion, be almost impossible to find two men better suited for the positions they occupy. I have discussed with them many schemes and many problems affecting schemes, not alone during office hours but far into the night. They are most enthusiastic about their work and most anxious for its success. I think it only right that one who knows these men so well should state distinctly how he considers they have managed their business. The live stock schemes have worked successfully in Wexford, but, in order to effectually help the scheme, more money is needed. You have heard from Mr. Hore and Mr. Codd what was voluntarily done with regard to bulls, and 27 bulls are not sufficient for Wexford.

10841. (Chairman).—Are they all taken up?—Yes, they are all taken up. With regard to the live stock schemes, of course the Department consult the County Committees every year, and ask them for suggestions, and I find, as year succeeds year, the live stock schemes are becoming more in conformity with the wishes of the local people. The question of extending bull premiums, that has been met, and also the in-

10842. Do you wish to say anything else?—I think not.

10843. You heard what Mr. Hore said about the agricultural stations?—I agree with that.

clusion of the half-bred stallion in the horse scheme, that was recommended by a great many County Committees, and it has been brought into the scheme for this year. I have no hesitation in stating that all rational agricultural instruction has been a success so far as it has gone. Take the very important item of artificial manures. Ten years ago the ordinary farmer put out phosphates for all crops, and although the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act was passed in 1893, it remained a dead letter until the Department had been a year at work. Now farmers take considerable care in selecting the artificial manures applicable to various crops, and a good deal of analysing of manures is carried on. As a matter of fact, the County Wexford Committee of Agriculture, assisted by the officers of the Department, presented, in the Police Courts of Liverpool, a manure merchant of that city for selling manure below guarantee, and secured a conviction. Savings under one sub-head of a scheme should be applied to some other sub-head, provided that the Committee could prove to the Department that the outlay was judicious. Suppose, for instance, that an agricultural instructor resigned after the covering estimate for the year had been agreed to. A sum of £500 had been set aside for this sub-head, but, as time went on, it was found impossible to secure the services of an instructor for the financial year. In the meantime there was a demand from some particular district for winter dairying. My committee consider that in cases such as this the Department might allow savings on one sub-head—agricultural instruction—to be applied to another sub-head—the winter-dairying scheme. If possible, the funds of agricultural and live stock schemes should be taken as a whole, instead of by compartments.

10844. Can you refer us to a case of the kind, have you applied to transfer your surplus and found you could not do it?

(Mr. O'Grady).—Have you a case like that which you gave as an illustration just now?—Not a case exactly on all four.

10845. Do you know of a case of the kind occurring anywhere?—I cannot say exactly.

10846. (Chairman).—It is a thing we are familiar with in general administration, transferring an unapplied surplus from one head to another?—I don't think it is possible to do it at present. We spend £300 for shows, we had plenty of money in the bank, and the Committee were most anxious to assist an Industrial Exhibition, it was an object worthy of assistance, the Department themselves will admit that, but there was no possibility of expending any further money than the £300. That won't exactly illustrate the case I give you here, but it is something analogous.

10847. (Mr. O'Grady).—How had the surplus arisen?—Out of the savings on the first scheme. Our arrangement with the Department on the Agricultural side is that they contribute five-ninths of our expenditure, and when the movement was in its infancy it was impossible to lay out the whole of the money we had.

10848. (Mr. Nichols).—Savings from former years?—Yes, from the sale; we did not save anything from the Department, because they only contributed on the expenditure.

10849. (Mr. O'Grady).—Was there any reason why, in proposing to use their savings from a former year, you did not propose to use them for an extension of the live stock scheme?—An Inspector from the Department comes down and settles the scheme every year; there have been questions about the Live Stock scheme being increased, but the Inspector from the Department says, "We cannot do it, that is the most money we can afford"; the Committee are not such fools as to lay out their own money if they cannot get the five-ninths grant from the Department.

10850. You did not propose to use that saving for live stock purposes?—We wanted to increase the

live stock scheme, but did not make a definite proposal that the savings should be taken.

10890. Your only proposal to use the savings was for an industrial show?—We asked the Department to allow us to spend £20, and they to contribute five-ninths of it; but we think there should be something in the scheme to allow County Committees to do this if they wish, provided the outlay was judicious.

10891. You did not ask it in this case?—We did not. In addition to the ordinary schemes, there is a scheme especially that I expect great things from, that is in the agricultural classes scheme. This year we established two agricultural classes, one started yesterday with an attendance of 21, and another will start on Thursday next with 14 or 15; this is the third year it has worked in the county, and it has worked extremely well.

10892. (Chairman).—Will you tell us a little about that, how it is constituted?—That will bring me to another subject, I am afraid I do not make myself very clear. It is financed partly from the Department and partly from the joint fund. The Department gives you a teacher, and they pay all his salary, we pay four-ninths of all the rest of the expenses. In order to induce the boys to attend, no matter where he comes from, if he comes from only twenty yards away, he will get his dinner, and every boy who comes from three miles outside the radius gets a penny a mile for a bicycle, or his railway fare if he comes by railway.

10893. Are these held in the day time?—Yes, for five hours a day.

10894. (Mr. O'Connell).—For how many weeks?—From now to the end of February, three days a week in one centre and three days in another; each boy is there for three days a week for five hours.

10895. (Chairman).—You started one with 21 boys yesterday?—And start another on Thursday with 14. That brings me to rather another subject. We could get a great many more only, simple as the preliminary examination was, we found some of them not able to pass it. I must say the examination was not a very difficult one, but whatever is wrong with the primary school system in Ireland, the results certainly are very bad. What we think—the County Committee and County Council—about education, particularly primary education, is that, after all, in Ireland, agriculture is our great industry, and some attempt should be made in rural schools to make the course of study for boys and girls to run on agricultural lines. They should if possible, get some instruction that would bear on their business—I don't say of a specialised or technical character—that something should be done to interest them in the country, teach them some sort of nature study anyhow. I saw a paragraph in a paper on Saturday night, *Lloyd's Weekly News*, and the Secretary of the Cornwall Education Committee has issued a circular and says, "The Committee is anxious that the instruction in rural schools should be more closely identified with rural interests, rural pursuits and rural phenomena, and it is thought that a school garden will be a valuable accessory towards this object." We think something should be done in rural schools to make the boys interested in agriculture, but if you made a proposal to send the Agricultural Instructor, if he had any spare time, or your Horticultural Instructor, to National schools they would not be allowed inside. We look on the matter more or less from the point of view of the country districts, as our administration is entirely confined to rural areas. The only towns we have of importance connected with the scheme is Gort. Ennisvaughan, New Ross, and Wexford have all independent schemes. The technical instruction scheme in Wexford County is confined to manual instruction, domestic economy, and scholarships for boys and girls, and, as I explained, we have a provision in the scheme to lend our teachers of manual instruction and domestic economy to the Urban Committees for a consideration. It is a very peculiar arrangement.

10896. (Mr. O'Connell).—Urban Committees of Technical Instruction?—Yes, and they pay us half of two-thirds for the number of hours actually engaged in teaching, but the drawback in the country with regard to technical instruction is the lack of suitable buildings. It is almost impossible in a country district to get any sort of disused house or old school house to carry out the instruction.

10897. That is instruction in the daytime?—Yes, for classes of domestic economy and manual instruction, or even for the evening classes. In Wexford we

were fairly fortunate, because up to the present we did get local committees to repair some four or five old schools, and with a grant from the joint fund we succeeded in having them fitted up as fair class rooms. Where we have these agricultural classes one is in a new hall erected by the people of the locality, and to that we gave a grant of £20 from the joint fund of technical instruction, and in the other case we gave a smaller grant, £10, to have the place fitted up. There are a great many districts in which you could have manual instruction and domestic economy carried on if you had buildings.

10898. Is domestic economy taught in any of the elementary day schools?—I don't believe it is; the only thing I see of technical instruction was a very nice little book case in which there are some instruments connected with chemistry, but I don't know whether they are ever used.

10899. Your difficulty is in getting the school authorities to lend schools?—You cannot get them to lend the schools to you for domestic economy or manual instruction, and there is no place to put your paraphernalia. I think it was a great mistake to put any sort of instruction in the country districts where there are no towns, in charge of technical instruction branches, because I think everybody will be prepared to admit that manual instruction is a very useful thing for boys in the country to know, but we hold to teach them agriculture is far more important. Manual instruction is an excellent thing for towns, but it is not at all a bad thing for the country, but it is not quite so necessary as in the urban centres.

10900. Is your difficulty that it is put under the technical branch of your Committee?—No; the technical branch of the Department.

10901. (Chairman).—Do you think that manual instruction in country districts is superfluous?—I do not. At present you can only do a limited amount of instruction—first of all, because you have not the buildings, and next you have to create a little more interest than we have at present; but you want, first of all, to do your best for agriculture before you come on to manual instruction. If you had a second itinerant instructor in agriculture who would take classes in the afternoon you would do more good for country districts than you would by only having manual instruction.

10902. (Mr. O'Connell).—That might be remedied or altered without a transfer of manual instruction to the agricultural branch. You mean the way in which the money is available in the district is affected by the fact that there are two branches looking after education?—I believe myself that the officials of the agricultural side understand the conditions in rural districts better than the technical instruction officials. I have been in sharp disagreement myself, and so have my Committee with the Department in connection with the technical instruction side. Mr. Ennis will give you evidence on that; but I have always found Mr. Fletcher and his inspectors very courteous and nice, although we stood up for our own side as well as we could. I say the agricultural side will understand what suits country districts much better than the officials of the technical instruction side. Now, speaking as an official, there is the question of finance. This is not with regard to money, but to the manner in which the accounts are made up. Most Government bodies will make up their accounts to the 31st of March and 30th of September, but for the technical instruction side you have to make up your accounts for what they call the school year. I happen to be the honorary secretary of the County Secretaries' Association for Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and I know there is a very general opinion that it would be much wiser if all the accounts of the Department were managed by the one official, aggregated, so to speak, entirely from agriculture and technical instruction, and let there be dealt with as accounts of the branches, and all closed with the financial half-year, as the Local Government Board ask you to close up your county abstracts. The agricultural side is perfectly satisfied to close their accounts on the 31st of March and 30th September.

10903. (Mr. Mitchell).—Do you happen to know the reason of that?—That there is the question of the school year, I understand.

10904. (Mr. O'Connell).—Would it not be that the schools found it inconvenient to split up their accounts in the middle of the session. Their payments

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would be by the session, and if they were called upon to render their accounts to the list of March that would include a lot of one session and a lot of the next—No matter; is it not all a running account. For the agricultural side it is one thing, and for the technical side it is another. It is something with regard to the school session which closes in July. What is the necessity of tying us down to the school session. Let either of them make a change, and have the accounts closed at the same time.

10874. I am not contradicting your view in the least. I merely put it that probably the school authorities prefer to have their accounts run with their engagements. Their engagements run with the session—I don't see what difference it really makes to them in practice. I am going to suggest a very novel thing—I don't know whether it is very wise. I think the Department want another official, and that is a good journalist. They produce schemes in leaflets, and send them out all over the country. A great many of them find their way into the waste-paper basket, and a good many sent to the newspapers meet the same fate. If you send a newspaper editor seven or eight or nine pages of a closely-printed leaflet he is not going to trouble himself unless he happens to be particularly interested in the subject to extract 60 or 70 lines of nice journalism. We all know these patent medicine advertisements—"Gallant Rescue" or "The Bely on the Line," and you never see the sting of it until you come to the last two or three lines, when you come to the advertisement. If the Department had a man who could write something like that you would not have so much ignorance about the leaflets as there is at present. I have circulated them over and over again, and yet you find some people that you think should know every line of them have either forgotten about them or have never seen them. Then there was the question of organisation. I think Mr. Rice expressed the view of the County Wexford with regard to that matter—that is, the organisation of agriculture. Nobody wishes to say anything as to the work which has been done by the Irish Organisation Society, but there is certainly a very strong feeling in my county against handing over any money from the Department to a body over which there is absolutely no control.

10875. (Mr. Michel).—Are you aware that recently Professor Campbell and one of the inspectors has been put on the Council of the Agricultural Organisation Society?—I think I did read something about that, but that would not meet the objection. If you had Professor Campbell and all the rest of his assistants managing it I think it would be far better. With regard to organisation, what has happened in my county has been this—there have been four or five farmers' associations established. There is one in particular that I happen to have the rules of, and can hand in. I think it would be better if the Department endeavored to form farmers' societies, and let them proceed on the lines of least resistance first.

10876. Not competing with trade interests?—You might have to do something of that, but as little as possible. I think that is the rock on which the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society split in the County Wexford that they entered into general trading, and created a lot of enemies.

10877. (Chairman).—This, that you have put into my hand does not quite cover the ground which the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society covers—I say that should be preliminary, you should begin there.

10878. It seems exceedingly good—I know myself that that Society is doing excellent work.

10879. As I understand it, the work of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society is to promote co-operation among farmers and to facilitate the outlets for produce—I say if the county has a good agricultural instructor he will do that equally well and far better than officials from Dublin who know little about the county. Our agricultural instructor has gone to great pains to establish these associations, and so far as they have gone they have done excellent work, some of them join in with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and get their needs and manner from them, others do not.

10880. Your point is that the work of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society might very well be amalgamated with the Department and carried on

by responsible officials of the Department.—That is it exactly. There are two questions that my committee have often discussed, and that is the question of markets and railway facilities. My committee hold it will be impossible to develop agriculture in Ireland unless some attempt is made to cheapen railway facilities, and my County Council some time ago passed a resolution in favour of railways being taken over either by the County Council or the State. We have to compete with people whose produce is carried at extremely low rates by subsidised State railways. Until we have cheaper transit the railways will kill agriculture. There is the question of markets. We have an important line of railway just opened, which passes right through the county, and, on the other hand, we have a steamship service from Rosslare to Fishguard. There are a good many towns in South Wales that we think we could supply on far more favourable terms than any other county in Ireland, and it is the belief of my Council that the Department might help us in getting into touch with the other side and tell us something about the markets.

10881. The Department do it as a matter of fact, do they not, they have an official whose work is of that kind?—I have not seen any thing of it. On the point of the agricultural classes that Mr. Rice referred to, the establishment of agricultural stations, we are in negotiations with the Department on that matter, and I think there is fair hope that we may succeed in obtaining an agricultural station for boys, but, in the meantime the Department have established a school of rural domestic economy at Bannagran, and it will be open in the middle of the month. It is exactly the sort of instruction that my committee think should be given on a more elementary scale to girls in National schools. We consider that there is a lot too much book work, and not enough practical work in National schools.

10882. (Mr. O'Brien).—Have you done anything to improve that on the managers of National schools in the county?—We have not.

10883. They have that very largely in their own hands, the Commissioners of National Education offer grants for it, but if you don't get local people to take it up and press it—I know so far as we are concerned we believe the Commissioners of National Education are an absolutely hopeless body, and it is a perfect waste of time to approach them.

10884. You don't think the efforts they make by offering grants to encourage such instruction in National schools are sufficient to induce the managers to establish such schools?—I don't say that, but we had so little faith in the whole administration. Twenty years ago you will see in their Report that they went about to establish school gardens for National schools; we have been waiting for the school gardens ever since.

10885. How far do you think the managers of the local schools would welcome such co-operation as you indicate between your official and their staff so as to extend the programme of instruction in National schools?—I think, universally; I think I might say for every manager I know in the country districts they would be only too glad to make some arrangement for our teachers to go there.

10886. The difficulty is at present that they cannot see their way to making such a payment to you for the services of your teachers as would justify you in letting your teachers do it—I don't know that it is that. I believe that so far as the rules and regulations of the National Board are concerned they would not allow any outside teacher to go in there.

10887. They allow pupils to go from the National school to places where they will receive instruction?—Yes, but where is it, we have no buildings.

10888. There are places where you do have buildings?—Any agricultural instruction we have carried on at present has been at night.

10889. No, but domestic economy?—It has been taught in a few centres. I think if you have the regulations of the Department there you will find that they won't allow any child in school hours to attend a domestic economy class. Any inspector from the technical instruction side will tell you that no child will be allowed to attend a domestic economy class or manual instruction class during the school hours.

10090. (Chairman).—Do you mean your Department or the National Board?—I cannot say which makes the regulations.

10091. (Mr. O'Connell).—The regulations of the National Board permit scholars to be sent out of the school during hours that will be counted as school hours (reads rule).—I think you will find that the Inspector of the Department will tell you, whether they have made the rule or the Department has made the rule, I don't know, that they will not allow any child to be put on the register for attendance during the school hours, for domestic economy or manual instruction.

10092. What they are bound to go by is the Act of Parliament, which prevents technical instruction money being spent for the instruction of elementary school children, and, as the class that you are referring to now is a class paid for by that money, it could not include elementary school children, but that does not prevent your arranging with the managers of National schools for them to send their pupil to the domestic economy place, or any place else for the matter of that, by themselves for instruction and paying for that instruction?—It is not very easy to get a sufficient class in a small centre that will keep a girl going. In a small country school with only forty pupils how are you going to get twenty children that would be able to avail of instruction, or take advantage of it, and I think it would be only waste of time to send an instructor for a class of four or five.

10093. Supposing there was a school big enough to supply eight or ten girls who could take instruction in laundry or cookery?—What I cannot find out is why don't they allow them to go with the other girls and make a composite class.

10094. The difficulty is that the Act of Parliament prevents it?—They can go by themselves, but not when they join up with somebody else.

10095. No, they would have to pay in any case; have you made a proposal to the Department of Agriculture suggesting that you should allow these girls to come to your classes, they paying so that there was no technical instruction money expended in respect of their teaching?—We have not, because there would not be any payment; where was the money to come from?

10096. It would come from the managers of the National schools?—We have not made any such proposal.

10097. Is that the difficulty?—I don't think it is; you must recollect I have never seen these regulations before, these are hidden away in some of the archives.

10098. I am not concerned about that, what I want

to get from you, who know the country, is what is the real difficulty that would have to be got over in order that this thing should be put right. According to the existing regulations it is not possible for you to admit these girls unless you received an adequate payment for them, that payment must come from somebody, that somebody must be the managers of the National school, and all they would get for it is that they can include that time as time in respect of which they can get their grants, do you think it is a workable arrangement?—If you tell me what the payment is likely to be, I might answer.

10099. You could tell that better than I, because it would have to be such a payment that you could say, "We are receiving so much from these people that the education of these girls has formed no charge against the technical instruction money"—That means that you charge for the time the instructor would devote to these girls, her salary, and all the class materials.

10100. Practically that?—Then, it is impossible, the payment would be too much; of course, you say it is the Act of Parliament. Why should you insist on making the manager pay the total amount, he is not going to derive any personal advantage out of it; why not try and provide education for these people at as cheap a rate as possible, not to insist on the last pound of flesh from the manager?

10101. That is what I wanted to get at, what would be the method of doing it?—I would agree if the payment were some small thing, and were not prohibitive, but if you charge up to the hilt, I say the scheme could not work.

10102. There are two things, either the Act of Parliament would have to be altered, which says, at present, technical instruction shall not include any instruction given in elementary schools, or the other thing is that if that has to be secured by making an adequate payment, your point is that the payment should be so far recovered by the Commissioners of National Education as to make it a possible one?—Yes, if any grant could be obtained from the Commissioners of National Education I would not mind if the local people had to bear some of it, and if any grant could be obtained I think it would work all right in my country. I think it is a great mistake to take people of eighteen and twenty, or twenty-five or thirty years of age, and try to teach them these things that they should have been started at when they were eight or nine or ten.

10103. I quite agree with you; it is a question then if the Act of Parliament remains what grants would be made in respect of that work by the Commissioners?—Yes; I don't think there is anything more I wish to say.

Mr. F. HENRY examined.

10104. (Chairman).—Will you just give your position in the Department of Agriculture?—I am on the clerical staff, and deal principally with the County Schools at the agricultural side.

10105. You have heard the evidence given about the impossibility of applying the surplus under one head to another head, would you give any explanation of that that you can?—I think the Department always have an understanding with the Committees at the time the money is being provided for the schemes that under no circumstances will the money set aside for a particular scheme ever be exceeded. On that particular programme Mr. Frielis mentioned—the Schemes to Show—it provides for subsidies to Agricultural and Industrial Shows. The Welfare Committee set aside, I think it was £300, and the Department asked the Committee to divide it amongst the different shows. The Committee divided it amongst agricultural shows only, and then proceeded to give £20 to an Industrial Show, that is, making £20 in excess of what they undertook not to exceed. The Department said, as far as I recollect, that they might give the £20 to an industrial exhibition, but that they would have to reduce the grants to the Agricultural Shows to £280.

10106. So as to bring it within the £300?—Yes; I think the Committee declined, and the matter dropped.

10107. Supposing there had been £20 over, and they had only expended £280 on agricultural shows, could they have applied the balance to any other head of the schemes?—They could not have applied it to any other scheme, such as live stock, without increasing the amounts which they undertook they would not exceed, and it is not done.

10108. But in this particular case, I understand that the objection was that it exceeded the £300?—Yes, which the Committee had originally allocated, and the Department approved and made provision for, and there was really an £20 available for the scheme.

10109. (Mr. Frielis).—A case, I suppose, often arises that there is a vacancy in some office during the financial year, that an instructorship becomes vacant?—Yes.

10110. And there would be a certain amount of money unexpended that was voted and sanctioned?—That often happens.

10111. Is there any method for utilizing that unexpended sum on some other purpose under the scheme if the local body could not get the instructor immediately?—If there is any other scheme that has not been adopted.

10112. I mean a scheme definitely sanctioned?—There is money enough for that scheme to carry it out so that it is not necessary to expend the saving.

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Mr. N. J. Frielis.

Mr. F. Henry.

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Mr. Thomas
Power.

Mr. Thomas Power, Dungarvan, examined.

10013. (Chairman).—I think you are a member of the Waterford County Council?—Yes, sir; and a member of the County Committee of Technical Education. I wish to state that I got notification on Saturday morning only that I was to attend here, so that I have not gone into the question in a comprehensive manner, but I have read the written evidence presented by our Secretary, Mr. Boyle, and I thoroughly agree with what he has stated. But I wish to say, as a member of the Committee, and taking an interest in the fishing industry, our county having a large seaboard, that we have got considerable assistance from the Department in the discharge of our functions. For instance, the Ring fishermen and others along the coast were very much harassed by the piracy of the steam trawlers, but owing to the intervention of the Department's boat, the "Hedge," that has been very much checked, in fact, several raids have been made, and several boats captured and heavy fines imposed, and we are not troubled so much in that way now. I would also wish to state that in connection with the piers and harbours, we took the work up as a County Committee, we tackled the question in our county, they having been much neglected in the past, and we built a pier at Ardara village, the Department gave us £1,000, we contributed £1,500 ourselves, and got £1,000 from the Board of Works, and subsequently the Department has added to that a further sum of £200; we contributed ourselves £166 13s. 4d.

10014. (Mr. Michel).—Is it a good work?—It is not regarded as completed; it will require a further extension in order to make it fulfil its functions properly, and I am certain the question will be taken up again, and I hope the Department will give assistance to the local effort in making it a success—it is very badly wanted.

10015. Does it at present only serve small boats?—Small boats, it is not a protection for large fishing boats. I also wish to state that we were very liberally treated by the Department with regard to the pier at Tramore; we got £2,500, but we expended ourselves a similar sum, and in Ballinagall pier there was very great obstruction there a few years ago, the silt was heaped up, and it was almost impossible for boats to come in; it cost £275, and they paid one-half, and we were very well pleased with the liberal way we were treated.

10016. You seem to have done very well here!—I think we have done more than any other county in Ireland under that head; we took up the question warmly.

10017. And you voted your own money pound for pound?—Yes, I think we set an example to the county in that way.

10018. By whom were the works carried out?—The County Surveyor was called in to give the specification, but Mr. Green was called in, and the engineering work was done by the Department, under Mr. Oliver.

10019. Did the County Surveyor make the plans?—He made the original plans.

10020. I mean the plans that were carried out?—They were altered somewhat and new plans made. One of the great difficulties we have with regard to our itinerant instructors and manual instructors is the want of buildings. I wish to agree with the evidence that has been given by Mr. Friel, we are very much hampered and there is a lot of money wasted and valuable time owing to the want of suitable buildings; sometime ago I brought the question forward myself in Dublin at the General Council, and I might be permitted to make a suggestion which I think ought to be taken up by the Government or Parliament. In our county, a comparatively small county, we have eleven Petty Sessions houses, those houses are hermetically closed for twenty-nine to thirty days in the month, I think that is a great waste.

10021. You have only sessions once a month on an average?—Yes, that should not be tolerated at all; we want to utilise the buildings; it is a waste that would not be tolerated in any well-governed country.

10022. They are your own property?—In this way, that we rent them, and they are rented for a number of years, and are bought long ago by the rent, but the County Council has no power to acquire them by purchase, and I think steps ought to be taken to put them in the possession of the County Council.

10023. You maintain them out of the county rates?—Yes, and they are a disgrace to the county and a disgrace to civilisation, they are unoccupied and dusty and dingy and out of repair. I say they ought to be thrown open, bought over by the authority, and with the assistance of the Department's money; they ought to be enlarged and improved so that they could be utilised for the general purposes of the county.

10024. (Mr. Michel).—To whom do they belong?—Private owners.

10025. (Mr. Michel).—Practically they belong to the county, they have a long lease of them, and they pay the rent and the caretaker, and maintain the buildings?—They do, and they are so grossly neglected that I know in one case where the very moment the magistrates go out and close the door the caretaker utilises the place as a storeroom for masts and cables, that ought not to be tolerated at all.

10026. (Chairman).—Are they used for County Courts, too?—Petty Sessions; I am speaking of the rural houses. The contrast between the rural Petty Sessions house and Courthouse is that the Court-houses are often utilised for general purposes, for meetings of the County Council and County Technical Committees.

10027. (Mr. Michel).—Concerts?—Concerts and everything, playing Bridge sometimes. I think that would be the most economical way, inasmuch as the chief centres of instruction are where those Sessions houses are situated, and for a poor country like ours, with a limited amount of resources, it would be a practical way of getting suitable buildings. I agree with a lot of the evidence already given as regards the general working of the schemes. Our great want is a want of funds, but that is not the fault of the Department. I also agree with what has been said with regard to the railways, they ought to be nationalised. I have an industry myself, and I have paid within the last month 25s. 9d. a ton for raw material from Bagnalstown.

10028. What is your industry?—A cycle maker; I have paid 80s. 9d. a ton for apples from Bagnalstown, County Carlow, and I have to pay almost a similar amount for the manufactured product, that is, to pay double to the same company.

10029. (Chairman).—What is the distance?—About sixty miles. I am appointed to give evidence before the Railway Commission, and I need not go into the matter here. I cannot say a kind word of the railway companies, they are a scandal. One little item of gross neglect came under my notice yesterday. I got a consignment of fruit from Clonmel; the man from whom I purchased the stuff relied on the railway weights, they were arrived at by the rule of thumb; his claim on me was for 3 tons 1 cwt.; I weighed the goods accurately, and found they were 2½ cwt. in excess, and I would have paid that only I checked the weights myself.

10030. (Mr. Michel).—The porters of the company could not have taken a cert. of apples in the time!—They were not taken at all; there was one sack taken up and weighed, and an average taken on that. In connection with the rural schools, I think there ought to be experimental plots. I have nothing further to say, but I wish to emphasise and approve of the suggestion made by the gentleman opposite with regard to apprenticeship fees for boys; I think if that were done in this country it would be the best stroke of business achieved for years. A few months ago a widow asked me to employ a son of hers about fifteen years of age, who had a pretty good education; I thought it a shame to send him at labouring work, and I suggested getting him apprenticed, but when I took him to the local coach-builder at Dungarvan, he said he could not afford to take the boy without a fee; the mother had no fee to give him, and the boy is still idle. It would be a most popular thing if well-conducted boys who had acquired a fair primary or secondary education could be apprenticed to decent establishments, their families are so poor, especially in the case of orphans, that they cannot afford to pay a penny; sometimes when they are taken apprentices that way they are obliged to do manual work, which is against them acquiring a proper knowledge of their business, when they are taken at a nominal sum or without a fee, which sometimes

happen, the boys have to do manual work instead of learning their business, if a fee was paid there would be a check over it.

10031. (Chairman).—Is the apprenticeship system largely at work in Ireland?—Oh, yes.

10032. (Mr. Micks).—Considering the small amount of employment—considering the small amount of employment—are apprentices in every work, but there is a great difficulty in getting decent boys, whose parents are poor or dead, into these establishments, and employers cannot afford to take them without a fee in a great many cases, especially in important works, like coach-factories and other works of that kind.

10033. (Mr. O'Connell).—Do you mean it is customary for an apprentice to pay a fee to his employer as well?—I do, in some places where works are important, for an important coach-factory the boys are expected to pay a fee.

10034. About what amount?—I knew one case where a boy's parents had to pay a £25 fee and another £15.

10035. What was the length of the apprenticeship?—This was a coach-building establishment, four or five years, it all depends on the fee; if there is a certain fee paid the years' apprenticeship is reduced somewhat; if there is no fee given the years' apprenticeship is added to somewhat, often six years.

10036. Is it not quite exceptional for boys to pay fees with a view to having their apprenticeship shortened?—I say it is the custom, but where boys pay no fees they find a difficulty in being taken as apprentices in some establishments.

10037. The payment of an apprentice fee to get a boy entered as an apprentice in an establishment is quite exceptional in England or Scotland now?—It is not exceptional here.

10038. If a boy pays a fee it is in order to secure something that is unusual in the matter of privilege, either to have his apprenticeship considerably shortened, and in respect of that to get better work almost from the beginning than he otherwise would get, or to have a larger proportion of his time than normal in some particular sections of the work?—Yes, I certainly say it would be a great acquisition for boys in general to have an apprentice fee paid for them.

10039. What I want to get at is what is the position at the present moment?—In some trades the boys are taken without a fee; for instance, in the bakery trade, in some instances he is taken without a fee, in other cases he pays a fee to have the time shortened. In any of the big shops in Dublin, Cork, or Waterford, big coach-factory or important work of that kind there is a great difficulty, I understand, in getting a boy in without a substantial fee.

10040. A fee of £15 or £25?—Yes.

10041. In respect of that fee, is the wage paid to the apprentice any higher than it otherwise would be?—In some cases the boys are indoor; of course it is taken into account whether he receives a wage the first year, practically they receive no wages the first year, and something nominal the second year, outdoor they are allowed something nominal. I know cases where the boys outdoor they are allowed about two shillings a week the first year, that is increased to four shillings or five shillings the second year, and so on.

10042. In the case of the coach-builder, was that an indoor apprentice?—No, it was to be an outdoor fee.

10043. With carpenters and engineers, do you think it is customary to require a fee for outdoor apprentices?—I do; in other trades, carpentry or masonry, an ordinary boy has no chance where a tradesman has sons to apprentice. I am referring to the general labourers' sons in towns and villages; it has come under my notice the difficulty they have in acquiring a trade, and I would like to see the suggestion carried out.

10044. I would like to get exactly what that means, because the difficulty generally with a labourer who wants to get his son into a trade takes the form of a difficulty of maintaining him during the years of apprenticeship when he is getting but a very small wage, whereas the same boy, if he were doing labouring work, would be getting eight shillings or ten shillings; it is generally thought it is that that deters the labourer from putting his boy to be an apprentice?—It is one of the difficulties.

10045. I understand from you that that difficulty is quite minor—it is the general difficulty of having to pay an apprentice fee?—Yes, it would make it easier for the boy if an apprentice fee was paid for a time, and there would be a better check on his employer; he would not be asked to do work outside the scope of his trade.

10046. (Mr. Micks).—And if a local body were paying the apprentice fee they would have a right to inspect the progress of the boy's education?—Quite so; we have no grievances against the Department; our only complaint is that the Department have not enough funds. We would like to see the re-education of the country go on immediately, but there is money required for that. The home-breeding scheme is a success in our county. I saw a correspondent the other day contributed an article to the Dublin papers saying that the Department was neglecting the question of the spraying potatoes; I cannot agree with that, because the potatoes in our county have been generally sprayed in the last twelve months, and it has become very popular and the people generally have taken more interest in doing the best they can in agricultural pursuits. Fruit-growing is very much taken up in our county; the Department has established twenty fruit plots; we would like to see forty more added; they are a great success, and fruit-growers generally are taking a great interest in caring their fruit; prior to this they were more inclined to cut down the trees; now they save them and look after them owing to the instruction given by the Department's instructors. Our County Committee does not agree with all the adverse criticism that has been indulged in from time to time; that is all I wish to say.

10047. How many horticultural instructors have you in your county?—One.

10048. Not the same man all through?—No; we had a change.

10049. Was there any difficulty contingent on that change?—Not as regards the action of the Committee; they dealt with the Committee in a business-like way.

10050. The Committee were in favour of the change?—It was the Committee caused the change; the blame was endeavoured to be cast on the Department, but it was the Committee themselves caused the change.

10051. Did the Committee give a testimonial or speak highly of the services of this gentleman who had been acting as horticultural instructor?—The Committee did not, but the County Council, I think, gave a formal recommendation; the man who was removed was a decent man, but appeared not very suitable for the business for which he was appointed, and he was only provisionally appointed for six months; the Committee thought they could do better and they made a change.

10052. There was some examination held?—There was an examination held in Dublin, and it appears the instructor was not able to pass it, and therefore the Committee proceeded to appoint a new man; that was all the action of the Committee; I say as a member of the Committee it was purely and entirely the action of the Committee.

10053. And the local feeling was entirely in favour of any action the Department did take to confirm the action of the Committee?—Yes. Of course you have a crowd here and there stepping in and trying to make capital.

10054. I hope the rider business is progressing satisfactorily?—Oh, it is; I have bought 500 or 600 tons of fruit all over Munster and Leinster, and I think if I had not happened to be engaged in the business, without being agricultural, a great deal of that would have gone to waste this year, as it did in previous years.

10055. Did the Department assist you in starting that industry?—They gave expert assistance.

10056. Confined to that?—Yes.

10057. They did not provide machinery?—No; I provided all the capital myself; they did just as they would in the case of an agricultural holding—they gave expert advice.

10058. They happened to have an expert rider-maker on their staff?—Yes, he was of great value indeed, and I got all the assistance and advice he could give me, and I am thankful for it; beyond that I had to do everything myself.

10059. (Mr. O'Connell).—That, I suppose, you consider quite fair?—Yes, I would not expect any more; I like to be reasonable in all things.

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Mr. Thomas
Twinn.

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Mr. Thomas
Power.

10960. (Chairman).—If other sides-makers get State assistance would you think that fair?—I would not object.

10961. If they got similar assistance to yours, but if they got direct financial assistance in the supplying of machinery?—I would have a grievance. There is another man in the North who has been treated just as I have been treated with expert advice and help,

but outside that I would have a grievance if a shed institution was started, and was supplied with machinery.

10962. If they had State aid and you had not. Yes; I would consider that interfering with an industry got up by my own capital.

10963. (Mr. Sticks).—If they interfered with your trade?—I would.

Captain CONWAY, J.R., Passage East, examined.

Captain Conway, J.R. 10964. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Borough Committee?—No, of the Waterford County Council.

10965. For Waterford?—I have been returned from the eastern part of the county near Waterford; the Council assemblies in Dungarven; they have an East and West County Waterford; I belong to the East, seven miles from Waterford.

10966. You have heard a good deal of the evidence that has been given here?—I heard a good deal, and I was very much interested. I must say, in all the evidence that I have heard, and fully approve of what I have heard since I came into the room.

10967. Then I cannot do better than ask you what you wish to say on your own account?—First, I would observe that I have been connected with the Department, being a member of the Council, that is the Agricultural Council, from the beginning, and also a member of the County Waterford Committee. I have taken an interest in the technical scheme submitted by the Department, and I have much pleasure in adding my approval of the manner in which this educational matter has been placed in working order. At the beginning when the Department was established there was a great deal of trouble and so on in going into all the technical matters that they had to grapple into; however, that is all finished and done with. The prime schemes for the improvement of the breed of cattle, horses, sheep and pigs, and for instruction in horticulture must be of infinite benefit to all classes. The itinerant instruction, to my mind, is not up-to-date, or to my idea as to what should be done; I speak for the rural districts, as to what should be done to educate the people. The lectures delivered from district to district might be of benefit if you had a sufficiently educated audience to follow the substance of the lecture and to adopt the same in practice. I do not wish to force my ideas on the members of the Commission, but will state that I am more in accord with tuition practically laid before the agricultural classes, who, no doubt, want an enlightenment in the up-to-date cultivation and management of farms. This, I think, might be acquired by experimental plots, one or more in each county in Ireland, a debtor and creditor account to be kept showing what profit could be made by application and energy combined with a scientific knowledge applicable to agriculture.

10968. You say by experimental plots; I rather gather that you mean it to be on rather a large scale—more on the scale of a small farm?—When first the Agricultural Department was established they sent out a circular stating that there was £10,000 allotted to each province in Ireland, that was £20,000 available for the purpose of establishing these schools of instruction and experimental plots. I was deputed by the County Council of Waterford to get into communication with the different counties of Munster; I got into communication; there were delegates appointed by each County Council in Munster to meet at the Junction, a central part of Munster, before the first meeting of the Agricultural Council in Dublin, but I unfortunately failed; I could not get them to do it, and the idea of a school of instruction, an experimental school, one in each county in Munster, was given up, and the itinerant scheme was taken up by the Department in place.

10969. If a debtor and creditor account is kept, that seems to imply that it would be done on a sufficiently large scale to show what profit could be made by proper cultivation?—I am strongly of opinion that if you go into commercial business, or if a profit, and I think it would be a great piece of makes a profit, and I think it would be a great piece of instruction if such a school or such agricultural instruction was carried on by the Department, or by

some Department of the Government that they should show, if possible, a profit, and let the people then see what really could be made by farming or by agriculture. That is my idea whether I have expressed it clearly or not. There you could have practical work carried out; there you could have lectures at stated periods, and as a school of instruction I think it would be invaluable to the youth of the country.

10970. (Mr. O'Connell).—How many acres would you have?—The suggestion that was made when it was first mooted, when the Department was established, the suggestion I made was 800 acres of good, but not indifferent and mountain land in order that when the students went to that school of instruction that no student from whatever district he came from in Ireland could see the proper tillage of similar land that he came from, and even old age, for although I don't believe old age to be teachable, would tend to see that place, economics could be taught, to instruct people how to save, how to be industrious, and to learn how to make two ends meet. Is that part and parcel of the duties of the Department? Some would consider it so, but our social evil must first be eradicated by a system of practical education, no matter who undertakes the job. The only thing I see practical in reference to itinerant instruction is the work of the manual instructor, who takes his tools and bench with him, and sets his class to work with saw, plane and hammer. In face of this depression of agriculture, I am anxious that instruction should be aimed, suitable to the want of the localities, but there is no use introducing them unless you have a market, as I remember in my early days existed. The fax and wool-wheel were at work in every household through the country, and the people found a market, being their own consumers, and wearers of the produce manufactured by themselves. My remedy for many of our ills is self-help. I will gladly refer to the fisheries, an important asset. The Department has given a helping hand to the Conservators to protect the rivers, and has further made grants for piers and harbours off the coast of the county and as far as possible endeavoured to protect the spawning beds by careful patrolling of the waters, and stopping steam-travelling within the limits. I feel assured the officials of the Department have endeavoured to meet the requirements of the whole satisfactorily, whereas if the money was lavished by the Department you would hear little of the untalented individual outcrops effort. At a similar Committee of Inquiry, held in Waterford some time since, on the subject of Poor Law Reform, I gave evidence advocating the amalgamation of the Poor Law Unions of KilmacThomas and Waterford and Dungarven. Let the Government accept those suggestions and then you would have as public property a central place in the county, with railway accommodation for the purpose. I before suggested, namely, a school of instruction with land attached for an experimental plot, I have no more to say on that, indeed I may have talked too much.

10971. (Chairman).—We are very glad to get evidence from persons of experience?—I know a lot of one wants and I say self-help is one.

10972. With regard to what you say about itinerant instruction you prefer, as many witnesses have done, something in the nature of an experimental school to itinerant instruction, don't you think itinerant instruction is necessary in the first stages of the development of agriculture?—As I view the country I put down all my life to our Education Board, I look upon the curriculum of primary education in the country as all wrong, and if the curriculum of the primary education of the country was as I should wish it, it would just meet exactly what I think you suggest, then you could take up all questions connected with the advancement of the age.

Mr. THOMAS POWER, DEPUTY, further examined.

Mr. Thomas Power.

10073. (Mr. Micks).—As regards the question of assistance to industry, I understood you to say that you would object, and very properly, to any corporation being helped by the Department or any public body if it conflicted with your industry?—Yes, or with any existing industry.

10074. Would you have any objection, for instance—you make cider yourself—would you have any objection to the Department assisting a cider industry at a place like Portadown?—Certainly not.

10075. That you think would not do you any harm?—What I consider a hardship is if I buy fruit in the surrounding districts I would consider it would interfere with my industry if the Department gave people there the benefit of machinery or subsidised them, I would say that would be interfering with an existing industry.

10076. (Mr. Ogilvie).—But you would not object to the Department supplying machinery as well as preliminary instruction and advice to a man who was going to start the same business if it were so far off as Portadown?—No, certainly not, because I say there is room for such industries at the present time. I depend upon a certain district or area for fruit to keep my industry going. I have to go into Cork county, I have the product of twenty-five or twenty-six orchards purchased in Cork, Bagestown in Leitrim. I am getting fruit from Abbeyfeix and Kildane, and all over Tipperary, and I would object to the Department establishing a place in Tipperary where I have to get my raw material from. Last year I was unable to get enough fruit to keep my place going, and I am out of fruit now. I am able to purchase all the fruit available in the adjoining three or four counties.

10077. And you are able to deal with all that fruit at the present moment?—Yes.

10078. And are able to purchase that fruit with the present rate of transport?—Yes.

10079. Your objection to anybody else getting assistance of the kind we have been speaking of is confined to the area you can yourself satisfactorily work?—Quite.

10080. The capacity of your business might become very much greater by your own industry?—It is increasing.

10081. And at present you cannot find in the southern half of Ireland enough material to work on.

10082. (Mr. Micks).—Are fresh orchards being started?—Oh, yes, within the last two or three years very largely, but all the fruit that is being offered me from Munster, and that I can buy at a reasonable price, I am buying.

10083. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Suppose the railway rates were reduced to such an extent that you could get apples from Portadown at 80s. 6d. a ton, then Portadown would immediately come within your radius?—Where the question of establishing a place at Portadown was referred to me, and I was asked would I have any objection I said, "Certainly not," I thought that Ireland ought to have two at least, because Portadown is a fruit country, and I am in a fair centre of a fruit country also, and the head of the Department connected with that branch gave me great assistance and advice and guidance; he was of the same opinion that two was quite enough for Ireland until she produces more fruit; these two factories are able to take up all the fruit that is left after what has been bought for eating.

10084. And you would have no objection whatever to the Department providing the capital to start a business of the same kind at Portadown?—No.

10085. Even knowing that that capital was being supplied in part at your expense just as it would be at the expense of any other person interested in the subsidisation of the Department?—It would not be reasonable for me to have any objection, it would be rather narrow. I had an interview with the gentleman who is the owner of the factory there in view of

the crop being a failure here to supply me with fruit from his place, and he thoroughly agreed in a very friendly way if I could not get enough fruit here he would supply me from his district. I met him once, he is a very nice man, a liberal-minded man, and I hope I can say the same of myself.

10086. If there was another order manufactory there, there would be a tendency to increase the price of raw materials from that part of the country?—Yes, but my point is the fruit is not so plentiful as that yet. The time will arrive, I hope, when there will be room for another one or two. Just like in England you have cider manufactories where the fruit is growing, and you have no cider manufactories where the fruit is not growing. In order to make their business a success they have to go to Devon, Hereford and Somersetshire and start factories there; they don't make any cider in Durham for instance.

10087. The time might arrive when you would say, "There is a good opening in Portadown, I will establish a branch there"?—No.

10088. If you did so you would feel rather in a different position as to the Department offering subsidisation?—I would confine my grievance to this point, I could not reasonably object to the Department giving the same assistance as they did to myself, practical advice and guidance and expert help, but to provide them with machinery, which I had to provide out of my own capital and expenditure, I would say then I would consider it a grievance.

10089. I thought you were willing to agree to their providing machinery out of public money if it were at Portadown?—I would not, I went as far as extending the same expert advice and assistance as I needed myself.

10090. What you do approve of is the Department giving as full a measure of assistance to the person at Portadown as they did to you, but you would not approve of their giving any more?—Portadown is a great fruit country, and the fact that this is also a fruit district induced me to start here.

10091. It may induce you to start there?—In the North, no; I will keep south of the Boyne.

10092. You would not like to see the Department provide Mr. Grew, or whoever it is, with machinery to start there?—I would certainly regard it as a grievance if machinery were provided in my district so as to interfere with my industry.

10093. (Mr. Micks).—When we are talking of restoring Irish industries do you think it would be a proper position for an Irishman to take up, if he was not substantially injured, that he would object to industries being started by the Government in any part of the country if it did him no financial harm with subsidies from the Government?—Before I could answer that satisfactorily it would depend on the nature of what the industry would be.

10094. Take your own industry?—That is outside the general run of industries. For instance one industry that has had a great success in Ireland, the woollen industry, I would have a strong objection to the Government subsidising a man or firm in connection with any of these industries considering they are so well done by the existing factories.

10095. Are you aware whether we import more woollens than we manufacture?—I am not aware of that.

10096. Are you aware we do import a very large quantity of woollens?—I am.

10097. Would you say, therefore, that there would be a fair chance and natural field for starting woollen factories in this country as long as we are importing largely?—I don't think there would be much of a grievance there, considering that the existing industries are kept pretty well going, are working to their full capacity.

10098. Therefore, you think assistance might fairly be given?—Yes, in certain cases where they would not compete with existing industries.

Mr. M. A. EMMIS, S.P., examined.

10099. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You appear on behalf of the Irish County Councils' General Council?—Yes, sir, I appear primarily on behalf of the Irish County

Councils' General Council, I am also deputed to give evidence on behalf of the Westford County Council, and also on behalf of the Westford Municipal

Mr. M. A. Emmis, S.P.

Oct 16, 1906.

Mr M. A.
Kenna, J.P.

Technical Institute the Urban Technical Institute of the town of Wexford, of which I am Vice-Chairman.

11000. Then, perhaps, you will, in your evidence, indicate to us when you are more particularly speaking in respect of the County Council or of the Technical Institute—I should like to explain, as I say, I appear primarily on behalf of the Irish County Councils' General Council, and the first subject that I should like to give evidence on is with regard to the reconstruction of the Department. Now, with regard to that subject, there is a specific instruction to the witnesses nominated by the General Council on that particular subject. On all the other subjects upon which I give evidence on behalf of the General Council I have simply received a general instruction from the Council to give evidence without being instructed in detail, but, as I proceed with my evidence, if you permit me I propose to submit copies of resolutions passed by the General Council from time to time dealing with the various subjects, and to hand in the resolutions, if that meets with your approval.

11001. That will be very convenient!—The resolution of the General Council is:—

Meeting, April 19th, 1906.

Moved on behalf of the Executive Committee:—

"That we nominate a small Committee to give evidence on behalf of this General Council before the Commission appointed to inquire into the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction."

"That it be an instruction to the Committee that the Agricultural Council and Agricultural Board should consist solely of elected members, and that, therefore, none of their members should, as at present, be nominated by the Department."

"That the Department itself should be totally separated from the English Government, and be nominated by the General Council of the Irish County Councils, and be answerable to it, and under its control."

With regard to that, I desire to point out that it is not alone an instruction to me, but one in which I am cordially in agreement personally, because I believe that we all in Ireland regard it as an elementary condition of any form of self-government, or one of the elementary conditions of self-government which may be conceded to the Irish people, that we should have not a painted control, but that a real live control should be exercised by the representatives of the Irish people over a Department which regulates matters of such vital interest to Ireland, and which are purely of a domestic character, the domestic administration of the country in matters which so vitally affect it as agriculture and technical education. We hold that the elected representatives of the people should have full and live control over the administration of that Department. I also appear from the Wexford County Council, and, as you will perceive, there is a slight difference between the scheme submitted by the Wexford County Council and that from the Irish County Councils' General Council. The County Councils' General Council suggested the Department should be nominated by the General Council. Since that resolution was passed on the 19th of April last, events have marched somewhat in Ireland, and we are aware the Government is at present contemplating the introduction of a Bill which will make changes in Local Government in Ireland, and I think I speak the views of the General Council when I say that the intention of the Council in passing that resolution would be fulfilled if the control of the Department were vested in whatever central authority or body may be set up by the Government in the Bill they are at present framing. It would not be limited, in my opinion, to the particular body, the General Council, but whatever central authority may be constituted by the Government.

11002. This resolution, in the form it has taken, and in the wider form you think it probably may now take, is not so much intended as a criticism of the action of the existing organisation of the Department as a suggestion that it is necessary in respect of the general principle which the General Council would like to see embodied in all the organisations for the government of Irish local affairs?—That is so. I have received no instruction from the General Council to make any general attack upon the administration of the De-

partment in any way, and, in fact, I say, both on my own responsibility, and as a witness for the bodies I have named, that I am glad to have the opportunity of saying that I believe the Department has done great work and good work as Ireland since it was formed in 1898. They had made mistakes and great mistakes, but mistakes would be inherent in setting in operation new machinery, and no one could expect the Department would carry out its object without some mistakes. If I may appear in my evidence to criticise the Department in some respects, I wish it to be understood that I believe it my duty as a witness to point out where I believe defects exist in order that I may lay before the Committee those defects with a view to their remedy. To take the work of the Department as a whole, I believe it has been a work most beneficial to Ireland and creditable to the Department. But so far as the wish of the Irish people goes, they wish, and I think, not unreasonably, to have the control especially of their own local affairs, and the constitution of the Department is such that whilst there may be a nominal control there is no actual control. It is provided by the Act that the County Councils of Ireland elect two members for each county and the Department nominates one; that may seem on paper to give the majority to the County Councils of Ireland, but the Agricultural Council, which is elected by the County Councils, does not have any direct dealings with the Department at all. It proceeds to elect a certain number of the Agricultural Board, it is a conservative method of procedure which I am not prepared to criticise, because in the instance of such work as this it is perhaps desirable that there should be such a conservative method of procedure as election within election, but I would say, taking the election to the Agricultural Council by itself, suppose who has had experience of public business will tell that any man who is Chairman of a public body, if he were given the right of nominating a third of the members of that body would control it absolutely and effectually, and when we come to consider what the Department represents we must come to the conclusion that the Department is the Vice-President. No doubt, the President of the Department holds statutory power under the Act, but in practice the President of the Department takes no share in the administration of the work, and it is in the hands of the Vice-President that this huge power rests. It is not my intention to make any change in the nature of a personal attack on Sir Horace Plunkett, quite the contrary. I may not agree that in some cases he has shown judgment, but I admire the whole-heartedness with which he has thrown himself into the work and the desire to benefit the country, but I do hold that the power vested in the Vice-President of the Department by the present regulations is an automatic power and in excess of what ought to rest in the hands of any individual. You have already heard from Mr. Frielde a statement of the views of the Wexford County Council as to the form in which this control should be exercised, it differs very little from the proposal of the General Council, it is really a matter of small detail as to the appointment of the Board; the main proposal is that the nomination by the Department of one-third of the members of the Agricultural Council should cease, and it is the opinion of the General Council there would be no necessity whatever to replace those members who were formerly nominated by the Department by elected members by County Councils, because a body consisting of two members from each County Council would be quite large enough without nominated members. I look upon the present body as altogether unwieldy, and furthermore it has been given in evidence that the cost of a single meeting of the Agricultural Council amounts to £20, and that, of course, means that the meetings are far and far between. And on the ground of expense also it would certainly be desirable to reduce the very large number of members of whom that Council is at present composed, and the proposal then would be simply that the nomination by the Department should cease and the power rest in the hands of the elected representatives of the Irish County Councils.

11003. Do you attach any importance to the argument which has been put before us on several occasions as to the importance of bringing into the Agricultural Council men whose experience is of great value in specific affairs, but who have not necessarily taken such part in county business in connection with County Councils as to lead to their being elected by County Councils, the point being that the nominated

members include quite a large proportion of men whose talents are of very great advantage in the business that comes before the Agricultural Board.—I think the County Councils of Ireland, as a rule, probably, may be relied on to elect these very men, it would be unfair that any section of Irishmen would be excluded by the County Councils from participation in this work.

11004. But the point rather has been put that the men whom I have just indicated are men who are not possibly members of the County Councils. If a County Council sends two members, or whatever the number may be, the reason for appointing someone who was not a member of the County Council would not be sufficiently strong to enable that particular Council to select a man of special qualifications.—A County Council is not bound to elect as its representatives on the Agricultural Council members of its own body; the Department recognises the fact and has pointed it out in a circular addressed to Irish County Councils, extracts from which I hand in. It is possible that in individual instances some individual whose presence on the Council might be desirable might be omitted in the way you suggest, but, at the same time, I think that taking matters on a balance that the principle of nomination by the Department of one-third of the members of the entire Board practically puts in the hands of the Department, and, therefore, in the hands of one individual the absolute control of the entire working of the Board, and, furthermore, when we come to bodies elected within bodies, to the Board of Technical Instruction and to the Agricultural Board, we find that the provisions of the Act enable them to consider only such matters as are laid before them by the Department. They have no power of initiative, and no matter how pressing a question may be in the opinion of the Board of Technical Instruction or of the Agricultural Board, if the Department say, "We will not place that matter before you for consideration," they are absolutely incompetent and unable to discuss or take any action with regard to that matter, their action is practically limited to the action of veto.

11005. In actual practice do you consider the presence of the nominated members as proving otherwise than beneficial in the discussions of the Agricultural Council?—As a matter of fact, in actual practice I believe that the Agricultural Council, the Agricultural Board and the Technical Board, have really had very little practical value except as registering machines to register the decision of the Department.

11006. Perhaps you would indicate your views in reference to the matter which has been put as considerably limiting that power, the question of veto exercised by the Agricultural Board and Technical Board.—I cannot see in what way the power of veto can be efficiently exercised by either Board except refusing to sanction the payment of the money, and the power of veto, while undoubtedly strong, is a power any public Board would hesitate to exercise except in a very extreme case.

11007. (Mr. Micks).—You are not a member of either Board?—No.

11008. You don't know the arrangement that has been come to between the Department and the two Boards?—I am not aware of any special arrangement.

11009. The arrangement that the Board instead of authorising any particular payment of money should give a vote of credit in advance of a lump sum, and the Department should have power to take such steps as they think proper for the distribution of the money, so there is no vote on payments coming up, it would be a veto of a vote of credit?—It amounts to the same thing, it covers the payment; but my point is that neither Board can consider any subject unless what is laid before it by the Department, and if there is a subject which the Department does not wish to lay before those Boards, it is not bound to do so, and does not do so; as a matter of fact, both the Agricultural Board and the Technical Board are very little in touch with the actual working of the various schemes which the Department have initiated.

11010. (Mr. O'Donnell).—We have it in evidence that as a matter of practice there was no difficulty in members of the Agricultural Board of Technical Instruction bringing up subjects that they considered of importance, even though these had not been brought before them by the Department.—When I come later on to deal with the question of technical scholarships in University institutions, I shall submit a letter from the Department dealing with that subject.

11011. (Mr. Micks).—You refer to the provision in the Act which gives power to the Boards only to discuss such matters as are laid before them by the Department?—Yes, I don't say that the Department may not interpret the Act liberally, and consult them on matters on which they are not bound to consult them, I only speak of the actual effect of the Act itself, a case may arise where the Department do not wish to give the representatives of the people (what the Agricultural and Technical Boards may be considered, in a limited sense to be), if they do not wish to consult them on any particular subject they are not bound to do so, and therefore the people have practically no control over the operations of the Department.

11012. In other words, you would prefer to see, whatever be the constitution of the Agricultural Board and Technical Instruction Board, or bodies representing those, you would prefer to see a definite statement in the Act governing them that they had power to initiate business as well as discuss business that was put before them?—Quite so.

11013. That, we are informed, would be merely making compulsory, what is at present a practice, and what the Boards and Department agree would be unobjectionable?—I fear I cannot agree that it is at present a practice; later on I shall show a concession in which I hold it has not been the practice of the Department but rather the contrary. The main principle I contend for is that the people themselves should have the control of this institution which so largely affects their interest in so many ways, and I believe the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture would exercise a much wider power and a wider influence in the country, and be able to do more effective work if he were associated with the elected representatives of the people than he can exercise under existing conditions. The next item I have down is the fostering of tillage, fruit, culture, tobacco-growing, poultry farming, and kindred agricultural industries. On that subject we have three resolutions passed by the General Council of Irish County Councils, showing that they appreciate the importance of the subject:—

At a meeting of the Council, held on the 12th April, 1901, the following resolution was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr. William Smith (Westmeath), seconded by Mr. C. H. Pascoke (Wexford):

"That considering the poverty and neglected condition of the rural population of Ireland, and its utter lack of technical education, it is the duty of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Education to send to each county on the request of its Council, experts, practically acquainted with and qualified to give instruction in the various cottage industries, by which the peasant population of the Continent increase their means of livelihood. That said experts or instructors be placed at the disposal of the County or Union Councils, to consult with and advise those bodies as to the industries most suitable for each district, and that in conjunction with said Councils the Board shall find means to enable those experts to give instruction in such industries as shall be considered most suitable, and which shall have been sanctioned both by the Council and the Board.

"That a copy of the foregoing resolution be sent to the Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Education."

At a meeting of the Council held on the 12th January, 1902, the following resolution, in support of Irish manufactured goods and encouragement of tillage, was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr. John Sweetman, seconded by Mr. Henry Brennan:—

"That for the sake of the very existence of the Irish nation, which is rapidly disappearing, owing to continued emigration, the Irish public generally, and all public bodies, that are elected by Irishmen, should contract for and use only Irish manufactured goods, when they can be obtained at a reasonable price; and tillage must be encouraged by the Agricultural Committees of County Councils, as far as they have power, as it was encouraged, through the means of bounties by the Irish Parliament a century and a half ago.

"That Irish manufacturers are hereby called on to take immediate steps to make known to the public boards, and the Irish public generally, the goods manufactured in Ireland; otherwise the manufacturers cannot expect that support which is neces-

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ary for their several interests and the general interests of the country."

Resolution adopted at meeting of April 10th, 1906.
Proposed by T. B. McKenna, seconded by F. J. Lynch:—

"That we request the Agricultural Board and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction to make a larger allocation of its funds for the encouragement of tillage."

You see, sir, three resolutions have been passed at different periods by the General Council of County Councils on that subject, and I would submit that the chief object that most patriotic Irishmen have in mind is the settling of the emigration that is depopulating this country, and agriculture being the chief industry of Ireland, and tillage being the backbone of agriculture which gives the largest measure of employment to its working classes, that it is a matter of vital importance that by every means in their power the Government, the Department, and the Irish people themselves should foster tillage and fruit culture. We have seen to-day from the evidence of Mr. Power what he has done with regard to the purchasing of hundreds of tons of apples grown in the South of Ireland for a manufacturing industry, and everything done in that direction is an enormous benefit to Ireland. And therefore we desire to lay strong emphasis on the desirability of adopting every possible means of fostering tillage, fruit culture, tobacco-growing, poultry farming, and kindred agricultural industries. We believe it is most desirable in Ireland to keep the people as far as possible on the land. I think political economists in England and other countries all deplore the aggregation of the population into towns and cities, and hold that it is desirable to keep the agricultural population in the agricultural districts, that view I desire strongly to emphasize, and I think it can best be done by endeavouring to foster those branches of agriculture which give most employment, and later on when I come to deal with the question of village halls, to make the life of the peasant in the agricultural districts of Ireland as bright and pleasant as it is possible, in order, as far as it is in our power to do so, to arrest the drain of emigration and induce our people to remain at home. With regard to the tobacco-growing, the Government have sanctioned experiments in that direction. In my own County, Wexford, the soil has been held to be specially suitable for the growing of tobacco, and with the sanction of the Department, for the past two years tobacco has been grown there. For the present year there is sanction for growing twelve acres of tobacco, drying sheds have been erected, and the Department have given all the assistance in their power with regard to marketing it and having it cured.

11014. Where is it being grown?—In the barony of Forth, in Canon Deyle's parish, Taggart, and in Canon Whitty's parish, Lady's Island.

11015. Do you happen to know anything about an experiment made in 1885?—I do not.

11016. By Mr. Acheson, near New Ross?—I know where he lives, but I am not aware of that experiment. I know the last people in the County Wexford to grow tobacco prior to the present experiment were the Messrs. Davis of Enniscorthy.

11017. Before it was prohibited?—Yes, the tobacco grown in the County Wexford has been successfully marketed, and the yield per acre is very satisfactory; there is a rebate of one shilling in the lb. duty.

11018. What is the full duty?—I don't know, that rebate has been conditionally granted for seven years to come, and during the seven years I have no hesitation in saying that tobacco-growing in Wexford will be an extremely profitable industry whilst this continues.

11019. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—For the objects that you desire, do you consider that the steps that have been taken by the Department in those directions are capable of considerable improvement, or do you think they have been proceeding on lines which up to now have been fairly satisfactory?—With regard to fostering tillage, I am not an agricultural expert, but so far as I know, they have been satisfactory in general terms, and I believe I must say the same thing with regard to each item I have specified, but later on one of the methods by which tillage can be facilitated is by providing effective transport facilities. I think we might obtain further help from the Department as to the marketing of produce. The next step I

have is agricultural stations of the type such as Glenahilly, they are very useful and calculated to promote sound principles of tillage farming, and we believe a further expenditure of funds on this branch is both useful and desirable. A small Sub-Committee of my Council had an interview with the Vice-President recently on this subject; we found him very sympathetic, indeed, with regard to our views, and I think I may say that his views coincided with ours, our view being that small county stations for the individual counties were more desirable than big agricultural colleges for large areas. We prefer the small station where they would take a limited number of students who would be on the farm attached to the station during the day learning their business, and in the evening would receive instruction in chemistry and scientific methods of analysis of manures, and all the rest appertaining to the farming industry, and in connection with that we have obtained a promise by the Department that their agricultural inspector, Mr. Gordon, will visit us in a short time here with a view to inspect the place. We have two places under consideration, one being Slaney Lodge, with 150 acres, which is about the centre of the county, and the other, Cappalin Park, in the north of the county. Cappalin Park has been bought by the Estate Commissioners, but our Council have received a communication from the resident inspector of the Estate Commissioners saying that any application on the part of the Department of Agriculture to them with regard to this place if required for our purposes would be most favourably considered by the Estate Commissioners, who would do everything in their power under the Act of 1903 to promote such a proposal as that proposed by our Committee. So there seems to be a fair way in our county to get such a station, and we earnestly hope the Department will see their way to sanction the necessary expenditure for this purpose.

11020. (Mr. Doyle).—Did the Council work out all the expenses of these stations?—No, we have not worked out the expenses as far as I know of maintaining them, because the proposal is as yet a embryo; we have not yet fixed on the locality.

11021. I understood you to say that you thought there should be county stations all over Ireland; I thought, perhaps, you had studied the cost of that?—I have been led to believe for years past that the Department have been husbanding their resources for years with a view to the establishment of agricultural colleges, laying by a reserve fund for that purpose.

11022. I am afraid they have no funds, according to the evidence?—Every local authority in Ireland is in agreement that the Department want more funds both for agriculture and technical instruction, but we believe that this is a purpose to which their funds might with the very greatest possible advantage be devoted where practicable. The next item I have to transit facilities, and with regard to that four resolutions have been adopted by the General Council: Resolution adopted at meeting December 6th, 1903, proposed by Mr. Trench, Tipperary; seconded by Mr. Donnan, Kerry.

"That we protest against any decision being come to by Parliament in the forthcoming Session with regard to the proposed amalgamation of the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company. That we consider the whole question of the railways of Ireland and the waterways of Ireland ought to be referred to a Commission sitting in Ireland to examine and report as to what reforms it is desirable should be carried into effect, and we hereby appoint a committee of our body to consider the matter, and to report to our next meeting. The committee to consist of the following members:—Lord Montagu, Messrs. Field, Dublin; Dr. O'Ryan, Tipperary; Andrews, Down; Donnan, Kerry; Sir Thomas Esmonde, Wexford; O'Connell, O'Neill, Derry; McFadden, Donegal; with power to add to its number."

Mr. Trench consented to act as hon. secretary to this committee.

11023. (Chairman).—That Commission has been appointed?—Yes, I quote the resolution to show the importance attached by the General Council to the transit facilities, and I then propose to point out where I think the Department might aid us.

At a meeting of the above Council, held on the 12th April, 1906, the following resolution was unanimously

adopted on the motion of Mr. French (North Tipperary), seconded by Mr. Convery (Londonderry):—

"That we respectfully urge upon His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant the necessity for the appointment, with as little delay as possible, of a Viscount Commission, to inquire into and report upon the existing unsatisfactory condition of railway and canal communication in Ireland, and upon its injurious effect upon the trade and agricultural interests of the country; and that His Excellency may be pleased to appoint an early day for the reception of a deputation upon the above subject."

Resolution, adopted at meeting, August 30th, 1901, proposed, by William Field, M.P., seconded by T. Brown.

"That this meeting of the Irish County Councils' General Council request the Government to appoint a Commission to enquire into and report upon the existing system of railway and canal rates, charges and facilities in Ireland, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the First Lord of the Treasury, the Lord Lieutenant, and the Chief Secretary for Ireland."

Resolution, adopted at meeting, 30th August, 1902, proposed by George Wolfe, J.P., seconded by John Field, J.P.:—

"That in view of the hardships suffered by the railways in certain districts by reason of the extraordinary traffic both by individuals and by Government departments for which no compensation is given, this Council is of opinion that Section 23 of the Highways Act, 1878, as amended by Section 12 of the Locomotives Act of 1893, dealing with compensation in such cases in England should be extended to Ireland, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Chief Secretary for Ireland and Mr. John Redmond, M.P."

These are resolutions dealing with transit facilities and we know that the Act gave to the Department certain powers with regard to railway rates, there was evidence laid before the Railway Commission within the past few days, and, if I mistake not, evidence has been laid before this Commission with regard to the powers the Department have to interfere on behalf of persons aggrieved by excessive railway rates.

1904. They have power to appear before the Railway Commissions as if they were the aggrieved party.—Quite so.

1905. I think that is the only power.—That, as far as we know, is the only power. I take it in giving evidence before such a Commission as this it is open to us to make suggestions as to amending legislation.

1906. Yes, amending the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act, but I don't think that would entitle us to go into quite a new function, which is at present being considered by another Commission. The question of legislation on railway matters is rather for that Commission than for us. I should have thought I wish to point out that as two officials of the Department have given evidence in connection with the Commissions on Railways and Canals on a particular point that closely affects the County Wexford I should like to be allowed to say something on that point, because this particular matter that I refer to is with regard to the reply given in the House of Commons by Mr. Bryce to a question put by Mr. William Redmond on the subject of the Inagh-Pierre motor scheme for the transit of agricultural produce in rural districts, and to a statement on the subject by Mr. Cantrell of the Department before the Royal Commission a few days since and to a statement made by Sir Horace Plunkett on the same subject, and as in the best possible faith and unintentionally this gives an impression with regard to that scheme which is not quite accurate. I should like to be permitted to correct that. Mr. Redmond asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant "whether he could say in what position the proposed motor car service in the rural districts of Ireland now was, and whether he would say if this scheme could be carried out in view of the use which might be made of it to bring fish, and other produce to market." Mr. Bryce said "he presumed the hon. member referred to the

scheme of motor car service in Ireland which was proposed three years ago by Lord Inagh and Mr. Pierre. The present Government had had no part in the matter, but it might be desirable that he should state briefly for the information of the House what appeared to have taken place while the late Government was in office. He gathered that the late Government gave their cordial support to the scheme, and did everything in their power to bring about co-operation between the promoters and County Councils in giving effect to the scheme. The promoters provisionally selected seventeen routes, and these were surveyed at the expense of the Government. It was a condition of the scheme that the roads should be put into order to bear the heavy traffic, the combined weight of the motor and trailer being five and a half tons. The County Councils generally while appearing of the experimental service declined to incur the expenditure necessary for putting the roads into proper condition, although the Local Government Board ordered to give loans for the purpose. He was informed Lord Inagh and Mr. Pierre eventually announced that they would give the County Councils a year to consider what could be done, but intimated that the scheme must be dealt with as a whole, and they were not prepared to set it on only in those localities in which the prospects of the service were most favourable. It was a matter of regret to find that the year allowed for consideration had now passed and nothing further appeared to have been done. The question of re-opening negotiations with Lord Inagh and Mr. Pierre was obviously one for the County Councils to consider." With reference to that Sir Horace Plunkett was asked: "Was there not a large scheme for motor traffic on the roads of Ireland put up by Lord Inagh and Mr. Pierre?" And his reply was: "In Mr. Wyndham's Chief Secretaryship there was an arrangement with Lord Inagh and Mr. Pierre that if the County Councils would put certain roads in repair, these gentlemen would run a system of motor cars as an experiment of a reasonable rate of freight. It broke down, because the County Councils considered the expenditure on the roads would make too heavy a charge on the rates. He hoped that when motor traffic had developed the local authorities might change their mind or a case might be made for State assistance." And at another Commission Mr. Cantrell said:—Various applications have been made to our Department with reference to other means of transit. Tell us what they are!—Applications have been made to us to construct additional railways, cheapen waterways, and improve canals.

Have you done anything in that direction?—No, not in that direction. The funds of the Department would not at present admit of a large expenditure for purposes of that kind; and also the consideration of a question of that kind was deferred owing to the possibilities of motor transit. Some years ago there was a motor transit scheme proposed by Lord Inagh and Lord Pierre; and we thought perhaps that the motor trains might be very much used. And, in that connection, I think the Department had a considerable number of the proposed routes visited by their inspectors with a view to obtaining information as to the possibilities of traffic, and their reports were sent to the promoters of the scheme.

(Chairman).—I don't know that I should ask you what the outcome of that scheme was. I think I had better ask Lord Pierre?

(Witness).—There was a difficulty about the roads and the construction of the culverts, and things of that kind.

With regard to that I should like to say that in Wexford the Wexford County Council realised the moment the suggestion of this scheme appeared in the papers they realised the importance of it and they appointed a small deputation to wait on Lord Pierre on the subject, we had a very satisfactory interview with Lord Pierre on the subject in Dublin, and, as a result, three Commissioners visited Wexford and in company with our committee visited the proposed route. It was suggested a route should be taken up which would cover a large portion of Wexford which is at present unserved by a railway service and in future will never be served because it lies between the existing lines of railway in such a way that by no conceivable means can it hope to have a railway service. It is a district in which there is a large

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amount of tillage, as the information procured locally for the promoters showed. They proposed to have double decked cars to carry sheep and pigs, and from that district we showed there was an annual export of 40,000 pigs and sheep. The people of the locality were most anxious the service should be carried into effect, and the only claims made on the Wexford County Council by the promoters were first—

11027. I don't quite catch the purport of what you are aiming at—how does it bear on our inquiry?—It seems to me that the witnesses of the Department have given evidence on the subject before two Commissions.

11028. Yes, but two Commissions inquiring into different things to what we are inquiring into—it does not entitle us to go into matters relevant to their inquiry and not to ours—I only wish to suggest that the Department should see all their powers and receive extended power and extended funds with regard to motor transit in Ireland.

11029. I think you are entitled to say we ought to recommend increased powers, but I am quite sure you won't go into matters before other Commissions?—No; but I only wish to state that the local authorities in Wexford agreed to do the only things they were asked to do. They were asked to spend money in putting a road in particular places right, and the County voted £150 to do that, and the County Surveyor was asked to certify a bridge near Wexford for the purpose, and the County Surveyor certified it for wagons of seven tons. There are at present motor wagons being run by the Dublin and Wexford Company between Newtownbarry and Ferns, and Meers, Davis, large millers in Enniscorthy, have recently put on the road a service of motor wagons, the motor trailer and load amounting to fourteen tons; it is for the freight of their own produce, flour; they send those wagons to every locality where they have a customer; I have met them repeatedly myself on the road, and ascertained from Mr. Davis he has had no trouble whatever.

11030. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Do the roads suffer?—No; there has been no injury to the roads by the operations of Mr. Davis's motor; or to the road between Newtownbarry and Ferns; the motor there has acted rather as a steamroller on it. As pointed out in the correspondence I have here, one of the proposed line routes on the new Rosslare and Fishguard route, where we have all the big English markets open to us. The people of Wexford are in a remarkably favorable position for marketing their produce, provided they get facilities to carry them there. I hold the Department should have power and funds to finance the motor traffic. In the last letter Mr. Bailey wrote to me he admitted the County Wexford had done everything that was desired, but they would not take it up for an individual county, and I hold that if a condition is made that private enterprise will not start this service unless all the counties co-operate, it means the service will not be adopted, and therefore it devolves on the State, through the agency of the Department, to start such service. Transport facilities generally are of enormous importance to the country. I quite appreciate your view that this Commission is to inquire into the Department alone.

11031. I am not saying that it is not competent for us to go as far as you have gone; both Sir Horace Plunkett and Mr. Gill. I am, touched on the same matter in their evidence—I would like to say that it is the opinion undoubtedly of the County Councils of Ireland, and I think of the public generally, that it is desirable that the railways of Ireland should be nationalised, placed by choice under the control of whatever local authority may be set up in Ireland.

11032. What is rather for the Railway Commissioners than for us?—I simply wish to give expression to that general opinion. The next item I have is the bureau of information and expert advice as to the marketing of produce, current prices of stock, and information should be provided by the Department. I have a resolution on that subject:—

Irish County Councils' General Council.

At a meeting of the above Council held on the 12th April, 1901, the following resolution re Irish industries was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr.

John Sweetman (Meath), seconded by Mr. Joseph Mooney (Dublin):

"Whereas the people of a country should always seek to prosper and develop its industrial resources.

"And whereas the industries and manufactures of Ireland have suffered grievous neglect and injury by means of fishermen and fishwives, and public bodies throughout the country, having failed to give practical support to such industries and manufactures.

"And whereas such neglect has been a main cause of the emigration to foreign lands of many thousands of our countrymen and countrywomen of all classes, and has thrown upon the rates the support of many aged and infirm persons.

"Be it therefore resolved, that the Irish County Councils' General Council hereby puts upon record that Irish manufactures deserve, and should receive, the earnest and practical support of the people of Ireland.

"And further that advertisements issued with regard to all supplies, needed in public establishments throughout the country, should state that preference will be given to articles produced in Ireland, provided that the Irish goods be of satisfactory quality and fair price, and that all tenderers mention whether the goods tendered for are of Irish manufacture.

"That copies of the foregoing resolution be sent to all County Councils, District Councils, Boards of Guardians, Town Councils, County Boards, County Lunatic Asylums, and all other public bodies under the control of the representatives of the Irish people, with a request that they pass a similar resolution suited to their particular requirements, and that copies be also sent to the Bishops of Ireland, and to the heads of institutions and religious orders, requesting them to take what steps they think advisable to advance the industrial prosperity of Ireland."

I believe I am right in saying that the Department have seen each provision, but I would extend that the provision they have is not adequate, they require to have more help in that direction than they at present have; I believe they are undertaking some small work in that direction, but I believe they require expert help not alone with regard to agricultural produce, but fish and other products in Ireland. The next point is village halls.

11033. (Chairman).—That again goes rather above our functions—I think I could show they would be quite within the scope of the Department's functions. We in the County Wexford have formed several village halls with the aid of the Department, and there was a resolution passed at the meeting of the Irish General Council of County Councils on the 25th of August, on the motion of Mr. Thomas Power (Waterford), seconded by Mr. H. Brennan (Sligo):—

"That in view of the immediate pressing need of suitable buildings in rural and urban centres for purposes of itinerant technical instruction and instruction in agriculture, it is advisable that County Councils should acquire rural court-houses and discontinue idle-lands in towns, and, subject to the necessary employment of the former for petty sessions, that they should place these buildings in the control of the County Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, to be used by them for the various purposes of itinerant technical instruction and instruction in agriculture, and also for village libraries. That the County Council, when necessary or advisable, should purchase these buildings, and have control of same, with power to enlarge, or otherwise render them suitable for the purposes of Committees; and that the Department should contribute towards their enlargement and maintenance."

Now, I should like to support, as far as possible, what Mr. Power advanced here to-day, that is, that in the rural districts of Ireland these petty sessions courts, which are locked up, nearly all the rural petty sessions being only held once a month, and seeing that buildings for the purpose of technical instruction and amusement are badly needed in country districts, I think that, whilst making all provisions for the use of these court-houses for special courts, or whenever necessary, that at other times they should be utilised for local purposes, but the numbers of these buildings

would not be sufficient to cover all the needs; there are twelve petty sessions districts in Wexford, and some of those are in the towns, so the number of rural petty sessions courts would not probably exceed eight or nine; that would be an inadequate number for thirty-five parishes, and therefore we suggest that help should be given by the County Committee, aided by the Department, towards the provision of village halls in each parish to serve the purposes of affording facilities for education and healthy rational amusement to the people, village libraries and rooms where the people of the parish can meet, and that these halls should be under the control of the local Committee, and in exchange for a contribution made towards their erection and maintenance by the Department and County Committee that the use of them at all times for lectures and manual instruction, and other purposes. In the last few sessions of work connected with my County Committee the Department have sanctioned grants for some of these purposes, and we believe the Department have at present in hand a scheme in connection with village halls for the advance of money at a low rate of interest.

11039. (Mr. Micks).—Would the principal purpose be technical schools?—For utilisation for the purpose of technical schools; it is not suggested that the total cost should be provided.

11038. Where would you get the rest of the money?—The locality would provide the money out of private subscriptions. The scheme of the Department is that a local Committee should be formed who would undertake the repayment of principal and interest within ten years of the sum of money to be granted. Personally I fear that would be found to be rather unworkable, and I would prefer to see an arrangement whereby any locality which took a sufficient interest in the work to provide two-thirds of the proposed amount would receive a free grant of one-third in return for the year of the building at all times needed by the Department and its Committee.

11036. (Chairman).—That is an excellent thing, but it seems to me exceedingly doubtful that we are not going beyond the powers of the Department. However, perhaps, you might say they ought to have the power?

11035. (Mr. O'Grady).—You think in a considerable portion of the localities local support financially would be available for the scheme?—I think so.

11037. (Mr. Micks).—Wexford is an exceptional county—it is known as the model county, and takes rather a prominent part in industrial and educational development, but still I think a large number of the Irish counties could be relied upon to provide funds for the purpose if they received the assistance I indicate. The next item I refer to is Agricultural Banks to be organised direct by the Department, and financed more liberally than at present, and in connection with that there was a resolution of the General Council:—

At a meeting of the above Council, held on the 22nd August, 1899, the following resolution re Creation of County Stock, was unanimously adopted on the motion of the Chairman (Sir Thomas Esmonde), seconded by Mr. Donovan (Kerry):—

"That a Committee be appointed to consider the question, and report to this Council at the next meeting. That the following be members of it:—Bedford (Monaghan), Callinan (Tipperary), Smith (Westmeath), McGovern (Cavan), McFadden (Donegal), Goff (Wexford City), Mooney (Dublin), Donovan (Kerry), Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford), with power to employ expert assistance."

With regard to County Stock, it raises a very large question for the counties of Ireland generally, and what might be done if County Stock was raised in the direction of these Agricultural Banks in which the Department takes such an interest. In my own county, Wexford, we are large borrowers, large sums of money have been borrowed for the purpose of building labourers' cottages, in one instance alone there are outstanding loans of £72,000; I think I may take the indebtedness of the county Wexford, chiefly for labourers' cottages and county works, at being somewhere between £200,000 and £300,000, probably £250,000. In the Joint Stock Banks of the town of

Wexford alone considerably more than that amount of money is lodged on deposit receipt by the members of the community. Their money only produces to them a return of from one to one-and-a-half per cent. lodged on deposit, and where we need to borrow £250,000 for local purposes, and where County Stock with the status of a trust security might be issued at 3½ per cent. our people, by investing in that County Stock, would, in our own county, put into their pockets £25,000 or £30,000 per annum, and if our people were educated up to the financial value of that operation and to the value of the County Stock charged upon the rates of the county Wexford, it would be enormously to the interest of the county that County Stock should be floated, and each county should finance their own operations and keep the money for which they at present pay such large sums of money for interest to London financiers and other sources, keep it in the country, it would be an enormous advantage, but I am convinced that the people are not at present quite ripe for it, but I think the Department might act very largely. I think it is a matter which the Department ought to take into very careful consideration, and by every means in their power impress on the people the value of that self-interest that another witness spoke of here, and pointed out the means by which large sums of money might be kept at home and placed in their own pockets.

11038. (Mr. O'Grady).—What steps would you suggest the Department might possibly take to impress that on the people of the county?—I think the Department issues leaflets on many subjects, but I think the Department might reasonably on the financial aspect of the question point out that the counties themselves with a flotation of County Stock might consider the financing of Agricultural Banks.

11039. You think that any information in the form of leaflets would be more effective if it came with the authority of the Department, than if it were brought out by the county authorities?—I, as a private individual, hold the opinions I have expressed; no one knows of them unless the individuals with whom I may come into personal contact, but the Department has means of disseminating information of that kind which no particular individual is possessed of.

11040. You think that those views would be accepted by the County Council?—We have considered a scheme in the county Wexford, and I think I express the feeling of those with whom I am associated when I say that we believe the flotation of County Stock would be a very desirable thing, provided we were satisfied our own people would take it up if issued. It would be a first class security, and people who are only receiving 1 or 1½ per cent. for their money now might thereby receive 3½ per cent.

11041. The point I was directing my attention to was whether the ordinary means of education of the public in such a matter by ventilation in the Press as following a discussion in the County Council might not be more effective at the particular stage the discussion is now at, than the issue of a leaflet by the Department on the subject?—The Department possess ramifications all over the country that no other organisation does, they are more in touch with the urban and rural life of Ireland than any other organisation I know, and I merely suggest that view of the question to them.

11042. (Chairman).—Do you not think the action of the Department in that respect might give rise to suspicion in some parts of Ireland that are not as advanced as Wexford?—That is possible; but, you see, the County Council of Ireland have so far back as 1899 realised that it was an important question.

11043. (Mr. Micks).—You have discussed it at the County Council of Wexford?—Yes.

11044. And reports of your discussion appeared in the Press?—I don't think so; it was simply referred to the Committee in Wexford, and I think there was perhaps a limited report in the Press, but nothing that would arrest public attention.

11045. The fact that so on deposit in Joint Stock Banks, is it there temporarily, or do people leave their money there a long time?—A large number of people leave it there as a measure of security, but so far as a return for their money goes it is practically lying there fallow.

Oct. 16, 1900.

Mr. M. A. Esmonde, M.P.

Oct. 18, 1906.

Most Rev.
Dr. Sheehan.

Most Rev. Dr. SHEEHAN further examined.

11046. (Chairman).—You wish to supplement something you said yesterday?—I am very grateful to you for allowing me to supplement the evidence I gave here yesterday in one important matter. I was dealing with the question of the grants made for Ireland for technical education in comparison with those that were made for England, and I spoke in particular of the amounts that were received from the Local Taxation Account, sums which now amount to almost a million a year for England, and which amounted in the ten years before 1890 to £7,500,000. We received not a penny from the Excise and Customs Act during that period for technical education, and it was pointed out then, (I did not understand at the moment fully the bearing of the remark), but it was pointed out to me the Local Taxation Account was given not merely for the purpose of technical education, but also for secondary education, and I was not able at the moment to say how much of it was actually given for one purpose and how much was given for another. But since then I have received from the Agricultural and Technical Department of Ireland a statement showing the amounts appropriated to technical education out of the funds provided by the Local Taxation, Customs and Excise Act, 1890. In England and Wales in the year ending 31st March, 1890, there were appropriated £260,078; in 1900, £300,740 3s.; in 1901, £276,309; in 1902, £228,570 14s. 6d., and in 1903, £251,820 17s. 7d.; that shows that practically the entire amount that is placed at the disposal of the local bodies in England for educational purposes generally is devoted to the purposes of technical education. That is as I understand the meaning of these returns. Of course, a small portion of it is devoted to secondary instruction besides, but, then, the amount that is given out of the Local Taxation Account for secondary education in England is a very small sum in comparison with the total amount that is expended from public sources there. Because I gather from a return that has just been published that in the year 1904-05 there was received, the total grant from the Imperial Exchequer for secondary education in England, a sum of £223,060 12s. 6d.. The conclusion to which I am driven is, that, as I said a moment ago, practically the whole of what is at present nearly a million a year is given over from public funds for technical education in England, and we are receiving in this country a sum of £28,000, and by the liberality of the Agricultural and Technical Education Department £7,500 more for that purpose. I thought it right to bring that matter under your notice, because it appears to me to be a very important point in connection with the final arrangement of the question.

11047. (Mr. Gifford).—I think, my lord, the last return you quote there, £251,000 in 1903, includes, if

I mistake not, both the subsidies given to technical and to secondary, the returns which have been available in respect of England have not separated them until the year following that?—I asked the Technical Department if they could tell me how much of the money given to local bodies in England was devoted to technical instruction and how much to other purposes, and I received from them this return headed—

"Statement showing the amount appropriated to Technical Instruction out of the funds provided by the Local Taxation Account." I understood that to mean that these figures represent the amount which the local authorities give for the purpose of technical education, and do not contain any money given for any other education.

11048. Except that the term "technical," as used in returns up to that date, included work in secondary schools?—As bearing on that, I find a statement here as Balfour's "Educational Systems." "The amount of residue assigned to technical education by English local authorities rose from £472,550 in 1898-99 to £654,495 out of a total of £775,544 in 1905-06."

11049. (Chairman).—Have you got the returns for the years mentioned there?

11050. (Mr. Gifford).—The separation has only taken place in the returns published within the last year or so, in the return for 1904-05, I am afraid the Department have not realised the necessity of distinguishing between technical and secondary?—They go on to say to me in this return:—"Owing to the Education Act of 1902 coming into operation throughout the financial year ending 31st March, 1905," I take it that is a mistake for 1904—"on different dates for different years the annual return of the Board of Education is not drawn up in its usual form, and the return is not totalled, nor is there any summary given." On the other hand, the amount arising in 1903 from the Customs and Excise Act must have exceeded £331,000, and, consequently, I think something must have been withdrawn from it in addition to the £220,500 for the superannuation. Of course, I am taking it that this statement given to me by the Technical Department is correct, and particularly as it was given in answer to a question on the point. If I am to take it that that is correct, then, it would appear to me that the residue of the Local Taxation Account (amounting, at present, to over £200,000 a year) is practically given in England, and has been given for the last fifteen years for technical education purposes, and we are only receiving for the last five years the small sum of £28,000, and I wanted to show that I think we are not fairly treated, and that unfairness of treatment is the greater because for the ten years preceding the time the Technical Act was introduced into this country you had these enormous sums of money coming to England for the purpose.

Mr. M. A. EMMIS, J.P., examination continued.

11051. (Chairman).—Now, I think we were discussing the Live Stock scheme?—I should just like to support the evidence given already by two other witnesses to the effect that the live stock scheme, taken as a whole, is satisfactory, but we want more distinctly in the apportionment of the money; no trader setting out in business could possibly forecast the exact amount for every head of expenditure at the beginning of the year, but the Department lay down a hard and fast rule that when a scheme is sanctioned by the Department the estimate under any particular head cannot be exceeded during the currency of the scheme. It should not be exceeded, no doubt, without the consent of the Department, but where there are savings under one head it is impossible for anyone to forecast the exact expenditure under every head, consequently, as at present constituted, the local authorities, in agreeing with the Department on a scheme, must make a very liberal allowance for each item of expenditure, because otherwise they might find themselves in the position of not having enough money to carry out work which is much needed, and be obliged to stop the work for want of funds. Therefore, liberal provision is made, and large balances are accumulated which from a financial point of view is not necessary, and if it were possible to allocate to a given scheme a fixed sum

of money for the purpose of carrying the scheme into effect, and if one item of expenditure was found to need more money and another less, the total sum should be made applicable to that portion of the scheme which needed it most, subject always to the sanction of the Department. Under whatever regulation the Department may be acting in this matter I suggest the scheme that regulation is amended and the scheme they frame their schemes to permit of this elasticity the better it will be for the Committee that are working in conjunction with them. The next item is in regard to the police inspecting sheep-dipping. I think I may pass over that, because at the time that was put on the heads of my evidence we were on disavowing to get the Government to allow us to utilize the police as inspectors, but though the Government did not agree to that, they have given us assistance by the police in certain matters, and we are appointing inspectors of our own. The next item is the veterinary dispensaries. With regard to that several resolutions have been passed by the General Council on this subject of very great importance to Ireland; indeed the Department themselves admit the importance of the subject, but raise the question of the cost. The Department estimate that the cost of carrying out this scheme would be excessive; we are

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of opinion that it would not cost anything at all for what the Department say. The following resolutions were passed:—

At a meeting of the above Council held on the 8th December, 1905, the following resolution was passed on the motion of Mr. T. J. Dolan, seconded by Mr. P. O'Gorman:

"That in the opinion of this Council, a veterinary dispensary system, to provide veterinary attendance at a low charge for labourers and small farmers, would be useful in the public interest."

The Secretary was directed to forward a copy of the resolution to the Department of Agriculture, and to request that it would be considered by the Committee of Agriculture.

Irish County Councils' General Council.

Meeting April 19th, 1906. Proposed by Joseph T. Dolan, seconded by H. Brennan:

"That, having regard to the enormous amount of capital invested in live stock in this country, and the fact that such is the substantial part of the agricultural industry, it is essential that a scheme of veterinary assistance should be devised and put in work, which would provide at suitable centres in each county—

- (1) Veterinary surgeons who would make a speciality of the diseases of cattle, sheep, pigs, &c.
- (2) Dispensaries or depôts at which cattle in need of special treatment could be attended under the superintendence of the veterinary surgeon.
- (3) And that such veterinary surgeons should attend to cases in their district at a scale of fees graduated to the means of those requiring their help.
- (4) And that these veterinary surgeons should also discharge the duties now discharged under the Diseases of Animals Act, and by lectures at schools or otherwise extend the elementary knowledge of general diseases.

"That we require the Board of Agriculture to formulate a scheme for the carrying out the scope of this resolution.

"That copies be forwarded to the Vice-President, Department of Agriculture, and the Chief Secretary."

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Now, with regard to the veterinary dispensaries, I think I may say that it is admitted by the Department that such a scheme is desirable, but we have been informed that the Department were advised by some of their experts that the cost of putting such a scheme into operation in Ireland would amount to £200,000 or some such large sum of money. We in Wexford did not believe it was necessary to spend large sums at all in establishing such a scheme, and we adopted a system of appointing a small Committee and requesting the veterinary surgeons to enter into consultation with us; we had a long and protracted discussion on this matter with the veterinary surgeons of our county, who are at present receiving fees for their services in other respects, and the result was that we succeeded in arriving, in conjunction with the veterinary surgeons, at an agreement, and that agreement we have embodied in the form of a scheme, a copy of which I propose to hand in to you, and that scheme would really show that the cost to the County Wexford would be a mere bagatelle over what it is paying at present, and the cost to the District would be very slightly in excess of what the Department is at present paying for a much-restricted service. Our object being to supply the small holders with professional assistance to men who would not pay the ordinary fee to a veterinary surgeon, but would depend on quick assistance for the treatment of an animal, and in many cases would lose the animal. I hand in a copy of that scheme (produced). We have asked the Department to permit us to try experiments in our own county of Wexford. The next that I have on my list is sea fisheries, with regard to which I have got two resolutions passed by the Council urging the importance of the subject. I regard the sea fisheries of Ireland as a national asset, the value of which is

enormously under-estimated both by the Government, the Department, and our own people themselves; I believe that the sea fisheries of Ireland are an asset which, if properly handled, are calculated to turn in a very big revenue indeed to the people of the country and assist them very materially, and I think that contention is largely borne out by the fact that the Department have shown by evidence that in Donegal receipts an income of £250,000 a year has been reaped from the sea there by the crofters that they made to provide a fishing industry on the coast of Donegal.

11052. (Mr. Muckey).—That is a few pence only?—It must not be forgotten that that £250,000 a year was in the waters off the coast of Donegal in all the years that have passed, or a comparatively large portion of it, and all the years that have passed without that harvest being reaped has meant so much loss to the country. In discussing this question with one of the Inspectors of Fisheries I made a statement with regard to the value of the fishery on the south coast of Wexford which he was rather inclined to discredit. I had been staying at a seaside place on the south coast for some time previously, and I saw a fleet of chartered English trawlers fishing off the coast; it was in the Coronation year; they went to Brighton for the Coronation and came back again; I said they would not come here if they were not getting large takes. I was asked by the inspector if I could get some approximate idea of the value of the fish taken by these boats, and I was only able to arrive at a rough calculation from the shores the members of the crews of these boats took, and making calculations based on that, roughly, on what the take of the fleet of thirteen boats would be in four months, I came to the conclusion that they must have received for the fish taken off our coast and landed in Wexford a sum of very little short of £10,000.

11053. Were they net-fishing or trawling?—Trawling.

11054. Within the limits?—Oh, no, seven miles off. The Department have helped the County Council of Wexford very materially, and we have found they met us in a very fair way indeed with regard to our fisheries; we have spent a considerable sum of money since the County Council of Wexford came into existence; improvements have been made in the harbour of Kilmore; a new breakwater has been built and dredging operations undertaken, and our County Council have been trying to push forward their harbours with a view of the development, which will take place when the new route is open to Fishguard; the people are now within four miles of a station on this new line, and fish landed at Kilmore at any time in the afternoon may be landed in London at nine o'clock next morning. I am not aware whether the cost of administration is deducted from £10,000 applied for sea fisheries.

11055. No, it is extra?—Even the sum of £10,000 I hold they have expended it judiciously and well, and we have in our county not alone kept the harbours in our possession, but we have taken over Courtown, which was a private harbour, and put it into order.

11056. Can you say the money given to you for piers came out of the £10,000?—I assume it did.

11057. Is it not more likely it came out of the appropriations the Agricultural Board had?—I was under the impression it came out of the £10,000, because inspectors of the Department have told me their income was limited to £10,000 a year, but I make no complaint of the contribution they have given us; on the contrary, I give them credit for it, but the fisheries of Ireland are so important that the money at the disposal of the Department ought to be increased for the development of Irish fisheries. In our County Council we have under our control eight or nine small harbours, and along a sandy coast like this sand will come in and small sections dredges will be wanted. I hold that we require the Fishery Board remodelled; I desire to give every credit to the two inspectors, but the importance of the subject is such you want to enlarge the sphere of their operations. Take Kilmore, there is a little harbour. I was there last evening; machined were taken there in such quantities within the last ten days, boats were bringing hundreds of dozens of fish, and they sold at 3d. a dozen for want of a market. I hold that the Department should send their experts, what I may call special inspectors, men of a different class from the inspectors, who would go around the coast and

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assist the fisherman; remember they are a very helpless class in a way; they have no power of organisation; they don't know where to find a market; these fish are being taken off Kilmore, and value is not being obtained for them, and I held the Department ought to have machinery whereby the fishermen would be organised together, their produce would be taken in bulk from Kilmore, placed on the market in London, and the marketing of the fish supervised by officers of the Department. I held that the fisheries are a big national asset.

11058. Would a fish like the mackerel at this time of the year bear the cost of the transit to London?—I think so, or it could be packed. At Duncannon last summer I saw Irish girls from Burton Port who were brought there to teach the local people to pack herrings; they had to work very hard, but they were earning ten shillings a day; the Department might do a big work in providing curing stations.

11059. Fish merchants are quite willing to go to any place where there is a sufficient supply?—The supply is an intermittent one in those places, and the Department with trained experts could possibly drop upon a place when fish comes, and the fish could be got to market.

11060. (Mr. O'Leary).—You want to develop a middleman in the form of a fish merchant who would be able to take that stage in hand as a matter of commercial venture?—Yes, I want to point out that the fishermen are helpless, the Department might negotiate with the fish merchants, it should take a fishery interest in the welfare of the fisherman and endeavour to foster his industry.

11061. In endeavouring to bring a fish merchant on the field?—Quite so.

11062. (Mr. Meade).—A fish merchant won't go on the field unless there is a fair supply of fish?—At many times of the season there is a large sale of fish in the locality, and the fish merchant never hears of it. Fishing is an industry that shows all others is naturally of a fluctuating character, and in Duncannon last summer there was a large sale of fish, but I was sorry to see the fleet of boats that were in Duncannon were Scotch boats with the exception of one boat from Arklow.

11063. (Mr. O'Leary).—What were they doing with the fish?—They were curing the fish with the assistance of those girls from Burton Port.

11064. (Mr. Meade).—It does not want a building or anything of that sort?—No. The next item I have is the ratio of the Department's contribution towards technical instruction in rural districts is a very different thing compared with the technical instruction in urban districts. I appear for one urban Committee, but I am here primarily for the General Council of County Councils, representing all the rural districts of Ireland. In the County Wexford the Department contributes £250 per annum as against our £250 from the County Committee, whereas they contribute £500 per annum as against £70 a year to the urban committee of Wexford; the contribution for technical instruction in structure in the rural districts is inadequate. I don't blame the Department so much for that because we are all aware their funds are inadequate, but in the event of more funds being obtained I would point out the rural districts deserve more consideration. The next item is a complaint that in the financing of some of their technical schemes there is want of continuity of purpose being shown by the Department, and that they have failed to obtain the best results which could have been obtained by the expenditure of the money which they have expended in certain localities. I would like to illustrate that with reference to the Wexford Urban Technical Institute, that was one of the first Committees formed in Ireland, and when the scheme was first presented the Department informed the local Committee that our total income would be £700 a year, made up of £250 from the Department, £70 from the local rate, and £70 Equivalent Grant. A difficulty then arose with regard to the Equivalent Grant, and Dr. Sheehan was head of the Department which waited on Mr. Wyndham, the then Chief Secretary, with the request that the Treasury agreed for a limited period to advance a further sum of £3,500 in respect of this Equivalent Grant; what the Department did with that £3,500 I do not know, we never had any satisfactory information on the subject; in any case we in the Wexford Urban Committee did not receive any of it. The income of the Borough of Wexford

Technical Committee instead of being £700 a year was actually £570, the Department reduced their contribution to £200 in the first year, they said they had made some re-arrangement of their scale, and as our local rate was £70 only, we were left with £280 a year instead of £700. The Corporation of Wexford were to borrow £2,500 to build a properly equipped technical school, and the charge for this was to be borne out of the technical fund, £340 a year was required for that purpose, but the reduction of our income to £280 left us in a position unable to pay this money, and we asked the Department to state to us what steps they proposed to take to enable us to carry our scheme into effect. The Department told us they would not permit us to proceed with the erection of the technical school that was contemplated after the plans had been drawn and arrangements made for the purchase of the site and over £100 expenses incurred. One of their inspectors suggested we should obtain the most suitable unused building in the town and make the best we could of it, and accordingly a building selected by themselves was purchased at a cost of £400 for the goodwill, it cost £200 to alter it and make it in any way suitable for its purpose, and we have in the current year spent £250 in building two galvanised iron classrooms at the back, so that the total expenditure on buildings from accumulated funds and income during the past five years has been nearly £1,000. That £1,000 would have paid interest on this sum of money needed to build a properly equipped technical school for seven years. After a lapse of three years the Department increased the contribution, and are now giving £68 a year, and I held that their action and change of purpose has resulted in this, that the Technical Institute of Wexford is now located in a building which, though the best that could be obtained locally, is not an efficient technical school, its classrooms are not large enough for the purpose, whenever we hold our examinations we cannot place our tables the required five feet apart. The building is not suitable now for a technical school, and never will be, and it is not yet fully equipped. If the Department had permitted us to go on with the original scheme we should have had a fully and properly equipped school two years ago. The next item is County Scholarships. We have founded county Scholarships during the few years past, they have been most satisfactory, they are awarded to boys from primary schools to secondary. The Department originally contributed £550 to our £175 for technical instruction, but when our Scholarships were added the Department said, "We have to raise money to give you." The Scholarships are undoubtedly useful, and a number of our clever boys have won these Scholarships, and I am glad to say there is nothing denominational in the way the County Council has awarded these. Of the eight scholarships for male students at present five are held by Roman Catholics boys and three by Protestants, and they hold the Scholarships in the schools of their respective denominations.

11065. (Mr. O'Leary).—Why do you say it is out of the county money not aided by the Department?—Our scheme was in operation before the Scholarships. When it was suggested we should have Scholarships the Department said, "Our contribution still remains £550, we cannot increase it, but if you wish to put Scholarships into the scheme for the coming season, you must find the money yourselves," and we did, we increased our contribution to £365.

11066. From what source did you get the money?—From the rates.

11067. What is the rate value of the contribution to technical education?—A penny in the £, £1,408. The whole one penny was not given before that addition; we have power under the Act to strain twice, but I don't believe that power to strain twice has been put into operation by any county in Ireland except in sections of the County Dublin University Scholarships are technical Scholarships in an institution of University standing. Looking to the very pleasant relations that the various Committees I am associated with have had with the Department in their work, I was both surprised and disappointed with the attitude the Department took with regard to this particular subject. The County Council of Wexford in February last decided to found two Scholarships to be held by the student who, in the opinion of the County Council, had obtained the best results in the experimental sciences

in the Intermediate examinations, these Scholarships to be held in an institution of University standing, which undertook to give instruction in the subjects specified, and that resolution was adopted by the Wexford County Council. It came before the Irish County Councils General Council on the 19th of April, and was adopted by them and recommended by them to the County Council of Ireland generally. It was also adopted by the Technical Congress at Waterford, so that the Department knew of this scheme for many months, it was officially included in the Wexford scheme for the session 1906-07, and was sent to the Department on the 16th of June. We urged the Department to give us a reply as to whether they sanctioned our scheme or not on a couple of occasions, and they replied that they were unable to do so until they had had the matter before the Board of Technical Instruction, which met on the 17th of July. At the meeting of the Board of Technical Instruction, I have the newspaper report furnished by the Department of that meeting, the Wexford scheme was not submitted, but a scheme from a county, which was manifestly not in a position to carry it out successfully, was submitted and it was refused. We claim that the Department in this matter have endeavored to take refuge behind the Technical Board which refused to shelter them in the matter. And after the meeting of the Technical Board we had a communication from the Department in which they say:—"With regard to the proposals for establishing two University Scholarships in the scheme of technical instruction for the County Wexford for 1906-07, the Department are advised by the Law Officers of the Crown that expenditure for the purpose of these proposals is not permissible under the Technical Instruction Act, 1889 or 1891, or under the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act of 1900. I have accordingly to request the Committee to be good enough to re-submit this scheme with this provision omitted, and to note that under the circumstances it will not be possible for the Department or Board of Technical Instruction to take these proposals into further consideration." At the Board of Technical Instruction the Department asked to have the matter adjourned for further consideration, and the Board of Technical Instruction not being sympathetic with their view, they withdrew the matter from the Board.

19068 (Chairman).—They seem to have taken legal advice, and found it was not within their power?—My contention is the Department were aware of this scheme for six months previously.

19068. They might not have been aware of the eligibility?—If they wished to take the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown they had ample opportunities. I should like to say further that the Wexford Committee asked the Department to favour them with the text of the queries submitted by them to the Law Officers of the Crown, and the reply, inasmuch as the Wexford County Council are advised by two King's Counsel that their scheme is perfectly legal and within the limits of the Act.

19070. I speak with a good deal of experience, and I don't think they had any alternative, but to take that course.

(Mr. Micks).—Did you see the case submitted?—No, the Department refused to let us see it.

19071. (Chairman).—That is certainly the course which would be taken in cases in which I have been connected?—My only complaint is that the Department did not, if they considered these steps desirable, take them at an earlier date, the result of having delayed so long has rather been to dislocate the work for the present session.

19072. The objection in that letter was a legal one?—Yes.

19073. (Mr. Micks).—Did you send your opinion to the Department?—No, they have not asked us for it, and they are not disposed to send their opinion to us; we are outside the expenditure for the purpose is quite within the limits of the Act, and that the County Council of Wexford may proceed independently of the Department in that connection.

19074 (Mr. O'Sullivan).—The proposal was to give Technical Scholarships to be held in an institution of University standard?—Which undertook to give instruction in the technical subjects specified.

19075. So that there was no mistake about its being a Scholarship for further technical education of the

scholar?—No mistake whatever about it, the scholar was to undergo an examination in those technical subjects each year during the continuance of the Scholarships. With regard to the Trade Preparatory School, the Department also submitted a scheme to the County Wexford Committee, which they suggested we should adopt; we did not adopt the scheme because we were satisfied it was not in the interests of the county we should do so. The proposal was that a Joint Committee should be formed from the County Committee and the Urban Committee of Ennisceorty, and that the total fund and the accumulated funds of both Committees should be devoted to building a Trade Preparatory School in Ennisceorty, and the maintenance of that school. We asked for details, and they sent us this scheme, to which we took objection on several grounds, but on the grounds of finance alone the objections we took to it were, I think, insuperable. First of all, we had been providing a sum of £365 a year from Wexford County for the purpose of the Technical Instruction Committee, but our expenditure for these purposes amounted to about £260, that is to say, we were saving about £100 a year on our expenditure. The scheme which the Department laid before us included included items, three domestic economy instructions, where we were only employing two, and things of that kind, and the method of finance adopted by the Department is not satisfactory, we have had considerable trouble recently over this question, however, on that I believe we have arrived at a satisfactory settlement with the Department. With regard to the Trade Preparatory School, the main features of the proposal were that we should contribute £265 a year to this Joint Committee and give up to them our accumulated funds, amounting to several hundreds of pounds, and continue to make this contribution; that would mean that we would expend £100 a year more than we had been already expending for technical instruction that we have been giving in country districts, and in addition give up our accumulated funds, that meant a difference to us of £130 to £140 per annum, and we had to see what in the interests of the rural districts we were going to obtain in exchange, and in this scheme we can discern nothing we would obtain except an increased amount in the Scholarships scheme of £5 per annum, that is all we would have obtained in return for this expenditure, and, furthermore, the finance of this scheme was contributions from the Department, contributions from the Urban District of Ennisceorty, which was going to mortgage its penny rate to the utmost to provide for the building of this school, and contributions from the County Committee. If the Department said their contribution was a fixed one and could not be exceeded, the contribution from the Urban rate of Ennisceorty certainly could not be exceeded, and if the finance scheme was inadequate, as I hold it is, the deficit would have fallen on the Wexford County Council. I am quite prepared to go into the figures they give here of the expenditure, and show in many ways they are much less than they would be in practice. In the Technical Institute at Wexford we employed a principal and secretary at £250 a year, and we found very soon that if he attended to his classes he could not write up the minutes, and we had to employ an assistant at £25 a year. And it is proposed that the principal at Ennisceorty is to act as a principal and secretary not only for the school, but for the county work, and it would be manifestly impossible for him to do that without an assistant secretary, and there are various items which show the finance of the scheme would be utterly unworkable, and, therefore, we threw out the scheme, believing it would not be suitable to our county or just to the rural districts. Therefore, I say that while Day Trade Preparatory Schools are in themselves, perhaps, suitable to cities, in rural districts such as our district they are not suitable, and there are further objections to them which might be raised, for very small boys, I don't want to raise this point strongly or strain it, but I say such scheme must be considered on its individual merits, and because I object to the particular scheme I am not to be taken as objecting to Trade Preparatory Schools in other districts. The scheme here would have meant bringing from remote country districts small boys of twelve years of age and placing them in a Day Preparatory School, which would mean a school in which absolutely no religious instruction could be given, and with a small boy, whatever religious denomination he belonged to, I believe his parents would object, and that

Oct 18, 1906.

Mr. M. A.
Ennisceorty, J. R.

Oct. 15, 1896.

Mr. M. A.
Macdonnell.

Scholarships would not be taken up as they are now taken up in the county if, as provided by the scheme, all Scholarships should, in future, be tenable only at the Day Trades' Proprietary School. At present Catholic boys take their scholarships in the Christian Brothers' schools. The Protestant boys take them, two in the Talo School, Waterford, and the third in Bishop Fay's school, Waterford. The only other item I have noted in my evidence is with regard to the want of co-operation between the Department and the National Board, that is a matter that has been fully gone into, and I don't want to say more on it, but I desire to hand in the following resolutions:—

IRISH COUNTY COUNCILS' GENERAL COUNCIL.

Resolution, adopted at meeting, January 12, 1905, proposed by John Cullinan, M.P., seconded by Henry Brennan:—

"That, in our opinion it is absolutely necessary to have a genuine representative for Irish produce in the markets of Great Britain, with duties analogous to those of the Danish Commissioner for the protection of Irish interests and the extension of sale of Irish products."

At a meeting of the above Council, held on the 22nd August, 1899, the following resolution re Irish fisheries was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr. Strange (Waterford City); seconded by Mr. Danovon (Kerry):—

"That a committee be appointed to consider the question, and to report to this Council at its next meeting. That the following be members of it:—Mr. Strange (Waterford City), Mr. Power (Waterford), Mr. Sweeny (Waterford), Mr. Sweeney (Downgal), Mr. Cassidy (Downgal), Mr. Morris (Kilkenny), Mr. Danovon (Kerry)."

Mr. Morris (Kilkenny) consented to act as hon. secretary to the Committee.

At a meeting of the above Council, held on the 27th April, 1905, the following resolution re Encouragement of Fishing Industry, was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr. M. Kelly, seconded by Mr. J. O'Dowd:—

"That this meeting of the General Council invites the co-operation of the Local Government Board in the improvement of the Marine Works Act, and its extension in the course of the present session to West Clare, and to all other parts of the Irish coast outside of the Congested Districts, and that in view of the extreme urgency of this question, which is one of vital importance to thousands of our fishing population, who heretofore have received no encouragement in the prosecution of their industry, we call on the Government to deal with this matter without further delay.

"(2) We request the Local Government Board to give such assistance as it can to the construction of roads leading to the seashore in those places where, owing to technical difficulties, such roads cannot be put into repair."

At a meeting of the above Council, held on the 26th August, 1903, the following resolution, re Treasury (Equivalent) Grant for Technical Instruction, was unanimously adopted on the motion of the Chairman (Sir Thomas Esmonde), seconded by Mr. Wm. Field, M.P.:—

"That, since the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act (1899) provided only £25,000 a year for technical instruction in Ireland, whilst England receives from public funds close upon £1,000,000 we protest against the action of the Treasury in withholding or limiting in any way the grant heretofore offered to all local authorities levying a local rate for such instruction. We do so, because the sum of £25,000 comes mainly from Irish funds; moreover, the Councils of County and County Boroughs have levied rates on the faith of a promise that an equivalent sum would be given by the Treasury, whilst, if the Grant be withheld, no part of the county will derive any advantage for technical education from the Act of 1899.

"That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the First Lord of the Treasury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and the Irish members of Parliament."

At a meeting of the above Council, held on the 25th August, 1905, the following resolution was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr. J. O. Macdonnell (Co. Galway), seconded by Mr. J. Galvin (Co. Roscommon):—

"That the Department and the County Committee be requested to take steps to ensure that in all county schemes for agricultural and technical instruction dates shall be inserted by which the amount then actually due of the Department's contribution for the year shall be received by the County Committee."

At a meeting of the above Council, held on the 9th December, 1905, the following resolution was passed on the motion of Mr. J. A. Glynn, seconded by Mr. M. A. Ennis:—

"That where County Councils adopt a scheme of Scholarships from primary to secondary schools, Irish be made a compulsory subject in the grading and further examinations to be held in connection with such Scholarships.

"Note.—Both male and female students will be eligible for these Scholarships, at the discretion of the County Council awarding them."

At a meeting of the above Council, held on the 25th October, 1904, the following resolution re Catholic University education, was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr. John Cullinan (on behalf of Mr. P. A. Meenan, Queen's County), seconded by Mr. I. C. MacDonnell:—

"That the Government have deliberately betrayed the Catholic people of Ireland by their refusal to bring in a Bill giving a Catholic University to the country.

"That the establishment of a Catholic University is the only means of placing Catholics on terms of equality with other religious denominations, whose educational wants are amply provided for by the State.

"That we again demand from the Government, in the name of Catholic Ireland, justice and equality by establishing a University of whose educational advantages Catholics can conscientiously avail."

Resolution adopted at meeting January 12, 1905, proposed by E. F. O'Kelly, seconded by John O'Dowd, M.P.:—

"That this Council is of opinion that in the matter of higher education for the Catholic youth of this country they should be suitably equipped in, and have all the advantages of those of their Protestant fellow-countrymen, so as to enable them to take their proper place in the development of the industrial resources of Ireland."

At a meeting of the above Council, held on the 25th August, 1905, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, on the motion of the Chairman (Sir Thomas Esmonde), seconded by Mr. M. A. Ennis (County Wicklow):—

"That having considered the resolution passed by the County Wicklow County Council, we authorize our Executive Committee to obtain legal opinion as to whether, and how far, the Technical Instruction Acts of 1889, 1891, 1896, 1903, 1901, and 1902, and the Acts relating to Intermediate Education, and any other Acts, can be utilized to further the cause of University Education in Ireland."

Resolution, adopted at meeting, December 23d, 1905, Proposed by Sir T. Esmonde, seconded by John Swintman:—

"That the provisions for higher education in Ireland are wholly inadequate to the wants of the people, that the present distribution of public educational funds is wasteful and unjust, and that it is essential to the interests of the country that there should be as once introduced into Parliament such a measure as will remedy existing grievances and establish under conditions of equal justice to all a system of higher education suited to the requirements and satisfying the just claims of the Irish people."

At a meeting of the above Council, held on the 26th December, 1905, the following resolution was passed

on the motion of the Chairman (Sir Thomas Kennedy), seconded by Mr. P. J. O'Neill:—

"That the despatch from the Gaelic League be now received."

The despatch, consisting of Miss O'Farrelly, Miss Hayden, Alderman Cole, and Mr. Thomas O'Donnell, &c., having been read.

Mr. M. A. Ennis moved, and Mr. H. Brennan seconded:—

"That the following draft scheme for County Scholarships be approved of and embodied for the consideration of the County and County Borough Councils:—

"That the adoption of a scheme for the promotion of technical education in the County of is hereby declared to be necessary.

"That in furtherance of this object we, the County Council of County during the next three years hereby establish each year, two Scholarships of the value of £40 each, tenable for three years, by two students from the county, who in the judgment of this Council, shall have made the best record in the Experimental Science group of the Intermediate programme, provided they have also passed in Irish, and in such other subjects as may be required to qualify them for admission to an University or an University College.

"The subjects of study for which these Scholarships will be granted will be the following (in not less than two of which the students must present themselves for examination, in three successive years, at a yearly examination of the institution at which they hold their Scholarships), viz.:—Mathematics, Mathematical Physics, Chemistry, Electro-Technology, Agriculture, Botany, Zoology—and the students must also present themselves for examination in Irish.

"These Scholarships will be tenable at an institution of University standing, which undertakes to give instructions in the subjects aforesaid, to be

determined by this Council, when the Scholarships Oct. 11, 1906 are awarded.

Mr. M. A. Ennis, 2nd.

"Reports of the students' progress shall be regularly furnished to this Council by the authorities of the institution at which they hold their Scholarships; and the Council reserves to itself the right of withdrawing these Scholarships at any time should these reports prove unsatisfactory.

"That the adoption of this scheme is required by the circumstances of County of

"None.—Both male and female students will be eligible for these Scholarships at the discretion of the County Council awarding them."

At a meeting of the above Council held on the 8th December, 1906, the following resolution was passed on the motion of Mr. P. O'Gorman, seconded by Mr. J. T. Dolan:—

"That in view of the present unsettled and unsatisfactory condition of education in Ireland, and, we believe, to the non-representative constitution of the National Board, we consider that the time has now arrived when the people of Ireland should demand that the present Board shall be replaced by a representative Board, in close touch with the classes who use the primary schools, and are conversant with the educational needs and wishes of the country generally. But while desiring that the present Board should be abolished, we shall strenuously oppose any attempt which may be made to override the wishes of the Irish people by the establishment of a Department of Education, which could only result in even still greater disorganisation and dissatisfaction than exist at present."

On the suggestion of Mr. John Sweetman, the following words were added:—

"That we are of opinion that the National Board of Education should be nominated by this General Council of County Councils."

Mr. John Cullinan, M.P., dissented from the addition.

The Committee adjourned.

THIRTY-SECOND PUBLIC SITTING.—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 1906.

At the Council Chamber, Kilkenny.

Present:—

Sir KENNEL DOUG, K.C., Q.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MACK.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGBURN.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Very Rev. Canon DOYLE, F.R., examined.

Oct. 17, 1906.

Very Rev.
Canon Doyle,
F.R.

11075a. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have, from time to time, followed very closely the criticisms of the public about the Department, and I must honestly say that I do not agree with all those criticisms. I do not, however, undertake to endorse all the actions of the Department. I shall have occasion to criticise some of them, but I think, at the same time, it must be said in truth that the Department, in face of enormous difficulties, has done a very important work in this country. It is very easy to criticise, and very easy to pull down, but it is very hard to build up anything, and hence I think the public should be sometimes a little more moderate in the criticisms of the work that is being done.

11076. (Chairman).—Are you speaking now, Canon Doyle, your own views, or in a representative capacity?—I am speaking as a representative, as far as I know, of the public.

11077. You are a member of the Committee?—Yes, I am Chairman of the Joint Technical Committee, formed to carry on technical instruction in the city and county. I am also a member of the Agricultural Committee.

11078. Then you speak from ample experience, both inside and outside, of the working of the Act?—Yes.

11079. Will you kindly take your own course, and tell us what you want to say?—The matter to which I wish to call attention at first is a matter about which we are very deeply interested in Kilkenny, and about which, in many parts of Ireland, the people are very deeply interested, and that is the revival of Irish industries. I believe there are few places in Ireland where the effects brought about by the ruin of Irish industries can be studied with more advantage than in Kilkenny City. This, in former times, was a busy commercial city. It was the centre of the woollen trade, and, as you can see yourselves, all that has disappeared, and there has been a frightful drain of emigration going on in this city and county. The industrial decay that you now witness yourselves is visible on every side. In reviving these industries the little experience that we have had here in this city recently convinces us that we are beset by very great difficulties. One great difficulty that besets anyone that attempts to revive an industry in Ireland is the want of self-confidence, and the want of self-reliance that he meets with everywhere. One instance will bring before you the extent to which that has got possession of the public mind. When shares were being taken in the city and county of Kilkenny for the woollen factory one gentleman put into it a certain sum of money. He is a wealthy man, and some of his neighbours said to him that he ought to put in more. He said, "That is all I can afford to lose." Therefore it was not, in his mind, a transaction from which he hoped to get profit, but he had put in his money merely because he was asked to put it in, and could not afford to lose any more. That feeling was very commonly met with when that capital was being raised. I think it is very important that we should know that that feeling exists, and that a remedy should be applied, if possible. Another great difficulty about this matter is the training of hands. I need not dwell much upon that matter, because you have visited the mill to-day, and heard from Mr. Hunter, the manager,

the position in which he is placed. I believe it will take three years, at all events, before he hopes to have the hands in that mill attain such perfection that they will be able to compete on the same terms with long-established mills. I think, therefore, that in order to meet these difficulties, special treatment is required in Ireland. I need not mention again that legislation in Ireland from 1868 to 1879 killed our industries, and it did what was worse, it killed the spirit of industry in our people, and unquestionably the sad effects of that operate late to this hour, and when people attempt to do anything they are confronted by those evil effects. I think, therefore, special treatment is necessary if Irish industries are to be revived, and I think it is most important that they should be revived—because, besides stopping that drain of emigration, there is another reason why they should be revived. I think I know the public mind very well with regard to the efforts that are being made now to advance technical education in the country, and we are constantly asked by the farmers, shopkeepers and others, "What good is going to come of it; we are spending our time, and we are contributing our rates, and if the only result that is going to come from that technical education is that the people are to be trained, and sent away to such America and England, we don't see our way to continue to do it." Recently when our Committee were making certain arrangements, the understanding on which the Committee agreed to continue these arrangements was that they might have a further opportunity of observing the practical results of the education, whether it was going to produce anything to enrich the country, or to train the people to be sent away to enrich other countries. I think, under the circumstances, that if we are going to maintain this system of technical education, which has now been started in the country at such large expense, it is of the most vital importance that that technical education should be directed to the revival of our lapsed industries; and I don't think that can be done, except by subsidising them in the beginning.

11080. If I understand what you mean it is that that technical education to be a reality, and meet with general approval, and find root in the country, must have reference to existing industries?—It must produce practical results, in the shape of reviving industries, otherwise the people will not continue to support it.

11081. In other words, if you have no industries going for which people can be trained, it is no use to train them at all?—I would not say so. As far as I am personally concerned, if there never was an industry revived in Ireland, I would still support technical education; for I would wish to see our people thoroughly trained, so that when they go to America or Australia they can compete with other people; but I must say that is not the view of the taxpayers. I know with regard to subsidising industries, there is a diversity of opinion, and a very great diversity of opinion; and, with your permission, I will quote a few words of Mr. Justice Byrne. He was a Justice of the Common Pleas from 1858 to 1873.

11082. Do you quote from his book? He wrote a very well-known book on Protection and Free Trade. I know him well?—Yes. He says: "All will not, at length, allow that the old English policy of preventing or destroying Irish manufacturing industry was

not only monstrously cruel and unjust, but highly disadvantageous to England as well as Ireland, inflicting, as it did, on Ireland the curse of inevitable pauperism and mendacity. But the mischief has been done. It cannot be undone by merely removing restrictions on Irish industry. This will only perpetuate the evil. Trade has always a tendency to run in the same channel. English manufactures, fostered by a jealous system of protection, and, therefore, now become the first in the world, permeating every Irish village where there is a penny to spend, will effectually choke and smother any infant Irish manufactures. Misery has produced discontent, misadministration, and insecurity. Now, neither Irish nor English manufacturing industry will flourish on Irish ground without some temporary but extraordinary inducement, as a compensation for the extraordinary and accidental disadvantages to which it would be subjected. The destruction of Irish industry by the ancient selfish English policy is not only a case for repentance, but for restitution. Like other nations, we are very willing to confess that we have done wrong; ready even to promise that we will do so no more. But a proposal for compensation, a proposal that we should give any Irish industry, or any English industry on Irish ground, a partial and temporary protection and advantage, so as to place Ireland as nearly as we can in the same state as if she had always been fairly treated, as an integral part of the Empire—a proposal to make up for past delinquencies, and really restore industry to its natural channels—I say such a proposal, just and natural as it is, would at present be received in England with shouts of derision." I hope the English mind has changed since that was written, and that it is not true now; but I think, at all events, that these words very forcibly express the sentiments of those who have been attempting to revive Irish industry in Kilkenny. I think it is the judgment of the public, as far as I can make out, at all events of those that I have had an opportunity of learning from, that the policy of the Department is highly unsatisfactory on this point.

Sir Horace Plunkett recently said, in evidence before you, that the great difficulty he had in subsidising industry is that it would deter capital from coming into the country. Now, with regard to the incoming of capital into Ireland, I am afraid it is very much like calling up spirits from the vasty deep. They may be called, but they won't come. That is our experience in Kilkenny. We endeavoured to get some of it in here, but we did not succeed; and when a gentleman that was negotiating with us came here, he went very carefully over all the difficulties that beset his path; and one of the things that he pointed out was the difficulty he would have, if he came here, in finding trained hands.

11053. When you are referring to—An English gentleman, who came over here a year ago, and was negotiating with us about coming to Kilkenny to establish the woollen industry, but in conference with the committee he pointed out several difficulties he had to encounter, and amongst these was the difficulty of finding trained hands. I said to him, "Can you not bring them with you?" "No," he said, "I cannot; because if I were to bring over hands from England to Ireland they would be too expensive, and, therefore, I must get hands in Ireland, and I must begin when I come over here and train them." I don't see where Sir Horace Plunkett's objection comes in there. If that man knew that when he came over here, during the period of training his hands, he would be subsidised to a certain extent, it might be a considerable factor in inducing him to come; but he did not come. I cannot make out the force of that objection put forward by Sir Horace Plunkett—that if he was to subsidise an industry for a short time that would deter capital from coming into the country. Of course if some industries were to be subsidised continually, and other industries that were not subsidised had to compete against them, it would be very difficult for the latter to compete with the former; but we asked this industry to be subsidised for a short time only until the hands were trained.

11054. You draw a distinction between subsidising continuously and subsidising for a short time?—Certainly; we never dream of subsidising continually.

11055. Is not that merely a matter of degree—would not the objection equally apply?—If the principle is laid down that you are to subsidise an industry in starting, then each industry, in starting, should be supported in some way; but the support should only

be continued until such time as the inequalities against which the rising industry has to compete have disappeared.

11056. Would you go the length of stating that every new industry should be subsidised in the commencement?—If the Department, after carefully examining into the industry, comes to the conclusion that it has a promise of success, it should be subsidised, but not otherwise.

11057. That would be an enormously difficult question to settle, and an enormous responsibility to throw on any Department?—The Department has already taken upon itself a tremendous responsibility in establishing a technical system of education, and if it is found that the people are not satisfied to continue supporting that system, unless something is done to revive industries, and if the peculiar circumstances of Ireland show that they cannot be revived without special treatment, I don't see why that special treatment should not be given. And the reason I think that treatment should be given is the reason, generally put forward by Mr. Justice Byles—that is, the case of restitution. I know, of course, that to Englishmen now living are responsible for the acts done some hundred or two hundred years ago, but they are responsible for the legacy left; and if Englishmen now living have profited by the work done two hundred years ago, as they certainly have, they ought not to hesitate to restore a wrong inflicted on others.

11058. Would you accept, putting it in rather a different way, apart from any question of history, that they are responsible now for doing the best which circumstances admit for the benefit of that which is an integral part of the British Empire, would you accept that view?—I am coming to that.

11059. That is the responsibility of Government, apart from what happened two hundred years ago?—The Judge states here that the effects of this destruction of Irish industry produced heretofore poverty and mendacity in this country, and it is the duty of the Government undoubtedly, to remove these evils.

11060. (Mr. Michel).—As regards the question of giving assistance to any new industry started, would you also think it a matter to be considered, whether the new industry, being started, would compete substantially with any existing industry?—I consider that if, in the judgment of the Department, the industry that was about being started was likely to operate detrimentally against an industry already in existence, it should not be subsidised in that case.

11061. (Chairman).—Would not that be throwing upon the Department the responsibility of deciding whether or not it was a case of undue competition; would not that be a question almost impossible for any Department to solve?—I don't think so.

11062. (Mr. Michel).—Are you aware that the Congested Districts Board have to decide exactly similar questions?—I am aware of that, and don't think there is anything impossible in the matter; and if the Department, dealing with such enormous sums of money, as they have been spending, finds it is necessary, in order to make that expenditure profitable, there should be no hesitation in going to the root of the difficulty.

11063. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Are you addressing your argument to demonstrate that the Department ought, under their existing powers, to give such assistance to industries, or to the question of whether or not they ought to have additional powers which would enable them to do so?—I think the policy of the Department is highly unsatisfactory with regard to the revival of industries. If the Department had come forward, and said, "We have no power in law to do what you want, but we think it should be done, and we ought to get additional powers," I think their position would be quite satisfactory all along; but they have not done so. In fact, I see, following up their evidence, that they are really satisfied with what they have, and are not anxious that those powers should be extended; and I think it is on that score the public have blamed them.

11064. Do you hold that they have the powers?—No, I do not; but I think the principal ground of complaint against the Department is that they did not come forward and advocate this matter. Their policy seems to be a timorous, vacillating policy as far as the revival of industries is concerned. If they had said, "We have not the law, nor the money, but we believe, from our experience, that in order to revive Irish industries something of that kind must be done," we would have no complaint against them.

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11095 (Mr. Brown).—Is your experience principally directed to what has happened in Kilkenny, or are you speaking generally?—Generally, I have before my mind the things brought home to me by my experience here, but I believe the same state of things exists elsewhere, for I have attended numbers of meetings and technical congresses, and I find the same sentiment prevalent in other parts of Ireland as does here with regard to the revival of industries, so my observations have a much wider scope than Kilkenny. Mr. Fletcher, in his evidence before this Committee, stated that he had spent £11,000 in reviving industries, and put that forward as some defence of the Department. Now I consider that, having regard to the enormous sums spent by the Department on technical education, and having regard, also, to the exceeding great importance of this matter, I think it is an exceedingly small sum to have spent for this purpose.

11096 (Mr. O'Grady).—An exceedingly small sum to have spent for a purpose on which you believe they have no power to spend any at all?—Oh, no, I beg your pardon. They have no power to directly subsidise, I understand, but they have power to indirectly assist by giving scholarships. I am passing away, at this moment, from the direct subsidy, and I am talking about scholarships now.

11097. That they have power to give scholarships, for what purpose?—I presume that they have power to do what they have done; they have given scholarships in Kilkenny and other places in Ireland.

11098 (Mr. Brown).—For the purpose of training hands?—Yes.

11099 (Mr. O'Grady).—Otherwise than in the practice of an industry?—Yes.

11100 (Mr. Nickle).—Or directly in the practice of an industry?—Directly, that is it.

11101 (Mr. O'Grady).—I understand you to mean that they have no power, at present, to spend their money in the teaching of an industry?—I am not an expert on the subject.

11102. I am reading the words of the Act—I accept that. The complaint we have made is that the Department have not advocated the subsidising of industries. I now pass to the second point. They have power to give these scholarships, and have actually given some, and having such power as that, it is an exceedingly small sum to have given towards them, £11,000; it is an exceedingly small sum to have spent in giving these scholarships.

11103. Of course that would turn, to some extent, upon the object for which the scholarships could be given?—Certainly.

11104. And as they are restricted, according to the Act, so that they cannot spend money on scholarships, or otherwise, for the purpose of training persons in the practice of an industry, it is conceivable that the instruction, in respect of which scholarships could be given, would be but a portion of that which you deem to be assisted?—Quite so.

11105. And therefore £11,000 is not the measure of the assistance which is desirable, in the total respect of preparing people for industries, but only all the assistance that can be given, under the existing law, for one section?—I cannot accept that explanation, for this reason; if it is lawful to give £200 for a certain purpose, the principle is established. £1 establishes the principle, as well as £100, or £200, and if the Department can give £200, on principle, there is nothing to prevent them giving £10,000 on principle.

11106. Except the question of proportion, between the different functions they have to fulfil, and the different objects, and methods, they have to consider?—That brings me, exactly, on the same lines again. The Department have given to Kilkenny £200 last year, and they are giving £200 this year for these scholarships. We consider that that sum is altogether inadequate. Now if the Department came forward and said, "We cannot give you any more, we have no money, and we are very sorry we cannot give it, we admit that what we are giving is totally inadequate," I admit there would be no reason of complaint, but they give us that much, and then contend that that is sufficient, and they don't admit that they are hampered in any way.

11107 (Mr. Brown).—How many hands were trained last year, during which the £200 was given?—Fifteen. I may say that last year we were not able to exhaust the £200, for this reason; hands were sent

to KilmacThomas and Galway, and at Galway, after some time, they raised an objection to taking more hands, because the movement was impeding the work there, and the reason why the whole £200 was not spent was because a training school could not be got for that. Now, when we were getting up this factory here, we were looking round to see what was done in other places, and we found in Manchester, and Ashton-under-Lyne, and other places, the hands were thoroughly trained, in a technical school, for those industries. The looms were set up in the schools, and they were trained at the looms, and we found we could not do this at Kilkenny. We had no buildings to put up looms in, and we had not the looms.

11108 (Mr. Nickle).—And you had not the money?—We had not the money, or anything else, and therefore, when we had a training school at the mill, when the building was there, and the machinery there, and a select staff put into the mill, we approached the Department and asked them, as they could not give us an Kilkenny the training for our hands in a technical school that is given elsewhere, they should take the mill and make a technical school of it, for the time being, and, in putting forward our proposal, we explained to them the salaries the staff were getting. I find Mr. Fletcher makes a great point of that, and seems to say the demand was so unreasonable the only thing to do with it was to reject it altogether. I don't think it was unreasonable, because we explained the whole circumstances of the case, and if they could not give us the whole cost of it, that was no reason why they should not give us a substantial amount.

11109 (Mr. O'Grady).—Are you quite accurate in saying that the Manchester Technical School provides looms, at which they give a complete training to the hands?—

(Mr. Hunter).—Yorkshire College in Leeds.

11110 (Mr. O'Grady).—You have no personal knowledge of it?—I have the report of the Technical College, at Ashton-under-Lyne, and there are drawings of the school given in the report, and the looms are undoubtedly set up there.

11111. Oh certainly, the point is rather what is the nature of the training that is given in these institutions?—I have not been in them.

11112. The point is whether, or not, young hands are taken who have no knowledge whatever of the practice of weaving, or spinning, as may be the case, and are trained so that they are fit to take their place at the loom?—I don't know at what stage they go in. Another matter that has been frequently urged at the technical congresses, and impressed upon the Department, is the establishment in Dublin of a bureau of industries. It is believed that that would be a great help to those who are getting up industries in Ireland. Several speakers at the technical congresses stated that there are here and there small industries in Ireland, and that those who are working them don't know where to get a field for the sale of their articles, and it has been held at all the congresses that if that bureau was set up in Dublin, and if articles—take the wood-work in Kilkenny—could be sent up there, and exhibited, and the price appended to each article for which it could be sold, that would be a great means of enabling us here to get a market for these things, and, furthermore, that bureau should be able to direct the managers of industries as to the best lines to go on to suit the different markets.

11113 (Mr. Nickle).—Are you aware the Department do approve of the establishment of such a bureau, but the Board of Technical Instruction do not?—I am aware that the matter was discussed in Dublin at our last meeting, that Mr. Fletcher approved of it, but says it is not the business of the Department to get it up; it should be done by private effort, and if the Department got it up, he was afraid they would get into collision with the business establishments in Dublin, but if it is left to private enterprise, it is not likely to be done for a long time. The next point I would like to say a word upon is the necessity of buildings for technical instruction.

11114 (Mr. O'Grady).—I would like to be quite clear as to your attitude on the question of industries—is it that the Department have, by their peculiar attitude in their matter, not given the weight of their support to the movement to secure adequate powers for industries?—Exactly, that is what we complain of.

11115. Apart from the fault of the Department's methods and vacillation, or failure to state their truly

position at the outset or since, you further wish to put, and put strongly, that a distinct and definite increase of power should be given to this Department to put them in a position to subsidize industries under the conditions you have explained?—That is our contention, and we complain that the Department have sanctioned our case by not exposing that view, and putting it clearly before Government.

11116. You make two points, the fault of the Department, and the necessity for further power?—That is it. I am really convinced that if technical education in Ireland does not produce a revival of industries, the people will not continue to support it.

11117. (Chairman).—I don't know whether you have had an opportunity of seeing Sir Horace Plunkett's evidence?—I read it over within the last few days.

11118. Take page 24 (reads). Do you agree with those figures?—I agree with those figures.

11119. That represents the amount of assistance which you think you should get from them?—That represents the description we gave Sir Horace Plunkett of the school we had prepared, because we had not in Killybegs these technical schools they have in England, and we gave him a full and complete description of the school as fitted up, both as regards salaries and other things, and we would be quite satisfied to accept much less than that, if he could not give the whole.

11120. That, you think, you are fairly entitled to?—I think so.

11121. Then there is a statement as to the amount of private capital subscribed; is that about accurate? I think it is more than that now, £25,000, and that is another reason why, we thought, the Department should be a bit generous in this matter. We think that before the Killybegs mill there are great prospects, and that it is likely to develop.

11122. Mr. Fletcher, I am, says he thinks there are great prospects?—I would wish to say a few words about the buildings. When technical instruction was started in this country, it was a venture, and as it was not known exactly whether it would take in the country, such buildings as were available were taken up, but the infant has outgrown the swaddling clothes, and we have no others to put on him. Technical education has grown, and I believe it has come to stay, and the time, undoubtedly, has now come when an effort should be made to provide buildings. If you have time, before you leave the city, you can study, in the position of affairs here, the necessity for these buildings. The technical school is divided into two parts, one part is housed in a disused portion of the model school, and the other part is housed just near us, and the headmaster often remarks are, in his efforts to utilize these establishments, of Goldenhill's householder, whose furniture had "a double debt to pay. By night a bed, a chest of drawers by day."

If there is a question of providing buildings in Killybegs, there is not much difficulty in providing them. There is a portion of our technical school housed in the model school; that model school was built to accommodate 545 pupils according to Mr. Dale's report, but the average number for the year ending December, 1905, was 61. That is to say, it is now accommodating something less than an eighth of the number it was built for, and that school is admirably suited for technical instruction. It is there the whole technical school should be housed, and I would advocate that a new school be built for the pupils which would be fully up to the requirements of the case. It is a waste of public money to have the building as it is at present. I would say a few words now about domestic economy. I have given a good deal of attention to that matter, and, of course, moving amongst the people, both in town and country, I have had ample opportunities of seeing the importance of it, and I believe if a thorough reform of social life is to take place in Ireland, it must begin in the home, and domestic economy is a very important factor in bringing about that reform. Several calculations have been made about the waste arising from bad house-keeping in Ireland, but it is considered, on very good authority, that at least one-fifth of the revenues of Ireland are wasted, because they are not economically managed. It seems to me a greater evil still follows from it, and that is the manner in which the children are being attended to and fed. I think this particular subject ought to engage our attention, now that the public are so much alarmed by the spread of consumption. I believe the scientific manner in which the children are being dealt with is preparing, everywhere throughout the

country, hot-beds for consumption later on. I have had opportunities of observing this, and I am convinced of the truth of it, and I believe one means of remedying that is the inculcation of more accurate knowledge on these subjects amongst the people. Fifty years ago, in Ireland, both parents and children used the same food. The food that was then used by the parents suited the children. Now the parents in Ireland and the children are using the same food, but the food is changed, and whereas fifty years ago the food used by the parents suited the children, it by no means suits them now, and the children are simply destroyed by the food that is given to them, and I don't see how we can have a vigorous race in Ireland if this state of things is to continue. I think, therefore, that domestic economy should be taught in the primary schools. It is taught at present in the current schools, and it is very evident, from the new programme issued by the National Board, that they are becoming aware of the importance of teaching it in the schools, and accordingly they have put in certain important provisions, but I believe in practice these provisions will be nugatory, because there is no preparation made to carry them out. The schools are being starved, and the buildings are not sufficient to carry out these things.

11123. As you know, we are not concerned directly with the primary schools, and have nothing to do with the National Board, except as regards this—we have a great deal of evidence that the children coming from the primary schools are educated up to a point at which they cannot profitably take advantage of technical education; would you apply that to domestic economy, too?—I shall have a few words to say later on about agriculture, and shall speak of the boys coming in.

11124. (Mr. O'Connell).—But on the domestic economy do you imply that it is because of the failure on the part of the National schools to provide sufficient education in domestic economy to girls that it is necessary for the Technical Instruction Committee to take that work up?—I think it is the business of the National Board to provide that technical instruction for the children in primary schools. I don't approve at all of obstructing the Technical Committee into the National Schools. I think the work should be done by the National Board. The evil that has been so long going on should be remedied, and that cannot be done until there is more money provided for buildings and equipment. The National Board, in the new programme, have set forth very good rules, but they will be nugatory in a great many cases, because there is no means of carrying them out.

11125. You mean they don't offer such pecuniary assistance as to induce managers to give instruction in a manner that will be profitable?—They don't give us the money or appliances.

11126. Suppose they did that, would that set free the portion of the technical money at present spent on domestic economy teaching?—I would not be for giving up itinerant instruction. I would continue that until the children educated in the National Schools are sufficiently educated to dispense with it.

11127. Quite so, but then it might be?—It might be discontinued. At a Congress in Dublin a few years ago one of the tradesmen there asked a very pertinent question. He said—"There is a certain programme my wife has to do every day, and there is a programme, too, in the school where that girl was trained, and I would like to know how much of that programme that was taught her in school was a direct preparation for her duties now as a housekeeper." It is sometimes said—"Why don't the managers look to it?" We could not look to it, because, until a few years ago, the programmes were drawn up in Dublin. We were allowed to have no say to them, and, latterly, when we got some additional power in the way of making suggestions, that power is nugatory to a great extent, because the appliances for carrying out the new teaching are not given to us. I may draw up a programme for teachers, but if it is not taken up by the inspectors of the National Board, and they don't make a special point of pushing it, I cannot get it taught well. It must be taken up by the Board, but we will co-operate if they do their duty.

11128. (Mr. McManis).—Do you contemplate giving advanced instruction in cookery later on in the technical schools?—That will come on when I am dealing with the agricultural portion. I wish to say a few words about agriculture. I am not going into the

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matter, because there are experts on the subject to come before you, and I only bring before you what strikes me in going through the country. I believe there is immense waste in Ireland because of unsuitable farming, and one cause of that loss has been the extent to which tillage has been given up in Ireland. I find that in the Rhine provinces there is only 19 per cent. of the land in grass, and I find that in Ireland there is 70½ per cent. in grass.

11129. Including waste land I—I suppose so, and to my own knowledge, in this county of Kilkenny forty years there were far more small farms divided amongst small tenants who tilled the land than at present. Now these farms have been united, and they are enlarged grass farms, and the truth is they are producing very little, because they have not been tilled. They have gone back to prairie value, and on some of the farms there is nothing maintained now except a dog, a gun, and a herd, where there were several families before. It is an undoubted fact that there is not much land in Ireland that will bear continual grazing without tillage. It requires to be renewed. Whenever you go through the country there is a considerable waste in headlands that are left untilled. They are left in weeds the whole summer, and then when the fields are laid out the crops that grow there for several years are no good. Again, there is great waste in the arable to which weeds are allowed to grow in potato and turnip land throughout Ireland, and I think this year it will be very hard to calculate the enormous loss caused by the want of spraying the potato crop. What is the cause of this? I think I know the minds of the farmers pretty well, and I say this—I think none out of every ten don't believe in the necessity of any scientific training for farmers. They simply laugh at the idea of being taught farming from books or lectures. Their fathers and grandfathers went on before them doing things in a certain way and they won't admit there is any necessity to change. I don't say that that is the case all round. We have very intelligent farmers, who farm up to date, but I am speaking of the bulk of the farmers, and I am convinced that that conviction is deep in their minds, that farming does not require any scientific assistance. I have been present myself at lectures given by Mr. Mason on the treatment of horses. They were splendid lectures. What good did they do? Scarcely any. Why? Because there was not scientific knowledge enough or training enough in the minds of those listening to him. Here in Kilkenny we had the good fortune of having a very able and energetic secretary to the County Agricultural Committee, and undoubtedly very good work has been done, as far as I can make out, in the cattle scheme and in poultry rearing and bee-keeping, and also in horticulture; but the principal branch, and the most important branch has been a complete failure—that is to say, the department which deals with soils and seeds and manures. And why has it failed? One reason why it has failed is because we had not teachers who would give satisfaction. We had two teachers, and they did not succeed with the people, and we asked the Department to get another teacher for us, and for the last year and a half we are without any teacher. The Department have failed to get a teacher, and they have recently informed us that they have no teacher to supply. I consider therefore that the most important thing for the Department to do is to get ready a supply of those agricultural teachers, and I don't think teachers take very well coming in here from the outside, and the best chance of promoting agriculture is by training young Irishmen for the purpose; that is the pressing need at present.

11130. (Chairman).—You don't dispute they are doing that now?—They are doing it; but I would urge upon them the necessity of pushing on that training as quickly as possible. We are a year and a half idle now in this department, and they have told us again this year that they could not find a teacher for us.

11131. No doubt the demand is larger than the supply at present?—Yes.

11132. (Mr. Dryden).—Is there a teacher for agriculture?—Yes.

11133. (Mr. O'Brien).—It would not help you much to have a man who was not really satisfactory?—No; it has spoiled us. We had two men who did not succeed, and we had a great difficulty in creating an interest in the public mind in this matter, and when these two teachers came, and did not succeed, the

farmers ceased to take much interest in the efforts made to give them instruction in agriculture. Now I come to the question about the schools. I consider that the primary schools are doing very good work, and that our teachers are an exceedingly hardworking, energetic body of men, but at the same time I consider a change is required in some things, and I think that the principles of agriculture and horticulture should be taught in the schools. Children at the schools are doing very well until they come up to about twelve years of age, and then, as far as I can observe, a waste occurs in their time for the next two or three years. There should be an examination at that age—about twelve years—and then there should be higher primary schools for the boys and girls to go in, and in the higher primary schools for the girls, domestic economy should be taught, and all those duties that those girls will have to discharge in after life, and in the boys' schools, as agriculture is the principal means of wealth in Ireland, the principles of agriculture and horticulture should be taught. It would seem that the Commissioners of the National Board are becoming aware of that fact, and accordingly they have put several things into the new programme, but I think, comparing that new programme with the programme that is being taught in the German schools, certainly there is a wide gap separating the two. Of course, the programme set forth by the National Board cannot be carried out; there are no plots to operate on. I think it is only in the schools that the young boys can be taught the importance of agriculture, and it is only there they can be convinced that it is a science; it is only there they can learn the enormous assistance that can be got from the resources of science when applied to it, and as far as I can ascertain you can do nothing with the adults.

11134. You give up the farmer after forty?—Yes.

11135. (Mr. O'Brien).—Do you consider the existing teachers of National schools as a body are qualified to give each instruction in agricultural and horticultural principles as would secure the end in view?—By no means, they are not qualified at all, but I wish to offer some suggestions with regard to what should be done in the schools, and I may say these suggestions have the approval of men that are employed in the work of the National Board for half a century.

11136. (Chairman).—You would not begin this more or less specialised instruction until about twelve?—About twelve. The general instruction gives up to about twelve years of age quite all, but from twelve to fourteen or sixteen if the children remain at school their time to a considerable extent is lost.

11137. For the purpose of our present inquiry is not the really important thing to see how that instruction might be worked into the technical instruction system?—I have made some suggestions here in this paper which I will submit. This is essentially an agricultural country. The large majority of the children—boys and girls—aftering our rural schools will be engaged in agricultural pursuits of one kind or another all their lives. Therefore, as is done in Germany and other progressive nations, they should be instructed in the principles of plant culture, improvement of soils, care of animals, knowledge and cure of pests, as well as laws of hygiene, etc., that shall make the work of their after lives intelligent and profitable. Agriculture, including horticulture, should be taught in all rural schools. Horticulture should also be taught in all city schools. Now I (1.) By a scheme of suitable object lessons, selected according to the tastes and needs of each locality from a comprehensive and exhaustive list drawn up by the Education Board, e.g., such as the one given on page 366—"Reports on School Gardening in Germany." (2.) The reading in the higher standards of a suitable text-book, or the introduction of suitable lessons on the theory and practice of agriculture into the ordinary school reader. N.B.—At present it is obligatory in the higher standards to have three readers—(a) a literary reader, (b) an historical reader, (c) a standard work. Might not a suitable agricultural reader be substituted for one of these, and its use made obligatory? The book in use in the time of the results' system was more a hand-book for the practical farmer than a text-book for teaching principles on educational lines to the schoolboy; but surely a suitable text-book could be written in a month. At present we have Marshall's and other rural readers, which, though written mainly for English schools, are, nevertheless, admirably suited for all. (3.) The cultivation of a small experimental

plot at every rural school taught by a master, each plot being divided into ten or more beds, according to the number of pupils in the senior standards, one bed being assigned to each pupil on the 1st of October each year. (4.) Local encouragement by way of annual encouragement to be awarded by the County Council to such gardens as should be judged worthy of them. A section might also be reserved in their annual show for exhibits, flowers, fruit, and vegetables, from school gardens. Drawings from nature, essays on simple agricultural topics, etc., by the pupils of these schools might also get a place in this section. (5.) In schools taught by females, and in those in which school gardens are not available, window-gardening, flower-pot culture, etc., should be obligatory, each pupil getting charge of one or more pots or boxes at the beginning of the year. (6.) One side of every playground should be planted with shrubs and trees, specimens of different kinds being kept. They beautify the place, afford shelter, and can be made most useful educationally. (7.) Leaves, roots, flowers, etc., should form frequent topics of the drawing lessons. This is now set down in the new programme. (8.) The County Council should everywhere distribute annual prizes for horticulture in connection with labourers' cottages. (9.) Teachers should keep a record of the successful agricultural operations each year in, say, a dozen fields around the school, explaining purposes and principles concerned in each case. (10.) The teachers should be trained for this work. (a.) Those who go to the Training Colleges should be trained to do this work, and a certain standard of proficiency therein should be essential for obtaining a certificate. (b.) Summer courses should be arranged as in Germany for teachers. (c.) The schools should be arranged in groups, and expert teachers employed to teach so long as may be required. (11.) In order to reduce as much as possible the expense of providing room and equipment for teaching domestic economy, etc., in connection with each school; the schools, at least in many places could be grouped, and a building erected in a convenient position, so as to accommodate a group of schools.

1113A. (Mr. Gribble).—Reading one of your suggestions, that teachers should be trained for this work. (a.) Those who go to the Training Colleges should be trained to do this work, and a certain standard of proficiency therein should be essential for obtaining a certificate. (b.) Summer courses should be arranged as in Germany for teachers. (c.) That, I take to be an extension into the field of the National Institute of the method that the Department of Technical Instruction has been applying to their men, and (c.) "The schools should be arranged in groups, and expert teachers employed to teach so long as may be required." I want to put to you how far you would contemplate, as a temporary expedient, the appointment of instructors who are qualified and available in the counties as supplementary teachers, for the time being, in this connection?—I would group the schools. You can group them in threes or fours, and I believe it is the view of the officers of technical education that the plot should be worked in a central place, and that children of over twelve years of age should be sent for this special instruction. I am aware that in several parts of the country you could not do that grouping, and there an individual school should be dealt with as they are dealt with in Germany. Of course, on an occasion like this, I think I should refer to the absence of higher schools for technical education in this country. I will just read for you a few lines from a report of the English Consul in Germany—"The German State provides Universities, with Agricultural Colleges and Institutes, Chemical Laboratories, and Experimental Stations, stocked all over the various provinces, where fiddlers, fowls, manures, and weeds are tested for a nominal fee." The Consul further says that the German Credit Institutions and Co-operative Associations for purchasing and selling, and Agricultural Banks have all helped to make the farmer prosperous and well-to-do. There are 750,000 children in the primary schools in Ireland. There are only about four per cent of the children in the secondary schools.

1113B. (Mr. Miele).—Or is it only four per cent. I—Four per cent., and that shows the great importance of attending to the primary schools, because you may get up those Colleges that I refer to; but

the numbers that will go to these Colleges will always be very limited, and the really important thing is to get the principles of agriculture and horticulture taught in the primary schools. I would like to say one word about horticulture. If you go through the country at present, and look at the gardens, the gardens of the cottagers and the gardens of the farmers, I say it is a very sad state. In these gardens you find no vegetables, except potatoes, and a few rough heads of cabbages unfit for use. The Bessborough property is situated in the south of this County. I lived there for some time. Lord Bessborough, who is a resident landlord, takes an extraordinary interest in his tenants, and he has attached to each cottage a plot, and he is particular about these plots being properly kept. He gives prizes, and encourages horticulture in various ways, and out of these gardens these cottagers derive a large supply of most healthy food for their children. I noticed that the little boys in these cottages were engaged in tilling these gardens. They were engaged also in rearing mangoes and other roots for the shows, and afterwards when these boys went out to the fairs they carried with them the taste that they had acquired when young at home. This training has been a great benefit, and that is the best farmed district in the county. I think therefore that at the present time when these labourers' cottages are being multiplied, and we are going to have 25,000 new ones, I think it is most important that the children should be trained, and I don't believe there is any possibility of getting these cottagers to manage the gardens properly unless the children are trained at the schools. I have spoken again and again to these cottagers when I met them, and asked them about the matter, but I gave it up as hopeless to be asking these old men to do anything for you. They won't.

1113C. (Chairman).—Do you attach much importance to shows, prizes for cottages, and well-kept gardens?—That is very important, and it was used by Lord Bessborough as one of the principal means of encouraging this taste for horticulture and agriculture. The County Committee, here, has been giving prizes for cottages, but the facts will show that as yet only the very best of the garden has been touched. There are 4,750 cottages in Kilkenny, but there were last time only 117 entries for prizes. There is just one word more I have to say on behalf of the Committee I represent, with regard to the constitution of the Department in Dublin, I believe the public, generally, are discontented with the constitution of the Department. They believe that there should be four popularly elected men in the Department, and that there should be one from each province, and that these four should be associated with the Vice-President, and that in elaborating the various schemes put forward they should voice the wants and aspirations of the country, using, of course, the technical skill of the experts. What is believed about the matter at present, I am not at all speaking from any personal experience, it is believed that these Boards that are engaged in advising the Department are useless, and the way, they say, the system works out is this: the policy of the Department is a very elaborate affair, and it is woven, bit by bit, and day by day, throughout the year. Then, when that is all woven together, by Sir Horace Plunkett and the officials of the Department, it is very hard to take any portion of it asunder. At all events the popular belief is that when these Boards meet there is not sufficient time, and the members have not sufficient knowledge of the details of the schemes put before them to influence, to any great extent, the policy of the Department. If technical education is to succeed in the country, the public should be satisfied on that point, and they are not satisfied. They consider that the Department is an official affair. I am not wanting to asperse those officials; on the contrary, I think they are an exceedingly hard-working body of men, and have done the best, under the circumstances, but it is believed that if a popular element was put in there, and was used in framing the policy of the Department, it would create public confidence.

1114I. Is not the popular element present; you have the Council of Agriculture, and the Board of Agriculture; two-thirds of the Council are elected by the County Councils, and the Council elect the Board of Agriculture?—The policy of the Department is an affair that is wrought out day by day.

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Canon Doyle,
P.P.

11142. That must be the case with every Department!

11143. (Mr. Brown).—I think Canon Doyle is confusing the action of the Council of Agriculture, and of the Board of Agriculture, and the Board of Technical Instruction, because he speaks of the Board only meeting once a year; they meet constantly.

11144. (Chairman).—You professed this by saying you were not so much speaking your own opinion, as the general feeling, but that goes forth to the world, to some extent, with the weight of your authority, and it is really important to see whether there is not some profound mis-conception lying at the back of this. The Council of Agriculture is elected two-thirds by the County Councils and one-third is nominated. There is a strong objection to there being any nominated element at all, but did you ever hear of any marked difference between the elected and the nominated body—that they are two inconsistent elements which do not work together—I will give you the public belief; that is all I can do.

11145. Public belief sometimes rests on very imperfect information—I think it would be well to have the public satisfied as far as possible.

11146. We have before us the whole of the notes of the proceedings of these Boards!—If the public belief is unfounded, let that be known to the public. I believe it is a very important that the public should be satisfied in this matter, because, of course, if they are not satisfied, it is quite evident that that alienates their sympathy from technical education.

11147. It is a great pity that that belief should exist!—The belief is that the policy of the Department is an affair worked out by the officials, that that popular element does not operate as an effective force, at all, in shaping or directing that, that the policy is worked out in the Department, and those Boards are brought up, and the thing is so arranged, that they generally fall in with what is put before them, and are not exercising an effective check, or influence, in directing the affairs of the Department.

11148. As an example, perhaps, of a different view it might be well just to see how the opposite point of view is put by the Bishop of Ross. He speaks of the Board of Agriculture and its powers of initiative (read passages 3023 to 3033). I only quote these to show that, in the opinion of a member both of the Agricultural Council and the Agricultural Board, there is a very substantial power in both of them!—We have the greatest possible respect for the opinion of the Bishop of Ross, but I must say, with all due respect, that that does not satisfy the public.

11149. Do you think the public would be more satisfied if they had some information as to the proceedings of the Board?—It will never go the whole way. The public will not be satisfied until some representations elected by the people are put into the Department, not merely paying periodic visits, but kept there permanently, and elaborating the policy of the Department.

11150. (Mr. Brown).—Paid officials!—Paid officials; that is the public aspiration, and until that is satisfied the country will not be satisfied.

11151. (Mr. Dryden).—That would have the effect of changing them continually?—Four should be put in, and one only changed, every three or four years; only one go out of office at a time.

11152. (Mr. Brown).—Should those be experts or otherwise?—What is suggested by the Committee is that they should be elected by the County Committee, Urban District Committee of the different provinces, and they should be elected by ballot.

11153. I mean as to the qualifications—should they possess any qualification?—They should, certainly; get the best qualified men.

11154. Who would decide the qualification?—The electors.

11155. (Chairman).—Do you think the electors are a proper body to decide qualifications?—I think if the country took up the system of technical education good men would turn up.

11156. When you have to elect a person with a special knowledge of a particular subject, who is an expert in the full sense of the term, is popular election the best way of finding out such a man?—His need not be an expert in the full sense of the term, because you have paid experts in the office, but there is required a popular element to express the wishes of the people in using this expert knowledge.

11157. (Mr. Micks).—You propose to put on five, including the Vice-President?—Yes.

11158. And just as the Vice-President is not an expert on any scientific matter, you would say that the others might be merely of good common sense and judgment and knowledge?—I don't think there is any necessity for expert knowledge, seeing you have a body of experts there, but what is required is a knowledge of the wants of the country, for, after all, expert knowledge by itself is not sufficient to establish an efficient, practical, popular system of technical education in a country. You require two elements, expert knowledge, and knowledge of the wants and aspirations of the people, and I think there would be a large blending if you had three or four men associated with a body of experts in the Department. The Vice-President is not an expert, and in this particular matter all we are doing is to increase the number of men who would not be officials or experts but public representatives.

11159. (Mr. Brown).—Would you have the same set of men to direct the agricultural policy as the technical?—Certainly; both.

11160. (Mr. O'Brien).—That is to say you would have those five men performing functions which are, at present, taken in the matter of the experience and the policy of the Department by the Vice-President?—Precisely.

11161. And no more?—No more, perhaps, in the beginning, but when the system develops they will have plenty of work.

11162. (Chairman).—And you would do away with the Agricultural Council, and Board, as they exist?—I don't know whether they might be done away with, or not. They might remain, but if there was a question of keeping on the Board, or doing away with them, the country would have no hesitation in saying, "Do away with the Board, and have these four men in place of the two Boards."

11163. (Mr. Micks).—If you did away with the Board, you would retain the Council of Agriculture?—Yes.

11164. (Chairman).—Surely the question of whether or not the Agricultural Council and Board, should be retained is a matter of the most vital importance; to your knowledge has that been considered?—It has been considered, and, as far as I know, if the people got these four men in the office they would not be anxious to do away with the Boards.

11165. (Mr. Micks).—Are you aware that under the original Bill introduced in 1897, two years before the Bill of 1899 was passed, that the machinery provided for administering this work was a Board, with a Vice-President as chairman?—I have heard so.

11166. (Chairman).—That was before the passing of the Local Government Act, before you had any popularly elected body at all?—Yes. There is only one matter I wish to say a word about. I think the best portion of our technical work here is the Day Trades' Preparatory School that has been established. I think it is the most promising portion of our work. At the public congress held, especially the one held in Dublin, it was stated there that the superior workmanship in the different trades, glassblowing, carpenter, masonry, and others, in Dublin and Belfast, was done by strangers, and the reason was because Irishmen did not get proper technical education that would train them to do the higher work, and it was to supply that that the Trades' Preparatory School was established. There are two classes of pupils that go into it; first those that go to trades, and the other class go that go into it would be boys that don't intend to go to trades, but might have charge of machinery, whether in railways or elsewhere, and we consider the training they have is most useful, and it is the experience of that school that has convinced me of the importance of beginning to deal with young boys, rather than with adults. Our dealings with young boys has been most satisfactory. Their attendance is very good, and in the Woodwork Guild here we have the practical fruits of that school. After two years' training some of those boys were taken into the wood-working, and the foreman tells me they are most satisfactory, and he would rather get boys, after two years' training here, than grown tradesmen. I wish also to say that a similar school has been got up by the Christian Brothers, at Cullin, and we had arranged to send one of our teachers to teach woodwork in the school, but, I am sorry to say, the Department has not fallen in with that arrangement. I think the Department might

have left us a little autonomy to deal with that matter. I am sure good work will be done in that school, seeing that the building was provided at the public expense without any outlay by the Department, except the cost of equipment, and also seeing that the

other teachers are provided free of expense to the Department, I think it very hard that they have intervened, and prevented us sending our teacher there, one day in the week. I hope the Department will change their opinion about it.

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Captain the Honourable Orway Coffey, Kilkenny, examined.

11165. (Chairman).—You have come to speak about the mill that we have seen this morning?—Yes, I happen to be Chairman of the Woollen Mills recently started here. A point has arisen with regard to the grant we thought to get from the Department to help us in our initial stages, and I should be very happy to answer any questions.

11166. Do you agree with the evidence on that point which we have heard from Canon Doyle?—I am sorry to say I was not in the room when he gave his evidence, but generally my view is that with regard to such industries as we have in Kilkenny, the starting of a new industry in a district where industries of all kinds have been practically at a standstill, where there are no trained workers, I do think it should be the duty of the Department, so it is a Technical Department, to grant assistance for the training of the workers during a certain period of the early stages of the undertaking. Whether they have power to do so, or have not, is a subject on which I know nothing.

11167. If they have powers they ought to exercise them, and if they have not powers they ought to be given them?—Precisely. We started at a very great disadvantage and must labour under a disadvantage for a considerable number of years, and I take it that that is not at all an all-forgone with a similar undertaking started in England, or elsewhere. We occupy a peculiar position in this country. We have laboured under great difficulties, our industries have been killed in various ways, and we are altogether in an abnormal position. The question is, is it the wish of the Department, and those who are interested in the welfare of Ireland, that industries should arise. I think, unless you are merely going to rely on private capitalists coming in, and possibly seeing their way to do something, that it is hardly likely, in the present conditions that exist with regard to trained workers, that capital will be provided by the people of the country unless they see they are going to be supported in some fashion in the earlier stages, and we will not find much being done. The result will be that a great deal of the money expended on technical instruction, and qualifying people to take up posts of various kinds in these industries, will not be qualifying them to do their work in the country, but simply qualifying them to go elsewhere. We all wish to keep the best of our people at home, and the best of our people, I fancy, are those who avail themselves of the opportunities they have, and attend those schools, and it is a vital matter for the country that industries should grow up in the various districts, and be fostered in every possible way, to provide means of livelihood for those trained in the country, and not drive them out of the country. If that is the result of technical education the country would get on better without technical education. It is an inseparable part of the whole scheme that there should be these industries springing up through the country.

11170. (Mr. Micka).—You think there should be a Department in existence to assist in the development of the industries of the country?—Yes.

11171. (Chairman).—How would you distinguish between industries that ought to require assistance and industries newly started, which should not?—I think, roughly, any industry being started in any district in which there is practically nothing of the kind, and there are no trained workers.

11172. (Mr. Dryden).—You would illustrate that by the one you have started here?—Yes.

11173. (Mr. O'Connell).—You would also, I suppose, lay down the condition that there was a reasonable prospect of success?—That would be an element.

11174. Not merely an element, but an essential condition?—Unless there was a reasonable prospect of success you could not expect help; and also, they must be satisfied that the whole thing is being started in

that way, that the instruction is what is requisite, and that they see the best people, with the best system of machinery, and latest methods. It would be no good training people with inadequate methods; and I think that would be one of the things that would guide them; and wherever such an industry is being done it must be instituted and carried on on the best principles.

11175. (Mr. Micka).—Fit to compete as soon as the teaching stage is over?—Exactly.

11176. When, in your idea, would the teaching stage be over?—Some people say five years. I think you might put it down between three and five; I don't speak as an expert—the manager would be able to speak better on that point. A specially strong case with regard to this particular industry is that in this case the money is subscribed locally, and by the public. It does not come from a few people, but from the whole of the public generally in the city and county. There are over 600 subscribers, and £25,000 is the nominal capital. Of that, rather over £15,000 is already subscribed. Therefore I think it is a somewhat remarkable instance of self-reliance in this country that such a thing has been accomplished. I know that when we started to do it we could hardly have hoped we should have met with the success we have, considering it is an entirely new thing, and it shows the spirit of self-reliance in the people here that should be met with the very greatest consideration that is possible at the hands of a Department which was seeking to foster the industries of the country.

11177. You put up the buildings very rapidly. The whole thing has been done in a short time?—We were able to open our mills within a year of our commencing work.

11178. How long had the project been on foot?—I think it was first mooted among a few people about two years ago.

(Mr. P. Kennedy).—June, 1902.

11179. (Chairman).—£25,000 has been subscribed locally?—Yes. There is another thing, I should like to say—that when we started this thing we did not, and thought it better not to go to the Department, in the first instance. We did not approach them, or ask them to commit themselves to this project. The thing was in the air, and we did not know whether we should be able to bring it through, and therefore we deliberately did not approach the Department in the first instance. We thought it would be better to see what we could do on our own feet, and then, later on, when we found we were able to carry through the thing, to go then, and say—"Here is this thing which we have done by our own efforts without asking you for assistance. Now we come to you, and say, having done this, what can you do to help us in the matter." Certainly a sum has been granted to the Technical Committee of the county for the purpose of assisting us now. I think it has been said, or hinted, at least, I have heard it is so, that that sum, because we accepted it, we considered it absolutely adequate. On behalf of the directors I wish to say that although we accepted that sum, as I think we were bound to do, having regard to our shareholders, in the face of the declaration of the Department that that was the most they could do, I should like it to be recorded that we did not consider that the fact that we accepted the sum in the same thing as considering it to be adequate. We would hardly have said to our shareholders—"We have been offered a certain sum, and refused it." Our shareholders would have said—"Why did you refuse the sum that was offered to you?" Half a loaf is better than no loaf; that is our view.

11180. (Mr. Micka).—Or even a slice?—Or even a slice.

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Mr. A. B.
Hester.

Mr. A. B. HESTER, Kilkenny, examined.

11181. (Chairman).—I think you are Manager of the Woollen Mills?—Yes.

11182. You have heard what Canon Doyle and Captain Cullen have said?—You were out at the mills to-day, and saw them the buildings we put up, and the machinery we had there and the waterways, and everything connected with it. You are well aware that that has been done at considerable cost. In addition to that, in starting this business which we have here in Kilkenny, the sum of the directors was to begin really a new industry, that is, an industry that would not compete with any local firm or any firm in Ireland; that we should start an industry to manufacture cloth not yet attempted in Ireland, but which is produced in Yorkshire and other countries, and imported into Ireland. You are well aware that in doing this, which gives us an enormous amount of work, particularly so; even if we had the most expert foremen to be found in Scotland or England or any other country over here in starting a really new industry, we have not got either the people who have been educated or trained for this special work, but you must also consider that the education of the people at the same time has not been what it should be, and we require that this education should be such that they are able to undertake any higher or technical education which may be given to them. Now, we have employed in the mill at present 88 people. Of these there are 35 girls, 7 boys, and 16 workmen. In addition to that we have eight foremen. With reference to the spinning, we have at present employed there 11 persons—8 girls and three boys.

11183. Is that in addition to the 52?—No; I am detailing them. Now, we have a spinning master there. These eleven when we started them had absolutely never seen a self-acting mule. It will take even our children and young boys of average intelligence four to five years to be expert at the work. Then there is an enormous amount of waste, because from these boys or girls, not being educated sufficiently, they are not competent to stop that waste. It is the natural sequence of inefficiency. If you had one good girl that had been trained for three, four, six, seven, or ten years she could do more work than any three girls there at present, and she would not have one-tenth of the waste that occurs from bad plying. We have at the same time taken the opportunity of giving a special training to boys. We have two from Bennett's Bridge, one the son of the schoolmaster, and the other the son of the parson, and we have given them special training in the weaving and spinning departments. We have another in the wool-scouring in the same way. We are paying them just about for a week. That is quite inadequate for boys coming from the country to live here in Kilkenny, but we are paying them out of capital to train these boys that in future they may be of some value to us. In the weaving department we have twenty girls employed. Of these fifteen were partly trained at Galway and partly trained at KilmacThomas. Before they went there they were employed here in the two convents, and they had been accustomed to weaving on the small, narrow hand-loom; they had never seen a power loom until they went to Galway or KilmacThomas. They got trained there for six weeks, and when they came back to us they knew more about a loom than a person who had not seen one, but if you take the best of the twenty, those girls are unable to produce with exactly the same class of work half of what can be produced to-day in the mills in Yorkshire. If I take two-thirds of the workpeople they will not do half of the actual work which can be produced from the same machines and materials in Yorkshire. That is the great difficulty we feel, and why we think the Department should come in and assist us still more in the training of these work-people. I consider in the weaving if a girl is good and above the average, she might in three years be a full-fledged expert weaver. As a rule, they take four or five years; in fact, some never learn it. It depends a great deal on the individual character of the person.

11184. And that you have had very little opportunity of ascertaining by inspection?—Oh, not at all. The difference between the weavers here and in Yorkshire is this—in the spinning, or any department you may choose to take, those children in Yorkshire go to

the mills with the breakfast or dinner of their parents, uncles, brothers, or sisters. They are practically brought up from the very earliest years to be accustomed to spinning or weaving or standing even at the loom where the sister or brother is weaving; they are practically born into the work. In Yorkshire, a weaver going in there, she might be taught by a brother or sister for nothing. If she does not she generally has to pay the weaver so much to be permitted to learn at the loom. Here we have to pay for everything. When I was in Cork last week and Belfast and Dublin the whole talk of the merchants to me I visited was—"Oh, you are coming into direct competition with Yorkshire." Not a single buyer pointed out that we were competing with any manufacturer in Ireland; all referred to Yorkshire, and it was said—"You cannot compete with Yorkshire." I said—"That is quite true; we cannot, in one sense, we shall require so many years' trading to be equal to them. We can get better machinery, perhaps, but we cannot, being connected with England, have protection; but if the Irish people for the time being will assist us a little and give us a preference, I have no doubt in time we shall be able to compete with Yorkshire." We are paying at the present moment for all expenses and salaries £45 to £45 a week. Our foremen that we have at present could if we were in a position to multiply our place two or three times, our foremen are competent, and would be fit to work twice or three times as much as far as production is concerned. We produce with our looms not half of what we ought to do, and if we were to get an amount for twenty we should require to put in forty or fifty looms. That would mean a cost of £200 to £400 more, and additional labour to carry it out; whereas, with twenty looms and one man could do all that, you would get double the product without the extra labour or cost.

11185. You want to increase your capital?—Yes, but we have done that; that is the reason we have raised it to £25,000, and we have got £17,000. That is one thing I wish particularly to say. There has been a mistaken idea; I don't know where it came from, and there was an error; profit-sharing was mentioned. That was not meant at all; what was meant was profit-paying as soon as we were in a position to compete with Yorkshire.

11186. What you want, as I understand, is such assistance as would tide you over this period?—To assist in training our people to be equal to what they are in Yorkshire, and that is what Mr. Fletcher told me we were entitled to—do train our people to be in a position that we can fairly compete with Yorkshire.

11187. (Mr. Dryden).—Then is no way I am so to get at the exact sum that would accomplish that?

11188. (Mr. Michel).—Have you gone into the question of the amount that would be probably necessary? Yes; I put it down in round figures here. I have not included here, for example, the foreman, and the wages required for them is £200 a year.

11189. (Mr. Dryden).—These foremen ought to produce a certain amount of goods, and you are not producing that?—No; say one-third.

11190. Therefore you are losing to some extent?—Yes; that could be easily worked out.

11191. And the same with the girls; I suppose you pay a girl there according to what she produces?—Oh, no, in many cases we have to give them more.

11192. You would not give your girls that can only produce one-third of the amount as much as they would get in Yorkshire?—Oh, no.

11193. So you don't lose anything there?—We do; we lose in production. We must produce a certain amount before we are able to cover our working expenses. Until we cover that by our production it is a loss; as soon as we get over that production it is a profit.

11194. I cannot see from what you have given here any working basis of what you require?—I could work it out exactly; I only gave a rough sketch to Mr. Fletcher at the time.

11195. Up to this moment, so far as I am concerned, my mind is in the dark as to what you would require if the Department was to assist?

11196. (Mr. Michel).—Would you be willing to show your accounts to the Department in order that they might ascertain the loss you sustain owing to inefficiency?—Certainly; the books will show every penny

spent. Of course, it is understood that that would be purely confidential.

11197. (Mr. Dryden).—It would give you a basis, but you would have to work it out separately?—Oh, certainly; but the books would show the actual cost and the actual production.

11198. (Mr. Gifford).—Of the figures you have given us, am I right in taking down that the foreman could look after production twice or three times as great?

11199. And that production might be either of two ways?—Either by the hands employed on the existing looms being twice or three times as expert.

11200. Or by your doubling your looms with the same quality of hands?—Yes; and we have the power already and the room already. The extension can be done without interfering with the present building.

11201. You were going to refer to the question of the Yorkshire College?—The Yorkshire College starts on the raw material, wool-dyeing, carding, spinning, weaving, rearing, mulling, and finishing.

11202. The people are those employed in the textile trade or connected with them; many are manufacturers' sons who have had some practical experience before going there?—I know very few cases where people have gone there who have not had, first, some practical training in some woolen mill.

11203. There is nothing in any of the English Technical Colleges you know to correspond to the taking of your fifteen or twenty girls who know nothing about mills, and keeping them at work upon spinning machines as in a school, until they are qualified to take their places at the looms in a factory on a commercial basis?—I have not heard of any college of the description.

11204. I simply want to define exactly that this is not the type of work that is done in those places?—Not at all.

11205. The work that is done there is instruction of people in the principles of the work, and in the methods of working machines, but not to the extent that would make them expert workers?—Not at all.

11206. The rate at which they work is of no account?—No.

11207. They are afforded at these looms opportunities of getting to realise the principles?—The theory of weaving or the technical part of carding and spinning, or the technical part of dyeing.

11208. They are not taught there to become expert workers?—Not at all. They only apply this technical or theoretical or higher knowledge to the practical knowledge they have already obtained in the manufacture.

11209. The fact that the workers whom you have to train come from people who have not for the last few generations, at any rate, been engaged in spinning looms make them somewhat slower in picking up this work?—Very much.

11210. Then if they were of spinning families, so to speak?—Exactly.

11211. You find in your hands that you have to train individual differences of aptitude?—Certainly; we have one girl there who has never been trained, but her father was a weaver, and I took her from the convent here, and get her on a loom she had never seen before, and in a short time she was equal to those who had been working a hand-loom for ten years, and had been at Kilmacomb. She is more careful.

11212. You find from your experience of people who come from a more direct weaving background that it is a more difficult and a slower process to educate other girls than those whose families have been engaged in weaving previously?—Yes.

11213. You pay girls during their instruction wages of 6s. to 8s. a week?—I pay up to 8s. a week.

11214. Why is it necessary to pay so much as that to girls learning spinning?—I refer to weaving.

11215. If they had not been learning weaving would they be earning wages in some other capacity in the town?—Some of them. I don't know the wages the women pay; they vary. They probably pay from 6s. to 8s.

11216. You may take it that your directors would not have found paying 6s. or 8s. a week if these girls' services could be got for less?—We could not ask these girls to come out there in the morning for less, and do 10 hours each; it would not be fair.

11217. Do you have any term of engagement with these girls?—No; there is no indenture.

11218. The usual practice in apprenticeships is that the apprentice gets a wage which in the latter years of his apprenticeship is considerably less than his work is worth; have you any prospect of that kind?—No.

11219. You cannot expect to recruit yourself by continuing to have these girls employed for a period of years which will extend beyond the time when their work is not worth the money you are paying?—I don't think these girls will leave us. The more we improve and increase, and the better they become acquainted with their work, the more money they can earn, and it will be an incentive to them to remain there.

11220. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you increase the wages as the workers become efficient?—You must do that. For example, with the boys I have arranged 6s., 8s., 10s., and 12s. by the year.

11221. (Mr. Gifford).—Supposing a boy does not improve as rapidly as you expect what happens?—We have to take our chance. We are trying to get the very best boys from the county and city for special work.

11222. (Chairman).—Do you engage them by the year?—We have no indenture, but we have a special arrangement that they work for us for four years learning the business.

11223. (Mr. Gifford).—When the period of preparation and training is over to what extent at all do you expect that you will be paying by piece instead of by the hour or week?—I don't know exactly.

11224. You have no view on that?—No.

11225. Nothing has been determined about that?—Not yet; it depends upon our progress.

11226. If in the end this business is going to be self-sustained and a profit-making business it will be so, in the face of a permanent expenditure, on a more liberal scale than would be necessary in a corresponding business, say, in Yorkshire?—Certainly; there is no comparison.

11227. Therefore, the wages that could be paid would not necessarily be as high as the wages paid in Yorkshire?—Quite so.

11228. Is there a corresponding difference in the cost of living which would make a lower wage a fair wage in this locality?—Living is cheaper here.

11229. The relative cheapness of living would be one element which would make it possible in the future for this business to keep going?—Not only to keep going on, but to press forward; and we have another thing, owing to the enormous water power here. We have a very cheap place. The water power alone would be worth four times the money that we paid for the whole land. It is only for a few years, in the beginning, that we fear great difficulties.

11230. With reference to these three boys you are getting specially trained, may we take it that these boys are of the type of previous-preparation capacity?—Better education.

11231. That you would expect to be foremen, by and by?—That is the very reason we are training them. We might, later on, if he is a smart boy, send him over to Yorkshire to a particular mill for a special purpose.

11232. Do you know that the only technical school on a large scale in Ireland that is putting down machinery of the type of that that is in Leeds is in Belfast?—That would be for linen.

11233. And, therefore, there is no immediate probability of their being available for the training of foremen in places corresponding to this?—No.

11234. And if it were necessary to send one of these boys to get instruction the proper place for him would be the Yorkshire College or at Bradford?—The Yorkshire College is more in our way. In Bradford you have more workers.

11235. Assuming that it would be a right and proper purpose for technical education money to be spent in future to give one of these boys, when he showed his capacity for such work, a scholarship to send him away?—That is done by the Department now—I believe £70 or £80 a year; but their idea is to send them into the mills there. I told Mr. Fletcher when the time comes I would advise someone to be sent over to the Yorkshire College.

11236. So far as one can gather, that clause on training is sufficiently provided for; what you don't so provide for is the training of hands for work as hands?—As hands.

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Mr. A. R.
Hooper.

11237. And that is the training which is not represented in that form in any of the English places?—None.

11238. Or in Germany either?—No.

11239. The necessity for it and the justification for it here depends entirely on the special circumstances of Irish industries?—Quite so.

11240. (Mr. Micks).—On Irish non-existent industries?—Yes.

Mr. PATRICK KENNEDY examined.

Mr. Patrick
Kennedy.

11241. (Chairman).—You are the Secretary of the Woollen Mills Company?—Yes; I am also Manager of the Wood-Carving Industry in Kilkenny, and it is with regard to the latter I wish to speak.

11242. That is independent of the mills altogether?—Yes; I think the evidence with regard to the mills has been sufficient for your purposes. I should like to point out that the difficulties we have met in the mills exist also with regard to the wood-workers. Our difficulty is we have only one thoroughly trained head—the foreman.

11243. (Mr. O'Griffin).—I would be glad if you would mention some particulars of that work?—Five years ago, when technical education began first to be taken up in the country, the County Kilkenny Technical Committee got a number of carpenters in the county trained—gave them a special course of instruction. They happened at that time to possess an extremely clever manual instructor, Mr. Webb, who is now head master of the Technical School in Clonmel. These young men got a special course of training, and were taken up to Dublin for testing, and Mr. Webb was sent to Germany to make up certain branches of the woodwork industry, which he brought back, and imparted to these young men. When these courses were over, some gentlemen of the committee—Mr. Houghton, Canon Doyle, Canon Barry, Dean Hawley—thought it a pity that these young men should lapse back into a condition of country carpenters, and they established a guild, in which these young men held shares, and gentlemen who were anxious to support it took shares also. It was started actually in July, 1905. Unfortunately, but fortunately for himself, Mr. Webb was promoted to the head mastership of the Clonmel Technical School, and after a while there was some difficulty, as the young men had not experience in matters of business, and eventually a trained foreman was got. He comes from Sweden, and he found after a while that the constitution of the guild led to administrative difficulties, and with the consent of the shareholders it was changed to a business firm, and is now going on as such. In that there are thirteen employed, including the foreman. We have thirteen who are fairly skilful, and the rest are in process of training; but even the most skilful of them, except in a few articles, are unable to give the same output as any skilled cabinet-maker would in other countries, and so we are still more or less handicapped in putting the thing on a working basis. Several of these being trained at present are boys who have had some training in the trade preparatory school in the city, and we find the training they received there renders them more apt to pick up the instruction as cabinet-makers than those who had no such previous training. We, too, would like the Department to give us a little assistance in getting over the initial stages of training. They have sent down from time to time Mr. Lang, a German, from Ober Amergau, who comes and shows boys how to carve.

11244. (Mr. Micks).—Does he remain any time?—Sometimes a month and sometimes two months, but the condition attached is that all the boys and workers must attend the carving factory. I don't think in every factory you can lay down the principle that everybody is to be a carver; it leads to considerable difficulty with us that the Department insists on all the workers attending this course in carving; so, except for one or two of the workers, this particular instruction is of very little practical value to the firm.

11245. (Chairman).—What is the nature of the assistance you want the Department to give?—I think they should extend the system of scholarships here. Two or three of these boys last year were studying in the trade preparatory school, and as such enjoyed scholarships. Those from the distant portion of the

11241. (Mr. O'Griffin).—Not merely the non-existence of industries, but the fact that you are dealing with a population that has lost, so to speak, the knack. You lay stress upon the loss of the word *knack*—it is lost.

11242. Did it once exist?—It once existed here in Kilkenny, particularly; and we have an instance in this one girl that we have in the mill.

11243. (Mr. O'Griffin).—You would go as far as saying that in starting new industries it would be desirable that such industries should be helped over the initial stages, when the workers were not efficient?—I would go farther, and say that there is very little chance of starting a new industry in Ireland unless some measure of that kind is taken. Capital is rather a shy bird, and capital will seek to see that the elements of success are there; and one of the strongest things against starting a new industry in Ireland is want of skilled labour. In a corresponding factory in England not 10 per cent. is unskilled. There you may have to train a hand now and again, but you have not to train the whole thing as here.

11244. (Chairman).—How do you describe this as a new industry? It may be a new application of an old industry.

(Mr. Micks).—You mean there was no cabinet-making in Kilkenny before?—Not on a large scale.

11245. (Chairman).—Would you say if a cabinet-maker set up in Kilkenny, that is a new industry, in the same sense as the woollen mill is?—If you start cabinet-making, giving employment to twenty-five or thirty men, it is a new industry in Kilkenny; I mean an industry of the kind that already did not exist there, or had lapsed.

11246. Is that particular place. If a blacksmith sets up his shop in a village where there was no blacksmith before, is that a new industry?—I would not call an individual blacksmith an industry; it must be carried on on a large scale.

11247. (Mr. O'Griffin).—Supposing there was a cabinet-maker in Kilkenny who was employing, perhaps, two journeymen and an apprentice; suppose he were to say, "I wish to extend my business very largely; I am going to make a speciality of making washbasins; I want to put down plant able to deal with the work of twenty men," should the Department help him with that plant?—I would not say help him with the plant, but it should certainly help him with the training of these men.

11248. (Chairman).—Say I am going to have twenty men; I have three men who are journeymen, and know the work, but I think the cheapest thing for me and the best thing for Kilkenny will be to train fifteen boys through the day technical school, and I ask the Department then to maintain those boys for the next three years?—I think that would be quite fair.

11249. And anyone who wanted to extend his business in that way would have a fair claim, on precisely the same footing, as the claim you put forward?—Certainly. I know, as far as starting a new industry, the claim is still stronger where there is no supply of that skilled labour in the locality. The claim we are making does not apply to Kilkenny alone, but to all Ireland, although we would like to come out on top if we could.

11250. Kilkenny won't lose anything by not asking

for it, that is quite certain—I may mention what you suggest has been done with regard to the wood-workers already. Contracts have been entered into for new machinery, and buildings put up, and the hands will be doubled before next January or February.

11288. (Mr. O'Grady).—Being doubled as a matter of commercial enterprise?—I should scarcely call it commercial enterprise; it is not an investment; it is giving a chance to a new industry, which has got to a certain point already.

11289. The Company is satisfied that the finances will justify this extension?—It is not the Company it is a private individual who is doing it, not an investment. That portion of the grant which consists of profit-sharing will still be kept as soon as a certain interest is paid on the shares.

11290. The business is so far extended as to ensure that it won't be a loss?—It has so extended as to make us sure that our business will have a better chance of success than on a small scale.

11291. So you may say already the business has established itself to the extent that it is not a losing concern?—I should not say that.

11292. It is the type of business which is careful and expert hands, and under good management, may rely upon establishing itself without any more assistance in the matter of Departmental financing than this business has received?—I should not say that.

11293. It must come very near it?—It has a reasonable chance of success—a fairly good chance of success there. The boys we have, have got a certain amount of initial training, as a matter of fact as far as the inside trade work itself they have got nothing of that from the Department; but we have now to increase. We are increasing more than double the number of hands, and putting in an immense lot of machinery. I think it is a fair case for the Department to help us. We cannot get hands from the Trade Preparatory School at present. We must take them from the city and country.

11294. You won't take them all in as learners?—We will have to take them in one by one—discuss new learners. Of course, we will have to take one or two skilled men.

11295. If the preliminary training of the learner is up to the standard of those you have been dealing with lately, the preparatory trades boys—assuming there was the amount of training available in the whole market to which you would look for your learners, you would be able to put those hands through with only the ordinary amount of energy?—We would have a better chance of pushing it through, but I hold we should get some assistance in the matter. I don't myself believe in propping up industries in the ordinary sense. I would like to see private effort coming in, and doing its best; but there are undoubtedly cases where you are trying to revive or extend industries in a country like Ireland where initial assistance ought to be given.

11296. With regard to the Scholarships for training boys and girls, that is an absolutely different thing from subsidising an industry, because you show the Department you spend all the money on these boys, and when they are trained they are free to transfer their services to any other industry. Suppose the Department were to say—"Well, now, these boys have been so far trained in work in the Trade Preparatory School. We wish to see them trained as cabinet-makers. Further, we have not any specialised class for cabinet-making, or if we have it is a long way off. The cheapest and best way of doing this would be to

enter into a contract with this particular firm to give these boys further technical training, and so we will offer the firm, if these boys are properly trained in their work to our satisfaction, as decided at the end of the year we will make you a payment of, we will say, £5 in respect of each boy for each of the first two years," so that the sort of assistance you think you might claim?—I think I might go further. What should we do in the meantime? Should we remain idle until these boys were trained?

11297. No; you are training them, and using their skill as it arises and increases?—I agree with that part, but I think the Scholarship system is good enough.

11298. That is practically a Scholarship, but it is a Scholarship which is only in respect of the technical instruction which is being given?—Precisely.

11299. You don't think that goes far enough?—I don't think so.

11300. (Mr. M'Kea).—You would rather give instruction in the workshop direct?—Direct.

11301. (Mr. O'Grady).—Yes; but this is instruction in the workshop. I mean the boy is handed over to you to be your apprentice, and in respect of your giving him proper training in the principles of the trade at the same time that you are using him for the practice of the trade, and giving him a chance of becoming expert in the practice. For that the Department cannot pay, but they may regard it as a necessary concomitant of instruction in the principles that you are going to give him while in the workshop, and the payment I suggest would be for instruction in the principles?—I think that would be better than I have suggested; it would meet our point.

11302. Let us take the case of a plumber. Assuming there was a plumber who was qualified to give instruction in the principles of his craft to an apprentice, and that there were only six plumbers' apprentices in the place, so that it was not convenient to establish a class for plumbers, you would approve of paying the plumber a fee in addition to giving a boy the ordinary opportunities of acquiring practical experience he gave him almost adequate instruction in the principles of the craft?—Yes, I would, provided means are taken to see he does give the instruction.

11303. Oh, yes, the payment would not be made unless the instruction was given?—Yes. I should like to say a word as a member of the Joint Technical Committee with regard to the system of science instruction introduced into the secondary schools by the Department. I should like to praise the Department for what they have done there. I happen to be connected with Irish education since 1870, both primary, intermediate, and University, and I have been a member of the Technical Committee since it was started in Kilkenny. I think of all the work they have done—and they have done good work—there are few things more valuable or more likely to increase in value than the system of science instruction they have introduced into the schools of Ireland. I think that the encouragement of Irish industries is rather lost sight of or neglected in the Department at present. I think an important branch of the government of the country, such as the development of its industries, would practically require a Department of its own. I do not think that any one Department, or set of officials can look after technical instruction, secondary instruction in schools, and the industries of the country, and I do think as constituted at present the officers of the Department are sadly overworked in that respect.

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Mr. Patrick Kennedy.

On returning after luncheon.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. HUTCHESON POE, C.R., Heywood, Ballinakill, examined.

11274. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Queen's County Committee of Agriculture, and reside in the Queen's County?—I do.

11275. Perhaps you would read what you propose to say to us?—Perhaps the most pressing need at the present time in the interests both of technical and agricultural instruction is the provision by the Government of largely increased funds for the purposes of the Act, in order that the Department may be enabled to deal more liberally with the local authorities

than is now possible. The feeling of dissatisfaction which undoubtedly exists in many parts of the country at the poor return which the ratepayers consider they are getting for their money is, I think, chiefly due to the fact that the funds placed at the disposal of the County Councils are so limited in amount that in place of endeavouring to conceive and carry into effect a few bold and probably costly measures—the advantages of which would at once be apparent—they are obliged to content themselves with formulating a

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number of small, and, comparatively speaking, inexpensive schemes, from which, in the very nature of things, little if any immediate result can be expected. The reason for this dissatisfaction is not far to seek. Grants which were amply sufficient a few years ago in the earlier, and, so to speak, experimental stages of the Act, are now altogether inadequate, so much so, indeed, that unless more money is forthcoming there is, in my opinion, a considerable risk of the ratepayers refusing to tax themselves any longer in furtherance of measures from which many of them see so little prospect of deriving any tangible benefit. However necessary it may have been for the Department to proceed tentatively, and with every regard for economy during the first few years which followed the introduction of the Act, that economy no longer exists, for the conditions with which they have now to deal are very different to what they were six years ago. At that time they had to do with a people who, though they mostly lived by the soil, seemed perfectly content to pursue the same methods of cultivation as were in vogue fifty years before, and what it was exceedingly difficult to swerve to some of the advantages to be gained by the adoption of an improved and more scientific system of farming. To such people, moreover, technical education conveyed no meaning, seeing that manufacturers and industrial undertakings were unfortunately non-existent in the country. Under such circumstances it was inevitable that much of the work in respect both of technical and agricultural instruction, upon which the Department has up till now been engaged, should be unproductive, or that the people in whose interests and on whose behalf such efforts were being made, should be slow to appreciate their opportunities, or to show much desire to make the most of them. Thanks, however, to the wholehearted manner in which the Department has thrown itself into the work, and to the energy and zeal displayed by its officials, the time has now come when the people fully realise the value of the instruction which is being given, and the possibilities which lie before them, if only the Department is prepared to encounter the Act in a more generous, and perhaps I should say, a more judicious manner than they have hitherto been able to do. The application of these few general observations to the particular requirements of the county I represent will be soon presently; but I cannot too strongly impress on this Committee the vital necessity in the interests of the whole country of far larger money grants being made to the local authorities if the work with which these bodies are entrusted is to attain any substantial measure of success, or is to be attended with real and permanent benefit to the community. I should like to add that the public would, I believe, feel greater confidence in the Department were it possible to devise some means by which the Council of Agriculture and its subsidiary bodies, the Agricultural and Technical Boards, could be given a more effective voice in its administration. While these bodies are in themselves fairly representative of the whole country, their functions under the existing constitution are purely consultative and advisory, and their recommendations may at any moment be over-ruled and set aside should they not happen to accord with the views of the heads of the Department. Although I trust it is unnecessary for me to say that it is far from my wish or intention to imply—much less to assert—that the responsible officers of the Department take any advantage of their powers in this respect, the very fact that such a possibility exists is sufficient to create suspicion, and should be guarded against.

11275. You say the recommendations of the two Boards might at any moment be over-ruled and set aside should they not happen to be in accord with the views of the head of the Department. Do you keep in mind the powers of the Agricultural Board over finance and the question of the veto?—Both the Agricultural and Technical Board, I think, are more or less consultative bodies.

11277. No; they have an absolute power of veto over the funds?—The case to which I refer came before us the other day on the Railway Commission, when the Chief Clerk of the Department gave evidence that a resolution was adopted unanimously by the Council of Agriculture on the subject of rates and transport facilities setting injuriously to the interests of the community, and that that resolution they have never since heard anything, good, bad, or indifferent.

11278. I am talking of the Agricultural Board?—

But two-thirds of the Council are elected by the people, and the feeling is that where you have in these days a representative body you should give them some voice in the matter.

11279. I merely interrupted because it seemed to me to cover both the Council and the Board, and the Board has the very real power of stopping the supplies, and the Technical Board has the same power?—Well, that is the feeling of the country.

11280. That fact seems to me to be forgotten a good deal; that is the reason I interrupted?—I think there is not the slightest justification for thinking that the head of the Department, who is really in supreme control, exercises his duties in any but the most satisfactory manner. I should be sorry to think otherwise, but the feeling of the country is that the administration is too much in the hands of one man. The amount raised by the rate of 1d. levied in the county is £1,070. Of this sum £460 is allocated for the purposes of technical instruction. The Department contributes a like sum of £460, and the County Education Committee a sum of £235, making a total of £1,155. Of this amount there is allowed for itinerant instruction £438, including an instructor in manual training and two instructors in Domestic Economy; a further sum for scholarships for boys and girls of £170, a teacher in wood-carving at Stradfield £25, and expenses of administration £110. The courses given by the itinerant instructors are on the whole very much appreciated and well attended, and the opinion shown by the pupils is satisfactory. In urban centres the manual instruction is regarded with a certain amount of jealousy by the tradesmen as calculated to turn out amateur carpenters, etc. Owing to the number of different courses which have to be varied, and the length of time which elapses before the instructor can visit the same centre a second time, a great deal of the benefit of the instruction is lost, and the interest of the pupils in what they have learned is difficult to maintain. A second instructor is badly needed, but want of funds will not admit of it. The classes held by the instructor in "Domestic Economy" have been very successful, and an intelligent and practical interest is taken in the work.

Boys' Scholarships.—There are eight £15 and six £5 open to boys between twelve and fifteen years of age attending primary schools, and capable of any approved secondary schools, not necessarily in the county; the scholarships are renewable for a second and even for a third year. There is hardly as much competition as could be wished, due perhaps to the fact that the primary school education scarcely qualifies many boys of twelve or thirteen years of age to pass the standard required for the scholarship examination. Were funds available it would be preferable to try and establish a Trade Preparatory School, which might be associated with one of the existing secondary schools. Boys would then receive a thorough practical training which would fit them to take up an industrial career, which the present system of scholarships does not, and the idea would commend itself both to parents and boys in a way which the existing scholarships do not.

Girl Scholarships.—There are fifteen £15 Scholarships, open to girls of sixteen years of age and upwards, who have passed the fifth standard of the National Board. They are tenable only for one year, and up to this the scholars have been always resident at the Presentation Convent, Stradfield. Hitherto the girls have been selected by local committees, but in consequence of the reports received as to the low standard of education of some of the scholars, and their consequent inability to derive the full benefit of the training, an entrance examination conducted by the Department was held this year. The result was, however, not very satisfactory owing to the "stiffness" of the papers, which were quite beyond the capacity of the candidates, and at the last meeting of the Technical Committee it was decided to revert to the old system of selection. This is regrettable, as it was hoped the effect of these examinations would have been to induce the daughters of the middle-class farmers, who have hitherto apparently resented the idea of selection, to come forward.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION SCHEMES, ETC.

Of the amount levied in the county a sum of	£500
is set aside for these schemes.	
The Department contributes	1,000
Total	£1,500

Of this amount there is allowed for—

(1.) An Itinerant Instructor in Agriculture	£325
(2.) Dairy Instructor	112
(3.) Horticultural Instructor	149
(4.) Live-Stock Scheme	530
(5.) Cottage and Farm Prizes	121
(6.) Schedules to Shows	150
(7.) Administrative Expenses	212
	<hr/> £1,599

DAIRY INSTRUCTION.

The classes held have been attended with much success, and the instruction given with regard to butter-making should produce good results. The conditions under which the very small class of farmer makes his butter are, however, often of such an objectionable and unsanitary character that in the interests of the public health, as well as in those of the butter industry itself, it is very essential that the Department should insist on some system of dairy registration, with a view to their periodic inspection by the dairy instructor, and a report by her on the state in which they were kept. Prizes might be awarded for the best kept and equipped dairies, and thus encouragement given to the small farmers to provide themselves with up-to-date appliances. The present system, which admits of butter of perhaps half a dozen degrees of quality being brought into the nearest market town, and there disposed of to the local trader at practically the same price, is doubtless one of the causes why the Irish butter gets a bad name in the English market, as it is impossible that when these different parcels of butter come to be blended together in bulk by the local shipper, and then shipped to England that the mixture can be of uniform, much less of a high standard. Such a system can only be put a stop to by co-operation on the part of those who make the good butter and who are seriously affected by the present practice. In connection with the dairy instructor it has been suggested to the Department that her duties might be amalgamated with those of the poultry instructor, without any loss of efficiency and with some saving of expense. Had this course been permitted, the County Committee would not now be deprived of the services of the poultry instructor, for whom no provision could be made in this year's scheme on account of a shortage of funds. It is hoped that the Department may reconsider their decision in this matter, seeing that the poultry industry is one specially suited to the small farmers, and the abandonment of the egg stations is very much to be regretted.

11281. You have no poultry instructor?—We had to abandon it this year, we had not money enough to provide for everything, there was a good deal of diversity of opinion in the committee, but they thought this part could be done away with.

11282. (Mr. Brown).—Was your dairy instructor competent to give instruction in poultry work?—Yes, and we recommended it to the Department. Her duties put her in touch with the people who look after the two things, girls get tired of itinerant lecturers, get a surfeit of them, the duties are much the same and the people to whom they appeal are the same. Agricultural and Horticultural instruction, there seems no reason why these two parts should not be amalgamated, for the duties have much in common and the work in connection with each being for the most part carried out at different seasons of the year would create no difficulty. The demonstration plots at present authorized by the Department are so miserably small as to be practically useless, and it is suggested that one, or even two acre plots should be provided in the immediate vicinity of each of the three Agricultural Show centres, where experiments on an adequate scale could be conducted and where they would be certain to attract the attention of all those who attended the shows. We have three shows in the county held about August, at Mayboro', Donaghmore, and Shrewsbury, they are very largely attended and are held at a time of the year when the crops can be seen to good advantage and the people can see the effects of fertilizers and spraying on the different plots.

11283. (Chairman).—Have you made a suggestion to that effect to the Department?—We have not, these demonstration plots have only been in existence seven

or eight months, they are abnormally small, the laughing stock of the country, two or three square perches, they are really only bringing the thing into contempt and ridicule. More encouragement might be given by the Department to the placing of shelter belts by farmers and others.

11284. What sort of encouragement?—By giving them trees at a small cost.

11285. (Mr. Brown).—Don't they do that?—They do, I know one or two men who got trees from the County Committee and they came dearer than if they got them from the nursery-man, I don't know why, so that they did not gain anything by that. A scheme which would confer far more benefit on the agricultural classes than anything yet suggested would be the establishment of an agricultural school at Donaghmore, where the former workhouse buildings are available and capable of being adapted at comparatively little expense to the requirements. Some years ago, when such an idea was being discussed, Lord Castletown offered to place thirty or forty acres adjoining the workhouse at the disposal of such a college, and it is probable that he would still be willing, if not to make a free grant, at any rate, to accept a moderate rent for such land as might be needed. The college might be open to the province of Limerick and would supply a want which has been more than once expressed. Another scheme which would do much to popularize the Act and to bring its value home to the smaller ratepayers would be the establishment of three or more Veterinary Dispensaries, each of which would be in charge of a Veterinary Surgeon, who would be called upon to provide veterinary attendance at certain fixed charges, based on a sliding scale according to valuation, for all ratepayers in his Dispensary district, whose valuation did not exceed £5. The County Committee attach great importance to the provision of some such scheme and have already brought it before the Department, but so far unsuccessfully. In the selection of sites under the Live Stock scheme, it is recommended that a representative of the County Council should be associated with the Department's officer, and that due notice, both of time and place of selection, should be sent to the County Council. Efforts should be made to revive the breed of the old Irish draught horse which has become nearly extinct, and from whom some of the best animals in this country were formerly bred. Finding any sites of this breed being procurable, the Department should sanction a larger number of Clydesdales or Shires being bought, as at present the county is limited to one of each class, which is inadequate. There is great competition for nominations, and did funds permit, more sires might be nominated with advantage. In selecting premium bulls one or more representatives of the Board of Agriculture should be associated with the Department's Inspector, care being taken that no one in any way concerned in the selling or breeding of the animals should be so employed. When awarding second and third year premiums, too much importance is attached to the animal's condition, with the result that the bull is sometimes rendered unfruitful, or at any rate too heavy for the class of cows usually kept by the ordinary small farmer. This regulation of the Department as to "condition" should be relaxed. In connection with the registration of dairy cows recently introduced in the county it has been suggested that the produce of such registered cows and of a premium bull should be eligible, if otherwise suitable, for a small premium, say of £5, and in this way something done to assist the small farmer. Under existing circumstances these men are often deterred by distance and otherwise from sending themselves of the pedigree bull and are driven to make use of inferior differently-bred and unselective animals to the great detriment of their stock. They naturally cannot afford to pay the price asked for the high-class bull, and until such times as there is a sufficient supply of these latter in the county to meet all requirements, the provision of these low premium bulls—which the small farmer would be in a position to buy—would at least be an improvement on the present state of things.

11286. (Chairman).—I am not sure that we have heard anything about the registration of dairy cows?—I am only speaking of my own county.

11287. What is the system?—Any owner of cattle can ask that they shall be inspected, and at the Inspector's discretion the test of his cows can be registered.

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Genl. Col. W.
Hutchinson
Pres., &c.

11288. (Mr. Brown).—We heard about it in Limerick!—In Limerick I believe they go largely in for those half-bred bulls for dairy cattle; of course, it requires to be safeguarded.

11289. (Chairman).—The suggestion is that the produce of these registered cows and of the premium bull should be eligible for a small premium?—We have only nineteen bulls in the whole county, and that is perfectly inadequate. Some of these small farmers are nine or ten miles from a bull.

11290. You mean increasing the number of bulls at the expense of their being cross-bred ones!—Of course, it is only a temporary thing; it would be a mistake to look forward to have these half-bred bulls permanently. In Limerick they answer very well, but the class of men who have dairy herds there take care that the half-bred bull is a good one.

11291. Is the Queen's County much of a dairy county?—Some parts are.

11292. (Mr. Brown).—There are a large number of bulls in use besides the premium bulls in the Queen's County?—A great number of bulls. I have a pure-bred bull, and other gentlemen have some, and there are any number of half-bred bulls over the county. Many of them are unsuitable and badly bred. We suggest this as a temporary measure.

11293. There are many more pure-bred bulls in the county than there were formerly?—The difference is very slight.

11294. The produce of these bulls will be very often kept for service?—To a certain extent; at any rate, I am only putting it forward. There has been a great deal of expression of opinion in favour of such a scheme pending the pure-bred bulls being in greater numbers.

11295. Would it not be better to spend more money in getting more pure-bred bulls?—Would that be your own view?—Certainly, and that is the view I think of most agriculturists.

11296. Would it not be better to increase the number of pure-bred bulls even though you would not get as many as by the other system?—It undoubtedly would. All bulls, whether premium or otherwise, should be

registered. One disadvantage of the present state of things is that there are a certain number of men in our county who do a considerable trade in springers, and then these springers are in calf to some of these wretched bulls who are not fit for anything, and they are sold in markets and fairs, and the purchaser buys them and gets a wretched calf, from which, in turn, again he begins to breed. If every bull was registered you would put a check on that trade.

11297. Only allowed to be registered if he was considered fit?—Yes, it would put a stop to that.

11298. (Mr. Micks).—You would prevent any sale size from arriving?—I would like to do it if I could, it would be a great advantage to the country.

11299. (Chairman).—To register, after inspection, the least bad ones?—Yes.

11300. (Mr. Drayton).—He means that people should not use anything but a registered bull?—Yes, and no bull should be registered unless he was suitable.

11301. I have no doubt you could manage it; some of these half-bred bulls would answer you splendidly!—Yes; a small farmer is not fond very often of these high-fed, pampered bulls. I have known one or two cases where, the second year, the Department's inspector almost refused to pass the bull. He was in splendid working condition, but was not a fat fine beast for a cattle show, and next year the man got him into such condition that he got so heavy he could not get enough cows to qualify him for a premium.

11302. There is a medium condition, that gives them energy and force, but if you let them run down, weak, as I have heard of being done, they are no use—I think people who have got bulls know how to keep them in good condition.

11303. I have heard that in some cases they do let them get down so thin that they are not able to do the work required?—Very possibly, but it is not our experience.

11304. (Chairman).—I suppose we may take your evidence as fairly representative of the views of the Queen's County?—I think you may take it so. I have tried to get answers to the queries sent to different centres, and to embody them in my evidence.

Major J. H. CASHMAN, D.E.

Coolmead, Thomastown, examined.

Major J. H.
Cashman,
D.E.

11305. (Chairman).—You are Chairman of the Kilkenny County Committee of Agriculture?—Yes; and I am a member of the Joint Technical Committee as well, and I happen to be one of the members of the Agricultural Council in Dublin. I have prepared no regular statement, but I think, as Chairman of the Committee, I should just say a few words as to the general working of it. Before doing so I would just like to refer for a moment to the question of technical education as apart from agriculture. With nearly every single word of what Canon Doyle has said I quite agree. He said, rightly, the question of accommodation is a very pressing one, and so do not it is; but before you could decide where you should make any more as to additional accommodation you could not deal very well with the matter of the model school without referring the thing to the Chairman of that Committee and the National Board, under whose control it is.

11306. Before you could utilize the model school?—Before you could entirely dispense with the scholars that are there now?—

11307. They are not altogether vacant?—No; there are ninety boys on the roll, and sixty odd average attendance.

11308. Do you think the model school could be looked to at all to supply the immediate accommodation?—I am not at all to be taken as saying that, but I think you could not possibly cut the boys that are there.

11309. (Mr. Micks).—In the recent report of Mr. Dale it was suggested that that school should be closed?—I have not seen that.

(Canon Doyle).—It was suggested that schools where the attendance had gone down might be utilized for other purposes, and a school be built in place of them to accommodate the boys; of course, I did not advocate putting out the boys without providing accommodation for them.

(Witness).—With regard to the agricultural question in the country, we are all fully agreed with what Canon Doyle said as to the want of instruction in agriculture. We did have an unfortunate experience in the way of our first two instructors, and having an indifferent instructor is worse than having none at

all; but apart from that, I think it is the general view of my committee that, on the whole, a great deal of good has been done by this; and as time goes on the people are beginning to avail themselves more of the facilities which have been placed before them, and especially I think with regard to horses. I have been connected with the accreditation system both under the Royal Dublin Society and since it has been taken over by this Department, and I think that anybody who goes to the shows of horses every year must see the increased amount of interest taken in them, and the larger exhibits and the better quality of the animals exhibited. We had twenty-nine services last year and we have had sixty-two foals; that would be the general average. As regards bulls, of course that has not had time to work, has not worked so long; but we have had seventeen premium bulls this year out of a total of twenty-three; and I think we probably should have had more than the seventeen were it not for this little defect in the machinery, by which the lapse of an application loses the service of a premium bull. That is, supposing an applicant is not able to get a bull, and reports to us, it is then too late for another applicant to make a selection, because, unfortunately, the selection of these bulls is confined to two or three centres. If the Department could devise some scheme by which applicants could obtain their premium bulls in a more easy manner I think we would find the scheme would work much better.

11310. (Chairman).—I think Professor Campbell touched on that subject?—As regards the question of agriculture generally, Canon Doyle said, and rightly said, that we want better methods of agriculture in parts of the country. Of course, there are many very experienced farmers that you could teach very little, but in other places there are some who want a little help and instruction. And he touched on the subject of tillage, but he did not mention that one reason why tillage became lessened was the fall of prices. When men could sell wheat in this country at 22s. a barrel, and barley in the same proportion, and can only get from 15s. to 14s. for the same commodity now, that led to a great deal of land being laid down in grass;

but that is more a question of protection and free trade, that I suppose we had better not go into here, but that was the great factor in a great deal of the land being laid down in grass. As regards spraying, I suppose it is no harm to give one's own experience. I found it most useful. And I may say this, that two years ago, when we had not a good crop in the country, I grew one and a quarter Irish acres of potatoes; I happened to be away a good deal that winter, and only consumed the quarter acre, and I sold the produce of the Irish acre that remained for about £34. I think it shows that growing good potatoes would pay. That, perhaps, would be rather an extreme case, because potatoes that year were rather dear from their scarcity.

11211. Is spraying becoming more general?—It is beginning, but it is not general. Spraying is not so effective at some times as at other times; nevertheless I think it is a good thing. As regards the other branches of our agricultural scheme, a copy of which I hand in to the Committee, I think it must be said to be doing good. Last year we sent out 1,450 damms from pure breeds; that, of course, will have a very good effect. We have had turkey penguins, and we have had a great many turkeys distributed throughout the country; and I am informed by one of our committee, who is a farmer, that in his district he considers that for the cost of one bird, which I believe is under 15s., he considers that 2000 worth of value is being put in that district.

11212. (Mr. Micks).—Increased value?—Increased value.

11213. (Mr. Doyle).—Because of the increased size?—Yes. Canon Doyle also spoke about our veterinary lectures. At one time one of our instructors, who was not satisfactory in other ways, I am sorry to say, gave us most valuable veterinary lectures, and a good many districts heard those lectures, and were greatly pleased with him; and since that we have had another lecturer sent down by the Department, who has also done a great deal of good in my own district. I know they took notes of his lectures.

11214. (Chairman).—Is that Professor Macart?—Yes. They got three typed and printed, and they are available in the adjoining village to me for any farmers.

11215. There seems to be but one opinion about Professor Macart?—There is another matter, and that is the constitution of the Agricultural Council and its connection with the Department. I can only speak from my own experience, and so far as I have seen at the Agricultural Council, which I have been on from the beginning, there was no practical difference between elected members and nominated members. They took their own view, and I think nobody coming into the room would recognise any difference between an elected member and a nominated member, so far as the Council itself was concerned. There have been some remarks made in some places as to the want of knowledge of what the Agricultural Board were doing. Of course that has been spoken of publicly on several occasions, and, of course, that does exist—that feeling that they would like to know the actual work the

Agricultural Board are doing; but a Board constituted that way, I suppose, could not be made open to the public.

11216. There are some matters which the Agricultural Board has to do which obviously could not be made public at the time. For instance, negotiating for the purchase of land.

(Mr. Brown).—You have seen the abstracts which are now published?—Yes.

11217. (Chairman).—Do you see any objection to the publication of certain proceedings of the Agricultural Board which are not necessarily of a confidential nature?—I think it would do a great deal of good. I think the public would like to know some of the reasons that govern their decisions.

11218. (Mr. Brown).—An abstract of the proceedings is now published since the last discussion at the Agricultural Council?—Then there is another matter I would like to mention—the question of a dairy herd. One of our members, who will address you presently, was instrumental in framing a scheme which at first, I must say, was received very coldly by the Department. They said it was impossible, and could not be carried out; but finally we got a conference with practically all the committees in Ireland, and we came to a general consensus of opinion as to the lines and general utility of this scheme; and we had a meeting in Dublin, which was very well attended, and was very unanimous on the subject; and now, I believe, the Department has authorized every county that wishes to take it up, and, in fact, it is in process of being worked out. But that might have been done some time ago if the Department had been, perhaps, a little more sympathetic in the initiation of it. I have not brought any figures with me, because the figures will be found in that report, but our Secretary is here to answer any questions as to figures that you think fit. We have this year expended £1,325 Rs. 7d., and of that, £855 15s. 4d. has been found by the county out of the rates—that is, on agriculture, poultry, butter-making, horticulture, live stock, Fertiliser Act, and beekeeping. I may mention that the bee-keeping has been very successful; we have a very good instructor.

11219. (Chairman).—Have you a separate instructor?—Yes, we have had him for some time. This year we started a butter-making instructor. She is now going round the county.

11220. Are there co-operatives in this county?—There are co-operatives. It is not into the districts where there are co-operatives we send the instructors, but into the home-delivery districts.

11221. And the instruction has been successful?—So far.

11222. Have the small tenants who make their butter at home, any means of getting it advantageously on the market?—They have. If they could have some way in which they could co-operate they would do better; but good butter can always be sold in country towns.

11223. Has anything been done in the way of co-operation?—No, except for co-operatives. Some of the small farmers sell fresh butter in the town markets, and that would be well.

Mr. GEORGE BROWNE, Ballyragget, examined.

11224. (Chairman).—Will you just tell us where you live?—I am a farmer, and I live about twelve English miles from Kilkenny. I am a member of the County Committee and a member of the Agricultural Council in Dublin; from the beginning I have been a member of the Council in Dublin. With regard to the Department, it has not met with the approval of the people generally, and I may say nine-tenths of the farmers are taking an interest in it. I just noted down a few observations. I believe it consists of Sir Horace Plunkett and the secretary; one secretary, Mr. GILL, I suppose he does not count. Mr. Campbell is the real person that manages these things. Mr. Campbell may be a good theorist, but he is not a practical agriculturist, nor did he know anything at all of Ireland until he came over. It is true he is learning, but it is a very tedious process. Then we have the Advisory Council appointed by the Department; next we have the Board practically appointed by the Department also, and next the Council.

11225. What do you mean by the Advisory Council?—That is, an Advisory Council called in to advise,

not the Board, I believe, but the Department; consultative, they call it, or advisory.

11226. (Mr. Micks).—About horses?—About everything. They are not provided for by the Act, and we have never heard their names, and know nothing about them. When we bring matters before Sir Horace Plunkett at our meetings in Dublin he says he will consult the Advisory Committee.

11227. (Chairman).—On horse breeding or some other subject?—Any subject that happens to be mentioned. Then the Board is appointed by the Department in this way, that there are two men appointed from every province; of course they represent the parties that are also appointed to the Council; the Council elect them, and then the Department have a vote on these men, for they appoint men to the Board, and I must say that recently some matter turned up about advancing money to the I.A.O.S., and two or three members of the Board stood up and said they never heard a word about it; the money was advanced without their knowledge. I submit that there is not proper representation for the people, and it ought to

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be allowed. No branch of agriculture as carried out by the Department, and bearing in mind the enormous expenditure, has been as successful as it should have been. In my county I cannot say that there has been very much improvement in the cattle; it would be hard to expect it should be so. There are 40,000 cows, and last year there were only seventeen premium bulls taken up. We have now to prove how many of those cows were in calf; possibly not one-tenth were in calf.

11328. (Mr. Brown).—Not one-tenth of the cows that were served?—Yes.

11329. (Chairman).—On what do you make that statement?—My own personal knowledge.

11330. (Mr. O'Leary).—I thought you said you had no information as to how many of them were in calf?—We have no information generally, but I have information in this way, that with one or two bulls that were in my neighbourhood very few of the cows were in calf, and some of those last their calves, and I know that a great number of them when reared are exported out of the country, and very few remained to improve the breed of cattle.

11331. About what number of cows have you personal knowledge of?—I have knowledge of about eighty cows.

11332. Served by premium bulls?—Yes.

11333. And about eight of those had calves?—I don't think there were more than eight. In my own instance I sent seventeen cows to one of these premium bulls, not this year, and I had not a single calf.

11334. (Mr. Dryden).—You would not condemn all premium bulls on that?—No, but I condemn the Department for the way the bulls are fed; from the treatment they receive they are entirely wasted; they are loaded with flesh and receive oil-cake, and everybody knows that bulls that receive oil-cake are, generally speaking, unfruitful.

11335. I think that is not correct?—I could give you a gentleman in this country that had experience of it.

11336. There are hundreds of bulls fed on oil-cake that are doing good service. There must be other reasons?—Well, same other reason, too. The Department are in favour of keeping the bulls in a close place or housing him. I don't think that is suitable. Their principal inspector said the proper way to treat a bull is to keep him in a house, and give him no exercise.

11337. (Mr. Brown).—Did he say give them no exercise?—Keep them in houses, whatever exercise they may get by walking about. The pig business has not been a success here either. They have introduced a small breed of pigs not suitable for the bacon merchants. They have been very much of a failure. However, I must say in a good many districts that the Waterford pig dealers have an imitation of their own, and have given out business to a great extent, and have done a great deal more than the Agricultural Department has done for them. I don't think the demonstration plots are very much use in our country. Almost every farmer knows what is best to be done with his land. The climate has much to do with the growth of our crops, and Mr. Montgomery, a gentleman from Cavan, who has written on agriculture, which I think is about the most useful work you could well read, says in his opening statement, want of money more than ignorance is the cause of any default or backwardness in our agricultural methods in this country. There is a great diversity of soil here, and there, of course, should be different treatment for different soils. In the North of Ireland there is a system adopted which would not suit us

here. Every bit of old meadow or new grass is cut and threshed, and the hay seed sown and sold. The system adopted by the Department should be altered and the wishes of the farmers more taken into account. Wheat has ceased to be productive; oats are fast becoming so; potatoes are not the money-making crop; and we have the barley, which is increasing, and not as generally grown as it might be. I don't believe in tobacco-growing. But rape and flax I see grown on the Continent very extensively, and they tell me they are a paying crop, also mustard occasionally. These are not grown in this country. Much must be done to improve the butter-producing qualities of our cows, as we are to rely, we are informed, on the rearing of stores for sale. We should look at the milk and butter-producing qualities of our cows. Recently at Glasnevin I was greatly disappointed to find milking cows in good condition, but not giving milk. I brought the matter before a member of the Board, and the answer was—"Much we care about producing a milking strain of cattle in the country when we can get from £100 to £250 each for our bulls to sell to the Colonies." I don't believe in these model farms being established, as most noblemen and men with large means have Scotch stewards, and peck with them it is of no importance. They have the newest and most approved methods, and they serve as examples to the people if they wish to follow them as to how land should be treated. The Congested Districts Board has done very much better than the Department has done. Their example should be followed, and more largely subsidised, as it could well be, bearing in mind the much larger funds at our disposal. Bulls should be bought, and the upkeep paid for at a higher price than at present, and exchanged where necessary. All farmers are prejudiced against the Department's bulls. The cattle trade in this country for the last forty years is most moribund. Men who were large graziers with large capital are now letting their lands at eleven months, and those who take the lands are largely financed by the banks. Foreign imports are, of course, the cause. Much was said about the Department being a new Board on new lines, different from Cattle Boards, but I fear there must be a new remodelling of this Board. The late Government did much, and have been generous, and no doubt with some administrative changes the Department will become a great concern with plenty of money. Some popular and necessary changes are all that are required. The Department, so far as agriculture, has not been as successful as it should have been, and this is principally owing to the want of knowledge of the requirements of the country possessed by the assistants of Sir Horace Plunkett. The Council of Agriculture should have more power to be abolished, and the Board is not satisfactory. Too many changes are gone on with at once. I do not think the L.A.O.S., an irresponsible body, should be the medium of distributing the funds of the Department. Taking all things into consideration, it is manifestly wrong to give them vast sums of money. The L.A.O.S. have to be paid interest on all the money they advance. I don't know whether that is refunded to the Department or not. In framing the Bill I am sure it was intended the County Committees should have some voice in the carrying-out of the Agricultural schemes, but the Department treat their recommendations with scant courtesy. The Committees are losing interest in the agricultural portions of the scheme. A quorum is often very difficult to procure here. We have very large representation. Nearly all the County Commissioners are on the Committee, and clergyman and also laymen, and but for the assistance of the clergy in attending we would be often without a quorum altogether.

Mr. Patrick
Horton.

Mr. PATRICK HORTON, Galway, examined.

11338. (Chairman).—You represent the Agricultural Committee of Carlow?—Yes.

11339. You are also a member of the Agricultural Council?—Yes, sir.

11340. You wish to say something about the constitution of the Council of Agriculture?—I think the Department has done very good work in the County of Carlow, and I think if it were somewhat differently constituted it might do better still. The general opinion is, as far as I can gather, that the Vice-Pres-

ident should not hold office continuously. We all agree that Sir Horace Plunkett is a first-rate man, but we think it might be necessary to have a change in the Vice-Presidency occasionally, as the working of the Department might happen to get on wrong lines.

11341. Would you have it a five years' appointment?—Something like that.

11342. With a power of re-appointment?—At any rate I would say it should not be continuous.

11343. (Mr. Mr. Mr.).—Go in and out with the Ge-

verment I—I think that would be the most convenient way. I think also that the Council of Agriculture should get some real power. It is only now an Advisory Body. The representatives of the different Councils go up there at great expense, and they propose and get resolutions passed there, and it is not incumbent on the Department to consider these resolutions any further. They may or may not, just as they think well. My experience is that in general they were open to conviction, but delayed for a considerable time about carrying out resolutions that were passed. They had to be brought forward again and again, and in the end they did carry out the resolutions, but if the Council of Agriculture had a little more power these resolutions would be carried out sooner. My idea would be that the Council is not sufficiently represented on the Board. In Limerick we have only two representatives on the Agricultural Board and one on the Technical. One of these representatives is Mr. O'Neill, of the County Down, a first-rate man, no doubt, and the other is Mr. Downes. One lives in Dublin and the other in Westmeath. Well, the agriculturists in the County Dublin is not exactly like the agriculturists of the rest of Limerick, and I think there should be a representative from each county.

13544. (Continued).—You would enlarge the numbers of the Board?—Yes. The Council of Agriculture itself, I think, is fairly representative, and there are a great many good men nominated there. I think, of course, that the elective principle is best, but I would not like to knock these very expert and clever agriculturists off the Council.

—I think so, except that their recommendations have been ignored.

11346. But as far as the elected and nominated elements of the Council are concerned they have worked together. 1—Yes, as far as I could see.

will together. — Yes, as far as I count
13547. (Mr. Miles). — Without much result. — With-
out much or any result in some cases. The Council
at Agnew, in my opinion, was always substantially
right, for in Sir Horace Plunkett's last address to me
when we assembled there he said in answer to some
people's objection that the resolutions of the Council
had not been carried out, he said that every resolu-
tion of the Council had been carried out except
three, that showed, I think, that the Council was
generally right, and that they were not right in
delaying. I think that the proceedings of the Board
ought to be reported. We elect our representatives
to that Board, and from the time we elect them until
we re-elect them we never know what they do, we
don't know whether they represent us at all or not,
it may be that they represent us exactly right, but
we have no means of knowing it, and a mere sum-
mary of the proceedings is not enough, there ought to
be a full report of what takes place and the voting

of the different members. And then there are committees of experts, and all the resolutions that are passed by the Council of Agriculture are submitted by Sir Horace Plunkett to these committees of experts and to these committees I object altogether. They are altogether selected by Sir Horace Plunkett, and they have the right to overrule and veto every resolution that we pass at the meetings of the Agricultural Council. Now, I think that if they have committees of experts at all they ought to be elected and not selected as they are. I think the live stock schemes have worked very well in our county, fairly well at any rate, and I think they have been doing a great deal of good, and I think the good that they will do will be greater perhaps in the future.

11340. (Chairman).—How many bulls have you got in your county?—Fifteen. It appears to be enough, because in some cases there are not applicants for the whole of them, the premium bulls are generally taken up, but in some cases there are difficulties in getting applicants.

11349. Have you anything to say about the other schemes?—No, I don't like to go into the technical schemes. I have not studied them sufficiently.

13350. The other agricultural schemes, poultry &c.—They are doing very well, we have succeeded in getting a very good instructress, a first-class instructress in butter and poultry, the people take an interest in her lessons.

1139. Have the itinerant lectures been successful?—Yes, very well attended as a rule, we have been rather successful in our appointment of the agricultural instructor too, he has done very well, he is a very attentive and careful young man, and has given lectures in agriculture, and when it was considered there had been lectures enough given he then formed classes and instructed a lot of young fellows that he selected from certain schools. He has been trying experiments in manures and different kinds of seeds, and taken on the whole, I think he has created an interest in agriculture, which there was not before, and set people thinking as to the best means of carrying out these things. I think it is absolutely necessary to keep up an establishment like the Department of Agriculture in this country, it is certain to effect a great deal of good.

11352. On the whole you report favorably of the working of the Department?—Yes, except that they have delayed too long carrying out the wishes of the people, and resolutions have been passed that were not advised.

113553. Are you thinking of any particular case?—
Yes, I was very anxious about the revival and pres-
ervation of the old Irish Horse. I brought forward
resolutions several times, but it was a long time
before I could persuade the Department to take it
up, but now I think they have done nearly all that
could be expected.

Mr. JOHN BULLER, J.P., Miners, Callon, examined.

11354. (Chairman).—You are a Member of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Kilkenny?—Yes.

13363. And you have prepared the heads of evidence that you wish to give. Perhaps you will just go through them in your own way?—My contention, to begin with, is that the Department, as at present constituted, is not on proper lines; that it is unwieldy; and that the time has gone for either amendments or other means of co-opting people when the distribution of the money of other people when they are not representative men. That the administration of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act should be entrusted to the Vice-President and four elected representatives or more—one for each province, or such other area as may be agreed on. In connection with that I may remark the Local Government Act aimed at administering the affairs of each county by the fully elected representatives, hence nomination or co-opting to such administration is contradictory and indefensible. The Agricultural Council at present is out of touch with the working of the Department, as individuals scattered over the four provinces and meeting but once a year are powerless to influence the action of the Department's officials, who have practically a free hand, despite the best intentions of the Vice-President. The Agricultural Board appears to be more in touch with the

Department, and is said to have control of the funds; but as its transactions are not usually given to the public, the value of these transactions is an unascertained quantity. This Board has no power of initiation; and, as appeared at a recent meeting of the Agricultural Council, its members were not cognizant of, and did not authorize, the payment of a sum of 210,000 out of the Department's funds to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society—one of the off-shoots of the Vice-President's earlier attentions, and another of the philanthropic advisory groups devoted to the salvation of the Irish agricultural industry. We have no lack at all of advice: we get advice from every quarter, and still find it hard to live. The privilege extended by the Department of nominating members to the Agricultural Council and Board is not unimpeachable, and points to the intention of the Department to show that the duly elected representatives of the people are incapable or indifferent to their own interests.

11355. What do you mean by the intention of the Department?—I understand that these are the rules formulated by the Department.

11387. It is formulated by the Act of Parliament, the election of members of the Agricultural Board; it has nothing to do with any intrusion of the Department. Have you not ascertained that; have you ever

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Hendon.

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Dunham, J.P.

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read the Act of Parliament?—Oh, yes. It is in
defensible in any case.

11355. The Act of Parliament may be wrong, but
the intention of the Department has nothing to do
with it?—The practical and efficient working of the
county committees is frequently impeded by the
stiltedness of the Department's representatives, who
largely assume the role of dictator, and who brush
aside the views of the committee, largely composed
of the most practical, intelligent residents of the
county, who may be assumed to know the wants of
their districts. I may say we sit here at our county
committees; I am a pretty constant attendant; and
the schemes come down ready cut and dry, and we
have to take them just as they are. We did make
suggestions in various ways from time to time, but
they were all brushed aside. A year ago, when the
Vice-President came down here, we were discussing
this cattle scheme, and the question of the defalcations
of the farmers who got the remunerations for bulls came
up. I asked if other names could not be substituted, or
if for others who failed, or did not succeed in getting
those animals, subsidies could be got. I was told by the
representatives of the Department, in the presence of
the Vice-President, "No; the scheme had passed with
certain names on it." Then I object to the fact of a
Board of experts in Dublin doing the business of the
county here. A case in point amongst many with
which I am conversant. The County Kilkenny Com-
mittee, after repeated failures to get the Department
to modify their existing cattle scheme to suit the
needs of the county, formulated a scheme in 1903 for
the better improvement of cattle-breeding generally,
and in particular, cattle for dairy purposes. The
Department declined to notice the matter, and when
pressed for their views stated our scheme was im-
practicable, and refused to entertain the question.
Our committee then diffused the scheme to the
other county committees for their views as to its
merits or demerits. The scheme received an almost
unanimous approval, and a conference of delegates to
still further discuss the question was arranged to be
held at the Spring Show, in Dublin, in April, 1903.
Twenty-six counties sent representatives, and the
scheme was again unanimously approved. The con-
ference having nominated a delegation to wait on the
Department in support of its views adjourned to the
Horse Show, August, 1905, to receive the Department's
reply. When the delegates met in August a male-
chance was put forward by the Department, and rejected
by the conference. The Vice-President and several of
the Department's officials were present, and after some
parleying the scheme was formally adopted by the
Department. After having pigeon-holed the scheme
for seven months, the Department announced, in
March, 1906, that every farmer who wished to partake
of its advantages should make application to them
within one month for the registration of his
cows, those attempting to scotch what they could not
kill.

11356. (Mr. Michs).—This is the scheme referred to
by Major Connelley?—Yes.

11357. You were the originator?—Well, yes; I
drafted the scheme, and the Committee adopted the
scheme practically the same, and it remained prac-
tically the same to the finish. My view of the matter
is that the Vice-President when he saw that the
opinion of the people from all quarters of the country
was not in accordance with the views previously given
him by his experts, adopted the scheme then and there,
and when it was sent back to these experts they took
very little trouble with it, and kept back the scheme to
a time when it should be a failure, because the
nomination of these animals for the scheme should
have been announced months before that. I asked
the Department, when on the question, to issue leaflets
and introduce the scheme to the farmers of the various
counties to show the advantages the scheme would
bring to them, but nothing was done until a month
before the time that they required all the farmers to
get alive for a scheme that nothing was done to bring
before them. One advantage of that scheme, and one
that was pointed out frequently to them—we have
seventeen thoroughbred bulls in the county for 40,000
cows, which is a very curious proportion to have—but
one of the principal things in that scheme would be
to bring forward young bulls for the practical purposes
of the county out of the best dairy cows in the county
and by selected thoroughbred bulls, which is exactly
what would suit a dairy county like this.

11358. (Chairman).—Does that conclude what you
wish to say about agriculture?—No, sir, I have some

explanatory notes. I draw attention to the fact that
the construction of the Department was not in ac-
cordance with modern ideas, and that people who may
be fairly presumed to know their own business, thought
there should be some representative body elected be-
tween the experts of the Department and the people
of the country, whom they were supposed to instruct.
My experience is that these experts are, as a rule,
very fine talkers, and will lay down rules for you
to carry out. My opinion is that there ought to be
an experimental farm in each county, and
these experts might be put in charge and show the
people what they were able to do, not what they pro-
posed to do, and in addition grow the crops and use
the manures recommended by them, that they should
also keep a ledger and show where the farmer follow-
ing these methods was going to pay his rent or the
instalments due to the Government for the advance of
money. Speaking of the Board of Agriculture, it
should also be an elective Board, if necessary to keep
it on at all. My idea is that if you have the Agricul-
tural Council and a properly elected Board from
the County Councils generally, to assist the Vice-
President in the administration of the Act, that the
experts are not the people to do so. The Agricul-
tural Board has no power of initiative, and is in my
mind practically not in control, it is said to have a
vote in the distribution of funds, but if all the pol-
litical arrangements for a scheme or schemes are car-
ried out by the experts in the absence of any respon-
sible party, I say it is unfair to expect that the Agri-
cultural Board can go into all these things in the
few days that they meet, they simply take the thing
on the recommendation of the experts and pass it.

11359. (Mr. Brown).—Then, we have not the right
men there?—I don't object to the individuals. The
right man—where?

11360. On the Board?—I don't object to the in-
dividuals on the Board.

11361. They are elected by the Council?—Some ap-
pointed by the Council, and some nominated by the
Vice-President.

11362. The majority elected?—There are one-half as
many on each Board nominated by the Vice-President
or his friends as there are elected.

11363. (Chairman).—One-third nominated?—He
can nominate half as many as can be elected; he has
the power of putting half as many on the Board as
the whole constituency of Ireland altogether.

11364. I don't quite know how you make that out.
If there are 120 elected by one nominate fifty.

11365. (Mr. Michs).—If there are 150 elected he
can nominate fifty?—If that is so, I am obliged by
the correction of my figures.

11366. (Chairman).—It slightly affects your figure?
—Very slightly, I think the principle is the same; a
matter of figures does not affect the principle, no man
has a right to assume the rights of a constituency or
a Board administering the funds of the country, and
to be representative of the people who pay the money.
On the Technical Instruction part of the scheme, I
am a member of that Committee also. I wish to say
the schemes for technical instruction put forward by
the Department were adopted by the Kilkenny County
Committee and worked in accordance with the sug-
gestions of the representatives of the Department with
partial success in the Domestic Economy classes. With
regard to the Domestic Economy classes, the impres-
sion gaining ground in the country is that they should
be relegated to the schools, that they are not subjects
for thimble instruction, and that following the recom-
mendations in the report of Mr. Dole, Inspector
of Schools, he made a report, having been sent
here by the Government, on primary schools, and it
page seventy-seven he lays down a scheme by which
domestic classes can be removed to schools in certain
centres, and my idea is that that is the proper place
for domestic economy teaching. Thimble instruction
generally, as far as possible, should be got rid of, and
some centres established where the young people can
be initiated in the practices taught in the schools. As
the result of representations made to the County Com-
mittee by the Department's Inspector, we formed a
Joint Technical Committee with Kilkenny Urban Dis-
trict to start a Trade Preparatory School. This was
attended with indifferent results as the Scholarship
for the trade school was held mainly by boys from
the National schools, who were not, on the whole,
found suitable, hence results commensurate with the
cost of teaching staff, etc., were not forthcoming.

11370. (Mr. Michs).—Were you a member of this
Committee?—Yes.

11371. Can you tell us why the results were not satisfactory?—On the report of, I think, the principal of the school, or the principal with the inspector, I cannot say exactly, but it came from the school that the boys lacked the necessary training to take advantage of the teaching in the Trade Preparatory school.

11372. Was the report of the principal and inspector, then, in condemnation of the school?—In condemnation of the class of boys they scored from the National schools.

11373. You speak of the results here that the whole school was attended with indifferent results?—Yes, the boys not being capable of taking the instruction available at the Trade Preparatory school.

11374. Did you look into the thing yourself and see why it was that the boys were not capable of receiving instruction?—I did not look into it, I merely took the report of the inspector and head of the school as better evidence than any visit of mine could be. I don't pretend to be an expert to examine classes.

11375. Did you look into the school at all?—No.

11376. Never?—Never.

11377. Have you got a copy of that report?—I have not.

11378. Or could you refer us to it?—The principal is here.

(Mr. Phillips).—I have seen no report which stated that the children were not suited at all.

(Witness).—It came from the schools to the Committee.

(Canon Doyle).—I never saw it as Chairman, and never heard of it.

(Mr. Phillips).—The results have been most successful.

(Canon Doyle).—The boys were all tested at the examination held by the Department, and I never heard of such a report as that.

(Mr. P. Kennedy).—A statement was made at a Technical Congress even, and it was fairly well ordered, too, that under the present condition of primary education in Ireland the children passing up from the National school to the technical schools were not so well prepared as they might be to take advantage of technical training.

11379. (Mr. Michel).—Is that what you referred to, not to a definite report?—I thought it came from the school.

11380. (Chairman).—It is really a pity you should come here and make statements of that kind, which we find to be utterly unreliable. I have no doubt it is made here, but it is misleading to the Committee. If it had not happened that there were one or two gentlemen in the room who could tell us the exact state of facts we should have gone away with a wrong impression?—Whether it came from the Technical Congress or any other source, it is apparently accepted that the boys coming from the sixth standard of the National schools do not or could not receive in the National school a sufficient training for this purpose.

11381. (Mr. Brown).—Your statement is that it is attended with indifferent results as the scholarships at the trade school were held mainly by boys from the National schools who were not on the whole found suitable. This statement has reference to Killybegs alone?—I take it on the general ground; the fact that was reported to us.

(Canon Doyle).—If the boys were not fit the Department must not have been doing their duty for they held examinations.

11382. (Mr. O'Brien).—Did you take this statement from any particular person verbally?—It came to the meeting and was discussed at the meeting.

11383. Can you say who it was that made the statement?—I cannot.

11384. You are giving a statement that you believe you heard somebody say something of which this is a representation—it is no better than that, is it?—As a matter of fact the information came to the Committee meeting from some quarter; Mr. Kennedy appears to know the particular direction from which it came.

11385. But Mr. Kennedy referred to an entirely different statement from that which you gave us here—it is not recognizable as the same statement?—It is not from the same source.

11386. It is not only not the same statement—it may be a second cousin, but no nearer than that?—That the previous training of the boys in the National schools did not fit them sufficiently to avail of the instruction in the trade preparatory school, that I take to be the substance undisputed.

11387. You are giving us that as your opinion, and it has the weight of your opinion, and unless you give us any other opinion as being that on which yours is based we cannot take it as carrying any other weight than that of your own view, and you have told us you have never been in the school, and are not an expert in school examination, and in fact know nothing about it?—It was from the report I took it.

11388. Unless you can tell us from what report you took it I can place no value on it whatever further than I have put it?—Well, sir, I can add no value to it, but my experience is that these trade schools should be provincial, not county; I think the multiplication of these schools in the country will lead the boys away from the employment that is to be had in the country. It is impossible in a country like this, where there are no manufactures, to find employment if a multitude of these schools are got up; they are very expensive and unfit for boys for ordinary agricultural work and oblige them to emigrate unless some very great stretch is made to find employment in a manufacturing way.

11389. Are you aware of these schools being proposed in agricultural districts?—There is an agricultural district.

11390. But it is also a town with a considerable urban population?—Yes.

11391. And a good many people who have occupations that have definite relations to trades?—I do not say they are abused up to this, but they are not suitable schools to multiply in the country.

11392. On what ground?—That if you educate boys for an employment that is to be had in the country you oblige them to emigrate.

11393. But these schools are educating them for an employment which is to be found all round the country—do you happen to know the curriculum of the school?—No.

11394. Then, we don't need to pursue the subject?—I have seen it; I know they teach science and things with regard to machinery generally; I think that is very little use in the country.

11395. I am afraid you are not familiar with the curriculum?—I don't think we need pursue the subject?—My recommendation for the boys is taking the smartest boys from the country by co-ordination between the primary and secondary schools, and I recommend Scholarships to secondary schools, the latter to have classes and properly equipped halls for science, these Scholarships to run for two years; eligible for these would be boys at the proper age; take the boys in their twelfth year, when they are quite at the proper time to take them to enable them to go into the science school and for manual instruction, and part that they should be eligible for Scholarships in the trade preparatory school, and also to go in for intermediate or other sources of education that may turn up. Very intelligent smart boys are lost in country schools, because they cannot go further than a certain point, and they have to turn to agriculture that they may be very unskilled for. The value and necessity of aiding and developing the secondary schools, and in particular those having a primary school attached, such as controlled by the Irish Christian Brothers is manifest, as it not alone enlists the services of efficient teachers whose schools are situated in populous centres, but secures that co-ordination which the Dole report points out as a necessary link, and which in Ireland is to be found in the system followed by the Irish Christian Brothers. I am aware this matter is engaging the attention of many County Committees, no doubt, because these schools supply the missing link in educational matters, and further, the teachers have already adapted themselves to present needs and have at least 100 men specially trained to aid the work in which the Department is engaged. Another factor not to be despised nowadays in the economy of such a system. The cost of boys in a trade preparatory school will be very considerably more, perhaps two or three times as much as it would be if these scholarships are granted to secondary schools, and then they will be no better off. The two years in secondary schools when they are running a course in science and manual instruction is simply preparing them for the trade preparatory school or some other line of study.

11396. The secondary schools to which you refer are those which have as a primary object the preparation of boys for examinations which are at once the finish of the secondary school and the entrance to the university?—Principally for the matriculation examina-

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tion, but they have science classes and manual instruction.

11397. But if the secondary school is one which devotes first attention to preparing boys for a career marked out in that way it provides a curriculum that leads a boy on until he is about sixteen or seventeen?—No; two years is the scholarship which I suggest for a secondary school.

11398. I am speaking about the curriculum of the secondary school—you suggest scholarships to be held at secondary schools. Well, I am putting it to you that the secondary school having the aim that I describe will expect boys to remain until they are seventeen years of age, that is the curriculum of the school runs to that, so if a boy is to leave the school about fifteen he leaves it two years before the end of the curriculum.—The idea is to catch the boys that are really going astray in the National schools, the smart intelligent boy who has no business there, and to give him the advantage of the secondary school and let him try for himself. He may go on for the intermediate, that is one chance, or he may take a scholarship for the trade school, that is another chance, or he may go for the Civil Service or many other things. If you give a boy two years and induce him to study he will see his way where he is going.

11399. If you give him two years and he does not continue on that line it is very necessary it should be secured that the work he has done for two years

gives the best value for the two years of the boy's life?—Yes.

11400. The first two years of a course that is intended to be a real two years' course is not necessarily the best way of utilising the two years which is to be all that the boy is to have in that school?—The scholarship may be prolonged.

11401. It may, but suppose the case of a boy who is not going forward to learning of the kind contemplated by the curriculum?—Even for farming the same school would be an advantage and the manual for anything he turns to.

11402. The same school undoubtedly would be an advantage for farming, but the question is whether it would be the most advantageous way of spending his two years if he was only having two years?—What occurred to me was that it should be more advantageous then giving up school altogether or remaining in the primary school to arrive at the sixth standard.

11403. The question you are addressing yourself to is whether it is more advantageous than transferring him to a school which is specially arranged to take the best advantage of the time you can count upon that by giving to school work whether it is better that a course definitely arranged to suit the time that the boy is going to give, and taking into consideration the type of the boy you are dealing with, have you considered it from that point of view?—I considered it from the point of view of helping the boy at a stage and fitting him for a higher stage.

Mr. GEORGE T. PEARCE, Kilkenny, examined.

Mr. George T.
Phillips.

11404. (Chairman).—You are Secretary to the Committee?—I am Secretary to the Kilkenny Joint Committee and principal teacher of the Technical School. My idea has been to avoid all controversial subjects, to just show how we stand, and the work we are doing and the need for a building. Technical instruction has been in operation in the city of Kilkenny for a period of four years, and four sessions of work are now completed. For the first three years the city instruction was distinct from that of the county, but during the fourth session the City and County Committee amalgamated, and a Joint Technical Instruction Committee was formed which made the work much more economical and effective and also considerably increased the amount of instruction. The funds available at the commencement of the city work were as follows:—£1,300 from the Department, £215 from the City Council, a total of £1,515. Of this sum £230 was given by the Committee in the form of equipment grants to various secondary schools in the city for equipping science laboratories, £25 to St. Camillus's Convent to purchase a finishing machine for the weaving industry, and nearly £20 was expended on cooking equipment for the Presentation and St. Camillus's Convents, thus leaving about £1,090 for technical instruction directly under the management of the Committee. Work of the first session, 1902-3: The first portion, October to December, was devoted to the obtaining of premises, deciding upon and drawing up the necessary plans to convert the premises, a house in Parliament-street, and engaging a contractor. The alterations, &c. were not completed by the end of the session, but fifteen classes, attended by 178 students, were in operation in a room lent by the Commissioners of National Education for Ireland. Work of the second session, 1903-4: During this session there were twenty-five classes at work, and 290 individuals enrolled. The combined chemical and physical laboratory at Parliament-street was fitted up and equipped, and owing to lack of accommodation another room at the Model School was made available for it. Work of the third session, 1904-5: The evening classes were continued on the lines of the previous session, but a most important development took place which resulted in the formation of what is known as the trade preparatory school. A supplementary scheme was formed by which the City Committee gave the use of the school and equipment in Parliament-street £20 a year and the service of the principal, while the County Committee agreed to give an annual contribution of £100, and also further equipped the school to the amount of £150. On these conditions the school was available during the day to educate boys requiring a knowledge suitable for skilled handicrafts. The County Committee further aided

county boys by providing maintenance allowances, won by competitive examination, to the amount of £20. These allowances varied from £15 to £3. Thirteen boys commenced work in this school in January, 1905, and have now completed their second year. Five of them, of whom four were engaged by the Kilkenny Guild of Woodworkers and one by a cycle maker. I may add I believe the Guild could have taken the thirteen if they had gone. It should be noted that the Guild just mentioned is a direct outcome of county technical instruction, and that it is a most useful adjunct of our work owing to the facilities given by the proprietor of the same who allows these boys to continue some of their technical studies during work hours, and that owing to the encouragement and advice given they also attend a trade class in cabinet-making, specially commenced for them and others in the trade. I should also add that they are taking clay-modelling for design, and there will be wood-carving following their own designs. There is every prospect of their becoming exceptionally skilled workmen, which, according to the Trades Congress held last year, is one of the most important wants of Ireland to bring prosperity to the people. Work of the fourth session, 1905-6: This session marked a new era in the technical instruction for both the city and county. The two Committees combined and the present Joint Technical Instruction Committee was formed. By it the operations in the county were considerably extended and at the same time the city suffered no loss. The rest of the combined administration of both city and county was very little in excess of that of the city alone, and teachers who under ordinary circumstances would have been confined to city work were sent into the county to extend the work there. By this means a permanent centre was commenced at Castlecomer, and courses in the following subjects were taught: Applied mechanics, 29 students, average attendance, 17; machine construction, 22 students, average attendance 14; steam, 29 students, average attendance, 15-6. This was a decided advance, and is being further extended. I expect to double the work there this year. The other classes carried on by city teachers were the following: Ballyragget, carpentry and joinery, 22 students; Kilnegany, coopers, 30 students; Callan, carpentry, 19 students. Ballyragget, coopers, 34 students. The above seven classes represent the gain in instruction to the county, due to the amalgamation of the two Committees. I may add that had these Committees not joined the seven classes would not have been done and I suppose the teachers would have been doing nothing in the city during that time. The city classes during this session showed a very marked increase in every respect. Compared with the previous session the male students had increased by thirty-seven, the fe-

spectra members being seventy, and 187, and the female students had increased from 146 to 226. One of the most gratifying signs was the marked increase of artisans attending the classes, the number jumping from twenty-three to forty-five, showing that more men are admitting the usefulness of the work in connection with their means of earning their living. To show that the money has not been wasted, the annual income is as follows: From the Department, £225, endowment, and £550 trade school, £1,170.

11402. That is annually?—Yes, £1,170. From the local rate, County Council, £550; City Council, £225; fees, grants, etc., £55; total, £1,350. From this sum is provided the following: £265 in Scholarships for boys and girls. This year the girls' Scholarships have been dropped and the money put to another use, for equipment, but in future it is proposed to carry them on, so we require £265 allocated each year for Scholarships. Then there are the salaries of seven permanent teachers, salaries of five special teachers, wages of two caretakers, maintenance of city school and branch school, Omeo-road, rents, insurance, maintenance of classes in county centre, carriage of equipment, travelling expenses of teachers, and general administration. Now, this is the great point I wish to bring before the Committee, the lack of accommodation for city classes. Most of the rooms are much too small for the wants of the students. For example, we have about thirty Art students crammed into a room twenty-seven by sixteen feet. In this small room an attempt is being made to teach modelling, light and shade, model drawing, etc., at the same time. The room is so crowded that I have had permission to use a room in the Courthouse for this purpose. The teachers and the students learning dressmaking have been unable so far to use tables for their work owing to the impossibility of moving them in and out of the Art room as required. We have had to put boards across the desks. We badly need another room. There is no lecture theatre for science teaching, the centre of the laboratory, itself a small room, being used for this purpose. This is most inconvenient for both teachers and students. The laboratory for mechanical science is in a small room eleven feet three inches by nine feet three inches, part of which is required as a passage and for room for presses. The manual instruction room, itself too small, has in it the lathe and bench used for practical engineering. The mechanical drawing room, accommodation sixteen, was required to hold classes with twenty-two, twenty-three, and twenty-six students respectively. The office accommodation is wretched, and situated in the very worst part of the building, the top. There is a very strong and urgent need of a grant of some kind to build a suitable school so that the city classes can be in the same building, and proper supervision given to them. We are now in three centres. County classes. There are eighteen courses, or, including the three at Castlecomer, twenty-one, given in various parts of the county, and in every case a wish was expressed that the courses should regularly recur each session. It was stated that a class was held one session and then no other would be held for three or four years, and the people got out of touch with the work and lost interest in it, and wanted to know what they got for their rates. As far as possible this is being carried out, but there are not sufficient teachers to supply the demand for classes. This difficulty might be partly alleviated if the Department had a reserve staff of teachers, or teachers on supply, who might be lent to counties where it was impossible to even approach the demand.

an examination for the admittance of these boys, the whole of whom come from primary schools, and they are supposed to have reached a standard equal to the sixth standard, they should know that standard of work fairly well. The first year we had, I think, about twenty-five candidates, from which thirteen were selected as having reached a sufficient standard to go on with our work, these boys were in constant attendance. I think their average attendance was about 88·9, close on 89 per cent., a splendid attendance for regularity, and the curriculum we have taken has been to some extent modified for the needs of the town. The principal trades, I think we might say, are the building trades, and others, such as carpentry and joinery, we have cabinet-making and a little furniture-making, we have three engineering courses, at any rate the firms call themselves practical engineers, and a large number of men are employed, so that with our limited room and the small staff we bear in mind the special needs of the city, and our work is not the ordinary manual instruction that is taught perhaps in secondary schools, but it has been special, and we have carried that on much further. We have also had a good course in wood-carving, which I think surprised many of the people who saw the work. We lay particular stress on the designing, and the boys really after two years have become expert, their own original designs are really very fine, we have given them an insight into the elements of building construction. And they have had mechanical engineering with a view to breaking down one of the faults of the Irish artisan, that is a want of knowledge of planes, elevations, sections, and so on, that is to say employers will give a plan and elevation to a man and say "Do so and so," and he does not understand it. We have taken that up very thoroughly, and the whole of our work has been practical, they have had to take a piece of machinery, measure it up, put it down roughly in a note book and draw it, and the good is really incalculable for a district like this. We have also been in mind another kind of education that is required, and that is the kind of education the farmers' sons throughout the county really require, for the work necessary in building, repairs, and improving some of their agricultural implements, and so on. Then, at the crannies or corners of industry like that where there is a little machinery, these boys will be of great value as they grow up. As for training them for going abroad we had five boys who left after two years' training, and I must admit I have been rather blamed for not letting others go, we could have found places in Kilkenny, where there is every chance of their staying for years, without the slightest difficulty, they have been kept so that they should have another year's training. We are not working in the dark, we have a definite object, and these boys, as far as I can see, are certain of getting well-paid places when they leave us.

11406. Here?—In this town.

11407. Have you had any who went abroad?—None of ours, the only five that left on completing their course have worked in the city and are there now.

(Mr. Kennedy).—Speaking for the wood-workers, the only thing I have to say is we are sorry he cannot learn, then get more quickly.

11408. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Two years is the normal course?—Three or four, if they will stay. Two years is the shortest course, though I believe this year it is laid down as three.

11409. You have got to provide a course which will extend over three years, do you expect that more than 80 per cent. of the boys will remain the third year?—More than 80 per cent. have remained.

11410. You started with thirteen?—Yes.

11411. Can you give me the number in the various years?—Seven in the first, nine in the second, and six in the third. Of the thirteen one from serious illness was away nearly twelve months, and another boy went back home, so the thirteen dropped to eleven, and we have six of these left.

11412. How many candidates were there for admission this year?—I think there were nineteen or twenty.

11413. And they were examined by the officers of the Department?—Yes, sir.

11414. These boys were all over thirteen?—Yes, the average age of those admitted for the first year is fourteen years five months.

STUDENTS RECEIVING PERMANENT INSTRUCTION UNDER THE SCHEME.

Session.	Nr. of Classes.	Class Entries.	Enrolled Students.
1903-4.	18	792	178
1904-5.	25	1068	238
1905-6.	22	928	214
1906-7.	24	1000	229

Perhaps you would like to hear a few words about the Trade School. I may say the Department held

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Mr. George T. Phillips.

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 Mr. George
 T. Phillips.

11415. You can hardly expect these boys to remain these years—I think they will.

11416. What subjects did the candidates who failed fail in?—That I could not say, the papers are kept by the Department, but I should say certainly not in the drawing from what I could see, the drawing was a marked improvement on what it was two and a half years ago, and, as far as I could see, the English was fair, so the probability is that it was in arithmetic or mathematics.

11417. Do you know what schools these twenty came from?—They came from various schools, Knocktopher and Windgap, twenty miles away.

11418. Those that came from such a distance as that would have to live in Kilkenny during the school year?—They have to.

11419. Having the aid of the Scholarship?—Yes.

11420. What number belonged to Kilkenny of the twenty?—Quite half, at any rate there are only seven country boys remaining in the town out of the twenty-two.

11421. Of the seven in the first year, how many are from the country?—There is only one a country boy.

11422. Do you know how many Kilkenny boys failed. Have you formed any impression as to whether it was the country schools with perhaps a smaller number in attendance, and a less open curriculum and a less incentive to study that furnished most of the boys that failed?—No, sir, I think the country boys were the better, but I cannot say that I had the best city boys entered for the examination. (Censor Doyle).—I think the boys are not encouraged to go to the school. I should have said by certain schools of the city.

11423. (Mr. O'Leary).—It is not that the pupils in the city are not fit to pass the examination?—Not at all.

11424. And, perhaps some of these schools are able to give them a year or two more, and prefer to keep them in their own place for the limited period for

which they can extend their course?—Yes. There is one other point I should mention that may be brought up. As far as the rates are concerned the Trade Preparatory School does not cost them a penny. I have heard on repeated occasions that it is costing the ratepayers a great deal of money, but by economy in the use of teachers the grant absolutely covers the extra cost, so if we shut the school the ratepayers would not gain a penny, there would be simply that much education thrown away.

11425. But practically as far as it is being done by facilities here already it is a by-product?—It is that.

11426. You are satisfied that the curriculum you have ultimately fixed upon is one which meets not merely one or two industries, but is an appropriate start for any of the local industries in Kilkenny?—Yes, sir.

11427. And it is also a convenient and proper preliminary training for a boy or lad rather, who is going to agricultural work whether he is likely to have to deal with more than the minimum of agricultural appliances?—Yes.

11428. (Mr. Brown).—Do you find that boys who are prepared in that way are more likely to emigrate than boys who have not received any such training at all?—I don't think so. I think it gives them a better chance to fight their own battle in this country. I have never heard a word about emigration from a single boy in the school.

11429. (Chairman).—You are really not training them for appointments elsewhere?—Not at all.

11430. (Mr. Brown).—Making them better fit to live in their own country?—I hope so.

11431. (Chairman).—And that is your aim, and so far you know you have succeeded?—There are the facts. They are being employed in the town, and the technical instruction undoubtedly is helping on the Guild, and I think the Guild will help on the Trade School, and Mr. Hunter, the manager of the mills, is waiting for some of our boys too.

The Committee adjourned.

THIRTY-THIRD PUBLIC SITTING—THURSDAY, OCTOBER, 18TH, 1906.

At 18, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KENELM DIXON, K.C., Q.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICEE.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Sir WALTER STODOL, Bart., examined.

11432 (Chairman).—Are you Chairman of the Westmeath Committee?—No; only a member of the Westmeath Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

11433. You say in your note that you propose to give evidence of a general character, having regard to the views of the Westmeath County Committee of the Department?—I think, when considering the difficulties that the Department had to contend with, that they have done as well as any such body could that they have done so directly under popular control, but I think if the Board was more immediately under the control of the County Councils, people would have more confidence in it.

11434. Do you think it would be a more efficient Board?—I do. I think the people would have more confidence in it. In some parts of the country they have not such confidence in it as they should have. My view is that the Department has done as well as any Department could do, and has as much public confidence as any Department could have which was not immediately under popular control.

11435. In other words, if popular control altered?—The people would have more confidence in it, and it would do better work.

11436. I was going to say, supposing popular control altered the methods of the Department it might be an improvement?—I have no doubt if they made any alterations it would be for the better. I think that the great want that people feel with regard to the working of the Department is that there are no industries in the towns working in connection with it; and a great many of them feel that we are only instructing men better for the benefit of foreign countries—America, for instance, to which they go as emigrants, and, I think, in order to make it work really efficiently, it should be possible to establish industries which would work hand in hand with the Department, as it is now run.

11437. In your part of the country have you known many cases of young boys, or girls, being educated on the technical side and going to America in consequence?—I can't say I have, but the feeling is that that is what they will have to do. It is only in its infancy with us, and we have not educated a great many yet. The public put this to you—that when we have been educating and bettering men shall they find work at home, "or shall they have to go to America to get it."

11438. Could you give us some information as to the various schemes in your county, how the work of the Department has been carried out in your county?—I think fairly well. I think they have done as well as any Department could do under the circumstances.

11439. The cattle scheme?—I think that has done a great lot of good especially; but I also think the agricultural plots and the winter schools have greatly improved the appearance of the country, and have made the labourers' cottages look quite different. I think it has done a great lot of good.

11440. Have you your full complement of instructors—an agricultural instructor and a horticultural?—I think we have; I would not say for certain, I am not sure, but I think it is fairly well organised.

11441. (Mr. Brown).—Perhaps you only recently got your agricultural instructor; you had not one until very lately?—I am not exactly certain whether we

are thoroughly organised, as you say, but I think we are fairly so.

11442. (Chairman).—Do you think there is a general interest taken in the work?—Certainly.

11443. And more so in recent years?—Yes, I think so people have begun to understand it better they have taken more interest in it. Interest in instruction is not thought a success in our county. I think that the male instruction has not been, perhaps, taken up as well as the female. I think there is more interest taken in the female scholarships with us.

11444. Domestic economy, is there much interest taken in that?—Fairly so; I think they look for what is more practical—more likely to get them immediate employment.

11445. Is there anything more you wish to say?—Nothing more.

11446. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You suggest that if popular control were established confidence might be increased. I suppose by the more fact of popular control being established?—Exactly.

11447. And you also hint that improvement might be made in some directions?—I certainly think any improvement that was made, when it was under popular control, would be for the better.

11448. Does any definite line of improvement suggest itself to you?—I am not prepared to speak off-hand, but I think that, naturally, there are a great many ways in which it might be improved; it is only in its infancy.

11449. One of the methods you mentioned was a further development of industries in towns?—I really don't see how we can do any ultimate good unless we have some industries to work hand-in-hand with the Department; I feel that very much.

11450. You feel that something, in addition to the initiative and the energy of the people of the towns, is required?—Must be; because I don't think they could be worked at a profit at present unless they were assisted in some way to start.

11451. But you don't suggest the Department, with its present powers, could do anything in that direction?—No, the powers will have to be increased.

11452. You realise that as they stand at present the Department have not been able to do it?—I quite recognise that.

11453. (Chairman).—I see you have now one agricultural instructor, one poultry-keeping instructor, two butter-making instructors, and one horticultural?—Yes.

11454. And the horticultural instructor gives instruction in bee-keeping, so he covers the whole ground?—He does.

11455. (Mr. Micee).—Have you found all the different parts of the County Westmeath equally anxious to take advantage of the benefits of the Act?—I would not say that; I think it has been spreading gradually.

11456. What part is most forward in taking advantage?—It is very hard to answer that offhand; I think, naturally, the part round about the towns.

11457. Mullingar?—I would not say entirely Mullingar; but, naturally, about the towns the people know more about it.

11458. And are better informed?—But it is gradually working out.

Oct. 18, 1906.

Sir Walter Stodol, Bart.,
Napier, Bart.

Oct. 18, 1906.
 Sir Walter
 Raper, Bart.

11463. Your towns are?—Mullingar, Athlone, and Monks. There are a number of small towns, but I think gradually the feeling of having something of the kind is spreading all over the country.

11464. Are there any parts of the country in which the members of the Committee have found it difficult to get the people to take advantage of the different schemes?—I don't know there are.

11465. Codes?—I live in Code myself, so I would not like to reflect on it. At first they may have been a little backward, because they did not understand it, but gradually, as they are learning the benefits to be derived from it, they are becoming more interested.

11466. Is there much instruction given, for instance?—I would not like to say for certain. Perhaps it might not be as well organized as other districts.

11467. (Chairman).—You have got two better making instruction; is there much butter-making in the county?—Yes; I think butter-making has been rather a success all over the county.

11468. Is it chiefly home butter-making, in the homes of the farmers, or is there anything in the shape of creameries?—The object is to teach them to make butter successfully at home, and make it marketable, at home, and keep it clean.

11469. You think that has been a success?—Yes; and I think very much that it is taken up with more or less an improvement.

11470. Have you anything to say about the poultry?—I think the poultry shows have been a success, and it was a very good thing to support them.

11471. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose the technical instruction chiefly takes the form of domestic economy and cooking for girls, and manual instruction for boys?—Yes; as I say, I don't think the instruction for boys has been so much a success.

11472. Don't you think it is a very useful thing for a boy of the farming class?—I do, if they take the opportunity; but they have not taken the opportunity to any great extent.

11473. There is no danger of its making them overgrown if they won't take to it?—Exactly; but they say, "What is the use of learning it, because we can't get any employment?"

11474. Is it not a very useful thing for a boy of the farming class to know how to mend a gate or a cart?—Yes; but they look for something more than that. They say they can knock up that any way, but when they look for instruction they hope to get something better, and to take part in some industrial movement.

REV. ROBERT BARRY, P.P., OLDCASTLE, EXAMINED.

Rev. Robert
 Barry, P.P.

11475. (Chairman).—I think you are representative of the Meath County Council?—Yes, sir; I am a Member of the Technical and Agricultural Committee.

11476. What do you wish to bring before us?—I wish to commence with the Act itself—with the constitution of the Department. It is practically a one-man Department. There is no initiative. That is the head of my evidence. The Department discourages local initiative, from its very constitution, and that contention can be established. The Agricultural Council, for example, is practically a talking shop; it has no power whatever, and the Boards are not much better. Of course, I acknowledge they have the power to control funds, to some extent by a veto, but the initiative is not there, it is in the Department as one man.

11477. (Mr. Michel).—It is not in the Boards?—It is not in the Boards, nor in the Department as constituted of Council and Boards; that is the scheme and the Act that has constituted it has put an end to all chance of initiative. This is what I want to say, that these Boards have no real power to initiate anything. As to the schemes, and whatever allocation is proposed to be made of the funds, it is all connected by the officials of the Department, and I dare say it has to be, according to the law that brought them into existence, but then when it comes to the point of voting, the men brought up from the country will not care to take the responsibility of putting a veto on a technical matter which, beforehand, they had very little chance of going into and discussing. They come up to attend these Boards, a great many gentlemen from the country, most intelligent men, I admit, but let us put our own case; if we have not, beforehand, deeply studied a scheme it is very hard to give an expression of opinion on it straight away, whereas the officials of the Department naturally had it in their power to shape it, and formulate it, long beforehand. Then, the gentlemen on the Board are asked to give an opinion, and they very naturally feel timid.

11478. (Chairman).—What were you basing this upon, because we have had evidence very much to the contrary, you know, and we shall have to judge between the two; we have had evidence from members of the Board saying they have very substantial power of initiative, although you are perfectly right as regards the Act of Parliament, which does not give them initiative; but the fact of their having the power of the purse gives them substantial initiative. I want to know what experience your view is based upon?—On my own experience, to a considerable extent. When I come in, for example, to attend a Committee meeting, there is a communication from the Department.

11479. Oh, we are talking of the initiative of the Agricultural Board; you say it has no initiative. Members of the Agricultural Board have told us that they have very considerable power of initiative, and I

want, if I can, to get the rights of the matter between these two conflicting classes of evidence?—Of course, they are giving their version of it. I am not in a position to contradict them, individually, but I take the Act as it is here before me, and I maintain they have no power of initiative.

(Chairman).—Yes, you are right there.

11480. (Mr. Michel).—What you recommend is, that they should be given the power of initiative?—No, when you ask me that question, my answer is that, that it is scarcely fair to ask instances to become constructive, without first giving them responsibility. The scheme of the Act is what I refer to.

11481. (Mr. Gifford).—The Act has been drawn in such a way that the Boards have initiative secured to them, perhaps, in some way, indirectly, but, as the members of the Board have told us, no less really, in this sense that if, say, they propose to the Department at one of the meetings certain lines of action, and, at a future meeting, they find those lines of action have not been acted upon, it is within their power to stop supplies, and, knowing this, the Department cannot help giving a certain amount of weight to such suggestions as they may throw out, or deliberately make, and the net result of that which may have been, for all we know, contemplated, when the Act was drawn, has been to give them, in practice, a considerable power of initiative. That is the statement, as we have got it. Have you anything to say against it?—I have. Theoretically, that is all very true, but when you come to the actual facts, men, when they sit down at that Board, and a scheme is introduced to them, have not the power to sufficiently criticize it, or take initiative in declaring where the defects are, and whether they might mend it, and better it.

11482. (Mr. Brown).—Have any members of the Board expressed that view themselves to you?—I am speaking from what I feel is the common experience of men, even intelligent men.

11483. (Chairman).—You are speaking of what you consider the result of that legislation must be, and not from any knowledge of how it is worked?—Quite so.

11484. (Mr. Gifford).—Knowledge of human nature?—Yes; I maintain intelligent men should have a responsibility cast upon them, and have time and leisure to consider it thoroughly, to go into the proposals which the experts of the Department had 'ing and tediously and silently studied beforehand. Men who are inexperienced and are not experts cannot feel that they are in a position to take these proposals as formulated by experts into their hands, and then and then give an intelligent criticism of them, and that by the constitution of the very Board.

11485. (Chairman).—Yes; I think I see your point of view. Have you anything to say about the actual relations between your own Committee and the Department?—Yes; I will come to that now. I should like to say one word with regard to some evidence given by a gentleman from the North of Ireland. Referring to Sir Horace Plunkett's book, he said "that

them in Ireland had felt strong, too, by things in the past, but they had not been quite so magnanimous as they in the North of Ireland had been, and they seemed to cherish unfriendly feelings to the man who had done so much for the country." That is the evidence, as reported in the papers, of Mr. Andrews. Now, it is very well for that gentleman to talk about magnanimity to the Protestants of the North of Ireland. If the world were magnanimous it is not to those gentlemen we would go; however, that is an aside. I want to say that no one, I think, is in any way actuated by unfriendly feelings towards Sir Horace Plunkett, but I wish to say here that any adverse criticism that his book got from those that this gentleman from the North referred to, is not based upon unfriendly feelings, but upon more solemn considerations—namely, that Sir Horace Plunkett, unwittingly, I admit, very seriously assailed the very foundations of civilisation in attacking authority. It is not for him to say that the Irish people are in the backward state they are because of their religion, or because their religion teaches them defiance to authority. I think if we don't cherish the claims of authority it is so much the worse for the world to-day, and I think anyone that will in any way directly or indirectly assail the principles of authority will only be a degree removed from the bomb-throwing anarchist. It is on these grounds that we object to the book, not on any petty spite or animosity or ill-will.

11482. Now, as to the relations between your Committee and the Department—your second head, I think, it is—They have not been what might be called very satisfactory; we had some friction.

11483. What about it?—On the score of employing, for example, an agricultural instructor. We had a gentleman employed who began in the service of the Congested Districts Board, Mr. Chandler. He was recognised as a competent man by that Board. We employed him under necessity; we had no other. He gave great satisfaction, and the local Committees were anxious in sending in favourable reports about the work done. Notwithstanding all that, we were peremptorily ordered to dismiss him, and had to dismiss him, and the result has been very unsatisfactory for Meath. We had practically no instructor since.

11484. (Mr. Dryden).—Were there any reasons given for his dismissal?—He did not pass the examination; he did not satisfy the requirements of the Department.

11485. (Chairman).—Was your request, notwithstanding that fact, that he should be continued?—Yes, sir.

11486. (Mr. Micks).—On the ground that he had for a number of years been acting in a similar capacity under another Board?—Yes. We pleaded that, and what we thought more satisfactory still, even admitting that he was not able to pass the examination to which the Department subjected him, the favourable results of his work, we thought, warranted us in continuing his services, especially as the Department was not able to furnish us with another man, and that is why we say that the local bodies do not get sufficient latitude, sufficient liberty of exercising their power.

11487. How long ago was this?—I 1904, I think, we had to get rid of the man.

11488. (Mr. Sten).—It would be at that time, or perhaps a little before.

11489. (Mr. Micks).—He had been with you for a couple of years?

(Witness).—At least two years.

11490. (Mr. O'Connell).—I suppose, although the work which he would have to do with the Congested Districts Board would necessarily be of a somewhat different type and standard from that required in Meath, you had satisfied yourself by his work in Meath, that he was capable of doing all that was required?—We were satisfied, and just as I mentioned in some of these heads, even although he was not quite up to the standard that the Department would recognise as commendable, we could do no better, and a lot of practical work had to be done.

11491. There may have been some sections of the work which were desirable in your county that he was ultimately not qualified to take up, but that he was good enough in the other kind of work to employ his time, and it required doing?—It required doing, and we could not get another man at the time.

11492. How long were you without a man?—For a considerable length of time.

11493a. Do you mean months or years?—They lent us a man, and we got a man afterwards, and he went to South Africa, and we got the loan of another man, and he went away, and we have got a man now who is just taking up the work. We have been thrown from one to the other, and practically agricultural instruction is left in the background.

11493. (Mr. Micks).—Could you get a copy of the correspondence that passed between the Department and the Committee about Mr. Chandler, and send it to us?—I asked for that, so as to have it here to-day, and our Secretary was just in trouble at the time, and we had to get rid of him. I will try to get it. Our affairs now are in a very confused state in Meath.

11494. (Chairman).—We can get the file from the Department?—Our secretary is changed, and we are in a way that I really cannot promise much. Mr. Chandler was employed as an official to carry out our scheme of cottage prices. That was his original work, and he was doing such good work with those cottagers, and small farmers with 50 acres, 15 acres, and under 5 acres, three sections, and he was doing such good work in instructing them and educating them in up-to-date methods of farming, that we considered, owing to the fact that we had no better man to avail ourselves of, we would largely employ him as an agricultural instructor; he was not originally employed as an agricultural instructor.

11495. (Mr. Brown).—He never was, in point of fact, an agricultural instructor?—You cannot call him, technically.

11496. (Mr. Micks).—He was an agricultural instructor under the Congested Districts Board?—Yes. He was a recognised agricultural instructor under that Board, and then he was working our scheme in Meath, and that was practically the same work, it involved the same work as an agricultural instructor would have to do, and he was doing it so satisfactorily that we thought that better we could not do than get him recognised as our agricultural instructor, and he would not be taken.

11497. (Mr. O'Connell).—Was your suggestion that he should be employed permanently as agricultural instructor, or only pending your getting a better man?—I cannot recollect now did we put in that proviso. In any case, we only employed him year by year.

11498. (Mr. Brown).—You are aware that he was an official who would be paid wholly by the Department, and not out of the county fund at all?—In what capacity?

11499. As agricultural instructor; you are aware that the agricultural instructors are all paid, wholly by the Department, and not out of the joint fund?—I was not aware of that.

11500. Would that make any difference in your view?—I have so little experience about this; Mr. Sten, could you correct me?

11501. (Mr. Sten).—I was under the impression that he was under our scheme.

11502. (Mr. O'Connell).—They may have paid him under the cottage garden scheme.

11503. (Mr. Brown).—I don't mean that the Department paid him when you had him under the cottage agricultural scheme. That was out of the joint funds, but the position of agricultural instructor is one in which the entire of his salary is paid by the Department.

11504. (Mr. Micks).—Is he an officer of the Committee or of the Department?—An officer of the Committee.

11505. (Mr. Micks).—Then is it not immaterial who pays his salary?

11506. (Mr. Brown).—He is an officer of the Department placed at the service of the Committee; that is his position.

11507. (Mr. Sten).—There is our scheme (proposed), and the salary of the instructor is included there.

11508. (Mr. Brown).—That shows he is paid wholly by the Department; half his expenses are paid by you.—(Witness).—I think that does not affect the general question.

11509. (Mr. Brown).—The Department pays the whole of his salary, and half of his travelling expenses, and he is, therefore, their officer, placed at the disposal of the Committee?—That is a matter of detail.

Oct. 16 1904.

Rev. Robert J. Barry, C.P.

Oct. 18 1906.

Rev. Robert
Garry, &c.

11510. (Mr. Micks).—Is he not at your orders or disposition?—Yes, he is our officer.

11511. (Mr. Dryden).—He has never been appointed an instructor in Agriculture?—Not by the Department.

11512. I understood he never filled that position?—Not under the Department as far as I know.

11513. I understood you to say you had to dismiss him from that appointment?—I qualified that afterwards, by telling the Committee that he was only employed to carry out that part of our scheme that dealt with cottage prizes.

11514. (Mr. Micks).—Which really was agricultural instructor of a kind?—It was essentially the same.

11515. (Chairman).—But when his work was with reference to cottage prizes, was he an agricultural instructor within the meaning of the scheme?—Within the meaning of our scheme he was not, in the technical sense of the term, as the Department understood it.

11516. Then he became a candidate for a post which he had not already held, and he was found on examination not to come up to the standard?—Yes; I think that is the situation.

11517. I see you have an agricultural instructor now?—We have one now.

11518. (Mr. O'Grady).—How long has the present man been with you?—A very short time, only a few months.

11519. (Mr. Micks).—Was there anyone between the two?—A tent man, and a man who previously worked for a few months, and who left us again.

11520. (Mr. Brown).—He got an appointment in South Africa?—I think so. I was now referring to the functions of the Department with regard to the scheme. I think the Department is too much dominated by experts, especially foreign experts. Let it not be thought that I object to have the most competent men, by all means let us have them, but I maintain competency includes practical experience of the country they are working in, as well as technical and theoretical skill, and that we are suffering in this country from an overdose of this expert stuff. I venture to offer evidence of the truth of what I am saying, and the reason of what I am saying I find in the *Technical Journal* of March, 1903. Mr. Blair gave expression to the following sentiments:—"He had found that on coming to Ireland with his Scotch and English experience, that he had to deal with an entirely new problem, and his first work was to sponge his mind clear of all previous ideas of how things should be done, and to begin afresh." That is a most extraordinary admission.

11521. (Mr. Micks).—What is that quotation from?—That is on the occasion of the meeting of the Principals of Technical Schools, and the question under discussion was how to further technical instruction. I think that is an extraordinary admission, that he had to sponge his mind clear of all previous ideas as to how things should be done, and begin afresh. I conclude that to know how things should be done was essential amongst the subjects that this gentleman had to deal with, and if he had to sponge his mind clear of all previous knowledge, and begin afresh, I say that we are in a position to question the wisdom of the appointment of these foreigners. If you say we have none at home, then it is as good for us all to sponge our own minds, and begin afresh, as to have the other gentlemen coming amongst us sponging their minds. If you throw responsibilities on Irishmen, and they make mistakes, and are pointed out by other countries that have gone ahead of us, we can say we are no worse off than our neighbours when they began. Put responsibility on us, and let us act like men, and the common sense of the Irish people will come to the surface. Up to this we have been thrown into the hands of agitators who did not mean what they said when they talked of the advancement of what they called the cause, but solid, sound common-sense never got a chance in Ireland yet. I say the Department is dominated by experts, and I am not inclined on their own confession to pin my faith to them.

11522. (Mr. O'Grady).—Mr. Blair said he had to sponge his mind clear of all previous experience as to how things should be done. I suppose what he referred to was the arrangements for the opening of technical institutes?—The heading here is how to further technical instruction.

11523. Through the means at the disposal of the men he was addressing himself?—Not necessarily, I think, it is general. Mr. Blair, in reply, said that the scheme was two years in operation, and this was the first time he had the pleasure of responding to such a toast.

11524. (Mr. O'Grady).—It was after dinner?—Well, gentlemen, all right, of course you can discount it in that score, after dinner.

11525. Take off 5 per cent?—I am quite satisfied.

11526. (Mr. Dryden).—I don't think Mr. O'Grady has any intentions on that point.

(Witness).—Of course in this respect we have in Ireland do not go so nicely into distinctions, as, of course, gentlemen here will necessarily go, but I will only go to show that this is an unfortunate pronouncement, and the people of Ireland object to these people thrown here now; these gentlemen here to sponge their minds.

11527. (Chairman).—Don't you think you have made your point on that?—I won't labour it any longer. I will give you a further instance of where these gentlemen are giving evidence of the end of the syringe. Take, for example, the teaching of our girls domestic economy; they insist on a two years' course of experimental science before girls are allowed to take practical work in their hands. I may tell you that I am aware that since criticism was brought to bear on them they altered their ideas. They have now, in the secondary schools, introduced what they call an auxiliary course. I find here from a report I have got from a lady in charge of one of these schools, that she declares that many of these pupils before they could reach the third year, which would give them a chance of learning the practical side of the work, had already gone out into the world.

11528. (Mr. Micks).—Without the Domestic Economy instruction?—Without the Domestic Economy instruction at all. A very large proportion of the girls in our secondary schools are compelled, if they go in at least for the Intermediate Course, to first give their attention to this A.B.C. of experimental science in the laboratory, and they depart from the school before they get the chance of learning the practical side of the work. That is only a thing that an expert would think of establishing; no practical, sensible man would say that that is a proper scheme. I am not speaking of the merits of the thing in the abstract. I admit that, of course, no one sooner, by the foundations solid, but if you have to deal with a state of things that is peculiar to this country, I say it is not foreigners that should be brought in to deal with them. It is the people that know the circumstances of the case that should be allowed to have a voice in these matters, and that is not allowed, and that is what I object to on the part of the Department that there is not given the freedom and liberty that should be given owing to the peculiar state of the country.

11529. (Mr. O'Grady).—Apart from the Department, as this is rather an interesting point, your view is that case should be taken that the course which is intended to include for girls domestic economy, should be compelled before the girls reach such an age that they are likely to leave school?—I think that is what it comes to.

11530. Evidently you have a curriculum drawn for a three years course, and on the assumption that they are all going to stop in the school three years?—Yes.

11531. But if there is not a very solid expectation that they are going to remain for three years, and you are working with girls who ought to have domestic economy, then the course should be a shorter one?—The course should be a shorter one.

11532. (Mr. Brown).—I understood it had been made a shorter one?—Not if they are going in for the Intermediate course.

11533. (Mr. O'Grady).—If the girls are going in for the Intermediate course they must have the whole three years, and if they were there the whole three years they would have domestic economy in what you, yourself, expressed as the time they would be able to take full advantage of it?—I think so.

11534. But the fact is that there are a lot of girls who are not going through the Intermediate course?—A large percentage.

11535. A large percentage of girls do not complete the course on the basis of which the school curriculum is organised, and therefore provision should be made

for a satisfactory curriculum for this large proportion of girls who leave, at least, a year earlier than is contemplated—I think so.

11543. (Mr. Brown).—But I understand that that provision has now been made!—Not for the Intermediate course. There is an auxiliary class, but they are non-intermediate. "Non-intermediate students are non-intermediate." "Non-intermediate students are girls of sixteen or seventeen years of age who spend a year or two at most in our secondary schools, of whom there is a large percentage in the country, of whom we think, benefit much by being enabled to spend some time at practical domestic economy taught on scientific principles." And again, "The grants paid by the Department for attendance at domestic economy classes are very much lower than those paid for the preliminary course of experimental science, for the special course in physics and chemistry, and the special course in physics and chemistry. We find they give a very large portion of the time to the teaching of experimental science, and even in these auxiliary classes they give by no means as large a proportion of time to the practical work." "We are obliged to give three hours per week for laboratory work, which they will have neither time nor opportunity to follow up, whereas an hour and a half is the minimum required for cookery, and one hour per week needle work."

11544. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I suppose it all comes to this, that so far as these girls are concerned the curriculum is, in your opinion, dominated by the requirements of the Intermediate course!—The requirements of the Department now, who are of course the authority under the Intermediate Board in this special subject.

11545. By the fact that the Department arranges that curriculum in too close relation with the complete curriculum for the Intermediate course!—Yes, I discuss that is the same thing. You see, even in the auxiliary classes they are giving twice the time to experimental work in the laboratory than is given to the practical work in the kitchen range. I imagine that that is a mistake, and that the whole time in those auxiliary classes should be given to the practical work. Let the teacher, by all means, be a scientific teacher, and introduce to the pupils by their own practical work the principles of science underlying the operations they are engaged in carrying out in practice, and that will give them science enough.

11546. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It is not very convenient to teach the principles of chemistry at a kitchen range; it is better to have a suitable table for it—I admit that, of course, in theory, it is not convenient, but where are those people to get the two things. They cannot have the practical work and the science, except in so far as you give them a little idea of it while they are at their practical operations.

11547. This entirely refers to the secondary schools!—Yes. Now, I come to the relation of the Department with the primary schools. I cannot explain the state of things that exist except on the assumption that the Department must have erred in reading the Act. In the beginning, all the time at our Committee meetings, even when the Department's experts were present, representatives from the Department to guide us, if any member of our Committee mentioned a National school he was looked upon as out of order, and occupying the time by ignorance and by incompetency. He should have been better informed, and we were silenced, and asked, "Do you not know that we cannot touch primary schools?" I maintain that that is based upon a misunderstanding of a portion of the Act, which says—Section 30, Sub-Section I:—"It shall not include instruction given in elementary schools, or teaching the practice of any particular trade, or industry, or employment, but some no school, shall include instruction in the practice of science and art with respect to which grants are, for the time being, made by the Department." I am inclined to think they must have understood by that instruction given in elementary schools as including all instruction, even technical instruction.

11548. (Mr. Brown).—It does include technical, but the point is it does not include agricultural!—Thank you. I think at the beginning they must have misinterpreted that.

11549. I think there was some misunderstanding?—I suppose that is more of the sponge that has been brought into operation, and I hope they were not all after their dinner when mis-construing the Act.

11550. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Who interpreted the Act in the way you are just stating?—Well, friends of mine discussing the matter.

11551. No, but the Department said you could not do so and so, and it is now suggested that they were in error!—Mr. Wood came down from the Department.

11552. I presume he had been having his instructions from the heads of the Department?—He came down to guide us.

11553. Were the heads of the Department foreign experts, who were responsible for the reading of the Act?—I am not in a position to say. All I say is that the representatives who came down to direct and guide us would not be allowed to mention a National school.

11554. (Mr. Brown).—Do you recollect how the question arose, what instruction it was proposed to be given?—I am not sure was it in relation to the technical or the agricultural.

11555. Perhaps you were proposing to have school gardens?—Yes, I think it was.

11556. There was a general misconception—everybody seemed to have been acting on the assumption that they could not interfere with primary schools by reason of that clause in the Act?—We will assume they were all after their dinner.

11557. (Mr. Ogilvie).—They were not foreigners!—So much the worse. If we are at home Irishmen must be sorry for it, but we are no worse than others. We would be very proud to be ahead of them, but I suppose we cannot ambition that. I shall follow up the subject of the connection of the Department with the school work. We had very good work in progress in National schools until it was interfered with by the Department. I think the best way I can put this point is by first referring to the evidence given by Mr. Starke at this Committee. As reported in the Press, Mr. Starke said here:—"Since 1900 the subject of cookery and domestic economy have been compulsory wherever the teacher was trained; but compulsion over here means something quite different from what it usually means. Although it is compulsory, it was only taken up in 361 schools, on account of the difficulty of providing equipment. In Ireland, one of the great difficulties in the way of developing education is that nobody will subscribe anything to it." On the same day that Dr. Starke gave that evidence, I got a letter from Mr. Lennan, Secretary to the National Education Board, in which he said:

"I am to add that the number of schools in which cookery and laundry work were taken up increased from 263 in 1900 to 727 in 1903." Dr. Starke said it was only taken up in 361 schools. "On the issue of the new programme the subject became optional, and was generally dropped, the number of schools in which it was taught having fallen in 1904 to 362, of which 293 were Convent schools. During the five years ending 31st March, 1905, 261 classes were held, at which 3,568 teachers were trained in cookery and laundry work." Now that was brought to a standstill, not as Mr. Starke said, on account of the difficulty of providing equipment, and on account of the fact that in Ireland nobody would subscribe anything to it, but it was brought to a standstill by the Department, and here is my proof. There are the rules and regulations of the National Board, 1905, page 85, describing the programme: "In the 8th and higher standards provision for instruction in cookery, laundry, domestic economy, and manual instruction in wood and metal has been undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. Instruction in these subjects will be provided for the higher standards of ordinary National schools in day classes at Central Technical Schools, or in rural districts by means of itinerant instructors."

11558. (Mr. Micks).—Is that in connection with the National Board, or outside the National Board?—"Instruction in these subjects will be provided for the higher standards of ordinary National schools in day classes at Central Technical Schools," and in another place it says, "These subjects have been undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction," whether in connection, or outside, I am not in a position to say. Now, gentlemen, I am bringing this under the heading of sabotage, or whatever else you may call it, of these Boards regulating our unfortunate country.

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11552. They call it, I think, the want of co-ordination?—I think you want some more expensive term. There is more than want of co-ordination—there is want of consciousness.

11553. (Mr. Ogilvie).—That paragraph from which you have just read rather indicates that the step stated there had been taken in view of the difficulty of providing expert teaching, for it starts by saying, "As expert teaching is the higher branches of manual instruction is not available in the majority of National schools, these subjects need not be taught beyond the second standard; in cases, however, where expert teaching is available, the managers are at liberty to supplement the course of instruction on this subject, for the third and fourth standards. In the fifth and higher standards provision for the instruction in cookery, laundry, domestic economy, and manual instruction in wood and metal has been undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. Instruction in these subjects will be provided for the higher standards of ordinary National schools in day classes at Central Technical schools, or in rural districts by means of itinerant instructors." The programme, therefore, for cookery classes applies only to girls of the fifth and higher standards in Convent schools. In view of the question you have just read from the National Board's letter, which made as if the extent to which instruction in cookery, and so on, had been taken up was very disappointing, because even at the maximum it was 727 schools—how many National schools are there in Ireland for girls?—I don't know. There are something like 8,000 schools.

11554. It looks on the face of it, that having got one in ten supplied with teaching in cookery, the Departments had corresponded with one another, and made some sort of arrangement by which apparently the National school managers, having not found it possible to carry it out, to the extent of more than one school in ten, the teaching should be provided in some other way?—I beg of you to take a note of this, that during the five years, to 31st of March, 1905, 262 classes were held in which 3,548 teachers were trained in cookery and laundry work. Are not these gentlemen going to back up their own training—do they think these were not competent to teach—then, if so, why did they find them, and let them abroad on the country with their certificates to take up work in the National schools which they did take up, and I would like to tell you it is not the fault of the managers if this subject was dropped. We had the teachers, we had 3,548 teachers trained in cookery and laundry work. The work was stopped. Why? Was it because the managers had not the equipment? Here is Miss Fitzgerald's report, which disposes of Dr. Starke's contention that the managers were at fault. She said: "The whole explanation of dropping the work arose from the fact, that the ordinary teachers inferred that the entire instruction in cookery and laundry work would be given by experts from the Technical Department, consequently they not only absented themselves from our classes, but almost all the ordinary teachers who had been instructed and had, with expense and inconvenience, introduced cookery in their schools, became disheartened and discontinued teaching this most important subject. Managers of schools who went to expense and trouble in fitting up suitable rooms for our work are much dissatisfied with the present state of things, and hope this very useful branch of girls' education will soon be resumed; considering that no grants whatever were made by the Commissioners for cookery equipment in ordinary schools, the work was steadily progressing. The expense were incurred by managers in fitting up rooms; teachers came forward and spared neither time nor trouble in aiding the movement. The children helped to provide the apparatus, and each year marked an increase in the numbers learning cookery, indeed, it had become a favourite subject in girls' schools."

11555. It is your view that the instruction in cookery in National schools was making steady progress?—Certainly.

11556. And that the small number of schools which had taken it up was to be accounted for at least as much by there not being at the time a sufficient supply of teachers in the National Schools to carry it on?—No, the teachers were there, the apparatus was there, the materials were there.

11557. You gave us the numbers, which were steadily rising until they got to about 700 schools which

had taken up cookery, that is, had teachers, and had appliances. There may have been a number of other schools that had teachers, and no appliances, and there may have been others that were prepared to put in appliances, but had not their teachers trained yet; I gather, rather, that your view is that if the then existing condition had been allowed to continue the extent to which cookery teaching was given in National schools would have rapidly increased?—So it would.

11558. And do you think if the same encouragement were given to-day minutes could be placed on the teaching of cookery in National schools?—If you deprecate a thing it is not easy to get it in motion again; I think it will go ahead again if it is not interfered with.

11559. We are much interested in the extent to which so necessary a subject could be covered before the girls pass away from the discipline of the ordinary school?—I believe if it is allowed to go on you will find it will go ahead.

11560. Seeking your opinion upon Miss Fitzgerald's report, the Department's own statement, and your knowledge of the schools that it would go?—Certainly.

11561. And we might look forward to a time when the girls might be turned out in the National schools with, at least, a preliminary and general knowledge of the more important cooking operations?—Yes, provided it was not interfered with. I beg again to draw your attention to the fact that the reason the 700 schools gave up work is explained by Miss Fitzgerald, that it was the programme of 1904, when the teachers were told that the Technical Board was taking up that work; that is why it ceased.

11562. What is the date of Miss Fitzgerald's report?—1904.

11563. (Mr. Brown).—It was a passage in the programme of the National Board?—Yes, the programme of 1904. She traces the stoppage of the work to that item in the programme, and not, as Dr. Starke said, to want of equipment, or want of interest in education by the local managers, or even by teachers, and what is more extraordinary still, the children, as said, were actually so keen on it that they were helping to advance the work.

11564. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Here is what Dr. Stokes said to us about it (reads question 3885). Apparently the National Board had come to the conclusion that there was not a chance of its becoming general. The National Board were contradicting their own evidence. She declares that "the managers of schools who went to expense and trouble in fitting up suitable rooms are much dissatisfied with the present state of things, and hope this very useful branch of girls' education will soon be resumed."

11565. Miss Fitzgerald was speaking of 700 schools, and Dr. Starke was thinking of the several thousands who were not doing it?—He could not expect the thousands to come into line in one year; they were coming in rapidly, as his own secretary shows.

11566. That is about 150 a year?—Is not that good evidence of keen interest?

11567a. (Mr. Brown).—But that would take a very long time to cover the country?

11567. (Mr. Nichols).—A great many of these country schools, of course, never could take it up. Not in an elaborate way, but at the same time a little could be done, if it were no more than teaching the children cleanliness, in a practical way, in connection with some of the operations of house-keeping, and having cleanliness both a practical and theoretical subject of instruction.

11568. He also stated that there was a fee of 5s. a head for children taking up the subject, towards equipment?—That is only a new thing; they are now paying work again now.

11569. It all comes to this—that you are clearly of opinion that the National Board, with the facilities that they themselves have helped to create, if they were to continue to extend this, could perfectly well cover all this work of cookery in the National schools?—I would not go so far as to say perfectly well cover it, but they were, at least, doing practical work, and that had no right to be stopped unless something better was substituted; they stopped the work, and substituted nothing.

11570. (Mr. Brown).—They don't appear to have stopped the work; this is in the fifth and highest standards?—That is practically stopping it.

11571. It was supposed to go on up to the sixth?—But the teachers were given to understand that if

they gave attention to it, it would simply leave them on the wrong side when the report was drawn up about the efficiency of the school. The inspector went into the school, and told the teachers, "That is all."

11572. That is the inspector's fault. The statement merely was that provision would be made to give instruction in the higher forms of domestic economy in the fifth standard and upwards!—But there was no fee given for it, and will you expect teachers to work for nothing?

11573. That is another question?—It is quite the same question.

11574. That is a different explanation?—It may be, but it is an explanation.

11575. The reason then was that there was no provision for giving teachers extra pay for doing this work?—Certainly not.

11576. They would not have to work any longer time?—It was only a different variety of work in the same time?—Yes, but no pay.

11577. Why should there be any pay?—If you think people are willing to work for nothing?—

11578. (Mr. Micks).—Is there no pay for extra subjects?—Not then.

11579. (Mr. Brown).—If this work was to be done at home, without the ordinary school hours, everyone would agree at once that it should be paid for, but if it was only to be done during school hours, and in substitution for work that would otherwise be done, I don't see the necessity for extra pay?—If their programme was so crowded already.

That is another reason?

11580. (Mr. Micks).—Were payment made to teachers for other subjects that were taught during school hours?—Extra subjects; really there were so many changes I won't venture to give an authoritative expression.

11581. (Mr. Brown).—Did the teachers themselves raise the question about extra pay?—Of course they raised it with their own inspectors according as they came in, but the inspectors, as I told you, discouraged the teachers.

11582. (Chairman).—Have we not exhausted this point?—Now, with regard to the appointment of teachers, with regard to manual instruction and drawing, or woodwork, we were anxious to get a teacher recognized when we thought perfectly competent, and to show the reason we had for thinking him perfectly competent I beg to present the following reasons: His name is Pac Monaghan. Under the Berl system Mr. Monaghan took a course of instruction in hand-and-eye training, and woodwork in Dublin under Mr. Beris, with the pick of the teachers who were brought up from the country. They then contemplated having hand-and-eye training as portion of the programme of National schools. Mr. Monaghan took the course, and Mr. Beris was so impressed with Mr. Monaghan's qualifications, that, at the end of the course, Mr. Beris declared that it was in contemplation to start a Central School in Marlborough-street to train the other teachers who had not got the benefit of the special course, and he sent this communication to Mr. Monaghan:—"3/5/1903. Will you please let me know by return of post what salary you are receiving, and for what salary you would be willing to come to Marlborough-street as instructor in woodwork." We thought that gave us a fair indication of Mr. Monaghan's qualifications. He was already recognized by the Commissioners of National Education; here is his certificate: "This is to certify that Mr. Monaghan has attended a course of hand-and-eye training, and is registered in this Department as competent to introduce instruction of this kind into a National school. Mr. Monaghan is also qualified to give instruction in woodwork." He is a man that, in his young days, had taken special certificate in South Kensington in light, heat, and electricity. I am just mentioning this to show that he was not an ordinary man, but an intelligent, well-educated man. He is a joiner, too, and an architect. He is perfectly competent in all departments of drawing and the different requirements of building construction. So far as he is qualified that in the Board of Works his plans, drawings, and specifications were adopted, and worked upon, and a sum of £300 advanced for the building of a house according to his plans and specifications. He is a man that can do work like that. He can do the work of an architect, and then take the tools, and carry out any work of the joinery. When we approached the Department for recognition,

we were told that he should subject himself to an examination. He did so, but, according to the Department, he failed. "With reference to your recent examination in Dublin in connection with your application for recognition as a manual instructor, I regret to have to inform you that, in view of the report of the examiner of the Department, we are unable to add your name to the list of qualified teachers of manual work." Here we have an expert on an expert. Mr. Beris was going to make this man head of the Central School in Marlborough-street to teach the teachers, but the Department people would recognize him as fit to teach an elementary class in a National school, and teach the use of tools. Here is his recognition in 1892 from the National Education Office:—"I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that handicraft has been sanctioned as an extra subject in the above-named school, and that results fees will be paid for this subject, and instruction given therein by Mr. Monaghan."

11583. You appear to be under the impression that you are seeking to appoint Mr. Monaghan for the purpose of giving instruction in manual work in primary schools?—Quite so.

11584. Surely that would not have been the position at all?—That was not our idea. It was with a view of having him as an itinerant instructor.

11585. You said he was considered by the Department not fit to give instruction in manual work in primary schools?—I may have been at fault in that.

11586. Then he was not giving instruction in primary schools?—As an itinerant teacher perhaps—it was a little slip—but I maintain that practically it was the same work. The itinerant instructor practically was doing the same work as was contemplated in the National schools, and, as a matter of fact, it is, as a rule, National school boys who form one of his classes now, the very boys of the standard that Monaghan was teaching before.

11587. What do you gather from that? Do you say that whenever you think you have independent evidence as to the competency of a man that that ought to prevail against the result of examination?—The Department seem to treat with intolerance all other educational bodies.

11588. Do you suggest that the examination was or was not a fair one? The rule of the Department is that there must be an examination for these appointments, and here is a gentleman who, although he has very high testimonials, generally is found, rightly or wrongly, upon examination not to come up to the Department's standard. Do you say that they ought to depart from their own rule, and, although he has not qualified for the examination, they should appoint him on the grounds that he has general qualifications, which are proved by other witnesses?—I decline answering that; I leave the documents and certificates to speak for themselves.

11589. (Mr. O'Connell).—As a matter of fact would the Department's certificate, if they had recognized and given him a certificate, would that necessarily imply that he was to be recognized as qualified to do higher work, as well as the work which had previously been assigned to him on the part of Mr. Beris?—A manual instructor as an itinerant instructor. That is all we would ask for him. We claim recognition at least for him as such.

11590. And the certificate that they would not give him did not cover anything more than that?—I am not aware that it did. We know what an itinerant teacher means. As a gentleman here said to-day, it is to teach boys to mend gates and patch up a broken hedge.

11591. (Mr. Brown).—That is in agricultural districts?—I do not think itinerant teachers should teach building construction.

11592. (Mr. O'Connell).—Their certificate might have covered that. Did you ask retention for him as a manual instructor?—Yes; and that was refused.

11593. (Mr. Micks).—Was any question raised about Mr. Monaghan's age?—I don't remember. He is about fifty, and has been teaching nearly all his life. He is teaching Drawing at present.

11594. (Mr. Brown).—What position does he hold at present?—Under the Board of Governors of the Endowed School at Orlinstown teaching Drawing and has his recognition from the National Board.

11595. Did he propose to retain that position?—He retains it.

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11595. Was the proposal that he should give up that position if he was appointed manual instructor?—I do not think that came up. I think my third heading mentions about not giving agriculture its due recognition. I think we should necessarily bring the two Departments into review again here. Dr. Starke seemed to think that the teaching of agriculture is far removed from a possibility in National schools. At all events he said that practically notes on the rainfall and kindred things is about as much as could be dealt with in National schools. I think he will get few to agree with him, and I think that here is a field ready in which the further efforts to be made ought to be very different from what have been made up to this. I think the Department could very well co-ordinate and co-operate with the National Board and see and do something for the rising generation. We have no other industries practically in Ireland, and the youth that are now passing through the age given up for education ought to have the subject pressed upon their attention, but that is not done. I think the Department could do a great deal more. I think through misreading the Act of Parliament they left much neglected up to this. Of course if they have recovered from their mistake now, better late than never. I do not agree with Dr. Starke, for there could be a good deal done in National schools besides observing the point from which the wind is blowing. There could be a great number of other subjects taken as fitting objects for observation. For instance, the growth of plants, the effect of light and heat, the nature of the soil and manures. We do not by any means mean to lose sight of education; it is not that we want to bring boys into the garden and make them hewers of wood and drawers of water. We only mean to have it as a supplement to what was on theoretically in the schools, and bring them down after they have learned the theory of plant life and agricultural chemistry as much as they are capable of teaching that they should come down then to the plots and have the theory verified, and actually with their own hands nurse the plant, sow it, prepare the ground for it, weed it while it is growing, and see and get acquainted with the action of the air, and light, and heat, and moisture, and all those other things that will give a field for observation that is apparently neglected now. I wish to say that after a great deal of trouble I succeeded in forcing the point in Oldcastle. I offered the Department great facilities there. We have an endowed school with a very considerable sum of money at the disposal of the Board of Governors. Since I went to Oldcastle I have economized, and I have cut off the salary of the Chaplain, both in my own case and in the case of the Protestant parson. I suppose neither of us were the richer of that. Having made those economies, which amounted to £50 a year, with some other savings, I approached the Department and told them of the ways and means we had done there. We had a farm, a very fine walled-in garden, and house vacant where the teacher could be accommodated, a farmyard with all the out-offices for the treatment of stock, a four-house, and all other necessary equipment, but it was no use; I could not succeed; I could get nothing done. They sent down their inspector on different occasions, but we remained where we were.

11597. (Mr. Mick.)—What proposal did you make to them?—To put into their hands at least £50 a year with all the other things, that we, the Governors, would stand in in the scheme to that extent if they would supply something. I was told to approach the Agricultural Committee. Well, we are just in the extreme end of the county, and there was a certain amount of jealousy, I think, in the Committee. They said, "Why start a school at the extreme end of the County Monagh?" So it is no wonder if I met with a bad reception at the hands of the Committee.

11598. Your own Agricultural Committee was not friendly?—They were not unfriendly, but there was that in it that I could not get over.

11599. (Mr. O'Grady).—Would they allow their inspectors to take general supervision of the work done?—I could not enter into the details. All I said was that we could meet them to that extent, and I assumed they would only see to work and study to see could something not be done where there were such facilities, but nothing was done.

11600. (Mr. Mick).—Do you attribute that to the local committee as much as to the Department?—

Well, really I do not know. There may be considerations entering in there that I am not aware of. However, I have got a scheme there now under the National Board, and I wish to put it in evidence. (Scheme produced).

11601. For the same premises?—Yes; but it is practically only a horticultural scheme. My opinion is that that is where the Department is making a mistake. They are going in for too elaborate schemes. If they simplified matters and took small beginnings in which there would be the germ, and nursed that germ, and let it grow naturally, and spread from a small beginning, there would be no loss involved, and no breakdown as in a big extensive scheme, and I believe that is what is wanted. If they would localize things, and start small schools, and have their itinerant instructors to rotate from the local centres.

11602. (Mr. O'Grady).—And have school gardens in connection with the local National schools?—That to begin with, and then a local school, not a great large agricultural institute, but a small local school, which would serve as the district centre for a number of National schools. Let them have a good thorough scientific instructor, and there have a centre for a number of out-lying National school boys that would be strong enough and aged enough to come along and get the instruction that they needed in National schools perfected.

11603. You are aware that the National Board are quite sympathetic on the question of utilizing school gardens for more instruction in connection with agriculture. (Reads Question 3839). If he could get competent instructors available he would be delighted to see the instruction?—That qualifies considerably the first appearance of his evidence.

11604. The evidence that I read may not have been printed in the newspapers?—Then there could be a great deal done for agriculture in the National schools.

11605. With the full sympathy of the National Board?—Yes.

11606. (Chairman).—It is one of the most important points that is before us?—I think it is the industry of the country.

11607. (Mr. Brown).—In our county we have demonstration plots, which have heretofore been the work of the horticultural instructors, but are now available by the National schools, and the instructors see to give instruction there for one hour a week to the boys on the spot?—I do not agree with Dr. Starke when he says the teachers themselves are among the class that will confuse all vegetables as a bush.

11608. (Mr. O'Grady).—He did not say that. He said the teachers were not all qualified, and to test as to whether there was not good enough?—Not entirely.

11609. (Chairman).—If it is in the hands of teachers who have a good deal of other work to do?—Oh, yes; I am not for overloading the programme.

11610. Is there not the danger that it will get lost to be of a practical thing but learning out of a text book?—But if you have a plot in connection with the school.

11611. I quite agree with that, but even so, it would be much better to have it in the hands of an expert than in the hands of the teacher of the school, who, however anxious and able, really has not practical knowledge, and would only go to the nearest text-books and teach a lot of things out of them, like the heights of mountains?—I agree you must have a competent teacher, but the teachers are, to a great extent, the sons of farmers themselves, and would be able to help and advance what the practical expert had done.

11612. To some extent they would have the example of actual practical and scientific teaching before them?—Yes, if it were only in the recreation hour to bring the children out and look at things they could arouse an interest in what the expert has introduced to them.

11613. (Chairman).—It seems to me there is a general consensus in what you have been expressing on that point.

11614. (Mr. O'Grady).—The views you have been giving are almost identically those Dr. Starke gave us. You said the classes are small in some of the rural schools. He says "The right thing to do would be to have a plot somewhere and convey the children to it, to have a central plot connected with some of the larger schools?"—Dr. Starke advocates in another

education the reducing of the number of schools. How are children of a tender age to be expected to trudge away of a distance. It is not like England or Scotland, or the Continent, where the people live in villages in centres of population. Here we

have them scattered all over the country, and it is all very well for a theorist to reduce the number of your schools, but if so how are you to get soft children at this time of year to reach schools at a distance.

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Mr. JOSEPH MOONEY, J.P., Cabra, examined.

11615. (Chairman).—I believe you are a member of the Dublin County Council, and I am sorry to hear that your colleague, who was to give evidence, has recently died?—There were two mentioned, Mr. James Walsh was one, but I regret to say he died recently. His evidence would have been very valuable. He was a practical gentleman and had great experience of the agricultural part of the work. Captain Veley was also nominated. There was a statement sent in from the County Council of Dublin. It was adopted by the Council and we were appointed practically to support that statement.

11616. I have the statement before me?—The Act was passed on the understanding that the head of the Department should be a gentleman of agriculture and industries, responsible to Parliament, and this understanding should be carried out as the opinion of my Council. They think the head of the Department ought to be in his place in Parliament to answer any queries that may be put with regard to the working of the Department in Ireland.

11617. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you think he could successfully do both things?—We think it would be a better plan than the present.

11618. (Mr. Miché).—Most ministers have to do such double work?—They have double duties in other departments. At present when questions are asked with regard to the work of the Department it is evident the information is second hand; it does not work out as well as if the head of the Department was directly responsible to the higher authority. We also think the Council and the Boards of Agriculture and of Technical Instruction ought to be elected. At present they have only advisory powers, and one-third of the members are nominated by the Department. We think it would be an improvement if the whole body were elected and any decision that that body would come to by a two-thirds majority should be given effect to by the Department. At present these bodies have only advisory powers, and their advice is very frequently passed over. We think an elected body would have a better effect through the country.

11619. Is there any other change in the constitution that is recommended. You leave the President and the Vice-President as they are. The Vice-President should be in Parliament, but all the power should still rest in the Vice-President as it does now. You do not propose any re-adjustment of the Executive power? Of course we think there would be a change if the Councils and Boards were elected. They have no Executive powers and no power of initiative.

11620. Not under the Act, but they exercised some power; it has been explained to me?—I think very little. I think proposals for new work or any work come from the Department, and it is submitted to them, and whether they approve or not it does not make much difference. In the Scotch the woollen industries were stamped out by Act of Parliament, and some of the Ulster industries were ruined on Government bounties. The Department's aid has recently been given to petty undertakings, such as jam, stove hats, and lace-making, instead of to the production of articles in general demand. Where there is a Department like this, having a large annual sum at their disposal, they ought apply themselves to something that would have a more improving effect on affairs in the country.

11621. (Chairman).—Are you speaking of urban industries or matter connected with agriculture?—We were thinking more of industries apart from agriculture. Of course a number of people are trained in these technical schools now, but unless some sort of industries are started we are only equipping them for emigration.

11622. (Mr. Brown).—Do they emigrate according to your experience: those who have been in the techno-

cal schools?—Well, yes; I think they do. What else can they do?

11623. Have you any experience of the actual fact?—The smartest people we have go, and it is common sense to say that if these people were trained and have not some field that they can work in at home they must go.

11624. I am speaking of the whole country, not of any very specialised training in your technical schools here. But speaking of the training they get in manual work and domestic economy does not that make it easier for them to get a livelihood at home?—No doubt it does, certainly it is an advantage. What we think is that some sort of industries ought to be fostered in order that we may avail of the training which they get in these schools, and without this the tendency, at all events, will be that they will emigrate more readily than they have done in the past when they were ignorant.

11625. (Chairman).—Is your objection on this score to the action of the Department, or to the state of the law. Do you think there should be a larger provision by the law for the creation and assistance of industries, or that the Department should have funds at their disposal which they could apply to these purposes?—Our objection is to the inaction of the Department. It is evident they have power to assist industries to some extent at all events, and they have done so.

11626. That is why I asked you the question whether you were thinking of urban industries or not. They have power to assist urban industries in the same way as they have to assist industries connected with agriculture?—The jam factory in Drogheda was an urban industry and was thought to be a great failure.

11627. (Mr. Brown).—It was for the purpose of utilising agricultural produce.

11628. (Mr. Miché).—Kilbenny is a woollen urban industry that has been granted to a certain extent?—We think this assistance might be extended, and it would, in that way, provide a field for the people.

11629. In undertakings, such as the woollen industry, are you aware it takes from three to five years before they can pay?—Yes, and capital is rather scarce in this country. It would be desirable that they should be fostered during that period.

11630. You would not go in for a perpetual and continuing bounty system?—Certainly not. We find it very hard to compete with England or Scotland in matters of that kind. They have had a great start of us, and they have unlimited capital and great experience.

11631. And an industrial population?—Yes, and we think we are fairly entitled to it, having regard to the fact that when we had these industries they were stamped out by Act of Parliament.

11632. (Mr. O'Leary).—I take it that you are not giving an opinion as to whether or not the Department have or have not power to subsidise industries in their earlier stages such as you mention?—In my opinion they have the power, and they have exercised it to some extent with regard to these industries, but I think, and I think my Council agrees with me, that they might go further and do more in that direction.

11633. (Mr. Brown).—Are you aware of the distinction between rural industries in the Act and other industries?—Well, yes; but what industry is not more or less connected with agriculture. If you take the woollen factory, is not the wool produced by the farmer?

(Mr. Miché).—In the same way jam is made from fruit.

11634. (Mr. O'Leary).—There might be this difference. The farmer does not get any more for his wool, but he does get a better price for his fruit if there is a jam factory near enough to take it for manufacture.

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11634. But if the Department has not the power you desire, then you say they should have it.—They should have it.

11635. (Chairman).—I wanted to know whether it was a charge against the Department or a charge against the Act?—I make it a joint charge, because I think that with the powers the Department have they might do more in that direction.

11636. You fired a double-barrel and hit them both!—The Department's powers might be extended very much, and it is quite possible that they have not power to go as far as I would wish.

11637. (Mr. Micks).—Do you deduce much from the fact that they have done something?—Yes; it is from that I infer they could do more.

11638. You say they have done something in respect of the urban industries?—I do.

11639. And you think more ought to be done?—I do. Sir Horace Plunkett himself has complained that the students going to the Model Farm for the scholarships are an inferior class. We think the remedy for that would be to give higher scholarships. The Department gives scholarships at the Model Farm, but the premiums are such that only the least desirable class of farmers' sons takes up these scholarships, while many of the places go to undesirable English or Scotch youths. We gather that from the speech Sir Horace Plunkett made, in which he referred to the apathy with regard to these scholarships, and the difficulty of getting a better class of them; some came from England and Scotland that were not of the class they wanted.

11640. (Chairman).—Can you refer us to that speech?—I am afraid I have not got it here. We suggest that the scholarships should be increased.

11641. (Mr. Brown).—Do you know what they are?—£50 a year for three years; but it does not attract the proper class.

11642. Is it really a question of money?—I think it is.

(Mr. Brown).—One would think that the proper class might be able to provide for their own agricultural education without any scholarship at all. At all events, that is a very substantial scholarship.

11643. (Mr. O'Connell).—You think it ought to be higher?—If Sir Horace Plunkett is right in stating that a good deal of apathy exists in regard to these things the way to obviate that would be to give increased premiums, and that would attract a better class.

(Mr. O'Connell).—It is possible that giving a lower premium it might have that effect.

11644. (Chairman).—What have you in your mind when you speak of the less desirable class of farmers' sons?—The stupid, idler, uneducated class. You don't get the bright, intelligent, fairly well educated fellows.

11645. (Mr. O'Connell).—Is there any evidence that these scholarships can be held by candidates from England and Scotland: are they awarded in such a way that they are open?—Some of them.

11646. (Chairman).—We have been at the Model Farm and heard a good deal about the class of students there. Are you going on any facts that only the least desirable class of farmers' sons went up for these scholarships. Are you going on any evidence whatever except this statement to which you have attributed to Sir Horace Plunkett?—I am not.

11647. It is not from your own experience?—I have no actual experience of it, but I noticed in one of his speeches that he referred to it, and it occurred to me that it would be a good thing to refer to, and the way to get over that difficulty would be by increasing the amount.

11648. (Mr. Brown).—You have not visited the Model Farm?—Not recently. The Veterinary Branch is run by laymen who have no experience of veterinary practice or live stock commerce. They allowed that disease with the terrible name, epizootic lymphangitis, and glanders to be introduced into this country, while their interference with the swine trade has been the means of reducing the number of pigs in Ireland by 300,000. The export trade in pigs has been destroyed by the restrictions placed by the English Board, who disapproved of the Irish Department's way of combating swine fever.

11649. Before you leave the question of epizootic lymphangitis, you say the Department allowed it to come into the country?—Yes.

11650. How did it come in?—Through military horses.

11651. You know the Department could not interfere with the military?—Yes, but why did they not seek for powers to exclude them?

11652. Were not steps taken to stamp out the disease, and was it not stamped out in a short time?—It was stamped out at the cost of one penny in the pound in Kilkenny and Waterford, but it could have been kept out by inspecting them. Did they represent to the War Department that it was undesirable these diseased horses should be brought in here—into a country like Ireland that depends so much on its horses?

11653. (Mr. Micks).—Did they know the disease was in existence outside of Ireland?—If they didn't know, they ought to have known it.

11654. You mean it was a matter of public knowledge?—Indeed it was, and the glanders too. It was common property here that glanders was brought into Ireland by cart tramway horses from Glasgow, and there was no inspection made of them at the North Wall. Although they have inspectors there to inspect the stock going away they never inspected those coming in, and it incurred great expense in the County Dublin. We had great difficulty and expense in stamping it out. We also object to the divided authority. The Department has forty-five veterinary surgeons, and the local bodies have others, and there is a sort of clashing in the district which I cannot understand. Dublin County Council tried to stamp out glanders, and wherever our inspector went an inspector of the Department went in his footsteps, two dealing with the same thing. Proper inspection at the North Wall would be the commonsense way of dealing with it. The trade in pigs is very important. They have been attempting to stamp out swine fever in Ireland for a great many years at great cost, and they appear to have failed signally.

11655. (Mr. Brown).—Have you compared the outbreaks now with what they were some time ago?—Yes; there is a great diminution on paper; but do you know they have changed the symptoms? For what they regarded as swine fever originally they don't require the same symptoms at all now, and the statistics are largely fallacious. What they regarded as swine fever then is not regarded as swine fever now.

11656. You are of opinion that there is as much swine fever now as there was then?—No; I am not, for it would be very strange if they didn't do some good, but I do not think they do enough. I attribute it to the fact that the administrative part of the work is in the hands of laymen. We in Ireland remember Mr. Hadley did a great work many years ago with regard to pleuro-pneumonia. Ireland was suffering a tremendous loss annually by that disease, and he was a very drastic way took measures according to his own thinking, and I believe he had complete control then. In a few years he stamped it out. I was strongly opposed to his measures as a member of the Board of Guardians who had charge of the Animals' Disease Act then. I was strongly opposed to his action. I thought it was an outrageous thing to be slaughtering healthy cattle because they were in contact with diseased ones, but he carried it out, and I am convinced he was right, and I never say a greater success. I believe a man who did that ought to have a free hand with regard to swine fever, and I believe he has not. The market for pigs is largely, of course, English, and the Order that was made against Irish pigs excluded all the store pigs from going to England. They have to be slaughtered when they go, and, of course, the pigs that were intended to be fattened could not go, and consequently farmers have ceased to breed them, and there is a falling off of 200,000 in the year, and in the Dublin market there is nearly 1,000 animals less per month than formerly.

11657. (Mr. Micks).—The pig market only?—Yes.

11658. (Mr. O'Connell).—Do you know how far the local markets have increased or diminished in the same time, other than Dublin?—No; I only dealt with Dublin.

11659. It may have been that more pigs were going to other markets than Dublin.

11660. (Mr. Micks).—The number of pigs in the country has gone down.—There is a diminution of 300,000. I do not think anything occurred to make them substitute other markets for Dublin markets; I

do not think there could be any increase in other places.

11661. (Mr. Brown).—Was there not a period when there was a very high price for pigs, during which the exportation of foreign pigs into England was stopped?—The price in the Dublin market is pretty high now, but it was very low after these restrictions began. It is higher now, because the supply has fallen off.

11662. Before the restriction was there not a period of very high prices for store pigs?—Yes; the prices were high, but they fell a great deal when they found they could not ship at all.

11663. (Mr. Dryden).—It is governed probably by the world's price for hogs just the same as all others?—Yes; but the point with regard to Ireland is that we exported a great number of store pigs that were not fit to kill, and this Order stopped them; we could not fatten them ourselves, so we ceased to breed them.

11664. Suppose the price goes down in England would not that tend to lessen the number that is being bred?—It would, but my point is that because we were said to have the disease here—we had not as much of it, but I suppose they took advantage of it—our swine were excluded.

11665. (Mr. Brown).—The Order you complain of was on Order of the English Board of Agriculture?—Yes; but before they made that Order they warned the Department that unless proper steps were taken to stamp out this disease in Ireland they would be stopped just as they did in the case of sheep dipping lately.

11666. You say proper steps were not taken?—Yes.

11667. What should have been done?—They should have done the thing more thoroughly.

11668. Is there any case in which swine fever was reported or discovered that steps were not immediately taken?—I cannot go into individual cases, but I hold that with a staff of forty-five veterinary surgeons at their disposal they ought not to have left themselves open to the point made by the English Department. The disease is capable of being stamped out, I believe. I do not know why they did not do it. I hold that when they did not do it it is only reasonable to think that they did not do enough. I hear complaints about the management of it in a general way constantly. Local authorities have to raise funds for the Department by a rate of from one farthing to one penny in the pound all over Ireland, and out of this they only get half the salary paid their officers. The local authorities send their inspectors to inspect cases of glanders and so forth that are reported, and the Department send these also. I want to know why there is this dual control, and why don't the local authorities get the full salaries paid their officers. I think there is a great objection to that dual control. One party or the other ought to do it, and bear the expenses of it. With regard to the sheep dipping business the English authorities have made Orders against sheep going to England or Scotland unless they have a certificate of their having been dipped here, and the County Council have issued Orders with regard to it. But there ought to be some sort of central authority. I remember the same thing occurred years ago with regard to rabies. It was dealt with by the Board of Guardians, and in the South Union they would adopt the Muzzling Order and in the North they would not, so that a dog might be muzzled on one side of the river and not on the other.

11669. (Mr. Brown).—You think there ought to be a universal sheep dipping Order?—Yes.

11670. (Mr. Dryden).—You think the Department ought to have the entire control of the matter?—Some central authority. If these Boards were charged as we suggest, and if they were all elected, there would be less opposition to an Order made by the Department than there would be when it is constituted as it is at present. But whatever the authority is it ought to be a central authority, and ought to be general, for it is somewhat of a farce now, and a waste of money doing it here and not doing it there, and having it done on different lines in different places. It has been complained of very generally that the correspondence with the Department is very unsatisfactory. They won't answer letters, and there is great delay. The Council that I have to do with prepared a scheme the first year. They were asked to prepare the scheme for technical instruction all over the county, and what they did was to ask the five District Councils that are

in the county to give them their views on the subject. I was Chairman of one of the Councils at the time, the South Rural District Council. What we did was to summon a special meeting of the members and prominent gentlemen, including clergymen of all denominations in the district, and they met and discussed the matter as well as they could. Of course, there was great ignorance at the time as to what ought to be done; we were in the position of feeling our way. But at all events they all made suggestions and put them in writing, and sent them to the Agricultural and Technical Committee of the County. They got the five sets of suggestions together, and in many cases the same thing was repeated in two or more. Then they sent them on to the Department, and we were told the Department would give great assistance with regard to these things. For a full year we never got any reply. They did not say it was a bad scheme or a good scheme. But at the end of a year a gentleman came from the Department and delivered a very long speech to us for three-quarters of an hour, informing us of all the expert knowledge at the disposal of the Department and their anxiety to assist Committees like ours to do everything, and that they would advise us and give us the benefit of all their knowledge in the preparation of the scheme. I having a knowledge of what had been done the year before, asked what became of the scheme we proposed. The secretary said it had been sent to the Department, and we had got no response. We then adopted the same scheme for the second year. In the first year of the life of the committee we had a secretary to whom we paid a small salary of £40 or £50 a year and his expenses. In taxing his account for expenses we found it was very hard to do it, that there was a great deal of trouble in finding out where he was. The next year we said the proper thing would be to pay a salary of about £200 a year, the salary to cover expenses, and not have us going over his bill, every item, to see whether he had a right to get his dinner after he came back to town, or what car fare he should get. They refused to allow us to pay him in that way. Two or three times we asked them to reconsider it, but they refused absolutely. I thought that was a very great piece of interference on their part with the local committee, which was a fairly good committee. There were as good men as you could get in the County Dublin on the committee, and if they were not fit to fix the salary of a secretary they were scarcely fit to do anything under the Act.

11671. (Mr. Brown).—It was the proposal to pay him a lump sum including expenses on which the difference arose?—Yes. There was another instance of their interference then which we thought very badly of. There was a man who had a stallion, and he was entitled to certain fees. His class had to be accompanied by vouchers.

11672. To pay the premium?—He had to vouch for each mare served. He had to send in the books. There were three vouchers sent, £2 each, and his son made a declaration that they had been posted by him, and were lost in the post. We had practical knowledge of the truth of that statement. We knew the man was entitled to the money, and we said so, and we asked permission to pay, but they refused. We went over the same ground again, and said we thought it was not honest to refuse payment to the man, but they still refused. I said then that I would not do this thing in my own business, and that I for one would sign the cheque if anybody else did, and so two others did, and in the course of the year we were surcharged, and we defaulted it. We were summoned to the police courts and were tried for this great crime of paying a man what we knew was due to him. I thought it was the most absurd thing I ever heard of, and the best of it was we could not be heard on the merits. The question was, had the auditor the right to surcharge us. However, I got out what I wanted to say about it, which was what I have just said now, and the result was it was published and we got some value for our £22.

11673. (Mr. Brown).—You did not appeal to the Local Government Board?—We did, but they refused.

11674. (Mr. Mickle).—If you go to the law courts you cannot afterwards go to the Board?—We were advised we had a good defence. One of us had paid, and the other was going to pay, and I said we might as well have paid at first if we did not go on and let them recover it from us. I wanted to get publicity, because I believed such

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methods were had for the successful working of the Department, and was an indication of the want of common sense or practical knowledge on their part. After these three things I said I would remain a member of the Committee no longer, and I have retired. Since then I do not know much about the practical work of it. Mr. Walsh was a member of it. Captain Vesey is a member still, and he can tell you some little things that have occurred since then. There was a scheme for poultry, which consisted of lectures and the providing of eggs.

11675. (Mr. Brown).—What they call poultry stations?—Yes. We found in the County Dublin that the lecturers were not listened to. The lecturer went round on a cat, but no one went to the schoolhouses in the country, and she had nobody to meet her. But we found, on the contrary, that the eggs were greatly appreciated and had a good effect, and the Committee asked the Department to let them have the egg part of the scheme and drop the lectures. But no, they would not; it was a scheme for all Ireland, and the lectures and the eggs must go together; you must take the lecture or you won't get the eggs. Now, that

is silly and ridiculous. There is something here about lace. Now, in connection with the lace classes established at Howth, the managers have been subjected to various inspection and unjust criticism. At the same time, the grant-in-aid in respect of the instructors in crochet is withheld because the teacher who has taught the class to make lace which is admittedly of the first quality, and for which high prices are obtained from Paris houses, has not met with the approval of the experts of the Department. In this connection, it may not be amiss to mention that the teacher referred to has on two occasions submitted samples for the approval of the experts of the Department. It has always been insisted that the expert is unaware whence the samples come, or by whom worked. However, both submitted samples have been rejected, and the maker for official recognition is told that as compared with her previous efforts, the samples submitted on the second occasion showed an improvement. The idea is that the samples are numbered, and they do not know who sent them in, but she was told that her second sample was better than the first.

Mr. P. T. STERN, J.P., Mandistown, Ards, examined.

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11676. (Chairman).—You have been asked to attend here by the County Meath Committee.

11677. You are prepared to give general evidence, I believe, as to the working of the scheme in your county?—Yes.

11678. What have you to say on the subject?—I think at the commencement of the scheme we had a great deal of trouble about the cattle breeding part of it, and although a good deal of improvement has been done under it, I think still there are a great many improvements that might be carried out.

11679. Are you an agriculturist yourself?—Oh, yes, I am a farmer.

11680. What improvements do you suggest?—When they took up the cattle breeding scheme they followed on the lines of the old Queen's Promotions. In those times there were no places to buy a bull or to obtain a premium but at the April Show. Now, when a person bought a bull at the April Show that animal was hardly fit to serve until the middle of May, because they required some little care after being taken back from the show, so that there was practically—if a man wanted to rear or breed calves properly—there was practically only about six weeks when the bull should be used at all, so as to have your cow calve at a proper time. Any calf calving after the 1st May is very difficult to rear during the next autumn and winter, is liable to "house" and a whole lot of things that take off the calves in numbers. We suggested local shows, where well bred bulls, without being forced into that state that would make them fit to show at Ball's Bridge, might be bought. That was carried out for a year or two. Then, I think, I may claim that I had a great deal to do with the getting up of the February Show here. I went to every member of the Royal Dublin Society I knew, and others interested in the Department, to impress on them to give an opportunity of obtaining young bulls earlier in the season. My idea would be that these bulls ought to be obtainable about November. In Scotland great sales take place in October. If bull calves were bred so as to be calving in September, and came in use then the following winter about September, they would be fit to serve in November, and would be fourteen months old, and you would have the cows calving in August, from August on, and a winter or spring calf is very much easier to rear than a summer calf.

11681. (Mr. Brown).—I think what you said in the beginning was that the calving should not be after 1st May?—No, sir, from May until 1st August. The Department are still in a way carrying out the old thing. The bulls are not obtainable still. There are some after the February Show, but the majority of them are not obtainable until the April Show. They could be obtained anywhere provided they were passed at any of the shows. You would, of course, have to risk losing your money, but if you buy a healthy, pure-bred bull there is not much fear of him.

11682. (Chairman).—Do I understand that you think steps ought to be taken to select these bulls early in the season?—Yes, that is earlier than February. The way the thing works at present is, the scheme begins

to work in April. There are only April, May, and June so as to have your calf before 1st May. The bull is practically useless during July, August, September, and, indeed, the early part of October. Then, you have only November and December, because they want you to send in your list of cows by 1st January. Of course, if you are then accepted for the second year it is different. But they are not examined early enough at all in the season. They should be examined now. Let the scheme be working immediately after November, so as to breed the calves in the proper season.

11683. (Mr. Brown).—They could fill up this year's service up to the end of December?—Certainly.

11684. Then, if the inspection were some time in January—it could not be earlier?—I think it should be held in December.

11685. What is the time for examination at present?—Not until February or March. I think it is as late as April, but that was for the second year.

11686. (Mr. Moyle).—What period do you want the cows to calve at?—From 1st August to the 1st May.

11687. Have you considered winter dairying?—Yes, but in my county, Meath, is not of much account.

11688. (Chairman).—Apart from this question, do you think the live stock scheme has been working well?—Well, no, we found it very difficult to get a number of the premium bulls taken.

11689. How many are you entitled to?—Twenty-three. We never get the whole number taken up.

11690. (Mr. Brown).—Might that be due partly to want of enterprises?—No, sir. I do not know that it is my own opinion, but I have heard a great many saying that the Department have restricted the selection of bulls too much, and raised the price too much. A small farmer could not buy a bull, at least he could not last spring because a yearling bull at much less than from £30 to £40.

(Mr. Brown).—It is the competition of our friends on the other side.

11691. (Mr. Dwyer).—It is the competition of the whole world. I saw a bull calf sold for more than £200 the other day?—Very few get the prize that Mr. Dublin gets, but the view I have also heard very frequently is that a bull with a pedigree, even although he would not be fit to be sent to the show, or would be called a weed in the show, would be very much better than a half-bred, well-shaped bull bred in the country; his pedigree would guarantee that probably his sire or mother were very good.

11692. Would it?—If it was a good pedigree it probably would.

11693. Good pedigree means good cattle behind it; but you have not the cattle there to see?—I think a good pedigree shows that probably his line is very good, and it is more likely to be good than a bull whose father or mother you don't know anything of.

11694. (Chairman).—You are not in favor of lowering the standard by having other than pure-bred bulls. Would you have half-bred bulls?—Oh, no, no; but I would try to make the pedigree bull more come-at-able by the farmers of the country.

11702. (Mr. Dryden).—Is it your object to show that it was depending on the pedigree, not on its shape?—I would not altogether depend on the pedigree, but I would please the pedigree beast that would not have as good shape before the beast that would have better shape, but as pedigree, for the reason that the likelihood was that the pedigree beast, beast for beast, was better.

11703. We must admit that every animal has a pedigree, even that other beast you speak of, but you don't know what it is!—No. He may have ten different sires.

His grandmother may have been a Jersey and the next cross a Kerry and the next a Fokked Angus.

11704. (Mr. Michie).—Do they ever "make up" pedigrees?—Oh, possibly there may be cases.

11705. (Chairman).—Your object, I understand, is rather to increase the number of bulls that ought to be available for service?—I think it would be better.

11706. And you would rather do it in that way than introduce a half-bred bull?—I would, certainly.

11707. (Mr. Dryden).—A half-bred bull, if it is just a common run that won't cross. Do you think a great many cows here have been bred from Short-horn bulls for years and years. Some of them—although I don't know how you are to work it out—some of those would answer very well!—From my knowledge of the people who get these half-bred bulls or bulls without a pedigree, they never know what the mother of sire was; they go into the fair, see a good shaped bull, and buy him. That bull may not be a Short-horn at all.

11708. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say against the present scheme except what you have said already with reference to premium bulls?—I think everything has been done almost that can be done. The time for keeping them has been extended to three years old.

11709. (Mr. Dryden).—And four years old?—That's another question whether that was a good change or not, because if a person got a good bull it might pay him well enough for the third year without any premium, and it might induce him to bring another bull into the neighbourhood. It is quite possible in the old Queen's Friesian days that we had more three-year-old bulls in the country than at present. They got the premium only for one year. If I did not get a premium next year, my neighbour would likely go in and get it. I would keep the same bull for two or three years after getting the premium the first year, and my neighbour would have another.

11710. (Mr. Brown).—The figures are altogether against that. They have been increasing every year!—I don't know whether you could get an increase of premium bulls in the country for the last seven or eight years. You cannot get a premium without sending in to the Dublin Show, and a great many bulls that are just as good as those sent to the Show now, are kept at home and used. It costs you about £30 to send a bull to the Show, and that itself is a heavy charge. You cannot get a premium without sending to the show.

11711. (Mr. Dryden).—That only applies to the first year?—Yes; the second year is looked up locally.

11712. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say about other parts of the agricultural work?—I think the poultry scheme is doing a great deal of good. As Father Barry has told, we were in a difficulty in regard to the agricultural instruction, but I hope we are over that now. The agricultural lectures have done a great deal of good. I know small farmers suffering from "finger and toe" brought on by their own treatment of the land, and when the instructor came to tell them to put lime on the land. They immediately saw the benefit they got from it. Of course a great many would say these lectures are no good, and it is very hard to get the people to attend. I heard a gentleman say that the lectures were not attended; people are very peculiar in some places. In my own immediate locality there were some people good enough to say when this thing began that it was a landlord's business, and that it was only to make more rent, and a great many small farmers were discouraged, but that is got over now.

11713. I suppose the Department had to encounter a great many prejudices?—Certainly it began under many difficulties.

11714. (Mr. Brown).—Do you find if a little trouble is taken by the local Committee, you can get a good

attendance?—Yes; time can overcome the prejudices of some people. Some people would have more influence than the people connected with the Committee, and you must get round those.

11715. And from those people into a local Committee?—With regard to the poultry scheme, I think the Department were right in trusting on the whole of it, for nothing has done more good than the lectures with regard to the trusting of food.

11716. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—The lecture does not mean merely an address?—No, it is practical. Then with regard to the packing of eggs. I have often heard from the Secretary of the Slane Poultry Company at Dundalk, that they ship weekly £2,000 worth of eggs from Carrickmacross alone. The selecting, grading, and packing of these eggs is very important for a place like Carrickmacross. Formerly the eggs were brought in as the hens laid them, in flocks and dirt.

11717. (Chairman).—On the whole, you give a favourable opinion of the work done by the Department?—Yes, as far as the agriculture part has gone, I believe it is working well.

11718. (Mr. Brown).—About the domestic economy and cooking teaching?—Yes, that has done a great deal of good to the girls in my neighbourhood; they have taken greatly to it; they are sorry they haven't it often. So far as making bread and laundry work are concerned, there has been a great improvement in the servants. Nearly all the people in my neighbourhood sent their servants to it, and were surprised at the improvements made in a short time.

11719. And your cottage prize scheme is doing good?—Yes, we were the first to adopt that, and it was a very necessary thing for us, because we have any amount of labourers' cottages, and a great many of the labourers were inclined to do nothing but borrow a plough from their master and put in oats.

11720. (Chairman).—The multiplication of labourers' cottages has expedited the improvement?—Yes.

11721. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Some of the evidence we had suggested the possibility of the cottage prize scheme having served its day, in this sense—that you may have 500 cottages available in a certain area, and you might have competition each year as between only something under 100 of them, so that while you had got that 100 to take it up and do their best for their cottages, you had still some 400 that take no interest in it at all until some other step would have to be taken to get them to push forward!—I think when one sees his neighbour working well at his garden he gets ashamed of not doing so himself. One family might be able to keep their garden in a very perfect state, whereas another man might not be able to keep it at all. If he has only one man in the house, or is a ploughman, he must attend his horses early and late, and has not much time for the garden, but if he sees his neighbour working at the garden he will get the women of his family to do something. Then, besides those who compete there are a much larger lot that are influenced in keeping their places better, even if they do not come up to the high standard that would induce them to go in for competition! I would say that. Does your Committee exclude those who have already won prizes?—We have a special class for them. Any person getting a prize in the three previous years is put in a class by themselves for the whole county.

11722. (Mr. Dryden).—So you bring in a new lot like that every year?—Yes, and I think there are very few of our cottagers that do not go in.

11723. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Then the proportion is more than one in five?—Oh, yes, I think there are very few that do not compete. The class we had the most trouble to get in were the small farmers; they have a prejudice against any one examining their yards and houses.

11724. (Rev. R. Barry).—I stipulated with my Committee that they should understand I would be as liberty to give expression to views that perhaps are peculiar to myself, and I did not bind myself to merely speak their particular views, and the Chairman of the Committee said—"Yes, that is understood." I would not like to be looked upon as perhaps claiming an authority for some of the views that I gave expression to that I had not.

11725. (Chairman).—Then we may take it you are not altogether speaking for the Technical Committee?

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—Not necessarily for the Technical Committee, because I had the local circumstances of Oldcastle to deal with, which, naturally concern the locality I am residing in. I agree with Mr. Steen that these

smaller schemes do an amount of good, but they are merely touching the surface; they are not going to the bottom of things at all.

Mr. STEEN further examined.

Mr. Steen.

11718. The Committee gave us no instructions as to what we were to say. We were sent here to give our views.

11719. (Mr. Brown).—Have you had any agricultural classes as distinguished from lectures—winter classes?—No.

11720. Would they go to some extent to meet

your views if there were winter classes held at certain localities where boys who left the National schools could be taught?—As a supplement to itinerant teaching, I desecy, and when the Technical Department comes to work in conjunction with the National schools in teaching domestic economy they should collect that poor children cannot be expected to go through a course of experimental science in a laboratory.

Mr. JAMES EGAN examined.

Mr. James
Egan.

11721. (Chairman).—You are from Coughan, near Philipstown, King's County?—Yes; I represent the Agricultural Sub-Committee of the King's County.

11722. Representing specially the north part of the King's County?—The northern part. There are two sub-committees, and there was one represented here by Mr. Doherty; I represent the northern part of the county.

11723. The first head on which you wish to give evidence is the live stock schemes dealing with the improvement of horses and cattle?—Yes. To commence with, I regret to say our Committee, owing to lack of funds, or otherwise, had to reduce considerably the number of nominations for mares this year. I think we reduced from seventy-five to sixty, and bays had to be reduced considerably, and the premium had to be taken off one half. Up to last year we had considerable difficulty in filling the number of premiums that we were allowed. I think it came to seventeen, and we never had more than fourteen until last year, when the whole number was taken up. This year we had to reduce this number by one in consequence of the want of funds. I look upon that as a very serious business. Of course I cannot blame the Department, for they have sent down their representatives there, and after thanking the whole thing out we had no other alternative. With regard to the horse-breeding scheme a number of men think with me that although there has been a considerable expenditure for the improvement of horses, there is no such thing as an improvement at all compatible with the expense that has been gone to for the last fifteen or twenty years.

11724. (Mr. Brown).—The Department is only in existence six years?—There have been premiums granted before the Department came in.

11725. I don't think the nomination system was in existence then?—No, there were premiums granted to stallions.

11726. By the Royal Dublin Society?—I do not know what society, but I know there were premiums granted to stallions.

11727. (Chairman).—What we are primarily concerned with is what took place under the Department?—Our Committee sometime in November last year moved that the Department be requested to pay some attention to the rearing of the breed of the Irish draught horse, and consequently the county proposed that there should be a conference of the twelve Leinster counties held here in Dublin or elsewhere representative of each county, and out of the twelve Leinster counties I believe also counties did send their representatives, and it met here in the Horse Show week. We have no official information from the Department—that is the worst of it—whether it is that they don't think it worth their while to commence these things to the Committee or not I do not know, but we have no information on what I am going to say. We have heard that the Department has actually started a stud for the breeding of this Irish draught horse, and has actually purchased mares with that intention. I have heard that myself, and I have actually seen a mare that was sold for that purpose; whether it is a fact or not I cannot say. The conference met here in the show week and passed a certain resolution approving of the step the Department had already taken, that is, if they did take it; we have only hearsay about it; I have no information only what I heard from others who take an interest in the subject as well as myself. I don't

believe that the Irish draught horse was a purebred horse, but I suppose to go back a few years there was no pure-bred Shire horse, and to go back a few years further there was no pure-bred Clydesdale horse. But that type of horse did exist in Ireland, a very valuable type of horse it was, and forty or fifty years ago it was nothing unusual for farmers to get from forty to eighty guineas for three-year-old colts from their every-day mares in general use at the time. Now it is a most difficult thing to get colts of that type except in the case of some man that has a very good half-bred mare. Of course I mean mares by thoroughbred horses, but certainly I do not think the improvement is in the horses that one would naturally expect from all the attention that we paid to them, and we tried to impress on the Department the necessity of rearing this breed of Irish draught horses.

11728. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you are aware that the first step the Department took in that direction some years ago was to try and find out if there was any sense in rearing the type of the Irish draught horse by calling for them to be examined?—Yes, I inspect them by their inspectors.

11729. That has been done?—That has been, and some of them have been actually recognised.

11730. They were very few?—Very few.

11731. But that was a step in the right direction?—That was a step in the right direction.

11732. Anything else that could be done must be a slow process in endeavouring to create a breed?—Yes, to create a breed. There still, I believe, remains a remnant of the breed, and if they were put together it would be well, but as you say it must be a slow process, and it would be much better for the Department to proceed slowly in commencing than to rush things too fast. In dealing with the scheme of premium stallions, I think that in our county there are about six premium sires, registered premium horses. Four of these, I think, are of the draught type, Clydesdales, and these are thoroughbred horses. For each of these registered horses there are at least six or eight horses serving in the county, and I take it that applies to every county. The general public breeding from these horses have no guarantee whether they are sound or otherwise. I know it would be a very big undertaking, but if I could possibly have my own way, I would have no horse serving in Ireland that did not pass a Government inspection to prove that the horse was sound. I have been told they could hardly do that without getting an Act of Parliament. But in Japan they seem to manage things better. Not very long ago I saw in one of our farming papers that every six there was ordered to be castrated where 90 per cent of his two-year-old colts did not pass either veterinary or agricultural inspection, and I think if that same thing was applied at home it would be a very good thing.

11733. (Chairman).—You would want rather a strong Department to carry that through?—Yes, I would apply that also to bulls. In our county we had seventeen premiums last year. This year we had to cut off one.

11734. (Mr. Brown).—What was the money wanted for?—I don't know. I was not present the day the scheme was thrashed out.

11734. You must have adopted some new expenditure this year?—There was the expenditure attached to the small local shows last year and this year.

11735. Some new shows that came into existence?—Yes; and I anticipate some will go to these smaller shows. The principal breed of these bulls kept in the County is Shorthorn. I find there is only one Hereford and two Aberdeen Angus. A gentleman said here a while ago that he had some doubts whether it was good policy to give these premiums to a bull. The first year that scheme came into operation in our county—it was more marked in the Queen's County—where we could not get people to take up in our county. I think it was only five the first year, but in Queen's County the Committee authorized a certain number of men in whom they had confidence to buy eighteen yearling bulls. They did so, and they were given to certain men who took them up. The next year out of these eighteen bulls only eight got premiums. They were giving the preference to yearlings with the idea that the two-year-olds being these would remain in the county. But the way it worked out was this—that next year no man would give fifty guineas for a yearling and run the risk of only getting one £25 premium.

11736. (Mr. Dryden).—Why were they rejected the second year?—They were not rejected, but the Committee gave the preference to yearlings.

11737. I don't understand why yearlings should get a preference over two-year-olds.

(Mr. Brown).—The idea was to get in new blood. (Mr. Dryden).—Then they should give a greater premium the first year.

(Mr. Brown).—They began with a £25 premium.

11738. (Witness).—The idea of the Department was the idea of that gentleman a while ago—it worked two ways. Their idea was that with a yearling coming into the country the man got a premium and he would keep it as a two-year-old next year, and the premium might go to his neighbor who had a yearling. But an ordinary farmer would give fifty guineas for a yearling with every prospect that he would get only one premium.

11739. (Mr. Brown).—That was all changed the first year in fact; it was changed the second year to some extent, but it was with the qualification that preference ought to be given to yearlings. Then after that it was left open altogether.

(Mr. Dryden).—That is the only way otherwise. You should give higher premiums for yearlings than for the three-year-olds.

11740. (Witness).—With regard to these bulls that received these premiums their owners looked to them to an extraordinary extent—in cases too much so—and I found from my own experience that a large number of these yearling bulls forced in that way are of very little use. They are very unfrailful; in fact some of them it is almost impossible to get them to serve at all. I bought a yearling last year and I could not get him to serve until I put him out, let him out with bullocks, and let him walk the Mother of himself. But, stranger still, when I took him in, as soon as I began to feed him again he got into the very same way. There are general complaints that these bulls are unfrailful, but I do not think so, mine was fourteen or fifteen months old when I got him in April, and he never served until July, and never would I think only for the means I took with him.

11741. (Mr. Dryden).—Every bull ought to have exercise?—The Department sent out leaflets to those persons who get premium bulls and they give a scale of feeding for them.

11742. Do they say anything about exercise?—Oh, they do. The bulls are exercised if they have a paddock to walk in, but I do not think the people take them out on the road and exercise them. The way it runs in the ladies is every alternate day to walk him about a mile, but to walk much more than a mile in the paddock every day himself. Anyhow they give a scale of feeding in it, but any practical man who has been a feeder of cattle would laugh at the idea of that scale of feeding. For year-old flagstons they say a mixture of 10lbs. of oats and meal daily should be added to their other food, rape, turnips, or grass, or whatever you are giving him. The bull I have got if he got 10lbs. of oats meal would be useless as a bull. The same thing I said about stallions applies to bulls in a more marked way.

Despite all the efforts we make to improve the breed of cattle by getting in good bulls there is one thing that will always leave very inferior cattle. In the South of Ireland they send out calves in May and June of a very inferior description, and they are distributed over the country; they may be from a week to two or three weeks old.

11743. (Mr. Dryden).—Those are dairymen?—From Limerick they don't sell until September, they are better class, but chiefly from Cork; I think they come from the west of Cork. They don't care one pin what sort of bull is up; the cheapest bull they can get. They allow him out with a certain number of calves or cows. Even at home it is the same way with those men who are living by the springer trade. There are large numbers of men who are trading in springers. They fetch a high price; they keep them to calve, and send them out to the Dublin market or over to England, and they are sold as calves huffers with the first calf, and the calves that remain at home are of a most inferior description.

11744. Why do people buy these calves?—It is not easy to be a judge of a "stuck" calf.

11745. (Mr. Brown).—Some of them look very well!—Yes. Now we have impostors in butter-making and poultry-dealing. There is no doubt that there has been a great improvement in butter, but the great difficulty is how there is going to be a market for it. I fail to see how better in the King's County can ever be marketed at a profit. Their best butter is only worth ninepence a pound in Philadelphia.

11746. (Mr. Brown).—That is what the farmer gets for it?—Yes, that is better made after those methods recommended by the instructors.

11747. (Mr. Brown).—Is that summer or winter price?—It is the actual price at present. It may rise in winter.

11748. (Chairman).—Has there been any improvement in the price of butter?—It is cheaper about a month ago; it disheartens the people. The difficulty is this, that small farmers only make five or six pounds of butter a week, not more than that, and then making this milk-curd butter the very way it wants to be made. It goes into the shop at Philadelphia, and is sold some the counter. I don't know how they get rid of it. This butter will hardly keep a month in the shop like that, or weeks. Then, the whole thing is blended together, and where it is sent to I do not know. All that is learned from these instructors seems to me to be lost in that way. If there could be any means by which a certain system of co-operation, so that the Department could possibly handle this stuff, it would be a good thing, particularly for the poultry and butter. The poultry instructor goes round and gives lectures. There are a certain number of egg-stations. They can get the very best eggs, but where they did make a mistake—the egg stations are rather widespread in our county, first, because there are different strains. There are laying strains, and strains for general purposes, and strains for table use; and one person got the egg strain, when he should get some other one. The great mistake was that the people would about, not knowing the difference, went and purchased these eggs, and the consequence was that when they went with the chickens to sell as usual, the dealers flung the chickens there, but when these instructors came around they were just beginning to see what strains they should have. Any of them that went to the laying stations knows where to get them, and anyone who wants general purposes fowl or the best for market also knows where to get them. I was present at the instructor's lectures myself in two or three centres. She teaches them how to train, she teaches them how to pick these fowls, and how to sell them on the most scientific principles.

11749. (Mr. Mickel).—And what breed to select?—Yes, for ornamenting and fattening purposes. The wife of a well-to-do farmer or his daughter may get a good price for a few chickens if they have got private customers in Dublin, or even in London. They can send up a pair of chickens or even two or three, and get a good price, but the bulk of the people have not got will, under the present circumstances, gain very much.

11750. You think the profit will go to the dealers?—Yes.

11751. (Mr. Brown).—Is not co-operation the remedy for that?—That is the very thing. There could be possibly some system of co-operation got up by the Department, or the people aided by the Department.

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11752. There is a society specially for that purpose, the L.A.O.S. If they applied to that society they would be put on the lines of co-operation?—Yes.

11753. (Chairman).—Is the L.A.O.S. working at all in the King's County?—I have just heard of it, that is all. I never saw any evidence of it down with us.

11754. They don't go unless they are asked. If people have the idea of forming a co-operative society, they ask for information from this body, and they get it!—The difficulty of getting rid of these poultry is this—I have heard that in England they have great fattening stations in Surrey and in Sussex. If we had fattening stations, or if the Department would start an experimental fattening station, or join with some of the authorities, it would be a good thing.

11755. (Mr. Mick).—Each farmer does his own fattening in Sussex?—I thought there were large fattening stations there.

11756. (Mr. Brown).—The Department has started a large fattening station at Avondale!—It would be a good thing if the small farmers could do the fattening at home, and kill and dress at home. The instructors pointed out to them, and if there could be a way to get these fowls to market.

11757. (Chairman).—You would attach very great importance to that?—Yes.

11758. Increased facilities for marketing. How about geese and turkeys in the King's County?—Turkeys are generally sold to those dealers alive.

11759. Have the prices for them improved at all?—I will just give an instance. I have seen a certain amount of turkeys killed at home last year and prepared, and they were sent to salarman in Manchester. The price here makes ten shillings each for the cocks and five shillings or six shillings for the hens. But they were sold at the rate of 6d. per pound in Manchester. The cocks average 4½ pounds each, and that is considered a fairly good average. Well, they hardly paid the expenses. I forget what the freight over was, but when the salesman's commission was taken out of it and the freight charges, it was 3s. 6d. for twenty-eight birds in Manchester.

11760. (Mr. Brown).—What did they realize in the gross?—It was something over what was bid for them at home, a trifling thing.

11761. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It was more than they could have sold for if alive?—Very little. It would hardly repay them for killing and sending them to the railway station.

11762. Are there any other points you wish to mention?—No, nothing more.

The Committee adjourned.

THIRTY-FOURTH PUBLIC SITTING.—FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 1906.

At 18, Lower Begnet-street, Dublin.

Present:—

Sir KENELM DUNST, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.
Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGBURN.
Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, G.B., Secretary.

Mr. D. J. COGAN, M.P., examined.

11753 (Chairman).—You are a member of Parliament, and I think you represent the County Wicklow Committee of Agriculture?—Yes; I am Chairman of the County Committee.

11754. And a member of the Council of Agriculture?—Yes, sir.

11755. I see that your first point is the constitution of the Department; that the Council and the Board should be elected by the County Councils, and the Board should possess executive and administrative functions?—Yes; I hold strongly, and my County Council and County Committee support me in this view, that the Boards of Agriculture and of Technical Instruction should be wholly elected bodies, and that the executive functions, including control of finance, in all their branches should be controlled and administered by and through these elected bodies; that the Council of Agriculture and Technical Instruction should be a wholly elected body, appointed by the County Councils with three representatives from each administrative county, who might be either members or non-members of the County Council; that the Boards should be elected by the Council of Agriculture; that it should be the province and the duty of the Council to direct the policy of the Boards, and the Boards should take into their consideration all questions both of policy and administration referred to them by the Council, and if on examination and after due consideration, they found themselves unable, from any cause, to carry out the directions of the Council they should so report to the next meeting of the Council.

11756. May I ask you, in that view of the County Council based on what I may call general principles; that is to say, that every Board of this sort in Ireland should be an elected board; is it an application of the general principle?—The application of the general principle; and this view has been borne in upon the County Councils by the experience that has been gained by the Councils from the working of the County Agricultural Committees and from what they would expect ought to have been done by the Department.

11757. Of course, the Council of Agriculture and the Boards consist at present of two-thirds elected and one-third nominated?—Yes.

11758. Have you ever known, in your experience as a member of the Council, any marked difference of opinion between elected and nominated members; have they divided into two camps at all?—I don't think so. I think the Council has been generally unanimous on many of the questions that have been brought before the Council from time to time; but the feeling of everybody connected with the Council, the elected members at least, and of the representative bodies throughout the country is that the Council itself has no real power in the shaping of the policy of the Department or in its general administration; that the Council is more or less a debating body, and all its discussions were of an academic character.

11759. By the Act of Parliament, of course, it has no power except that of electing a proportion of the Board?—Yes; our desire is that the law should be altered in that respect.

11760. You don't agree with some of the witnesses who said that, although there is no actual or statutory power, yet still there is a very real and effective power in the Council; that the opinion of the Council, as at present constituted, is not one which could be, or is, lightly disregarded by the Department?—I have read Sir Horace Plunkett's evidence on that point.

11761. I am not thinking of his evidence, but of the evidence of members of the Council of Agriculture itself?—In so far as the Council of Agriculture represents the opinion of the country the Department cannot wholly ignore the opinion of the country as expressed by the Council; but the Council has had great difficulty from time to time in inducing the Department to adopt certain lines of action.

11762. I quite understand that. Can you give me any instance in which the Council of Agriculture as at present constituted has not represented the feeling of the country?—Oh, no; I do not know; on the contrary, I believe that the Council of Agriculture does represent the feeling of the country.

11763. If the action of the Department did not represent the opinion of the country and the Council does, you would commence to find considerable friction between the Council and the Department; the evidence before us has been that no such friction existed; do you agree with that?—I don't think there has been any direct friction; but my position is that the Council has no real control, apart altogether from the statutory consideration, so real control, from the public point of view, in the action and policy of the Department itself; and if the Department at any time wished to act independently of the Council it was quite possible for it to do so. There is a Vice-President who is almost absolute in his control of the policy of the Department itself, apart altogether from the financial position. If such a man were in office and had a Government behind him that would enable him to do so, he could defy the opinion of the country.

11764. (Mr. Brown).—Could you give us any specific case in which the Council has passed resolutions touching the policy of the Department which have not been carried out?—I can give you one very prominent one, and of great importance to the country; that is, in connection with the horse-breeding. The Council has over and over again passed resolutions in the early stage of the movement after considerable discussion; some of these resolutions, on the suggestion of the Vice-President were withdrawn with a kind of implied promise that the matter would be fully considered and the advice of the Council acted on.

11765. (Chairman).—Is that on the question of the Irish draught horse?—It is, sir; a question that is considered to be one very vital to horse-breeding in Ireland.

11766. (Mr. Brown).—Have not the Department taken action on that?—They have. This year they promised to do so, and we have yet to learn that they have taken action.

11767. Did they not take action last year by seeking to register all the horses of that particular breed that were disseminable?—I don't think they took action last year, because we took the question up again at the Council in the spring.

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11770. (Mr. Miskin).—Notice was given that horses might within one month register. It was mentioned by Mr. Hanlon, of Carlow, who said the time was so short it was practically of no use.—That was last spring. The time was too short, undoubtedly.

11771. (Mr. Brown).—It has been two years in operation—I don't know. It is not two years in operation because I have been taking a very active interest in this matter and I had an unofficial discussion with the Principal of the Agricultural Section last spring after the meeting of the Council.

11772. It is easy to ascertain, as a matter of fact, whether it was in operation in 1905.—The Department said they endeavored to find out suitable stallions of the Irish cart-horse type, and that they did not succeed in doing so. That was the answer then; and it was contended at the last meeting of the Council that the answer was unsatisfactory by those who were best qualified to judge, because there was a strong feeling—whether there was any reason for that feeling or not I don't know—but there was a strong feeling abroad in the country that the Inspectors of the Department of all are not the best men suited for the inspection of this type of horse, and, secondly, that they did not want this type of horse. The Department at one of the meetings of the Council promised it would create a stud.

11773. That is a different point. The suggestion was made for the first time at the November meeting for the establishment of the stud and we were informed at the May meeting that steps were being taken in that direction.—Yes; it was about being done.

11774. There was a resolution proposed by Mr. Hanlon and seconded by Mr. Delaney on the 14th November, 1906.—"That we request the Board to have another inspection of stallions throughout the country made so that those of Irish draught blood may be selected"; that implies that there had been an inspection made.—Yes; it was stated so. At the same time Professor Campbell endeavored to create a difficulty about it. I myself attended him at the meeting of the Council because of his attitude in reference to it.

11775. I find a resolution at the February meeting, which would imply that it had been in operation a year longer than I thought.—Proposed by Mr. Hanlon and seconded by Mr. Delaney, "That whilst approving of the encouragement given by the Department to the breeding of the Irish draught horse, we consider the premium of £50 quite inadequate to effect the object desired." That would imply that even prior to February, 1905, the Department had taken steps in reference to the Irish draught horse, of which these two gentlemen approved.—Yes; it was stated by the Department that they had taken steps, but whatever the steps were they were without fruit because they have not a single Irish cart-horse on their register.

11776. That might be because an Irish cart-horse could not be found. Mr. Hanlon and Mr. Delaney say (and this was carried unanimously at the meeting), "That whilst approving of the encouragement given by the Department to the breeding of the Irish draught horse," they suggest something further.—That resolution was passed upon a statement made by the Department that they had made these efforts.

11777. It was made to the knowledge of the members. Surely they knew what had been done during the preceding year.—But still the position is that at each meeting of the Council the question has been brought forward by these very same gentlemen, showing that they have not been satisfied with the action of the Department in the matter.

11778. (Mr. Miskin).—Your point is that nothing has been done.—Nothing has been done.

11779. (Chairman).—The Irish draught horse has not been "summoned from the vasty deep"—The contention from the beginning, and it was the contention of the Royal Dublin Society, and, unfortunately, the Department in this matter has followed too closely the action of the Royal Dublin Society, the contention has been that there was no stud-book for this type of horse, and, therefore, this type of horse ought not to be entitled to be considered by the Department at all, with the result that the Department is six years in Ireland now and instead of doing anything to encourage and foster the breeding of the best type of horse in the world, the Irish half-bred or cart-horse type, from which the best horses in the United Kingdom have been produced at all times, they did everything they could to let it die out.

11780. (Mr. Brown).—So far as I can find, the first resolution on the subject was proposed by Mr. Hanlon, seconded by Mr. O'Gorman, on the 12th April, 1904, when it was resolved:—"That it is desirable, in the interests of Agriculture and horse-breeding, that the Irish draught horse should be preserved in this country." The Vice-President said that Mr. Hanlon's suggestion should be submitted to the Committee on Horse-Breeding, and the resolution was, by leave, withdrawn. And at the next meeting, April, 1905, the Department were unanimously commended by the Council for the steps they had taken and they were asked to do something further, which they apparently did.—Because the steps taken were not sufficient to carry out the intentions of those interested in the matter.

11781. They were not sufficient perhaps to find what did not exist.—Mr. Hanlon himself will be able to tell that.

11782. We have all been invited to bring motions under the notice of the Department.—What is everybody's business is nobody's. The Board are officers who ought to carry these resolutions out.

(Chairman).—Whether the Irish draught horse exists or not.

11783. (Mr. O'Giffin).—Mr. Cogan said the existing Council of Agriculture had no real control. I should be glad to hear your views as to the reality which we have been informed attaches to the control of the Boards.—

(Mr. Brown).—Mr. Cogan may have some further instances of resolutions of the Council which were not attended to by the Department, besides horse-breeding. Have you any further instances?—Oh, no; I am only speaking generally, because the resolutions of the Council have been very few and far between with regard to the general working of the Department itself. It is only within the last year or two that anybody took any real interest in the working of the Council of Agriculture, because it was looked upon as a mere debating and academical body, having no control of the work of the Department; and the work done between the Department and the Council was purely done between the Council and the County Committees. I do not complain of the fact that the Department has failed to do anything that perhaps it had the power to do except in this one particular instance. I do complain very strongly of that, because I take a very great interest in horse-breeding myself and I am a fairly large breeder. I feel strongly and there is a very strong feeling in the country, that it would be the greatest of blunders to allow the Irish breed of horse to become extinct, and that is what we are fast approaching from the policy adopted by the Department. I intend to deal with it later on.

11784. (Mr. O'Giffin).—Are you referring later on to the question of control by the Boards?—The Boards in conjunction with their Executive officers would have the preparation of all draft schemes and full approval of same when they came back from the County Committees, and no administrative action would be taken by any officer until it was first approved by the Board. At the present time the functions of the Council are of a purely academical character, called "advisory," and the Department may or may not carry out its recommendations. It should be in a position to alone have the power to initiate and direct the policy of the Department, from time to time, and to refuse or grant its sanction to any scheme which the Boards might submit to it. Sir Horace Plunkett, whom I desire to speak of with great respect, and to whom a great deal is due for the services rendered by him in the great task of organizing the Department, and the network of Administrative Committees throughout the country, which, in the earlier part, was of a most laborious nature; I have also pleasure in acknowledging the general satisfaction given to my County Committee by the officers of the Department. Sir Horace Plunkett said in his evidence that he held very strongly that unpaid administrative powers are a constitutional mistake, and that he is not a believer in having executive functions and daily routine work done by popularly elected bodies. This expression of principle is exactly the dividing line between the progressive Liberal and reactionary Tory. Would not the Secretary of the Department, who is a responsible official, with the assistance of the heads of each department, be equal to the daily routine, when his business is mapped out for him by his Board, to whom

he would be responsible. Surely it was intended that this officer would be the man to administer the routine work of the Department when it was decided that the Vice-President should be six months out of every twelve absent in Parliament. And then, Sir Horace Plunkett forgets how well and successfully all the great municipalities of the United Kingdom are administered by unpaid Boards directing the expenditure of many millions per annum. But Sir Horace Plunkett also said that he could not successfully administer the Department unless he retained the confidence of the Council and the Board, but, with all respect, as far as I have been able to judge, Irish public opinion has not, up to now, taken the Council or the Board very seriously, as it has always looked upon them as possessing no real power in shaping the policy of the Department or controlling its executive officers. The interest taken was more or less academic, as indeed the proceedings of the Council itself have always been. And until we heard of the appointment of this Commission of Enquiry my experience of the working of these bodies leads me to take precisely the same view. I am inclined to think that Sir Horace Plunkett takes too personal a view when he considers the relative positions of a permanent or a changeable Vice-President, according as Governments come and go, and a Council and a Board with nominal powers only. He personally may be the best possible Vice-President, but he would not always remain Vice-President, and should his successor prove to be of a more arbitrary disposition and refuse to be guided by the opinion of the popularly elected representatives, he could do a great deal of harm and the result might be the stoppage of the whole machinery by the Council's refusing to strike a rate for the working of the scheme; and I submit that such powers with such disastrous possibilities should not be left in the hands of one man for even a week. I am satisfied that Sir Horace Plunkett, although he has made more than one grievous mistake, which are not likely to be soon forgotten, has done his best according to his lights, and, under a system of full popular control of the Department, I should be very glad to see him occupying the most prominent position on the Council and Board. I believe his whole heart is in his work, and, with the experience the last six years have brought him, I am sure no better man could be found to fill such a position. My County Committee has had many interviews with the Vice-President and the chief executive officers, and we were always received most cordially and many of our representations have been embodied in the schemes for our county. We are convinced at the same time that the schemes actually adopted and circulated by the Department are of too east-on character, and they should be made more elastic so as to enable the County Committees to adapt them to the special needs and circumstances of their county. We also think, now that the people through the agency of statement lectures and instruction have been induced to take a livelier interest in acquiring practical up-to-date agricultural knowledge, one or two farms from thirty to fifty acres each should be acquired in each county and worked as training grounds for the sons of small farmers and agricultural labourers on the German plan, and which at the same time would act as models for the farmers of the county; but it should be laid down as a primary condition that these farms should be self-supporting and should be worked on a sound commercial basis, and the accounts and results of their working published annually, so that the public could see whether the methods adopted by the experts were successful and ought to be adopted by themselves or not. I submit that would have been a much more effective plan of teaching the agricultural population the most approved scientific and economical system of farming than the purchase of these large unwieldy farms of 700 acres in other parts of Ireland which Professor Campbell referred to in his evidence. If the 2,100 acres had been split up in this manner in the thirty-three administrative counties of Ireland they would each have two farms of over thirty acres each; and surely if, as is contended, the arable land of Ireland would pay best in farms of about this size, properly cultivated, this plan would have been the most natural one to adopt.

11793. (Chairman).—That suggestion of yours of having model farms conducted on commercial principles for the purpose of showing that land properly used and properly tilled could be made to pay well—

that is a suggestion which is very well worth consideration indeed. But it is rather a different thing, as it not, and has rather a different object from the large farms which you have just been speaking of, Athlery, Clonsilla, and Ballinacree. These are not, strictly speaking, so much commercial establishments as educational establishments. If you run a farm for educational purposes and for purposes of experiment, and so on, you very likely cannot make that farm pay commercially. You try a series of experiments, some of which succeed and some of which fail, and, therefore, it is a very expensive thing to run a farm of that kind. They are worked with different objects, both of which may be good—I quite understand.

11794. I want to know whether you object to these large farms, Clonsilla, and so on. One function they discharge is that of training teachers. We have already had the Model Farm at Glasnevin for that purpose, and it has been doing very good work in that direction, but after all it cannot be contended that it would be necessary to have a farm of 700 acres even for the purpose of training agricultural teachers. I think there is one of 500 acres.

11795. (Mr. Brown).—Athlery is about 700 acres!—These farms are so large that the greater portion of them is under grass.

11796. Where are the stud farms to be got?—There is one at Clonsilla.

11797. That is already used?—As a stud farm.

11798. But I mean for the Irish draught horse, and other purposes that the Department are required to provide for?—They have a stud farm at Clonsilla for the Irish draught horse. The practice of the Department has hitherto been the purchasing of thoroughbreds and keeping them at Clonsilla until they were taken off their hands by the County Committee. They have a number of their horses there still, but that would not prevent them having a small stud of Irish draught horses from time to time.

11799. You think there is room for everything there?—There need not be so many thoroughbreds there.

11800. (Chairman).—What I wanted to know was, do you approve of the system of having these farms?—I do approve of Glasnevin, and, of course, of the Munster Dairy Farm in the South of Ireland, but I should think that two for a country the size of Ireland would have been abundant for the purpose of training teachers.

11801. (Mr. O'Connell).—They are for training farmers as teachers?—For training well-to-do farmers and young men who get Scholarships under the County Committees for the purpose of teaching. The plan that has been suggested here is a plan that is in operation in Württemberg and other places in Germany, where they have small farms that are worked for the purpose of training young farmers and giving them the best up-to-date methods, and at the same time these farms will act as a kind of model in the country for the farmers.

11802. (Chairman).—You might have the two things going side by side?—Oh, yes; I don't object to that. On the question of finance a great deal of money has been invested in these large farms, and I don't think the outlay will be justified.

11803. (Mr. Devlin).—I want to know whether that thirty acres would be sufficient. Suppose you had a large number of apprentices, as I understand they have at Athlery, you could hardly find work for those apprentices on a thirty-acre farm?—I say thirty to fifty acres. They should have two in each county of Ireland, that is to say, sixty-six of these farms.

11804. That is a different policy. If they adopt that policy your contention would probably be right. You are thinking that a 700-acre farm is far too large. It depends upon how many apprentices you have?—Supposing these small farms, taking four or five apprentices each year and give them one or two years' training, as the case might be.

11805. In Athlery they give them one year's training?—Well, say for five young men who would give their labour free. In the County Wicklow you would have ten. Ten times thirty-three is 330; that is a great deal more than fifty, or even four times fifty, if they had one in each province in Ireland.

11806. (Mr. Brown).—You would agree that the instruction in each of these should be on a scientific basis?—They should be conducted on the most approved up-to-date methods of farming.

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11807. Only practical farming; any theoretical instruction at all?—The same kind of instruction as is given on the German plan.

11808. (Mr. Miles).—You could not have practical instruction except on some theoretical basis?—Certainly, theory will be taught.

11809. (Mr. Brown).—You would have to have a staff, probably an expensive one, for each of the thirty-three farms?—Not necessarily. The manager of the farm would act as a teacher. That is what they do in Germany, and the farms are 100 acres each. The manager of the farm is the teacher. He is the man who gives the scientific and practical training in farming, and he is supplied with an additional teacher for the purpose of teaching book-keeping and commercial education, to enable them to carry on their work.

11810. There would be at least two instructors in each?—Yes.

11811. Have you visited any of these stations; Athyney, for example?—No; I have not.

11812. (Mr. O'Grady).—It is practically what you state. We were at Glenside, and the arrangement as to instruction is on general lines, just what you describe, but so far as we can understand the teachers for that sort of instruction are not too numerous, and whilst it has been possible to equip a limited number of teaching farms which deal each with as many men as a teacher can instruct it would have been quite impossible to have provided anything like satisfactory teachers for so many as sixty-six. Of course it could not be done all at once, nor could farms be acquired at once. It takes some time to evolve a practical working system, and meantime the teachers would be forthcoming. Glenside and Athyney would be equipping teachers and they would be turned out year after year for work of that kind. The principal value of work of this kind is to enable farmers to improve, who, in many cases, are very backward; it is admitted, and in fact I think Professor Campbell said in his evidence—one of the officials of the Department anyhow—that the knowledge of tillage had entirely gone out in the County Limerick.

11813. (Mr. Miles).—A lot of it?—Yes. If that is so in the County Limerick surely one or two farms of that character would be a great advantage to the farmers living in the county, and who will not—first of all they have not the time, and secondly, they cannot afford to do so—go to Athyney or any other station and spend time there seeing how things have been done.

11814. (Chairman).—Your view is that if the farms were in existence they would operate as educational inducements, not so much by having pupils there as by people going and seeing good farming?—Yes. At present, in each county, there are demonstration plots. That has served its purpose. It has aroused an interest in scientific farming, or improved methods, or whatever else you may choose to call it. It has aroused that interest all over the country, but these plots are so small that people don't appear to set very much value upon the results, because everybody engaged in farming knows that one part of a field may yield results and another part, treated in the same way, won't. These little plots are one-eighth of an acre, and not sufficiently large to show what is the nature of the soil and what it is capable of doing in any particular locality.

11815. (Mr. O'Grady).—Of course it is conceivable, and it appears to be the case, that it was necessary for the Department to do something at once in this matter of educating young farmers. It is not possible to get all those sixty-six farms at once, so that they have been doing what they set about doing—conducting substitutes—which would make education of this type for young farmers available at the earliest possible moment. What I gather you urge is that the future of these should run towards the establishment of county farms, so to speak; which would replace the demonstration plots, the demonstration plots having been a necessary step, in the first instance, for getting the people to realize what it was all about?—Yes.

11816. We have had evidence in the adjoining county, Wexford, that steps are already being taken towards such a county farm; and it is possible that the policy of the Department ought not to have been the same from the beginning to the end of its existence?—Oh, no; I don't at all contend that.

11817. You don't then find fault with the policy at the present moment. You urge that the time is now coming when it ought to be extended in this direction?

—Quite so. I acknowledge fully, as everybody man who has had any acquaintance with the country in all that it was very uphill work, and the greatest difficulty at the beginning was felt, to give the people an interest in the thing, and try to get them to take an interest in it, and undoubtedly the result has proved that the people were anxious to become possessed of all the knowledge that could possibly be put in their way. In the County Wicklow we have no such farms at present. At Avonbeg there is a forestry station, and there is a considerable portion of the land there which is too good for tree planting, and which has not yet been made available for any purpose. My Committee urged upon the Department, two years ago, the starting of a farm, and there was a great deal of dissatisfaction in the County Wicklow the first year the Department had this laid on their hands. They set about letting the land on the eleven-acre estate system, and got the people's back up.

11818. (Mr. Miles).—What was the answer?—The answer was a reasonable one; that they were overburdened with work and it would take time to decide what they would do. They have had a couple of years to consider that now, and I think they ought to establish at least such a farm there. I may mention, in connection with the forestry station at Avonbeg, that the County Wicklow expects that the Department will do some of the necessary work that ought to be done in the County Wicklow with regard to afforestation. There are thousands of acres of waste lands where tree planting could be carried out with very great advantage to the county and the people as a commercial undertaking. There are many of the higher plants which are absolutely without shelter of any kind, and belts of timber would be exceedingly useful, and we hope that something good will come from the establishment of a forestry station at Avonbeg, even if we don't get our agricultural farm.

11819. It is one of the best planted counties in Ireland already?—It was a very well planted county, but I am sorry to say there is a great deal of denudation going on and no replacement. A great deal of the smaller landholders have cut down their timber and are still setting it down. A great deal of credit is due to Lord Mountbatten for the way he has been planting and extending his plantation, and it has always been the policy of Lord Mountbatten to plant, and, when timber was cut down, replace it, but there are the only two estates on which there is any planting.

11820. The Carristown estate?—I should not say so. 11821. And Colonel Bailey's?—There are a good deal of trees there?—Yes; but some have been cut down.

11822. (Mr. Brown).—Would your Council be willing, if suitable tracts were available, to become trustees for afforestation?—I think so; but we have made no move in that direction yet.

11823. You are aware that it has been decided that a County Council are a body that may become trustees under the Land Act; when lands are sold under the Land Purchase Act?—Yes.

11824. You are aware of the difficulty in Wicklow and other counties where there is a good deal of mountain grazing?—Yes; but there is a great deal of land that is free of pasturage; it is absolutely worthless for grazing.

11825. Might it not also be worthless for planting?—Planting wherever carried out in these particular places has been very successful.

11826. (Mr. Miles).—Do you think that, if you wanted to take land, those who have a right to it would consider it of no value?—I know one particular district where many people are anxious that planting should be carried out, because they have absolutely no shelter, and planting on these lands and by those people who have mountain grazing would be very useful.

11827. (Mr. Brown).—It would; but it is very hard to get them to see that?—I think they are becoming educated to the necessity of it.

11828. (Mr. O'Grady).—That would be only planting for shelter. It would not be planting to such an extent that the forestry would become remunerative?—When I say shelter I mean a considerable belt of planting. I know part of the County Wicklow, namely in extent, where very large planting could be carried on with advantage to everybody.

11829. Without any interference with grazing rights?—Yes, and where the people are anxious it should be carried on. In fact, the people of the locality themselves are moving in that direction, and it is only a question of time as to putting forward a

scheme before the Department for carrying it out; and the hope is that when they do bring forward the scheme the Department will take it up and assist them in it. With regard to the live stock, we have been discussing the horse-breeding scheme. A great deal has been done with regard to providing a good class of thoroughbred sires all over the country and it has resulted in a very considerable improvement in the County Wicklow and, I believe, almost every other county of the general character of the horses; but I think the time has come now when something ought to be done towards inducing the smaller farmers especially to keep their good mares for breeding purposes. Our experience has been that the produce of a registered thoroughbred that are of any value at all, as soon as they come up to two or three years old, have been sold away and they get into the hands of dealers and others who eventually sell them out of the country altogether. I have a suggestion to make to meet that. At the County Show, which are now becoming very general, there ought to be substantial prizes or subsidies given to farmers whose valuations do not exceed £100, by the Department, for the prize-winning mares in the three and four year old classes for hunter and general purposes or harness mares, on condition that the owner retains the mare for breeding purposes for a certain length of time, and that she should be entitled to a further special prize on her first foal to a registered sire, and again on her second foal. That would be a very great inducement to keep these mares, and, while making them useful to themselves, they would be retaining them in the country and still further improving the breeding of horses, and we would ultimately by that means arrive at a greater amount of perfection than obtains at the present time. These mares would, of course, be examined for soundness and the general characteristics that go to make up a good horse.

11832. (Mr. O'Grady).—It would be only the prize-winning mares that would be tied to the country to have foals in that way?—I would suggest that as a tentative plan.

11833. (Mr. Micks).—It would be too expensive to go further at first. Quite so. If you had that from year to year, and have a dozen mares going through each county every year and keep those doubling up, you will, after a while, have a good class of mares in the country.

11834. It is the selling off of the foals that spoils the success of the horse-breeding movement?—If it is; so long as we allow the good ones to go away we will be confined to breeding from the old stock, while it will be deteriorating as years go on.

11835. (Mr. Dwyer).—You did not state the amount that would be necessary for the purpose?—No; I would leave that for after consideration.

11836. (Mr. Micks).—What inducement do you think would cause the owner of a filly to keep her on instead of selling her?—If in addition to the prize given by the Show Society there was a prize of £20, that would be a great inducement—£20 a year for three years, or so.

11837. (Mr. Dwyer).—Would it not be found in a great many of these cases that a man really had not room to keep so many horses, and that is why they are disposed of?—I don't think that is the case. They dispose of them because they want the money. Of course, the larger farmers don't want prizes. If he goes in for horse-breeding he will have a good class mare to breed from and have plenty of room, and he won't be necessitated to part with a good mare if he has her. But the poor man, if he has anything that will bring a shilling more than another, he must part with that; and the same applies to cattle breeding as well as to horse breeding. The best horses are always sold and the worst kept at home.

11838. (Mr. Micks).—Do most of the small farmers in the County Wicklow keep a mare?—Most of them do.

11839. And that is the class you would like to get at?—It is.

11840. With the better-off man you may trust to his common sense?—In the County Wicklow we give two-thirds premiums to farmers with a valuation not exceeding £250, and one-third to farmers going up to £180, and in any district where there are not sufficient mares shown and passed by the smaller farmers the balance goes on to the larger farmers.

11841. Of course, most of them like to keep a mare rather than a horse?—Yes.

11842. (Chairman).—What is your next point? We have already dealt with the question of the half-

bred type?—Another point is—I don't know whether anything has been said of it before this Committee—but it is felt by the Department itself and very largely by the people of the country, that the Department ought to have power to prevent breeding from low class sires of any kind.

11843. We have had a great deal of evidence regarding that, both as regards horses and cattle?—Yes, a great deal of harm is done, especially to the cattle produce of the country. With some of the farmers who go in for selling springing heifers any kind of bull does them.

11844. We have had abundant evidence of the evil of it. What would be your remedy for it?—

11845. (Mr. Micks).—As a member of Parliament, what do you think would have a chance of passing?—I think any reasonable recommendation put forward by an Irish authority, the Chief Secretary, or anybody representing Ireland in authority, would be carried through.

11846. (Chairman).—The practical difficulty is this; you have between 700 and 800 premium bulls scattered through the country, or say a thousand, about one-eighth of the bulls that are actually in use in the country. It must take some time, I suppose, before it is practicable to prevent all these useless bulls serving. It could not be done at one stroke?—Not at all. The Inspector entrusted with the carrying out of work of that kind should have a very wide discretion in the matter. I don't propose first of all that every animal who has not a pedigree should be castrated. In fact, I believe myself that there are very many bulls in the country that have not a pedigree that are better bulls than those that have a pedigree. But there are a great many others of a very low type, very coarse cattle, that should not be allowed to serve.

11847. (Mr. Micks).—Do you think there would be much headship in applying it to animals subsequently to be brought into use; as regards the present, leaving them as they are; and say, for the future no animal after a certain day, say a couple of years hence, should be allowed to serve unless it was registered by competent authority?—If in the course of two or three years sufficient animals of a thoroughbred type could be had it would be right, but there would be a danger in that.

11848. There would be the power of registration, and the registration authority might have in the first few years rather elastic discretionary powers?—Yes; that would be a very feasible plan.

(Mr. O'Grady).—You would not restrict registry under these circumstances to thoroughbreds?—

(Mr. Micks).—Oh, no; to suitable animals.

11849. (Mr. Dwyer).—Have you considered the point, destroying altogether by that process individual liberty; that is to say, if I own a piece of land here and was carrying on a business, and that some authority in the country declared for me what I should do or what I should not do. The property is mine, and I should be allowed to do what I liked with it?—I am afraid that to carry that principle out to such a logical conclusion would be a little bit pedantic. I think that where the country is engaged in such a great work and where such a large sum of money and such a great amount of public effort is being spent to improve the condition of the country by these means, I think the end justifies the means. I don't put it on the question of private liberty altogether; I think it is due more to common sense, or ignorance, perhaps.

11850. (Chairman).—You say there is a great public necessity that would justify it?—Yes.

(Mr. Micks).—Just like the Public Health Act which interferes with private liberty. A man may prefer a dirty house, but he is not allowed to keep it so.

11851. (Chairman).—It would put your universal popular election principle to a severe test?—I don't think so. I think public opinion would approve.

11852. Enlightened public opinion?—Enlightened public opinion. Take the great bulk of public opinion in this country, it is sufficiently enlightened to go that far.

11853. (Mr. Dwyer).—It would be much better to achieve the same result by educational means rather than by compulsion. You may afterwards say to your farmers: "We have decided you ought to grow barley instead of wheat or oats, and therefore we will pass a resolution that a man shall never be allowed to sow a particular kind of grain." It is the same principle?—It may be the same principle, but it is very far apart.

(Mr. Micks).—You could not educate the man who sells springers, as we have heard.

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On 16, 1906.

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11852. (Mr. Brown).—It is the man who buys the calves you want to educate?—Yes, but, unfortunately, the man might buy a young calf and not be able to tell what it will develop into in a few months.

11853. That is, the man that is not educated? We will have to carry education to a great extent before we can succeed in educating every man who raises a young calf up to that point. There are many ways in which liberty is interfered with for the public good. We are just emerging from a miasma in this country in many respects with regard to these things, and if we are a little despotic in some things I think the end justifies the means. Our County Committee has always taken a very strong line with regard to the selection tickets at shows for bulls. We have urged upon the Department over and over again that where bulls are selected for premiums a register ought to be kept of each selection, and that no tickets ought to be over the heads of the animals at the shows at all; and that provisional sales might take place between the owner and the buyer, subject, of course, to his animal being passed by the Inspector.

11854. (Chairman).—Is that on the ground that the exhibition of the tickets raises the price of the bulls?—Yes, it gives him a certain amount of extra value in the eyes of the owner and in the eyes of the buyer also.

11855. (Mr. Dryden).—Would not that depend upon supply and demand? If you had an abundant supply do you think it would have that effect; if you had sufficient bulls passed by the Inspector to go round among the buyers?—It would affect it to a certain extent, but I would allow the question of supply and demand to work out so as to regulate the price; not the exhibition of the ticket.

11856. But how would you get over the difficulty of a poor man investing his money and afterwards being turned down by the Inspector?—I say, provisional sales I go to the owner of the bull and say, "I will give you so much, subject to the Inspector passing the animal."

11857. (Mr. Brown).—Neither buyer nor seller should know before hand?—Neither should.

11858. (Mr. Mich).—The Inspector is on the ground?—Yes.

11859. And he has to inspect them for the premium?—The bulls are all selected and passed provisionally for premiums before any sale takes place, and the tickets are placed over their heads.

11860. The Inspector would see the bulls?—Yes.

11861. And if a buyer and seller came up to him and said, "Will you give a premium for such a bull; we have agreed on a sale," he would say "yes"?—Quite so; and if it was not selected then, of course, the bargain was off, just as in the same way you examine horses.

11862. Do you see any possible objection?—I don't see any, but the objection of the Department has always been—

11863. I don't think that we heard before the idea of the conditional sale?—That the owner might find out previously before hand that the bull was passed for premium. While one owner might possibly do that the bulk of them would not.

11864. That would mean that the Inspector would neglect his duty?—Yes.

11865. That is not a serious difficulty, not likely to happen?—I don't think it is.

11866. (Mr. Brown).—Don't you think the owner would have a shrewd opinion whether the bull had passed or not, when the Inspector went round?—Well, he could act on that opinion in making his bargain.

11867. He would rather have the advantage of the buyer?—But the question of supply and demand would come in.

11868. (Mr. Mich).—It would not be as great an advantage as he has at present?—It might not be the real advantage it is supposed to be, and if the other system were carried out the public would have more confidence in the system. The complaint is—I don't say there is a real ground for complaint—the complaint is that this system enhances the value of the animal in the eyes of the owner.

(Mr. Brown).—Of course, it limits competition to the animals that are taken and it must raise the price.

11869. (Chairman).—It was not defended by Professor Campbell in his evidence.

(Witness).—The same system does not exist on the other side of the Channel, for I understand from the

Inspectors of the Department that when Irish buyers go over in company with the Inspectors they make out a number of animals which they consider suitable and bid for them. The owner does not know that the Irish Inspector has passed these animals.

11870. (Mr. Dryden).—They are sold by auction?—Yes, and the question of supply and demand rules.

11871. If you sold them by auction would you get over the difficulty?—They are sold by auction at the February sale in Ballsbridge, but they are already smashed.

(Mr. Dryden).—That is to say, the bull which would pass the Inspector is worth more than one which would not pass.

11872. (Chairman).—We have had a good deal of evidence on both sides in reference to this, and I think you have made your point clear now?—Then, there is a question of a personal nature which I feel called upon to refer to. I wish, on the part of my County Committee, and I am sure I am safe in saying, of every County Committee, to enter an emphatic protest against the charge of corruption levelled against the County Committee generally by Professor Campbell.

11873. I don't think there is any charge of corruption against them?—Oh, yes; in his evidence before the Commission, as reported in the daily papers at the 2nd June last, an unfair, I would almost say indecent attempt—

(Mr. Mich).—I don't think it struck us in that way.

(Witness).—To influence the mind of the Commission at the very outset of its task against evidence that might be given on behalf of the County Committee all over the country. The offence can readily be sweeping nature of this charge the danger grows his feeling of repugnance to the reason that prompted it, and it accounts for a good deal of the friction and acrimony that have occurred from time to time between the Department and the Statutory bodies; and how could it be otherwise when an official occupying the position of Professor Campbell contemplates such contempt for the local bodies? This is the report of his evidence in the papers of the 2nd June: "Witness dealt at considerable length with other portions of the operations of the Agricultural Branch," etc., "where the business was often done by the Chairman and the District Inspectors"—that is not true of my Committee—"the appointment of secretaries, and the fact that sometimes members of the County Committee had had their salaries or more rejected by the Inspectors for a price. In these and other ways, he said, members of the County Committee had failed, owing to the Department's Inspectors having performed the duties imposed upon them, to obtain a cheque out of public funds, and whatever might be the private feelings of his fellow members, it was impossible for them not to sympathise with him in public and to write in wholesale condemnation of the Department. There was no stronger proof of the consciousness with which the Department had carried out their function than the fact that so little friction existed where such a state of things was possible." If that is not a charge of corruption against the County Committee I do not know what is.

(Mr. Brown).—It did not strike me so.

(Chairman).—I think this is the passage. He was talking about certain difficulties which occurred between the Department and County Committee (See Questions 2009 and 2010). I don't take that as a charge. He states certain facts as a reason why it is not desirable to appoint Inspectors from the counties themselves.

(Mr. Brown).—I would take it as an argument against members of County Committee being beneficiaries under the schemes they administer.

11874. (Chairman).—Yes, and that has been put strongly to us by other witnesses?—Members of the County Committee may be beneficiaries under a scheme in so far as they are owners of stallions or premium bulls, but to say that certain members of Committees—and this statement is very general; he does not give a particular instance of it—he refers to County Committee, where members have failed to get their bulls or steers passed by the County Inspector, or where they have failed by other means to get a cheque out of public funds; that it was impossible but that the other members of the County Committee should sympathise with him in public and that this should develop into the wholesale condemnation of the Department by the County Committee or the public. That is a very gross charge. I take it as applying to myself as

Chairman of the County Committee, and every member of the Committee, whether anything of the kind ever happened; and if it did happen with one individual member of the Committee every other member of the County Committee would of course at once condemn him.

18875. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I think you will find Professor Campbell said "frequently." I don't think he applied it generally—I say it has a general application, as he has not given a particular instance. It might apply to Dublin or Wicklow, or Wexford.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—I don't think he made it quite so general as that.

18876. (Mr. Brown).—He was simply mentioning it as one of the difficulties. And on the next day he asked the Commission to bear these things in mind when they would be taking evidence from the members of County Committees in other parts of Ireland. He is reported as having said that. My contention is that the statement was made in order to influence the minds of the Commission in favour of the Department as against anything that might be said on the part of the County Committee; and at the same time I hold that it is—and I consider I am justified in making a protest—that it is a charge of corruption levelled at County Committees, constituted as they are, which are selected by the County Councils of Ireland, some members, and others non-members of the Council, and a large number of them Catholic and Protestant dogmen. I think it came very badly from Professor Campbell, above any other man, the Chief Executive Officer of the Agricultural Branch of the Department. I pass now to the technical side of the question. We are strongly of opinion, and claim to urge the view as forcibly as we can, that the curriculum of the primary or so-called National schools should be brought more into line with the requirements of rural and industrial life; that the children in the higher grades should be instructed in elementary, agricultural, horticultural, and technical subjects, and that with this object a school garden or plot of ground should be made available for every rural school, and by such means as these give the pupils an interest in rural life and prepare them for the more advanced classes of technical or agricultural instruction. With regard to technical instruction in towns the great want is suitable buildings in which to carry on the work. Under the existing system it is almost impossible to do it with anything approaching success, certainly not with anything like economy. My Committee has been obliged to utilise old sheds and other unsuitable places for which high rents have to be paid. It is wasteful and unsatisfactory in the highest degree. The county was given, under the Act of 1886, an extensive system of technical education, and was provided with a costly teaching staff, etc., but no provision whatever was made for the suitable housing of the work. As a consequence a great deal of time was lost in the beginning in the endeavour to hunt up quarters all over the country, and the greatest difficulty has been experienced in finding rooms or buildings in which the instruction could be given even under the most trying conditions. I have asked our Principal, Mr. Wals, to furnish me with a brief statement on this subject, which, with your permission, I shall read.

18877. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Principal of what institution?—Principal of technical instruction in County Wicklow. This is the statement:—

COUNTY WICKLOW, TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

BUILDINGS.

Arklow.

At present the great need in the town of Arklow is suitable accommodation, as shown below.

No. of individual students enrolled, ...	153
No. of class entries, ...	208

Subjects.	Where taught.	
Science subjects, 1, 2, 3, 30,	Room in Court-house.	33 ft. by 12 ft.
Cookery,	Room at Convent.	25 ft. by 13 ft.
Needlework,	" "	" "
Dressmaking,	" "	" "
Laundry,	" "	" "
Manual Instruction,	Shed in a private back-yard set-aside through house, size 20 ft. by 15 (about).	" "
Practical Carpentry and Joinery.		

Art classes are lodged in the Convent National Oct. 12, 1908 school, free by permission of the manager. The Court-house room is lent, rent free, by the County Council.

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For the room at Convent and the Manual Instruction shed we pay a rent of £15 per annum each place.

There are no sanitary conveniences in either of the places, no cloak-room accommodation, no proper means of ventilation; lighting by oil-lamps.

The Court-house room is totally unfitted for the conduct of Science classes, and students and teachers are frequently compelled to leave the room through the unbearable condition of the atmosphere. It cannot be improved.

The Manual Instruction room is simply a loft over a carpenter's shop; it is firmly built and approached by a ladder. In case of an outbreak of fire, in the workshop below, it would be a death-trap.

No other rooms are available in the town, and the only solution is to build.

If we had a building of our own we should save £33 per annum in rent.

The great evil of the present accommodation lies in the utter impossibility of systematising the instruction; the rooms are so far apart that the subjects cannot be correlated, and there is cause for fear that the work will lose vitality, and utility for this reason.

The further development of the work is absolutely stopped until better accommodation is secured. Students who have been through the elementary courses must be turned away, or the elementary classes must be dropped in favour of the advanced classes.

Classes in Chemistry and Elementary Physics are most urgently required, seeing that a large part of the population is engaged in the manufacture of explosives, but they cannot be established for want of room.

Commercial subjects cannot be taught for the same reasons.

Arklow is one of the few towns where modern factories have been established, and between Dublin and Wexford it is the only true industrial centre. It should receive the strongest possible support from the Government, and I would go so far as to say professional support should be given to this town in the matter of technical instruction.

Other Towns.

In other parts of the county accommodation on a smaller scale should be provided. In Rathfriland a small centre is urgently required, where the instruction for the west of the county could have its headquarters; at present we are dependent upon the generosity of the school managers or the local landlords, and it is not adding to the dignity of the work to have to go cap in hand to the local landlords and beg the use of rooms, and sometimes to be refused. It is, however, a fact that but for the kindness of the owners generally, and particularly the managers of the National schools, we could not carry on the work at all, and it must be remembered that these rooms are generally the only rooms in the locality available for all kinds of purposes, and it is not always possible for them to be available for technical instruction purposes.

I am now considering the question of a tent to house some classes in DUBLIN.

18878. (Chairman).—A tent?—Yes, this report was written a little earlier in the summer. He also reports generally on Industrial Development as follows:—

COUNTY WICKLOW TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Industrial Development.

To me, as coming here a stranger, with no knowledge of the past, the eastern portions of this county struck me as being ill-suited to agriculture proper. After three years' residence and acquaintance with the district, and the people, I am more than ever convinced of the accuracy of my first impression. The district traversed by the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway should be a busy hive of industry, with large export trade via Wicklow and Arklow.

The raw materials are there, wool, lead, iron, soda, sulphur, copper, with many other of the valuable metals usually found in company with the above, and cheap power in the mountain streams.

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How to set about developing this industrial wealth is the "point"—in my opinion—in this part of the county, obviously to foster any attempt to open new, or to build up existing industries would appear the line of least resistance, but this is where the first block arises. The Department cannot assist private enterprise or initiate industries of their own.

Their doctrine of the "economic" principle forbids anything else but instruction, and I recognize that for them it is the easier way, and the way least fraught with pitfalls, and bearing in mind that the head man of the Technical Instruction branch are all scholars, and neither workers in crafts or commerce, it is the way which would appear to them as the only safe way.

Education in an industrial country can, and has, done wonders, and will continue so to do, but I am convinced that education alone will not convert our desolate hills and valleys and our ruined mills into centres of industry.

To quote America, England, or Belgium is, to me, beside the point, here you have a condition of country and people which has not yet been assisted in either of those countries at one and the same time.

I pass by the cause and take the result as it is. I judge it from the standpoint of the craftsman who has received all that technical instruction could give to such in England, on farms in industry and given the best education that could be given to such. That education, that technical training, made of the worker a worker, not from choice, but because in the absence of capital it was the only way in which his education and technical skill could find a market above the rate of wages of the craftsman.

Therefore, I say that in the depopulated districts of this country you must be prepared to take some steps to assist the skilled workers in the earlier stages of any new industry or the revival of the old.

If the aim of the Department is educational pure and simple, then, their policy is correct; if it is the aim to establish industries during the lifetime of any of the present generation, then, I am of the opinion that further steps must be taken, whether they are economic or not.

To me, it does not seem material whether you compete with other industries and other factories by technical instruction proper, or whether you compete by the aid of subsidies—in such case the desired aim is the same, to divert some of your neighbour's trade or some of his prospective trade into your vicinity; that, I take it, is the basis of commerce, and after all the Department need not be so chary of competing with existing industries, because those which already exist are not capable of maintaining their supremacy, because in the ordinary way of things those same industries will perhaps before long be cut out by someone else if they are only struggling now, and in the absence of newer ventures you will have none at all.

As far as the officials of the Department are concerned none could be more or more in earnest, but they are too academic, and consequently out of touch with the work-a-day world. Too much of the scholar and too little of the workman. Too much of classroom and too little of the counter. Such a staff would be well suited to education proper, but in not what I should select for the development of industry.

So far as the work of the Department is concerned, I have only one thing to say—That so far as the doctrines which they have laid down permit them, the work deserves the highest praise, but those limits which at present exist, either by their own creation, by the financial position, or by the limits of the Act, must be removed so far as they restrict the financial assistance of any likely industry in districts which at present stand in need of them.

In the details of administration one point needs attention, and that relates to the somewhat dual authority of the Inspector and the Organising Principal. In this county my staff is reported upon in detail to my Committee through the Department; now, suppose my report to the Committee is contrary to that of the Inspector, what is the position of the Committee, the Principal, and the Staff?

Again, supposing the Principal is an expert in a particular trade, and the Inspector is an ex-elementary school teacher, and the latter reports upon the work of the former, or one of his staff engaged in the same class of work, and supposing that the Inspector's report is in contradiction of the Principal's report, what effect will this report of his superior officer have upon the Principal and his Staff?

Either the Department should content themselves

with a general report upon the efficiency of the work of the county as a whole and leave details to the Principal, or the Inspector should organize as well as criticize the staff.

(*Witness*).—When Mr. Wyndham was Chief Secretary a very representative deputation waited on him in reference to this matter, and he recognized fully the force of the claim then made for a building grant for technical schools and provided his assistance, but the matter still stands where it stood then, and nothing has been done, and we can only hope that as a result of this inquiry this question of providing suitable buildings will be satisfactorily solved. That this is done we are only tinkering at technical education, and it will become a question whether the results will justify the continued expenditure under existing conditions. It will also be necessary to increase the grant at the disposal of the Department, as technical education is developed, or that we shall be reduced that of which we were unjustly deprived by the Treasury—I mean the Equivalent Grant. Now, with regard to the Department and its relation to educational matters, I am strongly of opinion that whatever authority is to have control of education in the future—the three branches, primary, secondary, and technical, should be directed by it, and that the character of the Department should be altered somewhat.

11876. You would separate the Educational Board altogether from the Department?—I would. If a separate body is to be set up for the purpose of making the education of the country, instead of the numerous Boards dealing with it at present, I think it ought to be a separate Board altogether, and to have complete control and charge of technical instruction.

11880. You would not apply that to agricultural education?—Not at all; merely the technical side.

11881. (*Mr. O'Brien*).—You mean you would do scientific technical instruction in agriculture too?

11882. Constituting the Agricultural Department to look after agriculture, as separate from the Department looking after education as a whole; you would reserve education in agriculture to the Board that was looking after agriculture?—Yes.

11883. Would not that be rather risky in view of the desirability of having agricultural interests in education running right through the elementary and secondary as well as the special work?—I don't think so, because the character of the education given is so widely different that whether pupils should qualify in the primary schools for agricultural instruction of a general character, such as suggested by those county farms, or should go on to the secondary schools and qualify for the higher instruction that would be given in Glasgow and those other centres, that they would not clash at all with the technical education proper, because one class of students would be going in for one branch and another for another; and at the same time, so far as technical education is concerned, large numbers of young men who are engaged at their work, in whatever branch of industry, it may be in the day time, would gravitate to the technical classes in the evenings and would have their classes as well as those who go straight through; so, therefore, I think the proper authority to have control of technical education ought to be the educational body of the country—and in that respect, that we ought to possess a sort of Technical University or Polytechnical Institute.

11884. I would like to keep down below for a moment until we get it quite clear. You think the General Educational Department that you contemplate, dealing with primary, secondary, and technical education, should deal with all the education that was given in or in connection with elementary schools?—Yes.

11885. For instance, that if you had stipulated to structure giving instruction in manual work it should be under the Education Department?—Yes.

11886. If they were giving instruction in chemistry applied to agriculture, that should be under the Education Department?—Well, I don't know about that, because, giving instruction in chemistry applied to agriculture, that instruction can only be given in the Agricultural College; that would be under the control of the Department itself.

11887. Then, domestic economy—that would be entirely under the Education Department?—Yes.

11888. Butter-making?—No, agricultural.

11889. So that you would have for the Agricultural Department all the instruction, stannum and otherwise, in butter-making and poultry keeping?—Yes;

as a matter of fact it is divided at present under the Department. There is one Committee managing one and another Committee managing another.

11890. I want to see how far you desire to see that maintained?—So far as any instruction pertaining to agriculture, it should be retained by the Agricultural Department.

11891. But not if it was being given in a secondary school or in connection with a secondary school. I understand you to say that the work of the primary or secondary school should be referable to the Education Department. Supposing you had girls in a secondary school residing in their later years instruction in domestic economy, that goes on, of course, under education; but if it were a secondary school drawn largely from a rural area it might be desirable that they should have some instruction in butter-making and poultry keeping before they left school?—In the theory of it; that is all they get in the secondary school, because under that system practical instruction can only be given in schools under the Department of Agriculture, at the farms; that is the Monitor Institute for butter making, Glasnevin, or the others, which are really secondary schools, so far as agriculture is concerned.

11892. The butter-making instruction that is at present given, and given with great success, by the district instructors is not the nature of work that can be given to girls about fifteen or sixteen years of age?—Oh, yes; but they have to learn the practical side of the question at the agricultural farms; and the same in the primary or technical schools, they can only learn theories and get literary education generally.

11893. What I want to get at is this: that that restricts all possibility of giving preliminary instruction of this kind to the specific institutions for it, and would lose the possibility of getting it on the wider basis that would be possible if you took it as a specialised course at the top of the secondary school course, where the secondary school is serving as a new that produces many girls of that kind. It would be no more impractical than the instruction is now. It would correspond very much with the school gardens?—Yes, but so far as the practical side of poultry-keeping is concerned it is to be evolved at the various agricultural colleges as well. It is on the experiments carried on from time to time there that the instruction rests; and the girls who give this instruction under the County Committee get their practical instruction at the agricultural farms. I can conceive no difficulty in the world having young men or women graduating

for any particular branch during the primary and secondary course under the Education Board, and then being fitted to receive the practical instruction which the Department itself can give in its own agricultural stations.

11894. Transferred to one or other of the practical stations?—Yes. So far as the character of the Department is concerned it should be known as the Department of Agriculture and Industries, and a certain annual sum should be placed at its disposal to enable it to develop existing, and promote new, industries that would be likely to prove of a remunerative and self-sustaining character. Some interesting statements have been made and evidence given on this question of industries, and as Mr. McKee said, "It is the whole plot of the play," a sentiment with which I heartily agree. I have been a very interesting document which I would like very much to read. It is a statement of a very important character made by a prominent Englishman who has given practical proof, of a very substantial nature, of his sympathy with, and his support to, Irish industrial development.

11895. (Chairman).—Who is it?—I will tell you directly—well, it is Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, Chairman of Kynoch, Limited, and as a testimony of what can be done, and done successfully, it is invaluable. It is also of great value as an expression of opinion as to what is due by the English people and Government in this matter to the people of this country. I have the authority of this gentleman to make any use of this statement I may deem desirable, although the occasion upon which it was originally made was considered privileged and he had great hopes at the time he made this statement, owing to the peculiar circumstances and surroundings of the occasion, and the representative and responsible personages to whom it was addressed, that something tangible in the shape of very considerable industrial development would have been the result; but unfortunately nothing, so far as I know, was done in the matter. But if the Department was in the real true sense of the word a Department of Industries, possessing more statutory powers and having more responsibility in this direction thrown upon it, I am quite sure the outcome of this preliminary effort of Mr. Chamberlain would have been productive of substantial fruits in the shape of several new industries started in various parts of the country. This (produced) is Mr. Chamberlain's statement.

11896. I shall certainly read this statement with interest.

Mr. CHARLES DAWSON, representative of the Irish Forestry Society, examined.

11897. (Chairman).—You come here to speak about forestry. We have had a great deal of evidence about forestry already, and I think you may assume that the Committee are quite impressed with the great importance of the question. You need not emphasize that more than is necessary, except to express your opinion, and kindly put it in as short a form as you can, as we are very much pressed for time and have many witnesses.

11898. (Chairman).—Don't leave out anything material.

11899. (Chairman).—Perhaps, to get the information on the notes, you will tell us your position and experience?—My position is to show the effects of forestry as a source of employment in the country at the present time, and as a profitable investment on the part of the Government if they adopt it.

11900. (Mr. McKee).—You were a member of Parliament?—For Oxford for six years.

11901. And Lord Mayor of Dublin?—Yes.

11902. (Chairman).—I think you hold office now under the Dublin Corporation?—Yes; Controller of the Rates. I want, in the first place, to point out examples that we cannot point to in England or Ireland, but that we can in Germany, France, Wurtemberg, Switzerland, and America; and, in the second place, show what was formerly done in Ireland and what it is possible to do now by a Department like the Agricultural Department. Before dealing with individual countries, I state on the authority of the eminent arboriculturist, Dr. Niebli, that every year £25,000,000 worth of timber, raw and wrought, are imported into Great Britain and Ireland, £13,000,000 worth of which could, he says, be probably grown in these islands.

Now, it is clear, if, for even the last fifty years, there were £13,000,000 a year were saved the nation would be £260,000,000 richer, a sum approaching the amount of the National Debt. Dr. Schlick says on this subject that the forests of Germany form an asset of £900,000,000 sterling. They are not only a source of wealth, but of employment, and in his book Dr. Schlick says that 4,500,000 of people in Germany are employed in the cultivation of forests or industries incidental to the presence of wood. In administration and wages over £42,000,000 a year is expended. Owing to my official position here I took notice of the remarkable fact regarding the history of forestry in Germany. My onerous duty is to collect the rates, and I find many of the towns in Germany are useless owing to the fact that the Corporation expenses are met by the revenues from the municipal forests in the neighbourhood of the town. The following quotation from a pamphlet lately issued, giving an account of the visit of the Royal Forestry Society of Birmingham to Berlin, shows how obvious the planting of Germany was to those intelligent artisans. In a notice by an artisan the witness says:—"In travelling through Prussia or North Germany one is struck with the condition of the land, hardly an acre is unutilised; there are five golf links in the German Empire and over a thousand in the United Kingdom. It is difficult to find land; all the country is laid out for agriculture. There are no stately oaks or firs; the timber is grown for customers or fuel." France, we know, is full of woods. But one striking illustration I would wish to point out. There is a province called the Landes by the sea shore. Thirty years or

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so ago, a few peasants on stilts sought a sparse living in its marshes. About that time the Government commenced to plant it with pine trees. There are now miles of forests. According to the Minister of Agriculture 650,000,000 have been added by its reclamation and planting to the wealth of France. The Report of our own Forestry Committee, published in 1895, contains the following extract from the French Forestry Department:—"This is one of the most beautiful pages in the history of civilisation and progress in a region which thirty years ago was one of the poorest and most miserable in France, but which now must be reckoned one of the most wealthy and prosperous." And at the present moment there is in the province a prosperous population working in the forests and in the innumerable sawmills and other industries abounding there. Surely there is an object lesson in this for application to Ireland! In the small Kingdom of Wurtemberg, not half the size of Ireland, and one of the most progressive countries in Europe, according to Dr. Schöna, the annual profits of planting amount to £1,200,000.

11902. I just ask you to bear in mind that what we are discussing here is not so much the general profits of forestry, but whether this particular Department should undertake it or be empowered to undertake it, and I see by the paper before me that you are going to discuss the thing generally—I was going to show that if the Forestry Society press on the Department to take it up it is because it is a matter of necessity, and should be a matter of profit. I want to show that everywhere it has paid.

11903. (Mr. Micko).—They have full powers to aid forestry?—They have.

11904. And you wish to show what a profitable field there is which apparently is not being taken up?—Yes, and how little risk they will run in losing money, and I refer to Switzerland not so much for the extent of its forests as for the example to be followed in these counties. I draw attention to the following proceedings in that admirably administered little Republic. It had to deal, like other countries, with its leaders, and "won't work." Among the many means of making these people earn their bread is forest labour systems. Mr. Freyhan Thomas, in his Report to the President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long), in 1894, says, regarding the forced labour farms in the neighbourhood of St. Gallen:—"About half the inmates work on the farm, part of which is devoted to the growth of trees and shrubs from seeds. Thousands of young pines are annually sold for planting in the neighbouring forests, and this nursery work is found to interest the men." In another part of his Report on the work carried on at Witzenry, Mr. Thomas says the director informed him that not only was the land improved by the men, but, even more important, "the men was improved by the land." "When," he says, "a man sees the products of his labour, which have grown up before his eyes, he is induced to exert himself, and is stimulated in a fashion, which contrasts with the leaden monotony of stone-breaking, etc." Here is another lesson for other countries to follow. In America there is what I want, and that is relevant, I think. There is a Bureau of Forestry in the States Department of Agriculture. It is well described in the "Primer of Forestry" lately issued by it. Curious to say almost every country in the new and old world appears from this report, to have a Forestry Department except Great Britain and Ireland. Even in British India they have an excellent Forest service. "It has now nearly 300 superior officers and over 10,000 rangers. It has charge of 200,000 square miles of forests and produces, after all expenses, over £200,000 per annum." Some thirty years ago a private citizen, Julius Stirling Morton, seeing the trees in Nebraska being cut down and not replaced started a tree-planting on Arbor Day. The movement spread. The States Legislature took it up, gave land and bounty, and since 1872 over 60,000,000 trees have been planted in Nebraska alone. The movement spread to all the States, and Arbor Day is now a National Holiday. I found in the "San Francisco Examiner" of the 12th November, 1905, Mr. Harper of the Government Forest Service says, "The Government is experimenting in the way of a broadcast sowing of seeds of trees, thus diminishing expense of nursery production and trees and planting." And I leave here for the consideration of this Committee the history of that Arbor Day movement.

There is an idea that forestry is not paid in Ireland because the people are indifferent to trees, and that they are, and that they in fact destroy them and ruin them; but that is not the history of Ireland, for in ancient days trees were not only respected but protected by law, and there was a heavy fine for mutilation of any of the trees under the old system. I will not say why the forests were swept away. There are reasons unnecessary to go into; but what gave rise to this non-renewal of trees, and perhaps destruction of them, was the dual state of the land system. If the tenant planted a tree it did not belong to him, until recent legislation; then the landlord could not plant a tree without the consent of the tenant; therefore, the tenant said, "This tree encumbers the ground." And so arose, if not candidly, irresponsibly for trees, I think recent legislation will put an end to that, because proprietors can plant, and probably we will have applications for loans and for the extension of the 4th Section of the Land Act.

11905. (Chairman).—Is there no danger that the tenant may cut down trees for immediate profit?—I want a Bureau to meet that. In Germany and other countries the Bureau meets that, and if trees are destroyed or forests are not properly treated they will take them from the proprietor and treat them properly. They look upon them as a vast asset that the State should take care of. I say that with no disrespect to the Department. I think the Department, whose proceedings you are inquiring into, are doing a great deal under the circumstances, but they have too many irons in the fire. From pigs to poultry, herring to horses, and cream to cattle, there is nothing they have not a hand in; and this great object we are interested in cannot be attained unless there is a separate Bureau. The loans of the Board of Works could be very much extended. Up to a short time ago they would not allow loans except for shelter, but by a late Bill, a Tramway Bill, they can give loans for planting, such as the planting we have in view, but I think the Board of Works ought to be separated.

11906. I don't quite catch what you mean by a Tramway Bill?—There was a Tramway Bill passed in which unlimited power was given to the Board of Works to lend money for planting, and I think the Board of Works should be more liberal. In the Forestry Society we gave a prize for an essay to one person in each province to point out how we could best re-forest. One of these was written by the Rev. Mr. Johnston, M.A., of Ulster, and he says, "The Monks of Mount Mellary, on the brink of the Knockmuckdown Mountains have leased parts of the mountain land at a rent of 2s. 6d. per acre, and planted them with 3,000 trees to the acre, chiefly fir, pine, and larch. At the end of ten or fifteen years the pine of the clearings amounted to £20 to £40 an acre, 3,000 as left standing." The same essayist gives the following account of planting in Ulster. The relation recalls one of the story of the Landless province in France. It was thus: "A most interesting experiment, showing what can be done under the most unfavourable circumstances, may be seen a little way beyond Bandon, near Mullaghmore, on the Western coast. There is not a more exposed spot in Ireland. The experiments were tried in the simplest fashion by Lord Palmerston some years ago scattering some pine seeds. They have taken hold and vigorously maintained their right of existence in spite of sea and snow." Last month I made a pilgrimage to Mullaghmore, and inspected the pine forests, flourishing no doubt, but evidently not reared for commercial purposes, as they might have been. If that had been done all over Ireland where possible, like the province I referred to in France, this country would be much richer and would be giving much more employment.

11907. (Mr. Micko).—Of course they had not such goods shelter as at Mullaghmore?—Quite so; but it is in the north of the Atlantic breeze. The possibility of realising this was also proved by the evidence given to the Industrial Committee when I was in the House in 1895 by the greatest authority in the United Kingdom at that time upon what could be done in Ireland. Dr. W. K. Sullivan, President of the Queen's College, in Cork said, when the Government were contemplating these expensive model farm schools which did no good for the country: "I advised them to practically plant the mountain sides," and had they been done Ireland would, that day, be richer by £20,000,000, "but," he said, "the evidence and weight

of Dr. Nairn, who did not know Ireland, prevailed." In the same way Professor Howitt was sent over in 1884 to report upon the possibility of planting in Ireland and his result and in his evidence he said, "I think the question of planting Ireland is one of vast importance to that country, and that instead of having five millions of people there it ought to be twenty-five." Twenty-three years has gone by and nothing has been done in that regard, and if those twenty-five years had only been employed in the doing of that I believe the state of this country would be immensely better. I might also point out that the amount of available waste land is very great, but then there are any amount of rights and things that interfere. That is an important thing for a Bureau to find out, how those immediate rights can be overcome to do a great national good, but nevertheless I hand in a schedule of waste land which can be acquired free of complications of titles and claims, and we have more of those lands, a schedule of twelve counties, which have 42,290 acres available, and with no complex conditions. I think, sir, it is the duty of the Board or Bureau to acquire land that and find that out and plant such available land which will give such desirable results. I may say that planting also leads to a great deal of other industries. As one previous witness said, I think the Department has not done its duty in the Industrial Department. I always write of it as the Agricultural Department, for I never heard of it in the Industrial field. Agriculture is quite enough for it.

11908. And technical instruction?—Yes; these two are quite enough. The effect of forestry upon industry is this:—That where there are forests there spring up very often sawmills. The President of our Society, Lord Castletown, in the woods at Donaghadee has the New Forest, because it grew up in his time. He has a sawmill built there, and the native wood is cut up and gives immense employment in the neighbourhood. At Edenderry, King's County, when I was there, I saw that the Messrs. Aylshurst, seeing the abundance of timber, have established a thriving sawmill, and the amount of success and progress in that and the employment given is wonderful. I want to impress upon the Committee that there is too much red-tape about doing anything in the Department. Planting is no mystery; it is an exceedingly simple thing to do. I submit here what was done in Leeds the other day. To meet the labour crisis the Corporation started planting on some ground near their waterworks. They took the unemployed of the streets, they gave them 5d. an hour. Up to December 29th they had dug out 25,000 holes. Day by day from December to January 25th, 1906, 50,000 holes were dug by piece-work. The planting commenced on January 26th, and from that to April 25th, 1906, 275,000 trees were planted on Swinney Moor, the chief species being spruce, Corsican pine, larch, sycamore, ash, and alder. A nursery ground was ploughed and prepared, and 585,000 seedling trees have been planted; also, seeds of various kinds of trees have been sown. About ninety per cent of the trees have lived, the greatest loss being among the Corsican pines and Douglas fir, whilst amongst the hard woods less than one per cent have failed. I submit statements containing these facts kindly sent me from the Parks Superintendent's office, Leeds. I submit that as an illustration; that a great Department instead of

leaflets and lectures on things above the heads of the people should take in each county in Ireland a thousand acres, at once available, and commence to work. I say that would be the work of a Bureau of Forestry, and it ought to be either a separate one, or a separate branch. What I am suggesting was done in Dublin nearly 100 years ago, and by Government intervention and funds and by a body very like what the Department is. In 1794 Mr. Hayes, of Askeade, a nephew of Sir John Parnell, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of Ireland at the time, sets forth the following in the interesting book, which I submit, at page 125. That from the year 1794 up to 1796, 7,220,458 trees were propagated by the Dublin Society, as it was then, and for purposes of an agricultural character, including planting, the Irish Parliament paid a bounty of £4,476 a year. In 1790, the number of trees in that one year, that was the last, was 3,753,000. I say that if planting had gone on on that scale from that day to this it is incalculable what the financial effect would have been.

11909. (Mr. O'Gillies).—Where were these trees planted?—Throughout the country; everywhere.

11910. (Mr. Brown).—Principally, I suppose, in the domains of landlords?—Domains or wherever they found either a landlord or a tenant whom they could assist by this means. I find, sir, from the proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society that this was stopped in 1806. The Parliamentary grant given by the Irish Parliament dropped and tree propagation was abandoned for some reason. I say, then, there are other advantages, after dealing with which I shall conclude, that would arise from reforesting. The increase of trees leads to many other advantages. They equalise temperature and rainfall. They conduct moisture to springs and rivers, and in the neighbourhood of forests it is a fact that very seldom a drought of water prevails. They prevent floods. We had some disastrous floods in the Dargle River and the Dargy River, and a couple of years ago in Bray. I was there myself and saw the devastation, and the reason is certainly that the hills are like roofs and when torrential rains come down they go. If these hills were clad with timber these torrents would not be so destructive. The French Alps were denuded by their possessors for financial reasons of their woods and the inundations and floods that followed were terrific, but the French Forestry Department immediately took it up, and they began to plant, and now these French Alps are clothed from head to foot with trees. Our barren hills of Wicklow and Dublin are staring the world in the face for hundreds of years unvarnished by that which could produce these many effects. The effect of trees on health and purity of air is so great that a Professor stated the other day in France that the air in some of the streets of Paris is so full of oxygen as the air of a mountain 8,000 feet high on account of the preservation of the trees and their emission of oxygen, which has a great effect upon the carbonic gas, so deleterious to health. These are the reasons, sir, both financial and as a source of employment, and so benefiting health, why the Forestry Society put this matter before you, that you would recommend that there should be a separate Department of Forestry, or that the Department as it now exists should have a separate Bureau for carrying this out. For that and all other reasons we strongly recommend the Department to undertake that duty.

Mr. T. W. WEBBER, Ashy, representative

of the Irish Forestry Society, examined.

11911. (Chairman).—You have heard Mr. Dawson's evidence. Do you agree with what he has said?—In every word of it.

11912. Is there anything you wish to add to it?—I would not go further over the ground that Mr. Dawson has gone over. There are, of course, the three points—first of all, the desirability of reforesting the country, and second, the practicability of doing it; and I think he has treated these subjects fully, and I would treat on the best method of doing it.

11913. I hardly think that is quite relevant to our inquiry. We are not forestry experts, and we could not report whether this method or that method was the best. I don't think we could compare one method with another?—In what respect would you like us to give evidence?

(Chairman).—If you wish to add anything on Mr.

Dawson's lines, it would be relevant; but we could not report what was the best method of planting.

Mr. T. W. Webber.

11914. (Mr. Miles).—Mr. Webber, in the notes of evidence he put in, gave a fairly full statement as to the extent of the rotation that would be suitable in Ireland. I think it would be desirable that he may mention at how early a stage he considers the Forestry Department might become self-supporting?—I would like to state that my qualifications to give evidence are that I studied forestry in Germany in the Royal Forests of Hanover and the Harz Mountains, and that I was for ten years in India, during which time I was in the Forestry Department. I was Surveyor of Forests in the North-West Province; and also since I returned from India I have been in the habit myself of planting a great many trees annually and marketing them. I think that the most important thing of all

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Mr. T. W.
Webster.

is that the forestry in this country should be undertaken as a State Department by a Forest Bureau, first of all on account of the example of other nations—the Forests Departments have succeeded admirably in other countries—and also on account of the future of private enterprise in this country to propagate forests properly.

11915. (Chairman).—You say afforestation must be taken in hands by the Government?—Yes. The result of private enterprise is that we have a considerable area of forest which is not cropped at all, or cropped so insufficiently that it can scarcely be called a forest at all; and my idea is that a Forest Bureau should be appointed in order to acquire land and make it, not the property of the Crown, the same in Germany and in this country too, but the property of the Nation, that it should be a National property, a National asset the same as it is in France, which is a democratic country; and that would be a great incentive to the people to take up forestry—that it would be their property. Then, I should say that the system of cultivation should be the Highwood system as much as possible, and that the rotations should be similar to those in the Borneo Mountains. There the forests are divided into districts of a thousand acres, and each thousand acres is in charge of a forester and two assistants, and the system of rotation is that the thousand acres is divided into ten divisions of one hundred acres each, and one division of ten acres only is cut—the mature timber—and ten acres is planted; and the system of replanting is with reference to the storm and wind; the small trees all face the prevailing wind, and the trees go in steps of stairs up from the prevailing wind to the last area of mature trees; so in that way the storm has very little effect on that forest; but in our country the storm comes in and sweeps them away in a very unfortunate manner.

11916. The storm of February, 1905, for example?—Yes, I have very good examples of that. The rule of thumb in Germany is to cut down all overmatured trees, leaving all younger trees to grow.

11917. (Mr. O'Connell).—In that rotation of 100 years; how early in that period would the forest be self-supporting?—I think the German period system is to begin to thin out after twenty-five years, or perhaps after twenty years; and then if you plant 5,000 trees to the acre, you could thin out probably 2,000 poles, and these are profitable to sell to the farmers. Mr. Dawson stated one instance where that was done in Ireland, and that the profits after twenty years, I think, amounted to £250 an acre, so after twenty years you might reckon, or certainly twenty-five years, that the forest would begin to pay. There is another thing in which I would supplement Mr. Dawson's statement that the trees should be planted in the lands so that the logs can be hauled out properly for marketing, and the attention ought to be given with reference to saw-mills and sawpits, which would subsequently be laid down. The sawmills especially should be considered, because they would manufacture the timber on the spot. It is a very expensive thing to transport heavy logs by taking them to England as at present, so that nearly all the value of the timber is absorbed in the freight. I believe it is a fact that in the Empire of Austria, there are 11,600 saw mills at work cutting up the timber on the spot, and we can

imagine the immense amount of employment given by that. The Irish people, we know, are very good at timber, for in ancient times the country was all clothed with timber, and the people naturally take to cutting timber. They may not be good workers, but they are good timber manufacturers, from their ancient training. I would also like to state the mistakes that have been made in planting the wrong kinds, which accounts for the failures in this country. In all the natural forests of the Rocky Mountains and the Himalayas the white deals always grow on the north side and the pines in the southern slopes. But you find in Ireland that the spruce and white deals have been generally planted in the wrong places—the low-lying lands, and that accounts for the deficiency of value in the timber. I have examples here (producing them) of spruce that has grown in the proper way in Britain—land, good joiner's wood, and spruce grown on my own land, coarse and useless. These are specimens of larch also (producing them). All the conifers prefer rocky hills, and on the flat it would be advisable to plant hard woods. Of course, larch is the most important timber to plant, because there is any amount of demand for it. It occupies the very same position in the Liverpool market very nearly as pitch-pine. It will grow magnificently in all parts of Ireland.

11918. (Chairman).—Your general position is this, that if forestry is carried out in a scientific and proper way, with proper regard to natural conditions, it can be made to pay, and made to pay speedily, and that that is the justification for what you say, that there should be a Department for it?—Might I say, also, with reference to planting logs, the logs will not grow good timber, but they will grow Austrian or German pine; they will grow fine pit wood; and on the wet land they will grow market poplar; and the paper manufactured is now nearly all made from poplar-pulp. The Times newspaper in one day uses about one acre of poplar.

11919. When do they get these from?—From America. In thirty years wet land would grow such a crop of poplar that it would be possible to put down a paper mill at once. There are millions of acres suitable for growing poplar—out away long and wet land where rushes grow and there is nothing but seeps. That will all grow poplar, and that will improve the land and dry it. There is a great difficulty, it appears to my mind, to get rid of the growing rights over a great deal of poor mountains that are worth, perhaps, a shilling an acre and will graze a sheep to twelve acres, and where there is only one shepherd to a thousand acres. A thousand acres is able to give employment to one man, whereas if planted with trees it would probably give employment to ten families.

11920. I suppose you would say that the public interest is so great that it would be quite right to take these lands compulsorily?—You could interest the people by employing them at once, not as caretakers of sheep, but as caretakers of timber.

11921. (Mr. Nichol).—And making drainage?—Yes, and in that way it would put money into these pockets.

11922. (Mr. Brown).—They would not be the same people that are at present after the sheep?—I think they would.

(Chairman).—I don't think it is a serious difficulty.

Mr. ARCHIBALD EDWARD MERRAN, representative of the Irish Forestry Society, examined.

Mr. Archibald
Edward
Merran.

11923. (Chairman).—You are from Portlanna, in Galway?—Yes.

11924. Would you just tell us your position?—I should claim to be one of those rather rare persons that have studied both the theory of modern scientific forestry and also made themselves acquainted with the practice. I have studied the subject in France and Germany and Canada and the United States; and for two years, 1902 and 1903, I was employed by the Department of Agriculture in making a survey of the South-West of Ireland with regard to forestry conditions there. Dr. Noëls took the South-East. I was at one time Managing Director of a large timber business here, so I acquired a thorough knowledge of the practical side.

11925. (Mr. Nichol).—Were there only two Reports?—Yes.

11926. Nothing from the North?—No. The evidence I want to give here has nothing to do with

afforestation. It is entirely with regard to forest conditions in Ireland, what these are, how they stand at present, what the Department has done towards improving these conditions, and what the Department might do. I wish to offer suggestions. I believe the general suggestions that I have to offer will all tend in the same direction—towards making forestry conditions profitable. The whole crux of the forestry question is whether it can be made to pay or not. If it can be established beyond doubt that planting trees is a profitable investment, practically the forestry question is solved. The whole trend of public opinion will at once go towards private planting, and from that towards afforestation. I have always felt very strongly it was beginning at the wrong end and to begin at the afforestation and go backwards to private planting, to treat that by an extensive example of several thousand acres undertaken by the Government that private people would be encouraged to plant. I think

the education of the public is important. I have not got the Report of the Department Committee in 1902 on forestry in England; but there happens to be an extract from it here, which sums up the whole of their opinion, in Professor Stimpson's book.

11327. (Mr. Collier).—This Report is on England?—Yes; (reading). The present condition of existing woodlands has been repeatedly and clearly reviewed by many eminent authorities. It is the common verdict that timber of the kind and quality imported in such large quantities from the Baltic and similar timber regions can be grown as well here as anywhere. That foreign is so generally preferred to home-grown timber is in no way due to unstable soil or climate, but is entirely due to our neglect of agricultural principles. It is hardly too much to say that until within the last ten years or so, owners of woodlands, with few exceptions, failed to realize that the shape, size and quality of trees could be influenced by anything that they could do. They seemed to imagine that the character of the final product was largely a matter of accident, whereas it is mainly determined by management. That the utility of our woodlands can be materially improved admits of no doubt; and the evidence before us unanimously favoured immediate and effective provision for bringing systematic instruction within the reach of owners, agents, foresters, and woodmen. This has been on all sides emphasized as the first requisite in any project for the improvement of forestry, and consequently stands out as the cardinal point of our recommendations. These are my opinions very strongly. And I think in that respect, that when taking up areas of land to plant, it is manifestly the duty of the Department of Agriculture to undertake educational, instructional work towards the advancement of forestry. I may take it that you quite understand that the present condition of forestry is in a most deplorable state. As to the desirability of what is called private planting I do not know whether it has been brought before you before, how the employment given by private planting of that description would be even more advantageous to the people from an economic point of view than planting immense blocks on the mountain side, because labour would be distributed through the country near the labourer's home. This planting is all in the winter. Forestry work would throw men idle in the summer, when the farmers are clamouring for men. Men are now practically idle in the winter. They would be far better off with a moderate permanent wage all the year round, and private planting would exactly fill what is a very urgent necessity.

1908. (Mr. Mick).—Are you going to say what kind of private individuals might plant, in your opinion, taking Irish society as it is?—I would have very strong hopes of introducing extensive planting in a great many instances in small areas among purchasing tenants.

11022. (Chairman).—Shelter hotel—And for profit. I know numbers of instances.

11930. I remember there was one witness who spoke from his own experience of how much might be done in planting corn—It is a fact that purchasing tenants are cutting down trees if they find on their farms in the most wholesale and deplorable manner. Now it is a curious thing that when the same purchasing tenants plant a few trees they grower them with the greatest care, and are most anxious about them. I think the idea is that the trees that they find on their farms have always belonged to the landlord beforehand, and have grown fast on their lands, and as a sort of revenge they cut them down.

11931. (Mr. Brown).—As a rule is it not hogdow timber. Is there anything else practically?—Oh, yes; I have a great deal of valuable timber. I valued a property a short time ago about to be sold to the Estate of C. Brown, on which about fifty years ago there had been very extensive timber being planted, not for profit. I valued there, taking an average price per acre, five per cent. on millage; and it came out that they ought to be worth about \$5,000 for shelter, but as timber they would be worth nothing. The tenants came to me while I was valuing the shelter belts, and I tried to interest them in keeping them. But they laughed at me. They will cut them down at once when they get the land.

11932. That is owing to want of instruction!—Yes.

11933. (Mr. Hiett).—Am the reports of yourself and Dr. Nebitt published by the Department?—No; not to my knowledge. Oct. 19, 1904.
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11934. The Department did not take any measures for ventilating the views conveyed by you!—Not as yet. As to the people that might plant. It is most desirable that the landlord class should be kept in the country to spend their incomes there. But under existing circumstances there is very little to keep them. The fiscal distress of the country has been taken from them; their sporting interests are very seriously interfered with; and there is little to keep them in the country. If a landlord can be induced to take up planting as a hobby, there is nothing that groves on one like planting and watching the plantation; and if that has the effect of keeping the landlords in the country it will also improve sport, and that is a question that has a strong bearing on the point and something must be done before it is too late. Everything that is done must be of slow and gradual progress. As regards the steps the Department have already taken, I have spoken of the survey that Dr. Notholt and I made. That would be of use in view of further operations. There is also the school at Arundale. I would like it to be understood that far from being hostile to the Department, I am a very strong supporter of the Department and quite enthusiastic about all their agricultural work; but I do feel strongly that they have not taken the subject of forestry seriously. Anything they have done they have done at an exceptional, and everything they have done is the strongest possible proof that they do not really understand what they are doing.

1235. (Chairman).—You think it is one of their weak points—I was going to say it was their only weak point, but I won't go so far as that. The operations are indefensible. Avoidable is to educate young foreigners; but there are a number of young foreigners being educated by head farmers all through Ireland who cannot get employment.

11630. (Mr. Meade).—Do you know that some of the forestry apprentices at Avondale are the sons of foresters working in Ireland?—I have not visited that school, and don't want to criticise it at all.

11525. (C. Freeman).—You are, at all events, in accord with Professor Campbell, who says at Question 1,233 (reading)—I think education should not begin with the Forestry School. It should begin with the education of the public to understand and appreciate and want a forestry school. The American Forestry Service have understood that very strongly, and published it again and again. The first thing they did was to set about and get a thoroughly competent staff. They are most active, and rightly, emphasizing the fact that education is the first thing to train the public to using that competent staff. The Forestry School is no good until the public are educated to use it.

11932. (Mr. Brown).—Would not that part of the work be done through the horticultural or agricultural instructors, provided they had the necessary knowledge?—No; that is a very strong proof of how extremely superficially they treat the subject.

11400. (Chairman).—How are you going to educate the public?—That is a very difficult question, but it can be done. How did they educate them to appreciate agriculture?

1890. By showing them. You cannot demonstrate in forestry as you can in agriculture. - Yes, you can in time; but you must begin. They issued leaflets. I think that is altogether on the right lines. That is a system of educating the public which is altogether what should be desired. These leaflets should not be for reference, but to keep by one; and these are rather very difficult documents to keep by one. The American Bureau of Forestry issued to the farmers beautifully illustrated little books bound in paper, and cheap, written in the most interesting way. But this leaflet of the Department (p. 20-21) is written in such an incredibly vague way that you cannot contradict anything in it. It is apparently written from a small owner of trees. This particular one is on the felling and selling of timber, a very important thing, for the whole profit depends on the selling. Putting yourself in the position of an ignorant man reading this, his mind would remain the most complete blank; yet you cannot contradict any facts in it.

11941. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You would say that this thing was in the omission of one paragraph at the beginning, "Instruction to small farmers on selling and selling timber. First—don't"—Why?

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Edmond
Mason.

11942. You said they should be educated to keep the timber!—There is no profit in it if you keep it.

11943. You said you should educate them to retain the timber!—No; there are many commercial woods planted for profit being handed over to small farmers. These men would have an interest in this pamphlet.

11944. I gather from you that the best thing they ought to do in the cases you had in your mind was to cut it down!—No, the case I mentioned was where the plantation was for timber. The proper thinning of commercial woods is essential.

11945. And commercial woods are, as a matter of fact, being sold to farmers at the present moment!—Yes, in many cases. I know of fifty acres being divided between two farmers.

11946. (Mr. Dryden).—What do you think is the value of this proposition—say the Department notify the people that they are willing to furnish trees, either free or at a small cost, and superintend the planting, or even do the planting themselves if the people care then?—I would hardly go as far as that. I would never give anything for nothing.

11947. I suggest it myself. It has been tried with some success in Canada!—Giving the trees for nothing?

11948. Yes, in the beginning!—I would put a small price, I think, on them.

11949. They don't really cost much. What is being done there at the College Farm in this, the trees are planted, and they give them away practically for nothing!—The United States Bureau does that all over the States.

11950. Have you any plan of reaching the people and discussing this with them?—I say it is the business of the Department of Agriculture. It is their business to know how. Horticultural instructors are authorised and instructed to give advice in forestry, if I believe, a three weeks' course of forestry instruction. I think that shows how absolutely superficially they understand the question. The idea that a horticultural instructor, who presumably knows no more about forestry than he knows about pig-breeding, there being no connection between horticulture and forestry, through the Department of Agriculture evidently think that the planting of plants in the same as the planting of trees. The actual planting of trees can be taught in half-an-hour; but it is the future management and advice—

11951. (Chairman).—That argument of yours is a little double-edged. If it is so easy that anybody can understand it, the horticultural instructor under the present system is on the spot and could most easily learn it!—The actual operation of digging the hole and planting the tree can be done by anybody. The whole skill comes in in recommending the right kind of tree, to thoroughly analyse the soil, and find the aspect, elevation, and exposure. There are hundreds of things.

11952. (Mr. Dryden).—Have they any expert forestry man in the Department at present?—They have a gentleman in charge of the school who was, I think, a sub-agent there before, and they also have a gentleman who comes over from England. He is an expert lecturer at Avondale to the people. But they have nobody on the whole staff of the Department excluding those that, as far as I know, has any knowledge whatever. Professor Campbell has a deep interest in the subject, and he is a man of very wide attainments; but he cannot be a forester as well as everything else. In this leaflet, for instance, the price that the poor man is told he will get for his timber is, for ash one shilling to two shillings; if the trees are specially good higher prices may be expected, while badly situated timber makes less than those prices. That is from one shilling to two shillings, double the price. And if it is bad timber, it may be worse. Is that any information whatever? It does not state whether it is by the ton or per cubic foot. I know it is a cubic foot, but the farmer does not know it. A cubic foot is the square of one-fourth the girth multiplied by the length, divided by 144. It does not state whether the prices are for standing trees, or delivered in Dublin. The Department of Agriculture also publish a great many statistics on forestry. They treat the subject very fully. There are fifteen pages here of closely written figures as to everything you could imagine about forestry. I do think it is a perfectly extraordinary thing that the office boy did not draw attention to the errors made in this thing from first to last. That has been going on since the existence of the Department year after year. This is all ruled in columns. I don't want to unduly criticise the Department, but justice an ex-

ample of how a big public Department can make hideous mistakes. This is the report of 1904. "Agricultural Statistics," page 126. Here are the columns (quoting). "Table showing by counties and provinces the areas planted." It is for the year ending 30th June, 1904. "Number and description of each tree planted." The columns are ruled in "birch," "fir," "spruce," and "pine"; and then it goes on into hard woods. We all know what a bog tree is. The fir is probably Scotch fir. We know what spruce is. But what is the pine? Here is a column of several pages devoted to a tree that does not exist separately. I know the explanation of it is that these statistics are got together by police constables, who in some cases note on their note books the Scotch fir as pine, and in other pages as Scotch fir; and presumably the whole staff of the Department were misled that the Constables made mistakes, and so six years they have been publishing these ridiculous columns.

11953. (Mr. Wolfe).—Do you think that the time that goes down to the constables have not those landings?—That would be rather worse, but it would be taking the blame off the constables. I admit there is the greatest possible difficulty in gathering these statistics. But why publish fifteen pages of utter rubbish got together in the most ridiculous manner.

11954. (Chairman).—That might have gone through without any expert knowledge at all?—I am perfectly sure it did.

11955. The Police constable sends it to a clerk who perhaps does not know anything about forestry!—Well, I say that is an error in management. I will guarantee that there is not a figure in those fifteen pages that the Department could substantiate. The total number of trees planted is given in each county next approximately, and the different kinds of each tree. What further could you want—most accurate information, New, take Westmeath; there were five acres planted in which there were 3,450 trees planted. That was at 450 trees per acre. There is something wrong when that is about 3,000 less than they should plant on an acre.

11956. (Mr. Brown).—These may have been small plantations in which the trees were rather large!—I think it would be impossible that only 450 trees were planted per acre.

11957. There may be a number of small plantations in which trees of a larger size than you are contemplating are grown!—It gives the kind of trees planted, and they are not ornamental. They are larch, spruce, and fir. If they were planted at that distance apart it discloses a lamentable ignorance on the part of the people who planted them so far apart. Now, let us come to Wicklow. There are fifty-six acres planted, in which there were 510,000 trees planted, which is at the rate of 9,228 trees per acre; nearly triple the amount that should be planted in an acre. The whole thing is full of that from beginning to end. Now, look at the page, "Felling Tables showing the areas cleared during the year ending 30th June 1904, and the number and description of each tree felled." In King's County the total area cleared was three acres, and the total number of trees felled was 3,025. Well, now, during that year I know three were five acres each working separately in the King's County, and you might add two nights at any rate to that number of trees.

11958. (Chairman).—I know one of them which taken up with the timber down to!—That is what I refer to; it was clearing.

11959. (Mr. O'Brien).—But not felling!—Oh, it evidently includes all these, because it surmises all the trees exported from Ireland, using those figures as a species of argument in the early part but here it is in the purpose for which they are made—the disposal of trees. It mentions early that the chief use of timber in Ireland is for peat.

11960. (Chairman).—It would convey the idea to most people!—Not at all. In very few districts in Ireland does it pay to export timber for peat.

11961. In England it is a perfectly familiar term!—At present trees for peat people are the best. A ton, delivered in Cardiff. If the timber merchant got it for nothing he could not deliver it at that price from many parts of Ireland. There is a whole column devoted to sheep, in which there is not a single entry except one for larch; while during that year the five saw-mills of

which I speak were all sawing sleepers for the home railways. That was an important advance in home economy. That is not recognized at all.

(Chairman).—Don't you think you have given instances enough to show that these statistics are very imperfect?

11962. (Mr. Michel).—Your point is that the whole of these statistical tables are not of much value!—They are far worse; they do an infinity of harm. My point in bringing this forward is that the Department who could publish these statistics cannot have a serious opinion of the value of forestry, or a skilled person to supervise them. Of course the most important thing I have to say is how forestry is made to pay. If you would allow me, I would suggest various ways in which this could be done. Supposing I imagine a small Forestry Bureau established. As to what the work would be. There should be a series of experiments as to the strength, elasticity, and endurance of home timber, and a comparison between home and foreign timber with a view to raising the price of the former to that of the latter. The American forestry service, where I don't think there is anything like the same necessity, because there they use home timber—the American forestry service pays 12 per cent. of its entire allocation towards these test experiments. We are importing timber. If we can produce timber equal to foreign timber we must convince the public that it is equal to it; and there is no way of doing that except by making public tests by somebody absolutely above reproach. Private tests are no use. There is always supposed to be some bias. For instance, take the case of Scotch pine for railway sleepers. It was only by a considerable amount of wire-pulling that the railway companies were induced to take home-grown Scotch fir at all. As a matter of fact I know the whole history of that. They always refused them before; but after the storm of the railway companies took home-sleepers, beginning at 3s. 3d.; but they have reduced the price to 2s. For foreign sleepers, given them the same test, they gave 3s. 3d. or 3s. 6d. I always contended that the home-sleeper was the better sleeper for various reasons. It is more supple and faster grown. For that reason it is inferior timber for roofing. But the sleeper being crooked, it absorbs far better than the foreign timber, and makes a better sleeper. Why, then, should we only get 2s. for it. Mr. Richard Nugent, Chairman of the Midland Great Western Railway Company, at the last annual meeting said they had got 50,000 of these sleepers in stock. They were quite excellent timber, in every way equal to the foreign timber, and when unsawn to their plant would last 50 per cent. longer than the foreign sleeper. It is also a better sleeper for some technical reasons. Engineers have told me it holds bolts better. In foreign timber, which is very hard, the bolt works loose. It does not, I believe, wear quite so well; but on most of our Irish railways the sleeper is rotted before it wears out. There are a suitable subject for the Department of Agriculture to take up to try and induce the public in the way of big railway companies to appreciate the fact that the home-grown sleeper is just as good as the foreign sleeper; therefore the price should be the same.

11963. If they can get it for a lower price they would be foolish to give more!—I don't blame the railway companies. They could hardly be expected to make public that they are buying the better article at the lower price.

11964. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You have got a better testimonial now from the buyer, Mr. Nugent, and the sellers of home-grown sleepers are in a position to say that they are not going to sell for 2s. 3d.—Whether rightly or wrongly the Irish railways prefer foreign sleepers at 3s. 6d., but that is absolutely propitious. The Great Southern and Western Railway Company have stopped the purchase of home-grown sleepers. I am not in a position to say whether they intend to open the sale again.

11965. (Mr. Brown).—Have they given any reason for refusing?—They never give a reason for anything. Let me take another very important illustration relating to the growth of trees for commercial purposes through the country. No tree we grow now is used for the purpose for which timber is used in the country—fencing and roofing work. The method is at our doors, and we don't offer a supply. There is a tree, the Douglas fir or Oregon pine. It grows with most extraordinary luxuriance in Ireland, as well,

if not better, than in its native home. The introduction of this tree is a question which the Department should take up. It is quoted by English firms at £10 a thousand.

11966. (Chairman).—Do you know Glend Wood in King's County?—Yes. There was an immense amount of money spent on those woods, and a number of Douglas fir put in, I am afraid, uselessly, although planted by a skilled forester, put in eighteen or twenty feet apart, interplanted with larch. That means the Douglas fir will spread right across, killing the larch until they become meet, and will continue to carry the branches down to the ground, and for the rest of their life produce useless timber. The Douglas fir are now thirty feet higher than the larch. There is where some inspection by a parent body like the Department would have been most useful. I was going to say that Douglas fir is sold at from 8s. to £10 per thousand by big firms; but there is no reason why the trees should be any dearer than Scotch fir or larch. The German firms have taken the matter up, and are supplying Douglas fir at almost the same price as Scotch fir and larch. One big German firm sold out their whole stock of Douglas fir last year half way through the year to England and Ireland. The Department of Agriculture in a month's time could regulate the price of Douglas fir with the nursery people, who insist on treating it as an ornamental tree, and I dare say make more money out of it. It costs you at present £20 an acre for plants from some English firms. That is outrageous. I saw in Lord Powerscourt's demesne Douglas fir seedling themselves under their own shade. They are one of the easiest trees to grow. There is no reason whatever why these trees should not be sold at 25s. or 30s. a thousand like larch. I have a list of German firms selling at that price.

11967. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It will cure itself presently!—It will, in time.

11968. Another year!—No. Douglas fir was introduced into this country forty years ago. It has been priced as a forest tree ever since.

11969. It has not been taken up on a forest scale!—It could not be at that price.

11970. Could not the foresters grow their own seed, so as to influence the market?—No; they use it themselves. On Lord Mansfield's estate in Scotland there were 600 Douglas first planted to the acre, eight acres planted mixed through with larch, which was absolutely wrong. At about thirty-two or thirty-three years' growth they cut out the larch, and they understood so little about it that they cut out 200 Douglas fir per acre, leaving 400 to the acre. Now they bitterly regret that, and they actually had to prune the 200 Douglas fir that remained. All admit readily that instead of 200 there should be five or six hundred Douglas fir to the acre standing there. There is a great deal more work before the Forestry Bureau if it is established.

11971. (Mr. Michel).—You seem to be rather against any large effect on the part of the Department or any bureau?—Not at all. I am a most enthusiastic person about afforestation, even on a large scale.

11972. But you are more inclined to begin in a small way?—To begin in a small way if possible, and it is far safer. A big scheme at the present moment is bound to be more or less a leap in the dark, and I would be sorry to see anything of that kind undertaken with a possibility of failure. There are hundreds of other trees, and experiments as to the growth of different trees. These experiments need not begin by planting the seed, and waiting thirty or forty years for it to grow. Examples could be got from existing plantations. As regards nursery gardens, they have the supervision of schools, I think, as regards fruit trees. I would institute a scheme of inspection of nursery gardens, so that the nursery gardeners would guarantee to supply their trees at a certain price, and the public buying these trees would have a guarantee that they were inspected by the Department's inspector. Of course, a forestry school is an absolutely essential in conjunction with the forestry service; but without the forestry revival it is the cart before the horse. The educational work I say should be propagated. It is a very difficult question. But by publishing literature written down to the level of the people we interest them, and they want to read it, and I would also catch their attention by public lectures.

Oct. 15, 1906

Mr. Aschall
Edward
Morse

Oct. 19, 1906.

Mr. Archibald
Edward
Moore.

11973. (Chairman).—I take it that in your view the Department of Agriculture has too much to do to take this particular branch, and work it thoroughly and efficiently. It must be made at least a separate branch with a separate method of instruction educating the public. It must be made a more distinctive and separate thing?—Yes. I quite believe it should be in the Department—a branch of the Department.

11974. You cannot hang it on to the agricultural branch?—I can give you four or five more striking illustrations of the work that has to be done.

11975. You are proceeding to the converted?—I will run through some of them. By encouragement and co-operation among the owners of woods, and thus regulating the output and securing better buyers, and the encouragement of wood-working industries in connection with the Technical Instruction Board, such as toys, furniture, brush-making, etc., and to deal with the question of loans for planting. By the way, if I might make the suggestion, Mr. Dawson, in his evidence, referred to the Board of Works granting loans. I believe that they still rigidly

enforce the rule that they will not grant loans except for the purpose of shelter belts.

(Mr. Dawson).—That is not so, sir. I have it from the Board of Works the other day that since the Tramway Act the restriction is withdrawn.

(Witness).—I have it from a very high authority and it was before the Forestry Society that a gentleman was refused a loan for planting, because the land planted that would be sheltered didn't belong to him, but to an adjoining tenant.

11976. (Mr. Brown).—The Board are now taking a wider view of it than before?—Of course, the question of loans is of very vital importance. The taxation and death duties also are of importance, and extensive railway, dock, and canal charges are outrageous. It is the universal custom in Ireland to charge 15 to 20 per cent. higher for seven goods on railways than for the second class, and the similar merchants have to consider whether it would pay him to ship the timber in the round or spend money in putting up a saw mill, and then shipping it away.

Rev. J. B. Wallis examined.

Rev. J. B.
Wallis.

11977. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Wicklow County Committee of Agriculture, and you represent them, is that right?—Yes.

11978. I see the first point which you mention in your letter is the extension of the executive functions of the Board of Agriculture, and the granting by the Department to the Board of Agriculture of something more than mere advisory powers in connection with county schemes, etc.?—Yes.

11979. I do not know whether you were here when Mr. Cogan was examined?—No.

11980. Then will you say what you wish to say on that?—Our idea with regard to that is the Board of Agriculture consisting as it does of men who are more or less experienced in agricultural pursuits and have agricultural interests more or less at heart, ought to occupy more than a consultative position with regard to the Department of Agriculture, that is to say, in the appointment of county officials and in the working of the schemes, the shaping of schemes, cattle, poultry, and so on, they are in a better position to advise than the Department is at present, and if they had co-equal powers at heart with the Department I think there would be more confidence; the County Committees and the people would feel that those who were guiding their interests were at least their representatives, and they would be more in touch with them than they are at present.

11981. You are aware, are you not, that they are more than a deliberative Board—they have larger powers than that?—Well, they are, but it is not quite possible, and has it not been done by the Department to override the advice of the Board of Agriculture?

11982. Do you know of any instance in which it has been done?—I do not know of any instance.

11983. We have asked that a great many times, and I do not think we have had an instance of it given? I do not know that there are any instances.

11984. On the other hand, may not the Board of Agriculture override the decision of the Department?—Well, they can veto them.

11985. They have no power of veto except as regards the expenditure, which amounts to the same thing. I am just trying to see whether you have looked the matter all round?—I look at it this way—that supposing we have an official working in the county, a lecturer, would it not be better that he should feel that he was a servant of that body, and that if he did anything which may be more or less out of the way that he would not be reproved by any single individual, and that if his tenure of office was to be cut short it would be done at least by a body of men who were sitting together. It is for the purpose of giving security of tenure practically as well as theoretically that feeling, I think, is very general.

11986. (Mr. Brown).—You think the Board would act more leniently towards the officials?—I do not know that it would be advisable to act more leniently, but it is very bad for any man to hold a situation at the nod of any other individual no matter who he may be.

11987. (Chairman).—It is the rule throughout the whole executive side of administration?—Well, I do not think it is right.

11988. Could you mention any other instance in which an executive officer does not hold at will; is the whole of the English Civil Service every official holds purely at will?—At whose will.

11989. Practically at the will of the head of the Department?—And even the head of the Department dismisses a man without appeal—a member of the Civil Service.

(Chairman).—Certainly. You have undertaken rather a large order, Mr. Wallis. You are going contrary to the practice not only of Ireland but of England, and, as far as I know, of all administrative offices.

11990. (Mr. Brown).—You speak of the appointment of county officials being in the hands of the Board?—They are appointed, of course, I know, by the Committee.

11991. You would not take that away from the County Committee, and place it in the Board?—Certainly not.

11992. (Chairman).—If the Board dismissed an official appointed by the County Committee do you think that would tend to good relations between the County Committee and the Board of Agriculture?—I do not think it would at all.

11993. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Is that what you mean?—Oh, no. What I mean to say is this—our county lecturer is a very good man, and does his work very well, indeed; but I cannot help thinking that he feels that he is not in touch with the people that he is serving in the way that he ought to be.

11994. When do you mean by the people he is serving?—The farmers and the population generally, and if he felt that he could act on his own initiative in many ways that he would be in no way running counter to any individual that is over him who could dismiss him with a stroke of his pen it would be better.

11995. (Mr. Dryden).—Has anything occurred in practice to illustrate that?—No; I don't think there has.

11996. (Chairman).—It is an abstract opinion?—It is; but it is in the general feeling.

11997. (Mr. Brown).—Do you limit that to Wicklow?—Of course, I am speaking about Wicklow, but I think it is a very general feeling.

11998. (Chairman).—Let us go to your next head—the necessity of following up the work done in recent years by the county lecturers and instructors, so as to afford opportunities to those who have already profited by giving actual teaching?—The idea is to establish one or two places in different parts of the county where the sons of farmers might have object lessons in farming, also the farmers themselves, and attention should be paid to the local interests, and not to doing anything beyond their means.

11999. The advisability of bringing the agricultural community more closely into touch with the spirit of progress by giving scholarships to be supported by the intelligent boys of the county, and the necessity for a more thoroughgoing co-ordination between the educational bodies of the county?—That seems to me to contain in a nutshell the whole thing. I hold very strongly that the educational system of our country is too scrappy, and it is too much separated.

rated one from another in its different departments. We hear a great deal from time to time about atmosphere, and so on, but if we could introduce in the National schools of the country an atmosphere of agriculture, I think we would be doing more probably than we should do in any other way, so as to make boys and girls proud of having a knowledge of the science of agriculture, just as they would be proud in other years to know something about mathematics or anything else they would be learning, and not be ashamed of the work of their fathers and mothers afterwards as they are now, and which the National system of education has contributed to very largely, because if a boy or girl goes to a National school, and stays there until about twelve or thirteen they have learned to read and write and do arithmetic up to simple proportion, but they are ashamed of the work their fathers and mothers spent their lives at.

12000. At all events, to give them an inclination towards the life they will probably have to lead?—Yes; the study in the schools seems to me to be completely out of touch with the agricultural life of the country.

12001. Do you think if there was any agricultural teaching or horticultural teaching that the teachers in the schools are competent to give it?—They ought to be competent to give it, but I am afraid they are not.

12002. (Mr. Brown).—It ought to be a part of their training and qualification as teachers in the agricultural schools that they should be capable of giving it?—Yes; to give them a taste for agriculture; it is an admirable element, but it seems to me it ought to be created in time as easily as any other educational element.

12003. (Mr. Dryden).—The teacher would want to be something of an enthusiast to succeed?—He certainly should.

12004. (Chairman).—Your fourth point is the urgent need of a keen supervision of each educational work as has already been done, for example, in reference to poultry fattening stations, so that the education may be conducted on lines converging towards industrial development, at the same time avoiding the crushing of local enterprise in this branch of work?—The danger is that those working at Avondale want to get poultry, for instance, to fatten. Of course, they must get them, and they go to the local markets, and they buy them no matter what they cost. I am not giving any concrete example of what has happened. They must get them, and they go to Tinsley or Balafrum. They buy the fowl no matter what they cost. I am not giving any concrete example of anything I have witnessed, but I have heard many complaints.

12005. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You believe they do what you are now going to say?—They have done it. Nobody can blame them for doing it. They want to get the fowl; they cannot work without them, and the result is that the local traders feel they cannot compete with these men who have the money, and naturally with a few months' experience of that they fall out, and have nothing more to do with it.

12006. You mean they pay more than the market value of the fowl?—I will give you an example. A man I know, a very respectable farmer, was fattening fowl for the London market, and doing thoroughly well, but these others came along, and he could not buy in the market at the price they were paying, and here himself a margin of profit, and he fell out of the work altogether, and after a few months he went there one day, and bought in himself a lot at more than he could actually afford to bring them home and make a profit on them in London, but he sold them to these men in the same market at a profit. He was a very respectable trader, and he told me that himself. That is an example of doing good the wrong way.

12007. Are they large purchasers?—They must be fairly large.

12008. They affected the markets?—They will affect all markets.

12009. (Mr. Brown).—Do you suggest they should not buy in the local market, or what is the remedy?—Certainly not. I suggest that they should not rush prices up.

12010. You don't say they willfully pay more than they could get them for?—I am only giving you an example of what occurred to my own knowledge. The

man I speak of is a man in whose word I have the greatest confidence.

12011. (Mr. Ogilvie).—He bought at the price that ruled in the market in the morning, and these men came on afterwards, and bought from him presumably because they could not get fowl from anybody else for less. It shows they did not get up early enough in the morning?—I suppose if they had been up earlier in the morning they would have got them all right.

12012. (Mr. Brown).—Did you ever hear of such a thing as a "ring"?—Certainly; but we don't want them here in Ireland.

12013. Did you ever hear of that in connection with fowl markets?—I heard of them in more than fowl markets.

12014. (Chairman).—You suggest that the Avondale farm is not conducted on proper commercial lines?—I would not like to make the suggestion, but that is the tendency. What I mean to say by introducing the subject at all is that in an educational matter of the kind it is necessary to keep in mind the relations between the industry, and the profits to be made out of the industry. If I teach a boy here to kill a pullet or a dozen of them I may also teach him how to trim it, and send it to the market, but what good is that if he loses it, a head on them.

12015. (Mr. Dryden).—I suppose the bulk of the people there sell the poultry?—Oh, yes; they sell them to the men who deal in fowl.

12016. So that in that case the Department in purchasing at these high prices is doing good to the people who had them to sell?—Doing temporary good for a permanent evil to follow it. I know many do not agree with me on that point, but it is following on the line which long ago killed many industries in Ireland.

12017. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Have you any idea at all how many fowl they would purchase for the school?—It is ten a day or a hundred a day or what?—I am sure they would go into the market, and buy 300 or 400. They don't do it regularly or constantly; they do it for two or three months, and then drop off. Perhaps they would have some of their own there. That makes the market fluctuate, and people don't actually know what they are going to get for the fowl when they start.

12018. It is too big a draft on the market to be otherwise than disturbing to the local market, the mere fact that they are going to purchase a number that is considerable in proportion to the number available on a particular date would naturally drive up the price?—It would. I don't know what the remedy would be.

12019. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you information as to how many they purchase?—I suppose it could be very easily got, but I have not it.

12020. The market could not be very extended?—I am not intending to make any reflection on those who manage it. I do not see how they can help it at the present time, nor did I say at the time I was making the suggestion, but I saw the result.

(Mr. Dryden).—The result was seen in the case of that one year.

12021. (Mr. Brown).—He was a buyer of fowl. I wonder what the seller thought about it?—Suppose six months elapsed, and the Avondale authorities did not want any more. This man was killed out, and there might be a dozen of others killed out.

12022. Surely he might go to another market?—He is a big farmer, and is just in the neighbourhood.

12023. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Supposing the matter was carried by the School buying in a different market, would the locality be satisfied to have the School sending to a distance for fowl in order that they might not by their purchases disturb the local markets?—It would be better if they distributed their purchases more evenly.

12024. All over the country or over the area?—Over the time in the year and over the country.

12025. You see there is a certain difficulty, and you don't quite see that it could be done in any other way that would cause less difficulty?—I cannot see any other way out of it, but I would be very sorry to say anything that any of the authorities might take umbrage at, because I think it is useful work calculated to do a great deal of good.

Oct. 16, 1906.

Mr. Andrew
Wilson, V.S.

Mr. ANDREW WATSON, V.S., examined.

12066. (Chairman).—You are veterinary inspector of the Borough of Dublin?—Yes.

12067. I think you have been requested to give evidence by the Executive Committee of the City Corporation, appointed under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act?—Yes, for the City of Dublin.

12068. And the point you wish to bring before us?

—The first point that I bring before you is—the Executive Committee are of opinion that the present methods of raising money for compensation purposes on local ratepayers is not a just one, and that the compensation under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act should be paid out of Imperial funds. As you are doubtless aware, the expenses of the veterinary branch of the Department of Agriculture in part, if not in whole, are paid out of the General Cattle Diseases Fund. This fund was established by the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act, 1884, by section 71. The veterinary branch make a refund of the half of the expenses to the Executive Committee, that is to say, out of the money that has been paid to them by the Dublin Corporation, they give back a money. Thus in the year 1903 a farthing in the pound was levied on Dublin City under the Consolidated Order of the Local Government Board, which raised £207 8s. 4d., and the recoupments of 1903 and 1904 raised £331 6s. 10d., so that a balance of £666 1s. 6d. remains in the hands of the Department of Agriculture for defraying the expenses of their own Department.

12069. (Mr. Brown).—Was not the whole of that rate spread over several years?—The farthing in the pound was struck in 1905.

12070. How long was it before that since any rate was struck?—I do not know exactly, but I think it was something like 1900.

12071. Has any rate been struck since?—In 1905 there was another rate of a farthing in the pound.

12072. Do you suggest that the farthing in the pound is not applied for the purpose for which it is raised?—No. What we do suggest is that we only get back a portion, and we consider that instead of paying a farthing that the money that is paid for compensation and for the expenses of the Department should be paid out of the Imperial funds.

12073. That is different from what I understood you to say. I understood you to say that only £300 out of £900, roughly speaking, was expended for the purpose for which it was raised?—No, I said the recoupment that we get back of the whole sum raised. They say they are paying the half of our expenses, and half the compensation, if any.

12074. Is not the farthing raised to cover several years?—It depends upon how long the Cattle Diseases Fund lasts. If there are sufficient funds to last twelve months that does the twelve months, and if it runs on for two or three years they don't ask us to pay any more.

12075. (Chairman).—In the last case it has run for two years?—Yes.

12076. In the paper before me there are these words:—"All compensation under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act should be paid out of Imperial funds." Does that mean the rates should be relieved altogether?—Yes; that is the idea of the Executive Committee.

(Mr. Brown).—I can understand that.

12077. (Chairman).—Your evidence seems to go to the suggestion that the recoupment was not sufficient, and that the balance went to pay the expenses of the Department's staff?—The statement is that we get back a certain portion of the sum that we have already given, so that there is a very substantial sum handed over to the Department for defraying their own expenses.

12078. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Carried forward for the next year, in which it may be wanted?—Exactly.

12079. For recoupment?—Yes, exactly.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—They are held in hand for that purpose.

12080. (Chairman).—The figures you give show it about half. Supposing the other half was chargeable to the next year that would come about right?—Yes; it would get near levelling up. For the year 1905 the figures did not turn out just as favourable to the Department. In 1905 another farthing in the pound

was levied, which amounts to 923 15s. 3d. The years 1905 and 1906 were exceptionally heavy in compensation. It was during those years that glanders was introduced into Dublin by the military authorities. We got back in those years £662 in the form of recoupments. They were exceptional. Yet a balance of £225 15s. remained in the hands of the Department.

12081. (Mr. Brown).—Are not these accounts all audited?—That I don't know really.

12082. Do you mean to say it would be possible for the Department to apply that money otherwise?—Oh, no, I don't. We don't impute that. Not only have we to levy those taxes, whatever the Local Government Board decide, but we have to look to the rate a second time for paying the other half of the working expenses and compensation under the Contagious Diseases Act, which is not paid out of the General Cattle Diseases Fund, so the rates have to bear two imposts for the one object.

12083. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You get all back that you have given to the Department?—Yes, if there is no further levy.

12084. (Mr. Brown).—You speak of the Department in connection with this General Cattle Diseases Fund. Is not that a distinct fund into which these payments are made. They are raised for two or three years. As soon as that fund is exhausted there is a levy in all the counties of Ireland for two or three years. It may be for a year.

12085. Say for four or five years what have the Department to say to that particular fund?—It is handed over to them for administration. The money comes from the Local Government Board, and when the Corporation cheque is drawn out for the amount assessed I understand it is handed to the Cattle Diseases Fund.

12086. You know it as a matter of convenience that a farthing is raised each year instead of raising the money in fractions?—They can go up to a halfpenny.

12087. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The Department are merely a bank for this purpose?—That is exactly it.

12088. And they have been performing that function quite satisfactorily?—We have no fault to find with the recoupment. We think that if the compensation were paid out of the Imperial funds, and let us pay our own expenses, and they paying their own, it might do justice. Again, the vast majority of contagious scheduled diseases is directly imported into this country from England—glanders, epizootic lymphangitis, anthrax, foot and mouth disease, still plague, pleuro-pneumonia, and sheep scab.

(Reports of proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1903, page 11; Report for 1903, page 25; Report for 1904, page 31 and page 32 of the Report for 1905).

Then, the Report for 1905, page 30, also adds further confirmation to the statement that these diseases are imported into Ireland from Great Britain. The summary of these reports is that the Department admit that epizootic lymphangitis and glanders have been introduced either from England by cart tracing horses or by cart military horses. As to anthrax, it is asserted that it was introduced from England by feeding stuffs and foreign manures. It is wisely unfair to penalise Ireland for the eradication of outbreaks of disease imported from Great Britain more particularly through the carelessness of the Department or the criminal indifference of the army authorities. In the face of the Department's own returns how can the local authorities congratulate themselves on discharging their duties, the first of which should be to make such outbreaks impossible from such a source. But suppose it is right to tax us for compensating what we don't create by any action of our own, is not the eradication of diseases for the common good of the Kingdom, and therefore should it not be borne out of Imperial funds. There are no cattle, horses, sheep, or pigs imported directly into Dublin from the Continent, and from our insular position we are particularly well situated for preventing the importation of stock affected with contagious diseases. The Executive Committee urge that local authorities should be invested with the fullest powers for the control and eradication of contagious scheduled diseases, and what the Executive Committee think is that in dealing, for example, with pleuro-pneumonia, which has

no existence now, unless fever has, of course, considerably decreased. The powers of the local authorities throughout Ireland are rather restricted. They have power to deal with affected or suspected animals, and with dedicating a certain place where they find those suspected or affected animals under restriction. When the Department took up the putting in force, or, rather, I should say, when the Veterinary Branch of the Privy Council under the pleuro-pneumonia orders had absolutely unlimited powers they could close out a whole roadway if they elected, and they could dedicate a whole area affected, whereas we had only limited power to deal with the affected or suspected in the towns in which they are found; whereas they could, as they did, for instance, at Mahony's Lane, in North Brunswick-street; they closed up all yards here. We had no such power, and it is the same thing as regards swine fever, then the Department came to deal with the matter there was really no difficulty. The Executive Committee think that when dealing with contagious diseases within their own district they ought to have the fullest power that could be given to them, and they feel that if they were entrusted with full powers they would be equally essential as the Department are.

12054. Do you think those powers might be entrusted to other bodies besides the Executive Committee? Would it be safe to the country to have a number of authorities?—I am aware there is a difficulty there. In some portions of Ireland I have to admit that I think they are very lax in dealing with the provisions of these Orders in Council.

12055. Can you possibly leave it safely with the local authorities?—I would not like to speak definitely for other local authorities. As regards our own authority, I think we can claim that we discharge our duties to entire satisfaction.

12056. You are the metropolis of the country, and if you don't do it, who will do it. But if you let disease in at one point you are letting it in everywhere?—Not that I wish to be egotistical, but I presume we discharge those duties better than some others.

12057. (Mr. Brown).—I was going to ask you with regard to the manner in which the local authorities have exercised their powers with regard to the eradication of sheep scab?—I don't know much; we have not adopted it ourselves, being in the city; we have very few sheep except in our markets.

12058. Are you aware of the difficulties that the Department have in getting the local authorities to make an order for the purpose of the prevention of sheep scab?—I have heard that they have had very great difficulties in trying to influence them.

12059. You know Mr. Mooney who was examined before us yesterday; do you agree with his view that power should be really exercised by the central authority, and not by the local authorities?—No; I would not feel disposed to do so. The local authorities should be more on the alert as to enforcing these powers.

(Mr. O'Driscoll).—That is the Committee's view—it is not your view?

12060. (Chairman).—It is your official view?—Really; that perhaps would be the best way of putting it. The Executive Committee respectfully protest against their being placed under the necessity of obtaining a licence from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland for the removal of animals, either for slaughter, whilst under restrictions in the district of the Executive Committee, or for the removal of such animals whilst under restrictions from one part of the Executive Committee's district to another, as such procedure is not only a nuisance, but a cumbersome one, and it invariably causes delay. This was exemplified by the recent outbreak of glanders in the city. The Committee, at the request of the owner, would order a special animal to be destroyed that night, in order to get it out of the way. The Committee might not rise until half-past five o'clock, it was too late to go to the Department for a licence, and as the thing stood we could not slaughter, or remove, without the licence of the Department. The Committee think that, within their own district, they ought to have jurisdiction over small matters of that character. They scarcely see there is any necessity for their order being delayed for licences; we can't see that there is any utility.

12061. (Mr. Micks).—Is it merely a formal granting; was it ever refused?—No, I think. I look upon it really as a matter of form.

12062. (Chairman).—Is it a statutory requirement?—There is a special clause in the Orders of Council setting that forth, and they also claim, under the Orders of Council, that they have the power to refuse or grant licences off their own bat. That would override any power of ours.

12063. If that was altered there would have to be a fresh Order in Council?—Yes. The Executive Committee direct attention to the fact that the Army Veterinary Department, being exempt from all Orders of Council, do not modify the existence of contagious (subclinical) diseases amongst their horses to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee would respectfully urge the necessity of the notification of such diseases to the Local Authority, in order that their Veterinary Inspector may, by inspection, assure himself that all necessary precautions have been taken to preclude the possibility of spreading infectious amongst the horses of the city. I think there is ample evidence in the reports of the proceedings under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act which I have referred to in a previous portion of my remarks, to show that it beyond you or say that military horses introduced glanders into Ireland, and also epizootic lymphangitis. We feel there should be some safeguards; since the Army Veterinary Department don't take any safeguards to protect us we ought to get powers to protect ourselves, and we don't see that we are encroaching on their rights and privilege by asking that our Inspector should see for himself that the horses are so isolated as not to affect any other horses in the city.

12064. (Mr. Brown).—You speak, just now, of diseases being introduced through the army horses owing to the carelessness of the Department; can you suggest any step the Department should have taken to prevent that, seeing they have no powers?—I understand that there is some slight understanding recently between the Department and the Army Veterinary Department, that they tell them when there is, we will say, glanders in a certain stable, but they in no way communicate with the Local Authority.

12065. But you spoke of the introduction of these diseases having taken place all through the carelessness of the Department; what I would like to know is, what the Department could have done?—I think the Department should have power, when the Local Authority has not, the Department ought to have power to inspect these horses in co-operation with the army men.

12066. You have already said that they have not the power?—They should have the power.

12067. Where did the carelessness come in?—In letting it be introduced.

12068. (Mr. Micks).—You think they ought to have made a noise?—They should have adopted some measures.

12069. (Mr. Brown).—What measures?—I think they should have power to deal with it.

12070. (Chairman).—You said it was their fault?—Fault may have been a rather strong word to use.

12071. (Mr. Brown).—We want to know what it is they ought to have done?

12072. (Mr. Micks).—Do you think they ought to have made public reports on the subject?—Yes.

12073. (Mr. Brown).—Can you tell us what it was they ought to have done that they neglected to do?—I think they should have been more alert, because they know that the army horses in South Africa were affected with glanders, parasitic mange, and epizootic lymphangitis, and knowing that they were coming back, they might have made some provision to be sure that they would not send these infected horses through the country.

12074. What provision could they have made?—I think they should have gone into consultation with the War Office, and reported that it had come to their knowledge that such a disease existed amongst the army horses, and proposed measures, so that it could not come into Ireland.

12075. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—Measures that the Army Veterinary Department should take?—Yes.

12076. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you are aware that something of that kind was done?—I know that nothing like that was done. The Executive Com-

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written are of opinion that the importation of horses, asses, and mules (Ireland) Order 1906 is insufficient to effectively deal with horses, asses, or mules, imported from Great Britain, Isle of Man, or Channel Islands into Ireland. By Section 3 it is provided that a declaration must be made before a magistrate, that is in the district from which the horse is coming, and a certificate from a qualified veterinary surgeon saying the animal had been inspected by him. This qualified veterinary surgeon is not the official veterinary surgeon. That is all done before the animal is landed. This declaration and certificate is handed to the lay port inspector on landing on Dublin quay we understand. How could this Inspector know whether the signature to either declaration or certificate was genuine or not. The veterinary surgeon who signs the certificate need not be the official one. What we would suggest is, why not throw the onus on the Veterinary Inspector at the port of shipment, and insist that some such brand, as is used by the port inspectors in the case of sheep, cattle, and pigs, be used which guarantees freedom from scheduled disease. Of all the cattle, sheep, and pigs going over from Ireland to England it is essential that they be branded with the crown, or they would not be allowed in. We think that some such course might be adopted from the English ports in sending horses over here. As to the difficulty in knowing the magistrate's signature, these people are not always the most scrupulous that have dealings with horses, and they might possibly get such a declaration, and forge the signature. There is no possibility of the lay inspector, or even of the professional Inspector at the North Wall knowing that it is a forgery. We think if certain magistrates were named at the various ports we could easily get to know their signatures.

12071. (Mr. Micks).—You think there have been forgeries?—No, I don't say that, but it would be possible.

12072. You are not aware of any case?—No. At present we believe these horses are not inspected by the Dublin Port Veterinary Staff, and we think it would be an additional safeguard if all were inspected at the port of debarkation immediately on landing. Antecedent to the passing of the present Order in Council the Port of Dublin Authorities always notified the Executive Committee of the arrival of all horses from Scotland, but now it is thought necessary to get a special Order of Council dealing with the subject. It is left to the conscience of the owner, or person in charge, to notify. They have all the particulars and custody of the declaration, and the Executive Committee thinks it would be highly desirable if the Department of Agriculture would notify us as to the arrival of horses. That the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts 1878 and 1896, the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order of August 1878, the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order of July 1886, and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Amending Order of 1894, are inseparably connected with the duties imposed on the Local Authorities under the Diseases of Animals Acts 1894 and 1903, and should, therefore, be administered by the Executive Committee. The Department takes special care of butter manufacture, packing, and the conveyance of the same, while they neglect altogether milk, as to its collection and storage whilst cream is fermenting, and both collection and storage is, I regret to say, in many parts of Ireland very negligently performed, so that the milk would be contaminated with dirt, and they say it is impossible to make good butter from bad milk; they mean milk coming from cows whose udders are diseased, or milk collected from dirty udders by dirty attendants, and put into dirty vessels. The milk is in a great number of instances put into shallow pans, and there is no cover put over it, so that it must become contaminated with dust and micro-organisms. They say it would be perfectly possible to make good butter from milk laden with dirt, but it must tend to turn it rancid. These various Orders are at present administered by the Local Government Board under the care of a medical gentleman. Now, who but a veterinary surgeon is properly qualified to deal with matters relative to cows and cowsheds? It forms part of the special course in our College, and is also a subject of exhaustive examination before qualification. Medical men don't include any such study in

their course, and therefore they cannot be expected to know it as well as a veterinary surgeon.

12073. Are these matters largely requiring bacteriological knowledge?—Veterinary surgeons have a special training on that.

12074. There are veterinary surgeons with laboratories here in Dublin?—Yes, we have one out in the College.

12075. (Mr. O'Donnell).—Will there be similarly qualified veterinary surgeons available in all the other areas?—We think if these things were transferred to the Executive Committee, an overwhelming majority of the Executive Committee through Ireland have qualified veterinary surgeons, and the consequence is that the inspection of cowsheds would be very much better done than it is at present. At present, I am aware it is administered under the Public Health Act. There is a difficulty in design, but we think if it could be changed it would also come under the province of the veterinary branch of the Department of Agriculture, and if it had a trained staff of veterinary surgeons there is bound to be very much good.

12076. (Mr. Micks).—You would like to see that transferred from the Local Government Board to the Department?—Yes, into the Executive Committee, and in that way we would get veterinary inspectors to act as inspectors in these matters, and I think in conjunction with the manufacture of butter, for it certainly seems a right way to begin it.

12077. You would also include tuberculosis in cattle?—Yes, that should certainly form part of the transfer.

12078. Are there any steps taken about tuberculosis at present?—The only place in Ireland where there is any attention paid to it, at present, is Dublin. Personally, I have, along with my other duties, to go round the dairy-yards and inspect the udders, especially for tuberculosis.

12079. Are there any bacteriological observations?—If there is any udder I consider doubtful, I take samples of the milk, and hand them over to Sir Charles Cameron, but although we inspect him, we have no statutory powers. The owner can say—"I don't want you; I object to it."

12080. (Chairman).—You have no right?—Exactly so, for although we do it, it is a power we have not got, and also as to the taking of samples of milk that we consider diseased.

12081. (Mr. Micks).—Has any action ever been taken about tuberculosis in milk cows?—Only under the Public Health Act dealing with meat and other animal products.

12082. Not as regards milk?—Any udder I come across that I think either is infected or suspected, I serve a notice under the Public Health Act, to have that milk destroyed until further notice. When I am notified by Sir Charles Cameron that he has failed to find bacilli, then we must withdraw.

12083. If you find, on the contrary, that the animal does suffer from tuberculosis?—We keep that milk in force, and we keep our eye on that cow, and we generally are successful in getting the owner to dispose of such a cow.

12084. How does he dispose of her?—He fattens her up.

12085. Sends her to another district?—Oh, no, they are criminals, but they are not, out and out, as bad as that.

12086. You would not object to that?—If the disease was confined to the udder, I would examine it again, and the other portions of the carcass.

12087. (Mr. O'Donnell).—But if he packed her off?—We have no law to prevent him.

12088. And she is not labelled?—No, you have no right on his premises at all.

12089. (Mr. Brown).—If tuberculosis were made a scheduled disease?—Yes, that would give great power that we have not at present.

12090. (Mr. Micks).—You saw Mr. Hunter's evidence in Belfast?—Yes, he is a gentleman in the North. If it was scheduled the other persons would come along with that, but at present the law is not represented by the sign mares as regards tuberculosis.

12091. (Mr. Brown).—Do you find it peculiar largely?—In the udder, no. I think in Dublin we are fairly free from it. I don't say it is quite satisfactory, for this reason, when I examine an udder, and I come across an udder that is doubtful; I say one sample is not sufficient, you would want to take half-a-dozen samples.

12102. (Mr. Minks).—You want power to isolate the animal?—Yes. The whole law on the matter of tuberculosis, even from the Public Health point of view, is highly unsatisfactory. Next is the application of the Maitland test. We think legislative powers should be obtained for the endorsement of the test, and after the endorsement all doubtful reactances should be slaughtered, and compensation paid. Everyone that has applied the Maitland test for a diagnosis of glanders is bound to come across cases of doubtful reaction. The course that we adopt at present is to isolate and restrict the animal as much as possible, and we test it a second time after three weeks or a month. We did feel, during the recent outbreak of glanders in the city, that it was a very great hardship on a man, particularly if he was in straitened circumstances, to isolate and restrict an animal for four weeks. The restricted horse really eats its head off in that time, and leaves him almost a fit subject for outdoor relief. We think it would be better for all concerned to slaughter all doubtful reactants, and pay full compensation. We have no law at all at present on this subject. We think it would be desirable if such a law had an existence.

12103. (Chairman).—I think we are going slightly beyond our reference; these are matters of public health—I think the Maitland test, and glanders, has something to do with the contagious schedule of diseases.

12104. We are not discussing the general question of public health, but what the Department can do under its powers, or under the additional powers you say it ought to have—I would think Maitland and glanders are absolutely connected.

12105. (Mr. Minks).—That is as regards the powers of the Department rather than the methods to be taken.—We think there should be an extension of the powers.

12106. (Chairman).—You would give all those additional powers to the Department of Agriculture?—Give them to the Department. Let them distribute them to the local authorities under Orders in Council. Except the Department got the powers first we could not get them under the local authorities.

12107. (Mr. O'Connell).—The argument is that the statutory powers of the Department, and their power to distribute those powers, should be extended.—Exactly. The next point that we would lay before you is that the Committee think in any difference of opinion between the Executive Committee and the Department of Agriculture as to procedure in outbreaks of contagious scheduled diseases when those diseases exist, must arise in difference in the reports of the inspectors, and inasmuch as they have a copy of all our reports and proceedings, we think it would facilitate the Committee in their deliberations if they had a full copy of the reports of the Veterinary Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture on the matter on which the difference arises.

12108. (Mr. Minks).—Are you not furnished with these?—No. We had one instance where we had a dispute, and we tried several times to get it, and we were put off. We never succeeded as much as we wanted to, because we never got at the point at issue. They gave us an abstract from the report. We think full copies of the reports should be before the Committee when differences of that character arise.

12109. (Chairman).—You want to see the reports of the Inspectors?—The Committee want to see the reports, because if I am making one recommendation, and they are making the reverse of it, we think that there must be such a difference that we would like to see where the difference comes in. The next thing is that the Executive Committee would point out that although several Royal Commissions have urged the advisability of having all animals, cattle, sheep, and pigs, slaughtered in public abattoirs, and that since the Dublin Corporation have such an establishment, and having requested the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland to cause the pigs to be slaughtered therein under the Swine Fever Order, yet the Department have refused to comply with this request, and continue to slaughter these animals in a private slaughter-house, situated in a district where the population is very congested.

12110. (Mr. Minks).—It is not a bacon store?—No, it is an ordinary licensed slaughter house on the city quay. The Executive Committee considers this practice grossly to be deplored, and strongly protest against the further continuance of it. The Com-

mittee think that pigs killed under the Swine Fever Order should be killed in our abattoirs.

12111. The Corporation went to great expense about that?—A tremendous amount of expense, and it is carried on at a loss of over £1,000 a year. All those Royal Commissions have advocated the abolition of private slaughter-houses. It is very difficult to get private individuals to adopt this suggestion if so important a body as the Department of Agriculture refuse to adopt it.

12112. (Mr. Bevan).—The slaughter-house you speak of is licensed by the Corporation?—Yes; it is an old one. We endeavored to do away with these private slaughter-houses.

12113. You have no power to withdraw the license?—Not without paying compensation. The Executive Committee would point out that pigs killed under the Swine Fever Order are passed or rejected for human food without the knowledge or sanction of the Medical Officer of Health for the Corporation of Dublin, or other authorized officer on their behalf, and the Committee are of opinion that the Department of Agriculture should refer all such work to the Medical Officer of Health for the Corporation, or other authorized officer on their behalf. In discharge of my duties as veterinary surgeon I have come across cases of pigs which were passed by the Veterinary Officer of the Department that I would have very great doubts about if left to me to pass. I don't say that I would be right, and the officers of the Department wrong; what I do say is it would be better to leave such cases to the Public Health Department, because where there is apparently a difference of opinion that creates two standards of what is fit and what is unfit, not to mention that it creates a spirit of distrust in the public of meat inspection. Such matters might be safely left to the Public Health Department Committee.

12114. Would you not consider yourself competent to determine?—As a matter of fact, I am the person who does it chiefly in the city, but it is under Sir Charles Cameron.

12115. You consider yourself competent to judge?—Yes; it should be left to one Department. I think the law should be amended. The Department have perfect statutory powers to act in that capacity.

12116. (Chairman).—It is a question whether the law should be altered.—Yes. I don't want to pass it.

12117. (Mr. O'Connell).—Could they transfer it without a change in the Act?—I think they could. I think it would be possible for the Veterinary Branch of the Department of Agriculture to arrange such a state of affairs with the Public Health Committee. The Executive Committee institute proceedings under the various orders in Council, and carry out the scheme at their own expense, yet they are only entitled to one-third of the fees imposed when applied for in Court, the remaining two-thirds being handed over to the Department of Agriculture, who incur no outlay in connection with the proceedings, nor is the Department represented at such proceedings as a rule. We suggest a change in the Statute; I think we are entitled to the whole fee under Section 75, Sub-section 4 of the Contagious Diseases Animal Act. The Executive Committee are of opinion that the power of granting licenses under the Dublin Public Sales and Lairs Order, 1908, should be vested in them, the present system of being licensed by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland lends itself to disrespect of local authority and a conflict of authority between the Corporation and the Department. Under the present system the Corporation are charged of their market tolls by sales being effected in these lairs. I am personally aware that sales take place in these lairs, I have witnessed them myself, not sufficient to guarantee that there would be a conviction, but I have seen all the formula antecedent to a sale. We are confident it takes place, and we think the Department are not exceeding themselves sufficiently to put a stop to them, because two or three hundred harts that should go into the market never see the market at all. We think we ought to have full power over such things within our own jurisdiction.

12118. I would like to ask whether in this most important event of sales there is any possibility of difficulty in any other place than Dublin—is there any reason why elsewhere than in Dublin the Department should be at expense in connection with prosecutions which might be represented by two-thirds?—If the Department had to send down any of their inspectors

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as witnesses. I have been an officer of the Corporation since 1860, and I think that only on one occasion, or perhaps two, had we any of the officers of the Department present.

12109. That is in Dublin, but is it possible in the country generally; would there be equally strong reasons for what you say outside Dublin?—It would not be fair for me to offer an opinion. I don't know, and about the lairs I don't know either, but I am perfectly confident a tremendous number of sales take place in these lairs every week, and they never see our markets, and I think they ought to, and if we had the handling of these Orders we could make them come in.

12110. (Chairman).—We may take your views as representing Sir Charles Cameron?—I think so.

12111. (Mr. Brown).—Is he in favour of that suggestion of transfer of dairies and milk shops?—That is a point that he is particularly keen about. He urges very emphatically that the inspection of dairies and cows should be transferred from the Central Department of Public Health to the Department of Agriculture. I have every authority for stating that that is Sir Charles Cameron's opinion.

MR. JOHN MARTIN CRAMINED.

Mr. John
Maguire.

12112. (Chairman).—You represent the Irish Salmon and Trout Fishery Association?—Yes, sir.

12113. You reside at Denmore House, Drogheda?—Yes.

12114. The first point on which I would ask you to give evidence is the relations between the Department and the Board of Conservators?—I start entirely from the inland salmon fisheries, as distinct from the sea fisheries. The Fishery Branch of the Department is only a branch, and the Board of Conservators are not sufficiently in touch with them. There is an advisory Committee, with which we are not in touch. They are elected or selected by the Lord Lieutenant or the Department. I am now speaking of the Board of Conservators. The Boards of Conservators make application to the Department, and the Department answer that they have no power in many cases, in innumerable cases, pointing to future legislation. Then, again, we made application to them, and instead of getting advice we were referred to our local solicitor. I am making no disparagement of the legal gentleman, but it is almost an inevitable answer, and it makes you feel you are not in touch with them. Each Board of Conservators works, or is presumed to work, absolutely on its own funds. The accounts audited by the local auditor are sent up to the inspection and issued in their Reports. There is no power, or evidently it has never been exercised, of surcharging for any excess payment. According to the provisions of the Act the Boards of Conservators hold office for three years, and in the final year they are presumed, under the Act, to hand over a clear year's income—income derived from the licensed duty of the district and ten per cent. poor rate. That in many instances has not been done, and a very extraordinary effect has arisen, I have to make the per cent. up to 1000. I have to make the per cent. up to 1000 for the last Vice-Regal Commission, and I find now that the balance, which at that time was \$5,000, has now gone down to \$5,000, showing that part of that balance which was presumed to be handed over to the incoming new Board has been neutralised and utilised for purposes beyond. I am not for a moment saying it might not have been necessary to utilise it, because our means of protection are so infinitesimally small that we had really to accept the law in order to get something done.

12122. (Mr. McKel).—You mean in raising money?—We have no power of raising money.

12123. How did you accept the law?—We accepted the law in this way, if we came to the third year in order to keep up the protection of the rivers the fund having been exhausted in the two previous years, we must leave the river unprotected for one year to carry out the law if it was to be carried out in its strictness, and hand over the funds to the next Board. The annual income is coming in, but there is not sufficient for protection for a year in order to have sufficient for the new Board coming in.

12124. (Mr. Brown).—It takes three years' income to give two years' protection?—Practically, to hand over the full year's income to the next Board. In

12122. (Mr. McKel).—Who would be the head of the Department?—The Veterinary Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

12113. Who would be the head of that?—I should suggest Mr. Hedley.

12114. Is he at present head of it?—He has no power at all, he is the chief Veterinary Inspector, but, of course, his chief is Mr. T. P. Gill.

12115. You would transfer it from the Department because it is in the hands of a human doctor?—Exactly.

12116. You propose it should be transferred to a Veterinary Surgeon?—Exactly.

12117. (Mr. O'Connell).—That is a point on which Sir Charles Cameron agrees with you?—He does, undoubtedly. He is very strong on that point.

12118. (Mr. McKel).—Matters interlock somewhat, and the health of human beings is the reason it is in the hands of the Local Government Board?—Yes, from a sanitary point of view, I think, and the Committee think, and Sir Charles Cameron thinks, that better results would accrue if cows and cowhds were transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

12125. The balance brought down to the end, that is the entire amalgamated balance of all the Board of Conservators in hands in 1896, was \$7,000. In 1898 it was \$3,500, so that there is a considerable dropping off of about \$3,500.

12126. (Mr. O'Connell).—Has there been any drop in the income in that period?—The standard income in 1896 was \$10,000. In 1904 it was \$11,500, that is \$1,500 of a drop and \$1,500 in the balance down. Of course, that balance down is sometimes in bank, and sometimes in the hands of the clerk, so that the Board's loss of interest in the money is 2000.

12127. (Mr. Brown).—Even when it is in bank?—They get it.

12128. Is there an overdraft over it?—There is, but for the nine years the average bank interest has only been 433 a year, and the payment for the same period was \$21.

12129. (Mr. O'Connell).—The theory of the income apparently is that on the beginning of the year, say at the beginning of the Board, you have got a year's income in hand?—Presumably.

12130. Then, during the first year of the tenure of office the Board is assumed to live and work with its balance?—Quite so.

12131. Carrying forward to the next year the income of its own first year?—Quite so.

12132. So that the expenditure of the second year of the Board's life would be the income of its first year?—That is the theory.

12133. If that theory were also practised then this would be approximately every year at bank interest almost the interest of the year's income?—Almost of the year's income.

12134. Or half a year?—Yes.

12135. The smallness of the interest is a pretty fair proof, apart from the amount carried forward last year, is a pretty fair proof that the Boards are habitually spending the year's income?—Quite so, although at the end of the financial year, when all the expenditure is supposed to be concluded, there is an average now of \$5,500.

12136. Taking that at the least it ought to give more interest. At one period of the year they must have had a large portion of the \$11,000 in their hands; it ought to give more interest if the funds were pooled, if all the moneys received were mixed into a large account there would then be an average interest—Each Board has a distinct account, and only report to the Department at the end of the financial year. The Department has no control to surcharge. It may make objections, but the law is in such a position that we would have to go to law with the Department or the Department with us. The case is in the individual and not on the Department. We would rather see the Department strong and active and assisting as they are at present as we know upon individual action. I am not dealing for one moment with the fishery law; I am only bringing it before you generally. One very strong example of that question is the question of the close season. Mr. Brown may know something about Dundalk; in Dundalk they

have three class seasons outside the Drogheda district. Both the Drogheda and Dundalk Boards have tried every means in their power to get an inquiry into the close season. The Act provides for that, the expense of the inquiry are to be provided by the party, individual or claimant into the question on which the inquiry is to be held. My Board, jointly with the Dundalk Board, advanced over £30, and the answer that finally came back to us was that they wouldn't take the money pending future legislation. It is a grievance in the district, and it is one of those things that if the Department was strong enough and its duties and positions distinctly defined we think such a large interest as the inland Fisheries are would have more consideration. We understand that something has been given in the last few years for hatcheries and other things, but it is not commensurate with what is required. I don't blame the inspectors. I don't put it down to the inspectors, but I say that the Department have not the power they should have.

12125. (Mr. Brown).—You suggest that stronger powers should be given?—Yes, larger powers.

12126. Of course, in doing that you will have in a way to increase your sinking powers a little bit better than they are at present. An election to a Board of Conservators is practically by proxy. If I individually want to control any one Board I simply go round and take up all the license round about, and if I am beaten when I go round and purchase licenses to give me an absolute full power, that is a weak point.

12127. What would be the franchise?—There are so many interests coming in, my own idea is that it should be an equal franchise for the upper and lower waters.

12128. But still depending on the license?—Entirely on the license.

12129. Wouldn't that leave the evil untouched?—No, I would allow no proxy voting.

12130. But the power of an individual to buy a license and so increase his franchise?—He could do it in that way, but that could be regulated by the license only to hold from the first of the year. They must have been paid as the first of the year, or that they could not be purchased coming up to the time of the election. You have to allow the election to be carried out by people who are resident far away from the place by sending their vote in, not to be opened only before the election. The Department has now an inspector, Mr. Green, and you may peacefully take it that his work has been on the inland fisheries of the Conquest District. The inland fisheries, representing a return to the country of over £300,000, as you will see from the Report of the Vice-Royal Commission, are left desolate in a way. I don't mean that in the slightest disparagement to Mr. Lane, but if the Department is worthy of being advanced at all we should have our own inspectors. Another point is, we think the Department should be more in active touch by having a travelling inspector or ordinary inspector instead of being assisted by local people. In fact, to make individual members of the Board feel their responsibility they must have an interest, and an active part in the expenditure of the Board, and if they neglect that duty or shirk it they may be discharged for it. As far as the Boards of Conservators are concerned, from my own personal experience I can say there is no friction with the Department. We have got on the very old system of "pending future legislation" and "our local solicitors." I think we are entitled to better consideration. We are strongly of opinion that the inland fisheries should be under a distinct body entirely apart from the County Councils or anything of that description.

12131. (Chairman).—You have nothing to do with the County Councils?—There is one clause in the Act of 1826 with reference to the halfpenny in the pound which enables County Councils to nominate representatives, but it is absolutely inoperative. It has not been taken up any way; it has been impossible to put it into operation.

12132. (Mr. Brown).—You don't think there is any chance of their contributing?—Not the slightest; they say they have no interest in the fisheries.

12133. (Chairman).—It is a thing one is always met with in considering this question of inland fishery, and in order to make a case for State assistance, you want to show that the public are interested. You do so of course by showing that it is essential to the breeding of fish.

12134. (Mr. Micks).—And the open netting?—The

open netting comes in, but you must remember that the County Councils attribute a rate on fisheries whose valuation is over hereditaments.

12135. That is the same thing?—I put on my license and they put on their fisheries; the fisheries as a rule go in expenditure in the way of roads to the County Council.

12136. Oh, yes, every one of them, more or less?—Well, what I say is that this is inoperative.

12137. And you don't want it to be inoperative?—No; but I would say to the County Council, we will take half of the hereditament rate on fisheries and I will then get the fishermen to pay their full ten per cent. The fishery owner is also rated for the ten per cent. rate, in addition to that for fishery purposes. That ten per cent. rate he gets a rebate on if his license duty exceeds ten per cent. The rateable valuation of the whole of Ireland's fisheries is £25,000. That realizes an average of £251, leaving £15,000 as a rebate on license duty. The way it came to me was this. I found there was a great portion of my river not valued, and I said I must go and get this valued. I then found that the result of my going and getting it valued would be that the County Council would get 3s. 3d., and my Board would get nothing.

12138. (Mr. Micks).—In a case like the Coric Blackwater could you give any reason for State assistance?—I should think State assistance should come in to all rivers.

12139. If it is a proprietary river there is no open fishing?—If the proprietors do a portion themselves, I would give them proportionate State assistance, because after all their benefit is a general benefit in a way. Somebody must get value out of their benefit.

12140. (Chairman).—This is the way Mr. Green puts it as a justification of State aid—"You do it to increase the supply of salmon which is available for the public fisheries"; "when we start a hatchery we believe we are benefiting a man fishing in his public right in the proportion of three to one against the proprietors fishing"?—It is almost a mistake to divide the two interests because they interlap one with the other.

12141. (Mr. Micks).—How do they interlap on the Blackwater where there is no interest but the one?—They have only one interest, but still they have not fishing on the Blackwater.

12142. There is no net fishing there?—I didn't consider it. I wouldn't like to give an opinion, because in my own case it is both public and private interests. I have not considered the other point.

12143. (Chairman).—In your case Mr. Green's principle would apply?—It would apply; I take a general interest.

12144. Still there are so many claims for State assistance it is necessary to know which of them is best founded?—That is a point which struck me in looking into the accounts of the Board. I would rather the Boards of Fisheries would create a fund for which the Government would give a proportion. I would rather absolutely give them a loan of the money and let the fishing, and fishing interest, pay for themselves out of their own working power, and have the distribution of it. For their own security I would much sooner they worked it out themselves.

12145. (Mr. Brown).—Is there any capital expenditure you want to incur?—Under the question of wies and fish-passes, these are capital expenditures and the real expenditure which is of importance to us is the question of protection.

12146. (Mr. Micks).—Hatcheries would be capital?—A steam launch would be capital. There is another point too; it has really been by private subscription that the upkeep of the fisheries has been kept. There is over £1,300 a year by private subscriptions and donations to the different Boards. That makes up the deficit of the balance. I think a thing like that should not go on. The Vice-Royal Commission suggested a certain raising of license. I consider it would be better to raise them by, say, ten per cent.

12147. 25s. license instead of £1?—Yes; that would bring in about £637 over the full ten per cent. we are paid by each person, and no rebate, provided they got a reduction from the County Council, would make the increase about £2,600 a year, and the capital charges of £285 going up there would be about £1,600 a year provided, that is doing away with private subscription. I am not taking this into consideration at all. What I want to show is that inland fisheries,

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Mr. John
Maguire.

and these as a commercial concern if they were all commercially worked by commercial people, there is ample enough to go to the bank or to the Government and say we have so much security to offer you in the way of revenue you can give us so much as a loan.

12158. Do you go beyond salmon—sea trout?—I would go into brown trout and eels.

12159. Pike and perch?—I look on pike as an enemy. You cannot have them with salmon and trout.

12161. You have them in large quantities in the Shannon?—We have, but we try to get rid of them as best we can. If we were able to create something like that with the Department, we are not financially bad, if the thing was properly taken up.

12162. (Mr. Brown).—There is a sound basis!—Yes, there is a sound basis there to work on if taken up calmly and quietly. Of course, the Department won't take that up in that way; it won't legislate.

12163. I suppose legislation is necessary?—Legislation is necessary, that is what my Association has endeavoured to promote if possible.

12164. (Mr. Micks).—And the fishery inspectors are the only people who could have charge of fisheries?—Yes, I think you have had ample evidence before you that the dues of the County Councils are not going down, but are likely to be increased, and the anxiety is to extend them, and I am certain in an extension of those that the inland fisheries, if they were transferred to the County Councils—there was a Bill brought in by Mr. Joyce that was met with universal dissatisfaction by everybody. He was right in doing away with proxy voting which would give County Councils a power in reference to this matter under which they were not contributing any funds, and that we would strongly object to.

The Committee adjourned.

THIRTY-FIFTH PUBLIC SITTING.—SATURDAY, OCTOBER, 20TH, 1906.

At 18, Lower Baginbun-street, Dublin.

Present:—

Sir KENELM DIGBY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKELTHWAIT.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGBURN.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

The Earl of Drogheda examined.

12155. (Chairman).—I believe you have come here about this question of the Barrow drainage?—Yes; I received a notification that there was going to be a meeting here to-day.

12156. Well, I have no information of what you desire to say; will you kindly tell us what you wish to say?—To begin with, of course, it would be a good thing for the whole district between Mountmellick, indeed including Mountmellick, and Ashby if we could get some of these dreadful floods avoided. You see the river runs in the mountains here and then from Mountmellick downwards and then it comes into the flooded part, Portloughlin (aspirin on way), crops and hay are washed away, and a great deal of damage done at Ashby, and I am not sure that it does not do so a little further on.

12157. (Mr. Brown).—The chief problem is between Mountmellick and Ashby?—It is; if we could manage to clear away the obstructions in the river and let the water run off more quickly it would be a great benefit.

12158. (Chairman).—I suppose that has been, to a great extent, investigated by the other Commission?—Yes.

12159. The Arterial Drainage Commission?—Yes.

12160. (Mr. Brown).—I think I might say that the great necessity of this work might be assumed by this Commission, that has been so thoroughly established?—As I understand it is the allocation of the various sums more than anything else.

12161. (Chairman).—Well, we are waiting to hear what we are asked to do; we have not had the matter brought before us at all except privately, and we are waiting to hear what action we are asked to take?—Well, I suppose, mainly, I think Mr. Brown will bear me out in this, that the principal obstruction is the long succession of sharp opposite bends; I think that runs for three miles; that would require the blasting away of some rocks, but not necessarily a very expensive business. There have been several propositions made on this head at previous inquiries, but I think a great deal of obstruction could be cleared away with comparatively little difficulty, as far as I can judge, from what I have done in the drainage. There I found the character of the obstruction was chiefly friable and easily got rid of. Then there is another source of difficulty, where the river leaves our domain and goes on to Riverstown where the river breaks out into a series of little channels.

12162. (Mr. Brown).—There are islands and obstructions?—Yes; and they practically hold up the water to a very large extent, and then it goes up over the country, and sometimes floods occur in the summer time, and if crops are out they are swept away; that is principally about Monasterevan. There is one main thing I should like very much to say; there is a bridge that is really an aqueduct, carrying the canal along, and the canal arch is absolutely blocked up. In the great storm of 1863 a number of trees fell into the water and the people to whom they belonged found it very difficult to get them out—and not the means—and they gradually forced obstruction, and all the debris coming down the river, hay and leaves

gradually tilted up against them and made a tremendous obstruction.

(Chairman).—I think, as Mr. Brown says, we may assume that improvement works involving more or less expense are necessary in this river, and I suppose I may add, for agricultural purposes?

12173. (Mr. Brown).—And the magnitude of these works is so great that they could not be undertaken by private enterprise in the ordinary way?—Yes.

(Chairman).—And that a Commission is sitting on this subject and dealing with this particular case?

(Mr. Brown).—It is included in the reference.

12174. (Chairman).—And evidence has been taken on it?—It has.

(Mr. Brown).—And there is also a report of a Royal Commission specially on the subject of the River Barrow.

12175. (Chairman).—Therefore, you may take it as proved that there is a great public necessity for that improvement; the question we have to consider is whether any duty lies upon the Department of Agriculture or whether it is a matter that requires to be dealt with by separate legislation; of course the fact that a separate Commission has been appointed to consider this and similar cases suggests that it is a general question rather than a special question for the Department of Agriculture?—Well, you see these improvements would cost too much for private individuals to carry them out.

(Chairman).—That you may assume.

12176. (Mr. Brown).—Or even any combination of private individuals?—Or any combination, and I suppose we may look in the near future to a vast number of holdings being created, and it would be quite impossible to put any great tax on these small holdings; it would be so infinitesimal in each case.

12177. (Chairman).—The whole question is whether there is any claim upon the Department of Agriculture out of certain limited funds applicable to agriculture and other rural industries; whether there is any claim for a large expenditure upon this project, which, if granted, would deprive them of the means of utilizing the money otherwise; that is the whole question?—Of course it is for the improvement of agriculture.

12178. But that is your case?—Yes.

12179. I won't trouble you about the technical question on the construction of the Act, but you leave the question in that broad way?—That is really the case.

12180. There are gentlemen who have considered it more in reference to the Act itself, and I assume we will hear them?—That is my case, that the agriculture of the whole of that district, and not only in the immediate neighbourhood of the river, but even far back in the bogs, would be immensely benefited by the clearing away of obstructions, and, broadly, that is my case.

12181. Mr. Brown has had the matter before him on that other Commission, and I think we need not trouble Lord Drogheda in establishing that?—I think Mr. Brown understands the points I put before you.

(Mr. Brown).—We may assume the absolute necessity of this work and the impossibility of its being carried out by private enterprise, and the necessity of a grant of public money from some source.

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Mr. William
Fitzmaurice.

12182. (Chairman).—You are here on the same question, the Barrow drainage?—Yes, sir.

12183. You heard what passed with Lord Drogheda that the question is what are we asked to report in reference to this matter; that is the whole question for us—I am more interested in the property a little north and south of where Lord Drogheda was speaking of; that is about Portlannington, and also about Athy, and down Carlow way, and I cannot imagine anyone not being warmly in favour of doing the best that can be done with regard to the drainage of the Barrow. Of course there may be some technical points that might prevent what I am so very much in favour of doing, but as a layman, I would feel that the tremendous expense of doing away with the mills and other industries that may exist along the River Barrow could be avoided by not doing away with the mills, but by establishing probably a series of sluices in the weir and other obstructions that exist in the River Barrow for the use of those industries, by having sluices that could be managed by mill-owners or others who are interested in the industries that could regulate the flow, also it appears to me very necessary to remove many of the obstructions, whether islands or shoals that exist. If I am not too tedious I would mention, specially, Bort Bridge, Athy weir, and below Carlow weir, as being vast obstructions. I happen to be a member of the Barrow Drainage Board, which district ends about half a mile from the mouth of the River Barrow, where it enters the River Barrow; there vast quantities of sand are brought down by flood into the River Barrow; the Barrow enters the River Barrow immediately below Graigue weir and there the boats and all the canal traffic have to go further then half way across the River Barrow to get water enough to float the boats in low water. In consequence of the great deposits of sand, a tremendous obstruction is formed, but immediately above that obstruction there is a large weir, Carlow-Graigue weir, and I maintain if a number of sluices were put in that weir that the wonderfully extensive rice of Meena, Shadlinton and Co. need not be interfered with; it could work them just as it is now, and the Barrow drainage would be considerably improved.

12184. (Mr. Meles).—Would the sluices be under the control of Meena, Shadlinton?—I think there should be a Board or committee, or some authority over the sluices of the River Barrow.

12185. The Drainage Board?—Yes; as to see they were properly kept.

12186. And having control independently of the wishes of the Meena, Shadlinton?—I would like to help them as far as we could, or any other mill-owner, but the drainage of the Barrow should be paramount to any miller's interest.

12187. (Mr. Brown).—The flooding you are complaining of in the neighbourhood of Carlow is the flooding of the town, not of agricultural land?—There is a good deal of agricultural land flooded on the east and west by the Barrow, a little above and a little below Carlow; I would mention the lands of Graigue.

12188. What extent of land?—Between 200 and 300 acres. You could easily see by the Ordnance map where the flooded land is. Were Lord Drogheda's wishes to be carried out in full, removing the obstructions that appear about Monasterevan and north of Athy, it would injure Carlow very much, and the district above and below it, because the rush of water would come down so much more rapidly.

(Chairman).—I suppose all these questions that you are putting before us now have been, or will be, put before the Commission.

12189. (Mr. Brown).—All that Mr. Fitzmaurice is saying up to the present are really matters for the Arterial Drainage Commission; the question that we have to deal with is whether, as suggested, any sum should be taken from the funds of the Department of Agriculture for this purpose?—I don't think the notice confined itself to that particular point.

12190. But it would not be relevant at all to our inquiry; we are only inquiring into the Department

of Agriculture?—All this would, I believe, fairly, help agriculture and grazing.

(Mr. Brown).—You may take it that there are 40,000 acres of land which are annually subject to flooding by the River Barrow; that has been found by a Royal Commission.

12191. (Chairman).—Assuming all that, assuming that there is a great deal of increased expense, which is more than the residents or proprietors or tenants in the neighbourhood could be expected to bear, and that they have some claim upon public funds, the whole question for us is whether a case of that sort is so strong as to create a definite demand upon the funds at the disposal of the Department of Agriculture, and that we should deal with the matter in our Report?—I hope very much that it may be decided that it is one that you can deal with.

12192. You are here to prove that, and what we want to hear is the ground on which you press it over and above those grounds which may be taken for granted?—I should think that it would be so because there are large tracts of country between Athy and Kildare where there is a very vast area of land that is annually flooded.

12193. (Mr. Brown).—You may take 40,000 acres?—That alone I think would enable you to give a report that would press very much on the Board of Agriculture the advantage of using money to sink the River Barrow.

12194. (Chairman).—No application has been made to them?—I do not know; this is the first inquiry I have attended.

12195. (Mr. Brown).—I don't know whether you are aware that in 1889 a Bill was brought in by which there was to have been a loan grant of £225,000 made for the drainage of the Barrow on the condition that between the proprietors of the flooded lands and the Grand Jurors of districts affected £150,000 should be raised by loan?—I have no doubt you are right in your figures; I have a recollection clearly of a large grant having been proposed by Government.

(Chairman).—You cannot have stronger evidence of the strength of your case than that.

12196. (Mr. Brown).—That would be £335,000?—I feel with great regret that that was not carried out.

12197. Don't you think that is an admission that the State was responsible and ought to contribute?—No doubt about it.

12198. (Mr. Meles).—Do you want to get the £50,000 from the Board of Agriculture?—Yes, sir, or whatever we can.

12199. (Mr. Brown).—Perhaps Mr. Fitzmaurice will give us an opinion whether £25,000 would be likely to effect permanently good results?—I believe it would, provided something in the direction I have described were carried out.

12200. If there was a grant of £50,000 do you think the proprietors of the lands which were relieved from flooding would consent to contribute?—I certainly think they should.

12201. (Mr. Meles).—Would they consent to a rate?—There would be a considerable time elapsing before they would derive any real benefit, it would be some years before the land between Kildare and Athy would be reclaimed.

(Mr. Brown).—That is always the case. It takes some time for aquatic grasses to disappear and for other grasses to grow.

12202. (Chairman).—Assuming an expenditure of £50,000, what are the counties that would be benefited by it?—Carlow, Queen's County, Kildare, and possibly King's County, I would limit it to. The Barrow is a very important river in Portlannington. It floods the streets of the town and the country around very largely in wet weather.

12203. Have you anything you wish to add?—I don't think anything further, except to advocate as strongly as I possibly can that the money should be got somewhere.

12254. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Cavan Committee?—Yes, I have been a member of the Council of Agriculture since its formation in 1906, and a member of the Agricultural Board since February, 1903, having been three times elected by the Ulster Provincial Council. I have been delegated by the Cavan County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and the Kilsleshanda Co-Operative Dairy and Agricultural Society to give evidence, and I may also say I have taken a keen interest in the agricultural movement, and have assisted during the past ten or twelve years in organizing a number of Co-Operative Societies. To ensure the success of the Department's scheme it is essential to gain the confidence of the people, as Government Departments are not trusted in Ireland, and "Cattle Boards" are even now disdained. This was realized by the promoters of the Act, and a certain element of popular criticism was felt to be absolutely necessary. So we have had the Council and the Boards with County Committees and Sub-Committees. The constitution of the Council of Agriculture is fairly satisfactory; the elected members are all one could expect, and those nominated were evidently selected on account of the interest they took in industrial agricultural development. The Agricultural Board consists of fourteen members, two ex-officio, the Chief Secretary and the Vice-President, four nominated by the Department and eight elected by the Provincial Councils. In view of the peculiar relationship which was recently shown to exist between the Department and the I.A.O.S. I consider the nominated element unsatisfactory, three or four members being prominent members of the latter, one being its Chairman, another ex-Chairman, and another on the Committee. This makes five members out of thirteen on the Board more or less officially connected with the I.A.O.S. I think this shows how dangerous the principle of nomination may become when the nominating authority is not immediately responsible to Parliament.

12255. (Mr. Miles).—When he is not a minister having a seat in the House of Commons?—Yes. At the last meeting of the Council of Agriculture in May I asked the Vice-President if the Chief Secretary was consulted before the nominations were made to the Board, and the answer was, "No, this matter was left in the hands of the Department, and no change had been made in the gentlemen from the previous Board." I wish to refer to the relations existing between the Department and the I.A.O.S. Up to the end of 1904 the I.A.O.S. was a philanthropic association, supported by voluntary contributions, educational to its character, started in 1894, to quote its own words, "For the purpose of organizing agriculture and other industries on co-operative lines." It was managed and controlled by gentlemen elected by the subscribing individuals. In 1904 the rules were altered, it became a Friendly Society, with a Committee of twenty-eight, sixteen elected by Co-Operative Societies, four from each province, four elected by individual subscribers, four co-opted by the elected members, and the President and Vice-President, who were elected by the general meeting and two representatives of the Department. All societies were asked to affiliate with it and subscribe to the funds. Public attention has recently been drawn to the fact that considerable subsidies have been paid by the Department of Agriculture to this Society. My object is to give reasons why I think this policy was an undesirable one to adopt, and that it should be abandoned. Before going fully into the case I would like to offer a word of explanation as to why, I, as a member of the Board could not give effect to my views without troubling your Committee. Possibly on this matter I am in a minority at the Board, and although the Board has full control of all the financial expenditure of the Department of Agriculture I feel that in this particular case it has had considerable difficulty in securing this control because of the close relations that exist between the two organizations.

12256. (Mr. Brewster).—What some of the witnesses stated was that you had stated you never had heard of this payment until it was mentioned there?—

We will come on to that presently. I am trying to remove a slight misconception.

12257. (Mr. Miles).—It was first mentioned by the Bishop of Rome?—I explained it at the Board fully, and the Vice-President dealt with it. I do not desire now to, and I never did, in any way impugn the perfect bona fides of anyone of those gentlemen in their endeavor to secure financial support from the Department. It has been suggested that I said at a meeting of the Council that some members of the Board of Agriculture had fuller knowledge of the payments that had been made to the Society than others. This is a totally inaccurate deduction from any words that I used. What I said was that no doubt the gentlemen who are members of the Board and also members of the Executive Committee of the I.A.O.S. had full knowledge as to the payments which the latter received owing to their connection with both bodies which the elected members of the Board, who were not on the Committee of the Society could not have, I do not think that that observation could be capable of misrepresentation. They could hear as members of the Executive Committee what we could not have heard who were not on that Committee. The first reason that I desire to give why subsidies from the Department to the Society should cease are financial. To make them good I must briefly allude to the sources from which the I.A.O.S. has drawn its funds hitherto. Probably no Society was ever supported more liberally by voluntary contributions in Ireland than it has been. £15,000 were received from Sir Henry Cockburn. It was helped with funds from the Congested Districts Board. Its weekly organ *The Homestead* stated that its total receipts since its formation exceeded £70,000. I think that is about a year ago. It is now evident that these voluntary contributions have dried up. The only reasonable explanation that can be given for this change is that those who furnished the money hitherto are not sufficiently satisfied with the results to continue to keep it in funds. It must be remembered that this organization is now a Friendly Society, having business relations with a number of trade organizations throughout the country. According to its reports the paid-up capital of these Societies is £225,000, and their annual turn-over is £1,500,000. The connection between the Organization Society and these Co-Operative Societies is, in its most important functions, financial. It does everything in its power to obtain affiliation fees and annual subscriptions from them. It would not be any great strain on so many trading societies as these to find the necessary support for a central organization if they were satisfied its services were of use to them, but in the year 1905, the report explains, that their total contributions were £256. It therefore seems fair to say that if neither voluntary subscribers who were responsible for its existence nor these co-operative associations, who receive any benefits that may arise from its operations are willing to find the necessary funds a Government Department should hesitate to step into the breach. The main objection, however, to the financial connection between the Department and the Society is the Parliamentary pledge that was given by Mr. Gerald Balfour, who was then Chief Secretary, on the subject when the Act was passed. Perhaps the best way I can put this before the Committee is by quoting a letter from Mr. John Dillon, M.P.,* who, when the Act creating the Department was passed was, as he is now, a leading exponent of Irish public opinion. The letter is addressed to Mr. John Gannon, the manager of the Kilsleshanda Co-Operative Dairy Society, and it may be taken as stating the conditions on which, in Mr. Dillon's opinion, the Act founding the Department of Agriculture received the sanction of the House of Commons.

"2, North St. George's Street,
"Dublin, 4th June, 1906.

"J. Gannon, Esq.

"Dear Sir,

"I have received your letter of 1st June with copy of resolution passed by the Committee of the

* Vide also Q. 11753 and AppenEx LIII.

Oct. 20, 1906.
Mr. Arthur S.
Lough, J.E.

Killeshandra Co-Operative Dairy and Agricultural Society, Ltd., enclosed.

"I heartily agree with the view expressed in that resolution.

"When the Act constituting the Agricultural Department was going through the House of Commons in 1899 a distinct pledge was given by Mr. Gerald Balfour that some of the public money of the Department would be handed over to the I.A.O.S., or any other private association of a similar character. It now turns out that £18,000 has been handed over to the I.A.O.S. in violation of that pledge.

"In my opinion the Department have acted most improperly in carrying on this system of subsidising a private association without taking the opinion of the House of Commons on this policy, and without giving the Irish public a fair and full opportunity of expressing their opinion upon it.

"Yours sincerely

"JOHN DUNN."

For several years after the Department was formed this pledge appears to have been observed, and, as far as I can trace it, the first direct payment was made in January, 1905. There may have been some indirect payments before this date which are now described as payments for educational work done by the I.A.O.S. on behalf of the Department, but the open subsidy, in the shape that it has now assumed, does not date previous to the year 1905. So far as I can understand this harmonises with the explanation given in answer to Mr. Dillon's question in Parliament:—"Question.—Mr. Dillon.—Do ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to his statement that some £18,000 had been paid to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland, whether it was necessary for the Department to have the approval of the Board of Agriculture before these payments were authorised; if so, on what date was authorisation given for any sum in excess of £2,000, and whether he can refer to any minutes, annual accounts, or reports of the Board in which the fact of these payments having been made was clearly set out (21st May, 1906)." Answer.—Mr. Bryce.—At the second meeting of the Agricultural Board, held on the 11th July, 1905, the Board had under consideration an arrangement in regard to the technical instruction then carried on by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in connection with agriculture, creameries, egg-packing, poultry, fruit-growing and flax cultivation, and they approved of the Department taking over that work, and employing the experts engaged in each instruction as from the 1st April, 1906, on such terms and subject to such conditions as the Department might approve. All such payments prior to February, 1906, other than those in respect of the organisation of agricultural banks, were made under this covering authority and were not grants to the Society, but payments in respect of work done for the Department by the experts in the above subjects employed by the Society. Sanctioning for payments in respect of the organisation of agricultural banks through the organisation employed by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was given by the Board at their meeting on the 23rd April, 1906, when £1,000 was voted for this purpose, at their meeting on 4th November, 1905, when a further sum of £1,000 was voted, and at their meeting on 15th June, 1904, when £1,000 was voted. The question of revising the arrangements for directing the work done through officers of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was brought before the Board by the Department on 25th August, 1903, 11th November, 1903, 15th June, 1904, 8th November, 1904, 28th January, 1905, and 21st February 1906. On the latter date a scheme employing the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in connection with certain forms of agricultural organisation other than that of agricultural banks was adopted. The expenditure upon payments to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for work done for the Department by the Society's agricultural expert is included in the amount set out in the Department's annual reports under the sub-head 'Agricultural Instruction.' The expenditure out of the votes of the Agricultural

Board for organisation and agricultural 'cents' as shown in the annual reports under sub-head 'Organising Agricultural Banks.' Portion of an annual sum of £3,000, voted by the Agricultural Board for rural industries, was also expended in payment for work done by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in the organisation of such industries. The amount so expended is included in the sum set out in the annual reports under sub-head 'Rural and other industries.' The members of the Agricultural Board have always had full access to all particulars in regard to the Department's expenditure, and expenditure out of the Department's agricultural surplus has been undertaken without their sanction (21st May, 1906)." It is reasonable to take the answer of the Chief Secretary as the official confirmation of the financial connection between the Board and the Society, and for this reason I desire to draw the Committee's attention to it. The first part of the answer states that at one of its earliest meetings the Board had under consideration arrangements in regard to technical instruction in connection with agriculture, creameries, egg-packing, poultry, fruit-growing and flax cultivation previously carried on by the I.A.O.S., and that the Board approved of the Department taking over that work, and employing the experts hitherto engaged by the I.A.O.S. in such instruction as from the 1st April, 1906. I draw attention to the fact that this is not what has been done. All the subjects named are exactly those concerning which the Department exists to give technical instruction, and the minutes of the 11th of July, 1905, stated that such work was to be taken over and the experts previously employed by the Society engaged. If this stood by itself it would be clear. But there is a qualifying sentence—"to such extent and subject to such conditions as the Department might approve." The qualification, then, appears to have been interpreted practically as authorising the Department to make payments to the Society on the understanding that they should carry on the work. I think this is a not undesirable system. It appears to be a sort of letting of the most important work the Department exists to carry on. The answer proceeds to describe payments made for the organisation of Agricultural Banks, which were carried on for several years, money being voted for the purpose in 1901, 1902, and June, 1904, and towards the end of the answer it is explained that all the payments appeared in the Annual Reports of the Department under the head of "Agricultural Instruction, Organising Agricultural Banks, or rural and other industries." I am sure that the intention of the Department was to give the fullest information in publishing these expenditures in this form, but I think it hardly succeeded in its intention. The course adopted was calculated to ensure that the payments were really subsidies to the I.A.O.S. Without wishing to criticise the course adopted before 1905, I think that the more direct system of subsidy, even as a mere matter of accounting, is much preferable, but my desire is to draw attention to the principle involved. The Department cannot have as full control over work done by a Society as it would have over experts known to and employed directly by itself. The Department is well known throughout Ireland, and its instructions regarding the confidence of all sections of the people I do not think that as much can be said for the I.A.O.S. It is a serious thing for a Government Department to take on its shoulders responsibility for the actions of an independent Society in addition to the burdens which it may have to bear on its own behalf. While this is true in every case, it seems doubly true in the case we are considering. The I.A.O.S., through its connection with the Wholesale Society and the Limerick Agency, is to a large extent a trading organisation, as they compete with meat manufacturers, merchants who supply seeds, food, and other commodities. In such operations it must be difficult to prove whether a subsidy was really paid for conducting technical instruction or making good a trading loss. At any rate, it seems an undesirable position for a Government Department to take up. The repeated consideration of the matter by the Board shows the difficulty of working with an arrangement, and it seems to be a great pity that it should continue. While it is quite true, as I stated in the earlier part of my evidence, that the Board always have full access to all particulars in regard to the Department's expenditure, and indeed that some have

been undertaken without their sanction, I think the Committee will see that this answer of the Chief Secretary supports the statement that I made earlier, that many of these payments were given in a form which made the exercise of the Board's control more difficult than in other cases. There is no reference in the Reports of the Department or the minutes of the Agricultural Board to any money having been directly paid to the I.A.O.S. or asked for on its account and in its own name till January 25th, 1935. On this date the Vice-President asked for a block grant, and a long discussion took place, all the members not officially connected with the I.A.O.S. objected to the proposal, and it was withdrawn; but another meeting was called for February 8th and the £2,000 asked for, for special work, was given on certain stringent conditions, although there was a considerable amount of objection. On February 15th, 1935, the Vice-President proposed that the Department should make good any deficiency in the income of the I.A.O.S. For the coming year this would amount to £3,580; all other receipts were estimated at £1,900, and as an inducement to the Department to help, the Vice-President said "the funds of the Society were now entirely depleted." The matter was discussed at length by the Board, and they declined to sanction the proposal, and the following resolution was passed:—"That the Department be at liberty to grant a subsidy to the I.A.O.S. up to a sum of £200 on the conditions mentioned by the Vice-President, and on the understanding that a full and detailed account of the expenditure and operations of the I.A.O.S. be submitted to the Board at their next meeting, when the whole question of a further subsidy shall be considered." On March 20th the Board met again, the following documents having been supplied, with the agenda:—"Last Report of I.A.O.S. to 30/6/35. Copy of Rules, a long letter on Agricultural Co-Operation by the Vice-President, and twelve pages of a Report of a Committee of the I.A.O.S. None of these documents gave the information asked for by the members of the Board, but they suggested that the work of the I.A.O.S. was useful. The question was again fully discussed, and in the end a resolution was passed that £2,500 be given to cover a period of one year on the conditions stipulated, which stated amongst many others the grant was provisional, and no further contributions to be made till the opinion of the Council of Agriculture was taken. The grant was made with reluctance, and the elected members raised many objections, but the Vice-President having said in answer to a question that failure to grant the money asked for would mean the destruction of the I.A.O.S., none of them lifted to have the responsibility of killing it. It will also be seen that the conditions on which the grant was made were stringent. On these facts, I think it is reasonable to found three conclusions:—1. That if the I.A.O.S. does the work which it represents itself as doing as a Friendly Society affiliated with large trading organisations, it should be self-supporting or maintained by the Co-Operative Societies whose interests it serves. 2. That large voluntary subscriptions have been paid to it in the past, and that for some reason this source of emolument has now dried up. 3. That a pledge was given in Parliament that public money should not be used to subsidise the Society, and that it is only quite recently any attempt has been made openly to do away with this pledge. Leaving the question of finance, a careful study of the Reports of the I.A.O.S. does not lead to the conclusion that its work is new, or has been in recent years, carried on with that efficiency which should entitle it to State recognition. In its nature the work of an organising Society should come to an end in a certain period. I think Sir Horace Plunkett stated it should not continue for more than three years. The support is not receiving, and the response to its efforts at the present time gives some colour to the suggestion that its existence has outlived the period of its usefulness. I think this will be readily appreciated by the Committee if it will follow me through some facts collected from the information which I laid before the Department. On page two of the Report referred to above which was laid before the Board at its March meeting in 1930, a summary of the Co-Operative Societies in existence is given. On 31/12/25 there were 880, a year later 778, or a falling off of 62, but on examining the appendices these figures are found to be incorrect, as many Societies are counted which have ceased to exist. The number of Societies working of which there are any returns during 1934 was 574, a falling off of 266, or about

20 per cent from the 1903 total. The figures with regard to the membership are equally incorrect. Societies long since dead, have their members counted as if they were still "alive," while another error continually made is to speak of members as separate individuals, forgetting that one person possibly belongs to three or four Societies. I am a member of five Societies.

12288. Do you think you are counted as five individuals? In the estimate of the co-operative societies I am counted as five individuals. And another mistake occurs on page 28 of the Report. A comparative statement is given showing prices the creameries received for their butter for sixteen years. For 1934 the price is given as 23.22d. per lb., the highest figure ever touched, whereas the correct price was about 10.51d., the lowest for six years, and for some curious reason the price paid the farmer for his milk is omitted from the table for 1934, though given every other year, and these are certainly the most interesting figures to co-operators. On referring to the columns of small print figures, we find the price works out at 3.60d. per gallon. For the North-west it is about 3jd. per gallon, and this means that these farmers get 61d. per lb. (79.4 per cent.) for their butter, while the Danish quotation for the year equalled 115s.-118s. at Manchester. The Manchester price for Irish creamery butter averages 10s. wholesale, and the retail shop price 1s. 1d. per lb., or 12s. 4d. per cwt., so that the middlemen and carriers were still getting about 50 per cent. of the price the farmer received for his produce. The cost of bringing the milk to the creamery in the North of Ireland is at least 1d. per gallon; this would still further reduce the price received by the milk supplier to under 8d. per lb. Another result shown on this comparative table is the difference between the sums received for butter and that paid the farmer for his milk. For 1935 the figures are \$964,066 received and \$722,194 paid the farmer, the difference being \$241,872. This is equal to 33 per cent. of the purchase price. The working expenses are given as \$107,583, what has become of the difference between these two figures, viz., \$234,289? The milk supplier does not get it, where is it? It is part of the cost of running the creameries, such items as depreciation, interest, &c., being omitted from this list. The fact is that in very many parts of Ireland cost of running the creameries is excessive, as the milk supply is too small, and this is the explanation of the undermanned position of so very many creameries, and surely the time has come to allocate the blame and find the remedy. Agricultural societies which deal in seeds and manures come next in the Report. Ninety-seven were "alive" and working during 1934, against 145 in 1935, a falling off of forty-nine. Of the ninety-seven, only twenty-eight have any buildings and plant, and of ninety-two the capital averages £280 each, a merely nominal sum for registration purposes. These are not really co-operative societies in the true sense at all, but, groups of farmers who have combined together to buy seeds and manures in bulk. A leader or two from the Department would do all the organising required for such a purpose. Credit Societies, or Redefence banks are shown by the Report to number 200, but only 156 are working. Until we know the amount of the local deposits we cannot tell how many of these groups of farmers who take advantage of the cheap loans offered by the Department and Co-operated District Board &c. I think 82 per cent. interest, in many cases with practically no realisable security, are genuine societies on the Redefence or other recognised system. As far as I can make out, the cost of organising and supervising these 156 societies whose business amounts to lending £390 per annum, is about £30 each, nearly a proportionate figure. Poultry societies came next. Of the thirty-six mentioned in the Report, nineteen are dead or not working, and the remaining sixteen did a trade in eggs only. The one poultry society made a net loss of £20 on a turnover of £600. Of the thirty-eight home industry societies thirty have no buildings or plant, being merely lace and crocket societies. Of the twenty-seven bee-keepers' societies registered in 1932 and 1933, all were dead or dormant in 1934. Of fourteen miscellaneous societies in 1933, six were "alive" in 1934, and of the four dairy societies carried forward from 1933, two expired in 1934. But the most extraordinary article in the Report is that of trade federations—page 11, 12: the reader is let to believe

Oct. 20, 1935.

Mr. Arthur R. Leigh, Esq.

Dec. 20, 1906
 Mr. Arthur B.
 Lough, J.P.

they are fairly successful, instead of which they are failures. The balance sheets contradict the favourable statements made about them in the Reports. The Irish Egg-dealers Federation shows the following figures.—Trade, £540; expenses, £325; loss, £215; these speak for themselves. "The Irish Federated Poultry Societies." The reference to this (page 12) can hardly be meant seriously when one considers the figures given, which show that it did no business. I believe the cost of organising these egg societies cannot be less than £2,500, or about £176 each. We know what the Irish Co-operative Agency Society, Limerick, has become. I have its last annual statement of accounts before me. There is a loss on the year's working, its trade is decreasing, it will not pay the price it got for butter or the price it pays the creameries for them. Instead of selling the butter as an agent for the creameries, it buys from them like any other middle man; it has had to drop the egg and poultry business; but why go on? Twelve years is a fair trial; it is known now, and instead of selling all the co-operative butter as an agent, it does not get on consignment 5 per cent. of the amount put on the market. Societies who are members have never been paid any interest on the capital invested. Lord Mountbelle, while Chairman of this agency, was for years Chairman of the I.A.O.S., whose organs are carrying on business for it, and the columns of the *Homestead* have continually pulled its merits and advised the creameries to send it butter. Instead of improving the price of creamery butter it has injured it in many cases. I have seen letters showing how it is done. With regard to the Irish Agricultural Wholesale I.A.W. Society, the results are worse. It would have collapsed long since but for financial aid and other help (£2,400 in 1904) it received from the I.A.O.S. The Secretary of the I.A.O.S., Mr. R. A. Anderson, is the Managing Director of the Wholesale. Colm Egan was until recently a Director, he is now Chairman of the I.A.O.S., and most of the Directors are on the I.A.O.S. Committee. Although this business has now ceased to be a genuine co-operative concern, owing a few gentlemen control its capital, it is boomed by the I.A.O.S. as a part of the movement, and organs paid by the Department make it a condition that all new agricultural societies shall become shareholders. This is done without laying before those they ask to take shares any financial statement or balance sheet such as would be considered a matter of course in any other business venture. I have been a shareholder in the I.A.W. for five or six years, and I have never received a 1d. interest on the capital invested. It has sold manure, seeds, and other goods as cheaply as other merchants, it has been done by making losses paid off by the I.A.O.S. So far, these criticisms are taken from the Reports laid before the Board of Agriculture, but I have had experience of the Organisation Society in another capacity. We have had one of the best co-operative societies in Ireland at Killesnohra, in the County Cavan, which I took a large part in organising. For some years before the society was formed, at considerable expense to myself, I trained the farmers in the use of the separator, and endeavoured to teach them the possibility of making better butter. We were greatly assisted in forming the society by Sir Horace Plunkett, whose personal views on co-operation always seemed to me sound, although I could not agree at all times with the interpretation of them given by the I.A.O.S. In its early years the Killesnohra Creamery had the usual difficulties to go through, and a conflict arose over the question of whether there should be auxiliaries attached to the central creamery, or whether separate co-operative societies should be formed. The founders were all unanimous in favour of the auxiliary system, but the I.A.O.S. took an active part in resisting this view, and the conflict was nearly fatal to the society. I think this action was very unfortunate, and that the part of the society, if it interfered at all in local matters, should have been to support the founders of the enterprise. In a second promising creamery undertaking in the same county a similar question arose, and in that case I am of opinion that the interference of the I.A.O.S. proved destructive to the undertaking. From these facts the following conclusions may be drawn.—1. That the co-operative organisations throughout Ireland derive slight benefit from their

connection with the I.A.O.S. 2. That its efforts are not successful in procuring a progressive and permanent improvement in the organisations which it supports. 3. That its management, therefore, is not sufficiently economical or efficient to warrant its obtaining State support. A great deal of misconception exists, particularly throughout Great Britain with regard to the I.A.O.S. It is assumed that its operations are of the same character as the great wholesale and distributive co-operative societies which exist in England, Wales, and Scotland, and it owes a great deal of the popularity that it possesses to this mistaken idea. The explanation which I have given will enable the Committee to see how erroneous these ideas are. None of the great co-operative societies in Great Britain depended for any considerable period on voluntary subscriptions for support. The societies either became self-supporting and then made such a contribution to any central organising or wholesale society as made it also self-supporting, or went out of existence. The co-operative societies in England, although they may have an educational side, are mainly trading bodies, while the I.A.O.S. appears to form a solitary, and I think not very successful, illustration of the educational body endeavouring to go into business. The two things do not run well together. If its energies were devoted merely to agitation in favour of co-operation, very slight expenditure would be sufficient to maintain it, and I cannot but think that it would easily get the support from voluntary subscribers. The *Irish Homestead*, a weekly paper published by the I.A.O.S. in the issue of June the 9th last, said, that instead of a self-help movement, we have got a "paper movement always crying out for aid to carry on its work, that the strength of every co-operative movement depends on its trade federations, and that they were a necessity." Then it adds: "this vital principle was not enforced in the organising of the Irish movement." The failure is the greater when we consider how extraordinarily favourable was the opportunity. The invention of the centrifugal cream separator has caused a butter-making revolution in every dairy country, and required co-operation or combination in some form. In the Report of the I.A.O.S. with which I am dealing, page 18, it will be seen that the reply of members throughout Ireland to a most urgent appeal for funds to keep the society alive was £20, not quite 1d. per head. It appears to me that the Board did not sufficiently recognise the difficulty in which it is placed in granting subsidies to a trading organisation which competes with other forms of business. No one attaches greater importance than I do to the business of the co-operative societies throughout Ireland in selling their produce, whether eggs or butter, or in buying their seeds, manure, or food stuffs well, but it cannot be concealed that in every department of this business they are competing with large existing trades. If the competition is carried on on a fair basis no objection can be taken to it. It would be most desirable for the scattered co-operative societies in country districts to have central agencies, but it is absolutely necessary that they should support them, and any Department of Government ought to recognise the role that it cannot do anything for one body of traders which it is not prepared to do for any other. The reason I have given seems to me to be conclusive that the connection of the Department with the I.A.O.S. tends to diminish its usefulness. I have gone into the matter at such length because, as time goes on, there seems to be a tendency to strengthen the connection. The number of gentlemen who have lost or are losing members of the I.A.O.S. on the Board has not diminished. The annual expenses tend to grow larger in amount and are asked in a more open, and I must admit—if they are to be given—in a more despicable manner. They now amount to a very considerable sum, and I feel that the connection between the two bodies has endured for such a long time, and seems to be so permanent in its character, that in the end it may be highly injurious or destructive to the Department if your Committee cannot see its way to make a clear and plain representation that the connection should altogether cease. The Joint Committee which at present exists between the Department and the I.A.O.S. is wrong in principle, and should be terminated as soon as possible.

12203. (Mr. O'Leary).—Do the wholesale societies undertake to pay interest?—We all put our money into it with the expectation that we would get 5 per cent. on our capital.

12210. Was the interest to be limited to 5 per cent.?
—No, but that is the general idea that all co-operative societies are expected to pay 5 per cent. in organizing societies we always speak of that as the limit of interest that would be paid.

12211. In this particular society there was no mention of that?—No. I don't think that is usually mentioned, but in all the societies with which I am interested they say, "we will not pay more than five per cent. interest"; that is a fair return on the capital.

12212. But in this particular society nothing was said?—There was no special statement on the point.

12213. It was assumed, however?—I certainly assumed that, and I put my money into it, thinking that I could get 5 per cent. if it was a success. I did not expect any more, and don't in any co-operative society. I think it is mentioned in the rules under which co-operative societies are formed that the interest shall not exceed 5 per cent.

12214. The Wholesale Society was registered as a Co-operative Society?—Yes; it was originally started as a co-operative society, but it has been lately changed in a way that makes it non-co-operative.

12215. You say its capital is dominated by a small number of gentlemen; does that affect its position as being an interest-paying society?—I don't think so; I don't think it affects the position in that respect. It was more to get capital; they could not get capital from the societies, and they had to alter the rules in such a way as to try and secure the capital that was required.

12216. (Mr. Brown).—Debitum or something of that sort?—It is really very complicated; you would have to go into the rules and look at it. Mr. O'Grady's point was that it was not with the intention of getting any better interest, but it was to secure capital.

12217. (Mr. O'Grady).—That was my point, and I think it is not—I don't think the people who put money into it expect more than 5 per cent. I think they are gentlemen who want to help the Society and put money in it; quite willing to let it stand at 5 per cent. if they can get it. I think the rules have been altered so that these gentlemen can get security for the money put in.

12218. With reference to the grant of £3,000 in March, 1906, you mentioned that the elected members of the Agricultural Board raised many objections?—Yes.

12219. Are we to take it that on that occasion there was a sharp line of demarcation in the views of the elected and of the nominated members upon that Board?—I would hardly put it that way. The nominated members know more about it, because they were more connected with the I.A.O.S.; the elected members, with the exception of myself and one other, practically knew nothing except what they were told by the Department about the inner working of the I.A.O.S. They did not quite see why the money should be paid.

12220. (Mr. Dryden).—They did not object because they were elected members?—Not at all. I wish to make that point clear, it may have been simply an accident that the nominated members were members of the I.A.O.S.; outside that, they were probably as good men as could be got in Ireland for this position.

12221. (Mr. O'Grady).—The point is, that certain members of the Board who had means of knowledge presumably in excess of the others did not make objections?—Yes, they were more interested in it and knew a great deal more about it, but this application came as a surprise to the others as it did to me.

12222. I asked that because in the earlier part of your evidence you indicated your opinion to be that there ought not to be any nominated members upon these Boards?—I would not go that far. If the nominations were by the Government I would not object. I don't think any individual has a right to nominate men.

12223. In the past have you had any marked difference of views or attitude on the part of the nominated members?—Not at all; I never saw any distinction in the attitude of the elected or nominated members of the Board on any matter outside the I.A.O.S. It is an exceptional matter.

12224. You would support the nomination of members if done by the Government?—If done directly by the Government.

12225. (Mr. Brown).—You spoke of a connection between the I.A.O.S. and the trading societies; once the trading societies are established is there any connection between them except the payment of affiliation fees?—I think I could not put that more clearly than I did in the words I used. My statement is quite clear on the subject.

12226. You spoke first of the connection generally?—I say that Mr. Anderson, who is the Secretary of the I.A.O.S., and the active man connected with it, is also the active man and practically managing director of the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, but in law I don't know whether there is any connection. And Colonel Everett, at one time Chairman of the Wholesale Society, is now Chairman of the I.A.O.S.

12227. The connection you speak of is chiefly that certain prominent members of the one are members of the other?—It is absolutely impossible to separate the Central Co-operative Society of Ireland from the trading organisation. If you have a Central Co-operative Society in Ireland it must be connected with and must understand and be in the inner working of the various trading bodies.

12228. I wanted to know what the precise connection was?—I have stated it clearly.

12229. Is there any other connection besides that you have stated?—This is all I have to say as regards the connection.

12230. There was some evidence given of a statement which you were stated to have made at the Council of Agriculture, and I wish to know whether it is quite accurate. One witness said (words Q. 4375). Would that be an accurate representation of what you yourself stated on that occasion?—I think it is fairly correct. A day or two before the meeting of the Council I saw it reported that something like £19,000 had been paid to the I.A.O.S.

12231. This would go the length of any payments having been made?—I have not seen this before.

12232. The statement here would go the length that you had heard practically for the first time of any payments being made?—Yes, I never knew that any payments had been made to the I.A.O.S. until the £2,000 which we were asked for in 1906.

12233. That is not exactly what is stated here. It would appear that you did not know about any payments to the I.A.O.S. until you heard it mentioned at the Council meeting?—I knew about the £2,000. I accepted the £19,000 as mentioned in the Report of the Chief Secretary's answer, and I knew that £2,000 had been asked for, but I did not know that the £19,000 had been asked for. Of the £19,000 I knew that £2,000 had been asked for.

12234. The £19,000 included the £3,000?—It did not.

12235. (Mr. Miché).—I did not take exactly that meaning from the statement made there; I rather took the idea that you and the other members of the Board stated that you were not aware of these continuing payments, that is the payment of salaries to the various officials?—I was not on the Board until February, 1908, and you may notice the matter was brought up at the first Board in 1900, but I had looked through the minutes and reports of the Department, and could not find any mention of payments to the I.A.O.S. until 1903.

12236. Do you think that the notification of payments by the Department to the two Boards is really of a strict or businesslike nature?—I think, except the I.A.O.S. business, the minutes contain very full records of all matters, amount of payments and everything else, and I think there was a misconception with regard to this, that it never was intended to mystify, but it did mystify. For instance, it is mentioned that the payments to the I.A.O.S. are put under the head of agricultural instruction and something else. If you look at the Annual Report, agricultural instruction is a very large sum, and I for one, looking at the Report, would never imagine it contained such items as these I.A.O.S. payments. It is, I suppose, agricultural instruction, but I never thought it would be there.

12237. You know the wording of the Act that a particular application should be connected to by the Board in each case?—I have referred to that here; every grant undoubtedly is brought before the Board.

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12232. Every vote on account; I am speaking of payments.—The payment when it is made is recorded in the Annual Report.

12233. Or is it a total of payments under some general head?—That is the way it is recorded.

12234. Is such information as that insufficient to enable members of the Board to exercise thorough financial control on the operations of the Department?—These payments have appeared in greater detail in the minutes.

12235. Taking them as they are in the minutes, which are totals of considerable sums!—There is far more than totals. The details of payments are given in the minutes, I think.

12236. I think not. I have studied them very carefully—I thought they were far more extended in the minutes than in the Annual Report.

12237. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The details would be on the table when they were under discussion!—Certainly; every single payment we have sanctioned must come before us afterwards for approval.

12238. (Mr. Michie).—In the shape of a cash-note total!—No, a very long document with each item that it would take hours to go through. I think we get much fuller details in the minutes, and that all the votes that we have sanctioned do come before us when the payments have been made.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—The minutes summarise a large number of more extended statements of the payments which are available when the matter is up for approval.

12239. (Mr. Michie).—Is that (showing Minutes) a statement such as you refer to at page 1721—Here is an item, "Agricultural Instruction, £75,000." Of course, we can get all these details if we wish to go into them, and they may have come up, and I think very probably a very large amount of these payments have come up before us on the minutes.

12240. Is that the kind of statement that is put before your Board as details of expenditure which was sanctioned in accordance with a vote of credit?—I would have to go through the minutes before I could answer that question.

12241. Can you remember any other kind of document on the table?—Oh, certainly, another financial statement that had certain items is put before us.

12242. Giving you details?—They certainly give a very large amount of details, and I know that if I had asked about particular items, as I have often done, I have got the fullest and most ample details supplied to me.

12243. Do you think that giving such information in this form and leaving people to apply if they want further is a sufficient compliance with the statutory requirements that particular applications of money should be approved of by the Board?—I would hardly put it in that way. I think it would be better if there were more heads and sub-heads given in the Annual Report.

12244. I mean to the Board, not to the public?—I think we get full information at the Board.

12245. Where exactly do you get it?—In the minutes.

12246. I have gone through the minutes and can find nothing but general statements like this!—When the Board are asked for a vote to carry through any undertaking or for any purpose, the matter is then discussed, and we vote a certain amount, and afterwards we get in the minutes, in that form how the money has been spent.

12247. Then, you give a general vote for say £10,000 or £5,000, or whatever it may be, a vote of credit?—Yes.

12248. Then, the only information as appears to me from the minutes is that you get this total—You tell me, of course, that you could get further details?—Certainly.

12249. But no further consent of the Board is given to expenditure except the vote of credit which is made to the Department and this subsequent statement, after the payment is made, of what payments have been made?—I think you are quite correct; if we want further details we can ask for them, and they are always supplied.

12250. (Chairman).—The details are there available if you want to see them?—Yes, it is presented to us when we ask for it, and the Board often asks for details of the expenditure, it may take a little time to get that prepared, but we always get it.

12251. Is that the common practice of the Board, to ask for details where it is thought necessary?—They are very often asked for.

12252. And when it is asked for is it always available in an intelligible form?—It is always supplied in an intelligible form.

12253. And these are details going a good deal further than appears in these summaries?—Certainly; if you ask for the details you will get them quite fully.

12254. (Mr. Michie).—I am not questioning the desire of the Department to give you every information when you ask for it, but I am merely questioning the way in which they carry out these instructions in the Act as to the particular application for money?—I have not studied that.

12255. That is Clause 15, Sub-section 1 (p.)—I think they certainly carry that out; we are asked for approval with regard to the expenditure. "Shall be applied subject as regards any particular application to the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, for the purpose of agriculture and other rural industries or sea fisheries."

12256. You give a vote of credit for certain general purposes, that is not a sanction to the particular application?—It is not exactly for a general purpose, the purpose is always specified.

12257. Oh, certainly, but the expenditure would be under that. You don't sanction the mode of carrying out a scheme?—Oh, no; it is not our business, we are not an administrative body at all.

12258. That is the question, of course?—That is my point; we can get the details, but the Department are the executive body.

12259. That is what gives you your power of vote?—Exactly.

12260. How do you exercise the power of vote if you vote a lump sum for a purpose such as the Cork Exhibition, and not follow the particular application of that lump sum?—I should say that I am following up pretty closely the application of the money with regard to the I.A.O.S.

12261. That is a matter in which you are taking a personal interest?—I think the Board takes an interest in all sums—I have followed up the other expenditure.

12262. Take the Cork Exhibition—did you follow that up?—Certainly, and I want to a great deal of trouble about it. We had it up very often at the Board, and many items of expenditure with regard to the Exhibition were questioned.

12263. After they had been incurred?—After they had been incurred.

12264. (Chairman).—Take the Cork Exhibition!—In the first instance, we grant a lump sum, but, then, personally I go to a great deal of trouble afterwards to see and get an idea of the heads under which it is spent.

12265. Would other members of the Board take the same kind of their duties?—I am quite sure they do; a certain number of members are more interested in certain items, and take them up and get all the details they want.

(Chairman).—It seems to me quite clear that the Cork Exhibition would be a good instance of the particular application of the funds of the Department.

12266. (Mr. Michie).—If it were one payment it would be, but if it were a number of particular applications of that lump sum estimated?—What occurred—I have very clearly in my mind with regard to the Cork Exhibition—£10,000 were asked for first, and then they described what they were going to do, carry on calf experiments, the cost of getting ready the exhibits and putting up the model cottages, and they said they could not give the exact amount of the cost of the items at the time, but they were discussed, and there were many questions asked at the Board as to how they arrived at the amounts they named, and afterwards, when they came forward for more money, we wanted to know what had become of what we voted before and asked for the details with regard to it. That occurred with regard to the Cork Exhibition, and the last vote was a few hundred pounds for some individual, and I remember we got the whole details actually of how the money was spent; it went as far as refreshments to some people, and I questioned the refreshments.

12267. That was a special vote given to one of your officers for providing refreshments that he was charged

to incur I—I would not say it was one of our officers at all, but it was a small sum, and we went into it very fully, and we wanted to know all about it and why there should come up this thing at the end, and we got the full details. We were very particular to know what the said experiment cost.

12274. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I suppose from the description you give of it, it would be fair to say that the control of the expenditure which the Board is able to exercise, and the control it can exercise over the detailed expenditure by the officers of the Department would correspond very closely with that exercised by a Town or County Council over the funds that they have at their disposal from rates or otherwise—I certainly think it corresponds very closely.

12275. You feel that you have just as much power in dealing with particular applications; the particular application in the first instance is the statement of some object which is to be covered by some expenditure necessarily only stated in the estimate, and finally when that comes up on the closing of accounts you feel that you have in practice as clear a control and knowledge of the work as you would if you were a member of a Town Council dealing with questions of streets or anything of that sort?—We vote money, but the particulars of every expenditure we are not concerned about, when it has been spent we can get all the details we want, and the Department do give us those details, first, in a more or less summarised form. If it is an exceptional expenditure, like the Cook Exhibition, we get more details than of payments to County Committees, which are a repetition of payments made on many occasions, and, therefore, the Agricultural Board don't trouble much about that kind of payment, because it will be thrashed out by the County Committee, but in those special things, the experimental work and exhibitions, we have to get much greater details than in other matters.

12276. That corresponds to what I conceive to be the ordinary practice of a public board managing public funds?—Yes.

12277. (Mr. Micks).—Are you a member of the County Council of Cavan?—No; of the County Committee.

12278. You don't know, then, whether they ever make a vote of money, and leave it to some other body to spend them or in connection with them to see to its expenditure?—I don't know their procedure.

12279. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You are a ratepayer, and have an interest in it?—Yes.

12280. (Mr. Micks).—If you thought the County Council of Cavan nominated a small committee to spend the general funds of the county, do you think that would be a wise arrangement?—No, I would not approve of it at all. A great deal of the evidence with regard to the live stock schemes has already been given by Cavan representatives, and I don't think it is necessary to take up the time of the Committee except with regard to one or two points. I don't know whether there has been any special reference made to the Ballyhaise station.

12281. (Chairman).—We have heard a great deal about it, but would be glad to hear what you have to say?—I think it will be a very useful thing in the county and a great assistance to the Department in carrying on their schemes. The intention is not only to educate young men, but it will be useful if it become a distributing station for good stock of various sorts, and also those might be established a dairy herd, where records of milk ought to be kept. It is a very necessary thing in this country, as I consider the small farmers in Ireland don't understand the necessity for watching the milk yields, and they don't pay much attention to it. Referring to the schemes in the county, the details are contained in the pamphlet prepared by the County Secretary, and very good results are shown where we have local organisations that are able to assist the instructors and instructors who give the six weeks' courses of lectures, and one of the most important points is that we should try and get local committees and local organisations established by the Department. The much work is thrown on the County Secretary, and the educational work the Department could do here is very great. It has not been done so fully as it should be, and especially with reference to the technical branch of their work. When teachers go into a district for a six weeks' course, unless there is an active local com-

mittee, it is unsatisfactory, but less with regard to such instruction as poultry-keeping, and horticulture and bee-keeping, because you only want occasional visits. There is not the slightest doubt that the result of the Department's work in the County Cavan has been very useful in giving the small farmers a good idea of the advantages of using artificial manures to a much larger extent than they ever did before. I believe it to be a fair estimate to say that there are a hundred bags of artificial manure used now for one used twenty years ago.

12282. (Mr. Dryden).—Can you say anything about the results of using that manure?—It has been very satisfactory, and I have not the slightest doubt it has increased the wealth-producing capacity of the district considerably. We had a very useful agricultural instructor, a sensible, level-headed man. It used to be a common thing in Cavan town for the sweepings from hay lofts to be sold as grass seeds to poor people—years ago that was quite common. Now no such thing would be thought of. Where farmers used to buy light grass seeds, they now buy the heaviest they can get. In the County Cavan there has been an extraordinary rising out of local industries. Between 1910 and 1914 the population of the County Cavan was something like 240,000, and of that 240,000 about 130,000 depended on spinning and weaving for their livelihood.

12283. (Chairman).—Were they destroyed by the Famine?—By the Famine and the establishment of the Factory system, but a number of small local industries have been knocked out. I think it absurd that we should be buying from Canada hayrakes and prickles, and sending our round tubs to England and other places; we should try and develop that sort of industry. Common wooden basins come to us now from America.

12284. I suppose the skill to make the bucket has disappeared?—I would not say that, but the Americans have got much better machinery, and the wooden bucket is now made by machinery. If the Cavan men got the machinery and instruction they could turn out the bucket just as well as it could be turned out anywhere else, and the demand is quite large enough to feed a factory of that sort, and the timber is there. I think it is unreasonable the number of these small industries that have been destroyed, and not so much owing to the Famine. Take butter-boxes and cases; the Canadian butter-box is splendidly made, with dovetailed corners, and it would hold water almost, but it is made by a machine. We, at the Killybegs Creamery, get all our boxes made locally; there is a shop opposite the creamery that supplies the boxes, made out of Irish beech. I know, from many of the butter buyers on the other side of the Channel, that they got no better boxes, but probably three-fourths of the Irish creameries are using foreign wood for their boxes. The co-operating trade is being destroyed by the creameries; the old fiction that was made by co-ops is not now used. I asked a co-op who lived by me, "Why don't you make casks for the creameries?" He tried to do it, and got quotations in Limerick for staves and hoops. I saw a quotation from Rotterdam and we compared the two, and the foreign one was lower, because the rate was lower from Rotterdam to Belfast than it was from Limerick to Belfast. He bought from Rotterdam for a couple of years, but I think he is buying a few from Limerick now. Steam engines and boilers are lying idle at the creameries through the winter; many industries might be connected with these co-operative societies if we had a strong central organisation society that would be in touch with the people.

12285. (Mr. Micks).—As regards the falling-off in population, does that continue?—Our population is now only something like 92,000.

12286. In 1891 the population of your county was 129,800, in 1891 it was 105,600, and in 1901, 92,000?—And it was over 240,000 in 1841.

12287. Do you attribute that falling-off to the want of industrial occupation?—The Land Laws are accountable for part of it; there is a great improvement now, but we take some time to turn a river that has once been started. The thing that is promoting emigration to the greatest extent is the fact that the sons and daughters of the small farmers who live in our district are not paid for their work by their

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fellows, and also to the fact that they have so many friends in America. Cavan is a country of small farmers, and the sons and daughters, when they grow up, have to do a great deal of the work; they are fed and clothed, and get a few shillings when they want to go to the town, but they are not regularly paid for their work. Then their friends and relations in America are getting good wages, and they hear of it, and go out. Some of the servant girls who go away come back for a holiday; it is not like the old emigration.

12298. (Mr. Brown).—And they probably raise the minds of other girls and induce them to go?—Certainly; what we want more than anything else is to get people paid for their work as the first instance, and to get an appreciation of time taught to Irish farmers; they don't know what time really means in this country. We have gone along in a happy-go-lucky way for years past, but they are beginning to change; the thing is to produce more wealth in the country; and there is very little done in the way of developing industries.

Dr. J. M. TAYLOR, Portlanning, examined.

Dr. J. M.
Taylor.

12299. (Chairman).—You are here on the Barrow drainage question?—Yes.

12300. We had two witnesses this morning, Lord Drogheda and Mr. Fitzmaurice, and I think it may be assumed, as we told them, that there is a very great need for the expenditure of money there, and the expenditure will probably be of a larger amount than can be looked for from private sources; the only question for us to consider is whether or not any portion of that expenditure ought to be thrown upon the endowment fund of the Department of Agriculture?—I have given evidence on several occasions before Committees and Commissions relative to this subject, which evidence, I think, is in print.

12301. Mr. Brown, who is a member of the Commission, has told us that the need of expenditure on this

particular river has been established beyond any doubt?—Beyond any doubt, in my mind; I am here if necessary to give you any assistance as regards the necessity of such a thing as regards the preservation of health, being medical officer of health for a long period.

12302. That is an important matter, but hardly falls within our inquiry; it is a very different matter as to whether this is a proper application of any of the funds that belong to the Department of Agriculture?—There is no doubt it would assist the land very much.

12303. As one of the witnesses has told us, no application has been made to the Department of Agriculture for assistance of that kind?—No; I would be very glad to see it carried out.

Professor MASON, F.R.S., examined.

Professor
Mason, F.R.S.

12304. Anything I have to say would be, first of all, as a veterinary surgeon, and next, as one who has gone through the whole of Ireland for five years amongst the people and lectured, and I think any evidence I ought to give would be as a veterinary surgeon chiefly, rather than as an official. When I commenced lecturing five years ago I found the people throughout the country, speaking generally, with a few exceptions, in the most awful state of ignorance; I found they knew practically nothing of the animals that were living by. There was a number of diseases, causing terrible losses in different parts of the country, and the most foolish remedies and preventive were used. I might give, as one instance, there is a disease recognised in a great many parts of Ireland as worm in a cow's tail. And up to the time I started I found the people operating in the most cruel manner on cow's tails for a disease that never existed, and I could only put that down by offering a £10 reward to any man who would give me a specimen of the worm in a tail, and I have not got the worm yet. I found diseases causing tremendous losses and yet absolutely unsuspected. There was contagious abortion in cattle; I am not able to estimate the loss here, but, roughly speaking, I don't see how the loss could be less than half a million a year. That may be an exaggeration or an understatement, but I put it in this way, there were close on two million milk-cows when I last read the records, or a million and a half, and if you had only one in forty of those affected—I am afraid it runs nearer one in ten—and estimate the loss at £10 a cow, that gives you £500,000, and if I put it very low down there is not less than a quarter of a million lost to the Irish farmer by that disease. In the last week I went over ground that I had travelled five years ago. I met farmers who thanked me for having pointed this out, and to the Department for the losses, and I believe the loss is tremendously lessened by the work of the Department. Among other things, the Department caused me to meet a number of instructors at the Cork Exhibition; I got them daily for some time and gave them thorough instruction as far as our scientific information went with regard to that disease. Since then we have advanced a little, and only this year fresh announcements have been made by Professor Bang of Copenhagen; I tried to bring that home to the farmers. There are a number of

other diseases causing tremendous loss, red-water, black leg, and various diseases in sheep.

12305. (Mr. Dryden).—Diseases of calves?—Yes; white scour, and joint evil, lung sickness, and so on with a great many diseases. The farmers really had no knowledge of their animals; they had no knowledge of the proper way to deal with them; they were very largely in the hands of two unscrupulous people; one of the diseases which were distressing were due to the fact that the farmers were persuaded to buy shoddy rubbish in the way of feeding stuffs, and one of the things I have done, and the other instructors have done, with the authority of the Department of Agriculture, is, we pointed out to the farmers the way they were misled. One cake meal was sold at 5s. a cwt., and it was sold horse-feed throughout the country. I met with a case yesterday in the Co. Tyrone where a farmer was prosecuted for the amount he owed for that very cake meal; the Department got it analysed, and I think I am oversteating it when I say it was found to contain about 7s. worth of feeding material; the rest was either rubbish, molasses, or, in my opinion, more likely to be absolutely injurious; that has been part of the work the Department has undertaken me and the other instructors to carry out.

12306. (Chairman).—When you suspect that the feeding stuff is of a bad quality you send it to the Department for analysis?—Not I, personally; I go over the whole of Ireland. In Cork, Mr. Carroll, the Secretary of the County Council visits the various districts; about three weeks ago he visited the various districts with me; while I was lecturing in the district he would go round and collect samples that would be analysed, and whilst I was there a prosecution was made.

12307. Analysed on the spot?—No; sent up to the Department.

12308. (Mr. Dryden).—What was the result of that?—I believe the feeding stuffs have very much improved, and I may also add that the Department of Agriculture carried on calves' feeding experiments, and after several years' careful trial they found one cake meal that gave very much better results than any other, and I try to impress on the farmers that instead of buying imported meal they should buy their own meal or try to get the local shopkeepers to make it. I went in Belfast to some of the big merchants, and

asked what they could do the Department's real at and they told me they could make a profit at 15s. 6d. or 15s., and for that the farmers got a meal which contains probably four times the feeding value of the 15s. stuff, with none of the noxious admixtures. The Department also employed me on several occasions to investigate diseases.

12292. (Mr. Mickle).—You are not an officer of the Department—I am not a permanent officer, I am sorry to say. They employed me to go to the West of Ireland to investigate sheep diseases, also, through the Co. Wicklow, and wherever there were noxious districts, because we found what had not been previously recognised, that Ireland suffers very much from two diseases, braxy and lunging ill, and practically nothing was known of these diseases; the authorities disagreed on them. As soon as the Royal Commission in England took up this our Department co-operated, and I was sent over to get some of the culture which they had prepared, and we are even now experimenting with these cultures—that is in sheep diseases. There is one point I should like to say something about, though I would not like to go fully into it, as it is a matter of debate with members of my profession, it is that Ireland is practically unprovided with veterinary surgeons to a very large extent. I have published it in some paper or other—I forget the exact figures—but I cannot take a better instance than West Cork; if you take a line, roughly speaking, from somewhere about Skillicree or Glenduff and go north and west in a circle, and you have some thousands of square miles without a veterinary surgeon to be found in it. I was at Castleblennharney one night giving a lecture, and I was asked to go and look at a poor man's horse that had colic; I said "I cannot, I am employed by the Department of Agriculture, you must get the local veterinary surgeon." They told me they would have to drive twenty-nine or thirty miles to get him.

12293. Dr. Bentley.—There is no veterinary surgeon in Bantry or Kenmare; the nearest is in Dingle or Killybegs. In Galway there is a tremendous region with no veterinary surgeon. Take Roscommon and go across to Ballinrobe, there is not one.

12294. There is one in Ballinrobe?—There is; there may have been little changes lately, but so much was that the case that it was found necessary to employ an unqualified person in one instance to act as inspector. I need not go further into that. Ireland being so short of veterinary surgeons I think it shows the great necessity of giving these people the instruction that I am trying to give. I should like to see every man getting a chance of understanding the nature of his animals; how they are made and how every organ in their body acts; how they can be kept in health; I don't want to see them made quacks, but if they knew more about their animals there would be less quacks. Going back to contagious abortion, I have known a man to take a knife and perform a surgical operation on a most delicate part of a cow's anatomy.

12295. With a dirty knife probably?—He was not particular, probably he had cut his tobacco with it a short time before. I thought I would call attention to the scarcity of veterinary surgeons, because I had a sort of hope in my mind that some plan or other would be found by which they would come day or other get veterinary surgeons brought to their door.

12296. (Chairman).—A good many witnesses have talked about the multiplication of veterinary dispensaries—speaking as a veterinary surgeon, and not as one connected with the Department, in theory I would be inclined to be in favour of some such idea. There are difficulties in the way, but it, in an experimental manner it could be tried I should be very much inclined to favour it.

12297. Could you develop that a little?—I think it has done very well in parts of Scotland, but I have not gone into it very thoroughly. When I was in Edinburgh as a student I remember advertisements used to be issued by farming societies and they gave a subsidy. It would be a mistake to give these people altogether veterinary attention as a charity, but if they could be taught the necessity of it, then, perhaps, they would be willing to pay part of it themselves, no veterinary surgeon could live there on the income he would make by practice, there must be some means of giving him a subsidy.

12298. (Mr. Mickle).—Would you put it on the rates or the Department's funds?—I would be in-

clined to make the people do some of it themselves. Oct. 16, 1906.
I think the rates would be rather the better thing than the Department's funds.

12299. (Chairman).—It might be a system of co-operation between the Department and County Committees?—Yes, or one of the best means would be co-operation.

12300. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The proposals that have been put before us and considered in certain counties have been a consolidation of the fees at present paid to veterinary surgeons so as to give a guaranteed income to the veterinary surgeon in the particular locality, with the condition that in respect of short he is to be at the service of the County Council when required, and that in private practice he is to make charges according to an agreed-upon scale of fees, depending in part upon the value of the holding to the tenant or proprietor who employs him, that is roughly the scheme which has been put before us. If that could be arranged without injury to existing offices of the Department or Local Authority, or men who by their own industry have built up a practice in a certain locality, if it could be worked out without injury to them, I should be very much in favour of it.

12301. (Mr. Dryden).—It is a big scheme, it strikes me. If I were consulted about it I should not be inclined to see a big wholesale scheme started for the whole of Ireland, it would be necessary to move cautiously in the matter.

12302. (Chairman).—That rather points to the machinery being the County Authority, and under the stimulus of the Department—I think it should be under the supervision of the Department, but I have not worked out the case, but one of the dangers struck me in this way, in a certain district the Parish Priest asked me to lecture on swine fever that night, I said, "There is no use my lecturing on swine fever except in general terms, that is a scheduled disease," but he said, "Can you not give them a cure for it?" I said "No, they must notify it." But he said, "They won't." I said "What do they do?" "They bury them." I think if the people get more instruction on these diseases, and were taught the terrible risks they run by selling the carcass of the diseased animal—I am not speaking of swine fever only, but black leg, and some other diseases, if they knew the risk they ran and were well taught, it would assist the Department's veterinary branch. Of course the members of the veterinary staff are entirely employed in the suppression of certain scheduled diseases, and I always feel that people will look upon them as being rather of an enemy. If a man comes to seize a poor man's stock then, though he is getting compensation, the veterinary surgeon's duty is to put restrictions on, and it is very easy to cause the people to look upon such a man with suspicion and not to assist him.

12303. If I follow you right your first need is tuition and knowledge?—Exactly, and that is really my idea that these men who would be under any scheme placed in any particular locality that part of their work should be educational, the Department has classes in various districts, and they employ veterinary surgeons there who give lectures. I have not been actively identified with them, so I don't give any evidence about it, but that idea would suggest a means by which part of the subsidy could be obtained by their being employed for instructional purposes.

12304. Your own connection with the Department is that they ask you to lecture?—They employ me to give lectures in certain parts of Ireland and also in the College of Science for so many months in the year. But I go out otherwise when I am asked, it has been continually for five years.

12305. But you don't hold any permanent position?—No.

12306. (Mr. Mickle).—Your whole time has been given to this?—It has; before being with the Department I was a Professor in the Veterinary College, and had a private practice. I resigned my Professorship and my private practice is gradually resigning me.

12307. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Would you ascribe the difficulty that has been found in eradicating swine fever, in no small part, to this ignorance of the dangers?—Well, speaking for myself, yes, I believe that the ignorance of the people, and the means of

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disposing of the carcasses not only in swine fever, but in all contagious diseases is to blame for the difficulties the authorities have had in suppressing the diseases.

12314. And you would say there has been a greater difficulty in the way of suppressing these particular diseases than would have arisen in England or Scotland?—Well, swine fever is a disease with which I have had less contact than any other, but, speaking from very limited experience, I would be inclined to say that is the case, that the ignorance of the people is at the bottom, and the confinement of such a disease, of course my experience of swine fever is very limited, because I avoid it. I never let my work clash with that of the Veterinary Branch.

12315. (Chairman).—At present the Department having taken over the veterinary work from the Privy Council, their regular inspectors are inspectors concerned with the administration of these Acts, they have no organisation for instructing the people generally?—They have other veterinary surgeons employed, but I don't know of any veterinary surgeons employed in just the same work as I do myself. They have one lecturing at a school in Dundalk, and they have another lecturing in the Model Farm, and other lecturers in different schools, but that is only hearsay on my part.

12316. Then you have seen very substantial results from your own work?—I would not exactly like to say that, but I honestly believe that the losses from contagious abortion, the loss from blackleg, from milk fever, from colic in horses and dietic diseases, and, above all, red water in cattle. I believe that the losses from these has gone down very much during the time that we have been at work. And, another thing, when first I started one of the first places I visited was Galway, and, in consequence of a conversation with the then Bishop of Clonsilla, he is now Archbishop of Tuam, I started a campaign in favour of tillage, and went to great pains to prove the connection between the neglect of the land and the prevalence of disease, and I have worked that out, and I think I have done a good deal to assist those others who are trying to increase the tillage. Whether it is due to the Department, or who it is, I don't know, but I see there is an increase of tillage in Ireland this year for the first time for a long time. I believe that with an increase in tillage there will be a decrease in disease.

12317. (Mr. Dryden).—Referring again to these districts where there is such a scarcity of veterinary surgeons, do you think it would be possible to combine some other business with that of the veterinary business?—I think that would be a great pity, it has been one of the faults of the veterinary profession that they have been tempted to embark in

other businesses, and the consequence is, that instead of being a scientific man, the position of the veterinary surgeon, his prestige and his own abilities will suffer, he will become perhaps a Postmaster, a horse dealer, or a farmer.

12318. Still he would be better perhaps than nothing at all?—To be a veterinary surgeon nowadays is an expensive thing, it means at least four years study, and a heavy premium on apprenticeship, and I believe it takes a certain amount of ability.

12319. (Chairman).—Supposing you put a veterinary surgeon down in one of these districts, what would his salary about be?—Taking it by what an average man earns elsewhere I would not like to average the veterinary surgeon's income through Ireland—this is a guess on my part at more than between £350 and £450.

12320. (Mr. Micks).—The dispensary doctors don't get anything at all like that?—That is one of the arguments. The veterinary profession had a meeting at which eighty members were present, and it was put to the vote whether they should encourage the idea of these dispensaries or not, I was in a minority of one. I was the only person present who had anything to say in favour of this scheme. And I believe the reason very largely is that the veterinary profession would not be willing to submit themselves to the same terms that the doctors have to put up with, and we have reason to believe that the doctors are badly treated on the whole, and the veterinary surgeons are not anxious to face the same state of affairs. I believe if a good general scheme could be established the veterinary profession would not mind in the way, but at present they will block the scheme.

12321. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you think the profession would move forward in such a scheme, would it not have a tendency to drive a man out and get his salary anyway?—It is always well to make a man feel that he has a chance of promotion, if he has not the incentive of ambition he will deteriorate.

12322. (Mr. Brown).—That would be the effect of paying the whole salary—but if a man was only subsidised?—If such a scheme was established out of it there probably would arise systems of protection.

12323. But if subsidised he would have an opportunity of increasing his salary by his own exertions?—To give him all his salary would be a mistake.

12324. (Mr. Micks).—Of course all your work of giving lectures being under the Department, you don't wish, perhaps, to offer any suggestions of veterinary work in the Department outside of that which you are doing yourself?—I don't think it would be proper for me to do so.

Mr. P. A. MERRILL, M.P., J.P., continued.

Mr. P. A.
Merrill, M.P.,
J.P.

12325. (Chairman).—We have heard, as you know, the evidence this morning of three witnesses about the Burrow Drainage scheme, we shall be very glad to hear what you have to say on the subject?—Do the Committee wish me to go into the necessity for the drainage?

12326. We assume that it is a very great necessity, and also that the agricultural interests are very considerably involved in it?—I think the communication through your Committee sent to the Secretary at Portlough was for evidence as to the allocation of the application of the £50,000.

12327. What we would wish to know is the ground on which it is asked that this sum of £50,000, or whatever sum may be asked for, should be paid out of the Endowment Fund of the Department, or whether it was a question rather for State assistance outside that fund, which is very much required for other purposes?

12328. (Mr. Micks).—Why should it be taken out of the slender purse of the Department?—Very well, sir, it will be necessary for me then to go into as short a summary as I possibly can of the proceedings which brought about this application. Early this year, in the month of March, the Parliamentary representatives of the counties affected by the flooding of the Burrow brought the matter under the notice of the Chief Secretary, and a deputation waited

on him in connection with the question. I may remind the Committee that this flooding and the crisis arising from it have been recognised for a very long period. Mr. Balfour, in 1885, brought in a Bill into Parliament, the Bill was, I might say, dropped, and another brought in the following year, and under Mr. Balfour's Bill it was proposed to give a grant from Parliament of £215,000, the balance of the sum necessary to carry out a proper scheme of drainage, which was estimated at £260,000, was to be made up from a rate that was to be imposed on the benefited area. Mr. Balfour's Bill, unfortunately, did not pass. It is unnecessary now to go into the reasons. So the matter rested; when we went to Mr. Bage, we asked him for an immediate grant pending legislation, of £50,000 to be applied to remove the obstructions which have been forming in the river for close on a century. It was recognised when we were going to Mr. Bryce that the late Government having appointed a Commission, it was not at all likely that a Bill would be introduced until this Committee's Report would be furnished.

12329. (Chairman).—You are speaking now of the Arterial Drainage Commission?—Yes, bearing that in mind, and in view of the fact that it is absolutely necessary that something should be done to reduce the danger of flooding, both on the lands and at the houses in the towns of Mountmellick, Portlough, and

Monasterrean, and Ashy, the Parliamentary representatives of the counties pressed on the Chief Secretary for an immediate grant to be applied, as I said before, in removing obstructions from the river which, in our opinion, and in expert engineering opinion, would tend very much to reduce the danger of flooding. The Chief Secretary informed the deputation that he was fully aware of the gravity of the case, but that he had gone to the Treasury for money for every Irish purpose, and that he could not make another application to the Treasury. He suggested that the Parliamentary representatives should approach the Treasury themselves, but it was pointed out to the Chief Secretary that there was very little use in a number of Irish members approaching the Treasury officials except they went accompanied by the member of the Government responsible for the Irish administration. The question then of the unexpended balance of the Department was mentioned, and the matter was discussed by the Chief Secretary for some little time, sections 5 and 6 of the Act were quoted as those that would enable the funds of the Department to be either permanently or temporarily employed for the purpose of removing the floods from the agricultural lands which, some time ago, were the most valuable lands in the district. The Chief Secretary stated that he thought it would be a proper application of the money, and that he would communicate with the Chairman of the Committee. This is an extract from the Report:—"Mr. Byrne, while admitting the strength of the case put before him, reminded the deputation that he had no power and no money to deal with the matter. He had already applied for money for various objects—waterworks, piers, harbours, &c., but if an application were made to the Treasury he would be glad to recommend it. Later in the evening one of the members forming the deputation was approached by the Chief Secretary, who said he had been thinking about the suggestion made by the deputation as to the possibility of a Grant being made out of the unexpended balance of the 'surplus' endowment now invested by the Department of Agriculture, and he had also spoken to the Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Department on the subject. The latter thought it would be a proper subject for inquiry by them, and Mr. Byrne recommended that a representation should be made by the members of the deputation to the Committee. A formal document will accordingly be prepared on the subject by the members and forwarded without delay to its proper quarter." Such a document was prepared and forwarded to you, sir, as Chairman of the Committee, on May 15th, 1896. As regards the necessity for some prompt remedy to deal with the floods, I may mention that the question of the Barrow Drainage has been before the public for a very long time; it has been discussed by several public bodies, and there were several Commissions appointed by Parliament to report—the Allport Commission, and there was the Castle-town-Spencer Commission, and it was on the Castle-town-Spencer Commission that Mr. Ballin's Bill was mainly based. In the Report of that Commission it was established that there are 3,400 square miles of country, the public health of which was seriously injured by the flooding of the Barrow. The medical officers of the districts of Monasterrean, Monasterrean, Portlannington, and Ashy were examined. There was also independent medical testimony submitted before the Committee, and the evidence went to show that on account of the flooding of the houses in the towns several epidemics that occurred in those places could be traced to the floods, the medical evidence went to prove that it developed constitutional diseases, pulmonary diseases, bronchial catarrhal affections, and rheumatism, and it predisposed to larynx, enteric, and typhoid fever, and bog haemorrhage and rheumatism in cattle, and hogs and lower set in sheep. So much as regards public health. The flooding of the Barrow is increasing every year. If any of you gentlemen have travelled the Great Southern and Western Railway, and looked out at the station at Monasterrean, you would have seen that the bed of the river is almost entirely closed, the river between the canal and the county bridge is hardly the width of a foot; below in Lord Droghda's demesne it is forty or sixty feet wide; the consequence is that when the water rises above Monasterrean it is all thrown back, and from seven to nine miles wide of the country is flooded. Above Monasterrean, what was twenty-five years ago good

fertile land and some of the best tillage land in the country, is at the present time not worth five shillings an acre in consequence of the flooding, and on that account we say that it would be of proper application of the money placed in the hands of the Department for agricultural purposes to remove from these lands the floods that have them valueless at present, and to restore them for the purposes of agriculture. If I may without offence say, very little value can be derived by the farmers of a great part of these counties that are affected by the flooding by instructions in poultrying and dairying, and by the agricultural instructions travelling the country when they can get none of the information which they require at the public cost to a practical loss on their farms, but the occupiers of the flooded lands have to pay their portion of the relief from which they can have no benefit. If the flood was removed these lands, after a very short time, would be restored to their former value and be made available for tillage and for grazing. At the present time it is available for neither. It is not available for tillage, because often when the flood goes down an amount of water remains that the people cannot till it, and it is not good for grazing because if a flood comes down in summer it leaves a sandy deposit, and cattle cannot eat it. I speak on behalf of my colleagues as well as myself, when I say we think, and respectfully submit to this Committee, that it is a proper application of the money in the hands of the Department to grant us £50,000 to restore this land to what it formerly was, most valuable land for tillage purposes. In order to meet what might be a reasonable objection on the part of the people in different parts of Ireland who may, and very properly, contend that this money placed in the hands of the Department was intended for educational purposes, the question might arise whether the Barrow Drainage would not be a local instead of a national question; some people hold it is a national question, it affects the public health of the whole of the midland counties of Ireland. But fearing that people might have a scruple against applying money what might be termed locally, we were satisfied that if the grant were made it should be made on condition that when the Arterial Drainage Commission makes their Report, and when Parliament passes a Bill to deal with the drainage of the Barrow, that out of whatever moneys be voted by Parliament the £50,000 would be re-allocated to the Department. What we are asking this £50,000 for is the removal of the accumulations of silt which form islands in the river at present at Monasterrean, Bart, Portlannington, and Monasterrean. That application is approved of by competent engineering opinion, that not alone would it reduce the danger of flooding the lands, it would remove the flooding of the houses in the towns that I have mentioned, but that the removal of these islands that are now there and causing the flood, would be a work of a permanent nature. As one of the engineers who was consulted on the matter said, the application of the money would be of a beneficial and permanent nature, and it would be one of the first works that would have to be done under any drainage scheme. That is exactly the position, sir.

12330. (Mr. O'Grady).—I am speaking, sir, by authority for the Queen's County, and also on behalf of my colleagues, I am speaking for the counties affected, except the County Kildare.

12331. What attitude has the County Kildare taken up?—They were afraid that the obtaining this £50,000 might be used as a reason for delaying legislation, and a grant sufficient for a thorough scheme of drainage.

12332. (Mr. Byrne).—I don't think that is it exactly, they thought the State should have been called upon to do the work by direct grant—that is our opinion also, but the State would not advance the money, and we thought, as this money was idle, we might put it to some good use.

12333. (Mr. O'Grady).—And refund it?—Yes, we have been waiting for State aid for the last fifty years, and there have been millions of money lost.

12334. (Chairman).—You ask the Department to accelerate the matter by advancing a portion of the money that will afterwards be required?—We don't lose sight of the fact that all, and we are just as alive to the duty of the Government as any people

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in Ireland; we say it is the primary duty of the Government to supply the money, but the executive officers of the Irish Government say they cannot give the money at present. Then we say there is money lying idle here, let us have that, even under a condition that we are to repay it when Parliament votes it.

12335. We were told this morning there has been no application made to the Department of Agriculture—There was no application made because we were referred to this Committee by the Chief Secretary.

12336. (Mr. Brown).—No expenditure of that fund can take place without the consent of the Board of Agriculture—I know that, but I assume the approval of the Chief Secretary and the recommendation of this Committee, if they are good enough to recommend it, will go a long way in placing the matter in a favourable way before the Board of Agriculture.

12337. (Mr. Molloy).—Your application is based on the fact that in May last £257,000 was invested by the Department out of savings made by them—Yes.

12338. Are you aware that since then we have had evidence from Sir Horace Plunkett that practically most of that money has been appropriated or earmarked for some definite purpose?—It may be earmarked, but the money is available all the same.

12339. The money is there, but are you aware that by a resolution of the Board and Department it has been already appropriated to some definite objects in advance—it is not spent yet?—It is earmarked for a purpose, but it may be ten years before it is required.

12340. But it would need to come back?—And we are perfectly satisfied it should come back.

12341. Have you any certainty that you will get a grant from the public funds to repay it?—We can be hardly certain of anything; but considering the fact that a Bill was introduced by Mr. Balfour, the necessity of meeting the case was recognised, and I presume the intention of appointing the Arterial Drainage Commission was to get further evidence, if it was necessary, as to which to have legislation, and no legislative

enactment can be operative in the case except by a substantial grant from Parliament.

12342. You reckon as a certainty on getting £50,000 from the Treasury?—I reckon that as a positive certainty.

12343. Do you see any reason why the Treasury should not advance £50,000 and stop it out of the Vote hereafter?—I would be very glad if the Treasury would do that, but we have been told by the Executive officers of the Irish Government that the Treasury had no money.

12344. Supposing the Department were to lead it to the Treasury on condition they would repay it—I would be satisfied if the money came anyway. The reason the people in the locality feel so anxious is this, in the winter a flood comes into the town of Moorminlick and there are twenty houses flooded; there may be six people in the family; everyone has to clear out and go live with their neighbours, and you can understand the unsatisfactory condition of such a state of things as that.

12345. (Chairman).—However important the question of the public health may be, no part of the Department's money could be applied in that direction—I don't mean to urge it merely on the ground of public health, but that is one of the benefits to be gained by it.

12346. (Mr. Brown).—It is an additional argument that it would benefit public health as well as agriculture—Yes.

12347. Did Carlow County come to any decision about this?—The County Council passed a resolution approving of our action. I think the Kildare County Council did not disapprove.

12348. They thought the grant should be sought from Imperial funds?—Yes.

12349. I was under the impression Carlow had taken the same attitude?—No. It was part of the intention of the Carlow County Council to do it on the first consideration, but afterwards a resolution was passed approving of the procedure.

Mr. WILLIAM DELANEY, M.P., examined.

Mr. William
Delaney, M.P.

12350. (Chairman).—You are Member of Parliament for the Queen's County?—Yes, a colleague of Mr. Moohan's.

12351. You have heard his evidence?—Yes, I heard the most of it.

12352. Do you wish to add anything?—I don't wish to go over the same ground that he covered as regards the necessity of a scheme of drainage; it is only with regard to the method of financing it, and there is no use in repeating a fact that is admitted all along the line. But I maintain that this £50,000 that we are asking for out of the accumulated balance is for agricultural purposes, because it will bring a large area into cultivation that it is impossible to cultivate at present, and most of the land that should be drained is agricultural land. It would not require reclamation; all it wants is to be drained. If I might refer you to the last Report that deals with this matter of the Department, page 9. "In addition to the annual income," it says, "certain capital sums, amounting in all to £284,000, were placed at the disposal of the Department under section 15 (e) and (g) of the Act of 1899. These sums and the unexpended balance of £177,950 of the Department's income during the earlier years of their existence, when the agricultural schemes were not in full operation have been invested in securities, the face value of which is £390,037 and the cash value is approximately £381,500. The liabilities on this sum of £381,500 in respect of fixed charges for technical instruction, scholarships, &c., under the Act of 1899, amounted at the end of the financial year 1898-9 to £112,940, leaving a balance of £268,560, which constitutes a reserve fund applicable to the purposes of agriculture." Well, now, I contend that it is a proper disposition of this money. These people have been paying their penny in the pound for the last six years, and they have got no advantage from the Department's operations. There is no use in talking about the improvement in agriculture to these people, and there is no use in talking to them about improving their stock, they cannot till or feed stock on this swamp.

They have been paying their penny in the pound, and it would be only an act of justice to these people that a grant should be made. It is a mockery to be talking of the improvement of agriculture and the improvement of stock to people situated as they are. I may say it was a suggestion that came from Mr. Byrne. After he came away from the meeting with us, I think he told us that he had met the Chairman of this Committee, and said it would be a legitimate subject to come before the inquiry. The delegation consisted of the Parliamentary representatives of the Queen's County, King's County and Kildare, and we had the approval of the member for Carlow also.

12353. We have a great difficulty in dealing with an application of this kind which has not come before the Department; the regular course would be to go to the Department first; it is a little difficult for us to recommend straight off a particular application of the money?—Is it not generally understood that legislation will follow this inquiry?

12354. (Mr. Brown).—What Mr. Delaney wants is that we should make some recommendation that the Department should do so, but by doing so we would be providing the Board of Agriculture. Before we should be asked to express an opinion on it would it not be better that an application should be made to the Department direct?—That could be done.

12355. (Chairman).—We are inquiring into the methods of the Department, and, of course, if the Department refused to deal with drainage, and said they had nothing to do with drainage, it would be a legitimate thing for us to consider whether they were right?—Drainage cannot be dissociated from agriculture.

12356. (Mr. Brown).—Would you be satisfied with an expression of opinion as to whether this was a purpose which came within the purposes for which the money of the Department might be applied?—Yes, that would be a great assistance to us, and, above all, keeping in view that it is only in the shape of a loan or advance.

13267. (Chairman).—We shall have to consider whether it would be proper for us to recommend a special application of the money of the Department to a particular purpose, which, after all, however important and serious the need may be, is more or less of a local character, there is that consideration!—Quite so, but the locality, for the reasons I have pointed out, has not benefited by the operations of the Department up to this.

13268. (Mr. Brown).—Mr. Meenan referred to sections 5 and 6 as the ones on which he based his scheme. I think he must have intended to refer to section 16 of the Act of 1899, and I suppose you also intend it comes within the purposes of agriculture as defined by section 30?—Yes.

13269. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—In applying to us without the Department having been applied to you are suggesting that we should take action, which is not proper for a Committee of Inquiry, but proper for the administrative mechanism provided by the Act through the Department and Boards?—It would have been, I presume, more formal to have made application to the Department in the first instance.

(Mr. Brown).—Not so much that, but we would be in a different position in dealing with it. It is not a mere question of form.

(Chairman).—We have no power over their finances.

13270. (Mr. Brown).—We are inquiring into their methods, and we don't know yet how they would deal with this application if made to them?—No; there would be no reason for prejudging what their action would be, but I presume from what the Chairman has said about Sir Horace Plunkett's evidence we would be met with a refusal.

13271. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—You presume they would refuse it?—Sir Horace Plunkett's evidence is that this money has been earmarked for other purposes.

(Mr. Brown).—I don't think he said the whole of it was earmarked.

13272. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—Are you prepared to give any evidence as to the purposes for which this sum has been set aside?—No, but with regard to the general scope of the inquiry, the constitution of the Department and the changes that I think would be desirable and essential in the constitution of the Department. With regard to the constitution of the Department I hold that it ought to be purely elective; that the nominated element ought to go just the same as the nominated element left the County Councils after the first three years; that the Agricultural Council should be purely elective, with power to elect two Boards, and I would also give the Agricultural Council a better status. In the first place any resolution or recommendation passed by the Agricultural Council by at least three-fourths of a majority should be mandatory upon the Department. At the present time the Department can foot any recommendation.

13273. (Mr. Deasy).—I suppose you know instances where they have done that?—There are instances where they have delayed certain reforms which the Agricultural Council recommended. For instance, I have been on the Agricultural Council since the institution of the Department, and all along we have been agitating with regard to the preservation of the Irish draught horse as a distinct breed in this country, and the Department have been resisting all the time, but in the end they have come round, and they lost six years, while our good horses were being taken out of the country, and the same might be said with regard to the preservation of the Irish milking strain of cattle. They did not delay as so long over that in the face of the recommendation of the Agricultural Council. I scarcely know of any instance where they have adopted the recommendation of the Agricultural

Council at the first going off. I would also recommend that the Vice-President should be elected by the Agricultural Council. What I am stating now is subject to modification if there is a change in the existing system of government. If an elected administrative body is established here my opinion would be modified, but as things exist at present the Vice-President should be elected, and, of course, the President, under present circumstances, should be in Parliament. I believe, too, that the Department are working on wrong lines in not supporting industries. They have been giving technical instruction and technical training, but when these young people are trained up they have no market for their skilled labour in this country, and the natural result is that they have to emigrate. There is nothing else open to them, and I think that is one of the reasons why emigration is not checked. I don't see anything to prevent the Department with its funds taking, suppose, £20,000, going down to one centre and establishing an industry with £10,000 of a capital, going to another centre and establishing another industry, say the bacon-curing or woollen industry, or many others that might be suggested, and make such a concern a successful commercial undertaking, and when it could be offered as a safe investment to the public put it on the market and let the shares be taken up by the public. It would pay three or four per cent. That would be putting the Department on its trial whether they are in a position to take practical steps and give up some of the theorising that has been going on. Their capital sum could then be taken away to another centre, and the same operation repeated.

13274. If you did not lose it in the meantime?—Yes. I say that would put them on their trial. If they don't give efficient service how can their theory harmonise with the fact that when they were put upon their trial they lost the money themselves? How can they go and instruct others to start industries if they are not successful when they start industries on their own account?

13275. (Mr. Meade).—Are you referring to any particular case?—No, but the Sligo case is a very remarkable one.

13276. (Mr. Brown).—You would oblige them to do the thing according to your ideas, not according to theirs, and if they failed that would be an argument against them?—Undoubtedly.

13277. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—You are asking for an extension of the powers of the Department?—Yes.

13278. So that they would have power to establish industries?—Decidedly; for the reason that I have stated, because, after all, how can young people be trained? Is not the factory or the workshop the proper place to give a technical training in? It is as necessary for a technical student as a hospital is for a medical student.

13279. (Mr. Meade).—I suppose your object is to establish industries?—Yes.

13280. And if any other scheme, perhaps, might be put forward with that object?—It would have my sympathy.

13281. You don't tie yourself to your own particular scheme?—No; I just only make the suggestion.

13282. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—You don't turn it yourself to its being the duty of this particular Department?—Not as at present constituted.

13283. Do you think the subsidising of industries ought to be bound up with technical instruction and with agricultural work; that it is the duty of the same Department?—Yes, they ought to go hand in hand.

The Committee adjourned.

THIRTY-SIXTH DAY.—THURSDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 1906,

At 18, Lower Bagginestreet, Dublin.

Present:—

Sir KENNETH DUNN, K.C. G.C.R., (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGBURN.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Mr. W. J. MCGAW examined.

Oct. 25, 1906.

Mr W. J.
McGaw

12374. (Chairman).—Mr. McGaw, I believe you are here on behalf of the Agricultural Instructors' Association?—Yes; the Instructors' Association.

12375. Now, you, I believe, intend to give some evidence with regard to the working of the Instruction Scheme in the counties, to point out some of the difficulties of the work, and suggest possible improvements?—Yes. I have a summary here of the points that I was about to put before you.

12376. Have you got a copy of it yourself?—Yes.

12377. The first point is as to the necessity for agricultural instruction?—Well, in regard to the necessity, that is clear. I may first of all explain, Mr. Chairman, our object here in giving evidence. I suppose the letter itself explains it, but I may explain that as the Commission has been going round hearing evidence from all sides, we thought that it would be only right that the Instructors who had practical experience of the work, and were in practical contact with it should get putting forward their views.

12378. I believe you have the assent, both of the Department and the Committee concerned, to your giving evidence here before us?—Yes.

12379. That is so?—Yes.

12380. (Mr. Micks).—Yours is a voluntary Association?—Purely voluntary.

12381. Formed by the Instructors?—By the Instructors.

12382. For the discussing of their views?—Yes. We meet at shows and functions of that kind and discuss matters.

12383. (Chairman).—Do the majority of the Instructors belong to it?—Yes; nearly all the Instructors, I think, all, perhaps. At present I am not an Instructor, I am changed to another post since three months ago, and I am now in charge of the Agricultural Instruction at Athenry. I was five years an Instructor in the County Down, and I think I have the longest experience of the working of the scheme in Ireland as an Instructor.

12384. When did you begin?—In January, 1901.

12385. You mean since the work of the Department began?—Yes, I was the second Instructor appointed in that capacity.

12386. Are you a Scotchman?—No, I am an Irishman.

12387. (Mr. Micks).—Of the County Down?—No, the County Antrim.

12388. (Chairman).—Now, take your own course, please?—I was fortunate enough to be placed in the most progressive county in Ireland, the County Down, and even in that progressive county, I think, anyone with their eyes open would have seen that there was great necessity for the work in which we are engaged. I shall give some examples which indicate the necessity for agricultural instruction. First of all, with regard to the manuring of farm crops, I think everyone would admit that manuring is of great importance to the farmers, because manures are the raw material the farmer has to produce all his products from. Now, in regard to the question of manures or their value, perhaps, not one out of a thousand understood anything about the principles, and, to a certain degree, the use of chemical manures, the result of that being that they neither knew how to purchase them to advantage or to use them to advantage. Now, it might be said

by some that the Fertilisers and Food Stuffs Act would have been a protection, as under that Act farmers were entitled to get a statement of analysis, but I do not think one farmer out of a hundred knew anything about the existence of that Act previous to our work starting, and few knew anything about the terms of analysis that were used by the seller, so that the seller was compelled to use under that Act. Now, to give you a concrete example as to how the farmer had to pay very dear for his ignorance in regard to these matters, I often came across farmers who bought artificial manures at 26 a ton which anybody who knew how to value them or analyse would know were not worth 22 a ton. All round it was the cheaper grade of artificial manure that was used. No really high standard of manure was used at all, except by very few. So the farmer could not get the results that he should have got by the use of manure. Then, the same phase of things presented itself in regard to the use of seeds and feeding stuffs. In regard to feeding stuffs a farmer did not distinguish between good feeding stuffs and indifferent ones. To illustrate the name "cane" just satisfied the farmer as to what form of stuff to use; if he heard it called cane it was no difference to him whether it was a pea cake or a compound or a mixture of different things.

12389. Where did they generally buy?—At the nearest centre from small sellers. Very few bought in large quantities. They, as a rule, bought from traders in the local towns. In the County Down they had, of course, the advantage of purchasing in bulk. The way in which that worked out was this: We have got pure cakes, such as linseed cake and cotton cake, that we find useful products; but, then, manufacturers make up compound cakes of all sorts of cheap things, rice-meal and so on, which cost 23 or 24 a ton, whereas linseed cake costs 28 or 29 a ton. A manufacturer may use very rough sort of materials and make up a stuff the natural cost of which would not be more than 24 or 25 a ton, and this would be passed off on the farmer, and he would not differentiate between that and pure cake. I got some of these cakes analysed, and I will give you the results of this analysis, so as to show how inferior these cakes were. And they were in common use. Here is a report which a chemist gave me of one of these. It includes almost two per cent. of sand and brick dust. The sample is largely composed of wheat, weed, seeds, linseed, beans, with small quantities of rice mixed with wheat. Of course, that wheat might be all refuse wheat. I have a number of these reports. I need not be repeating them; but that is a sort of compound the farmers were in the habit of using and for want of instruction they did not know anything better. Then, to give you another concrete example, I went round one season and got twelve samples of linseed cake meal and got them analysed. I got them from different shopkeepers, and, of course, they did not know my object in getting them. Out of those twelve samples ten were reported on as being adulterated with rice-meal and other things, such as wheat, weed, seeds, but principally rice-meal.

12390. (Mr. Brown).—Were those brought in from parts of the country?—Oh, yes; I took them to represent all parts of the County Down. I am speaking of the County Down. I hope I am not imposing on your time in going through these details.

(Chairman).—We have been hearing a great deal about this, and you can put it shortly.

12391. (Mr. Magee).—You show how these things turned out on analysis—I do.

I do not suppose anyone questions that.

12392. (Chairman).—We will take it quite shortly.

You are representing an Association of people who have had practical experience in various parts of the country—I will not dwell on this point.

12393. You have given us one instance. Give any other instances—I can give you an instance of Donegal experience. I happened to be there, and I found that in one of the Western parts of Donegal the farmers used no grass seed at all, and in another district when they used grass seed, it was only left sweepings when they used seed cleanings from Ulster, from the North-East side of Ulster, where they grow ryegrass, and these sweepings are used as grass seed in the West of Ireland in the ordinary course.

12394. Do you think they had no improvement in Donegal?—Oh, yes, but the instances I give were in the Conquest District, and came under my observation. And the same condition of things seems to exist throughout the Western counties of Ireland. Now there is another example in regard to seeds, and this is in the County Down. I got 159 samples of seeds from different shops, and I will just take one set of seeds, cocksfoot seeds. I got fourteen samples of cocksfoot seed, and out of those fourteen samples six showed a germination under 25 per cent., five under 50 per cent., and the three others under 75 per cent., some being above seventy-five.

12395. That is the County Down?—Yes. I will not enlarge any further on that. I may also state that under the Fertilisers and Food Stuffs Act really the farmer has not much protection, because the Act is not one that he could bring into practical operation very well.

12396. The farmer cannot?—No; he cannot.

12397. Do you mean that he should get assistance to do it?—The Act is too elaborate for him, and he has to fulfil conditions that in practice are found impossible.

12398. What sort of conditions—give us an instance?—For instance, he has to insist on getting an invoice. If he is getting his goods on credit he cannot insist on that at all. If he does the shopkeeper will order him to go elsewhere. That is one example of these conditions. Another example condition is the way in which notice is to be given. The farmer, as a rule, is a man who works from hand to mouth, and when he buys these materials he is ready to use them, but the Act lays down that a certain period of notice is to be given. The farmer cannot protect himself in these matters. That is what it amounts to. The next thing I was going to say a few words about was the methods of our work, and I expect you have had a good deal from other sources about that too, so that I need not go into that.

12399. Yes, we have had a good deal of evidence about that, but I should like to hear what you have to say?—Well, in regard to the method of our work, what we did was to go round and give lectures. Now, those lectures might not in some cases be of much practical benefit in themselves, but they led up to other things; they introduced us to the farmers. At first they did not care very much for them, because farmers are very sceptical as to any outsider coming in to instruct them in any way; but they gave us the means of introducing himself among the farmers and led up to other things; and they also awakened more or less of an interest. At first the farmers are more or less inclined to be critical, and perhaps take up a severe attitude of criticism, but as they begin to know the instructor they become more favourable towards him. That at least has been my experience after five and a half years at the work, and I found at the end of the five and a half years that the farmers were more inclined to approach you and ask your questions, and to discuss things with you in a reasonable spirit.

12400. Did you find that in the attendance at the lectures too?—I did, and I found they began to get more humanely, and not to be so much afraid of asking questions.

12401. What county are you speaking of?—The County Down, and of course I am speaking of what I have had practical experience of.

12402. But I suppose in the County Down you

have had a better class of farmers on the whole?—Generally, but there are parts of the County Down in which they are very poor. There are more small holdings in the County Down than, I think, in any other county of Ireland. Then, of course, we engaged in farm visiting as much as possible. As to formal visits they are not much in demand, that is, a farmer asking you to his place purely for the purpose of giving him expert advice on land. I did not find much demand for that sort of thing; but I found that as I got to know the people they asked me to their houses, and then started to ask questions on matters relating to their farms.

12403. They thought it would have been an unwarrantable interference at first?—Yes, and they would be afraid that if an instructor paid them a visit it would be to criticize everything about their place, and it was really when you got on more or less familiar terms with them that you could talk with them on the subject of their farms.

12404. Everything depends on your being on good terms with the farmers, as you have no statutory power?—Yes; it altogether depends on that.

12405. On their being willing to meet you?—Yes; and then the summer work consisted of carrying out experiments for the purpose of deriving information for ourselves and for the purpose of being better able to give advice to the farmers, and then we also gave demonstrations. The object of the demonstration was simply to give the farmer an ocular demonstration of the benefits of a certain course of cropping or a certain course to pursue in his farming. I might have in this paper which would give you the number of experiments and demonstrations of different classes I carried out last summer, and I think it is typical of the work being carried out all round. (Paper handed in by witness giving returns of experiments and demonstrations carried out in County Down in 1906).

12406. When you say experiments and demonstrations, what do you mean?—A demonstration is connected with the object of showing something previously found out, and an experiment is to find out and prove something.

12407. Would you try it on a particular plot of ground?—Yes. It all depends on the crop for instance, and the manuring. Some crops were raised on a twentieth of an acre plot, and perhaps we might try eight or ten different experiments on manuring.

12408. In the manuring of potatoes you have thirty-two demonstrations and three experiments?—Yes.

12409. Those demonstrations would be in different parts of the county?—Yes. I usually took the poorer parts for the demonstrations, where people were more illiterate and could not read. I could not carry out experiments in those districts, so I sent them small samples of manure and instructed them how to use them, and gave them a chance of testing these things for themselves.

12410. That would serve as an example to the whole neighbourhood?—Yes, and usually it gave rise to some discussion in the district.

12411. In seed mixtures for hay crop I see 20 demonstrations, and in the manuring of oats 53 demonstrations and 3 experiments, and in the manuring of flax 5 demonstrations. Have you anything to say about flax?—No; I have not any special duties. The experiments in flax were conducted by the Department—not by the instructors.

12412. (Mr. Magee).—They are not conducted through the County Committee?—No.

12413. (Chairman).—The total is 157 demonstrations and 33 experiments?—Yes. Then, the next point I will deal with is the effects of our work.

12414. Agricultural classes?—Yes. In regard to agricultural classes, I had never to coincide any of those; but there is a witness following, Mr. Green, who has had to do with it, and he will tell you.

12415. Now, will you tell us about the effects of agricultural instruction?—Well, of course, I think it is unnecessary for me to say that it is not after a year or two that the effects of work like this are really very visible, and the general public expect impossibilities of us. They expect to see things happen that cannot in the nature of things occur at all. Another phase in regard to our work is that since the Local Government Act was passed the rates have gone up in Moaghagh, in Cavan, in Armagh, and in Down 4d. or 5d. in the pound. Now the instructors who

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Magay.

work under the Department are the officials that are most in evidence in the counties, and unfortunately the public set down all the increases of rates to the Departments' officials. I found out that from most intelligent men, too, and I had great difficulty in disabusing their minds and assuring them that it was not possible, and that all that could be struck under the schemes was a penny in the pound.

12415. (Mr. Michel).—And all that was struck was a halfpenny?—Yes.

12417. (Chairman).—You found that in your experience?—I found that prejudice everywhere in my experience.

12418. And do you think that that is one of the causes of the unpopularity of the Department?—That is one of the causes. Of course an official sitting in an office may be spending thousands a year. He is never in evidence, and the public never think a thing about him.

12419 They cannot catch him in the country?—I suppose that is how it is. Now, in regard to the officials, my own experience is that the officials have been very useful, but it is very hard to state facts to prove this, so, in order to get at the thing as definitely as possible, I wrote to one or two of the largest merchants dealing with agricultural supplies. One of these was McEvel in Belfast, the largest house in Ulster for supplying agricultural requirements—McEvel and Company. And they do a large business in manures and feeding stuffs and all other agricultural requirements. And I wrote to them asking them to report as to whether they were aware of any influences at work during the last four or five years that they could attribute as being due to our work; and of course their branch of business extends over three or four counties, and is not confined to Down, so that their experience really relates to all those counties.

12420. Read the letter—what is the date?—The date is the 5th of August, 1905. They say, "In reply to your query for our experience as regards the effect of the instruction given by the experts under the Agricultural Department in the manure, feeding stuffs and seeds, our trade extends over Down, Antrim, Armagh, Tyrone, and Derry, and, in a small degree, some other counties. First, taking five years ago, and comparing then with now in the seed trade, it was quite uncommon for any farmer to ask the percentage of growth in clovers five years ago. Now a good many farmers ask the percentage of growth both in clover and grass seeds. There is a considerable increase in the sale of natural grasses, with a corresponding increase of crop, and profit, we have no doubt, to the farmers." I may explain what the natural grasses are. Farmers only use a form of grass, ryegrass, that lasts for year or two. Then the variety dies out, and then the land is left to grow any wild plants, when it might grow natural grasses that last permanently, or at least for seven or eight years, and farmers have not been in the habit of using them previous to five years ago to any extent. Now, the next point dealt with in the letter is:—"Second manures:—Up till four or five years ago a good deal of manure was sold without the purchaser knowing anything as to the quantities of ammonia, phosphates, potash, etc., which it contained. This was not because the law did not provide for a guaranteed analysis, but because many farmers did not think it necessary to ask for a guaranteed analysis. Now, we may say, the sale of certain kinds of manures that were asked for at that time has almost entirely dropped off. All the best farmers in every district are buying the raw materials, such as sulphate of ammonia, murials of potash, sulphate of potash, superphosphate, etc., and making up their own mixtures for potash, lime, and oats. We believe the sale of manures in the territory that we cover has about doubled in the past five years, and a great many farmers know to-day how to make up special manures for special crops." They then go on to say:—"Feeding stuffs. The effect of the lectures in recent years in the sale of deodorized cotton cake than any other one article. The sale of this article has very considerably increased, and it is not an uncommon thing to find farmers able to give a good idea as to the profits they receive when using cotton and flaxseed cake, and a good many are less disposed to buy compounds, and to buy the cake and meal separately and feed them in whatever proportion they consider best. With regard to feeding stuff for calves, we have, for years advocated the necessity for farmers buying pure crushed flaxseed, pea-meal, oat-meal, etc., and mak-

ing their own calf-meals, but since the teacher has been abroad farmers are beginning to inquire for these articles more regularly."

12421. Would you repeat that?—Farmers are beginning to inquire for these articles more regularly, and many of them to-day state that they can make a mixture for 8s. or 10s. per cwt. more satisfactory than what they used to pay from 15s. to 25s. per cwt. for. As traders it might be thought strange that our opinions are so expressed, but whatever is conducive to the best interests of the farmers generally must eventually be to the interests of those who do business with them, whereas what is against the interests of the farmers by making them pay too much for any article must eventually undermine and be away with the trade to be done with the farmers. Looking at the question of agricultural education of the farmer broadly, we believe that and has been seen during the past few years which will bear fruit to the benefit of agricultural instruction in general. Yours truly."

12422. Have you had any other communications?—Yes. There is another firm, McCannell, which is a large wholesale trading firm in Belfast, which buys up grass seeds largely in Ulster, and exports them to different parts of the country and also sends them all over the South and West of Ireland. The letter is dated the 15th of August, 1905, and it says:—"With reference to your inquiry regarding the demand for natural grasses in Ireland during the last few years, it is evident that farmers generally are becoming more alive to the advantage gained by the judicious use of these. Country sheepkeepers, who a few years ago sold perennial, Italian, and clover, now have in vogue natural grasses. The West is the only portion of Ireland that is not using naturals to any extent. I also notice that farmers are becoming educated to the advantage in sowing a higher grade of seed. Another healthy sign is the decreasing demand for light weights of Italian and perennial. A few years ago the South and West took large quantities of very light or inferior seed (which of necessity would be inferior and of very low germination), now they are going in more for, say, 24 lbs., 26 lbs., and 28 lbs. per bush and heavy weights Italian. There is, however, still room for improvement in this direction in many districts."

12423. Have you other communications of the kind?—No; I only communicated with these two firms, but they are the most extensive firms that I know of.

12424. Have you got any evidence from the farms themselves?—There is evidence supplied from farms on the subject in Belfast. There were farmers of Down who gave evidence.

12425. We had a good deal of evidence in Belfast?—Yes.

12426. (Mr. Brown).—And we had some merchants from Newry who gave evidence?—Yes.

12427. (Chairman).—Now, go to the next point?—Well, I have also some figures to show the increase that has taken place in potash manures.

12428. In the use of them or in the sale of them, or what?—In the sale. Potash is a manure, controlled altogether by a German syndicate, and the figures show the total consumption of potash manures at different periods. It is a German syndicate that controls their sale, and indeed every ounce of potash made use of in this country; and I have got the tables from this syndicate and I will hand them in. The tables show the number of pounds of potash used for every 100 acres of arable land in different countries during the last ten years, from 1897 to 1905.

12429. (Mr. Brown). Different countries?—Different countries.

12430. (Chairman).—Is Ireland treated as a separate country?—Yes, a separate country. In 1897 the total quantity of potash used for every 100 acres was 12 lbs.

12431. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Of arable land?—Yes. That includes land sown for arable purposes. In 1905 it was 29 lbs. In 1903 it was 67 lbs. per 100 acres. If you compare that with other countries you will find the increase in Ireland greater than in any other country during that period. The only other country that shows such an increase is Denmark. But I have the various countries of Europe. The Table shows them all, but I thought it would be too elaborate to give all.

12432. (Chairman).—Now put it in. It will appear on the notes. I think it would be an interesting document. Is it quite authentic?—Yes, certainly. It is quite authentic. I got it from a reliable source, and it is not a source that has any trade interest to serve. (Document handed in.) (Appendix XXVIII.)

12433. Have you got the covering letter?—No, I have not, but I think I laid it aside. I will get one if it will serve any purpose.

12434. (Mr. Michel).—You got it from Germany yourself?—I got it from the Secretary here in Dublin, Mr. Rice.

12435. Of the German Syndicate?—The Secretary of the German Syndicate, the representative Secretary in Ireland here.

12436. Very well?—This other table is from the same source, and it shows a different phase of the same kind. In regard to potato manure, there are very low grades and very high grade qualities. The high grades were not used at all previous to our work starting, and this table will show the substantial increase that has been made in the use of the high grade manures.

12437. (Chairman).—Did you get that from the same source?—Yes. Muricate of potato contains 50 per cent. of pure potash, and kainit only 10 per cent. to 12. (Document handed in.) (Appendix XXIX.)

12438. This is confined to Ireland?—Yes.

12439. This is over the whole of Ireland?—Yes, that applies to all Ireland. Of course it is assumed in some quarters.

12440. I observe that kainit has increased from 2,285 tons in 1897. There is an increase in every year except 1899 and 1902?—There is an explanation for that. The syndicate had not full control at that time, which left the market open, and then the Syndicate got control of this in 1903.

12441. That is the explanation of the reduction in 1903?—Yes.

12442. Then, with that explanation, it increased every year till 1905. Muricate of potash has increased from 5 tons in 1897 to 331 in 1904, and there again appears a reduction in 1905 in muricate of potash from 331 to 338?—I think you will find a corresponding increase, perhaps, in sulphate of potash.

12443. Sulphate of potash increased from 0 in 1897 to 160 in 1905, and there is a slight reduction as compared with 1904?—And the explanation of that is that the demand has just fallen off.

12444. And manure "equal to pure potash" increased from 597 tons in 1897 to 1,526 tons in 1905. Is kainit pure potash?—It is a manure containing a certain percentage of pure potash. For instance, muricate of potash contains about 50 per cent. of pure potash and kainit only contains 10 per cent.

12445. And the consumption of pure potash per 100 acres of arable land has increased from 12.3 lbs. in 1897 to 67.5 in 1905?—Now, it is assumed, I think, by some people that our instruction is all right for the well-educated part of the community, and that we cannot teach the more illiterate part. My own experience of that is that we have been able to reach the more illiterate part by the agency by these demonstration plots, and also by the encouraging of co-operative societies. I consider that these are perhaps the most important ways of reaching the poor parts of the country.

12446. By demonstration plots and the encouragement of co-operative societies?—Yes. In County Down, I think, in the poorer parts of the county, they could not make use of our instruction with regard to the purchasing of better seeds and manure till they got these co-operative societies established, and these societies have been a wonderful success. In the first place they supply the farmers with the seed that they want, and in the second place it compels the traders in the same village and others to supply a proper class of seeds. Apart from the farmers getting them direct by the co-operative societies, it forces the traders' hands.

12447. Just tell us the nature of these co-operative societies—what is their organization and how are they organized?—In regard to encouraging these, I always got one of the organizers from the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and it is his special duty, because I did not want to arouse friction between the traders, and by this means I got the society started without being directly concerned myself, so that I am not too familiar with the matter.

12448. We should have been glad to have had some information on that matter?—I know the practical working of the thing.

12449. Tell us what you know, what is your own experience?—My own experience is that in the County Down I have been able by this means to exert a considerable influence even in the poorer parts of the county round the Mourne Hills; and just to illustrate that, I got a letter the other day in Athlery with inquiries from a farmer, and I think anyone will admit that this is as illiterate as any letter might be, and it shows that; and I have got a great many letters of that kind, but I just happened to get this at Athlery, and it occurred to me it might be interesting to show what sort of letters we sometimes get. (Letter handed in.)

12450. I should rather like to omit the name, but as far as I can see, it is a very significant letter!—The only other branch of the work I want to refer to now is this. When we carried out experiments we made up reports on them at the end of the year publishing the results, and the Department collected the reports of them. Our officials experimenting in that way in each county treated these as separate items, each with a report of its own experiments. Of this report relating to County Down we got about 4,000 copies printed and distributed among the farmers giving the results of the experiments.

12451. I am not sure that we have not had these already. We have had a good many documents of that kind, yet perhaps you would hand them in. What proportion of the farmers received these?—We got about 4,000 copies printed, and we distributed them at meetings, and I should say that about 2,000 of them at least, or 3,000 of them, reached the farmers' hands.

12452. How many farmers are there in the County Down to whom you might be expected to send them?—Well, the Secretary had a list of names of men who had been in communication with him on various subjects, and they all got them. The issuing of this report was not very expensive, though it is got up in a rather flimsy way, 4,000 copies of the bulk you see there cost about £20.

12453. (Mr. Michel).—I see you changed your printer each year. I suppose it was competition?—Yes, competition.

12454. (Chairman).—You have mentioned all the points?—I think I have mentioned all the points, unless you wish to ask me any questions.

12455. (Mr. Michel).—You were stationed a long time in the County Down, under the Department, until you took up your present post at Athlery?—Yes.

12456. What part of the County Down were you residing in yourself?—I stopped in Belfast.

12457. It is the centre practically?—Yes, there is the convenience of the railway. Of course, in the winter time when I had letters to deliver, I had to stop at different centres, but in summer time I could get from one place to another by rail, and I stopped at Belfast.

12458. That was your headquarters so far as substance, do I?—Yes.

12459. Can you show me now from any of your reports the operations that were carried out in the poorer parts of the country that you have been referring to—here in the current year?—Well, of course, I mentioned that in carrying out demonstrations, I did that in the poorer parts of the county, and as to the experiments, for instance, in the current year, here is an experiment in potatoes. I will just mention one in the poorer parts of the county—James Quail, Lestrin, Castlewellan.

12460. Do you call that a poor part?—Yes, and John Flinn, Mayo Bridge.

12461. Where is that?—That lies close to Newry—two of the poorest parts. There is another of the poor parts of the county that runs round Drumara, and here is another, Mayo Bridge. There are four or five out of fifteen experiments carried out in the poorest parts.

12462. Do you know a place called Killybegh?—No.

12463. That is on the southern slope of the Mourne Mountains?—Witney. Is it near Rostrevor?

12464. It is between Rostrevor and Killybegh?—Well, I do not.

12465. Do you know that part of the country?—There was one part of the county almost right up the eastern slope of the mountain in which I had no experiments.

12466. Yeah?—I was carrying out experiments in early potato growing in that district, so that I devoted far too big a proportion of my time to Killybegh.

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12467. That would be on the lower land, on the seashore?—The seashore, or the western slope. I devoted a great deal of attention to it.

12468. Then there was the Castlewellan or Mayo Bridge districts?—Yes.

12469. Besides those sprouting experiments, could you show me any other things that were done in these poorer districts?—There were some experiments of a intricate kind that cannot be carried out in those districts. You have not got facilities. The districts I would usually take for experiments were districts where the farmers were up to date, and I carried out the demonstration plots in the poor districts, the demonstrations being more simple than the experiments.

12470. (Chairman).—What experiment was that?—Sprouting seed potatoes, and it was one that that applied directly to those people. But of the demonstrations that I referred to, and that I handed in the figures to the Chairman, I could show that 75 per cent. of those were carried out in poor districts.

12471. (Mr. Meeks).—Now, can you give me the names of some special centres at which those experiments were carried out?—I could only do it in a rough way, because there is such a large number. I have left the work for some time.

12472. I am speaking of the last year?—Well, in the last year there was muzzing of oats. I had a good many of them round Hilltown and Mayo Bridge. I could say at least a dozen of them.

12473. Would you call all the farms that you operated on these poor farms?—I would.

12474. Are there not a great many excellent farms in that neighbourhood?—They are comparatively poor farms.

12475. The farms that you operated on?—Yes.

12476. How many in that district?—I should say that I had at least twenty altogether, on the western slope of the Mourne Hills, and the thing I did in this district was something that directly appealed to their interest, almost aimed at that. For instance, the muzzing of oats. They would see that by the use of manure they could raise an extra crop on their farm.

12477. The greater number of your experiments were as regards the muzzing of oats on the poor holdings on the western side of the Mourne Mountains?—Yes.

12478. What land would you take for the purpose?—A field along the roadside, sloping down to the road, so that the people could see the effect of muzzing the plot from the roadside.

12479. And the placards showed the nature of the operations?—I did not adopt placards, because they started to inquire what was used.

12480. And you think that the information would sink deeper if men asked for it?—Yes.

12481. Apart from the demonstration plots, was there anything else that you did in the poorer districts?—Yes, I always helped them if I could with regard to the work of the Co-operative Society by getting manure and by advising them which manure to use.

12482. How many Co-operative Societies were founded since you went to Down in these poorer districts—what are the names of the places?—There would be six—Kilkeel, Hilltown, Eganstown, Newry, I think the name it goes by, and Donaghmore, and Upper Irish and Donaghmore. And there was another in the better part of the county, and it failed.

12483. And these six were all founded in consequence of your taking the Co-operative Societies' Association, the I.A.O.S., to start them?—Yes. There was another at Annadown.

12484. And are those now in working order?—Yes, they are all so far as I know. Because these Co-operative Societies have a very hard struggle to get on and get people to deal with them, for immediately a society starts the merchants try to cut the foot from under them. They have a hard time of it, but they succeed all the same.

12485. (Chairman).—Was there much opposition to it from local traders?—Oh, very much. Immediately a society starts they cut the prices down, even under cost price sometimes, and a farmer with whom it is a question of cheap prices will leave the Co-operative Society and go to whoever gives him the cheapest line.

12486. (Mr. Meeks).—Anything else besides Co-operative Societies done in these districts—does any

improvement of breeding of poultry or live stock go on there?—Yes.

12487. Improvement of the breeds of live stock and the breeds of poultry?—Yes, these schemes.

12488. You think they are applied equally?—As far as my experience goes they are. I aimed at doing a full proportion of my time to these.

12489. Had you any responsibilities or duties in connection with the supervision of the live stock scheme?—Nothing practically, except trying to encourage some persons.

12490. How would that be managed—by the Department or by one of the officers of the Committee?—It would be difficult for me to manage it, for the reason, that there was not a practical man unfortunately on the Committee to do anything with regard to the live stock scheme.

12491. Was there not any local officer appointed to look after the live stock scheme, or was it run by the County Committee?—It was run by the County Committee, and it had no local officers at all. It went on very well as the County Dewa.

12492. Did you make a report on the local needs and requirements—did you do that?—No, I was never asked to do it.

12493. Can you tell me how the Committee got information—was it from the members of the Committee themselves, or how?—Very largely. They advised for applicants, and then they tried with the help of a map to distribute the bulls geographically in the districts.

12494. Would you have been competent to offer any valuable advice to the Committee?—I could sometimes have given them some useful points.

12495. Were you ever stationed in the County Antrim?—No; but I lived in the County Antrim.

12496. You are a County Antrim man?—Yes.

12497. Have you much experience in the County Antrim of the working of the Act there?—No, I have not. I have been away from the County Antrim.

12498. You would not like to answer questions as regards the working of the Act in the County Antrim?—No, I would not.

12499. And the only other place in which you have acted under the Department is in Athlery?—Yes.

12500. And that post you have only recently taken?—Yes.

12501. When first did you take up this station?—Well, in September. In fact, I took charge only since the 1st of October. I have been there since the 1st of September.

12502. You have gone over the farm there?—Yes.

12503. Did you see a large piece of moor at the north of the farm, I think on the north, as well as your recollection of the points of the compass across so?—That was purchased by the Department, but that was subsequently sold to Colonel Lepold?—I do not know anything about the facts in connection with it.

12504. You know the piece of land—that is what I ask you?—No. I see a piece of moorland at the head of the farm, but I really do not know anything of who was the owner.

12505. But it is, as a matter of fact, owned by Colonel Lepold. You know that piece of land?—I do.

12506. It was in the possession of the Department. Perhaps you heard that?—No, I did not. I am not familiar with the facts in connection with it.

12507. But it was in the possession of the Department. Did you see the other places about?—I was never taking any special interest in things outside the farm.

12508. But, having seen the place, did you look at it from the point of view of the possibility of giving instruction in reclamation as it?—I did happen to be calling at a farmhouse, and some land was shown where the farmer himself had reclaimed it out of mountain land, and had made it a very useful farm to himself with really hard work.

12509. When that was shown on that farm did you ask questions on the spot as to how this reclamation had been carried on there?—Well, I did not enquire the man.

12510. You could not say?—I could not.

12511. Assuming that the work might be slow and all that, still something could be done?—I except so.

12512. Are you familiar with other parts of the County Galway?—No; I have not any acquaintance with them.

12513. Have you ever been in the congested parts of the county—Gortulla and Lettermore, and other con-

particular districts?—No other parts, but I have been in Donegal.

12314. Then you have not been in any other part of the County Galway except Athenry?—No; that is so.

12315. You are not familiar with the system of agriculture that is pursued on farms in congested districts?—No, except from a superficial view of them. I am not in a position to make any statement that I would consider authoritative.

12316. (Mr. O'Connell).—With reference to demonstrations, I take it that you mean by "demonstration" some sort of which you or somebody else knows what the result would be generally?—Yes.

12316a. You know generally what the result would be, and it is merely to impress on the people seeing it the connection between the cause and the result?—Yes.

12317. A connection which is already known?—Yes.

12318. In the case of the experiments, from what you state I rather gather that most of them were in reality demonstrations in this respect, that the general character of the result was already known, but that the point on which you were trying the experiment was the exact numerical relation between the cause and the result?—Yes; it was to get a more exact result, a more definite result, as it were.

12319. A result under the conditions that prevailed in the locality?—Yes.

12320. So that in fact what you refer to as experi-

ments were essentially tests for the purpose of applying to the conditions of climate and soil that were typical of the locality concerned, observations which had already been made elsewhere?—To a large extent that describes the situation. Of course, experiments sometimes had to treat things in an original way, and had to bring out new points.

12321. But as a rule they are experiments in the sense that they are testing the applicability to local conditions of results the general character of which have been already decided?—Yes, that is so.

12322. And, assuming that, I suppose you would find, apart altogether from the necessity of interesting the farmers of the particular county in agricultural work in general, a reason for printing and circulating reports of separate experiments for each county?—Yes. A farmer is more interested in what is done at home than he is in what is done in other places. Although a result in Cork would be, perhaps, equally applicable to Down, a Down farmer likes to hear of things that are done in Down and a Cork farmer likes to hear of things that are done in Cork.

12323. And that is the ground upon which you fall in with the idea that these experiments, in so far as they are experiments, should be conducted in localities, instead of sitting at a single centre of experiments covering the whole of Ireland?—Yes.

12324. That the local interest, as well as the local conditions, is to be considered?—Yes, that is so.

Mr. J. J. Garra examined.

12325. (Chairman).—Mr. Green, you are Agricultural Instructor for the County Carlow?—Yes.

12326. Now, you have heard the evidence of Mr. McGaw, and I need not take you through it, but anything that you have to supply with reference to your own county we shall be glad to hear?—Well, I was appointed to Carlow five years ago, so that I have been working there for five years. During the first three years lectures were delivered in the winter evenings, as in the case of Down, and during the past two years lectures have only been delivered one night in each week during the winter, on account of the agricultural classes occupying my time four days in the week. I do not think that I have anything much to add to what Mr. McGaw has already stated with regard to the lectures. I may say this, that the lectures are certainly best attended, and the greatest interest taken in them, in the more remote and poorer districts, although we have not any very poor districts in the County Carlow. Still, in the districts nearer the hills and away from the centre of the county most attention is paid to these lectures, and the best attendance. It is very marked that.

12327. On those small holdings?—On the smaller holdings.

12328. What is the average?—Well, twenty to thirty Irish acres. About that size. I wanted particularly to speak of the agricultural classes, as I am the only representative. After the third season of lectures it was thought that the time was ripe for the classes, as the interest had been generated in the people, and that they would go in for some systematic instruction. The classes have been held now for two years, and we are now commencing the third season. They are held at two centres in the county for five hours per day, two days per week, for about sixteen weeks.

12329. What time of the year?—During the winter. They commence in November and finish about the end of February, and they extend for about sixteen weeks. They may be more or less. Students over sixteen years of age alone are admitted. That has been the rule since we started. The work was partly lecture work and partly practical work, both inside and out. The inside lecture work—although it was not so much a lecture as a talk, because they took notes as they went along—treated of soils, manures, seeds, and the stock, diseases of plants, and injurious insects—a little of agriculture in general. The practical work consisted in examination of seeds, identification of different weeds, grasses, mixtures, and clover. And the outside work was this: The students would take an outing a morning such as this, and identify the trees in the fields as far as they could possibly, and

would go to a hay-stack and identify them in the hay-stack also. And we did a little bird surveying, not very elaborate, but measuring the area of a field and that sort of thing. That was what the chief work consisted in.

12330. (Mr. O'Connell).—How many students in the class?—The number is limited to twenty-four by the rules, but we had about twenty the first year, and about thirteen in the second year.

12331. (Chairman).—How did you get on after that?—This year—the examination is being held to-day—they have at one centre thirty-three applicants, and in the other fifteen.

12332. (Mr. Brown).—What other centre this year?—Hacketstown, for one, and Kildavin, for the other.

12333. (Chairman).—The centres changed?—Yes. The centres the first year were Boreen and Tullow, the second year Bagenalstown and Tullow. It has been held two years at Tullow.

12334. (Mr. Brown).—Which is the other you mentioned?—Hacketstown.

12335. (Mr. O'Connell).—Were the successive years' classes independent, or was the second year's class a continuation of the first year's?—No; entirely new sets; entirely independent.

12336. (Mr. Brown).—Do you find your first year students anxious to go on for the second year?—Yes.

12337. (Chairman).—There is no second year's course given now?—No, not yet, but the idea was to give as many as possible the chance of a first year's course. They attended well, considering that many of the boys had to come long distances. For instance, three boys last year that came from a long distance a very bad road, had to travel twelve miles on an ass's ear, and I think they only raised once during the season. The average attendance was ninety-six per cent., and there was practically a full attendance, except that in very stormy weather perhaps half of them might be away. They attended very well. I find the older students are the best—those who had some practical experience on a farm. It is not the boys who have just left school, but the men who have had some practical experience on the farm, that make the best students and are the most satisfactory men afterwards, men who are attending their farms themselves, either actually farming on their own account or having the experience and management of their father's farms.

12338. (Mr. O'Connell).—What age would they be?—I have had them from sixteen up to thirty-nine, but many of them are between twenty and thirty, and I find the men above twenty are the most satisfactory

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students. The man that was thirty-nine was a most diligent student. I think that perhaps the usefulness of the classes is due in a great degree rather to the stimulus they give by interesting students in their agricultural work than to the actual amount of knowledge that is gained in so short a course. A course that treats of so many subjects could do very little more than spur them on in certain lines, while it gives them, of course, some things that will be practical and beneficial.

12539. (Chairman).—Do you yourself give constant attention to these classes?—Oh, yes, I teach them.

12540. You say the classes gradually succeeded the lectures, and have given place to them?—I do not give two or three lectures in one place altogether. I spread them over the county, and give the results of experiments, or something of general interest.

12541. Have you good audiences at your lectures?—Yes. The average of the last two years was better than the previous year. The average attendance at lectures during the whole period was about thirty, but in some cases it might be twenty, or even 200.

12542. Where would you get so large an audience as 200?—Well, in Kilgarin we would be examined, and in Clonagall. If course we have not had very many audiences of that sort.

12543. But for occasional lectures?—For occasional lectures they would be crowded out into the porch. At the close of the classes eighteen months ago at Berris and Tullow the students formed themselves into agricultural associations. I suggested it to them, and they took up the idea very readily. When they were formed they were the only associations in the county. Since then these associations have developed on rather different lines. At Tullow there are a certain number of students, and a limited number of outside farmers allowed in, but the students are always in the majority; and they carry on the work of the class largely; they have meetings about once a month; have papers by members, and discussions after the papers. They offer prizes for the best crops, and they arrange for examination of farms and carrying out experiments, and a few months ago they came up to spend a day at Glasheen and go over the farm. They have established an agricultural library, and, in conjunction with other associations that have since been formed they are having a ploughing match this autumn. The Berris Association is a more general one. It has a very large membership, more than 100 at any rate, and they also meet once a month during the winter. They have papers by members during the months of winter and spring, and they also give prizes for crops, and recently last week they had a most successful show, the most successful show that has been in that district, and they have a very big balance, I suppose £50 or £70 in the bank.

12544. (Mr. Brown).—These are not trading associations, merely educational?—Not trading, merely educational. As indicating the influence that these boys have in their own districts I think I might mention this, that for three years I have been urging the farmers to spray the crops. Practically no one sprayed, perhaps one or two farmers. I had not been very successful in getting them to spray, but after the classes some of the students themselves got a cart-spraying machine capable of going over a large area. They bought it on co-operative lines, and amongst themselves. They had two machines, and now there are, I think, a dozen cart-spraying machines in the county on the same line. I attribute that, in the first place to the classes starting. There is one thing that I would like to mention, that I would like to see those agricultural classes availed of by a larger number of men. Last year we only had twelve students.

12545. Twelve at each centre?—Yes, or thirteen; thirteen at each centre. I would prefer to have had twenty.

12546. (Mr. Michs).—There are two centres?—Yes, two centres, thirteen each; and as their influence is good in the county I might as well have as many as I could possibly get, provided I could teach them.

12547. (Mr. Brown).—To what do you attribute the falling off?—Partly to the entrance examination. There was an entrance examination at the beginning of the session. Now, this entrance examination may not be very difficult, but some few would consider it difficult. To a man who has left school for twelve or

ten years, or twenty years, or even five or six years, an examination of any sort is very difficult; at any rate they are very much afraid of it, and they will not become candidates because they are afraid of failing.

12548. (Chairman).—What is the object of the entrance examination—is it that you should be sure that they will be able to profit by the lectures?—That is the idea, to see if they will be able to take advantage of the classes.

12549. Do you advocate taking any man?—I do for the present.

12550. Would you give a discretion to the instructor to take men in or leave them out?—I would not like the responsibility, but if you were to allow the older men who have had experience of practical farming it might not be difficult, but the Department's idea is that it would be very difficult to teach men who had not had a very fair education. The way I look at it is this. These men whom we are keeping out of the classes, some of them are of power, and practically all of them, will be the farmers of the immediate future, and even if the material is not exactly as we would wish, I think we should make the best of it. Some of them are at present District Councillors, and they will become County Councillors, and will be on County Committees, and that sort of thing, and I think it would be a very good thing to get them to attend the classes, I think that any young man who has had practical experience of farming, and is to become a farmer, and shows himself sufficiently anxious to learn, and is prepared to attend five hours a day for two days a week, and leave his work for that time, should have an opportunity of attending.

12551. Besides the examination is there any other test before they become members of the classes?—I mean, supposing you have reason to believe that the candidate is not going to be a farmer would you exclude him?—I think that question is asked, but I will not be certain of that.

12552. (Mr. Brown).—Yes, he is obliged to state that?—I know, as a matter of fact, that in one or two cases, they sent to us boys of sixteen, to ascertain with the idea of getting them a better education in order to go to something else. That danger does not occur with the older men.

12553. (Mr. O'Gallie).—Would you admit all those that passed the examination, and would you, in the case of others who had failed to pass the examination, give weight to the fact that they were engaged in farming, and consider that a practical examination in their case would outweigh, or go so far as to make up for their want of previous education—is that your idea?—I do not think that I would have an examination at all at first. It is only for the present, as things are in a somewhat exceptional condition, and I think these men of twenty to thirty years of age should have a chance of attending classes of this sort.

12554. (Chairman).—You say they are excluded by the fact of their being an examination at all?—I am aware that many of these men could pass the examination. After the older men had been given the opportunity there might be an examination, and then it would involve no hardship at all; but the class of education now in better perhaps than it was. For instance, when some of these men attended school they did not teach decimals.

12555. (Mr. O'Gallie).—You think that if the Department decided that these men should be permitted to attend, the only evidence required should be practical evidence as to the actual occupation of the candidates?—I think so.

12556. (Mr. Michs).—They would have your report to guide them also?—I would not like much responsibility in that case. I think it would be for the Department to make a selection if there were a large number of applicants, more than could be attended to. I think there ought to be an examiner to ask a few questions to see whether the man was intelligent enough to take advantage of a class, and perhaps that might be better than even an examination. I find some of these men who cannot answer examination questions in a formal way will still give the answer by some process of reasoning.

12557. (Mr. O'Gallie).—You propose to have an intelligence examination, so to speak, instead of a paper one?—Yes. I think that might be done.

12556. And then the man to conduct that would be the instructor, with perhaps an assessor from the Department—is that the idea?—Yes, and I would give preference to the older men. You might put a maximum limit of age, and subject to that I would give preference to the older man. Then I would make a condition, I think, that they had two years, at least, practical experience on a farm.

12559. I suppose you have discussed this with other instructors who have had experience of classes?—With one or two. I could not speak as to the general body, because most of these classes are conducted by teachers who are not instructors, and I do not meet them. I only meet the instructors, and there are only one or two instructors actually conducting classes. I think Mr. Megaw dealt with the experience very well. A very similar state of things takes place in Carlow. We carry out experiments and demonstration plots, but there are not so many demonstrations done as Mr. Megaw carried out. I carried out a large number of demonstrations up to two years ago, and since that I have not, but unified my attention to experiments, because I did not think the demonstrations were so useful. The report is published every year and distributed among the farmers. I have the last report here.

12560. (Chairman).—Is it the report of the County Committee?—Last year's report of the County Committee, and the last report was a summary of the four seasons' results, because we thought there was going to be a change, and the results were so successful that we were justified in making definite recommendations. Along with the report there are bound several of the Department's leaflets, not all of them, but those that I thought were most useful in the county, because I found that those leaflets when we gave them out at lectures and in other ways, got lost, and in this form they are more or less permanent and retained by the farmers. I find this about the experiments and demonstrations, that it brings one in touch with the farmers, and I think when I get held of a farmer in a district it has a most important influence if he carries out your methods, as the neighbours who would perhaps laugh at your agricultural instruction, and would not attend lectures, and that sort of thing, will follow a neighbour's lead; I think that is very important. Any other matters have been dealt with by Mr. Megaw.

12561. So far as applies to your county?—Yes, with regard to the changes for manures and seeds and the improvement of the quality.

12562. Is your experience like that?—It is exactly similar.

12563. You have not any figures?—I have not any figures. I did not endeavour to get them.

12564. (Mr. Meeks).—How long have you been in the county—five years?—Yes.

12565. Have you been able to get any farmer to adopt your methods in the way you have just mentioned?—Yes; there are individual farmers in each district who do.

12566. Without giving us the names in public you can give us the names?—(Witness writes and hands in list of names).

12567. Are any of these on the slopes of Mount Leinster or Blackstairs?—Yes, at the base of Mount Leinster.

12568. Have you any at Blackstairs?—Yes, just at Rathfarnham.

12569. These are mostly poor farmers?—Mostly small farmers.

12570. Some of them are in the Rathfriland district?—Yes.

12571. I gather that you object to the educational test, rather?—Yes at present.

12572. Do you think it has a tendency to exclude from the benefit of acquiring knowledge those who are most in need of it?—Yes, that is so.

12573. And would those chiefly be the farmers who have received the poorest education?—Yes.

12574. And practically who are the smallest farmers?—Yes, although it does not always apply, for I have known large farmers who failed to pass the examination, and still they make a good bargain at the fair.

12575. Have you been in other parts of Ireland?—Just for a short period.

12576. What parts of Ireland do you know best?—see you an Irishman?—No, not an Irishman.

12577. What parts of Ireland have you experience of?—I was judging farms in Kildare for two years. It would amount to about a fortnight in each year. That was all.

12578. And any other part?—In Longford for a fortnight.

12579. What parts of Longford—in the Tarnsberry direction?—No; I do not remember that.

12580. Have you been on much bogland there?—No.

12581. Now, you have seen a good many poor farms in Carlow?—Yes, a lot of poor farms.

12582. Low level?—Not very high level. I did not actually go beside those mountains.

12583. Why did not you do that?—I think my duties did not take me there. I think these are no farms up very high.

12584. Those that are highest on the hill?—Yes.

12585. Some of them are very poor?—Yes.

12586. What standard would you take in calling them poor, what would you compare them with, would you compare them with the farms in the low lands?—Yes.

12587. Are these many of these small poor farms in Carlow?—No. I have been looking up statistics and I find that there are a comparatively large number of medium-sized farms.

12588. But, of your own personal knowledge about what portion of the county do you get the largest number of poor farmers?—There are a good many down—

12589. All the way to Blackstairs and Mount Leinster?—Yes.

12590. On the eastern side?—Yes.

12591. Have your schemes been very much put into operation along that border?—Yes, more so than here. Those farmers are larger and better off.

12592. What would be the average size of the farms in this part of the county—what would be a common size?—Thirty acres.

12593. (Mr. Brown).—As to those who have adopted your methods, you mean, I suppose, that those men consult you as to their farming operations generally?—They very often do.

12594. They frequent your meetings, and they have found an advantage from a change in their methods?—Yes, they say so; and other people say so.

12595. And that is spread to adjoining farms?—Yes, it does spread to adjoining farms. I might mention one case. The first year I was there one farmer was criticizing severely my method of manuring turnips, and he said that he could not get them to grow at all by that method. I said that I would go out to his farm. I did so, and I found what I considered was wrong in the manuring, and I then made up a mixture which I thought would serve his case, and he used it with extraordinary success that year, and he has spoken of it ever since, and they come in to Tallow, I am told now on good authority, and ask for Donohoe's mixture. Rather than ask for the mixture that I recommended they ask for Donohoe's mixture. And the same man does a good many things that I have advised him to do.

12596. I suppose that applies to other cases as well?—Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ryan examined.

12597. (Chairman).—I suppose I may take it that the class of evidence you propose to give is the same as that of Mr. Megaw, and that his statement applies to you also, that you appear here with the consent

of the Department and the County Committee?—Yes, that is so.

12598. Now, you are agricultural instructor in the County Cork?—In the West Riding, the west portion.

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Mr. T. A.
North.

12552. I do not want you to cover the ground that the other witnesses have gone over, but tell us your experience in your part of the country?—I was appointed to West Cork as Agricultural Instructor three years ago, and since then I have been carrying on the work on somewhat similar lines to those which Mr. Megaw and Mr. Goswami have described. I gave lectures there, the first winter, at six circuits of five centres. That is just the ordinary way, the method employed in other counties, during the winter season. And I find these lectures very well attended on the whole. The average attendance, I suppose, at most of these lectures would be forty to fifty, more or less.

12553. When you began?—That is, almost all through for the three years that I have been lecturing during the winter season. The average would be about forty to fifty. Of course I have had as many as 300 at a lecture and I have had as few as fifteen or sixteen owing to the conditions of the district in which I was working—large farms perhaps instead of small ones and the country not so thickly populated.

12554. Where would you have the large attendances?—In the more thickly populated districts—in the more fertile districts I mean. There are more people on a given area; and, generally speaking, I find a very marked degree of intelligence in those out-of-the-way districts, far more than one would suppose from the conditions. I have undoubtedly found a very marked intelligence in the backward districts of Cork, up in the hills of Ballymore and Inishgola, and then down at Castletown, and west of Glengahilly, and in those out-of-the-way places. The subjects I have dealt with in the lectures have to be varied according to the parts of the country I would be in. For instance, there is no use in going very deeply into general farming in Castletown where they have scarcely any machinery, and the work is nearly all done by manual labour. Still on the whole I think the lectures have been very well attended, and I think productive of a stimulating influence affecting agriculture generally. The subjects included, as I think Mr. Megaw mentioned, manures, seeds, and feeding stuffs, giving their composition, etc., and the applicability of such to varying conditions and requirements, and the breeding and care of stock. And then an important item in connection with the lectures was the discussion at the end of the lecture, and that is where chiefly you find the local intelligence coming into play. At the end of the lecture a discussion is invited and any man who has anything to bring forward can do so.

12555. Do they?—They do; yes; in a very large majority of cases; but in some districts you find them rather backward; and in the more geographically backward districts people are often more forward in asking questions. And then the discussion after the lectures lead to the visiting of farms. I make arrangements, as Mr. Goswami described, and Mr. Megaw, at these lectures to visit farms, and I give information on any matter that may be desired, on the spot, and also a connection is established, so that if I am away during the summer, if I am not in the locality, any farmer having anything to inquire about, or requiring any information, can write to me, and I reply giving him the information which he requires, and in that way a connection is established for carrying on the work. And also it is a very good opportunity for distributing leaflets, and so forth. I do not mean actually distributing. I told that at first, and I found that it was not satisfactory, because when the farmers got leaflets at lectures of that sort they sometimes crumple them up in their pockets. I get the names of those who would like to have some of the leaflets, and very often they would like to get copies of all the leaflets, and I send them on to the Department for inclusion in the mailing list. And in some cases, coming back after some months, I find that they have put these carefully into some book for reference. In some cases, of course, I have found that they have not cared them so well. I have sent considerably over a thousand farmers' names in this way, and if you find even fifty per cent. or less taking care of them it would be rather a good work. Of course West Cork is a large district. Cork is a very large county, and I have not yet, with about two exceptions, lectured twice in the same locality, although I have been three years at work. Each year there are places which I have not taken in. So that there is one drawback which I do find, and to which I will allude possibly later on—the inability to resume touch with those districts after the lapse of as short a time as I would like. The experiments have been conducted on the same lines, as described by Mr. Megaw.

12556. Did you hear Mr. Green's statement about the agricultural classes in Carlow? Have you any of those at all?—There are classes being established in Cork now. There are classes in various towns, this year, which are being conducted by two men sent down specially for that purpose. I have not had anything to do with that directly, so far, but the conditions are different from what they are in Carlow. In Cork there is sufficient work for an instructor.

12557. You could not undertake the class?—I could not under existing conditions—unless I gave up the lectures and the county work. Of course the bulk of Cork is larger than most of the other counties.

12558. Is it about equally divided?—About equally divided. Of course what we regard as the east and west divisions do not follow the line of the East and West Ridings. Many portions that are put down in the map as in the East Riding are, from any point of view, in the West.

12559. (Mr. Michie).—What is your district, by your purposes?—We have no regular district. I think it would go by parishes (indicates on map). My district is in East Cork and Ballymore is in West.

12560. (Chairman).—I suppose the variety of land is very great?—The variety is very great. Of course the principal agricultural districts are generally near the sea or following the course of the rivers. There is good land of course between Kinsale and Glengahilly, and along there. Once you get inland to the rough land, say, north of Bandon or north of Ballinacorney, you have mountainous tract. There is practically range upon range of hills covered with patches of peat or heather or bare rock.

12561. (Mr. Michie).—The lands close to the Lee and Blackwater are good?—The Blackwater does not come in.

12562. It is in the other division of Cork. You got very close to the Upper Blackwater?—Very close to it.

12563. You do not take in Kanturk?—No, Kanturk is in East Cork.

12564. (Chairman).—That tract you speak of last?—From a hill north of Ballinacorney seems to Inishgola.

12565. That is a Congested District?—There are portions of Inishgola congested and of course Castletown and around there is very considerably congested. But all that land is pretty much of the same type. But still, as I say, I find the farmers very interested.

12566. Have you lectured there—in the Congested Districts?—Considerably. Last year I was lecturing in the neighbourhood of Castletown, and I have been out to Aghinagh.

12567. And did you find your lectures appreciated?—They were very much appreciated; but it is not a district that is capable of being worked up very much in a general agricultural sense. They are in many cases fifty miles from the nearest railway station.

12568. (Mr. Michie).—Did you lecture at Dunsany?—No; they come into Bantry; but this district between that and Glengahilly I have not yet been in.

12569. (Chairman).—Are any of the schemes working in this congested part?—Some, but not as much as in other parts. The live stock schemes are working to a certain extent. They have a bear at Aghinagh, at a place between Glengahilly and Castletown, and the poultry schemes are doing good. They are applicable to these districts, and they are being taken up. But still it is more difficult to get those things started in these backward districts in the West than in the other districts which are nearer to the market. So the principal work that I have done in the neighbourhood has been in connection with demonstration plots. The demonstration plots and experiments that have been conducted in Cork have been on the same lines as Mr. Megaw and Mr. Goswami described, and I have had from twelve to twenty years of experimental plots in the better class agricultural districts; but then I developed the demonstration question very largely, particularly in the more backward districts.

12570. Including Congested Districts?—Including Congested Districts.

12571. Are they much availed of—the demonstration?—Yes; those that I put down last year were very much appreciated. They included what I do not usually include in demonstrations, early potatoes, a new strain of early potatoes for testing, and in several places down there they grow this

for the first time in drills. Of course the ordinary way is to plant them in ridges. And they had them very early. That is really one of the things that could be developed down there, where there are small patches of land here and there, very favorably situated for outlying; and in the same way they could develop the producing of market stuff which they could dispose of occasionally when the fleet comes in. They have the fleet coming in there very often, and it is a great market for the consumption of agricultural produce. These are the things which could be developed down there rather more than ordinary agriculture.

12518. (Mr. Micks).—I suppose you are aware the experiment had been made before?—Yes, and in some parts beyond Ballydoole.

12519. Did you ever hear of Mr. Bayler Hartland, of Cork, that he experimented with early potatoes?—Yes; I know of him; I did not meet him.

12520. Did you hear of the experiment by the Conquest Districts Fland with early potatoes?—Yes, I heard of it, and also of live stock, and in some cases I found traces of the improvement introduced by them, and certainly there was a very marked improvement in the cattle in this locality. That is one of the points that could be developed, but it is very hard to know how it can be worked to the best advantage, that is, the introducing of a better quality of cattle down there than what the people have at present, because the conditions are so rough that people are afraid to bring down a better class of cattle.

12521. And the feeding is so poor?—The feeding is so poor.

12522. (Chairman).—What breeds have they?—Well, they have the Kerry breed principally, only a great many of them are not of the best quality of Kerry.

12523. (Mr. Brown).—They are a mixture?—A mixture, and some of them are of very poor quality indeed, and they sell them at two years' old very often for about 25. As I say, the live-stock advances have been taken up, and are being taken up, to a limited extent in these districts, but it is hard work getting them to take them up for the reason that I say, that they are afraid to get these better-class breeds and keep them under such rough conditions. Then, as I say, the number of demonstration plots that I have conducted, including these rough districts too, through the comparatively better-class agricultural districts, have been varying from 50 to 60 and to 200 each year. I need not go into the details of the demonstration plots. They are usually a quarter to an eighth of an acre, quarter of an acre in the case of hay material or oats material, and one-eighth in the case of potatoes material. They did not require to be very extended, and the effects of the demonstration plots have been very marked. For instance, coming back after six or ten months or so to the districts where I had sent demonstration plots I have in several cases found that farmers who got the demonstration plots two years ago have been following it up and getting the mixture which had been there sent to them for application to their ordinary crop. I have found that in a great many cases, and not only these, but also the people in the neighbourhood who have seen the beneficial results. Then, another portion of our work in Cork consisted in attending at local shows, which are established in various parts of the county. There is one at Bandon and also Glouahilly and Skibberon, and all these local places have started shows. Some of them are of old standing. The Bandon show has been established only within the last year. And we then generally get a stand with samples of manure, feeding stuffs, and so forth, in view of the farmers when they come in. Of course, we explain the things we have when we get into touch with them, and we very often made arrangements for visiting their farms and giving information. And they very often write to us as the result of having seen us at shows. So that I think a great deal of good is done in that way. In this connection I might, perhaps, mention that in some cases I have found anxiety on the part of the farmers to attend from those districts—I mean the larger farmers, and in some cases the smaller farmers—to attend the larger shows, such as the Dublin shows here; but as a great many cases they have been prevented from doing so by the difficulties of getting here.

12524. (Mr. O'Leary).—Difficulties of time?—Not only of time, but also of expense. Very often arrangements are organized just in such a way as not to fit in with their arrangements; and if there could be an

arrangement made with the railway companies to attend the facilities for attending these shows I think it would be productive of very good results.

12525. If the people of the locality represented that to the railway companies, would they not make some arrangement of these excursions so as to suit?—I am afraid that that would not be very successful in this case. I know in some cases representations have been made, and that they have not been received with as much welcome as you might imagine should be the case. Another portion of our work which Mr. Magaw has alluded to was the seed-testing. When we go through the country we take very often samples of seeds which we see used and get these analyzed at the Department's seed-testing stations, and when you go to a farmer's place and take a sample of the seed that he happens to be using and get it analyzed and give him the particulars afterwards, it has a very great effect on him, more so than if you told him of the result of the analysis of other people's seeds. And in that connection I may mention that in West Cork there is a very great amount of defective seeds sown. There is what they call there "common hay seed," which means just the rough screenings and sweepings of lots; and some of that common hayseed is collected by the farmer's men, who regard it as a perpetration, from the lots and sold on the open market, and you could get in the market towns in the West at a certain time of year any amount of bags of this common hay seed still brought in by farmers, too. In addition to these there is common hay seed, which is practically the sweepings of seedsmen's lots, imported into these places and purchased by people. One sample that I got I had analysed. There were only forty to fifty per cent. of useful seeds in the thing, and of that only six or seven per cent. was able to grow; only six or seven per cent. of it had germinating capacity. But I am able to say that the quantity of that common hay seed that is being sold is now not so large as it used to be, as the farmers are beginning to see that there is no use in sowing for these useless seeds.

12526. (Chairman).—How do they actually secure better seeds?—Well, in the first place they can send samples of the seed to the testing station, and then they can ask the man from whom they purchased to give a guarantee.

12527. They ask for a guarantee?—In some cases they get it, but it is a matter of time till they will all be able to get it. A good many of the dealers have not been accustomed to guarantee seeds in this way. It only means that the man selling the seeds will have to get a better quality of seed and a better stock.

12528. But the seller does not get a guarantee?—Of course, he has to guarantee the seed, but he avows himself by getting a guarantee from the man from whom he purchased it, and in many cases that is being done. And, of course, the same thing applies to manures to a certain extent. I have got information from some of the firms in the trade that the quality of the seed which is being sold now is better than formerly.

12529. If you have got that I think it would be important—I have got a letter to that effect. I could not give you the particulars, but I can describe them as on good authority.

12530. Will you state them now?—Yes, I have a note of them here. In one case an important firm in Cork in the seed and implements trade and in manures told me that there was an increase of 100 per cent. in manures within the last four years, and along with that they informed me that farmers are inquiring much more frequently now as to the composition of manures, and are asking for mixtures made up according to formulas recommended by the Department instead of taking the compound manures which they used always to rely on. But at the same time they are also making inquiries for a better class of manures, compound manures, instead of asking for manures containing a single ingredient. They have been asking for compound manures of a better quality. Also in connection with the manure trade I may mention that I have received on very reliable authority information as to the amount of artificial manures sold in Ireland during the last two years and during last year as compared with four or five years ago.

12531. That is substantially what Mr. Magaw gave us?—Well, he gave you the information in connection with potato. The increase in the sale of manures has been estimated at 60,000 tons, which would represent

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roughly about £200,000. That is within the last four years. The increase would be represented by about 80,000 tons of phosphates and complete manures; so that shows, of course, that there is a greater demand now than there was a few years ago, and principally for these compound manures. Of course that does not include the amount that is spent on nitrogenous manures alone, such as sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda, which latter is sometimes used for topdressing. I do not know that there is any other point, but if there are any other questions arising out of these remarks I shall be glad to reply to them.

12632. (Mr. Brown.)—About feeding stuffs, have you had any feeding stuffs analysed?—Oh, yes; I have had a lot of feeding stuffs analysed, on the same lines as Mr. Moser and Mr. Green mentioned, and so I say I think that is a very valuable way. You go through the country and take a sample from a man and get it analysed, and when you communicate to him the result of the analysis he takes a greater interest in the matter, and it is not only the effect produced on the man himself, but it has an effect upon his district, as the information gets circulated in the country.

12633. Have you observed the growth of a great number of weeds?—Oh, yes, particularly in the west, and that would be attributed to a certain extent to common hay seed.

12634. Is that what you attribute it to?—I attribute it very largely to that.

12635. You often see potatoes growing in a field with a quantity of weeds?—Of course, that would be bad, but another reason, that tends to promote the growth of weeds in potato crops is the system of cultivation there, which is in ridges instead of drills.

12636. In ridges?—Yes. One of the reasons for that is that the land is of such a stiff nature there. Bidges or large beds. The term is liable to confusion, because in some cases people in the north of Ireland often speak of ridges as drills. I am a southerner myself, and we always speak of what we call drills as distinguished from the large beds which are the ridges.

12637. (Chairman.)—That is what they are—nearly the width of the table here?—They are generally about six sods put together.

12638. (Mr. Brown.)—What were you going to say about them?—The reason that they use the ridges there is, to a great extent, that the land is of such a nature that it is very stiff, and the system that they have there is used to plant the potatoes in the lay land, and it would be very difficult to break that down into condition for drills. To do this an oat crop should first be taken off. This is usually done, hence the "lay beds," which are more conducive to weeds.

12639. Is it not generally in the peat bog districts that they grow potatoes in that way?—Yes, principally in reclaimed bog land.

12640. (Mr. Dryden.)—I thought it took place owing to water?—That is so; in the boggy portions of the country you generally find that system, in fact.

12641. (Mr. Brown.)—Would the drill system answer their requirements?—In some cases I doubt if it would, but there are a great many cases where it certainly would, where they still adopt the bed system.

12642. (Mr. Dryden.)—The drill system would operate all right if they planted on the top of the drill?—Yes.

12643. And then they would have some drainage on the side, all along?—Yes. And they should alter the system to such an extent as to take an oat crop first and green crops generally afterwards. Sometimes in the rough land when they work that system they find that they do not get an oat crop.

12644. (Mr. Brown.)—Then, would they make that change?—In some cases, yes. In a great many cases they are going in for the drills; where they go in for early potatoes, for instance.

12645. Is it an advantage for that?—Oh, for that; for early potatoes, certainly. They say that if they grow in drills the potatoes are equally as dry, and they are larger, but, of course, that largely depends on the way in which they cultivate them, but, as I say, when they take up the drill system and work it intelligently they like to use it in preference to the bed, when they have had experience of it.

12646. (Mr. Ogilvie.)—You told us that the channels that are being run in Cork are quite independent of

you as far as irrigation goes, special instructions being sent down?—Yes.

12647. We have understood that the selection of the students who were to attend the classes had some definite relation to the work which the instructors were doing and to their attendance at the instruction lectures, and so on. Can you tell us anything about that relation?—Well, of course, the way in which the matter has been conducted is as far as practicable the same as Mr. Green described. Application forms have been sent out at the request of these attending students, and they fill them in with the particulars, and there is an examination, and the students are picked out by the examination. Of course, I don't say the opinion of the instructor would be asked in cases where there were sufficient numbers to require picking out.

12648. But with reference to the preliminary application, had you anything whatever to do with that?—Not any connection with that class directly except that, of course, at the lectures we recommend the young fellows there to join the class.

12649. Is your recommendation a general one, or concentrated upon individuals?—If there were any particularly bright young fellows there we would try to get them to make application. I thought what you referred to was whether there was any connection between the instructor and the agricultural students classes which are at Clonsilla.

12650. Have you expressed the opportunity that you have of getting in contact with the young men in a way that you would think would further the work?—Oh, yes, we always make use of those opportunities to the greatest possible extent.

12651. (Mr. Moser.)—What advice have you given as a rule to farmers in your district as to manure?—That depends greatly on the local conditions.

12652. Take any district you like—what advice is you give in any particular locality or particular kind of land?—The advice would be that if he was going to grow oats on a poor field I would advise him to apply a complete mixture, and I would give him the formula.

12653. And tell him how to get it?—I do not advise him where to go, but how to get it wherever he goes, to see that it is a complete mixture. Whether you mix up as a compound or made up of several ingredients, is not of so much importance.

12654. That is as regards oats, but as regards other crops?—That would be the same thing, of course, is the case of potatoes, but the ingredients would be different from the others.

12655. What would you recommend for potatoes?—A mixture of superphosphate and sulphate of ammonia, and either sulphate or muriate of potash.

12656. What would that come to per acre, a sufficient quantity for preparing an acre for potatoes?—It would come to about 42 per acre—in or about that scarcely so much; between 36 and 42. But I always advise farmers to use their intelligence as to the quantity that they would put on. For instance, if a man had a store of farmyard manure of good quality, then I would advise a lighter dressing of artificial.

12657. You tell them that farmyard manure would do?—I tell them that it is the best they can have, and I generally advise where a man has farmyard manure the best method of storing it so as to take the best advantage out of it, and I always tell him that there is no use in paying money for materials which they could not use.

12658. What is your experience of the storing and use of farmyard manure in West Cork?—My experience is that there is great waste through drainage, from the position of the manure heap.

12659. That is one way?—It is generally situated below the surface of the surrounding land and the water flows into it, and as it flows into it it flows out again, and I always advise them to pay particular attention to the site of the manure heap, and tell them to make sure that there is every precaution against loss by drainage.

12660. I suppose they never dream of roofing it?—I never recommended them to roof it either, because personally I do not think it is advisable, unless you do so with the object of having a cattle shed as well as a manure shed.

12661. Not along the shores of Bantry Bay have you noticed anything of the way in which they manure their lands?—Well, in Bantry Bay they used, in the places along the sea, to be very much in favour of shell sand or coral sand, which they got in fairly large

quantities there; but now they complain they cannot get this seed.

12662. Have you visited it at all for any experimental plots?—No, I have not visited it because I have not been working that district, but I am perfectly convinced of the need for that land there of lime or some form or other.

12663. And there they have it in a very good shape?—They have it in a very good shape. It is suitable for that particular district. It remains in the land a long time. There are great complaints that they are unable to get it.

12664. You said they were a little backward in coming forward to the lectures?—I did not mean to the lectures, but in coming forward at the lectures to bring up matters for discussion.

12665. Are you the gentleman who said, "If you are not too backward in coming forward, you will be more behind than you were before"?—No.

12666. As regards the work done in the Congested Districts by the Department, when did the change take place—was it not when you went to West Cork?—I believe so. In the second year I was in West Cork, I treated them at Instigeha.

12667. I want to find out what change it made in the scheme so far, or has a change begun yet in your district?—No.

12668. You did nothing at all there while the Congested Districts Board was there?—No.

12669. What have you done since?—I have just treated the Congested Districts exactly as the remainder of the county.

12670. You just had to consider whether you were going over the line or not?—I never considered whether I crossed the line or not; but I knew some of the districts were congested.

12671. Where would that be?—Down in the neighbourhood of Glengarriff and Skibbereen. I did not extend from Skibbereen as far as Schull during the first year.

12672. And you did not go out to Courtmacsherry?—I did not touch that.

12673. What have you done in the Congested Districts since the work was transferred, since that work was taken away from the Congested Districts Board?—Well, I have treated it in the same way as the rest of the county.

12674. What experimental plots had you in the Congested Districts, say in the past year?—Well, chiefly in the marketing of potatoes and demonstrations with early varieties.

12675. Tell me where they were, and how many?—I had about twenty, or about forty demonstration plots in early potatoes, extending from Glengarriff to Castletown Beach.

12676. On that west coast of Bantry Bay only?—Yes.

12677. Was that the only part you had them in the Congested Districts of West Cork?—That was the only part, from Glengarriff down to Castletown Beach and to the Mizen.

12678. That was the only part you had them?—Yes.

12679. You had not them in the other parts of West Cork?—Yes; but not Congested Districts. I had some in the neighbourhood of Schull—about half-a-dozen.

12680. How many had you there, about?—I had not many there this year. Last year I had about a dozen.

12681. What had you in that Congested District except experimental plots this year or last year?—I had a few odd varied demonstrations?—About half-a-dozen.

12682. Where?—In the neighbourhood of Schull, or rather Ballyschobh—south-west of Ballyschobh.

12683. Apart from potatoes and oats, what else had you?—No, nothing except lectures and demonstrations.

12684. How many lectures did you give in the Congested Districts the last two years?—Well, roughly speaking, about sixty—or more. Including the two years it would be about 100.

12685. That would be about fifty a year, one a week?—Well, they were five days a week when I was there, three or four at each corner.

12686. Did you furnish a diary to the County Committee?—Yes.

12687. It would appear in your diary?—It would appear in the diary. Then perhaps I might mention the principal difficulties in connection with agricultural development which occur to me—the want of general organisation amongst the people in the country, and of general education.

12688. You mean the want of co-operation?—Yes, of a system of co-operation, and also the lack of the ground-work of education in order to enable them to co-operate with success.

12689. You found that there is a great deal of illiteracy?—There is illiteracy, but not lack of intelligence, because very often an illiterate man is very intelligent.

12690. And many are labourers?—Yes.

12691. Among the labouring people do you observe the same defects?—Yes, among the labourers.

12692. Among the people generally?—Yes, and a want of organisation so as to keep one part of the country in touch with what is going on in the other.

12693. Do you regard a better education as essential?—Yes; it would give them a general idea of what would be needed to develop the agricultural business of the country as a whole.

12694. As regards the sale of early potatoes, for instance?—Yes, and marketing potatoes in a profitable manner. If every one does his business in his own way, without regard to organisation and uniformly, it would be impossible to compete with other countries.

12695. They could be given valuable information as to early potato selling?—Yes; of course they do sell early potatoes, because that is worked separately.

12696. That is worked by the Department separately, has it a good effect?—It has that effect. Just as an instance of the want of keeping in touch with the various parts of the country, I might mention the state of the markets in various places as regards weights and measures. In Cork they sell potatoes by the weight, that is one and a half stone; in Wexford by the barrel; in the North by the ton or hundredweight; and all this tends to a very great want of uniformity. Then take oats. That is sold in Cork by the cwt, and in Wexford by the barrel; and even, to go back to potatoes, the barrel in Wexford differs. In Kilkenny it is twenty-four stone, in Wexford it is twenty stone. There is a practical difficulty as regards the want of uniformity of agricultural weights and measures throughout the country, which is calculated to retard the agriculture of the country as a whole. Of course each district needs to be developed, and for that end it wants to be in touch with the rest of the country.

12697. (Chairman).—Where were you trained, Mr. Reid?—At the College of Science in Dublin.

12698. Before the days of the Department?—Well, it was while the Department was here. I have been three years at work.

12699. (Mr. Hicks).—Glennern, too?—And the College of Science. Principally the College of Science.

12700. (Chairman).—Do you say that you have been abroad?—I have been, as a matter of fact, but not studying. My studies have been entirely in Ireland. I am a practical farmer in Wexford, which is my home. I come from Wexford.

Co. 25, 1904.

Mr. T. S. Nash.

Mr. ANDREW HAUFIX, Whitestock, Roundwood, examined.

12701. (Chairman).—I believe you are a practical farmer?—Yes.

12702. And you appear here on your own account?—Yes; you do not represent any County Committee?—Altogether on my own account.

12703. Well, the first item you put down is Agricultural Instruction. Say what you wish to say about that in reference to your county?—It is in my own district of the County Wicklow, the district of the county that I know of. This scheme is working

well and giving good results. I have suggested two or three example holdings to be established in the county. Farmers could get a good deal of useful information regarding the use, quality, and value of manures.

12704. And you have heard the evidence of Agricultural Instructors of other counties?—Yes, sir.

12705. Does that at all correspond with your experience?—It does, to a certain extent, and also with regard to a few points in the management of live

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stock. The information given by the Agricultural Instructors has been a great advantage to the people down there, and I believe anyone who followed their advice have benefited largely by it. Of course in some cases the people cannot follow their advice; their means do not allow it. As regards buying manure and seeds, it is very difficult to get these in the spring. They may not have money and they may not be in a position as to labour, and they may not have credit either, to purchase seeds, and they are not able to take the advice of the Agricultural Instructors in some cases.

12705. I see that you have got a suggestion to make about demonstration plots?—Yes, sir. I think if there were two or three model farms or example holdings in the county, it would be a good idea. It would be almost better than the demonstration plots.

12706. Do you mean small model farms?—Small farms. If there were model farms in a couple of districts taken up by the Department from the owner of the farm, the farmer might work at it, and let the Department supply the seeds for it. The farmer might work upon it according to the Agricultural Instructor. I think it would be a good idea.

12707. How large would you have a farm of that sort?—About twenty acres.

12708. (Mr. Brown).—You do not mean that the Department should acquire the farms but take it for the hour?—Yes, and let the Department supply the seeds and manure.

12709. (Chairman).—Do you mean for the purpose of showing how a twenty-acre farm could be made to pay, or for experimental purposes?—Yes.

12710. Of course experiments very often do not pay?—No.

12711. (Mr. Michie).—You would not value it if it did not pay?—No.

12712. (Chairman).—A good many witnesses have advised what I understand you to be advising, the Department taking up a certain amount of land and managing practically a farm not so much for the purpose of the experiments as to show that under a proper system a farm could be made remunerative?—That is what I mean.

12713. (Mr. O'Brien).—Only in this case you propose that the Department should pay for the seeds and manure?—Yes.

12714. And to that extent the complexity of the farm would be better than he otherwise would be?—Certainly.

12715. And he would have to undertake to work upon it as the instructor directed him?—Yes; he would give the labour, and do all the labour, and act according to the directions.

12716. And would he give enough labour?—I would make him agree to give enough, to supply the instructor with all the labour.

12717. That he would risk it?—Yes.

12718. And put his back into it?—Certainly.

12719. (Mr. Michie).—If the prices were not to his liking, what would he say to the Department?—If the prices he got for his produce were not to his liking he could not expect more than the market value.

12720. Suppose the prices were not so much as his neighbours were getting?—He would get the same as his neighbours.

12721. Perhaps the Department would have no financial resources to market his produce?—No; I would propose that the Department would do nothing but supply the seeds and manure.

12722. (Mr. Brown).—It would be a purely tillage farm you contemplate?—Yes.

12723. You would not contemplate running a whole farm with live stock?—Not at all. The Department would have nothing to do with live stock at all; only this tillage portion of it.

12724. (Chairman).—Now, as to live stock, I see you have something to say?—Yes, the live stock have been improved considerably down in our portion of the country by the introduction of bulls and rams and bores and horses and nominations for stallions. The Aberdeen Angus bull for our portion of it has been a great success, more so than the shorthorn. Of course I live in a rather elevated portion of the county, over 800 feet, but the Aberdeen Angus in that portion has been a great success.

12725. (Mr. Michie).—They would disappoint you for milk?—No; it is not used for milking purposes, it is store cattle. It is not a place where any dairying is carried on. And the Aberdeen Angus sells very well as a store.

12726. There is no dairying down there?—No dairying. Now, the horticultural portion?—I think, a failure in our part of the county.

12727. You high up?—Too high up. I think if we had some veterinary lectures it would be more to the purpose.

12728. (Chairman).—You would rather have them than horticulture?—Oh, certainly.

12729. But the district is suited for it?—The district is suited for it but it is too high up.

12730. (Mr. Michie).—Where are you from?—The borders of Roscommon.

12731. (Chairman).—You only speak of that particular horticulture?—Oh, that is so.

12732. Is there much horticulture attempted there?—There were a few gardens attempted, but they did not pay.

12733. (Mr. Brown).—Did you try that system for gardens which you recommend for farms—the running of gardens under the direction of the instructor?—Yes; we tried that.

12734. And it did not work?—It did not work.

12735. To what do you attribute the failure in that case?—To the coldness of the climate I think.

12736. You do not attribute it, in any case, to the failure of the owner to do what was required of him?—I know of two gardens and the owners did their best with them and that they were failures in both cases. About the cottage farm prize system, that scheme has worked very well with us too.

12737. As an improvement?—Yes. There is a vast improvement in the way that the cottages are kept since they commenced to give prizes.

12738. (Mr. O'Brien).—An improvement even in the cottages that were not likely to get prizes—or was the improvement restricted to those that were likely to get prizes?—Yes; the ones that would be likely to get prizes that would be apt to get prizes.

12739. Are those not competing now, making then a little more satisfactory?—Well, I don't see very much improvement, but they are.

12740. What proportion of the cottages do you find have been affected in this way?—Most of the cottages down there are eligible to compete.

12741. And do they compete?—Most of them compete.

12742. So that the improvement would have applied to the very large majority of them?—To the majority. There are a very few cottages round that district that are not eligible to compete for the prizes.

12743. (Mr. Brown).—Most of them actually enter?—Yes; but then they are competing.

12744. (Mr. Michie).—Had they to pay a small entrance fee?—They get their entrance free.

12745. (Chairman).—Now, as to butter-making; you have a note about that?—Well, it has done a deal of good down there.

12746. You have no creameries in your county?—No creameries. The instructor goes round, and they get the cream from some adjoining farms, and she keeps on the class for a week or a fortnight, and they say that she learns them to use the modern way. They have done away with the making of butter with the hands, and they make it with wooden hands.

12747. And you think the instruction has done good?—It has certainly done good. And also advocate cleanliness.

12748. Do you like to state anything else?—The Department should get a grant from the Imperial funds to enable it to lend money to farmers in elevated districts such as ours for the purpose of planting trees for shelter. The Department should tackle agriculture in earnest, because, after all, there is nothing that the country is more in need of.

12749. Do you mean the marketing of the produce?—About milking, and also buying feeding stuffs and manure and seeds for it.

12750. (Mr. Brown).—That might be done by co-operation among the farmers—a co-operative society.

12751. You want some stimulus?—It is very hard to get farmers to co-operate in a backward locality. If there was a little stimulus given them it would be a great advantage.

12752. Did you ever hear of the L.A.O.S. in Wick low?—Yes. There are a couple of branches of it down in the low lands of it.

12753. I suppose you know that those gentlemen are willing to go down and instruct the people in the methods of co-operation?—I suppose they are, but I

thought the buying of seeds and manures would be of great importance to the people down there.

12764. You mean that they do not know how to buy?—I mean that a man who has not cash is paying 25 or 35 per cent. interest on that money they would get to buy seeds. They charge about 30 per cent. area.

12765. And he cannot be very strict when he has to buy on credit?—He must take what he gets and he could not think of a guarantee, because they would run him out.

12766. (Chairman).—Do you want a system under which you could borrow money on advantageous terms?—Yes; that would be a good idea, or if there was a co-operative society somewhere that he could buy his seeds and manure from and not charge him high interest.

Mr. JAMES BROWN, Liphill, Monasterevan, examined.

12768. (Chairman).—You came from the County Kildare?—Yes.

12769. You are a practical farmer?—Yes.

12770. You came here, I understand, not representing the County Committee, but just to give your own views?—Yes; just to give my own views.

12771. Follow your own course?—I have prepared a summary here of my own experience obtained after about four years' experience of the working of various branches of the Department in my county. With your permission, I will commence with the agricultural lectures. I remember driving eight miles on a winter night to hear some of the first of these lectures, and considered myself very well compensated for doing so by the store of information which I received with regard to the feeding and manuring value of all the foods used in stock-rearing and what their analysis should be, and also the judicious application of artificial manures to the various crops. That is, the composition of the different manures and what proportion of each is required for each crop, and also the value of liquid manure and how to use it, and the way dungheaps should be kept. I have found from experience and many experiments which I carried out myself on ideas originating from those lectures that it would be very much to the farmer's advantage to attend the lectures and act on the advice given there; but I am sorry to say the attendance on many of those occasions is very small. I have been told by some farmers that they heard nothing about the lectures, although notice of it was posted up, and, on the other hand, I have known farmers who were aware of the lectures and did not attend. I am aware that it is very difficult in many cases to procure a suitable and central hall for lectures. I know village schools are very suitable, but I have known them to be refused. It would be very necessary in some places to erect small halls for the purpose.

12772. (Mr. Meade).—What were the grounds of refusal, do you know?—The difficulty of making the place clear for school hours next day. It was the manager who refused admission.

12773. (Mr. Brown).—Of course the committee should undertake any responsibility of that kind for clearing it up. Do you not form a local committee when there are going to be lectures in your locality?—No; there is no local committee, and that is a thing I should like to see formed.

12774. We have a Committee for your district, and they do not meet?—We have no local committee.

12775. (Mr. O'Brien).—Are you sure there is not a local Committee?—Not in the division of Ballybracken. It was suggested that the lecture should be held in Monasterevan.

12776. (Mr. Brown).—How near are you to Monasterevan?—Two and a half miles.

12777. Perhaps the Committee are in Monasterevan?—I am not aware of a local Committee.

12778. They must have refused to meet?—I have never known a local Committee to set them. I think if there were small halls erected in some of the places where schools would not be available for these lectures, and if there were a local Committee there it would be a great advantage; or if there could be arrangements made with some farmers who would have good barns in the place.

12779. (Chairman).—That is something that you would want a local Committee for?—Yes, to make

12780. (Mr. Meade).—An agricultural bank?—Some such system like that, and then the planting of trees in our district is a thing that is wanting very badly.

12781. (Chairman).—For shelter?—For shelter.

12782. (Mr. Meade).—Do you mean on your own farm?—Oh, yes; on the people's own farms.

12783. Would you borrow money if you could get it, on low terms, to plant?—Yes; on low terms, and plant several portions for shelter. It would be a paying speculation I think.

12784. (Mr. O'Brien).—Has any planting of that sort been done near you?—No.

12785. But you do not know whether the trees would grow?—Oh, they would grow, because I planted trees myself, larch especially, and they grow very well there.

those arrangements. I find the annual report of the County Inspector on the various experiments in crops and manure very instructive. Yet I consider it must be very difficult to come at an accurate result in many places. If there was one central experimental farm for the county I think the results of experiments should be more reliable.

12786. And that it should be conducted on scientific principles?—Yes, on scientific principles; for the county.

12787. (Mr. Meade).—The County Kildare?—Yes.

12788. (Mr. Brown).—Do you approve of the suggestion of the last witness that a farm should be lent by a farmer and worked by the farmer himself under the directions of the Department, the Department providing him with the seeds and manure. By doing that you could get at the different soils, while a central farm would always be confined to one particular soil, but by having the farm in different places you get at the different soils?—But would there be any difficulty in getting him to give it up?

12789. He would not be giving up the farm to the County Committee, but the management of it practically to the instructor?—That is the management as far as the experiment would be concerned.

12790. Yes, so far as the growing of the crops would be concerned?—That might mean a profit to a bad farmer who would not have the ideas of working out those things himself.

12791. But if he was not a good farmer he would not carry out the instructions properly and the suggested experiment might be a failure?—I always notice that it is the most intelligent and the best educated farmers that attend these lectures, the men that you would say did not want these lectures; and the men that want them do not attend them.

12792. (Chairman).—Have you got any agricultural classes in your county?—Yes; there were two carried on last year, one in Nass and one in Ailly. The attendance was very poor. I was in Nass for 1906 the applications were twenty-eight, and there were only seventeen qualified out of that twenty-eight; so I think these qualifying examinations are a great restriction.

12793. You heard what the instructor said?—Yes. I think they should be done away with or modified till such time as there would be more applications for vacancies.

12794. Do the examinations prevent people from applying, because they know they will have to undergo the test?—Many of the farmers would be fairly good scholars in their early days, when they would be going to school.

12795. (Mr. Brown).—And, of course, they would now be a little rusty?—Yes.

12796. (Chairman).—Will you go on?—On the whole, I think it is the farmers' own fault if they do not take advantage of the agricultural and technical instruction which the Department is giving. The County Committee have three spraying machines for the use of farmers for spraying peaches and pre-larvae. Yet I do not know one in the district division in which I live, besides myself, that applies for these spraying machines.

12797. (Mr. Meade).—Do they spray at all?—No.

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12787. (Mr. Brown).—Was there any difference in the results of crops on your land between those sprayed and not sprayed?—Undoubtedly. I make experiments every year myself, and I had a remarkable result with potatoes last year. The fact is that it kept the potatoes to long growing.

12788. (Mr. Quinn).—Why did you keep them so long?—They kept growing; they were not withered enough to dig out; and I was at a loss by the spraying last year.

12789. Perhaps that is what keeps other farmers from using the spraying machines?—That might not be the experience of a lifetime. With regard to these machines that go round from one to another they are generally out of repair. I scarcely ever got one without its being out of repair. Probably the Department could have something done in that matter, and it would not cost a great deal. I think if there was a competent man sent to look after these machines it might interest some farmers to spend.

12790. Who keeps those machines?—The County Council.

12791. (Mr. Brown).—They are lent only to show what the effect of spraying is, in the hope that farmers will undertake it themselves?—Yes. The majority of the farmers do not like to tackle spraying themselves, spraying on their own responsibility. They think it is a most intricate business, the majority of them they never tried it. But it is not so when you get in on it, and the result is wonderful. I think as far as the spraying goes that the Department has done very good work.

12792. (Chairman).—And also the prevention of charlock—is that carried out in your neighbourhood?—Oh, I know one of the farmers that do that. It was started by the Inspector. What I consider one of the most important items in successful farming is the formation of a co-operative society by which the farmers could purchase their own feedstuffs and manure.

12793. (Mr. Micks).—Their feedstuffs?—Feedstuffs for cattle.

12794. That might mean tea?—But I have known that to be purchased through co-operative societies too.

12795. (Chairman).—I suppose the formation of a co-operative society would meet with considerable opposition—the shopkeepers would try to meet it with all possible competition?—The farmers have enough to do to keep up themselves without keeping up middlemen. I wish they were got out.

12796. (Mr. Micks).—You are not asking that the middlemen should be squeezed out?—Not at all. Another advantage that a co-operative society would be to farmers is that they might have a voice in the sale of their own barley if there was a co-operative society in the county. And by bringing the farmers more into union, as well as saving them a great deal in the purchase of their goods, the other branches of the Department would work more satisfactorily too.

12797. (Chairman).—Do you think that co-operation should be carried on by the Department itself?—I think they should assist in doing so.

12798. Do you know anything about the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, about the work of that society in your part of the country?—No. I do not know anything about it.

12799. (Mr. Brown).—You have never approached that society on this subject?—No, I never did.

12800. There is a society established for the purpose of promoting organisation of the character you speak of among the farmers, and going down into the districts and advising the farmers about this, and what the advantages of it are. You never thought of approaching them in any way?—In our district I know nothing about it, but in a county adjoining this it has been started, and worked for several years, but it dropped, owing, I think, to the want of competent secretaries, or something of that kind. Now, as to the broodmare show and examinations, I think they are a capital plan for the improving of horses, but many of us were disappointed when we received the list of registered stallions. Most of the mares exhibited and selected are of the Irish draught type, or nearly so, and yet there is not one Irish draught stallion on the register.

12801. (Mr. Brown).—Do you know of any that exist that ought to be on the register?—Yes, I do.

12802. Have they been inspected?—Yes. I know of one, and I have heard since that he has been inspected and has passed.

12803. That he has been inspected?—Yes; but up to this there has not been one on the register.

12804. (Mr. Micks).—They are not common, these stallions?—It is very hard to get a right type of them. It would take some time to work them up.

12805. To fix the type?—Yes.

12806. (Chairman).—The old blood is nearly extinct?—Yes.

12807. (Mr. Brown).—But there is a great want in the county for the draught stallion—a good type of draught stallion?—But there is nothing but thoroughbred, Shire and Clydesdale on the register, and these are most unsuitable to the requirements of the small farmer and to most of the horse-breeding localities altogether. In our county there were six registered stallions last year, and five out of these six in the county were thoroughbreds, and one of them was a Shire.

12808. Was there a Shire last year?—Yes.

12809. Where was that?—Bangor, in Killybeg.

12810. (Mr. Micks).—A private horse or one of the Committee's horses?—One of the Committee's horses. He was on the register. There were three of these thoroughbreds standing in the one stable, so it was not very convenient for most of the farmers in the far parts of the county to get at them, and for some of these thoroughbred stallions the small farmers if they got nominations would have to pay from £2 to £4 10s. to get any one of the stallions.

12811. That is an extra fee?—An extra fee; and it is a great drawback on farmers seeking nominations. A small farmer does not like to pay £4 10s. on the chance of a foal, for the simple reason that many of them have not that.

12812. (Mr. Brown).—There are plenty who will take the nominations?—They are not so plenty in our county. The few registered stallions are within a small circle of each other.

12813. At the Carragh?—Yes; and then there is Rathangan, and Castleknock, and Ashy, and Castleknock without one.

12814. If there were any people there who had thoroughbred draught stallions they could have them on the register?—If there were a good selection of Irish draught stallions added to the register, I am sure it would bring up the breed.

12815. (Mr. Micks).—You only know one, and that is on the register?—I have heard that he has passed.

12816. Do you know any others?—No, I do not, that is, in any part of the county.

12817. (Chairman).—You know they are offering prizes now at all the shows trying to find them and bring them into existence, but they have not yet succeeded?—But if they go on improving that breed, at some time they may be able to get at the right type.

12818. (Mr. Micks).—That is the way each breed are always developed, I suppose.

12819. (Mr. Brown).—What about the bull penins and cattle scheme—were you coming to that?—With regard to the Irish Draught, I have bred from an Irish draught mare myself, and have taken several prizes every year for the young stock of pure-bred on this Irish draught mare.

12820. (Chairman).—What else?—Generally a thoroughbred, an Irish draught, and have bred as Irish draught a first prize winner from this pair.

12821. What class is that?—A hunter—a heavy class of a hunter. And I think it would be a great advantage to the stock-breeders and horse-breeders of the county if they could get a veterinary surgeon or chump lines. I think it would be a great advantage to the poor farmers who have to live by stock-raising. And I think the Department could assist many intelligent farmers who are kept down for want of capital by advancing to them money at a low interest for improvements on their farms, such as drainage.

12822. (Mr. Micks).—The Board of Works could do that?—Yes; but the interest is very high.

12823. What would you have to pay?—I suppose about 6 per cent.

12824. You have not tried them?—I have heard it said that the rate of interest is very high and troublesome.

12825. (Chairman).—Have you any plans about that—do you make any suggestions as to how this sort

business could be established?—Through the County Committee. For some of the County Committee, or the Inspector, at all events, to visit the place and see that the improvement was necessary that the farmer had applied for—drainage, or the erection of buildings or repairing of old ones, or the purchase of implements or the like of that.

12320. (Mr. Brown).—Would that be a suitable work for a local Co-operative Society or an Agricultural Bank engaged in advancing money?—An Agricultural Bank.

12321. An Agricultural Bank?—Oh, there are none of them down here.

12322. You have not considered that?—No.

12323. (Mr. Mick).—You have not satisfied yourself that the Board of Works do not offer reasonable terms to farmers who are desirous to improve their land?—I never applied myself, but I have heard other farmers complaining of the high rate of interest that they would be charged.

12324. (Mr. Brown).—Did they ever mention what the rate of interest was?—I have heard something about 6 per cent.

12325. But they would be paying an instalment of both principal and interest?—I see.

12326. The interest would not be more than 3½ or 4½?—With regard to the small farm and cottage price scheme, that has made a great improvement in the country, and there is a very appreciable change for the better in all the competitors' holdings, if only in cleanliness, and the number of competitors is continually increasing. I think there is more general interest taken in this scheme by the people than in any other branch of the Department down there. There have been something like 500 entries in our county for that scheme last year. Then, with regard to those local shows, I think they are doing very good work, but, then, as most of those shows are run generally by landlords, large farmers, and merchants, the Department in subsidising those shows should see that the small farmers' interests are catered for by having special classes for the small farmers at these shows, under a certain valuation.

12327. Have they not?—Not that would satisfy the small farmers. The small farmers do not get as much chance as the larger ones do.

12328. They are run by small as well as large?—You never see them on the Committee.

12329. They can join as members?—They may join, Oct. 15, 1904, but they are never on the Committee.

12330. They can send their views to the County Committee, because the prize schedules have to be submitted to the County Committee?—But the small farmers would not be on the Show Committee.

12331. They cannot be put on the Show Committee unless they are members of the Society. These are Co-operative Societies. All these shows of the county are run by Co-operative Societies, and if the small farmers will not join them, they cannot be put on the Committee?—I have known small farmers to be on the Society, and yet they are not on the Committee, and have no voice in the shows.

12332. They may not be all put on the Committee, but surely there may be representatives of them?—Now, in addition to the premium shows, which are of great advantage to the county, I think the Department should assist in procuring pure-bred sows for pig-breeding.

12333. (Mr. Mick).—Owing to the number of young a sow has that effect would be enormously quickened in improving the breed?—Yes, by getting good sows as well as boars. If a couple of farmers in a county were induced by a premium to keep one pure breed for distribution, just like getting distribution stations, I think it would be a great improvement to the breeding of pigs in the county generally. The horticultural scheme, too, is working well in our county, and many thousand fruit trees are being planted there, all through this, and several new orchards planted. And then, there is a noticeable change, too, in many of the gardens, both in the improvement of quality and quantity of vegetables sown in them, all through the horticultural scheme.

12334. (Chairman).—That is working satisfactorily in your county?—Yes, pretty well.

12335. (Mr. Brown).—Is there any planting for shelter going on in your locality?—No, sir.

12336. (Chairman).—Does that finish what you have to say?—Yes.

12337. (Mr. Mick).—You stated that the small farmers did not get as much advantage as the larger ones?—They have no voice in the local shows.

12338. (Mr. Brown).—In other words, they do not come in and join these show societies?—Some of them did.

Mr. P. J. CASEY examined.

12339. (Chairman).—You are a farmer at Vennemore, County Wicklow?—Yes.

12340. You propose to give us further evidence of the working of the Department in your county?—Yes.

12341. You come on your own account, like the preceding witnesses?—Yes.

12342. Your holding is about 400 acres?—Yes, between Wicklow and Carlow.

12343. The main thing you have got in your notes is the live stock scheme?—Yes. I have not got a copy of what I sent on to you, but the first thing I complain of is the constitution of the Department. The President of the Department should be an Irish M.P. appointed by the Government, and the Vice-President should be appointed by the Board of Agriculture. The Board of Agriculture should consist of the President, the Vice-President, and one paid representative for each of the four provinces in Ireland, elected by the Provincial Council of Agriculture. Each Provincial Council of Agriculture should consist of two members from each county elected by the County Council.

12344. Would you just give us your reasons for that constitution?—The sole reason is to secure the confidence of the people. The people at present have not confidence in the Department as it is constituted.

12345. You don't have it upon any defect in the working of the Department?—I do not.

12346. But merely on the ground that you think it would get more confidence?—Yes. If the alteration was made, the Department would then be in a position to know the wants of the people better.

12347. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you know that at present each province does elect a representative on the Board?—Yes.

12348. (Chairman).—Am I to take it you wish to sweep away the present Department and all its works and have a new one?—I believe the alteration would

be a great acquisition, at all events, and secure the confidence of the people.

12349. Do you think it would carry on the work of agriculture better?—Yes, for the reason that I believe the new Board would have a better knowledge of the needs and wants of the people than the present Board.

12350. Can you point to any practical changes in the working of the Department which you think would be caused by that alteration in their constitution; would the live stock schemes be better, or the testing of manures, or anything of that sort; would these be improved by the new constitution?—I do, because I believe then that all the officers appointed—the lecturers and all these—would, in the opinion of the people, enable the Board to know more of the wants of the people, and they would pay more attention to their instructions.

12351. Is there anything you can point to as wrong in the working of the Department? It is not the working of the Department which you want to see remedied, but you desire an alteration of the constitution?—No; beyond the fact that you would expect that the new constitution would do better.

12352. Is your view this, that the Department would continue working on the same lines as it does at present, but that it would be more generally recognized by the people, and consequently would command the confidence of the people more and would be better appreciated than it is now?—That is my view.

12353. (Mr. O'Brien).—You refer to these instructors as being appointed more directly by the people under the proposed arrangement, and therefore more likely to carry weight by their instruction?—Yes.

12354. The instructors are at present appointed by the County Committees?—Not in a great many cases.

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12851. I thought they were always appointed by the County Committees?—The instructions at present are more or less Scotch or Englishmen.
(Mr. Ogilvie).—They are appointed by the County Committees.

(Chairman).—The facts are against you there.
12852. (Mr. Brown).—What is your own instructor?—We are fortunate in our instructor. He is an Irishman.

12853. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You say the improvement would be because they will be appointed by the new system more directly by the people, but at the present moment they are appointed by the County Committees?—But the County Committees are not to appoint unless the Department sanction.

12854. Unless the person appointed is qualified?—We are often met with the excuse that he is not qualified. Many men of practical experience may not be technically trained, but their experience would make them as good if not better.

12855. Can you give me an example of a man set aside by the Department as not qualified although the County Committee thought he was qualified?—The Department will not sanction him unless he is properly trained.

12856. I understand you to say you have had often cases of a man set aside in that way; have you had any?—I could not point out any.

12857. But you said there had often been cases?—There would not be any use in men applying because they would not be sanctioned.

12858. (Chairman).—Then it is not based on your experience of real grievances. Your evidence rests on the theory of what would be the right thing to do?—Yes.

12859. But not on your actual experience?—I cannot point out any case in particular.

12860. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Has the selection of the Committee been so restricted by the Department's prevention of unqualified men being candidates that the Committee were not satisfied that they got a good man to appoint?—Of course the rules laid down are nobody need apply unless those who are properly trained.

12861. As a result of that, have you been prevented from getting proper men?—It would prevent men.

12862. Has it prevented?—From going forward.
12863. You have not got as good men as otherwise you would have?—That would have to be a matter of trial, and, as I said before, though a certain man might not be properly trained, yet from his experience he would be an equally good man to command the confidence of the people.

12864. Does the man you have got, as a matter of fact, not command the confidence of the people?—He does.

12865. He does not command it any the worse for having been properly trained?—He does not.

12866. He has had sufficient practical knowledge as well as technical training?—He has had.

12867. There is no defect in his practical knowledge?—Not a bit.

12868. He has all the practical knowledge a man not qualified would have?—Yes; he has.

12869. And then he is so much better in that that he has the technical qualification besides?—Yes.

12870. (Chairman).—Let us go on now to the working of the Department?—The Department has proved helpful in many cases, but owing to the nominative character of its candidates it has failed to secure the confidence of the people, and its usefulness has been very restricted in consequence. That is something like what we have just discussed. The Department's scheme for the improvement of the breed of cattle in this county has been fairly successful.

12871. (Mr. Brown).—Do you speak of Wicklow or Carlow too, and I think I may say the same of Carlow too, but instead of having only sixteen premium bulls we should have fifty. The amount of money at our disposal, however, is so small that we cannot increase the number of premiums without abolishing some or perhaps crippling all our other schemes. This, of course, would cause more money to be advanced, but I think it would not be putting a hardship on the Department to do so in order to improve the breed of cattle. Coming to the horses, the thoroughbred stallions registered by the Department are in some cases out of ten very much deficient in bone and substance. No thoroughbred stallion should be registered unless considered capable of acquiring

himself creditably in good company, while carrying twelve stone in a four-mile steeplechase, by a nomination consisting of three experts appointed by the Agricultural Board. Of course it is from the steeplechase more that we get all the good hunters, and they require to be crossed by a very good steeple thoroughbred. The Department has failed in its duty by not instituting a stud-book for the Irish draught horse. It is to this class of animal that the excellence of the Irish hunter is in a great measure due.

12872. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you know where these horses can be found?—I know it is very hard to find them.

12873. Do you know of any?—No. I don't know of one at present.

12874. Have you heard of anybody who does know?—I don't know where there is one at present.

12875. (Mr. Brown).—Why do you say they have failed in their duty?—I would expect that the Department would be able to secure them.

12876. Do you know they have tried?—Yes.

12877. They have used their inspectors, and held meetings to inspect them all over Ireland—have not they?—Yes; they have.

12878. Since 1904 is there anything else you would suggest they could do to find this draught horse; anything that they have not done?—If they offered more facilities for the purchase of these animals.

12879. Have not they got to find them first? They have offered £50 premiums?—No doubt they are very scarce.

12880. You make a charge against the Department of failing in its duty. I want to know what it is they ought to have done that they have not done in this respect?—For instance, if they tried to procure these animals on their own book.

12881. Have they not tried?—I am not aware that they have.

12882. You are aware they have held meetings all over Ireland, at convenient centres in every county, to have these animals brought up for inspection to be registered, and they would get a premium if they existed, and they have only found a few. What else could they do; that has been done in 1904, 1902, and 1900—perhaps you don't suggest anything else?—I don't see what can be done if the Department cannot secure them; but I was not aware that the Department had taken such steps.

12883. Yes; you will find that in the Annual Report, if you have read them?—What if the Department had breeding studs now of Irish draught animals?

12884. They have undertaken to do that at a meeting of the Council of Agriculture, or try to do it?—To breed these animals.

12885. They were asked for the first time to do it last November, and we have been informed they have gone about it. They have to get the animals first—it would be a great benefit if it could be done, and have the young stock sold to farmers at reasonable prices. The scheme for improving the breed of up has been a comparative failure with or down in Wicklow. They don't like the class of animals they could get up here at these shows. We had a couple of them down and their produce could not be sold to the country people.

12886. (Mr. Dryden).—What class of animals do you like best?—The old common white ones. They always grow a better size. There is so much fat getting them at these shows.

12887. What would that class of animal be suitable for; making bacon or what?—They are first suitable as small pigs, as "bons," and are very easily sold. They grow a good size, and are considered to make the best bacon.

12888. Do these farms that buy pigs for the purpose of bacon approve of that breed?—They do. I don't say but they would as soon have this other breed, as regards the bacon part of it, but the farmer who has first to take his deal out of the pig is the man.

12889. You think it does not matter to the farmer what quality the animal he produces if it has so much weight?—It does matter, but I believe they would be as good quality as anything else. There is no better quality.

12890. I don't know about that, but I assume that if the pork dealers don't like the breed for bacon then must be a reason for it. They want a good quality. Otherwise the bacon won't sell on the general market?—There is no better quality than the animals I speak of, and they grow to a great size.

12891. It is not size they want; it is not fat they want?—These don't grow so fat. They are not fit

desired to be as fat as others. They are supposed to be much more lean and to make nice bacon. It is the old custom while pig with the straight nose. It has no particular name that I know of.

12922. (Mr. Brown).—What do you say should be done with regard to that breed?—If they possibly could be procured. We have been asking our instructor if the like could be got, and it seems they are hard to be got.

12923. It is something like the case of the old Irish draught horse. I think it is. I remember two years ago being at a show in Dublin with a gentleman who wanted to buy one, but there was no such animal in the show.

12924. What do the County Committee offer prizes for?—They have had the Berkshire. It seems they are a failure.

12925. Are you a member of the County Committee?—Yes. They offer premiums for the animals I speak of in case they could be got, and no one applied.

12926. The County Committee did offer prizes for the animals you refer to, and they could not be got?—Yes.

12927. That was the reason your boar scheme was a failure?—Yes.

12928. I did not understand that. I thought you meant it was owing to something the Department did, or omitted to do?—There was no probability of getting it.

12929. Was it not the large Yorkshire that was proposed as a breed that premiums should be given to or large or middle Yorks; did your Committee refuse to accept either large or middle Yorkshire?—No. They accepted the large Yorkshire.

12930. And they accepted also this particular old boar?—It could be got.

12931. Was the large Yorkshire prepared?—In two or three cases. It was a failure. The premium, £25 the first year and £25 the second, was considered small.

12932. How much did you pay for the boar?—£25.

12933. You got the whole price of the boar the first year?—Yes.

12934. (Mr. Dryden).—In other words, you got the boar for nothing, and £25 the second year?—You have to take into consideration its keep.

(Mr. Brown).—If he was not a pure bred at all he should be worth his keep.

12935. (Mr. Dryden).—You have in the end what he is worth?—The sheep scheme is only in its infancy. It is working satisfactorily, and might be extended. Of course, Wicklow has been very successful. The poultry scheme has been very successful.

12936. Have you egg stations in your county?—Yes.

12937. Then, the itinerant instructor, I suppose?—Yes. They are fairly patronised, and, I think, are doing good.

12938. (Chairman).—This is what you have said in your paper sent in:—"The quality of the fowl kept in your county is a marked degree. The scheme is working well. As in the case of the dairy instructors, more work should be done by this officer in the houses of the poultry keepers." Is that your view?—Yes. I think they are paying fairly good attention to the visiting of the houses, and it is working fairly satisfactorily.

12939. (Mr. Brown).—The dairy instructor?—The dairy instructor has done good. It has created much cleanliness.

12940. (Chairman).—This is what you say about this:—"Better-making instructors in butter-making has proved very helpful to many farmers. The quality of the butter is much better now than it was formerly. The instructors should, if possible, give knowledge to farmers' dairies." That is your view?—Yes. That would be very useful. In some cases the farmers don't embrace the opportunity.

12941. (Mr. Brown).—Wherever the instructors are in a particular district she offers to go to the home of any farmer who wishes, but these invitations are not so numerous as they ought to be?—They are not so numerous as they ought to be. The varied lectures of inspectors have done a lot of good. Since they were instituted there has been a considerable improvement in the method of farming, especially those things bearing on the manuring of land, the selection of seeds, and the breeding and rearing of live stock.

12942. (Chairman).—Referring to the beneficial effects of agricultural instruction you say:—"Farmers take a greater pride and more intelligent interest in their work; the area under tillage has in-

creased, and live stock of all kinds save pigs has largely increased in number." You also say the quantity of artificial manures used in the county is three or four times as large as it was before the instructor was appointed, and greater care is exercised in the purchase and selection of manures and the breeding and feeding of live stock?—Yes. In the County Wicklow we have had the advantage of a trained Irishman who understood the needs and wants of the country. That is what I referred to in the first instance. Sufficient lecturing has now been done, and the Department should utilize part of Avondale as an Agricultural College for the training of the young men. That would be a great matter. They have the land there. They have young men there. They could do much in that way in Avondale, and carry out the tests that I heard suggested by some of the witnesses here to-day. I would not approve of a larger talking the matter on his own shoulders. I think they would be rather foolish to do that, but I think without much expense they could have some experimental plots there. They have the lecturer and they have the men. They have boys down them in the forestry, and they are making very little headway with them.

12943. (Mr. Glynn).—Do you mean by experimental plots, plots that had been well manured?—Yes, farming plots; the growing of woods, for instance.

12944. (Mr. Brown).—You suggest that Avondale instead of being a forestry station should be turned into an agricultural station like Athlone?—Part of it. I would not interfere with the forestry business at all. There is plenty of room there for all. They have house accommodation; they have everything.

12945. You think it would serve both purposes—that it is large enough for both?—Yes. They have young men down there the last two years, and they have not got any further with them than clearing woods and brushwood for planting, and planting trees. That I hold is not sufficient education for the young men they have taken in, and they have been according to be better trained.

12946. (Mr. Glynn).—In the management of woods and forests?—Yes, and the growing of seeds. For instance, they could have a nursery there for themselves that would supply them hereafter.

12947. And they have no nursery?—They have no nursery. They could educate these young men in the growing of seeds.

12948. Have you visited the place?—I have.

12949. And you are satisfied they have no nursery?—They have no nursery; I don't think they have, for tree seeds.

12950. They have planted trees, but they have all been brought from somewhere else?—Yes. They have taken no steps that I am aware of.

12951. You have satisfied yourself they have no nursery work?—You say to last year, at all events.

12952. When did they acquire the property?—They have it for the last three years.

12953. When was it ultimately decided as to the nature of the operations that were to be conducted in it?—They started clearing for planting.

12954. How long have they had young men there?—For the last two years.

12955. And they have not laid out any nursery work at all?—No nursery work, and I think that would be most useful. It is hardly fair to take a young man and keep him that length of time—three years is supposed to be the time—without instructing him in the raising all classes of trees.

12956. You have told us you thought, that you were not quite sure, they had not?—I am quite sure they have not. A system of dispensing veterinary advice to farmers at a small cost should be instituted without delay. That is a very important thing, and should not cost very much. The men are there and it should be something on the system of doctors I think.

12957. (Mr. Brown).—You would have veterinary dispensaries?—Something like that.

12958. (Chairman).—At all events you would want to have more veterinary knowledge available throughout the country?—You would soon have that if the vacancy arose. There is a large quantity of waste land in this county which the Department should purchase and plant with suitable timber trees. The rearing of their own trees would be a step towards that.

12959. (Mr. Glynn).—You think the Department should purchase land with a view to planting it?—Yes.

12960. For raising woods?—For raising woods.

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Mr. F. J.
Corry.

12940. As distinct from shelter for cattle?—Yes; it would be useful. It would pay its way in the end. Ireland is being stripped of trees and will soon have very little timber left.

12941. In the early part of such a scheme the Department would be very much out of pocket?—No; it would not be very long—about ten years—if they planted certain trees. It would be able to pay its expenses by thinning the woods.

12942. During those ten years what section of their work could they take the money from?—I suppose they would still be planting.

12943. They would have to starve themselves also to plant the trees. Would you have them starve the live stock scheme?—No. I would not like to see that done.

12944. What is the proposal?—Is there not money enough to be got?

12945. They don't seem to have sufficient at all; you mean to propose that they should have more money?—I think they have more money if we could only get it.

On returning after luncheon.

Mr. EDWARD KENNEDY, Straffan, examined.

Mr. Edward
Kennedy.

12946. (Chairman).—You represent the Irish Cattle Traders' and Stockowners' Association?—Yes. I was asked to give some evidence with regard to the Irish cattle trade.

12947. What are you yourself?—I am a cattle trader. I have been connected with the Irish cattle trade since 1878. There is scarcely a market in England to which I have not been with my own cattle.

12948. Where do you reside?—I reside near Straffan. I farm nearly 1,000 acres of land. The general trend of my evidence, I would like it to be clearly understood, would be rather dealing with those things which the Agricultural Department have left undone. The Cattle Traders' Association complain, and I certainly agree, that we lose a very vast source of income owing to the fact that the Agricultural Department have practically done nothing to foster our trade—Irish cattle, that is fat cattle, get so knocked about before being sold in the English markets that they are taken only when practically there is no other stock available, and they are sold simply as second class cattle; that is, speaking generally.

12949. (Mr. Dryden).—That statement could not be made in reference to all your cattle?—Practically all the Irish fat cattle. The best butchers in England, the butchers who want the best article, and have customers who are prepared to pay for it, won't have Irish at any price. The principal reason of that is the insufficient means and negligent means of transit in this country. The cattle get so damaged, and they have to make such an extensive allowance for bruising and damage that good butchers in England simply won't have them at any price.

12950. It is not the quality of the cattle themselves?—There is no finer quality of cattle the world over than Irish cattle. More than half the cattle sold in England are really produced from Irish sources.

12951. (Mr. Nichol).—There is bad driving and bad accommodation on the boats?—We have represented this, but without result to the Department an acre or two once occasion. We have asked them to see that proper arrangements are made at railway stations on the occasions of cattle fairs and markets. We have asked them to see that the best tanks at stations are not taken possession of by the lowest raffish in the land and that cattle are not systematically hammered.

12952. (Chairman).—What power have the Department?—They have power to see that proper arrangements for loading cattle are made at railway stations.

12953. Where did they get those powers?—That I cannot say. If they have not got them they are obviously of no use as an Agricultural Department.

12954. (Mr. Dryden).—You suppose they have some power to induce the railway companies to do what is required?—We have made those demands but the Department did nothing.

12955. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you have asked the railway companies to do it?—Yes. We have had some slight effect on the railway companies.

12946. You think the Department has money enough to go on planting Ireland?—Yes, to a great extent in the County Wicklow, where a great deal of land is useful for nothing else and would be useful for timber growing.

12947. (Mr. Brown).—Is not that the land that there is mountain grazing on?—Part of it is so no use for grazing and would ruin the forest of timber.

12948. Have you satisfied yourself as to that?—Yes.

12949. What part is that?—The mountains of Wicklow.

12950. The mountains are all grazed; have you any mountains not grazed?—Some of them are very little use for grazing.

12951. Where they are rocky and steep?—Yes.

12952. Would that be a suitable place to begin timbering?—Unless it was altogether rocky if you could at all plant the trees they would do remarkably well.

12953. To fence them off from the mountain sheep would be a difficult matter?—It would not take so very much.

12954. Would not the railway companies be more likely to be affected by your Association than by the Department who have no power?—No; I should imagine the Department would have more power. I cannot really see how it can be of any use to the farmers of industries in the country if it cannot secure the provision of proper means for loading cattle on railways.

12955. (Mr. Nichol).—Are those men who attend the cattle transpore or are they employed by cattle-dealers?—I think that has been, to a certain extent, remedied by our Association. Frequently they were in possession. I have often seen a loading bank in possession of them, and very often a free fight.

12956. (Chairman).—If they are transpore the railway companies are the people to turn them off and not the Department?—I think the feeling of the Association is that; if the Department wants to put an end to this state of things, it certainly should have power to see that the cattle out of the country are not a by-word to a great extent.

12957. (Mr. Dryden).—Some person in authority you think would have more influence with a railway company than a private individual; I have seen instances of it in Canada, where they really revolutionised the working of a railway because someone in an official position interested on behalf of the community. It is all law and no force. It would pay these people to do it?—I am certain it would.

12958. (Mr. Nichol).—Your boards are a couple of pounds per head worse as a result of their treatment?—From the time the cattle leave the place where they are sold until they reach some market centre in Yorkshire or Lancashire the wagon would be £2 a head.

12959. (Mr. Brown).—Is this grievance going worse or better?—I think owing to the efforts of the Cattle Traders' Association it is better. After how we have now two or three policemen going on the bank and, to a certain extent, they keep down the rascals which used to prevail. In the old days I have paid as much as a sovereign or a half a sovereign to obtain a wagon, because I have seen a whole train taken possession of by rascals, who would sell wagons to the highest bidder they could get—the owners of stock.

12960. (Mr. Nichol).—Unemployed drivers?—They were unemployed; the lowest of the law. That is more than twenty years ago.

12961. Men with ash-plants?—Sometimes ships better than ash-plants. On one occasion I saw a pistol used. That was at Galway.

12962. (Mr. Dryden).—I suppose if this could be remedied you would be able to pay the farmer a better price for his cattle?—The farmer would no doubt indirectly reap a benefit. The cattle would not bear the bad character they bear at present in the English market if once we could land them in the same unobstructed condition as the American and Canadian cattle are landed. We naturally would all benefit.

12963. You would get your share of it, but you would have more or less influence on the Department.

if you could point out that the people generally would get more for their cattle—it would be an increase to the revenue of the country, and we should all take our share.

12974. The farmer would get something?—There is no doubt he would.

12975. In other words, the cattle after they leave his hands are injured so as to destroy the real value of it?—Irish fat cattle have a very bad character in all the English markets. We had them in a most dreadfully injured condition. Cattle coming from America and Canada are landed practically absolutely without a hair turned.

12976. (Mr. Nichol).—Is that partly owing to the accommodation on the steamships?—No doubt the accommodation on board our steamships even on the north-western—which is fairly good—is very second-rate indeed, but I think most of the bruises are given on our Irish railways. You cannot realize the amount of shunting they give our cattle, and the shunting they give is rough shunting.

12977. First they have the drivers whacking them?—Yes. Next, for want of sufficient accommodation to load them they often have the shunting.

12978. And then the steamships?—The steamships lose them all. It is greatly to the discredit of the country that cattle can be landed from 4,000 miles in perfect condition, and that after a journey of 200 or 300 miles are so injured as to be a by-word among the butchers of England.

12979. There is generally a landing for a particular market?—One naturally likes to get the earliest ship.

12980. That would account for a good deal of the whacking?—I think it is to be accounted for simply by the fact that the railway companies don't have an efficient staff of their own, and the dealers have to fall back upon every Jack, Bill, Tom and Harry whom they can hire for a few shillings here and there.

12981. You think your drovers should deliver to the railway gates and that the railway people should put the cattle in the box?—The railway companies charge for loading and unloading, and I don't see it done. In the English markets where you sell your cattle you are criticised by a railway agent, who comes and takes them out of your hands. He does it himself with a very fine staff.

12982. (Mr. Brown).—Do you know whether any representations have been made by the Department to the railway companies?—I cannot say that, but the impression left on my mind is that they have not made any. The impression left on the mind of the Department was that the Department thought things were very well as they were. We sent four or five deputations altogether to Sir Horace Plunkett, and he left us under the impression that that was his view. The five deputations were not always in reference to transport, but concerned other matters also affecting the cattle trade.

12983. (Chairman).—I see that in Mr. O'Neill's evidence, question 3295, he says, "As regards the transit of animals that is largely old work, except that since the Department was established, as the result of the recommendation of a joint Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture and the Department, fresh regulations were framed with a view of accelerating still further the conditions under which animal transit by rail and sea between the two countries is carried on. There is a staff of inspectors who look after these matters. These Orders are made under the Diseases of Animals Act."

12984. (Chairman).—Will you go on now?—We sent a deputation not very long ago to the Department to ask them to do something to remedy what is really a plague with regard to the cattle of the country; that is the damage done by the ox warble fly. I cannot see what money they may or may not have, but they have the power to enforce the dressing of sheep to prevent sheep scab. What I would urge, and urge strongly, is that the same power that they have with regard to sheep might be dealt out to them in some way to deal with this plague of the ox warble fly. They did not tell us whether they had or had not the power, but we came away under the impression that we were laughed at, that what we stated to be the loss of revenue by damage of the ox warble fly, simply they thought it was a fairy tale; yet there is not any doubt about it. It is beyond you or me. Every animal grown in Ireland makes a minimum loss of £1 a head from the cause.

12985. (Mr. Dryden).—That is £3 loss. You have already stated that there is £2 loss on transit, and now there is this £1 loss on the animal?—Not on the skin, but we lose at least £1 by the ravages of the warble fly. Take first of all the damage to the hide. That would be, perhaps, five or six shillings. Then we lose in feeding the animal the whole month of July. That the average year we lose the whole month. If you weigh your fat beast or forward store beast on the 1st of July in an average season and weigh it on the 1st of August in a better season you pour an extraordinary amount of bloodfeeding into him. That is from the fact that the animal is continually galloping about all day and is unable to feed. The result is the cattle do not increase, or they decrease, in July, and in dry seasons like this they very often have a broken leg. I offered an animal this week which broke its leg in July from galloping. It would have been worth a good deal of money. I offered it for £3.

12986. (Mr. Brown).—Do you apply any remedy yourself?—Certainly. I destroy all the warbles of my own cattle. I am only affected by the warbles coming over my neighbour's ditch.

12987. What do you do besides destroy the warbles?—I can do nothing to keep the fly off. Within two years you could destroy every warble fly in Ireland if the same course that was enforced with regard to sheep scab were enforced with regard to cattle.

12988. I suppose you are aware that the Department have no power with regard to the warble fly. It is not a contagious disease?—I think they should have made some effort to get the powers during the last seven years. I think they are neglecting the best interests of the country in not obtaining these powers.

12989. I would like to know what is your suggestion?—It is the simplest remedy in the world. From April to the 1st of August every ox warble fly has to come out in chrysalis form or grub, as it really is, from the animal's back. That means a sort of abscess in animal's back, and the chrysalis can be killed by stopping its breathing hole. This can be done by dressing. I dress mine with a little tar mixed with lard.

12990. (Mr. Nichol).—Thus sealing up the effluvia?—Absolutely. You cannot realise what some animals suffer in April when this is suppurating. Of course, there are some cattle with extraordinary thick hides that can resist the fly.

12991. (Chairman).—You say this is a very serious evil, and that steps should be taken by legislation if necessary to remedy it?—Exactly. I would like to say something with regard to the alleged improvement in the breed of cattle in Ireland. I am sorry to say the Association, composed absolutely of practical men who have got to live by the cattle trade, all think that the cattle of the country are disimproving.

12992. (Mr. Nichol).—Are you speaking of the cattle you meet on the fattening land?—I am speaking of the general cattle of the country.

12993. I take it a good deal of the young cattle come from the extreme west of Ireland, and then go on stores to millland places, and then ultimately to be fattened in the east or to be shipped as good stores to England or Scotland?—The principal breeding districts of the country are the south. A great deal of the supply, even in districts round Ballinacree, are obtained as calves from the north, from Lincolns. We attribute what we call the degeneration in the breed of cattle entirely to the overcrossing. I would go so far myself. I buy a great many cattle in Lincoln, and I should say that the old type of Lincolns cow will soon be a thing of the past.

12994. (Chairman).—They are so careless about the breeding that so long as they get the milk it does not matter?—That is more or less the reason, and the farmers who rear calves trust too much to the separated milk. I don't think any artificial means in the world can replace the cream. I would like to say also I agree with what a veterinary surgeon, Mr. Huxton, said in the north as to the spread of tubercular diseases throughout the country. It is something extraordinary.

12995. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you any evidence of that?—I sold myself last week twelve cattle which were purchased in the South of Ireland. Two of those were taken by the inspector after they left my hands. They were both tubercular. I don't think there are many cows in Lincolns over five or six years' old that

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are not suffering from tubercular disease. It is a most alarming state of things. If you go to a fair now, at what they call the back end of the spring of the year, the number of cows you see that they call pious is really startling.

12993. (Mr. Micks).—What do you mean by pious?—It is the native term for wasting away. It is pining away, wasting away. Recent experiments have shown us that there is no doubt that the creamy milk is largely responsible for that. Von Behring's experiments have shown us the proportion existing from tubercular disease of the udder. I saw that Professor M'Wenny states that it was two per cent. in Ireland. I did not think it was so much. In these cases the animals were so far gone that the milk was infected, and the bovine bacillus was in the milk. Professor M'Wenny has given the proportion as two per cent. The milk of these cows goes to creameries. In each case it is mixed up with the milk of 200 cows that are perfectly sound of their udders. The experiments go to show that we don't get the bovine bacillus in our butter. It sinks to the bottom, and remains in the separated milk, which is sold to the farmers of the country at about a halfpenny a gallon, or perhaps not so much.

12994. Or returned?—Or returned to them; and then it is given to the calves, and it is to this fact that we attribute the enormous increase of tubercular disease. The calves are drinking the milk infected with the bovine bacillus of tubercular disease. There is no doubt about that.

12995. Do you suggest anything as regards tuberculosis?—I would suggest there should be the most stringent inspection of all dairy cows. I think it is equally important for our own health as for the health of our cattle, that not only the cows, but the dairy yards and the byres, the houses they are in. They are often in a most dreadful state, the cattle sheds in the south. No doubt they are improving, but they are still in a very bad state.

12996. You would have compulsory inspection?—Yes.

12997. What would follow that?—I would condemn any cattle that were diseased.

12998. To be slaughtered?—Yes. That was maliciously diseased to affect the milk.

12999. (Chairman).—And you would give compensation?—I think they would have to be compensated. It would ruin farmers if they were not compensated.

13000. (Mr. Micks).—You think it would not take long to wipe the disease out?—I could not give an opinion on that.

13001. Two per cent you say are affected?—I think Professor M'Wenny says that.

13002. If you wipe out 2 per cent you wipe out the infected animals?—It would wipe out the infection which the calves get direct from the creamery. That ought to be quite easily done. You would have to keep on the inspection, but it would decrease very rapidly. As a rule it is only an animal of a certain age that gets so much infected as to have tubercular disease of the udder. It would be an old cow as a rule. I don't say that there might not be some young cows that would get it but it is the old ones that get it in such an advanced form as to affect the udder.

13003. (Mr. Dwyer).—But the animals might get it in the lungs?—That may be, but I think as a rule the udder would be the last organ affected. The bacillus would have to be in the blood and the disease would have to be in a pretty advanced stage to affect the udder.

13004. Sometimes it develops in the udder?—You might have a case of it developing in the udder.

13005. (Chairman).—Will you take your next point?—I don't think I have very much more to say. I just wish to refer to the horses of the country. There have been various complaints. A certain amount of the public have lost faith in the stallions that have been imported into Ireland. I don't know whether they have lost faith in the individual stallions, but there are complaints about the methods, and I think with much reason, because it has come to light that profit has been obtained on horses that were brought into the country to benefit the ordinary farmer. The Department have sold them for more than they have paid for them. This has created a very bad feeling throughout the country. This I can prove beyond any set day. It came out by accident. I was consulted

by a very practical farmer in Month, who is also a horse dealer, with regard to a horse called Rahama, which he said we should be very well to get from the Department. I told him it might do very well over here, but it had failed with thoroughbred stock in England. He said he had been asked £700 for it. I said I was greatly surprised, because I knew what the horse cost in England. I had been invited to buy it. It belonged to Sir Richard Griffiths. I declined to buy it because it had not been a success with thoroughbred stock. I said to Mr. Rogers, the gentleman who consulted me, I thought it might do better here than in England, as it was a good horse. He told me on the following day he had been offered the horse at £200 and accepted it. I told him the horse only cost £200. He asked me did I think I could do anything to get the money back for him. I am afraid I forgot about it. In due course he applied to Mr. Walter Long. Mr. Walter Long wrote to Sir Horace Plunkett and Sir Horace said it was quite true they had made a profit on the horse. Mr. Long said he did not think the Department should be an adjunct to a horse breeding establishment. He thought they did very wrong to charge a profit on horses that came over as a benefit to the Irish farmer, and he expressed a very strong opinion on the subject.

13006. Was this correspondence published?—No; it was not, but it was sent to me; not as a private matter at all. Sir Horace Plunkett then wrote back and said that on some horses they made a very great loss, and he thought when they found a very practical man who was capable of paying for horses they should charge him what they considered the horse was worth. That sort of transaction has not created a good feeling with regard to the horses that have come over and has not popularised the Department. I wrote then after this to the member for the county and he asked a question in the House of Commons. I propose to hand in a letter to the county member which you can have and it includes an extract from Sir Horace Plunkett's letter. Sir Horace Plunkett said in reply to Mr. Walter Long—"It is quite true that it is not the object of the Department to make a profit out of the purchase and sale of horses and taken in the aggregate we lose a very considerable loss on our attempts to get good blood into the country than poor ones can afford to pay." That is rather a confession of inability.

13007. What were the question and answer in the House?—If it was true that stallions had been brought over from England and sold at a profit to Irish farmers.

13008. (Mr. Brown).—What was the answer?—The answer was yes; that in the aggregate they were not sold at a profit; that is if they brought over twenty horses some would be sold for less than what they paid. But Mr. Rogers, who bought this horse, said it is a great injustice that a tax should be put on his export. He is a man who began with very little, and has got on very well in the world by industry and care.

13009. He would know the value of a horse?—Yes. He would form as good an opinion as anybody.

13010. (Chairman).—Your point is that horses should not be sold at a profit under any circumstances?—All the Month farmers were very angry when they heard about it. I just propose to put in my letter to the county member I wrote to and the extracts from the letters with regard to the stallions that have been brought over. I think they have brought over some very very useful horses. I heard what the last witness said about steeple-chasing stallions. It is an impossibility. You cannot steeple-chase stallions. There is only one stallion in every 100 that will go over a steeple-chase course.

13011. (Mr. Brown).—Have you any opinion on the draught horse question?—I did not quite gather what he meant—I utterly disagree with what he said that the chief merit of our hunters was obtained from the draughts. That is very incorrect.

13012. You don't believe in that?—No practical man could agree with that.

13013. You agree there is used for some species of agricultural stallion?—Yes; no doubt there is.

13014. In the counties you are familiar with?—Yes.

13015. You are also opposed to the introduction of the Shire and Clydesdale blood?—I don't think so.

have any want for these. What they call the old Irish draught was more suitable for the country.

13020. The difficulty is he has been allowed to do out?—To a certain extent you find a good deal of it in

the South of Ireland. We have no heavy clay in this country like what they have in England.

13021. You want a lighter and more active horse?—Yes, a lighter and more active horse.

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13022. (Chairman).—Mr. Edmondson, you are the Chairman of the Rathmines Technical Instruction Committee?—I am, sir.

13023. And you represent the Committee here?—I do.

13024. And I think there is a document from the Rathmines Technical Instruction Committee in answer to the letter from the Secretary of this Committee. Are you going to put that in?—We have already sent it in to you some time ago.

13025. Yes, you must have sent it in, but do you wish to read it now?—Some portions of it. Perhaps that will be the best way to give my evidence if it meets with your views.

13026. Just as you please; take your own course?—I will go through the parts that are most important:

(1) The letter from the Inquiry Committee, dated 14th April, 1906, was considered by the Rathmines Technical Instruction Committee at a Special Meeting, called for the purpose, on Monday, 23rd April, 1906.

Mr. Thomas Edmondson, F.R.S.E., Chairman of Committee, and Mr. C. H. O'Hara, B.A., F.R.S.E., Principal of the Rathmines Urban District Council School of Commerce, were then named as a Sub-Committee to draft this Memorandum; embodying all suggestions received from members of the Committee. The draft to be laid before Committee on Monday, 14th May, 1906.

On that date, after consideration, the Committee postponed the business to their June meeting. On 19th June, after further consideration, the matter was postponed to a Special Meeting, called for Monday, 26th June, when the draft was amended and finally approved of it in its present form.

(2) The Rathmines Technical Instruction Committee is appointed by the Urban District Council of Rathmines and Rathgar for the purposes of Part II. of the Act of 1899 (under Section 15). It consists of eight members, who are Urban Councillors, and of seven other persons, making fifteen members in all.

(3) The funds used by the Committee are between £1,800 and £1,900 per annum, derived as follows:—

(a) Rate of 1d. in £ on bridge in £711 in the Rathmines Urban District (Section 19 (3) of Act, 1899). Next after Dublin, Belfast, and Cork, Rathmines yields the largest 1d. rate in all Ireland.

(b) A grant of £1,500 has been annually received from the Department with the concurrence of the Board of Technical Instruction (Section 15 of 1899 Act).

(c) Students' Fees yield £185 to £195.

(4) With this annual income this Committee maintains the Rathmines Urban District Council School of Commerce, which has completed its 4th Session. The current Prospectus of the School of Commerce is forwarded herewith.

It is a unique instance in Ireland, and perhaps in the United Kingdom, of a technical school, maintained by public funds, which is specialised to supply for persons of either sex technical instruction for commercial life only.

(5) The Rathmines School of Commerce draws its students from the whole metropolitan area, and is not deemed merely for the requirements of the Rathmines Urban District. By specialising in commercial education, and more especially in the higher branches of commercial education, the Rathmines Committee have succeeded in overlapping the work of the technical schools of the city of Dublin and of the Pembroke Urban District. Many of the inhabitants of Rathmines go to the latter schools to obtain technical training of an industrial type. On the other hand the whole metropolitan area gets in the Rathmines School of Commerce instruction in branches of commercial education which are not obtainable in any other institution.

(6) Hence the experience which the Rathmines Committee has acquired is of a special kind. It is in a peculiar position. There are branches of technical instruction provided for at Rathmines which would appear to be unique in the United Kingdom. The

organisation of commercial education, especially in its higher branches, is a special work presenting its own peculiar problems. Having regard to the backward condition of commercial education in the United Kingdom, the special experience gained, and the means used for the practical organisation of commercial education in the Rathmines School of Commerce, may perhaps have some claim for special consideration by the Inquiry Committee.

(7) The Department, having approved of the Rathmines scheme, seem to have recognised the special character of our work; they left us practically a free hand to work out our School of Commerce on our own lines.

Our relations have always been amicable. They have always sanctioned all that we have done; and we have never proposed anything that they have hindered by their veto. On the other hand, we have received much cordial encouragement, and the stimulus of emphatic approval from the higher officials on the Technical Instruction side of the Department. We also include in this remark, Mr. Robert Blair, who was formerly one of these officials.

(8) This Committee is, in particular, most indebted to Sir Horace Plunkett, K.C.V.O., for the warm interest which he has always shown in the Rathmines School of Commerce, and for the practical support which the Committee have received from him. Some months ago, when uncertainty existed on the subject, this Committee by unanimous vote declared its opinion that Sir Horace Plunkett should be retained in the position of Vice-President of the Department, as we considered that, in the present immature condition of technical education in Ireland, a change in the person chiefly responsible for its organisation so far would be a mistake, and might prove very detrimental to the progress which technical education was making in this country. It is our opinion that the Vice-President should be a permanent official of the Department.

(9) When this Committee began its special work, technical instruction for Commerce was a thing unknown and untried in Dublin. After four years' work the situation is to-day wholly changed. Students were attracted to the School of Commerce, in the first instance, by the reputation of the teachers we employed; and retained there by the high quality of the teaching they have received. This is a principle which this Committee has applied with such desirable success that we regard it as fundamental. We employed none but teachers of the very highest qualifications, and we remunerated them handsomely for the teaching they gave. We have always paid all our money for teaching; none for prizes or bursaries to bribe students to learn. We think that in a public school like ours, good teaching ought not to be substituted for good teaching. Unless a subject can be taught by a highly competent teacher and in the best possible way, it is better, we think, not to teach it.

Our success as a School of Commerce is entirely due to the quality of the teaching. The high scale of remuneration paid to our teachers, the known reputation of the teaching staff, the fact that all of them were local people—men and women well known in Dublin for their special ability—and, finally, the fact that we always secured a practical business man, known in Dublin business circles as such, to teach a business subject; this it is that has made the Rathmines School of Commerce a really useful institution whose practical value has gained the recognition of the business community in Dublin and district.

(10) The fact is noteworthy—that the teaching at Rathmines is applied directly to people who are actually at work in Dublin business houses. The students are nearly all adults who are at business already. The School Classes all meet at night between 7 and 10 p.m. for this reason.

We prescribe no curriculum; each subject is taught as an independent class, and students select the subjects they want. As a matter of fact, the different grades of the Commercial world want different groups of subjects; so that it is practicable to devise a Time

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(11.) The School Prospectus shows details for all the Classes. In this Memorandum it will be sufficient to say that the subjects of instruction are compressed under the following six groups, viz:—

- (a.) Junior Commercial Subjects.
- (b.) Senior Commercial Subjects.
- (c.) Modern Language Classes.
- (d.) Special Classes for Bank Clerks.
- (e.) Special Classes for Insurance Clerks.
- (f.) Special Classes for Railway Clerks.

Our experience of these different branches has tended to enforce a point which we now mention—as it reveals a principle in the organisation of a system of technical instruction which is important.

(12.) The principle may be thus stated.—Wherever any branch of Commerce is already organised, the technical instruction for that branch ought to be grafted upon that existing organisation. And when it is a case that no such organisation already exists, then it becomes part of the function of any Department that is organising technical instruction to take steps to bring into existence (if it can) some organisation of the kind, in order to have something as a basis upon which the subsequent system of technical instruction may, as it were, be grafted. We proceed to illustrate this from our own experience.

(13.) Thus the various banking companies are already organised in the Institute of Bankers in Ireland. In devising classes for Bank Clerks in our School of Commerce, we have made use of the Institute of Bankers; we accept their programme of instruction, and we arrange classes to teach the subjects that the Institute examines in.

Again, the various Insurance Companies are already organised in the Insurance Institute of Ireland. Moreover, the British and Irish Institutes have further combined to form the "Federation of Insurance Institutes," a body which conducts one series of examinations in Insurance Subjects for the whole of the United Kingdom. Accordingly in devising classes for Insurance Clerks in our School of Commerce we have made use of the Insurance Institute of Ireland. Accepting the advice and assistance of their Education Committee, we arrange classes in our School of Commerce to teach the subjects which Dublin Insurance Clerks must take for the "Federation Examinations."

Yet, again, the Irish Railway Companies have an organisation for certain common purposes (not yet educational purposes) at the Irish Railway Clearing House. Accordingly, in devising classes at the School of Commerce for Railway Clerks, we have made use of the meetings of the Railway Managers at the Railway Clearing House. And our experience of these Railway Classes has been of such a kind that we find that their successful working will depend upon the formation of a Railway Education Committee to supervise their working; so much so that we are at the present moment pressing upon the Railway Managers the necessity for such a Railway Education Committee to sit at the Railway Clearing House, if the problem of the technical education of Railway Clerks is to be successfully grappled with.

(14.) Now, the principle illustrated in these three cases from our own experience is very widely applicable. We seek to direct the Inquiry Committee's attention to it, because it points to a part of the functions of a State Department, engaged in organising technical education, which has not yet been properly appreciated in Ireland.

Take, as an instance that concerns ourselves, the contrast which the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom present to similar bodies, say, in Germany. The Chambers of Commerce in the United Kingdom are only a very loose form of organisation among business firms compared with what similar Chambers have become in Germany. Now, the Commercial education of the United Kingdom is far behind that of Germany, very largely because of this difference. Our experience goes to show that a Government instrument, such as a Department of Technical Instruction, ought to apply itself as part of its function, to stimulating in our Chambers of Commerce a movement towards a closer co-operation among business firms for common purposes. It ought to do this slowly in order that a trade organisation may thereby be created in these countries upon which the

Commercial Education of the United Kingdom may hereafter be erected to something equivalent to the German level.

(15.) It would be out of place in a Memorandum such as this to develop this point further. Shortly stated, our point is that a Government Department of Technical Instruction must not be merely concerned with the supervision and subsidising of Technical Schools. It must step down into the actual world outside the schools; and it must there initiate, organise, and push forward movements of various kinds, which help to create a medium in which the schools can live, be nourished, and thrive.

State action of that kind is common on the Continent of Europe; it is not usual in Great Britain. But in this respect Ireland is a country that needs to be run more on the Continental than on the British lines.

(16.) Arising in this connection, we may point out that the University of Dublin has recently made a first step towards the recognition of Commercial Education as a University matter. The highest form of Commercial Education is the special education of the employer class. Now, in these countries there is no such thing known. And it may be said that our employer class will not be brought to recognise the fact that technical instruction exists for their class also, until they discover that it has become a branch of professional training at the University. Consequently, this new departure in Dublin University offered the first opportunity to Ireland for interesting the employer class in the problem of technical education for themselves. And it was suggested to the Department officials that the Department might seize this opportunity to convene a general Conference on Higher Commercial Education. But the suggestion was not recognised as coming into the proper function of the Department. So nothing was done, and an occasion was lost when something might have been achieved in promoting the higher branches of a School of Commerce such as ours.

(17.) We now pass on to make an observation which is primarily directed to the "Definition Clause" of the Act of 1889. We mean the Clause in Section 2 which provides an answer to the question:—What subjects may be said to be "Technical Instructions" within the meaning of that Act? The definition of Technical Instruction states explicitly:—"It shall not include instruction given in elementary schools." Our Committee agree that children of the school-going age should not be allowed to obtain in Technical Schools instruction of the type given in elementary schools. But when adults are already at business and unable to attend the elementary schools, they are debarred by this Definition Clause from obtaining instruction of an elementary school type in a technical school.

In our School of Commerce the students are adults; and nearly all are employed all day at business. Now, many of them come to us so deficient in elementary education that a great part of their class instruction must be of an elementary type. Two results follow, both very detrimental to technical instruction properly so called, viz:—

(a.) The standard of instruction has to be lowered in the technical school, so that those who want technical instruction of the proper kind find the class work not up to their requirements; and they are disappointed, and may often cease their attendance.

(b.) The funds intended for technical instruction are largely dissipated in giving elementary instruction which ought to be paid for out of the funds intended for elementary instruction, even when the students are adults.

(18.) In Ireland, we have no evening Continuation Schools, financed from elementary education funds, which adults can attend after business hours. Moreover, adults will attend a technical school where other adults are flocking, who would be deterred from attending an Evening Continuation School only by the feeling of personal dignity, which is a real, even if foolish, sense of shame. It is certainly a matter of great practical importance in Ireland that while whose elementary education is defective, should be encouraged to come to technical schools to make good their defects. But, at the same time, arrangements should be made by which the teaching of such adults

should be given in the technical school of the expense of the public funds voted for elementary instruction.

(22.) In my opinion, this thing can be done without any real administrative difficulty. (a) Technical schools ought to be authorized to give elementary instruction to adults. (b) The expenditure on such classes ought to be kept separate; and those classes may, if necessary, be inspected by Elementary Education Inspectors. (c) At the end of the school session, when the whole expenditure on these "elementary" classes is ascertained, the Department of Technical Instruction (not the School) ought to be empowered to have a sum paid over to it from the Board of National (Primary) Education recognizing its for this expenditure on "Elementary" instruction.

In this way the funds intended for technical instruction would be preserved intact for that purpose. And the equivalent of an evening continuation school would be got, under conditions which would be much more calculated in Ireland to prove successful in reaching those adults whose education is defective.

(23.) We are informed that when this matter was proposed to the Department, the senior officials rejected the proposal on the ground that it was thought to be absurd that one Government Department should be empowered to make a claim "for work done" against another Government Department.

We beg to point out, that Government Departments should be adapted to the requirements of the public, and the officials should study constantly how to so adapt themselves. We think that the absurdity lies rather in the officials expecting that the public requirements are to be adapted to them.

(24.) Furthermore, we think that the "Consultative Committee" established by Section 23 of the Act of 1896, does provide very much the machinery that is required. That Consultative Committee is already a sort of "Clearing House" for ideas between various Educational Departments. If it is to act, as well as to consult, there seems no good reason why it should not become a "Clearing House" for finance between these same educational departments.

Our point is that the funds now voted for technical instruction ought to be preserved intact for this higher purpose. And that the standard of the teaching given in technical classes ought not to be lowered, as it is at present, in order to make good defects in the primary education of our adult people; with the result of disgracing and expelling the properly equipped adults who come for technical instruction of the type that modern industry and commerce require.

(25.) There is one other matter which to this Committee is of very serious importance. Our School of Commerce is housed in an old school building, the lease of which our Committee obtained when it had fifteen years to run. Five years have now gone, and in ten years' time our lease expires. We have no funds for building purposes, or for paying fees on the renewal of our lease, should our present premises be then deemed inadequate for our requirements, except the annual income which at present goes to maintain the School of Commerce.

This matter has never been considered by the Urban District Council, which is the financial authority. That Council provides an annual income, by the penny rate, of some £711 for the maintenance of the School of Commerce in consideration of receiving a further contribution of £1,000 annually from the Department. It is to be supposed that the Council will not be willing to incur a large capital liability to provide funds for the proper housing of the School of Commerce unless a similar contribution of a capital sum for building purposes can be advanced by the Department from national as distinct from local sources. The powers of the Department to make any contribution of the kind, and the provision of funds for the purpose is a matter on which the Inquiry Committee might well institute special inquiries, for, in our opinion, there is no other subject affecting technical education in Ireland which is more urgent or more important than this. There is certainly no district where the difficulty is more palpable and more grave than in the Rathfarnham Urban District.

(26.) Have you anything to add?—Not a great deal. That is pretty exhaustive from our standpoint. The buildings themselves are already full. With regard to one point which has occurred to me—but I don't know whether I have the authority of the Committee for mentioning it. The large salaries that we have to pay for the type of teachers we require would prevent a similar local institution being founded in

almost any other part of Ireland—possibly with the exception of Belfast—and it has occurred to me that it might be a very good thing if the more promising pupils in the country who attend the somewhat limited commercial classes that are to be found in some of the towns and centres could obtain scholarships attainable in our School of Commerce to enable them to come up to Dublin to reside for a time, and so be the means of taking back to their own neighbourhood a higher technical education and a higher standard than would be otherwise obtainable.

(266.) I suppose you have no resident students now. Do they all come from Dublin?—Well, principally from Rathfarnham and Dublin. As the report said, we take from Dublin because in the Dublin Technical Schools they could not possibly have as high a standard of commercial education as we have.

(267.) (Mr. Micks).—Owing to other subjects they take up—These would not be room.

(268.) There would not be the money?—No; the residents of Rathfarnham are very largely a commercial class—clocks, people in a small way of business and banks, and therefore the technical schools of a more industrial type would be out of place. Acting under the very able advice of Mr. Blair we started this School of Commerce.

(269.) If students come up for scholarships from the country what would be the financial arrangement with your school. Would your school be paid so much for each one coming in—I have hardly thought of those arrangements yet. We should be very glad if pupils came and paid the ordinary fees. There is no reason why we should make a distinction between city and country people.

(270.) And that would most likely be the view of your colleagues?—Yes.

(271.) (Mr. O'Connell).—As a matter of fact, your classes are evening classes?—They are, sir.

(272.) Then, is it not the case that a considerable number of your pupils do come from the country more or less indirectly in this way? Supposing a youth is apprenticed in a bank in the provinces, and taking advantage of whatever evening instruction is available, and he endeavours to get promoted to the head office of his own bank or company, or if he is not connected with any big corporation tries to get into some commercial office in Dublin for experience, he then comes to you for instruction in the ordinary way?—We have a good number of that class, but there are a large number whose business associations keep them in their own cities or towns, and who would not incur the expense of residence in Dublin unless they were helped in some way.

(273.) And the instruction given in your school is not intended to provide all the education necessary, but merely to supplement the education given in the offices in Dublin. I take it, by evening training. If a young man comes up from the country to Dublin I take it that he would require to have something in addition to what he gets in your classes—the practical work in the office on the wider scale that is possible here in order to supplement—the school being one of two things necessary?—Quite so; but there must be a very large number who are never promoted to Dublin, and who are unable to come to live in Dublin.

(274.) Yes. Supposing the local authority in the country had an active and promising youth in commercial work and wished to send them to the Rathfarnham School, it would be necessary to find something further for his instruction than what the school could give for his occupation during the day?—Yes, if he was as ambitious as I would like to see all these students with their studies.

(275.) (Mr. Micks).—Read in the day and attend school at night?—Yes.

(276.) (Mr. O'Connell).—That could be done, but it is not a very desirable programme of work from a practical point of view. It depends very much upon the pupil. It may not be a very wise thing to send a young man up from the country to study certain subjects, especially as the work in the classes is arranged in such a way that three nights a week at the schools is as much work as the student intends to do.

(277.) You don't expect your students to attend more than three evenings in a week?—That is partly because they are employed during the day. Anyone coming up from the country and having his time on his hands during the day is not so hard worked, and could very well attend four or five evenings in the week.

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because he would not have a strain on his brain during the day time.

13033. Quite so. But what I am getting to you is that, that the instruction given in all these classes would be lost if the pupils are not at the same time getting experience in Dublin to put their instruction on a broad basis of practice. That is to say, the work of each of these classes takes for granted that there is the practical experience in the office, and that the teaching would fail if it were given to pupils who were not having the practical experience along with it that the curriculum definitely takes for granted!—Yes.

13034. Therefore, a boy coming up from the country would be coming up at a great disadvantage. I am quite with you with regard to boys coming up from the country that they should not be encouraged to come up from the country unless they worked during the day in an office to supplement the work in the school in the evening!—Well, suppose a young man in a country bank after getting two or three years in the bank get leave from his directors, or he might resign if he could get a scholarship, and get up to Dublin he would possess precisely the ground work you have alluded to.

13040. Don't you think it would be possible for us to get some business house, if not a bank, in Dublin to give these some occupation during the day?—I should think it very likely that a young man's directors, if they took a right view of it, and saw he was anxious to push himself on, would try to meet him in that way. It would be a very good way of doing it.

13041. I am putting it to you, because, really, it is a most important problem. It is most important to see how boys in the country are to have the advantage of central institutions such as the Rathmines School. It applies in their case—commercially. I was rather surprised to hear you express the idea that a boy was to be encouraged to come up solely for evening work. Is that your deliberate view, or would you prefer to see the other things?—In the course of time we might have a day class, as well as evening, in the higher commercial subjects. That is in the future, if things go on as we hope they will go on. That is, in my mind, the ultimate outcome of the movement. If it is successful, as they have it on the Continent.

13042. You are definitely of opinion that it is our duty to encourage the formation of day schools of that kind?—Ultimately. I don't think we are ready for it yet.

13043. I notice a further source of income that you make no mention of—from "grants upon attendance" paid by the Department!—There are none payable to us under what you call the South Kensington Grant.

13044. Under the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction we have nothing but the £1,000 that has been mentioned. But here is an extract from the programme for the current year that appertains payments of grants over as organized courses in commercial subjects, such as would apply in your case, amounting to sums varying from 25s. to 50s. per head of a single pupils attendance. That would, in a school like yours, amount to a considerable sum. That is the first year of this payment. Have you formed any estimate of what it will be?—No; I have not gone into that yet. I am aware of that document, because I am a member of the Board of Technical Instruction.

13045. You have not made any estimate of what it will be worth to you?—No.

13046. In your case it should be a considerable increase of the revenues available for the school!—It would, if we had a capitation grant of that sort.

13047. And which would enable you to do some of the things you see no prospect of doing now?—Yes.

13048. You make a proposition that the work below the grade of technical instruction should be paid for by the National Board. The difficulty you express is not one due to the views of the officials, but is due to the Act of Parliament upon which the Department has to work. It appears as if you are transgressing the Act of Parliament at the present moment in spending money intended for technical instruction upon work that is not so?—Some of our classes are on the border line, certainly, but they have been approved of by the Department.

13049. There is no reason in the world, at least in the regulations, why, though it may not be so convenient, the work that falls properly on the National Board should not be conducted by your Committee, only under the National Board regulations; and why

you should not draw grants from the National Board. You see the National Board offer grants in respect to evening school work. They have offered it for a number of years. Any work in the school which is of that grade would naturally form the basis for such grants. Have your Committee considered the possibility of that?—No; because it is only lately, during the last year or so, that this has been so marked with us. The school has been getting more and more of an older class each year, and when it was a young class of students there were more of them on a level in general education. Now, the contrast is more marked as we get more of the adult class.

13050. Would you gather from that, that, presently, there would be as few below the standard for Technical Instruction Committee's work that it is not worth while considering near the National Board's work; that is, the elementary work is gradually diminishing in proportion?—It is diminishing this year, but still there is a very considerable amount, a very fair number, who come to us who are deficient in one branch or another of what you may call the rudiments of secondary education.

13051. You say the funds should be quite distinct—the technical instruction funds should not be pushed upon by elementary education?—Yes.

13052. Would it not be properly deduced from that that you ought, in elementary work under the National Board, to get a grant for that work so as to secure the whole of the money available for technical work for that purpose?—That is practically what we propose; that the classes in our schools should be open to the inspection of the National Board.

13053. What I want to get at is this, why you don't do it by applying to the National Board for the registration of these classes as National Board evening classes, and by obtaining grants from the National Board in respect to them. Is there any reason why you have not done so?—We have not considered it so far.

13054. You must have been very wealthy!—We have had enough to meet our present needs.

13055. You have stated the general principle is your Memorandum, with which we all agree, concerning technical education and the money available for it, but that would necessarily mean getting for the elementary instruction whatever is available for it. You have not done that!—That is a point we must certainly consider.

13056. I do not find in the Prospectus any reference to the question of the course of studies. I should like to know to what extent the Principal advises and consults with the students as to the subjects they should take and their scheme of studies?—Every individual student he gives very great personal attention to, often admits him in that respect. I sit beside him when he is receiving the students. He goes thoroughly into the capabilities of every student and advises him very admirably as to what he ought to do and as to which classes to take.

13057. Then, I suppose, the progress made in that way by individual students should be accepted by the Department to satisfy the conditions for the regulation of grants in the new programme?—Very probably I should think they would.

13058. You have not applied to the Department to ascertain that?—No; we have not taken any action at that circular yet.

13059. This circular was issued before the beginning of the session?—Our curriculum was prepared before that.

13060. If you were going to get grants under this would not you require to have been in communication with the Department before now?—Of course we should, for this year.

13061. My point is; here is the Department making a very liberal offer of grants in respect of such instruction as you are giving and apparently you have not held out your hand yet?—No. We are very modest. I suppose the Department has been very liberal to us and has given us all that we really wanted, so far, and we have not had occasion yet to cast about for help like that.

13062. (Mr. Meade).—Your ordinary resource is sufficient at present?—Yes.

(Mr. O'Connell).—But all this building business has to go on, and as a mere matter of business arrangement you would expect that this would be looked after.

13063. (Mr. Miché).—You hope to get definite assistance for building?—We hope, when the time comes. The interior arrangements at present are very inconvenient, having to pass through one schoolroom to get to another.

13064. (Mr. O'Brien).—My suggestion is that the Board, in addition to giving lump grants are now giving grants which are measured by the rating and standard of work, and that by securing these grants you would be able, by the ordinary regulations of the Department, to secure an adequate balance annually, and would be putting yourself in a position to provide for additional accommodation when necessary?—I am not quite clear whether we should be allowed to save up money in that way. If the Department give us grants in one direction, perhaps that would reduce it in another if they see we are getting more than is absolutely necessary for our annual needs.

13065. (Mr. Miché).—The £1,000 would decrease then, you are afraid?—It might.

(Mr. O'Brien).—This is the fundamental question. It is a question of how the Board are to aid such schools as yours. They are doing it in two ways; one by lump grant grants; and one by an offer of grants on work done. If you are assisted by lump grants only it is hardly fair to complain there is no provision made for future accommodation.

13066. (Mr. Miché).—You never looked upon that programme as a means of providing a building fund?—No; my Committee have not considered that seriously. This was drafted before the circular was issued.

13067. (Mr. O'Brien).—You have not considered that since 1870 it was too late practically to consider it for this session.

13068. (Mr. Miché).—Can you tell us about the results of the instruction given at Rathfriland upon the pupils, or is it rather too soon?—It is too soon for that, but I may say this, that some of the students were in for the examination taken by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce in connection with the London Chamber of Commerce and they were remarkably successful and carried almost everything before them in the financial classes, and some that we have trained in the accountancy have been very successful in taking out qualifications from the different accountancy bodies.

MR. ANTHONY REEVES EXAMINED.

Mr. Anthony Reeves.

13078. (Chairman).—You were agricultural instructor in the County Carlow?—Yes.

13079. You now occupy a position under the Department?—Yes; travelling inspector.

13080. What are your duties?—Chiefly in connection with transit.

13081. (Mr. Miché).—Of animals or merchandise?—Both; looking after transit arrangements; acting under the Diseases of Animals Act, and with regard to the transit of produce, poultry, butter, eggs, and transit of animals.

13082. (Chairman).—I think you were in the room when the other instructors were examined. Does their experience in their respective counties fairly agree with yours in character?—Yes, it agrees with mine, but there is one very important work the Department carried out in Carlow that was not dealt with by the other inspectors. That was in connection with the prevention of disease, the disease which was known as "black leg" in cattle. This was an awful scourge to the district there. I reported to the Department, and as a result the Department sent to Professor Mason. I spent some time with him. He instructed me to inoculate some test cases. I selected some of the worst infected farms in the county and inoculated the calves, and on all those farms the inoculation was the prevention of the disease.

13083. Are you a veterinary surgeon?—No; but Carlow is a county in which there are practically no veterinary surgeons. They are mostly small holders. They were in isolated districts where it was nearly impossible to get a veterinary surgeon. Since that the inoculation of the calves has been practically carried out all over the county. The result has been that "black leg" has practically disappeared from these districts. During the last three years a chemist, from whom I obtained the particulars, has sold 3,500 pellets for inoculating calves. Of course, all the

13069. Have you heard any opinions of employers as to the value of your instruction so far?—We have from the Bankers' Institute. They think very well of the work we have done in training students to pass examinations. We have done very good work there.

13070. Some of these students are now engaged in commercial life?—They are nearly all engaged. Men up to forty-five years of age tried to improve themselves in some branches of commercial life which they felt they were not sufficiently up to for the position they held. We have had such a thing as the secretary of a company coming into our accountancy class and trying to make up his deficiencies—a very laudable thing. There is one other point to which, as a member of the Board of Technical Instruction, I must refer. I have been a year a member of that Board, and I must say that I cannot see that my presence has been worth very much. I do not know how it could be remedied. In the very nature of things a Board like that cannot go into details like the Council of an Urban District or a Corporation would do. This was suggested by one of the former members; but certainly I do not see that the present Board of Technical Instruction is of very much service. They sit round a table and the Department brings forward schemes of technical instruction to be approved of, and, practically, we must accept the Department's recommendations and we don't have very much more to do. I am not enabled to form an opinion as to how we could be made more useful or whether we had better be abolished or not. I think that is the feeling of some members of that Board. I don't think that when we go to it we can do very much.

13071. (Chairman). How often do you meet?—Three or four times a year. Some members are only elected for three years. Then they are not elected again, and it is impossible for them to get much hold of the details of the Department's work in that time; it is of such a vast extent. I should be glad if any means could be devised by which we could be more useful, or, oh, if we cannot be of use now, then we might be superseded. That is my personal opinion. Perhaps some of my colleagues who see that evidence in print will come down on me for giving it, but that is my personal opinion.

13072. (Mr. Brown).—What used they do for "black-leg"?—All sorts of things—hanging part of the diseased animal in the chimney; inoculating them with garlic; and several things like that; but they did not prevent the disease. As a matter of fact, I calculated the loss from this disease and some other diseases was a great deal more than the total saving of the county. It was quite a common thing to come across farmers who had had three or four calves in the year and lost the whole lot.

13073. (Mr. Miché).—Was that all over Carlow?—It was practically all over the county, but you would get one district where it was very bad and an adjoining district where it was not bad at all. In connection with co-operation, I found there where the farms were so very small that it was almost impossible to hope for the Department, without co-operation. Of course, the first year I started lectures on manures, seeds, tillage and all that, and I found the people had no idea whatever of the working of the Department. During the second season that we worked I gave a course of lectures on the schemes of the Department, and how to avail of them. The first year, then, we had only about twelve premiums taken up for bulls. The next year we had thirty-one, all taken up. Now we have not premiums enough available at all. As a matter of fact, all the bull premiums, thirty-one, are taken up. The pig scheme was not a success. It was more the fault of the County Committee there than anything else, because the idea was that it would be a great thing to get a

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large number of young sows and boars. They bought forty. They bought twenty boars and twenty-four or twenty-five sows, very young some of them. They turned out very badly. Some of the boars served too early in age, and did not grow very well. Since that, more care has been taken in securing boars, and those last year did very well. There are about eighteen agricultural societies there, and considerable progress has been made. The Co-operative Banks have been a great success, as also have the Co-operative Societies. The Co-operative Societies are only for the purchase of seeds and manures, and the Banks for lending small sums, from £5 to £25 or £30, to farmers for the purchase of manures and seeds and reproductive purposes in the way of buying live stock. There are three of those. There is one of those societies at Mount Nugent. It has done very well. It is a lime burning district. They buy seeds and manures. They go in for buying coal and culm co-operatively, and they have secured a very large reduction compared with what they had to pay formerly.

13060. (Mr. Mills).—Wasn't there a large co-operative failure sometime ago in Caran?—Unfortunately there was in connection with the Caran Co-operative, the Ballyhaise Co-operative. Mr. Lough was the manager. The other co-operatives are doing remarkably well. Killyhanna is doing remarkably well. Ballyhaise was the only one that came down.

13061. There is nothing public about the cause of the failure?—No. You hear a lot of rumours about the cause.

13062. You don't know the cause?—I believe the cause was they got too many auxiliaries and had not capital enough to keep them going. It is a great pity because that gives a hindrance to the movement there. These Co-operative Societies have been a wonderful success, and it would be very advisable that the Department should take over the organisation themselves. What I usually did at my lectures, I would recommend the farmers to co-operate. Then, they would ask me the way, I then got an organiser to come out to some of my lectures; they would hear him afterwards. Usually I wrote to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in Dublin and asked them to send down an organiser to meet me at the lecture on a certain evening, and then I went on with my work, and when my lecture was finished he explained co-operation and the methods to be adopted in starting a Society.

13063. (Mr. Brown).—You would not suggest their being organised through the County Committees?—Yes; I believe the Agricultural Inspectors should be the organisers, because they are in touch with the farmers.

13064. There are frequently members of the County Committees who are themselves engaged in trade. Do you think it would be the best medium?—In some cases the organiser would get those men on his back. That is my experience in Caran.

13065. (Mr. Mills).—You left Caran very friendly to you?—I was sent to try and improve agriculture. It was absolutely necessary, if we were to have an improvement in Ireland that the farmers should combine. In the case of the bacon and dairy industry, we might hope for no improvement in Ireland unless there is co-operation among the farmers.

13066. Where does Caran pork go to?—To Belfast chiefly, I believe. Some of it goes to England, also, through Derrald.

13067. Your idea is that the farmers do not get a sufficient price for the pork in Belfast or in England?—I think you are better off in Caran than the people in the South of Ireland, because in Caran they sell the pork by weight, and there is better competition.

13068. Are you familiar with fairs in the South?—Yes; I am a Kildare man.

13069. Are you familiar with such matters in Dublin, Waterford, Cork, and Limerick?—No. I think we have practically the same state of affairs in Kildare.

13070. Do you know there is a very large amount of Irish capital, private enterprise, sunk in developing the bacon business?—Yes; among the Denys, Mattemans, and South of Ireland firms.

13071. Would that make you rather slow in recommending any steps in the direction of competing with them with the assistance of the Department?—Certainly not to compete with these firms; because the Mattemans and the Denys and those cater more for a high class and largely foreign trade—English and Parisian.

13060. Most of us eat Limerick bacon and ham. Yes; but, unfortunately, as a bacon-raiser myself, I must say there is no sense in the prices the South of Ireland firms are giving for the high-class pigs they want. There is no proportion between the price of the pig and the price they charge for the bacon; and the system they have of getting up private weigh-bridges in towns in the South of Ireland will simply create a monopoly in a few years. Denys at present have a weigh-bridge in Athy, and one in Carlow; Mattemans, probably, have one in another district. They will receive pigs on the "off-days," and on the fair or market days there is no competition. If Denys got 150 shillings pigs—they only buy pigs 12 to 15 shillings weight, that is their size—they would deprive the ordinary monthly fair of 150 of these choice pigs. There is no inducement for the other buyers to go there.

13072. So that what you complain of is particular firms cutting in in advance of the pig-buying trade generally?—Certainly.

13074. Would that be a reason for interfering with the whole bacon industry in Waterford, Cork, and Limerick?—But what we have got to look to is the large industries of the farmers, and at present the pig-breeding industry is declining, although at the price of pigs for the last three years there is no more profitable occupation for farmers.

13075. The prices are now 1—Splendid prices. They ran up to 60s. last year.

13076. Is not that an indictment for the farmers to continue the present system?—Unfortunately, they did not get a fair price for the pigs.

13077. Do you think that 60s. is not a fair price at present?—It is not 60s. just now; but in the North of Ireland the price went up to 60s. during the last six months.

13078. Whatever the price is now, do you think it a fairly reasonable price?—Certainly.

13079. Why would you start a business in competition?—I would start a business in competition to try to capture what the Denys have got. The Denys have taken our market from us. Look at the case of Denmark.

13080. Owing to the pig disease in Denmark they were obliged to turn bacon-makers by co-operative societies. Here we have a bacon industry existing. Do you think it would be a wise thing to attack that industry?—But our pig-breeding industry is falling.

13081. Is competition with Denmark?—Yes.

13082. It is going to competition with Denmark you think you are obliged to attack capitalist bacon before?—I would not attack anybody. I would follow Danish methods, and try and capture what the Denys have got, as we are very well able to do, if our farmers are organised on the same lines.

13083. Your opinion is that co-operative ham-curing industries ought, in the interests of the farmers, to be started all over the country?—Undoubtedly. There is one very important matter in connection with live stock—I think the Council of Agriculture dealt with it at the last meeting. It is as regards sows. I think the Department ought to have the power of preventing the use of any sire in Ireland unless that sire is licensed as being a proper sire in use with cows, or horses, or any other sort of stock.

Breeds, after a great deal of experience attending fairs—I am practically attending every important fair—I may say we find great variations in the present price of cattle. I have seen them sell within 24 hours as low as 14s. per cwt., to 20s. and 25s. for well-bred cattle. A great deal of that is due to the wretched class of bulls farmers are using in some districts. I really think, owing to the importance of the cattle industry in Ireland, the Department should have some control over the class of bulls used in the country, and allow to be used only bulls up to a certain standard of quality.

13103. Do you think it would be a hardship to have a prohibition, say, from two or three years hence, against any man keeping for service purposes any animal that was not duly licensed by the Department or some other Department?—I do not. I think there are too many in the country already.

13104. They would gradually grade up to good ones?—Yes; and if they were not all pedigree they would be sufficiently good to pass in some districts.

13105. The line could be drawn higher as time went on?—Yes; and of course the numbers of pure-bred cattle have increased very largely in recent years.

13106. (Chairman).—Do you think there was anything like the same progress in Cavan as in other places?—The progress in Cavan was marvellous. It was more than I expected. I never saw any friction between the Committee and the Department, and they simply went to work in a very practical manner. They were in very largely in Cavan for demonstration work. I relied almost entirely upon demonstration work there. I made my demonstration plots not less than a quarter of an acre each, and generally had thirty or forty of these in the county each year, and by this means I was able to reach a great number of people.

13107. (Mr. Micks).—You found it was a very large area to move over?—It was; but I usually consulted some respectable farmer, as far as I possibly could; and always had the advice of the various local clergy as the best men to come into contact with; and the County Committee had reports from farmers every year as to the results of the demonstrations.

13108. Did you find great difficulty in getting men to give plots?—Yes, the first year.

13109. As soon as you became known in the county did you get as many plots as you wanted?—Yes; I could get any quantity after the first year.

13110. How many plots had you after the first year?—About 140 plots. This year, in some districts, the whole district was a demonstration plot, because all the farmers were following my views exactly.

13111. You had some pretty well all over the county?—Yes; I had some in Glan, and in Killybeg, and all over the county. Here is a copy of the report from Glan. (Produced copy of report.)

13112. That is sprouting potatoes?—Yes; they went in very extensively for that.

13113. Would you call that a demonstration plot?—Certainly.

13114. (Chairman).—What is the size of the demonstration plots?—A quarter of an Irish acre.

13115. (Mr. Micks).—Did you find the people in the most backward districts slow to take them up?—In some of the most backward districts they were very forward in taking up these things. In Killybeg they got up a co-operative society three years ago. Last year they got a splendid bull—an Aberdeen Angus bull—it is a very poor district—for the members of the society. They got a new supply of seed potatoes from Scotland. Practically the whole of the people there sprouted their potatoes. The co-operative society got a large quantity of sprouting boxes from Dublin, and the whole country-side there is sprouting potatoes.

13116. (Mr. Dryden).—How did the potatoes turn out this year?—I cannot say. I was not there.

13117. It would be interesting to know, because some of them failed in other places?—The Secretary would be able to get evidence on that point. The loan scheme for the purchase of stallions was scuttled of them. I got a couple of small farmers to buy Clydesdale stallions under the Department's scheme. The people up there won't have anything but Clydesdales, for the simple reason that they can sell the foals at an age they cannot do with those of any other horse. With regard to the bulls in the county, purchased under the Department's loan scheme, they found it

a great advantage in every way, that the individual farmer is advanced two-thirds of the price of the bull by the Department. Eight of these bulls were sold last year to the Argentine people after being two years in Cavan, at a very big price.

13118. (Mr. Brown).—As far as Cavan is concerned, has there been an improvement in the breed of cattle since the live stock scheme came in?—Yes; it was marked in some of the fairs in the price of the calves; but, unfortunately, you cannot see much improvement there until the people begin to winter and feed better.

13119. (Mr. Micks).—Are you a member of the Veterinary Department?—Yes.

13120. (Mr. Brown).—The powers of the Department as to making regulations are principally under the Diseases of Animals Act?—Yes.

13121. (Mr. Micks).—Did you hear the evidence given by Mr. Kennedy?—Yes.

13122. Have you anything to say about it?—If I caught a fellow ill-treating a beast at a fair I would get him arrested; and if there was any undue delay on the railways, it would be reported to the Department. At any fair I go to I check the time the cattle are taken away.

13123. Would the railway companies be slow to exclude trespassers from their premises?—The railway companies are not strict enough in keeping them out. Even within the past week they allowed those fellows to come in and take possession of the wagons.

13124. They capture those wagons, and then say they will give you a wagon if you will give them so much for it?—I have heard that they do that.

13125. (Mr. Dryden).—I don't understand it—These drivers take possession of wagons in the early morning by putting a single beam in them, while truck loads of cattle may be standing awaiting loading. They do this for dealers, who probably pay them for doing so.

13126. What right has he to take possession of it?—No right.

13127. (Mr. Brown).—He represents himself as having engaged the wagon for somebody else?—Yes; they drive a single beam into the wagon, and that wagon may be detained two hours while all the other wagons are being loaded.

13128. (Mr. Dryden).—Do the railway authorities pay any attention to them?—When we are on the scene we don't allow it.

13129. (Mr. Micks).—You have no right to interfere?—No; but the railway companies don't like any complaint made about it. What they should have is a sufficient staff. At some of these big fairs they have only three men. The Transit Branch have made representations about this.

13130. (Mr. Brown).—Don't you report matters of this kind?—Yes.

13131. I assume they take some action?—They do take action.

13132. (Chairman).—You have no power to do anything?—We have no power to do anything unless there is cruelty or a likelihood of it.

13133. You have only the power of an ordinary person?—Except in the case of cruelty; but on the question of taking possession of the wagons, we have no power whatever.

The Committee adjourned.

THIRTY-SEVENTH DAY—FRIDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 1906,

At 18, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin

Present:—

SIR KENNEL DIGBY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

THE HON. JOHN DRYDEN.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MILES.

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OMLIVIE.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Very Rev. R. O'RILEY, P.P., KILGERAGH, CHAIRMAN.

Oct. 26, 1906.
Very Rev. R.
O'Riley, P.P.

13134. (Chairman).—I think you are Chairman of the Joint Technical Committee in King's County?—Yes.

13135. You reside at Kilgeragh?—Yes, about the centre of the county, ten miles from Tallaght and Bury.

13136. You give evidence here on behalf of the Technical Committee?—Yes.

13137. And express your own views as well?—Yes.

13138. Will you take your own course as to the various points you wish to bring before us?—I first wish to say I regard the technical movement as very beneficial and very useful if worked on the proper lines, but to carry on its operations successfully much prudence and skill are needed. There is a ten-fold factor engaged in carrying on the work—the Department and Committees through the different counties; and in order that they may work harmoniously and successfully it is absolutely necessary that a mutual confidence and friendly feeling should exist between the Department and those working under them. We regard ourselves as partners in carrying on the good work and we think that in order to be encouraged and helped, our partners at headquarters should treat us not as servants or dictate to us, but more or less consult us and ask our co-operation in all the movements that are going on. Sometimes that was not the case. We had little frictions from time to time, although we worked the athletes in the King's County to such an extent that it is the premier in the province of Leinster. According to the statistics the classes have been better attended, and the matter has been going on successfully so far, but it would be much more successful if a few points that I would like to draw attention to were attended to, and if there were not some obstacles lying in the course. The first great obstacle we had to encounter was apathy. We had to encourage the people, and let them know that it was beneficial to the country, inasmuch as they doubted and had grave suspicions that it was an anti-Irish Department, and we were forgetting our native principles by associating with those who were anti-Irish. It was thought that the Department was staffed from abroad. I know that is not fully borne out, but at all events the Committee I represent, and I think myself, that we had a great deal of Irish talent if it was sought after, to initiate even the great work in hand. I know nobody who dares to see the movement succeed can discount entirely or can forget that the best ability that can be brought to bear on the work should be secured; but at the same time we think we had latent ability in the country if it was sought after. Another obstacle was the feeling that it was focussing or diverting the people's attention from the one great goal of their aspirations, namely, self government. The people are engaged for years agitating, trying to get good laws, trying to move on as far as they can towards the end of gaining the government of their own country. It was thought that the movement for this purpose would be weakened; that our strength and forces were directed in divergent channels, and that we would not reach the end as soon as if the whole strength were brought

to bear on the movement for Home Rule. That is the feeling of one class: that is the class who have kept aloof to a great extent; that is the class who endanger and jeopardise the movement in our country, because it was well-nigh extinct on one or two occasions, and we had to apply a little energy to move it again. I found it difficult when I came to the county. A few persons and myself tried to encourage the County Council to take it up, as it would not militate against self-government, and that it was only an accelerating factor towards the end we all had at heart.

13139. Do you think that feeling arose from misinterpretation of the legislation or the working of the legislation or both?—Both: we have the evidence that those who were regarded as opposed to us politically thought this would be the penance for all our grievances; that if the people gave up politics and directed their attention towards industries, that would be enough. We considered that not to be the case; we wished the two concurrent forces to be at work, while hoping that we would see the light of legislative freedom in our country; we also thought we should not wait until that day would dawn. We thought we should work to encourage our people to do the best under the circumstances. The next factor that militated against the movement was a certain book that was written. That was very near destroying the whole movement in the country. As Chairman, I was asked should I resign. I thought the gentleman who wrote the book was not the movement, and if the movement was good it ought to be continued after it was commenced; and continued with the same hope of obtaining some benefit for the people, and to act in a way that would not deter others from proceeding as far as they could; but I know that our feelings and the feelings of the majority of the Board were very much touched by it. That is the reason that I say that harmony was absolutely necessary. It is not enough to be an expert; it is not enough to know Denmark or Germany, or to be acquainted with the scholastic system and economies in Belgium, you must know the character of the Irish people and get them to think and believe. This great obstacle was thrown into the movement, and we had to do the best we could to remove the prejudice, and tell the people that it was working for our people we were, and that the conduct of one individual ought not to affect us at all, although, according to this book, we had not the courage to persevere; then I think I may be permitted to say that we were rightly offended by some of the statements.

13140. Of course we are not sitting in judgment on the book?—I know; but I wanted to tell you what we had to contend with, and how hard it was to overcome those feelings, and how necessary it is that the man at the wheel should command the confidence of the people. I have one or two quotations to read for you, if you think I may go into it.

13141. You have stated generally what you think, and I don't know that it is necessary for you to go into detail?—Very well. The next point is we had little say in carrying out the scheme in the county, and were never sure whether or not any movement that

we would initiate would be carried out. There is the fact too that there is no programme. The Department have rules certainly according to the Act of Parliament; but although there is no confidence in the National Board, it has its programme; it has its rules marked and numbered, and we know what it is doing, and we know beforehand what it intends doing. And we know the limits of the doing; we can't do that with the Department; they have not tabulated that or formulated a policy sufficient to guide these Committees. If they had we would use those rules as the table, and we would not come into collision with the Department so often. It is necessary to have a policy at the Department; not an accidental but a permanent one, made known to the Committees either by direct communication or through a regular weekly programme.

1347. (Mr. Michel).—Is that as regards technical and agricultural whistles?—Yes.

1348. (Chairman).—Does not the Department itself provide a programme?—It does not provide a policy; very often we don't know the extent; in legal points the most distinguished lawyers differ by times, and thus scheme itself is not sufficient. We look at the scheme, and we see we are entitled to pay a teacher; we are entitled to introduce this industry, to adopt such and such a development of the scheme, but the hand has to be up to the Department to know if the Department approves, and although we think that this participation ought to be a friendly one, nevertheless the Department goes outside this Committee, and makes inquiries, and acts in the following, not to the direction or sentiment of the Committee, but according to the direction of outsiders as far as we can see. I have a case in point with regard to the introduction of a little industry in my own town. We wrote to the Department and I received a reply from Mr. Lee stating that "Mr. Gill will be away from Dublin for some time," and adding, "We understand from inquiry that it is not thought that basket-making would be a suitable industry in your district." I was after writing as Chairman of the Committee. I was acquainted with the district. We have rough basket-making already, and some of our people are carrying their bread during the winter time at it. We wanted a refined course; we asked for a teacher and some assistance to develop the industry that was already commenced in its initial stages, and we got back the reply, "We understand from inquiry that it is not thought that basket-making would be a suitable industry in your district." We would like to know from whom inquiry was made, or is there to be no confidence in us. This letter was dated the 23rd October, 1905. There should be confidence placed in the Committee, and we have on our Committee men that are not halloo; men who have developed industries for themselves; men who are acquainted with the progress of industries and its profits; men who have made large fortunes; and if it would not be egotistical, I might tell you that twenty years ago I started an industry myself.

1349. Of the same kind?—No, but another industry. I started an industry in Mullingar—one of the inland towns; and the products are here over the city at the present day. That was nearly twenty years ago. I think therefore that to tell one of the Committee, whether he happens to be important or otherwise, that an industry was not suitable in a district, and to say that looking from a balcony is not the way to carry on business or to have the movement worked.

1350. (Mr. Gifford).—Did you have any further communication than that letter from Mr. Gill's private secretary?—I think I wrote; after that there was nothing. The point that I am harping on, is not that I am in any way hostile towards the officials; they have a hard task to crack, to set the whole machinery in motion is a most difficult matter; but with a little prudence, foresight, and tact with regard to the sentiment and character of the people, and also with frequent communication with the Committee, things would be carried on far more successfully. In the very parish that I live in a very novel and important industry was started—the tobacco growing. The Committee never were consulted. They never knew the movement was in hand until large sheds were erected. They never understood what was being carried on.

1351. Is yours an agricultural or a technical Committee?—It was both. We had it joint for some time. We have it separated now. At this time I was chairman of both. We felt that very much, that they passed by our doors and came to a large farmer. It

is being carried on very well; we are delighted to see it making progress, but, as I was just saying, due respect is not paid to the Agricultural Committee. I have another case. We are very anxious about the cottage industries. We have started independently of the Department altogether, a lace school in my parish, and we have several schools initiated in the working of lace classes, which have formed a sort of a depot in the district. We have never received any aid towards it. We worked in the same place also to have a knitting industry, and we procured the machinery ourselves. The sums of the convent there have kindly given the use of the machine to prepare a lot of girls. They taught a teacher. They were trained very well by one from the knitting-machine establishment in Stephen's Green. The direction and instruction came from them. We asked for some help towards paying a teacher. We could not expect that this teacher who was taught would give her time for nothing. We asked for some assistance. Our own Committee have kindly granted the small sum of £10. The Department hesitated about it for a long time. They waited and waited. At last I sent some specimens of the work done, and they got an expert, and the expert did not pass them, although the article was regarded as fit for the first shops of the district. I got the teacher to send another pair; we were only beginning at the time; we required the fostering aid and help of the Department to set us going. That was the time we wanted the help; that was the time we asked for it, and that was the time we did not get it. We sent another specimen of the work done. The expert pronounced upon it; it was rather too well done—that it could not be done for the money; but at all events we felt that the thing should not be left to one expert. We had another industry in Tallamore. Our Committee passed a small grant for the Tallamore teacher. They delayed over that, and rejected some of the specimens, but they gave the grant then for some other reason. The same at Rahon. The convent at Rahon took up lace-making and some of the kindred industries. They were expected again and one article only passed. However, we are all delighted to have somebody to lead us on to perfection, but please let me—the first thing is to be, and we won't begin at all until we are helped to begin; and that has a bearing on the statement in the book I referred to, that there was a want of initiative. Well, I say it is not a want of initiative that hampers us; it is through want of funds. It is because the means are not in the country; because the people were struggling to pay high rents up to this; because they were overladen; and because they are in a helpless state to initiate industries; but it is not from want of capacity or want of desire.

1352. (Mr. Michel).—It is very largely due to the want of money—largely to want of money. There is another reason; it is that the capitalists have been driven from the country, not through ourselves, but there has been a broad put on the Irish character, that they are not thrifty, that they are not industrious. That is a libel, I say, and if there were more friendly feelings, and if there in high authority respected the character of the people, and treated them more, leaving their money amongst them, they would see they would get value for us, and they would not discount our capacity. I say then that these gentlemen who try to praise everything that is foreign and discount everything that is home-grown are doing much to injure the country; and to have a man then to develop the resources of the country you must have him in sentiment, character, and ability acquainted with the people, and knowing their wants and needs, and it is not from a library or a Geographic point of view, but he should know practically, if he lives amongst them that they are anxious to live, and that they don't lack moral character. I think a people who struggled against penal laws, and who struggled against oppression for centuries, and still retain their desire for national self-government and Ireland a Nation cannot be condemned for want of moral character. Hence, if any movement is to succeed in the future, there must be mutual trust and harmony between those who guide the movement and those who are working it. Therefore, I think when representations come from our Committee to the central Board here, the Council, the Technical, or the Agricultural Board, I think they ought to have a vote. Either they are business men or they are not business men; if they are not business men they ought not to be put on the Committee. If they are not educated men, and men

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acquainted with the wants of the country, they should not be consulted at all.

13144. (Chairman).—You are speaking of the members of the Agricultural and Technical Board?—Yes, to have representatives on these Boards without votes is simply to counterpoise their influence and weaken their power.

13145. (Mr. Brown).—How does it appear they are without a vote?—It appears that they are brought there, and it is the Department state what they are going to do, and perhaps it gets their consent; but they cannot bring in any resolution or pass it or originate it; they may have a vote upon funds, but that is all.

13146. But how does it appear they cannot bring forward a resolution?—At the central board here.

13147. I want to know how it appears they cannot pass a resolution, and that they have no vote, because it is new to me; I want to know how it appears?—I think that is the Act.

13148. (Chairman).—The Act gives them only the power of vote, but that involves a good many other things. It may involve a good many other things, but I think it is an inferior mark on those associated with them, if they are not permitted to vote; in every place with freedom and liberty they should have equal rights.

13149. (Mr. Brown).—We happen to be informed by members of the Board that they very frequently do pass resolutions?—And they are accepted then; but they need not be accepted.

13150. And if the Board has the power to withhold the funds, that is a substantial thing?—That is an understood thing.

13151. Your original statement was that they had no power to vote?—To vote with regard to carrying resolutions.

13152. (Chairman).—No power of giving effect to their votes?—Yes.

13153. (Mr. Ogilvie).—So, supposing they pass resolutions that so and so ought to be done, and the Department, with whom rests the decision as to whether the resolution is to be given effect to or not, does not carry it out, then payment for some other service comes up for sanction, there will be trouble. The Board might then refuse to authorize payment; so that the Department cannot very well avoid giving effect to the wishes of the Board?—Sometimes the Committee would do it to avoid a ruddle, and the Committee it is that carries on things for peace sake, and hence grants the money.

13154. (Mr. Brown).—On the contrary, the members of the Board have told us they have frequently arranged matters themselves?—That rests with the heads to accept their statement, but they have not the same authority the Board has.

13155. (Mr. Michr).—Your view is, the members of the Department are an executive body, and that the power of the Vice-President of the Department should be shared equally by the members of the two Boards?—Precisely.

13156. (Mr. Ogilvie).—And if we are informed that in practice that is so, then you say the practice ought to be set down?—I would not say that a bad practice should be set down.

13157. No, but a good practice; we are told in practice they do have this effective control, and, then, you say that is all right, but it is by good will to a certain extent, and you would prefer to have it a matter of law?—Yes.

13158. (Mr. Michr).—A matter of right?—Yes.

13159. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You said that there was no public statement of the policy of the Department. What have you got to say to this organization and policy of the Department which includes in addition to the policy of procedure, educational policy, local organization, and so on?—That is in a general way, but the particulars and details are not pointed out, and hence the difficulty sometimes in interpreting them.

13160. It has been pointed out to me that the requirements of the different counties vary very considerably, and that to lay down a general scheme that would be more or less applicable, we will say to your county, would be to impose very great hardships upon some other counties for which it was quite unsuitable, and for that purpose it was better to leave the matter more or less open?—What I want to point out is that we don't know when an industry will be started. We find that an accidental visit of the Vice-President, or someone in authority, results in grants in certain places, and what I want to indicate

is that there ought to be some rule and regulation by which every county would know what it was going to receive if we inaugurate or institute some industry. There are various places through the country where it is left to a strong disposition which comes up in Merion-street, and sometimes to the friendly rule of some of the officials. These people who knock hardest and agitate most get it. I say it ought not to be left to that kind of thing, and that it ought to be an understood thing when and where aid is to be given.

13161. (Chairman).—Does not that depend on the circumstances in particular cases. Would you want a rule that anyone who started any industry, whatever it may be, should be entitled to aid from the Department on conditions laid down?—I would have the conditions laid down so that the people should know them.

13162. Can you give me any indication as to the conditions which should entitle a project of that kind to aid?—I say that if a good Committee required help, that help ought to be given from the Department to encourage it.

13163. Even if the Department differed as to the expediency of such an industry?—Supposing the Department thought that the industry could not possibly pay?—That is where I think the Department can in not trusting the local people, who ought to be best acquainted with the local circumstances.

13164. Therefore, you would give the local people power to say whether or not a particular industry should be established in a certain locality, and give the Department no power of refusing aid?—I would have a mutual understanding, and I would have the Department made acquainted with the details.

13165. What I want to know is, would you have any discretion to the Department?—Yes, if it was a clear case.

13166. The local Committee might think it a clear case one way, and the Department might think it a clear case the other?—There is where some rule ought to be adopted where it may be decided easily.

13167. Can you have a general rule?—Does it not depend on special circumstances in each case?—The circumstances are similar in most of the cases in the country villages of Ireland.

13168. How can that be. Basket-making may be suitable in one place and not in another, and there may be a number of enthusiastic local people who think basket-making necessary, and the Department, having people with larger experience, might think it was not?—That is just where I differ, that they are people with larger experience.

13169. I meant wider experience?—Or even wider. If the local people are regarded as fools that might be all right, but not if they are looked upon as business men who were engaged in such industries before.

13170. I was not raising any question of that sort?—I was talking to some wholesale people yesterday who told me that there was a great demand for an article that was being supplied at present from France, Italy, and England, from our own Merchant-quay.

13171. (Mr. Ogilvie).—With regard to the conditions that you suggested, if I gather correctly, one condition was that there should be a good local Committee of men who had experience corresponding to that required?—I would certainly make that condition.

13172. And that there should be local funds put into the undertaking?—Certainly.

13173. So that if the business was not to be a successful one the loss should fall not necessarily in the first instance upon the Department, but locally?—Certainly.

13174. So that the local people would be guaranteeing their opinion by their pockets?—Exactly. That is just it. At the present time the Department says that the thing must succeed before they give any help. They must have evidence. There must be a risk of some kind. The man who put his hand in his pocket is guaranteeing that when he goes to the bureau he intends to succeed, and I think the Department should second his efforts, and not wait until it is a success.

13175. You recognize that it ought to be a condition that the loss should, in the first instance, fall upon the local supporters?—Oh, certainly.

13176. Then, have you considered the difficulty the Department might have in giving support under the Act to industries other than rural industries?

whether the Department under the Act has power to grant—I think it is. It does not specify all the industries. I think it is not limited.

13175. It is limited when it comes to the part where they are allowed to spend money. Do your observations only apply to rural industries?—Well, I understand in urban districts, too, they have shirt-making and sewing. I once got the people to start shirt-making, and it worked very well.

13176. Without any assistance?—Without any assistance the local people worked it up. What I want to say is that the Department would find all the people on the Committee lacking experience. The men on my Committee are very experienced. They have followed up industries for themselves, and they understand the working of them.

13180. Yes; I quite see all you say with reference to rural and cottage industries, which the Act gives the Department power to aid, but I want to know whether you think that they should have power to aid not merely rural and cottage industries but also industries of a more urban character—of the factory kind?—Well, I think that the latest evidence from the Department is that on certain conditions being supplied they will help factories.

13181. They give instruction, and it is instruction that you have in view in reference to all industries?—Yes. You must know that if we did not depend upon the Department, and if the Department had no funds for the purpose, probably many industries would be in existence, and I say that that want of sympathy with the movement in rural districts is the cause of killing industry, inasmuch as we are depending upon the older part, so to speak, or the wealthy part, and we find we are disappointed, and then become discouraged only for patriotism, and I say, too, religion. And although we have had religion spoken of as being a deterrent to the progress of industries, I say it is religion that prompted me to come to the Committee and that prompted me to attend here to-day. And twenty years ago, before the Department was thought of, God enabled us to help our poor people, giving them an education that would enable them to live in their own land, and I know that all that we are doing at the present time is not much only that we are killing our time and watching, and carrying on works of charity. I think that it will require the fostering hand of home government to stir the industrial waters and aid us to a successful issue.

13182. (Mr. Minto).—You mentioned that a number of business men were on this Committee?—Henry Egton, who is one of the wealthiest men, is a brewer, and a general hardware merchant and grocer; Mr. Adams, also a wealthy man.

13183. Chairman of the Board of Guardians?—Yes; and John Dooley, Chairman of the Board of Guardians; and Mr. Darby, of The Leap, a landlord. We are no way sectarian. We try to utilize all the forces of the country to advance the cause, and this Committee has been fairly successful. But I must say that we had to struggle against prejudice, and have still. Our members of Parliament who are on the Committee, and members think, and perhaps rightly, that too much attention is paid to these local industries, and some of them regard them as a red herring drawn across the path to divert the people's attention from the one and that they, and most of our people are anxious to see.

13184. (Chairman).—I think you mentioned liberal instruction?—Yes; if I am not depriving you too much. Liberal instruction is of vital importance.

13185. I should like very much to have the report if you will hand it in?—On the question of agricultural policy I wish to say one word before I refer to liberal instruction. I was asked about it by one of our farmers who is engaged in barley-growing. The whole district is handicapped very much for want of transit facilities, and we are left in the hands of a few monopolists, more or less. The buyers are, indeed, certain, but the competition is not the same as it ought to be owing to difficulties of transit. It is very often heard that we cannot get our produce except at a very poor price. They cannot send it to Dublin.

13186. You have got the Railway Commission and the Canada Commission, and you have got ourselves?—Well, we are even sicker from the nearest railway

station, and we have no canal. With regard to primary instruction, as the country people are paying most of the pence in the pocket of the rates they would feel very much aggrieved if the instruction was concentrated in the towns. There are two permanent centres at present in the county—that is a recent arrangement—in Tullamore and Birr, but the instructors radiate. They make Tullamore a centre for, say, two or three days, and ride off to the various villages and rural districts.

13187. Give us your experience of the value of the work?—It is merely during the winter in my parish for the present time. The results of the manual instruction classes are very manifest, so much so that the people have greatly improved their farms. The classes, I should have said, in the manual instruction were composed of farmers' labourers and artisans. The artisans I will commence with. They stated that they learned a great deal to the advantage of their trade, the measurements and technical terms with regard to drawing and all that. That is the carpenters, masons and plasterers, and so on. Well then, the farmers. The farmers acquired such a knowledge of this business that they were able to improve their farms in the way of gates, bolts, doors, and general improvement.

13188. Was it themselves or their sons?—Their sons. We had the classes for two or three years, and now, as to the numbers attending, although forty was the maximum, we had 40·5. The way this 5 came in was this. There were forty-two in the class. I put in two extras, and 40·5 attended that whole course of lectures for six weeks, and the result is that we have achieved a great success in the farm prize scheme, and have obtained five first prizes. We have taken in three baronies about half the prizes. Then, with regard to the domestic economy instruction, I have personal experience of it in my own home. I believe, and those associated with me, too, that those who have gone to the different classes of instruction profited by it very much. And here I may add, that it is of educational value as well as of utilitarian value. Formerly the object was that they should earn their livelihood by it; to-day it is that they should improve their homes as well. Ladies often come in order that they might be able to instruct their servants, and to see what should be done, and they gave their valuable assistance, and popularized the movement, so that our centre was a very important one. Then I refer to some girls who have gone away to situations. Of course it is a disputed question whether we are preparing them for the benefit of the foreigner. Well, even so, my opinion is, and always was, that we ought rather to send educated and well-skilled persons to America than ignorant persons. They stand a better chance in the conflict; and then we cannot forget that Ireland depends greatly on America, and on the money that comes from it; and on England, and the sum of money that comes from it, and the better arrangements and the better scale of wages artisans receive there. But, however, the primary movement is to educate them. If they have to go for the present, I say let them go equipped and fitted in their ranks to compete with German or French, or any other nation that goes there. Then girls have written back confirming the advantage it would be to be instructed, and to get even a little preliminary teaching with regard to cooking and laundry and all that. But there is one point that militates against the successful working of this domestic business—and that is the want of classification. The very people that want instruction often are deterred from going because they are in a backward condition. They do not wish that to appear. They are called upon sometimes to demonstrate, to cook meat, or to make soup, or something like that; and very often, not having the proper methods, they are ashamed to appear in the class, and the result is that they do not attend. I think, then, that it would be very well to have a thorough classification, as you have in any school; that if we are going to have domestic economy classes carried out there ought to be some system adopted, as in any other school or college, to classify them.

13189. Would you attempt to classify them according to ages or according to their standing, educationally?—According to their standing. Some will go there and have a good knowledge, and the more they know the more they are anxious to know, but very often the less people know the less they seem to be inclined to learn, simply, I believe, because they do

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not wish to let their want of knowledge be displayed before their neighbours. Then, as to inspection, there is not supervision enough. Once a course or once a year often is hardly enough for an inspector to come to superintend the movement and to create an interest in it. It would be very necessary that the inspector, I think, should turn in from time to time; and that none but the advanced class should go for examination.

13190. By whom are these classes conducted?—By the instructor. We have two manual instructors and two domestic economy instructors for our scheme. Well, the fact then is that this classification would be very necessary, and I think that the funds should be such as to permit prizes to be given. There must be a little stimulus. Otherwise you cannot expect people at great inconvenience to come three or four miles in rural districts to attend the course without some little hope of winning a prize. Then the fact that the country is so poor that there are not situations enough for them when they do acquire knowledge is itself a deterrent fact also; but I trust that brighter days are in store for us, and that the people will wait patiently, and make a constant endeavour to make the best of the surroundings and the circumstances.

13191. (Mr. Ogilvie).—How is the manual instruction given?—In two classes.

13192. Where are these classes held?—I leased a hall myself, and gave it to the Committee. I guarantee the rest of it. I leased a large hall, 56 feet long, from the landlord.

13193. (Chairman).—What was that built for?—It was originally contemplated for a brewery or something like that. It was not a hall, but I turned it into a hall. I took down walls and renovated, and I think it is a splendid hall for the purpose.

13194. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Were the cooking classes held there also?—Not constantly, because the runs had a more convenient place, and get a range put in this place; the runs had to provide this, and they gave it very kindly, and we did some little improvements on it, and at present we have the class going on there. It is a very large house, with a knitting industry carried on there in a minor way.

13195. How far has the difficulty of getting a connection with these places been overcome throughout the King's County?—Well, the courthouse is utilized in Tallamore, and they have the Urban Committee Rooms, I think, in Enniscorthy, and there is a new hall in St. Kierans, midway between that and Tallamore, and where there is no hall and the National school rooms are utilized.

13196. So far as the rural parts of the county are concerned, it is the schools that you have to rely upon?—Yes. I think Mr. Dwyer, the landlord, gave a hall, and thinks that it is very well suited for the purpose.

13197. You have six or eight halls, and for the rest you have two or three school-rooms?—Yes.

13198. And you find no difficulty in that throughout the county?—No; not much; and the local committees look after these pretty well.

13199. (Chairman).—Have you volunteer local committees?—Oh, yes, without being paid. I originated a little movement the other day. I was speaking of the labour that was being thrown on the teachers and officials, and I saw that locally something ought to be paid, and a little fund started for a secretary. In the rural districts you have only one

or two courses in the year of manual instruction, and there might be only about twenty-five lessons for each course.

13200. (Mr. Ogilvie).—How much do you pay the local secretaries as a rule?—We pay them nothing.

13201. But you think they should be paid?—I do, because it is really too much to expect of a man standing to his business, and they must be all business men.

13202. What do you think each ought to be paid?—I think he would do it in the rural districts for about £5. It would not be very much, but the funds do not permit more.

13203. And if you paid them you would be putting a number of men who did not want to be paid in rather an awkward position. What would they do with the money—give it in prizes?—Yes; it could be utilized in that way.

13204. (Mr. Brown).—I wish to ask about the difficulty in getting the people who are most in need of technical instruction to attend the class. That is universal, and I should like to know how your Committee found any successful way to deal with them?—The only successful way would be to try to encourage them to come, the teacher by calling upon them to attend. All these people are in the rural districts, I think. It depends on the influence of the Committee, especially where mostly all that class of people are still full of the idea that the movement is not one that is going to bring any benefit to the country—some of them think that we ought to drop him. They compliment us, however, occasionally.

13205. I suppose it is really through the personal influence of the members of the Committee that you get hold of these people?—That is evident from the fact that where there is a good local committee the classes are most successful.

13206. You get the right people?—The right people.

13207. And the Department cannot hold class there. It must be the local people?—It must be the local people.

13208. And I am sure they would not object to any system of classification that would bring about the desired result?—I think not. I just wish to say that I do not approve of the introduction, or of any great effort being made to introduce systems from other countries here at all in regard to cooking. We have articles of our own. We know the day diary of the people; we know our daily wants, and it is in the power of the local Committee to draw the attention of the teachers to these particular things; and there has been the least use in knowing what they eat in America, and what kind of jellies, puddings, or pies the cooks make. It is not every country that has the same tastes, and I think we ought to do the best we can with the materials we have, and at the same time have the best teachers to deal with these particular subjects.

13209. And, of course, you do that?—Oh, yes; but I see some of our teachers were asked to go out of this Monday trip to America, and we let the matter drop.

13210. (Chairman).—Very wisely. I think we think Ireland can get rich as well as America if we had more means of doing it, and a little more encouragement.

(Chairman).—Thank you, Father O'Reilly. We have to thank you for most interesting evidence.

Captain LORRIS BRYAN, D.E., A.S., Enniscorthy, examined.

Captain
Lorris Bryan,
D.E., A.S.

13211. (Chairman).—You are a Deputy-Lieutenant and representative of the Enniscorthy District Conference Committee?—Yes.

13212. It is, I think, a voluntary co-operative society?—It is a body composed of representatives from the co-operative societies in the County of Wexford. We have something like 37 various co-operative societies in the County of Wexford now.

13213. You have prepared what you wish to say?—Yes, sir. First of all, may I mention that I have also acted as Chairman of the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, and the other day you

had some evidence from Mr. Lough with reference to that body, and he made some statements which are absolutely untrue, as I say. Of course, that has gone forth to the Press and to the country, and I should like to take the earliest opportunity of contradicting the statements that he made.

13214. Yes?—With reference to the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, Mr. Lough said—and I am taking the report of the Evening Mail—"The results were worse of all in the case of the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, which would have collapsed long since but for financial aid given by the

I.A.O.S. In 1904, for instance, £3,499 was given to it. Although this business had now ceased to be a genuine co-operative concern, seeing that a few gentlemen controlled its capital, it was deemed by the I.A.O.S. as a part of the movement, and organisers paid by the Department made it a condition that all new agriculturalists should become shareholders. Mr. Lough drew the following conclusions, etc. "I have got a letter here which, from my own personal knowledge I can affirm, from the present manager of the Wholesale Society, written after that evidence."

13224. (Mr. Stevens).—Written after that evidence?—Written after that evidence:—"Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Lough's allegation that the I.A.W.S. would have collapsed long since but for financial aid given by the I.A.O.S., it could be said that the balance-sheet of the I.A.W.S. for 1905 shows a net surplus of £638 2s. 7d. on the year's trading, and for the six months ended 30th June, 1905, the accounts show a net profit of £618 15s. 5d. These results were obtained without any subsidy in any shape or form, and after paying for a considerable amount of Agricultural Organisation work—which is not done by ordinary trading firms—and, as you are aware, Mr. Shaw has been largely employed in this branch. The grant of £3,499 was not given by the I.A.O.S., but by the trustees of the Development Fund." The Development Fund was a sum of money placed in the hands of two gentlemen to be used for any purpose they liked for the improvement of things in Ireland.

13215. (Chairman).—Was that fund derived from subscriptions?—This was a fund given by a gentleman—I believe the late Sir Henry Cochrane. I believe to Sir Horace Plunkett, and another trustee, Mr. Holmes, to use as they thought best for the country. That was not the property of the Organisation Society or any other. This money was given to the trustees to use for any purpose they thought best for the development of the country.

13216. (Mr. Micks).—£5,000?—No; the fund was 1906

13217. More than 5,000?—Yes; they gave a good deal of that to the Organisation Society, and several grants to the Wholesale Society.

13218. What was the amount of the fund?—£50,000 I believe was the original amount.

13219. Given by?—By the late Sir Henry Cochrane. The letter goes on:—"The grant of £3,499 was not given by the I.A.O.S., but by the Trustees of the Development Fund, and was to wipe out the losses incurred in the initial stages of the Society's existence principally through an endeavour to help the farmers in disposing of their cattle. In reply to Mr. Lough's statement that the I.A.W.S. has 'ceased to be a genuine co-operative concern, seeing that a few gentlemen control its capital,' it could be pointed out that at the 30th of June, 1905, the capital of the I.A.W.S. was represented as follows:—Preference, £3,000 2s. 3d., which was subscribed by 78 individuals; the Ordinary, £483 15s. 6d., which was subscribed by 70 local societies, representing 5,560 farmers. Further, since the 1st January, 1905, 41 local societies have been admitted to membership, representing 2,814 farmers. The total number of farmers now affiliated with the I.A.W.S. being 8,374. The only other capital which the I.A.W.S. has is a loan of £5,000, which is obtained on the personal security of the directors and the Title Deed of the premises as collateral security." The original losses were made to a certain extent through bad management. You find it very difficult to get people with the requisite ability for conducting these things. If you want a business man you have to pay a big salary, or else you get men who have been failures, but for the same reasons they have failed once they fail a second time. Attempts were made to sell cattle, which failed, which caused a loss. In time we decided to buy cattle. We did buy cattle, but the local co-operative societies would not send them away without being paid for them on a falling market, and we had to stop doing business. Our then managing director was not a successful business man in any way, and nearly £2,000 was dropped over that.

13220. (Chairman).—I am sure you will not go further than is necessary into this, but what I under-

stand is of importance for our purposes is that the Department supported the I.A.O.S. by giving them a large contribution?—Yes.

13221. And Mr. Lough differs from the policy of that, and thinks it not a wise policy?—The intention made that the I.A.O.S. had handed money over to a trading body.

13222. (Mr. Micks).—The wholesale?—The whole sale. And that is absolutely untrue. There is an article that will appear in to-day's *News* which deals with the same matter.

13223. Are you connected with the wholesale?—The Wholesale Society is connected with the I.A.O.S. to the extent that certain members of its Board are also members of that. It is affiliated with the I.A.O.S., and pays an annual subscription to the I.A.O.S., a very small one, the same as an ordinary co-operative society does.

13224. (Chairman).—Does it receive financial support from the I.A.O.S.?—No; it does not receive any financial support, and in the past, I am sorry to say, the I.A.O.S., as it has in other places, rather fell between two stools in desiring to maintain neutrality in trading matters, and did not give the Wholesale Society the support that it should have done.

13225. This is what you impress on us that it is a mistake to bring a charge against the I.A.O.S. that it supported this Society?—Yes; if they supported the Wholesale Society direct it might be said that that money had been paid, which is absolutely untrue.

13226. (Mr. Micks).—Did the officials of the I.A.O.S. act in any way for you?—The organisers going through the country now tell the societies that they ought to join. For a long time they did not tell the local societies on being formed that they ought to join, but they treated the Wholesale Society as an outside body, in spite of the latter being a purely co-operative organisation. Now they do tell the local societies that they ought to join, and now directly recognise that it is entirely a co-operative organisation. Now the co-operative movement in Wexford has been going on for a considerable time. We have in Wexford a considerable number of societies, the work of the I.A.O.S. in the first place. That work would not have been so successful if it had not been that they happened to come upon a considerable number of people in Wexford who were full of the missionary spirit and desired to coax other people even apart from their own districts to join the co-operative movement. I have here a list just issued giving the names of the local co-operative societies in Wexford. (List handed in.)

13227. (Mr. Brown).—These are all existing societies?—All existing or in process of formation. The District Conference Committee is a body having representatives from these different societies to consider any questions which may arise with reference to co-operation in the County of Wexford. Although there is a considerable number of societies in this list, if you put them down on a large scale map of the County Wexford, and consider the extent of their operations, you find it is a very small thing, indeed. Consequently we believe that it is absolutely necessary that a great deal more co-operative organisation should take place. We want as an ideal to have a co-operative credit institution in every parish, and we believe from our experience and from study of what has been done elsewhere that it is absolutely necessary in the first place to have co-operative organisation. That co-operative organisation can be only satisfactorily built up on a basis of co-operative credit, and we want a large number of co-operative credit institutions throughout the country. Of course, the same thing applies to other districts in Ireland, but I am speaking of my own county particularly. We believe that in order to make co-operative credit institutions a success a great extension is necessary of what has been done up to the present by the Department of Agriculture—namely, allocating the sum, I think it was, of £5,000 originally to be lent to co-operative credit institutions. We know what has been done in Germany and in France, and we see even what Spain is doing now, and various other countries on the Continent, and we want the same thing. Then, as regards organisation, we believe that our claim to have assistance for co-operative

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organisation is exactly on a par with the very interesting evidence given yesterday by the Chairman of the Rathfriland Commercial School. We believe that the teaching of co-operative organisation is a form of technical instruction for the farmer which is absolutely necessary if he is to make his industry a success. We believe that the technical instruction of the farmer cannot be satisfactorily carried out under Committees composed of persons whose interests are quite other in many cases than those of the farmers. It has been suggested that co-operative organisation should be carried on under county committees of agriculture independently of the other counties, but if you examine the list of the names of the Wexford Committee, which numbers over twenty, you find there are only six bona-fide farmers, that is, persons deriving their living merely from agriculture, who are not closely connected with trade, while nineteen are traders, or very closely connected with trade, except possibly two. You may say there are eight out of that Committee who are not so much an agent connected with local trade as possibly to consider that an extension of co-operative trading would interfere with their prospects in the future. And we, therefore, think that it would be a most absurd thing to suggest that co-operative organisation could be carried on under a Committee composed of persons, many of whom have already taken a very strong attitude against the extension of co-operative agricultural societies. But we believe that, just as the Clearing House Association is consulted with reference to the teaching of railway employees, and the Bankers' Institute with reference to the teaching of banking employees, the existing co-operative organisation should be consulted with reference to the teaching of the trading co-operation necessary to the farmers of the country. I do not know whether I make myself quite plain.

12822. (Mr. O'Leary).—Yes!—The Organisation Society has done a great deal of good work. It has been suggested, I see, by a witness from elsewhere that it would have done better work if it had not concerned itself as much with trade. We who have been working the co-operative movement in Wexford have exactly the opposite complaint to make against it. We say that their action has resulted practically in preventing our developing a real and homogeneous organisation in the county. They have fallen in many cases between two stools—the desire not to arouse any antagonism on the part of those traders who imagine that their business in manure and feeding stuffs and seeds would be interfered with, and the co-operative people who say that we desire to organise for the purchase of our agricultural requirements and the sale of our produce on a system which will be strong enough to meet the various companies which control our industries and to make the thing self-supporting. A large number of the co-operative agricultural societies throughout the country are such very loosely strong organisations that they are not suited for combating strenuous trade opposition. They did good work in the beginning, but we believe that the agricultural co-operative movement to be successful must be backed up very strongly, in other words, to follow on the lines that have been found necessary in other more highly-developed co-operative countries, such as Germany and Denmark.

12823. (Chairman).—I see in this list of co-operative societies, which you have handed in, that there are thirty-two in all in Wexford, and of those twenty-two are agricultural banks?—Yes.

12824. Could you explain the system of banking a little—take, for instance, the first—Emmucorthy?—The Emmucorthy People's Bank.

12825. It was established in 1922 with a loan from the Department. Was that of £100?—I think either £50 or £100.

12826. And an overdraft of £100. Was there any share capital?—It is a Raiffeisen Bank. Now that Bank is an Agricultural Co-operative Bank. It was established in the town of Emmucorthy, and was really to a certain extent a bank, and was under the Raiffeisen system. It is admirably adapted for a country district, and can be satisfactorily applied to a small urban community.

12827. That was established in 1922?—Yes; it has been going some time. I do not think that you can call it a brilliant success. The people who belong to it are artisans and labourers. We find, at any rate,

that there is a considerable difficulty in obtaining good office-bearers.

12828. It has 56 members?—There is considerable difficulty in getting office-bearers, that is, a committee and a secretary who will act without bias, favour, or affection, and who will refuse a loan to a man because they think his character is not such as to justify it.

12829. I suppose the system is to have surpluses for loans?—Yes, certainly.

12830. Generally everybody knows everybody else, and what their position is?—Quite so.

12831. (Mr. Brown).—Are the Committee responsible or is the whole Society responsible?—Possibly I could best call it a Co-operative Credit Institution on the Raiffeisen system, that is on the unlimited liability system, so that every member of the Society is responsible for the whole of the debts that may be incurred by the Society. But generally in credit banks there are provisions for guarding the total amount which may be borrowed from the Society, and generally speaking, meetings are required.

12832. In the case of this Society each member is responsible for the entire of the debts?—For the entire of the debts. Some years ago we started a limited liability co-operative bank in the neighbourhood of Emmucorthy, at Ballinacorney, and I think it was the first one of its class in Ireland, and I believe Mr. Latta is here, who had a good deal to do with that bank, and who will be able to answer you in all about it. The limited liability system was not approved of by the I.A.O.B., and although our opinion as to it is the same as when we started it, and it is working away, no further societies on limited liability have been started.

12833. (Chairman).—Can we take it that these institutions which have figures in the column headed share capital are limited liability companies?—In instances in Ballycaney?—Yes, it is limited liability.

12834. What has £250 share capital?—That is a limited liability.

12835. Whereas these other institutions that have under the heading "Share Capital" the word "none," would be on the Raiffeisen system?—Yes. The only unlimited liability co-operative institutions that we have are the banks.

12836. And the majority of the twenty-two banks are on this system?—Yes; all the banks except one are unlimited liability.

12837. How, on the whole, has that worked?—It has done a great deal of good.

12838. Are there any bad debts?—I do not know that there are any bad debts that the surpluses have not been able to pay.

12839. Of course, you have had to go to the surpluses in some cases?—In some cases, of course, the surpluses had to pay up; but that is not so in the country banks. I think in the country banks the surpluses have not had to pay up. In the Emmucorthy Bank, which was an experimental bank, it occurred in one or two cases, but the country bank has absolutely safe operations. In an urban community it is not so.

12840. (Mr. O'Leary).—Take an agricultural one as an example?—If you ask Mr. Latta of Ballinacorney or Mr. Latta they will give full evidence.

12841. (Chairman).—I want to get a general idea of the working of the system?—The point which I want to put before you particularly, which the District Conference Committee is particularly anxious to put before you, is that the County Committee of Agriculture, as at present constituted, although excellent bodies for their work, could not be expected to promote co-operative organisation among the farmers.

12842. (Mr. Brown). That is a trading organisation?—Yes, it is to make a success of trading organisations. There has been a close connection between credit institutions and trading organisations in Germany, and the same thing is noticeable in Ireland. Institutions started as credit organisations have found it necessary to take up trading. For example, a little co-operative credit institution in a remote district finds it necessary to order manures for its members. It is generally in these sort of districts that there is only enough material for one committee, and it is possibly just as well to have one Committee doing the work as to have the same men serving two Committees, and doing

the business between them. And if you are to have co-operative trading organisation you must have it on a large and wide basis of co-operative credit.

12848. In those districts where co-operative trading societies are founded the ordinary traders must suffer a loss!—In some cases there has been a readjustment, but those re-adjustments are bound to take place in any change of industrial conditions. It is only gradual, and it takes place by degrees, and in some places they have suffered great loss to the extent that the farmers have benefited. One large trader told me in Wexford that one effect of the establishment of the Kinnisborough Society had been materially to improve the nature of his business, because it caused the farmers to come more and more on a cash basis. He was able to ask for his debt, which he found considerable difficulty in going before. And, take the Kinnisborough district. The Kinnisborough Society is what I may call the most advanced of the Co-operative Agricultural Societies, because they have got large stores there, and do not sell tea and sugar, though that may come in the future, but they sell practically all the requirements of farmers all their large requirements in connection with their farms, hardware, machinery, seeds, feeding stuffs. We sell all these, and we find that in addition to what we sell we exercise a very good influence upon the prices, and not only the prices, but the quality of the articles sold by the other people in the trade in Kinnisborough, and we believe with considerable benefit to them, as people who did not trade in Kinnisborough before came to Kinnisborough, not only to the Co-operative Society, but to the shopkeepers from districts that used to be served by other market towns. I do not care to say anything about the larger aspects of co-operative trading. I have had probably more to do with the manure business than anybody else in Ireland.

12850. (Chairman).—Oh, yes, we are very much concerned with the question of distribution!—One witness yesterday, Mr. Radd, was asked whether he had been abroad. I may mention that he was originally a Committeeman of the Kinnisborough Co-operative Agricultural Society. When the Department was started they wished that young men suitable for instruction and organisers should go in for it, and I told him of this, and then Mr. Radd came up, and he is really a result of the co-operative movement. Now, as to artificial manures this witness yesterday, Mr. Radd, gave evidence of the increase of the consumption of artificial manures. I do not desire to say that his figures were absolutely right, but that I have reason to believe that that large figure would be increased. I cannot give you the exact figures, but I have heard in different directions, and from my own knowledge of the trade, I can say that from an eighth to a tenth of the trade in artificial manures in the country goes through the co-operative movement. You know the manure trade in Ireland and all over the United Kingdom is controlled by a ring—I do not know whether you are aware of it, but they are a very strong ring indeed, that is the Manure Manufacturers' Association. I do not know whether they will object to my using the expression "ring" or not. It is the German cartel really, and their prices are fixed over the United Kingdom for every part. They have got the whole of the United Kingdom divided up into districts, and the prices are fixed for all those districts, and the prices in Dublin are generally a little bit higher than the prices in Liverpool, and the prices in Liverpool a little bit higher than in the eastern district of King's Lynn. Liverpool cannot make their prices much higher than King's Lynn, because if they did King's Lynn would invade their area, and the Irish price cannot be very materially higher than Liverpool, because if they were Liverpool would invade the Irish area. The prices are fixed on those considerations. But there is a considerable amount of manure exported from Ireland as well as from England, and it is sold, as we have reason to believe, at very much lower prices in many cases than it is sold in Ireland. Of course it is a surplus product. The trade in Ireland at present is practically, I may say almost entirely, in the hands of the firm of Messrs. Goulting. They own many other firms

under different names, such as Messrs. Morgan, Mooney, Messrs. O'Keeffe; and other things which the ordinary farmer does not understand, are all belonging to the one firm. One or two small firms, such as the Drogheda Chemical Manure Company, are still outside, as far as we know, because it is only after some time, as a rule, that one knows that the amalgamations have taken place. They are, as far as we know, outside the actual definite control of Messrs. Goulting, but they all have to come into line as regards prices. I mentioned just now King's Lynn as the centre of a district in which prices are generally rather lower than the rest of England. The reason is, that the manufacturers of manure at King's Lynn are the West Norfolk Farmers' Manure and Chemical Company, which is really a co-operative institution that was operated by farmers. It was reconstructed as a large limited liability concern, but it is still worked in the interests of the farmers, and it comes into the combine to fix the trade prices, but it divides its profits not only amongst its shareholders in proportion to their share capital, but it also gives considerable bonuses to purchasers of manures whom they are shareholders. It is really almost a co-operative institution, and I believe that it has an effect on the prices of manures even in Ireland. Last year I was in France for some time and I made some inquiries there as to the prices that the French farmer was paying for artificial manures, and the general result of my investigations, without burdening myself to the point, was that the French farmer organised in a co-operative society was buying superphosphate about 10s. cheaper than the Irish farmer, and this in spite of the attempts that have been made to control prices.

12851. Of the same quality!—Of the same quality. Superphosphate is chiefly the article concerned. I may mention that with regard to basicalg we have the same thing, and the manure manufacturers have as well combined that they have established a ring for this. I have heard it said by a very large man in the manure trade—I should not like his name to go forth, but he described what would happen if we endeavoured to import manures from foreign countries. He said that the first thing that the manure manufacturers in this country would do would be to dump some shiploads of artificial manures in the districts where there were the best customers of the company from whom we had procured the artificial manures. Consequently it is very hard now to bring any efficient pressure to bear on the prices in that way. Basicalg is a by-product of the manufacture of steel, and there is none made in this country. There is a considerable amount made in England, and that is in the hands of a few firms, and they have kept up the price in England and in Ireland to such an extent that we have found it cheaper to buy the co-operative requirements of basicalg from the Continent, although the very manufacturers who cannot sell to us in Ireland at the price we can buy it for are selling their English product on the Continental markets at prices to compete with the prices that we get the article for. Basicalg used to be sold under a sort of analysis, but some time ago I discovered that a German Co-operative Society was insisting on obtaining a guarantee of solubility. It should be guaranteed soluble in citric solution—what they call citric solubility. And I discovered that they were giving the guarantee when the Society insisted on having this guarantee. And the Department of Agriculture has since issued a label asking the farmers to ask for this guarantee; and that has now spread over the whole United Kingdom, and that is directly due to the action taken by the wholesale society.

12852. Bear in mind the support given by the Department to the Organisation Society!—The point I want to make is that it is absolutely necessary for the farmer if he is to carry out his industry properly to combine.

12853. And, therefore, that societies which assist in carrying out and facilitating combination are proper objects for the support of the Department!—It is absolutely necessary that the farmer should be technically instructed how to combine. And then as regards districts we think that districts should have a certain amount to say as to the form in which

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 Captain
 Loftus Bryson,
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co-operation should be developed in the districts. Are there any other questions that I can deal with? 13254. We are more or less in your hands. Have you gone through the points you wished to speak on?—There are other questions I might bring up, but I think I have taken up too much of your time as it is.

(Chairman).—Our time is public time. 13255. (Mr. O'Shea).—There is one question I should like to ask before you leave the table. Are you quite satisfied that County Councils or County Committees as a rule receive instruction in agricultural organisation?—I think that in the existing constitution of the County Councils and County Committees of Agriculture the trading element is so strong that they would only encourage and forward improvements in agricultural co-operation which they were satisfied would not lead to trading

combinations of the farmers. They would in many cases encourage co-operation in general, because that would mean that they would get their accounts better paid, but I do not think they would encourage any other form of agricultural organisation than to teach the farmers to grow better poultry or produce more eggs, pack them better, and send them away quicker. He requires to get more money for his produce, and he can only get more money for his produce if the sale is properly organised, and the sale of produce is a much harder thing than the purchase of farmers' requirements, and it can only be got when the purchase of the farmers' requirements has been properly organised.

13256. (Mr. Meeks).—I gather now that the financial position of the society is sound and satisfactory, and that you have a balance of, I think you said, £700.

Mr. HAROLD LOTT, Kilgobbin, Duniscurry, examined.

Mr. Harold
 Lott.

13257. (Chairman).—Mr. Lott, you are a member of the same Committee as Captain Bryson?—Yes.

13258. And I see in the Memorandum which you have supplied that you have something to say about other matters relating to the work of the Department of Agriculture?—Yes.

13259. First of all, about the action of the Department with regard to Irish-bred bulls?—Yes. The smaller breeders in the country and the bigger ones, too, complain that by the time that they bring their bulls to the Dublin Show here they find that on account of the nominations having been taken up by the Scotch-bred bulls purchased by the representatives of the Department that they are put to the expense of bringing their bulls to the railway and carrying them to the Royal Dublin Society's Show to find that the premiums have been taken up, and that there are dozens of good bulls eligible and good enough for premiums that have to be sent back to the country, in fact selected in Dublin for premiums, but there are no premiums given to them, and they get sent back to their owners, and a man is left with three or four bulls on his hands, and they think that they should be used instead of the Scotch bulls, and I have had a Memorandum explanatory of this that the bulls we have here are bulls that will get general purpose cattle. We want general purpose beasts. The Scotch short-horns are bred altogether for beef and therefore, I do not think that the Scotch type of short-horn is required, but that the type of short-horn to improve the stock of Ireland is the general purpose beast; and I think that the officials of the Board of Agriculture have had altogether too much latitude in purchasing bulls in the Scotch markets.

13260. And those Irish bulls that are sent back to the locality are not pure-bred bulls?—They are pure-bred bulls, of a different type. Most of the pure-bred cattle in the country are of the old Scotch and Bute strain. Now, the others, the Scotch ones, are all Crookshanks which are also pure-bred.

13261. (Mr. Dryden).—As to the Crookshank blood, I have some personal knowledge of it, and you say it is not adapted for milk?—That is what I say.

13262. Can you give me any evidence of that, because I should like to hear it?—We find that the old blood short-horns are bred both for beef and milk.

13263. Now, you are going down to first principles, and that is exactly opposite to the evidence we have got in reference to that matter?—That is my experience, sir. The type of short-horn now fashionable is altogether a beef type. The big buyers are the foreigners, who want them to make beef, and beef alone. The Argentines are the big buyers, and give the seasonal prices, and they buy altogether for beef, and the Scotch-bred cattle are the cattle fashionable, and bulls without Scotch Crookshank blood are of very little value to the Argentines.

13264. (Chairman).—There must be some good reason for that?—Beef, sir, beef. And when there are good bulls bred in Ireland I think Irish breeders should get a chance, just leaving out of account altogether whether they are beef or milk.

13265. (Mr. Dryden).—I am with you there?—And I think it is not fair to buy most of the bulls that are required for Ireland in Scotland, shutting out these bred here altogether.

13266. (Chairman).—I think what is wanted are more bulls?—Yes; we want more bulls also.

13267. And cannot you get them?—Oh, they can get them, but the money is not forthcoming to subsidise them. It is the want of money, the bulls can be got.

13268. (Mr. Brown).—The nominations, then, are not filled up?—In some cases they are not filled up, because they do not want particular breeds of cattle.

13269. A complaint has been made that the Department's valuations previous to the provisional selection of a bull put their mark on the animal, and that that raises the price of the bull so much that it is out of their reach. That is the complaint in most cases?—As far as the raising of the price of the bull I think it must increase the price.

13270. (Chairman).—As a matter of fact, the rising of the price by this system was admitted by Professor Campbell and justified on the ground that the breeder should be compensated?—It is a fact that the price is enhanced.

13271. (Mr. Brown).—Are there many left over after the Royal Dublin Society's Show, not bought?—Yes, there are.

13272. (Mr. Meeks).—What happens then?—They go back to the country, and they generally go to the butcher.

13273. (Chairman).—That is not the result of the evidence that we have had?—That is my experience.

13274. You know that the bulls go back to the butcher?—Yes, they go back to the butcher as then are bulls enough. And they only give twenty-two premiums in Wexford. We could utilize five times that number.

13275. (Mr. O'Shea).—Bulls that had been provisionally selected?—Yes, ones provisionally selected, if the money was forthcoming.

13276. (Mr. Brown).—About how many go back from the show provisionally marked?—A good many.

13277. Could you give me the number?—I could not.

13278. (Mr. Meeks).—I suppose the Dublin Society could supply that?—I think the Dublin Society could supply that. I am only a small exhibitor myself, and I brought home two bulls on one occasion.

13279. (Chairman).—What did you do with them?—They went to the butcher.

13280. (Mr. Meeks).—They were selected?—Yes; provisionally selected for premiums, and highly commended in their class.

13281. (Mr. Dryden).—When was this?—About four years ago.

13282. (Mr. O'Shea).—Does that condition still hold?—Yes, and the number of short-horn bulls brought to the country is on the increase.

13283. Have you taken back many since?—I have not since any since—I have generally sent my bulls to the Argentines.

13284. Have you had anybody else with that experience in the last year or two?—I could not name them now.

13285. What you state as to bulls provisionally marked yet not purchased at the Dublin Show still obtains?—It still obtains. That applies to the short-horns. I do not know whether it applies to the Friesian Angus or the Herefords or not.

13295. (Chairman).—Is there anything else you wish to say as to these prize bulls, about their condition? They have them in a very high state. I do not think that it is at all advisable that those highly-fed bulls should be in that condition. They do not want to be fattened for the show yard, and there is no bull fattened for a premium which is not in that condition. I do not think it is good for the progeny to have the bull pumped up in that way. There was a case happened in Wexford in the early days of agricultural work. We bought some bulls, and we bought one at the Royal Dublin Society's Show, the second-prize bull in his class and selected for a premium, and he came down. He was the second prize in his class. And next year when the mares came round he was not good enough for a premium. That illustrates what I say about the high feeding.

13297. (Mr. Mick).—Did you see him after a year?—I did.

13298. In your opinion was his condition serviceable?—Very serviceable condition.

13299. (Chairman).—Now, about thoroughbred horses?—The system of selecting horses here I do not think is advisable either. Thoroughbred horses are the horses subsidised most by the Department, and examinations are given to horses that are not suitable at all; and in my own district I know of their giving a thoroughbred horse at a low fee to poor farmers to breed from sires that should never have come to a thoroughbred horse, and I know of two cases in my own parish where the produce were no good and the owners went in for those 24 lbs. mares and they ruined themselves, and they are both gone out of the country. My own opinion is that thoroughbred horses should be selected in accordance with the requirements of the district they go into, and that the mares should be inspected so as to find out, in the first place, what mares might be in the district suitable for those horses before you planted the horses there. In the beginning of the working of the Agricultural Department the breeds of horses to be subsidised were specified, and there were small committees of breeders—I was on one of them myself—to say what horses we thought should be subsidised, and in that selection we had Shires, Clydesdales, Cleveland Bays, and others. Hackneys were left out, but Irish-bred stallions went in at first, not afterwards though. I went to Yorkshire and I bought what was believed to be a very superior Cleveland horse because I had some experience of the frames of Cleveland horses for such mares as we had in Wexford. My idea was that he should get an ideal mare, and I put this idea before the Department, and a veterinary surgeon was sent to examine the horse, and after all the Department decided that the horse could not be admitted, and he was sent away without calling the veterinary surgeon who examined the horse. The reason was that the veterinary surgeon was acting as inspector also. It was an unheard-of thing. If I knew that the veterinary surgeon was acting as inspector I would not allow him to see him at all, because I knew that he was prejudiced against that breed of horse and would not have him at any price; and the result was that he sent the horse, and it went before the country that the horse was unsound. And I think still, and I have not changed my mind, that the Cleveland is one of the best horses that you could get to improve the breed of Irish horses.

13300. (Mr. Brown).—Is not the purchase of sires entirely a matter for private enterprise?—Yes, but the selection for premium lies with the Board of Agriculture.

13301. Does not the Committee decide what the breed of the horse is to be?—Yes.

13302. And the purchase of the sire is a matter for private enterprise while the selection of the breed is a matter for the Committee?—Yes.

13303. And all that remains is that the veterinary surgeon on behalf of the Department examines the animal to see if he is sound?—Yes.

13304. What change do you suggest in that?—One change I would suggest is that the Cleveland horse should not be struck out.

13305. Does not that rest with the Committee?—With the Advisory Committee of the Board.

13306. With your own Committee?—No. It rests altogether with the Board of Agriculture.

13307. Then your Committee have proposed to subsidise Cleveland Bays?—Yes.

13296. And they have not refused?—They have refused altogether.

13299. I think that they only refused in your individual case?—Mine was the only case put forward, but they refused altogether since. They will not subsidise a Cleveland Bay.

13300. (Mr. Mick).—That was the real reason for refusing your horse?—That was the real reason. We had a deputation over this to Sir Horace Plunkett. Some owners of stallions who were dissatisfied with the action of the Department. We were promised all sorts of satisfaction, and we got none.

13301. Did you make any inquiries with respect to that horse?—I did.

13302. Did you make any inquiries at the Department?—Yes. I was on one of the Committees that recommended that the horse should be put on the list and accepted by the Department.

13303. I see that a Cleveland Bay was accepted?—Yes, and they bore that out in the Department. This was the only horse put forward. And I purchased him and then he was knocked out by the inspector.

13304. (Chairman).—Because he was a Cleveland?—I believe so, sir, because both the veterinary surgeon and the inspector acted in the one capacity, a thing they never did before. One of the veterinary surgeons was prejudiced against this breed of horse, and there were long letters in the papers about it.

13305. I suppose that finishes what you have to say?

—I should just like to say a word. Mr. Frielis spoke about the subsidising of the Organization Society by the Department. He said that the rock they split on was the organization of trade societies that came into antagonism with the traders. Well, that is contrary to the fact. The Organization Society were against the organization of trade societies altogether, so much that they threatened to cut off from the Organization one Wexford Society because they went in for trade, that is, stores, farmers' requirements, hardware, and all that. And we were forced into that. We started with the idea of dealing with nothing only seed, manures, and agricultural implements, and the traders got into opposition against us and would not sell us pens or paper to do our writing on, and in one case one of our Committees was refused dip to dip sheep; and thus we were forced in self-defence to go in for everything that farmers require. And I agree with Captain Bryan that the co-operative movement will do little good in Ireland till the trade side of the organization is thoroughly organized and put into practice.

13306. Are you speaking of the Hinnisworthy Trade Society?—Yes.

13307. What was started so far back as 1895?—Yes.

13308. And it receives no aid from the Department, and has a Bank overdraft of £3,800, and is a limited liability company, and it has £2,000 of share capital?—Yes.

13309. (Mr. Brown).—That is half the capital?—Yes. The shares are 5s. and the farmers are expected to take one share for every 25 of valuation up to twenty shillings. People who used the Society applied themselves to the business of providing the capital and getting an overdraft at the bank on a guarantee by the Committee and on their joint personal security.

13310. On their personal security?—Yes. We were forced into the general trading that we never intended at first. We had no store and had to take our orders to the market house, and we had no paid officers at all. As to the reference to the bank, I am also president of one of the banks mentioned.

13311. Which is that?—Boernemont. It is a small country place and the office are in a house lent by Captain Bryan for the purpose of a library for the district; and the bank was started with a loan from the Board of Agriculture of £250, and we have also got an overdraft with the Ulster Bank at 4 per cent. on the joint and several security of the Committee; but no cheque will be paid without the signature of the president, so that the men who compose the Committee, who are labourers and artisans, cannot hand money to their friends and send the money of the bank without going before the president. A cheque must be signed by two members of the Committee and the President. It is a very small place and it has done a great deal of good in many cases, and there are road contractors there, for instance, who borrow money.

13312. Is that on the principle of personal security?

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—They have to get two securities for the loan, but the money is always lent for some specific purpose, and the securities, who must be members, have got to see that the money is used for the purposes for which it is borrowed.

13313. And everybody in the place knows who everybody else is?—Yes; and that is the reason why the bank should be kept in a very small area. The parish would be enough for any bank.

13314. I think money lent in any other way would be of no use. What is your rate of interest?—We charge 5 per cent., but we pay, I think, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to the Board of Agriculture on the loan; and we have an overdraft with the Ulster Bank for 4 per cent.

13315. There are thirty-seven people who are members?—And we can add.

13316. And must both the borrowers and the securities

be members?—Well, the Committee have power to take one of the securities who is not a member if they consider he is worth it.

13317. I suppose each application is considered by the Board?—Yes; each application is considered by the Committee.

13317a. What sort of sums do you lend?—I think the biggest sum we have lent is £15 up to the present.

13318. What is the smallest sum?—One case of £1 lately. A poor woman for instance wants to buy a pig, and they pay up at the time they sell.

13319. Does that work well?—Yes, that is working well.

13320. Have you any bad debts?—No bad debts at all.

13321. And it is in existence between three and four years?—Yes.

Captain LECTER BRYAN, D.L., J.P., Ennisceorthy, further examined.

Captain
Lecter Bryan,
D.L., J.P.

13322 (Mr. Michs).—There was one question I wished to ask, whether you would express any opinion either for or against the Department of Agriculture taking over the work and staff of the Organization Society as part of their ordinary official machinery?—I think it would be better than expecting co-operative agriculture to be organised by the county committees; but I think it is now somewhat of a problem for the staff of the Organization Society to be taken over by the Department of Agriculture directly. On the Continent one of the troubles that they have had in Germany has been the fact that the Government Departments have been obtaining control in many cases of the co-operative movement; and one of the leading English, or, I may say, international co-operators, Mr. Henry Wolfe, who wrote a well-known book on People's Banks—it is almost a manual with him—objects to Government assistance, because, he says, Government assistance means Government control, and that means industrial work and social work being exposed to political influences of an injurious character, and also preventing the work having what it should have, a great effect on the improvement of the general ideas of farmers, what I may call the moral instruction of farmers, not using the word in the common sense, and to train their power of combination and power of independent action. We believe that the co-operative movement should have fully educated people about it, which could not be if it was a mere question of cheaper manures and superphosphate to enable the farmers to make a better profit, and we believe that the moral effect on the farmers of the agricultural community pulling together, and all equally working together, would be very good for the whole country and that the moral effect would be accompanied by a large outburst of material effects; and we believe that if the work is handed over to a Government Department it will come under the same influences which all Government Departments in Ireland at present suffer through. One of the great Departments has been affected. I am sure lots of witnesses have told you that, and in future, under a Department, it would mean that the people would be under the control of men who would be excellent people for other purposes but who would not be so, possibly, for the organisation of co-operation.

13323. It is being placed under a Government Department that you would object to?—Yes; and because in a Department under popular control there may be, for instance, a very excellent man who keeps a large agricultural establishment, and there probably would be, who would probably say, and actually, from his point of view, "I don't want to encourage agricultural co-operation, which means the transferring of my business to farmers." And that difficulty there may be if it is placed under the control of a Government Department, if you hand over the actual working.

13324 (Chairman).—Do not the objections which you have just stated apply to making a large subsidy?—I think that is a better way out of it. I see

difficulties there too, but I consider that you may do that on the principle of giving every organized effort help. We heard yesterday the evidence of an authority, who states that the interests of the farmer do not always harmonize with the interests of the commercial community, and railway and other interests do not always harmonize with the interests of the farmer; and I think the Government might give funds, allocated under a scheme, and have it superintended by their officials. And, secondly, I believe the farmers should get technical instruction on the lines best suited to their industry, by the acquisition of organized co-operative institutions.

13325 (Mr. Bryan).—May I ask when you suggest a large subsidy would it not follow as a necessary consequence that the Government should retain sufficient control to know exactly how the money has been spent?—Yes; but at the present time they have that in regard to the Organization Society.

13326. You do not suggest that the control should be done away with?—No; I suggest that they should be aware of what is being done, that they should have the power of seeing that the money is properly expended; I suggest that there should be a properly elected Committee (there is a Committee elected by the Co-operative Societies for the Organization Society); that they should have greater power given to them in the expenditure of money; that the money should be allocated or ear-marked for the organized farmers' interests, for the co-operative farmers' interests, so long as you were satisfied that it was not used for any particular clique in the district, so long as it was open to everybody.

13327. I am speaking of the principle?—I think the principle of control is quite right. I think it is quite right to assist in the technical instruction.

13328 (Chairman).—Have I interpreted your view rightly in this way?—you say, "Continue to subsidize with a large scheme the Organization Society?"—Yes, sir.

13329. "Do not exercise too close a supervision as to the way in which that money is expended; do not control the actual expenditure of the money, or attempt to do it?"—Yes.

13330. "But keep a sufficient eye on the proceedings of the Society, by report, by inspection, if necessary in other ways, to assure yourself from time to time that the public money is being usefully devoted to public purposes?"—Quite so, sir, and I would go further than that. Take, now, my own district, down in Wexford. I should like to see subsidies granted from the Central Body to a local institution such as I directly represent here, the District Conference Committee, for the purpose of organisation in the county.

13331. Yes; but you would leave a question of that sort to the intermediate body. You could not have that directly done?—Yes; but I would have the principle adopted. It is exactly the same principle as money given to local committees for agricultural and technical instruction.

Mr. R. A.
Lett.

13332 (Chairman).—You are a member of the same Committee with Mr. Lett and Captain Bryan?—Yes.

13333. And you have heard their evidence, will you

Mr. R. A. Latta, Ballinakil, Ferns, examined.

make, in your own way, your own comment on it?—Perhaps I might state that the chief reason why I was asked to give evidence here is that the Organiza-

tion Society did not seem to be inclined to favour the kind of organisation that we approved of down in our district.

13334. That is to say, unlimited liability?—Well, I may say the policy of establishing co-operative stores.

13335. With limited liability?—With any liability. A store system irrespective of the question of liability.

13336. On the ground that it brought you more directly into competition with local traders?—On the ground that it brought us directly into competition with local traders and that it would have the effect of injuring an existing industry. We did not re-

consider trade as an industry. It was merely an occupation that came between different industries.

We, having started the store, found after a while, that we seemed to come into conflict, more or less, with the Organisation Society, and they disapproved the establishment of stores entirely. We

of course believed that the establishment of stores in other parts of the county would more or less strengthen our position and it would provide a better means of trading in federation, through the

Agricultural Wholesale Society, than was provided by the kind of the agricultural societies that they favoured.

That was a kind of farmers' clubs for buying artificial manures, feeding stuffs, and seeds, getting these sent to the local committees and dividing them amongst themselves as best they could. We,

as Mr. Lees has pointed out to you, found that that system was not satisfactory, and we were obliged to establish stores, and besides we considered that for the sake of developing co-operative sale of produce

stores were absolutely necessary, because it was absolutely necessary for us in order to get the best price for our produce to sell in bulk and if we wanted to get the most favourable conditions as regards

freight and rates we should send away in bulk; and of course stores were a necessity in order to concentrate our produce.

13337. (Mr. Miles).—For the collection and forwarding of produce?—For the collection and forwarding of produce. Our experience taught us that a

store was absolutely necessary if co-operative trading was to develop to an extent that would be of any benefit at all to the farmers. Captain Bryan has, I think,

pointed out the importance of co-operative credit in connection with that. The type of credit society that has been organised we also did not consider very

suitable. One society Captain Bryan has mentioned, the Ballindagga Society, which registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, and limited

liability. Is a type of the credit society that we considered—

13338. (Chairman).—The Society of Ballindagga. It is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act. I believe it is the only one

registered under that Act in Ireland. But it appears that owing to peculiarities of the law a society registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act can do a great many things that a Friendly Society

cannot do, and that it is possible for a bank registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act to undertake a class of work that other societies

could not possibly touch as the law at present stands. It is also possible to federate with central banking

institutions or central trading societies. We considered that one important function of a credit society would be to be able to guarantee the credit of its

members to a central trading institution. It would be simpler and more effective, we thought, than

having small sums of money to people and having to exercise a certain amount of supervision to see that that money was expended, say, in the purchase of

seeds or manures or anything else—it would be much simpler for the parish bank to be in a position to

guarantee for members a certain amount of money, that being the system, so that member can buy artificial manures, seeds, and other things against it.

That would save the turning over of the money, and it would also serve to centralise their work, and would be a benefit to the trade in more ways than one, and it would tend to strengthen their trading credit.

13339. (Mr. Miles).—And would your working capital go much very further than if worked as a loan fund?—I think so. Supposing it has a certain amount of money to handle, they could lend that

amount of course. They should not be prevented from doing that.

13340. (Chairman).—Take the Ballindagga Society; it was established in 1897, with a bank overdraft of £100; it has a share capital nominally of

£147, and there is only 5d. for shares paid up—I think about that.

13341. Well, that comes altogether to about £104?—Well, the rules provide that only a small amount of share capital can be called up. The existing share

capital being a security that the guarantors have to fall back upon, the joint stock banks declined to accept uncalled share capital as security. We consider that

the system is capable of very great development. 13342. Then the security for the overdraft is the personal security of all the members?—Of the Com-

mittee. 13343. (Mr. Miles).—A joint and several promise very notable?—That is of the Committee.

13344. (Chairman).—That Society is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act?—Yes; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act. That Society can decide. In fact there is

hardly any limit to what that Society can do. A Friendly Society cannot do those things, and for some reason or other, which I cannot understand, the Organisation Society do not favour the establish-

ment of societies of this kind. 13345. What is the liability to the creditors—is there any personal liability of the members of the Com-

mittee?—There is no liability beyond the liability to the bank for the overdraft, and, of course, the Com-

mittee have the uncalled share capital to fall back upon.

13346. The money is lent on the personal liability of the Committee and the uncalled capital?—On the security of the Committee; the uncalled share capital is security for the Committee.

13347. Is that enough?—I think as far as that society is concerned it is abundant, but I think that the Society does not seem to have got any further than many of the other societies, but the reason is

that there were no societies but itself and the system had not been developed.

13348. (Mr. Brown).—Is this the Society that guarantees its members, or are you speaking of the Emmisborough Society?—I am speaking of the Society of the Ballindagga Bank.

13349. Is that the Society that guarantees its members?—No; it has not done it, but it could do it.

13350. (Mr. Miles).—You wish that to be done?—That also has not been developed. It was in opposition to the wishes of our District Conference Com-

mittee, but the Organisation Society did not see his way to take up this line and work it. One reason given by the Organisation Society was that a system that

might be suitable in Wexford might not suit in other parts of the country, but we do not agree with that.

We think the same system would be applicable to a good many other parts of the country. Some

private individuals had subscribed funds to the Organisation Society on the express condition that stores were

not to be organised, and we were afraid that if the Department was going to contribute funds to the

Organisation Society in any way they would perhaps act under the influence of traders serving on the

Board and on the County Committee, and would probably, if they contributed, also stipulate that stores should not be organised; and we, feeling that stores

were an absolute necessity to the development of co-operative trade, felt rather anxious on that point.

As regards the means of helping the Organisation Society, Captain Bryan has gone very fully into that

matter, but I think that perhaps the best way would be for the Department to do pretty much as it has

been doing, that is, to pay the Organisation Society for doing any special class of work the Organisation Society could do, perhaps better than they could do

themselves, and leave the Organisation Society free to spend affiliation funds or private subscriptions in the development of a store system or any other system

that it might not be easy to get the approval of an Agricultural Board constituted largely of traders, for.

13351. (Mr. O'Connell).—How far would it be possible to identify the work done in that respect; suppose the Organisation Society sends down an agent to a village

what amount of instruction would be given?—I don't exactly know. Suppose he is sent down to a village he will give instruction largely upon what the people in the district think they need the most.

13352. Would he call a meeting of the people and teach them as a class or go round and see them individually?—He lectures them as a class. They usually call the meeting themselves and he comes down.

13353. How many meetings would you have in one place?—That would depend a great deal on the state

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of mind of the people in the place, and whether there is any voluntary organization. Occasionally a few leading spirits in the district take up the work, and therefore some visits perhaps are necessary from the central organization. We are, of course, of the opinion no matter what amount of technical instruction the Department may give the farmers, or how much money may be spent trying to revive agriculture, it will all go for nothing so long as the trade is unorganized because the profits will be simply collared by various combinations and monopolists that sell to him or buy from him. We are of opinion that the best way to assist agriculture, better than protection or any other way, would be to help them to organize their trade. As far as our district is concerned it is not very easy for us to apply co-operation to anything but trade because ours is not a dairying district, and we cannot apply it to the manufacture of

butter, and I don't know that we could apply it very much to anything except to credit and to trade. What we are anxious about is that the Organization Society should not be hampered in future and prevented from organizing trade societies on lines similar to those on which the Homecroft Society is working. We think that developing the credit system on the lines suggested would be a great advantage to the country as a whole—with central banks also.

13353. (Chairman).—You would prefer to see those questions left substantially in the hands of the Organization Society?—Yes.

13354. Instead of being taken over by the Department?—Yes. If taken over by the Department the people of the various districts might have no voice whatever in choosing the type of organization that, as Captain Bryan has pointed out, might be applied to any particular district.

REV. JOHN HUMPHREYS, Tullamore, examined.

Rev. John
Humphreys.

13355. (Chairman).—You are a representative of the King's County Technical Committee in Tullamore?—Yes. I am a Presbyterian clergyman there.

13356. You have given us heads of what you wish to say. First of all as to the general working of the Act of 1899, you have some observations to make?—First as to the constitution of the Department a great many views have been expressed here from time to time. Personally I am quite satisfied with the constitution of the Department. It has been suggested to hand over the control to the County Councils. I would not be in favour of that. It would not be at all suitable to the country. What is wanted in Ireland is to give the Act a fair trial in the country. In a great many rural districts it has never been put into operation yet. A great deal of pioneer work has still to be done. King's County is regarded as about fifth in all Ireland in applying the Act in the towns and rural districts, yet we are very far behind there. In the Birr division of the county there is one of the most successful technical schools in Ireland perhaps. In Tullamore we are only beginning to speak. I find wherever the clergymen of the various denominations take an interest in the working of the Act, there it is more successful. I think all the clergymen of the churches could do a great deal of useful work in that respect, recommending the young people to take advantage of the various schemes worked under the Act. As to the Vice-President, I don't know him. I have never even seen him, but I think he has done a great deal for the country. I don't know any man who deserves better of the country. I would not be in favour of having the Vice-President in Parliament. He should always be outside Parliament so as to give all his time to the work. The President would be quite able to answer all questions asked in Parliament.

13357. As to the actual working in your neighbourhood?—It is satisfactory on the whole. There is little or no idleness. We always found the Department very accommodating indeed.

13358. Are you a member of any Committee?—I am Chairman of the local Committee; I am also a member of the North King's County Committee and a member of the Joint Committee for the whole country. I have taken a great interest in the working of the Act since its commencement, but it has not had time yet to operate, and I don't know why the Government appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire into the Act before it has got into working shape in many parts of the country. As to the Board of Technical Instruction I am of the opinion that it should be more representative than it is. It seems somewhat queerly constructed. I should like to see a representative from every county in Ireland on it. I should like to see some change in the duties. At present it is only advisory. For example, it can only deliberate upon questions submitted to it by the Department. I think its members should be allowed to suggest the wants of the various counties, and so on. The duties should be somewhat enlarged from what they are at present. They seem very limited as the Act stands now. If you had a member from each county on the Board, that member could give a great deal of information about the wants of that county and its industries. He should be very familiar with these things, otherwise he ought not to be a member. If the Board were made up in that

way it would be more useful than it is at present. You would have a larger body. Personally I am not in favour of very large bodies, but there is a feeling that it should be more representative.

13359. It is considerably smaller than the Agricultural Board?—Yes. There is a feeling that every county should be represented, and have an opportunity of laying the wants of the county before the Department. Therefore I am in favour of making it more representative than it is at present. As to technical schools I think there is a great want of these all over the country. For instance, in King's County we should have at least two properly-equipped technical schools, one in Birr and the other in Tullamore. In Tullamore we use part of the County Courthouse for our work.

13360. You are speaking now of the buildings?—Yes; we want buildings. Properly-equipped buildings.

13361. Is your school properly equipped?—No. We have no chemical laboratory. We have just cupboards and lockers. In Birr they have a somewhat better equipment; but there should be two buildings at least in each county properly equipped for technical schools. Another point is that there should be at least two model farms in each county, of fifty or sixty acres, where scientific farming could be carried on, because agriculture must be the great industry of Ireland.

13362. You mean farms carried on for experimental purposes, not commercially?—Yes, where farmers see and all the people around the neighbourhood could see scientific farming carried on, because, while lectures on farming are a good thing, it would be better if they saw the work actually done.

13363. You don't think the need is sufficiently met by experiments and demonstration plots?—I don't think so. I have seen demonstration plots in my neighbourhood, and people 1½ miles off did not know of their existence.

13364. (Mr. O'Leary).—If they lived fifteen miles away from a model farm would they be likely to know about it?—Yes, I am suggesting a farm of fifty or sixty acres, where they would see a proper rotation of crops, artificial manures applied, and so on, because at present they know absolutely nothing of these things.

13365. (Chairman).—Is it your idea that the farms should be run entirely by the Department, or would you have a farmer farming under the advice of the Department?—I would have a qualified man appointed by the Department to superintend and direct the work.

13366. It is a large order putting one or two farms of the kind in every county in Ireland?—I don't think it would be very expensive.

13367. (Mr. Meade).—You think the land would not be large?—I think it would not.

13368. (Chairman).—If the land were large it would be a sign that the farms were not satisfactorily conducted?—Yes. If they were satisfactorily conducted they would almost pay expenses. Another matter that I should like to refer to is local industries. There is a feeling all over the country that local industries should be inaugurated and subsidised by the Department. I am not in favour of spoon-feeding an industry, but something might be done in helping over the initial stages, and let the money be paid back again.

would not be in favour of shovelling out money to start industries where they would not be likely to succeed for more than six months, but where there is an earnest desire to start an industry the Department should be empowered to help, because when you have got people trained in technical education you have got to put them to something. The feeling all over the country is that there is no use in educating these people if they are going off to America or elsewhere. I don't exactly take that view myself, for I believe that they should get the best education you can give them no matter where they go.

13566. (Mr. Michel).—Lending money to new industries is not exactly what you mean by spoon-feeding!—No—handing over sums of money without any conditions for repaying them.

13570. Do you think such a thing would be done by any body?—I have heard that view expressed many a time. I would not be in favour of that. As to the consultative committee of education I think it is much too small to be of any use. It has only five or six members. It should be much more representative than it is. You should have the Provost of Trinity College, the President of the Catholic University, Stephen's Green, the Presidents of the three Queen's Colleges, the President of the Magee College, Derry, and so on, added to it. The education question in Ireland is a very thorny one, but it is not beyond human ingenuity to

suggest some scheme better than we have at present, and it is only by bringing the various schools of thought together and getting them to respect each other's convictions that you can really accomplish anything. If we could get all the leading men, representative of various schools of thought, to come together and discuss matters and look at each other's point of view something might be done. At the present time in the case of a great many of the boys coming from National schools their education is so very imperfect that they are not fit to take advantage of technical instruction. They don't know commercial arithmetic, and other subjects that are necessary for boys who are to take advantage of technical instruction. There is a want of co-ordination about our educational schemes in this country.

13571. (Chairman).—We have had a great deal of evidence on that point!—There is never any friction among the members of our Committee. Although a Presbyterian I live on the friendliest terms with Fr. O'Reilly, our Chairman, and the other clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church. We all live on the friendliest terms, and respect one another's feelings and convictions. I think it is a good thing to bring all the clergymen of various denominations together, because I don't think the regeneration of Ireland is ever going to be worked over by political parties, but only by bringing people together and getting all to work together for the common good of the country.

On resuming after luncheon.

T. CARRAN MACARDIE, R.P., Dundalk, organized.

13572. (Chairman).—You are Chairman of the County Louth Technical Education Committee?—Yes; that is the portion with regard to technical education as distinguished from agriculture.

13573. You have two Committees, one for technical education and the other for agriculture?—Yes. We have a general committee, and a special technical committee. Ours is a rather peculiar formation. We have two important towns in the County Louth, Drogheda and Dundalk. The railway communication is good. As a member of the County Council I took this matter up. At first we were very ignorant of it. We thought the best thing to do was to get the best headmaster we could. This was after the formation of the Department. We wanted to have a Whitworth exhibitor and a trained man. We found Dundalk alone would not be able to pay the salary of a first-rate man and other officials. We made a joint scheme. We have six members of the Urban Council of Dundalk and six in Drogheda, eight members of the County Council and eight co-opted members on the Committee. I am Chairman of the Committee. We also look after the itinerant instructor. Mr. Dolan, of Antrim, will be able to tell you more about that than I. First I must express satisfaction at the courteous treatment received from Sir Horace Plunkett and the Department. In our initial stages we were very ignorant indeed. We were backwards and forwards constantly to the Department, and we always felt that we were going home. All those whom we met were most anxious to give us every help and information they could. I personally feel very grateful. I also say that the new spirit of self-help and the revival of Irish industries is due in a great measure to Sir Horace Plunkett, and it would be a pity if we lost his services in connection with this movement. We had also Mr. Macartney Filgate, who came down to see what industries we could start. We started a shirt factory. I am sorry to say it was not successful. It is rather tiresome to go into the details of it. Though that of itself was not a success to a great extent the outcome of it, plus the great energy and keen interest of Father Johnson, of Mullaghawn, six miles from us, who went over to Manchester with Mr. Filgate and myself to induce some of the Manchester firms to take up this business, and work with our assistance, Mr. Mitchell, of a very large firm in Manchester and Derry, came over, and found our place not properly constructed, but the result now is there is a very prosperous shirt-factory going on in Mullaghawn, and fifty-six girls are employed there, and they expect

to have three times as many employed there before many years. In reference to the difficulty of getting into touch with all these movements throughout Ireland I might mention as one small blot on the Board of Technical Instruction that two important towns such as Drogheda and Dundalk have no representatives upon it.

13574. (Mr. Brown).—Perhaps you mean also on the Council of Agriculture?—No. We have representatives there.

13575. (Mr. Dwyer).—Are you not indirectly represented?—Neither directly nor indirectly. We have no voice at all, and don't know a single thing about it. County boroughs have representation, but large urban districts with over 10,000 population, having schools such as we have should have representation.

13576. (Mr. Brown).—You have the province of Leinster represented?—If I were to be honest I could not tell you who the representative is. These (Agenda in document) give a list of the different subjects we teach. They include cookery, laundry, dressmaking in the girls classes, shorthand and typewriting. We have string learning, book-keeping. They are well attended, but if you look to the higher branches the attendance is not at all what it should be in Dundalk. We have large railway works there, several foundries, and two or three very successful builders, who build all over Ireland, and we don't find that the apprentices in these different trades are taking advantage of our schools as they ought, notwithstanding the efforts of Father Quinn and the clergy to keep this before the public.

13577. In building construction you have only six?—That is not half enough. We should have twenty at least. The girls are doing admirably. They are smart, bright, intelligent, and attend admirably, but these boys for whom we laid ourselves out specially, and for whom we have highly-paid teachers, with the best of qualifications, don't come as they ought. If technical education is to go on it should be made a principle of a boy's apprenticeship that he should attend technical classes.

13578. Would not that be rather a matter for the employers themselves?—We approached the employers. Mr. McDermott's son attends regularly and Mr. Wynn's son and Mr. Donnell's son. It is a curious thing, that the master-builders, all wealthy men, their sons attend, but the employers don't follow the example of their master's sons. It is very hard to get them to attend.

13579. (Chairman).—In book-keeping you have as many as sixty, and in cookery in the evening you have nine?—Yes. I heard to-day, in evidence, that

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Rev. John Macpherson.

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Mr. T. Collins.
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girls in other schools would not like to be called upon to make dishes. Our girls would not have a bit of hesitation in making any dish for anybody. If they thought they could not make them they would be very much annoyed.

13330. (Mr. Collins).—Tell me whether in the book-keeping you have got any other than clerks; do you have young artists or young men who may be expected to have to conduct trades businesses?—Yes; we have all sorts and conditions, and both sexes. It is the strongest class we have.

13331. And men who are likely to be conducting businesses do take the trouble to come to learn book-keeping?—Yes, and one man whose brother is a contractor, and who is over thirty years of age, is a regular student. It is difficult to get really qualified book-keeper teachers. They can keep their own set of books in their own way, but when it comes to a matter of general book-keeping it is difficult. I have been a business man all my life. I was asking if you had Mr. Richard Atkins, of Cork, before you, and Mr. Brown said you had. I did not see his evidence, but I wish to make a suggestion regarding industrial development. From the scholastic point of view the Department is going on splendidly well all over Ireland. There is no use in going back on the different industries we had in Ireland long ago. You know all about our occupations and about our workhouses and asylums being filled. The Department has now been several years working. To a very great extent the officials are first rate schoolmasters. The schoolmaster as a rule is not a good business man, and in this connection I wrote out a few notes which I would like to read. The great fact with which we are confronted in Ireland to-day is that emigration, luxury, and pauperism stare us in the face. No matter who you meet, north or south, this is the subject of general and common conversation. Directly or indirectly all classes are affected by it. Take our railway companies for example. The Great Northern Railway Company being fortunate enough to run through the only manufacturing district, pays a large dividend on their shares, which stand at a high premium. The other three great trunk railways, although perhaps equally capably managed—because they run through country in which there are no industries pay small dividends: one of them no dividend on its ordinary shares, and no hope of serious improvement until emigration is stopped and employment is found for the people in the districts which they traverse. In this way, every shareholder of a railway company is directly and personally interested in this question. The same to a greater or less degree applies to our Banking Corporations, and should also to our Insurance Associations, if we had any. The legal profession is equally affected, and, indeed, all the professions, while, of course, manufacturers like the brewing, distilling and tobacco industries, are hit, perhaps, hardest of all. If I have made my premise right, then it is the duty of all people who control these concerns to take more than a distant interest in industries. I will now respectfully give opinions borrowed from Mr. Atkins, Mr. Eschwege, other people whom I have met, and mean of my own. Firstly, a separate and distinct wing should be added to the Technical Instruction Board purely for industries. I do not suggest a new Board, because I recollect Justice Fitzgibbon in a public speech stating that there were more Boards in Ireland than would make coffee for the nation (and let it be understood in any suggestions I may make that I want especially to avoid conflicting with existing industries, and that I give all credit to the Irish Development Association, the Gaelic League, to Mr. William Field, M.P., and of course Sir Horace Plunkett, and the Countess of Aberdeen). The new wing, an up-to-date and thoroughly trained business man—if possible one with American experience—at the head of it under the control of the President of the Department, with a small competent staff, every one of whom should, if possible be a hard-headed business man, selected purely and simply on account of his fitness and expert knowledge of some particular branch of trade, and that this should be kept entirely distinct from agriculture. That it should have from the Development Grant as suggested by Mr. Atkins, say £40,000 a year, and that in connection with this wing, a grand Committee of unpaid members should be formed consisting of two selected directors from each of the great trunk railways, two from each

of the Irish Banking Corporations, to form the nucleus, the remainder to come from members of the localised class, such as Lord Mayo, Lord Dunraven, Lord Castletown, or Colonel Everett, Mr. Sutton, Lord Fife with the addition of some one man, representing manufacturing or mercantile interests, and who had made a success of his own business from the different towns in Ireland. I lay great stress on railway directors and bank directors, as these Corporations have in every town in Ireland railway agents and bank managers, all of whom have unique opportunities of knowing the personnel of the different districts, the financial status and the local capabilities, and would be invaluable in reporting on or suggesting schemes, while the moral influence and financial backing of this grand committee would undoubtedly see that Ireland got its full share of Government patronage. Take my own trade at present, where brewers, under the shadow of Guinness's Brewery, are importing English and Scotch stout.

13332. Is not that simply a matter of the custom committees doing the best they can for their clients?—It is very hard to persuade any man that there could be better brewed in England equal to Guinness's.

13333. It may be cheaper?—I don't think it is. The army regulations, say, deal locally where you are. That is the spirit of the Act, but it is not carried out.

13334. But my point is that these committees for beer are not placed by the War Office, but by the custom committees?—At the present time you are right. It is the custom committees deals with it, but while they are in Ireland and while we contribute our full share of Imperial taxation everything they could get in Ireland should be got here, particularly anything the country is famous for manufacturing. Further, having assumed that a certain district lent itself to certain manufactures the opening in this district might be advertised in the English or American papers, so that we want the capital, but to get, if possible, experts in the different manufactures who under other conditions would open branch factories in Ireland. Take, for instance, Messrs. Fowles, the glass manufacturers, coming to Tipperary. Now, what inducements could be offered? First, the ground (land) could give a building site and water power if available, say, for the first seven years rent free, to be followed, in the event of the factory being a success, by a very low rent for a long term of years. The would pay the landlord, as artisan's dwellings would be required, and the value of his estate greatly would be enhanced.

13335. (Mr. Mac).—Do you think you could induce landlords to do that?—I am quite certain the gentleman I mention would do it, and many others in Ireland.

13336. You would not have compulsory government think if certain areas were got up there would be very little difficulty. Power should be given to Urban District Councils to allow the factory on the new basis, free of rate for the first seven years, and if they control water for manufacturing purposes, give it free, or at all events for a very low price for the same period. The local gas company might give the special inducements in the price of gas, and the railway directors might have special powers to give them very favourable rates for raw material and the manufactured articles for a limited period, while the bankers, having special sources of information, would, if the concern shaped prospectively, be able to help in many ways. Advantage might also be taken of clause five, page eight, in the new programme of the Department, whereby grants not exceeding three-quarters of the certified annual expenditure on schools or classes for teaching trades in connection with existing industries will be paid. A further inducement might be given by this new wing out of the £40,000 a year. Offer to find a portion of the initial capital, or to induce local people to take small sums in the new venture to popularise it, and guarantee them a small dividend for the first few years while the infant industry was taking root. A great many people, if I proposed the scheme to them, would say, nothing will be done till we get Home Rule. I held that even if the new Council which we are expecting were formed to-morrow it would take some considerable time before they could settle down into working order, and be in a position to tackle subjects like this. In the meantime, day by day, the best of our people are emigrating, and our poorhouses and asylums continue to fill, and while I have not the slightest objection for politicians of all

and every shade forwarding their own ideas on their own lines, while doing so I think if this matter was seriously dealt with by some such body as I crudely suggest that we ought to expect help from all. There is more or less urgency in this. Next year the Irish International Exhibition will be in full vogue, it will attract tourists and manufacturers from all parts of the world. This new wing should have three statistics showing, for instance, the number of pairs of boots and the volume of trade of this sort that are imported into Ireland every year, and also the exports, and if this new wing was furnished in the near future, a bureau might be opened in the exhibition where people likely to invest capital or start industries would have all this information at their disposal. There is one other point. A great deal of exception is taken to the fact that the Department's schemes don't teach trades directly. They only teach the underlying principles. The practical work must be so arranged as to be illustrative of the principles taught, and should not be directed to the development of dexterity in the trade process. Is the word "not" in the English Act?

13387. (Chairman).—No. It does not exist in English.

13388. (Mr. O'Brien).—That clause you just reading has an exactly corresponding clause in the statute affecting England of the same kind?—That is the very thing we want.

13389. You ask does this apply to England; it does apply to England—it says it should not be devoted to developing dexterity in the teaching of trade processes, against that Mr. Fletcher drew attention to the clause on page 8.—"Either in connection with work, business houses, or technical schools, with a view to improving the conditions of local industries and commerce, grants not exceeding three-quarters of the certified annual expenditure for the conduct of such schools and classes may be made by the Department in respect of students from whom an employer's certificate can be produced showing that the students have been engaged during the day in a business, trade, or industry, or are instructed or properly engaged as apprentices to a firm or individuals." I hold if the Department make that clause enough and contribute three-quarters of the entire expense of their attendance at school, to the training of apprentices, that if a factory started, that of itself would be a tremendous inducement to seek people to this country.

13390. The second thing that I read refers to day schools; the instruction not being devoted to dexterity refers to evening classes; there are corresponding clauses in the English regulations it occurs in a great many places; here is one of them:—"The work may include systematic instruction in the underlying scientific principles to the extent to which the course is concerned with these principles and their application as distinct from their practice for trade purposes with a view to the acquisition of manipulative skill." It excludes from the payment of grants anything which is instruction in the practice of a trade with a view to the acquisition of manipulative skill. You have got freedom of payments of grants in this Irish regulation which does not exist in England?—And if I am rightly informed it is not confined to the £25,000 a year.

13391. Yes; you have got here an unrestricted grant; you can dig into that as deep as you like!—That is what we want to do if we can get a chance.

13392. You spoke about under a new system the Department having at its head a first-rate business man; what salary would you contemplate he should receive?—That is a very difficult thing; if you come across a first-rate business man, thirty-seven or forty years of age; if he is really a first-rate business man he is really making a big income in his own business, and in order to induce him to come you must pay him a good while salary.

13393. What does that mean?—That is a detail.

13394. You have only £20,000 to spend?—If we could get a man like Sir Horace Plunkett, with his heart in it, he might be glad to take £1,000 a year and come far better of the work.

13395. You want a man to run Ireland as a commercial unit?—He is going to have enormous help.

13396. If he were at the top of a big trading concern he would have up to £10,000 a year probably?—Those salaries in Ireland, except in Government positions, are not heard of; that would be the income from a decently prosperous concern.

13397. That is not a salary which goes with Government jobs at all, but you propose a commercial job; it would be a matter of the greatest value to have a man of that type!—No salary that we could pay would be too much; if he got the whole £20,000, if he was the right man, it would not be too much.

13398. I was going to tell you I know a business in which they gave a man £24,000 a year for three years, and said, "After that time you will be either worth nothing, or anything you like to name." I lay special stress that no man should be appointed to the Department who was not a thorough business man, with a knowledge of men; but when I think the amount of salary a man should get to put Ireland on its feet, I must remember there are thirty-five millions of manufactured goods imported every year into Ireland. Those manufacturers, like the beer that is dumped over here in my trade, do the people no good.

13399. We are looking at this as if it were a big commercial business; if we have not got a first-rate man it is no use trying it at all!—I would not even go so far as that with it. I think we should have some very able commercial men in the City of Dublin. If you could not get a big top man; if you got a thorough sound honest man that would carry out faithfully the instructions of his Committee, he would be the next best thing.

13400. But he is to be the Committee's manager, not merely in policy but in matters of detail?—In every successful Committee that ever I know of it was nearly always a one-man job. A Board of Directors may be anything; it may be very useful for advising; it may very often stop a man from rushing too far and keep him in check, but, as a rule, it is one man sets the thing going; but a Committee I think would be very useful.

13401. But I am not quite clear whether you mean it to manage the man or merely advise him on occasions. I think you mentioned your Committee would only meet a few times in the year, but the manager would have to consult them frequently?—I should say they would meet on the first Tuesday of every month, and form sub-committees for Belfast, Dublin, and other places; but no money could be advanced without coming up on the first Tuesday of the month, and getting the formal consent of the Board because when a local committee would recommend it it would be only a suggestion. If I was sitting at the Committee and saw the man selected, and saw him do his work, then I would be able to tell you whether it would be the Committee or the man would run the show.

13402. You would leave that to be settled according to what man was available?—I would leave that to the Committee after they got the man. The whole prosperity of Ireland hangs on stopping emigration and finding employment for the people. Sir Horace Plunkett has paved the way by teaching the boys sufficient of technical knowledge to make them easily create whatever they are trained to do, but it is a pity to be educating them for America, and that is what we are doing. In Cork the Certificate of the boys who have passed the highest in the examinations of the Board are often posted to America after them, as Father Downing can tell you.

13403. (Mr. Hicks).—You have named a very small sum for the work—£20,000?—I will add a naught to that with pleasure.

13404. Don't you think it would be absolutely necessary?—If you take the figure of all that is due to us, we should open our mouths far wider.

13405. With the hope of starting industries, north, south, east, and west, would not £20,000 be the nearest approximate figure?—Look how hard it is to square more than £25,000 for technical instruction.

13406. It is very hard to square a little; you might square a great deal more easily than a little?—I had better alter that figure to £100,000.

(Mr. Hicks).—I would find the same fault with it still.

13407. (Mr. O'Brien).—You made your calculation as a business man?—I thought if this idea could be carried out it would be only a branch of an existing institution which had only a certain amount of money allocated to it per annum, and if we asked for more than it, I hold we would get nothing; it was in proportion to the income from the old order.

13408. But this is for development?—I believe with in six miles of my own place there are silver mines,

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and they only want someone to open them up. There is any amount of minerals and nobody ever goes to look after them. One man came over from South America and started these Ballisale coal mines off his own bat. I believe they are going to be a wonderful success. It would not be well to have so much money at the start. What we want is initiative; to get the right people to take an interest in this country. For political and other reasons a great many in Ireland have not been taking much interest in the social progress of the country. Municipalities and things like that, they are all right; only it would be a fine opening for them to show what is in them.

13409. (Mr. Dicks).—If you started on an insufficient basis it is very hard to screw up to a proper basis afterwards?—If we could get ten times as much it would be all wanted; but I was thinking it is as well to be reasonable; it is very good of you to think we ought to get more.

13410. (Chairman).—I confess I was astonished at

your moderation!—It is the interest on a million pounds; you could not be sticking very big things all at once. When a horse is going up a hill with a load he gets stuck very often, and an old man goes to the wheel and gives a push and sets it going. I look very much to the influence of the Committee in starting things; these men, if they saw it was a good thing, would go into it and make it succeed.

13411. (Mr. O'Connell).—I thought you made out that this Committee was going to be the man in the pew, that would give the push and not the horse that was to do the work?—I say as individuals if they thought the thing was right and knew anything about it, they might put their own brains and money into it.

13412. But in any particular industry you would look to the man who gives the push to the wheel and not to the horse that is going to draw it up?—I think we must get the horse from England or America.

13413. And the man too?—No, the man would be here.

Mr. JOSEPH DOUGAN, M.A., ARDRE, examined.

Mr. Joseph
Dougan, M.A.

13414. (Chairman).—You are a member of the same Committee of which Mr. McArdie is Chairman?—Yes; I am from the country parts. I don't intend to say anything about the operation of the technical schemes in the two towns but the country districts in Louth. The country districts contribute £300 a year to the technical schemes. Country students avail of the town schools to the extent of over 90 per cent. of the pupils, and we have received assistance for our secondary schools, and for one secondary school outside these two towns, the Christian Brothers' School in Ardre. This has got a grant from the County Committee fund for its laboratory, and the lace school in the convent got help that enabled them to improve their products by making new designs themselves. The principal use we made of the technical instruction part of the scheme in the county in our domestic economy course. We have a domestic economy instructors for the country districts. This has been about three years working now. We have a good cookery class of about six weeks duration in different parishes. The instructors have been all over the county now, and the classes have had a good deal of success in most places; in other places they have not been so successful. I am a member of the Agricultural and Technical Committee. Our scheme is the usual one; we have a live stock scheme for six years and a poultry scheme for four years; a dairy scheme, and prizes for cottages and small holdings; and an agricultural instruction scheme, which has been most useful. I can distinctly say the value of stock in the county has been improved. The cottage and small holdings prize schemes have been useful to the extent to which they will reach, but it was not comprehensive. A couple of other things we attempted turned out failures—schemes of instruction for gardening, for instance. The wants of the county did not make it of much use. It is not a county in which gardening could be followed with much profit. Poultry and butter-making are the most important of our schemes now, if not before, our live stock scheme. The poultry scheme is running for four years; we introduced a lot of new breeds which are generally believed to have been serviceable. Opinion is divided as to how far they have increased the profit from fowl and eggs; we give better feeding in accordance with instructions which we have received as to the needs of these better breeds, but the opinion of all that are best calculated to form an opinion is that the quality of our eggs is improved.

13415. (Mr. Dryden).—Do they pay more for them in the market?—It is hard to say, because the markets fluctuate, and we are on the seaboard with a big trade in eggs to England and Scotland. The fowl industry is not so important with us; it is a benefit to some of us, but not to the same extent as the egg industry. Butter-making ought to be very useful, and we think it is useful.

13416. (Chairman).—Is your butter made in the houses?—Yes, we have no creameries in the county at all.

13417. (Mr. Brown).—Is there any improvement in the method of packing eggs?—I think so. We have had a course of lectures in the packing of eggs; in some districts they were availed of; in ours it is not;

but I think the packing of eggs has been fairly well practised by a number of people who go in for supplying consumers direct. What is a trade that is increasing—people taking up the supply of eggs direct, but I cannot say that very many of them who pursue it have actually learned it from our instructors. Butter is a fair industry in our county, but it is not very reasonable, and we don't export much. We are not able to meet the wants of the county for our own butter. The classes have been well attended, and the girls seem to take an interest in it. As regards the reforms that are wanted in the scheme I think there are none and as could not be introduced by the Council of Agriculture and pressed on the Board, and eventually carried out thereby, but we don't see anything in the working of the scheme in which we are hampered by the Department or by the Act that I am acquainted with, because whenever there is room for reform we are learning by mistakes what is useful and what is worthless in the schemes we try. Also I might say as regards most of the recommendations that have been made by witnesses at this inquiry, and that need to be made, nearly all of these can be carried out with the present machinery, the present Council of Agriculture, and the present Agricultural Board.

13418. You have no alterations to suggest then?—Not that I am aware of, in so far as the scheme goes. With regard to the constitution of the Department, of course, undoubtedly the aim of the Department is beneficial. Everybody realises that; but also its programme for effecting this, the whole system of scheme I think is fairly well designed. I suppose whatever defects are in it are being learned by the Department's officials themselves and by the Board, and by the different County Committees in the country by experience. I suppose they could not have learned in any other way. I don't think it is the fault of the Department if the whole programme as drafted first has some defects in it. I think the schemes carried out by the Department and the County Committees have had definitely useful and profitable results, which, so far as I can judge, repaid their own cost. I also think the Department and their staff are doing in general their work as smoothly as possible with the local bodies. I do not agree with some of the complaints made of the action, or inaction, of the Department. I think it is doing its business as far as I have knowledge of it, with the limitations imposed on it, limited by law, limited by the Treasury, and by the want of co-operation among ourselves. The complaints that are made are honest, but prejudiced. The prejudice that exists against the Department and the want of co-operation from the people in general—and that co-operation is necessary for it—is due simply to its being part of the English Government, and it will never gain our co-operation properly so long as it remains that. That is, I imagine, unless it has the co-operation of the country, unless all the people of the country join in and utilise the scheme it will never have its full effect, and will never be a complete success. It has only been a moderate success so far, because many people feel that in co-operating with

that that they are helping England to govern Ireland. I don't agree with that feeling: I believe everything that helps Ireland will help us to win self-government from England. I think we should use everything we have, whatever our powers be; but the feeling is that, and the thing will never be a success, because it will never have public confidence until it becomes our own. That is the great cause of objection that is made to the suggested portion of the Council.

13419. (Chairman).—Practically on political grounds?—No, not political but the national version every Irishman has to English rule, and always will have, until he gets control of things himself. In any case we would prefer to have the Boards entirely elected, though personally I recognise that the nominated element upon them is most useful and quite in sympathy with Irish interests: there is no man on it whom I would like to see off it; but there is a prejudice against it. This I say is because we prefer a completely democratic system, and further because they represent the English Government interference with it. At the same time we recognise the constitution of the Department which we see in Sir Horace Plunkett is two-thirds Home Rule, so far as it goes, it is the most democratic institution in the whole fabric of English Government in Ireland. I think most of us Irish Nationalists fully appreciate the patriotism and earnest intention

of Sir Horace Plunkett, and the usefulness of his programme of help for self-help in agriculture and in industry. For myself, also, while I am in full accord with the Irish Parliamentary Party's programme, I differ from the attitude assumed by some of the Party and some of their newspapers towards Sir Horace Plunkett. There was a demand made at the last election that he should be put aside, and apparently a member of the English Government should be appointed in his stead. In order, as we suggested, that the head of the Department should be answerable to the English House of Commons. I would much prefer, and most Irishmen would prefer, that he should be answerable to Ireland instead.

13420. You would prefer—taking the relations between England and Ireland as they are—that he should not be eligible to the English Parliament at all?—Yes; he said he would accept a vote of censure from the Council of Agriculture as a dismissal from office: that is much more representative of Irish opinion than the English House of Commons; and I don't see that there would be any Irishman who has given such industry, attention, time, and study to this work as he has taken in hands of developing agriculture and organising it; and there is no man we would have such confidence in as doing the work of the Department so energetically as he has done.

Mr. ALFRED E. EASTHOPE, Dundalk, examined.

13421. (Chairman).—You are Secretary of the Louth Committee of Technical Instruction?—Yes.

13422. You put in a report of the Committee which I have here before me?—Yes, on behalf of the Committee.

13423. Will you call attention to the more important points of it?—Before doing that I would like to give a general idea of the scheme we have working in Louth. In the periods of the experience we have obtained practically we represent in the Report sent up to the Committee that the general idea of our scheme of work was to provide for technical instruction by establishing urban schools in Dundalk and Drogheda, also giving itinerant courses of lectures in domestic economy and manual instruction in the rural districts also, when funds would allow us to go beyond the giving of lectures in domestic economy. Besides establishing the two urban technical schools and the courses in the rural districts we also established three technical schools for girls where girls are taught lace-making, knitting, and domestic economy. In the case of the lace-making they are taught sufficient drawing to enable them to see the difference between a good design and a faulty one, with the idea of training them to appreciate beauty of form and colour of pattern much better than if they were not trained. I am pleased to say with regard to these technical schools for girls that they have done well this year, as they have done since the inception of our schemes. To carry out this work throughout the whole of the county we have, practically speaking, a matter of £1,850 a year. Of this £370 comes from rates; £1,300 from the Department, and other receipts, such as fees, sales, etc., make up £230 a year. Our estimates are drawn up on the basis of keeping within that, as a business matter. The Department gave us for an equipment grant in the beginning a sum of £200. Afterwards they added to that a sum of £1,000, our county having levied the rates, even though the work of technical instruction had not been carried on to any great amount during the first year. This £1,000 was a grant from the Department for equipment. Out of this we gave £450 to secondary schools to assist them to fit up laboratories and manual workshops, and are being asked for more by the Christian Brothers in Dundalk and also by the Convent of Mercy, Dundalk, for manual work and practical work in Science respectively; also we made grants towards this shirt factory that Mr. MacAnville mentioned, of £250 for equipment, in Dundalk; that is the one that failed. The pupils we had the first year were 1,350; last year practically there were 1,450, and from the way in which they are coming in this year I expect there will be an increase in numbers to more than 1,400. To carry on this work in Dundalk we met from the Free Library Committee an old house, which proved inadequate as regards size and accommodation in the first week of our work, so

we were perforce obliged to commence building, even for temporary purposes. We put up in Dundalk a galvanised iron building, in which our manual workshops are placed. The Urban Council at once set to work and exercised their powers to borrow money to build a school. At the present time that school is reaching the point of completion. In Drogheda the Corporation are in the happy position of having a fair amount of property. They simply took a large old house they had, whitened the inside of it, and made it fairly suitable for the numbers of individual students attending. They have given us a fair amount of yard space behind, and we put up from our own funds a chemical laboratory and a manual workshop.

13424. (Mr. Micks).—Temporary buildings?—No, these are permanent buildings, built out of our equipment funds. In Dundalk the Urban Council raised the money, but we, as the technical instruction Committee, are responsible to them for the interest and sinking fund.

13425. Do the interest and sinking fund make a big hole in your penny in the pound?—It is twice as much as the receipts from this in Dundalk.

13426. (Mr. Brown).—What is the cost of the school in Dundalk?—£3,075. To bring it within the compass of a two-penny rate my Committee from their accumulated funds have made a grant of £275, so that they can bring the cost of the building within the compass of the two-penny rate, and so satisfy the requirements of the Local Government Board.

13427. Are you raising a two-penny rate in Dundalk?—So far there has been no need for it.

13428. (Mr. Micks).—Have you power to stifle more than a penny rate?—You can strike a penny rate under each Act, viz.: that of 1891 and 1896.

13429. You can't get the equivalent penny?—We can't get the equivalent penny.

13430. (Mr. O'Brien).—From what other source, as you have not raised the rate, do you defray the cost of interest and sinking fund?—Our school has not been completed as yet, and the whole of the money required to pay for it has not been drawn from the Board of Works. The Urban Council are responsible for the expense of the building until it is turned over to our Committee. Our Committee are fully aware of the fact that their funds are mortgaged to £220 a year for interest and sinking fund.

13431. (Mr. Micks).—The penny in the pound produces £—£110.

13432. I was asking you about the Drogheda building, were they temporary?—No, they are permanent.

13433. How much did they cost to?—£350; we had three good walls that we could use, so we had only to put the fourth and the roof. My reason in referring to this matter of the Dundalk building is to point out that at present, although we are not spending up to the hilt of the money at our disposal,

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Mr. Joseph Dolan, M.A.

Mr. Alfred E. Easthope, Dundalk.

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within the next six months my Committee will seriously have to consider the question of the working of the scheme from the point of view of this extra charge of £220 a year. The sinking fund of the Dundalk building will have to be dealt with, and since we have in many of our classes the accommodation severely taxed—in the case of our commercial classes we could enter a lot more students than we have in the list of entries laid before you, but are obliged to refuse entries on account of every available foot of space being occupied—besides that we are continually getting applications for new classes from time to time. Here is a case in point. About the middle of August I had an application sent in—there were twenty-eight names attached to it—for a class in Commercial French. We had to put it on one side for the present, because we simply could not obtain a room to hold the class in. Besides that I had a list handed in a few days ago of two students wishing to take up navigation, which should be an important subject in a subject like ours, the names being those of young men wishing to go to sea.

13435. (Mr. O'Connell).—What are they doing just now?—Some of them are at sea; they are sailing and from the port at the present time; they have put their heads together and agreed as to what might they thought that the majority of them would be at home. That is a class of work that we would wish to encourage. I feel it to be my duty to recommend to my Committee that this matter should be taken up, and, at the same time, as the person responsible for the financial arrangements, I am obliged also to tell my Committee that they are short of funds for this matter, as they are at present spending up to the limit; and a small matter like this navigation class might put us on the wrong side of the ledger.

13436. Why have not you in your income made any reference to an estimate of the receipts from grants, because, with 1,400 students in attendance, part of them under the Department, and part of them under the National Board, you should be in receipt of very considerable grants. Even taking as low an average as ten shillings a year, it would come to about £700.—In this 1,400 students you may safely assume that 800 of these are students in the intermediate classes; they are not eligible for grants. Then there is the usual leakage. From previous experience in Liverpool, practically speaking, I would say it averages 50 per cent. from the classes. If these two things are taken together it would reduce the grant considerably, and I question very much where the ten shillings per head would come from.

13437. Ten shillings a head seems a moderate estimate from public grants under the National Board, which is the lowest rate. The National Board's rate for each unit in attendance goes up to a maximum of 17s. 6d., so that ten shillings is not a very high rate on that.—But the regulations you are discussing with regard to our classes are the new regulations of the Department.

13438. I was coming to that then; the new regulations of the Department give you a much higher rate for students?—Yes, I am expecting our annual grants under the new scheme will be at least four times as much as we have had previously.

13439. And the annual grants under the new scheme will be sufficient to add you in your financial difficulty?—No, for this reason. In looking over the new rules of the Department I notice that many classes have got to be carried on for a second and third year, so that means as your grants increase your expenditure increases. In the higher branches of the teaching work where the most important part of the work is done it increases in a greater ratio than the receipts, even though we have a most magnificent sliding scale for the payment of grants, because, where we start with, say, forty in a class out of that forty I should consider myself lucky if I got twenty going through, because you must allow for the leakage due to emigration, people leaving the district, and people going for a time, and not sticking to it, or who are not able to continue; and this does not decrease the money that we require; we need a teacher for those who are left as much as we did for the forty. Then our expenses will cost us more for a teacher in the higher grades than in the lower grades, or if not more, at least as much, and it will cost more per pupil, but the grant-earning power of the class

will have gone down even though the earning power per head has increased.

13440. Take it all at the lowest rate?—There will be a big increased expense when once the scheme gets matured, and I think the greatest benefit we shall receive from the scheme will be during the first two or three years; after that our expenses would have got to a maximum, and our grant would, practically speaking, if the number of our students remained the same, remain stationary at the maximum rate if you like, but our expenses would have gone up also, so much so that we should still be on the wrong side of our ledger, and then we should have our sinking fund to be paid, and, on the whole, we should still be behind.

13441. The point to you supposes that your grant for the coming year, instead of being £260, as it was last year, might quite well be £200. That £200 is approximately equal to what you require for the sinking fund?—Yes.

13442. In the next two or three years your expenditure will go up, and so will your income, because your grant for the first year will not be so great as in subsequent years. What I am putting to you is whether you have not a prospect of being able to work this on an improved scale without an increased deficit so to speak, and meeting at the same time your sinking fund and interest?—Certainly I think we should be much better off, but of course I should take the liberty of reserving that opinion in the light of experience. Long ago in conversation with my Chairman, who differs from me on this point, I have already stated I expect our scheme would be at least as richer by £200 a year, but that this must not encourage us to embark on new schemes, because we should want this extra money to deal with the sinking fund, so, although, practically speaking, under the new scheme of grants it will mean that we shall be getting more money, possibly sufficient, or perhaps a little more than is required to meet the sinking fund charge for Dundalk; when we consider what the sinking fund takes and the extension of the work that will have to be done and paid for, we shall be still on the wrong side of the ledger as from the present day.

13443. I am putting it that you will be a little better able to meet the sinking fund under any existing set of classes; let us consider the possibility of these two classes—one in French and one in Navigation, and see what they are going to cost roughly. In the French class you will have about thirty students; the minimum rate you should get in the first year would be fourpence; that is ten shillings an hour!—You are assuming there is an average attendance of thirty.

13444. You spoke of forty to start with; call it eight shillings; probably you will pay your teacher five shillings?—Six or seven shillings.

13445. That leaves something for lighting, cleaning, and nothing for rent?—Quite so.

13446. Then the navigation; you have got ten students possibly, but compared with the French, that is a class that is much more likely to keep up; you can count on an average of eight, if it is possible to find one night in the week that would suit so many. In the first year the maximum grant would be 6d.; that is 4s.; to get a navigation teacher you will have to pay a good deal more than that!—At least 8s. for the night.

13447. Practically so far as these grants are concerned, even taking the first year's rules, I agree with you that higher rates in the higher years would in any case be required to balance the lower number of students. It would just about guarantee the cost of the teacher and light, and you will have to find accommodation. The whole question then of the possible extension of the work turns on how far the accommodation you provide by your present arrangements will be more than sufficient for existing necessities?—It also brings up another point; that is this: in taking these two classes, you can take them as typical of some of the first year's classes; practically speaking, their expenses will absorb all the increased grants we are getting for them under the new scheme of grants, and our first charge for the higher classes will be equally large, that is as regards teaching, firing, lighting, etc., but the number of students will be small in comparison, so that, practically speaking, when we take away these classes,

which have fairly large numbers in attendance in the elementary grades, we are taking away those classes that will really be the backbone of the grant we shall be getting, so I still anxiously we shall be behind, even under the new scheme.

12447. Of course the more the second year and the third year would increase?—Yes; but the numbers going down would, practically speaking, balance that.

12448. And the attendance, over twenty or forty or sixty hours, of a few students might help you to bring it up?—Yes; it will help to bring it up in the sense that it will balance part of the leakage which takes place by students not going to the higher stages.

12449. Have you one or two meetings a week?—Some classes have two.

12450. If you have two hours a week it would do?—It would do. On the other hand what you get in increased payments on account of those who attend after the first year you would practically lose by those who have dropped off up to that time, so that while you have a parabolic curve of grants going down one way you have got your attendance curve going down, and between the two you keep almost a dead level.

12451. Is it fair to put it this way; that with the conditions that prevail in Dundalk you will not undertake to say that these rules secure you that sufficient elasticity for the future?—I don't think you would be prepared to say that they are not possibly enough to do so?—No, I would not.

12452. You would not propose to carry it any further?—No; I would not like to be unduly optimistic.

12453. (Mr. Micks).—Are you speaking of Drogheda as well as Dundalk?—Yes.

12454. Is the attendance large in Drogheda?—It is less than in Dundalk.

12455. Even in the female school?—No; I was speaking of the technical school. In the schools for girls the attendances are practically the same, with a much more healthy tone in Drogheda at the present time than in Dundalk. That is going up steadily; the others in Dundalk are stationary or falling down.

12456. Are some of the students in Drogheda factory hands?—Twenty-five or thirty out of, say, 240 or about ten to twelve per cent.

12457. As regards these schools does the question of the sixth standard come in?—Under the new regulations of the Department it must come in.

12458. How will that operate?—Very hard in one sense, and very well in another.

12459. As regards fee earning?—It will diminish our free-earning capacity from the Department.

12460. (Mr. O'Connell).—What about the National Board?—The Commissioners of National Education make provision for evening grants. They will give 17s. 6d. as a maximum. To earn the maximum you must have a class, meeting at least seventy times in the year. That is, from September to May. Anyone making less than eighteen hours' attendance is excluded. So that, unless you start with a very large class indeed under the National Board Scheme, with the deductions taken off, practically speaking you have not sufficient to pay your teacher and for firing and lighting. The difficulty is to meet your obligations and to make the thing self-supporting. The National Board say, "We will allow you to use our continuation scheme, 'We will give you grants.'" The result being, even in a place like Belfast, they have had a difficulty in making these meet, and unless you have an abnormally large school you have a deficit; and the question is where this is to be met? My Committee cannot use the technical instruction fund, and rightly so. The rest must be met by private subscription or by some local windfall. To put the matter in a general way—the thing is not practicable.

12461. What about the possibility that the pupils at that stage should attend three nights in the week?—The attendance in the continuation classes is one and a half hours a night.

12462. These would be for three nights a week?—I think you might get it, but it is barely possible.

12463. With that you get something like four and a half hours a week of attendance and that would come to seventy-five hours in about sixteen weeks?—Yes; there again, one is confronted with the difficulty in starting a continuation school under the National Board.

12464. Have you tried one?—No; but I worked out the figures for my Drogheda Committee and came to the conclusion it was hopeless for us to attempt to get a

school that would pay for itself; and, since my Committee were not prepared to put their hands into their own pockets to pay any deficit that would arise, and from the figures as worked out, I could only come to the conclusion there would be a deficit unless we had more pupils than I could reasonably expect to see. Of course the idea was dropped.

12465. (Mr. Micks).—You did not work on the basis of one and a half hours for three nights a week suggested by Mr. O'Connell?—Yes; I was working on that basis; say, for a night; that is little enough. And I sent these figures to Mr. Forth of Belfast and asked him would he kindly criticise them and see if there was anything lacking in them. He sent them back saying he had come to the same conclusion himself.

12466. (Mr. Brown).—Are not the conditions somewhat altered now; would not it have the effect of bringing in the sixth standard, so that they would be able to earn fees later on; you could bring them on to the sixth standard?—Yes; but the difficulty is where are we going to make up the initial deficit in the cost of maintenance of the continuation school. If you can show us where we are to get money to meet that, then I am at one with you.

12467. (Mr. O'Connell).—What about schools for the accommodation of your National Board evening classes. One they be had in the National schools in the town?—I don't think we should have much difficulty in our urban districts in getting school accommodation.

12468. You will have to pay for such things as lighting and cleaning?—Yes.

12469. And that, together with the cost of teaching, is what you cannot guarantee out of the grants, and you have got to offer funds to meet it?—Yes. That is so, and this leads on to the matter of the preparatory course under the Department which we have not had sufficient experience of as yet, and I am not prepared to offer an opinion, save to say it is considered to be a proper step to be taken under the circumstances.

12470. Possibly it is an evasion?—From my point of view it is simply an elastic criterion of the Commissioners' rules to enable us to get over the difficulty of the deficiency of funds. With regard to funds, even if we allowed for the increased grants we should get under the new scheme, I consider, with our Dundalk sinking fund, we shall be in such a condition that we shall have to reduce our scheme of work, possibly within the next year or two, in order to meet our liabilities; and I certainly think a stop of that kind should not be allowed to take place so long as there is any possibility of the Department obtaining more money to carry on this work. So far as I know the funds at the disposal of the Department are all fully allocated, and all the secretaries in Ireland agree that we could do with more money. Therefore, there is no hope of diverting former funds from other districts to the County Louth. This simply leads me up to say: I consider that the funds at the disposal of the Department for technical instruction are miserably inadequate to carry on the work thoroughly in a commercial sense, and our share of these would not more than enable us to touch the fringe of the work that should be done in two important towns like ours. As regards the Department itself, I have always found the officials willing to meet us in every possible way whenever we had a reasonable request to make. There is another matter here with regard to the work in the rural districts. We are working itinerant courses which are often being carried on under very adverse conditions. It might be possible, I think, to get a combination between the National Board and the Department, or at least those between Committees concerned with agriculture and technical instruction and the National Board that would give, within well defined areas in each county, a sort of small schoolhouse which would, we will say, be fed by half a dozen or more National schools, and this could be used by the National Board for evening classes, and it could by us be used for domestic economy courses, and for our manual courses. A very little thinking out of arrangements would prevent the clashing of the National Board interests and the interests of the Department and enable us to do work in the rural districts which at the present time we are unable to do owing to the lack of accommodation.

12471. In the country districts have you had any difficulty in getting accommodation for the rural classes?—Some of the schoolhouses are very poor.

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13471. Have you had a difficulty in getting the use of them?—No; but the schoolhouses are often very poor, as a matter of fact. My domestic economy instructor was all last year simply and solely owing to the fact that there was a lack of ventilation in the schoolhouse where she was teaching. Owing to her coming into the schoolroom immediately after the children had been in during the day there was no time to ventilate the place thoroughly. As a result, the air was vitiated, and she was knocked up and unable to follow her work for some little time. That should not be. The difficulty could be met by erecting these little buildings. They would not cost very much, and possibly it might

be arranged so that we could get thirty or forty pence time to discharge sinking fund and interest, and these little buildings could be put up at a cost of £200 to £250, which would mean an annual charge of about £10 for sinking fund purposes. That would meet the case and prevent us from having to go to the National School managers and ask them for the use of the schools, and it would give us for the carrying out of our work as comfortable conditions as we could expect to find in a rural district in one of our poorer counties, and would, I think, enable the work that is to be done to be much more availed of than it has been up to the present.

MR. ALBERT FAYERS EXAMINED.

Mr. Albert Fayers.

13472. (Chairman).—You are Secretary of the County Kilmore Joint Technical Instruction Committee?—Yes.

13473. You have sent in certain observations of the Committee which perhaps you will read?—The allocated amount for the purpose of technical instruction in Ireland is totally inadequate. The desired amendment is an endorsement which will increase in keeping with the growth of technical instruction. That is the view of our Committee. Our scheme is worked by a Joint Technical Instruction Committee. It is joint in this way, that it has representatives from the Urban Districts and the County. There are two Urban Districts—one Naas and the other Athy. The population of these urban centres is 7,435 and the rural districts, 56,131. The funds at the disposal of the Committee amount to £1,068 on the average for the year. It is made up of £444 contributed by the County Council; £58 from the Urban Districts, and £566 from the Department; and we have an average of fees and grants of £66. I have endeavoured to show from the time of my appointment, three years ago, that the instruction given has grown considerably in the county. In 1903 work was carried on in the two permanent centres where we maintain technical schools, and there was itinerant instruction in the rural districts. Only three subjects were being taught in the urban centres—manual instruction, drawing, and domestic economy. At the present time we take in drawing, manual instruction, domestic economy, preparatory grade subjects, English, mathematics, building construction, wood-carving, and shorthand. And at the same time we are assisting a carpet factory by supplying the services of a teacher. The number of students attending these classes in the two urban centres in 1903 was 115. At the present time, this session, there are 132, made up of 100 individual students at Naas and only twenty-two at Athy. The itinerant instruction in domestic economy and manual instruction during the period of three years has been held in thirty centres. There has never been less than thirty days devoted to each. We held the classes in barns, courthouses, cottages, and anything we could get—disused factories, workshops, and the like. In some districts, for lack of suitable accommodation, it has been found impossible to comply with repeated applications for visits of our instructors, and those localities have had to go without instruction at all, because there was no room in which to give it. I have tried schools, and, as a rule, fall back upon schools as the last thing, as they are not suitable for such work. Occasionally I have found, in two or three cases where the school has been the only building available, that the use of it has been refused, but that is very rare. The most popular subject we have in the rural districts is manual instruction. The attendance is excellent now in the manual instruction classes, but in the domestic economy classes it falls in some districts, and, as a rule, that is owing to bad accommodation.

13474. Where do you hold the domestic economy classes?—We tried them in cottages of three or four rooms. We have had them in barns, in schoolhouses, and in factories, and anywhere we could get room. Take the increase in the number of students who have attended in the permanent centres and in the rural districts for the whole period. The number attending in 1903 and 1904—this is the whole of the county and Naas and Athy—was 535. The number of individuals in 1904-5 was only 504, but for about eight months of that year one of the instructors was in Dublin receiving additional training. Last year there were 534 individuals. This year there has been a big increase again. Of the funds that have been

disposed of by the Committee, £200 was given to equip secondary schools and laboratory and workshop accommodation in six of the Christian Brothers' old convent schools in the county. They have given assistance to the Naas Co-operative Industries Association to the amount of £150 to pay for lessons in expert carpet-weaving. At the same time the art teacher's services were granted to this factory to give instruction in carpet design and contrast and harmony of colour. I believe they have twenty-two girls there at the present time.

13475. (Mr. O'Grady).—Is that sum paid in the year?—Yes; £20, £20, and £50 grants were given.

13476. (Mr. Brican).—The last sum has not been paid yet?—No; but it will be paid upon the receipt of the teacher's salary; £135 has been allotted to this factory. There have also been ten Scholarships for girls in residence undergoing domestic economy £200 have been expended in that way. In 1904-5 they introduced commercial classes into the schools—book-keeping, commercial arithmetic—and various other classes. We engaged a National School teacher who had a National Board certificate. The staff at present consists of myself as principal and secretary, two domestic economy instructors, one manual instructor, two temporary teachers, and a pupil teacher. The work of the domestic economy teachers and of the manual instructor is mainly itinerant, but when required their services are transferred to the technical schools in the urban areas.

13477. (Mr. O'Grady).—The teacher of carpet-weaving is not directly employed by your Committee?—No, but by the Co-operative Industries Society, and the Committee make a grant towards the salary of this teacher.

13478. In respect of the time that is spent by the teacher in giving instruction in carpet-weaving?—Ratified.

13479. Has the Committee any information as to the efficiency of the work done and as to the result produced; before making the second and third grant was the Committee satisfied that the instruction given in the previous year had produced a defined progress on the part of the pupils?—Yes.

13480. Do they contemplate having to make any further grants?—Not after this year.

13481. It is expected after the third year the pupils will have reached a standard in which they do not any longer require instruction?—I would not say that; but there are possibly other industries about to be started by that time that would like assistance, and the funds would not possibly enable them to pay the two.

13482. The Committee thinks this particular one should be able to stand on its legs, and that what funds they have at their disposal should be spent in aiding something else?—Yes. In the early stage of the work the pupils attending were attracted more by the novelty of the subjects than by the desire to learn, and it was difficult to get them to take an interest in their work, especially as there was no systematic grouping of subjects. This year, however, the interest of the students in their work has increased considerably and they are attending regularly, and quite 15 per cent. of them are taking a systematic group of subjects. They are now what you may call students. The introduction of the preparatory course is, in my opinion, the most important step taken to advance this work. In places like Naas and Athy, very small towns, it is very difficult to get even moderate numbers. There are not sufficient pupils to fill the class. A great many of the people whom one would like to attend these classes have not reached the standard to profit by the course which they attend.

13452. Did you hear the questions I was putting to Mr. Rastwood on this matter?—Have you attempted an Estimate to have any evening schools in connection with the National Board?—No; but two years ago I went into the figures, and I thought it was very risky to try to attempt an evening school. The grants would not pay for the working, and at the end of the year there would be a serious deficit, and there would be no funds to meet it. But the point is that the money should be increased according to the amount of technical instruction given. Our work has grown to five times what it was three years ago, but our contribution remains exactly the same. We have only £500 contributed by the Department, and we cannot get any more from the rates. We are at the limit of our funds at the present time. It is impossible to branch out in any other direction. It would not be possible to work the schemes of the year if it was not for the hope of the recent grant coming to pay for the services of the temporary teachers. I have been looking through the schemes and I find that the Department's contribution to the County Estimate Scheme is proportionately less than that paid to any other county in Ireland. The contribution from the Department is less than the total from the rates, which is £500, whilst the contribution of the Department is only £500. We have thus a very hard case. The contribution from the Department should be larger than what is coming from the rates. We take one-third of the rate contributed by the county and the whole of the penny rate from the two urban centres, which amounts to £42 from the two urban centres, and the remainder £444, is the one-third of the county rate. If the contribution would increase and keep on with the growth of our schemes we should do a great deal more than we are doing with the money, besides paying for instruction in our classes, helping on deserving industries and so on. The next point I will bring before you is the establishment of a system by which the pupils in primary schools may have the advantages of attending during school hours classes working under the technical scheme of the county; and, further, the co-ordination of primary and technical education is considered necessary for the advancement of education generally, and to this end the efforts of the Department should be directed. There are two or three points I wish to bring before you in this respect. We are to some extent deterred from taking pupils in evening schools until they reach a certain age. This shuts out many applicants. I have applications from boys and girls in these National schools. They are, every one of them, denied a type of technical instruction. The instructors would possibly be idle throughout the day, waiting for the evening to give their evening instruction, and meanwhile it is a pity that the National school boys and girls cannot have the benefit of their instruction, say manual instruction for the boys and domestic economy and cookery for the girls, the same as in the primary schools in England, where they receive that instruction at an early age, while here they can only receive it in evening schools, and they must have reached a certain standard before they can receive this instruction. I have known, in a village in which one of the National Board instructors was giving cookery, in the morning, in the same school as our instructor was giving cookery in the evening, and I think it is absurd that two instructors should visit the same school on the same day. Then you have people coming into evening schools who are not fit to take in all the subjects specified. You might have a student wishing to join the building construction class and you could not take him in that class: he has not received the preliminary training necessary to attend it: he is not fit to enter even in the preparatory grade. It is a pity we could not have some sys-

tem whereby these people could be trained properly up to a certain age and then drafted on to the secondary or technical schools. The next point is that the absence of any provision for building purposes is fatal to the advancement of technical education. A system of grants for the building of technical schools in suitable centres is considered necessary. Such a system should be retrospective, as schemes of technical instruction have suffered greatly in the past, owing to the necessity of devoting a considerable portion of the limited funds at the disposal of the Committee, to building purposes. I am afraid that, perhaps, that is asking a little too much. A sum of about £400 has been spent in Naas in building, and a sum of £250 in another like centre. All this has been spent out of the Committee's funds. At present we have taken under lease a school, and are about to expend £200 to put it into repair, and we are borrowing the money. We have to pay it back, principal and interest, out of the funds of the county.

13453. (Mr. Brown).—The Committee who have expended money in the past are placed in a worse position than those who have not!—Yes; it does not matter so much in the use of the money we propose to borrow now for the work, as we have been paying a very high rent for the use of some rooms in the school, and the amount of money that has been spent on rent will easily cover the expenditure on this new building. As regards these schemes the Committee is unanimously of opinion that the Department should take steps to have their funds and powers extended in the direction of providing such instruction as will train hands for suitable industries and that the Department should be supplied with experts, the best obtainable, for the advising of those about to establish local industries. That is practically copied from some notes sent down by the Standing Council of the Association of Technical Instruction Committees. This was advised to be put in by the Committee when they sat to consider these points. I don't know, for my own part, what industry we are to start in Naas or in the County Kildare, or where we should require the expenditure to train hands.

13454. (Mr. Micks).—How long have you been in the County Kildare?—Three years.

13455. Have you had any previous knowledge of it before that?—No.

13456. Have you had any previous knowledge of Ireland before that?—Very little; but so far as I have seen in the country, a man possessing the necessary technical knowledge and a little capital would stand a great deal better chance of making an industry pay than a company who had to depend upon a paid individual.

13457. Have you any experience on matters of commerce or industry?—I would not like to say what my experience is.

13458. Have you ever received instruction in practical commerce and trade?—I have never been engaged in any, but I think a man who possesses the necessary technical knowledge and the capital will stand a better chance of making an industry pay than a company that would depend upon some one to protect its interests. It has been proved in Naas where a man has established saw mills. He has the necessary knowledge and capital, and he can make it a paying concern, whereas if several people in the town were to band themselves together to provide this capital, and if they had to pay a manager and depend entirely upon that, I doubt very much if it would have paid at all. This man had the technical knowledge and the capital, and he is making it a paying concern.

The Committee adjourned.

Oct. 26, 1904.

Mr. Albert
Pardoll.

THIRTY-EIGHTH DAY—SATURDAY, OCTOBER, 27TH 1906,

At 15, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KENELM DIGBY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

THE HON. JOHN DRYDEN.
MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MICHES.

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.
MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. JOHN J. TAYLOR, G.B., Secretary.

MR. JOHN MULLIGAN examined.

Oct. 27, 1906.
Mr. John
Mulligan.

13492. (Chairman).—You are Chairman of the Technical Committee of the City of Dublin?—I was the Chairman up to January last.

13493. I believe you wish to give an account of the history of the City of Dublin Technical Schools?—Yes; in response to the invitation of the Committee. I came at the request of the City of Dublin Technical Education Committee, to make a statement with regard to the Technical Schools in Dublin, and the relations of the Committee subsequently with the Department. As the starting of the schools in Kevin-street and the means by which money was raised to carry us on were already dealt with by a previous witness, it is not necessary to trouble you with the details. A building was acquired which was erected for public purposes, and at the time we took it it was considered very spacious. There were few classes taken on, and a limited number of pupils entered in these classes.

13494. (Mr. Miches).—Do you remember what classes you began with?—There were a few trades classes and some drawing chiefly.

13495. (Chairman).—When was this?—In 1897. Then by fact, perseverance, and a good deal of energy trying to overcome prejudices, we gained the confidence in the first instance of the trades, who were extremely shy, but ultimately came over, and they not alone went as their apprentices in their trades to the schools, but they consented to take a share in the management. The Committee spared no pains to get the schools up, and advance them, so for that purpose they got into communication from time to time with the various technical institutions throughout England, and they also visited them, so as to learn the methods adopted there; and I may specially recall that about ten years afterwards there was a visit paid by a sub-committee and their architect and inspector to schools there; and from the information there obtained the Committee were enabled to build and equip the present Technical Schools in Kevin-street, which were erected at a cost of £11,000. This money was borrowed by the Corporation. The Corporation at that time had acquired a complete interest in the schools, and taken over charge of them. They constituted the Committee on a new basis—half being members of the Council, and the other half being composed of representatives of the trades, original subscribers, masters of certain trades, the Engineering School in Trinity College, the Catholic University, Stephen's Green, and the Royal College of Science. From the very start the Committee had the great advantage of having as their Honorary Secretary Mr. Arnold Graves, who devoted all his spare time and energy to the advancing of technical education. In fact, I may say he was the originator of the scheme in Dublin, and under his care the Committee made very great progress in improving the system in Kevin-street. I may mention also that to Mr. Graves belongs the credit of bringing under the notice of the public throughout Ireland the advantages of technical instruction, as he was able to do, owing to his intimate knowledge of the subject, which was greater than that of any other man in the country, and so the fact that he was Honorary Secretary to the Technical Committee of Ireland, which

included, amongst its members some eminent men—such as the late Lord Plunket, Monaghan Molloy, Judge Barron, and Mr. Fane Vernon—and they were enabled by their influence to exercise a great deal of effect throughout the whole country; drawing attention by leaflet literature, and also by appointing local committees, and even meetings all over the country, and sending deputations to the Chief Secretary; and they only ceased their labours, in fact, when, as a result of all this movement, the Bill which became subsequently the Act of 1899 was brought in. Then their labours ceased, for they had no longer any necessary field of action.

13496. (Mr. Miches).—They did not cease when the first Bill of 1897 was brought in?—No.

13497. They kept on until the Bill of 1899 was passed?—Yes.

13498. Was the technical education that was initiated and promoted by Mr. Arnold Graves at all, as far as you are in a position to form an opinion, technical education on the present lines, and up to date, and in accordance with the present system?—It was up to date at the time.

13499. Have you any knowledge of the system that was in force on the other side of the water?—Mr. Graves had had, because he visited schools in England himself, and he was in communication with the Technical Education bodies in England, and he was thoroughly acquainted with the systems then developed.

13500. In your opinion had you in Mr. Graves a man who had the expert knowledge of technical education?—Decidedly.

13501. And he was residing in Dublin, and is a native of the country?—Yes. He is Secretary to the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests. In fact, we felt quite satisfied that he could carry on the whole schools in his hands merely with subordinates, if he chose to do it. In the beginning he did it; it was only afterwards we got an assistant secretary.

13502. You are aware he wrote the paper in the Review Committee's Report on Technical Instruction?—It is gone out of my memory just now.

13503. He called attention in that report to the question of funds?—Yes; he continually agitated on that point, and pointed out the discrepancy between the advantages given to English bodies, and the absence of them in Ireland.

13504. Perhaps you would not mind reading that remark of his at page 373?—(Hands book to witness).—Here I may be permitted to call attention to the "maps prepared for the Technical Education Association by Mr. Fournier, which show that in 1895 the amount of public money expended per head of the population devoted to science and art technical instruction was distributed as follows:—England, £275,650, equal to 6d.; Wales, £55,000 equal to 5d.; Scotland, £26,000, equal to 4d.; Ireland, £31,200, equal to 1d.; while for technical education they show inclusive of small contributions from rates the sums expended in 1895 were as follows:—

"Great Britain, £603,336; Ireland, \$4,944. This is an increase from the notes amounts to a bounty to the English manufacturer, and in justice it should be either extended to Ireland or withdrawn."

13503. (Chairman).—Now, we have got to the stage when the Department comes on the scene?—Yes; the advent of the Department found the Technical Schools in Kesh street solidly established, and doing sound work. The new building was occupied for additional classes, and the large increase in the number of students in the latter compared favourably with that of other schools in the United Kingdom with whom they competed. I could give you a return showing some schools with which we got into correspondence; we got returns from Birmingham, which is the only return we had that was of any benefit in the matter of comparison, and we found, taking the number of pupils entered in the schools and the number in the classes, the number of those in the classes who entered for examination, and the number who were successful in the examination in the City of Dublin Technical Schools compared very favourably with Birmingham. The only point is with regard to the number entering for examination; in that respect the custom in Birmingham was to weed out inferior pupils who did not show much progress, and not to allow them to go forward for examination. In the end the percentage of success was higher in proportion; but independently of that we can show very favourable results. In regard to the successes of the pupils at examinations generally we are very much handicapped by the inferior elementary education of the pupils when entering, but that has been dealt with before.

13504. We have had a great deal of evidence as to that?—Yes; I am referring specially to Dublin. In Dublin we find some young students fairly intelligent, able to express themselves orally, with correctness, and when they are asked to take notes and express their thoughts in writing for the purpose of examination, explaining the methods which they have learned to do by hand, and the principles on which these methods are worked, they fall utterly. The result is, of course, when the papers are sent over to be examined by the City and Guilds of London, although they are able to do the work, the explanation is so faulty that in competition they get very poor marks.

13505. (Mr. Meale).—Is that partly owing to neglect of composition and writing in elementary schools?—The neglect of education in elementary schools. The general ignorance, they think, has no bearing on their technical education; they come in there simply to learn the manual instruction, believing they don't want to improve these methods by their general knowledge.

13506. So far as you know, is English composition taught in primary schools?—I don't think it is taught sufficiently; I am not an expert in that; but so far as my experience of young lads goes it is not sufficiently taught. Another important outstanding duty rests with the Committee—that is, building a school on the north side of the city, which was very much desired by the representatives of the city on that side, and which was directed by the Corporation to be done. We had made inquiries for a site, and were going into the question when this Technical Education Bill came forward. When we came to know that a large increase in the funds would accrue from this Bill we stayed our hands altogether, knowing that a general scheme would ensue which would be much more comprehensive than what we intended. The next step we took was to make exhaustive inquiry into the trades of the city—their relative numbers, and the importance of each trade in the city in an industrial way. We had to experience a great delay; although our Secretary took great trouble in getting the total number of each trade—these trade bodies were the only machinery by which we could get this information—they were very slow; they did not see the importance of the thing, and it was months and months before we got sufficient information to base any regular data upon. After the Department was constituted the inspectors came upon the scene, and paid their regular visits to the school. We found them full of energy and zeal when they began their work; but to our minds they lacked knowledge of the education that was existing in the country at the time, and they wished to begin on a clear field without reference to what was past or what was actually existing. The result was

they made, to our mind, having these strong preconceived notions, they made mistakes, and they were not disposed to listen to any account of what was actually existing.

13507. Do you mean to say they were unaware of the low state of primary education, or did not realise all that you had done in the technical way?—The latter. I don't want to make it a local complaint, but I think generally, because I have heard in other places that they took it for granted that they had a fresh field to start on, and that the idea was to work out this system according to the experience in Scotland and England, and not according to the local circumstances of the country. They came then into consultation with the Dublin Education Committee, and those inspectors advised the establishment of schools on the mono-technic system, of a separate school for certain trades. They went further in the beginning in that line than they subsequently thought well. Ultimately it was decided between them and the Committee that a trial should be made in the establishment of a school for building trades and its allied subjects, and they said the school should be mono-technic simply and solely for that; however, ultimately they agreed that the potteries should be included in the scheme, and these two trades with all their branches should be dealt with in one building. That was agreed to; then the scheme for that purpose was drawn up, and it was agreed to by both sides, with the exception of one particular, and that was the appointment of a director. The Department insisted that the director should be approved of, appointed by them, and the Committee were strongly averse to that, because they had a principal who had been for some years in charge of schools, and had done very good work. He had developed the schools to a very great extent, and introduced new classes, and increased the number of pupils, and improved the method of teaching, and, in fact, his work was recognised by the Science and Art Department, by the City and Guilds of London.

13508. Grants were being given for your principal?—Yes; through the Science and Art Department, and there was no intimation that there was any lack of knowledge or any bad system adopted.

13509. Did he act as teacher any time subsequently?—No; he did not.

13510. Then they would not raise any objection to payment of grants?—They did say he was not a certificated teacher. I don't think there was any practical difference. He was a Graduate of Trinity College. I believe he taught some classes—I think in the Catholic University College.

13511. But he was acting with you as principal and not as teacher?—Yes.

13512. (Mr. O'Brien).—The grants from the Science and Art Department were grants on the results of examination of individual students?—Yes.

13513. And not in respect of the organisation of the schools, but for the work of the students?—They were results fees; there used to be results fees at that time.

13514. (Mr. Meale).—Do you know, as a matter of fact, the practice at the other side of the water with reference to the appointment of a head master or director?—I understand the Education bodies have the appointments themselves.

13515. (Mr. O'Brien).—And the payment?—Yes.

13516. So the difference is that here the payment comes largely in a lump sum to the Committee from the Department?—The system under the Act is that there is a sum of £35,000 devoted to County Boroughs. There are six boroughs, and the share of Dublin would be about £9,000. It will vary every three years according to the varying circumstances, and that £9,000 was to be the contribution under the Act, and, in addition, the City of Dublin allow a penny in the pound rate which produces £3,400.

13517. The contribution from the National funds, about £9,000, is dependent on one thing only so far as the Department is concerned—the approval of the scheme?—Exactly.

13518. And the approval of the scheme is, therefore, the one measure that they have of securing that the funds are properly spent?—Yes.

13519. So far as their duty in that respect is concerned?—Yes, but they go beyond their duty in the first instance.

13520. That is their one hold?—Yes.

Oct. 27, 1904.

Mr. John
Molligan.

Oct. 27, 1904.

Mr. John
Halligan.

13531. The point I want to bring out is that in comparing it with the freedom of appointment on the other side, one has to remember that in England the State contributes so much for the work done in the institution as a result of the work, and, therefore, the State held over this money is on the result?—Yes.

13532. (Mr. Micks).—The £25,000 is as much public money as the money paid for results in England?—Yes.

13533. The only difference is there is a middleman between Parliament and the recipients?—Yes.

13534. (Mr. O'Grady).—The difference in this respect is that the check that is exercised between Parliament and the recipients comes at the approval of the scheme for the expenditure of the money in Ireland, whereas in England the check comes in the measurement of the work when it is done?—Yes.

13535. (Mr. Micks).—Do you prefer the English system?—Better see how the system works here first of all. The £6,000, according to our reading of the Act, should be given to the local body, and the local body is the superior of the Education Committee. The Committee are simply the representatives of the local body. According to our reading of the Act the £6,000 or whatever the contribution is should be given to the local body.

13536. (Chairman).—In aid of schemes approved of by the Department?—Yes; but if the scheme is not approved by the Department they don't say anything about that in the first instance, but they safeguard it afterwards; they say the money should be distributed to the local bodies. Then they go on to say the Department has a veto on the application of the money if the scheme is not approved of.

13537. In other words, the Department may or may not approve of the scheme?—Yes; but the difference is they should not keep the money.

13538. (Mr. Micks).—You draw a distinction between what should be done in County Boroughs and what is done in the case of the other local bodies in the next sub-section. The word is "distribute" in sub-section 1, and "applied" in sub-section 2?—Yes; sub-section C says:—(Reads sub-section).—With regard to No. 1, we hold that provision compels the Department to give the £25,000.

13539. (Mr. O'Grady).—That the money must be given whether the scheme is approved of or not?—Yes.

13540. (Mr. Brown).—The obligation is then on the Committee to apply this for an approved scheme?—Yes; that is our contention; the result is the Department withhold the money, and it accumulated year after year, and a curious thing occurred. We were asked by the Department, I believe, to give £5,000 of this money out of our funds towards the equipment of secondary schools with which we had nothing to do, for physical laboratories, and other kindred objects, and the Corporation recently sanctioned that distribution, but the irony of the thing is this—while that £5,000 was taken out of our funds to be given to schools with which we had no connection we ourselves were deprived of every penny of our money, but the Department got that money; it was according to their instructions we divided it amongst the applicants from the secondary schools, and while doing all this we would not be allowed a penny.

13541. (Mr. Micks).—Until the question of the principal is decided?—Yes.

13542. (Mr. Brown).—It is to the Corporation the money would be paid, and not to the Technical Committee?—Yes.

13543. According to the letter of the Act the money is to be distributed among the County Boroughs and should be applied by the Councils of these Boroughs?—Yes.

13544. So your duty would be merely as a Committee of the Corporation?—Yes; but I am coupling the Corporation and ourselves as carrying out the Technical Instruction Act.

13545. (Mr. Micks).—The money did not go to the Corporation or to you?—No; it is with the Department still. We sanctioned the distribution of different grants up to £5,000, and the cheques were drawn by the Department, and given to the respective parties.

13546. (Chairman).—When did this dispute arise?—About 1903.

13547. Do you know whether the matter was brought

before the Board of Technical Instruction or the Department?—We tried to make the question; but I may point out the Board has nothing to do with County Boroughs. We tried that way. I was going to refer to that in a later part of my remarks.

13548. (Chairman).—As it has been mentioned, I will refer you to volume 2 of the Board of Technical Instruction Minutes, page 156. The matter having been mentioned, the Vice-President said:—"The matter could not come properly before the Board, but he would be glad to confer after the meeting with any of the members of the Board who were particularly interested in the Dublin scheme."—We had several interviews with Sir Horace Plunkett, but they were not very satisfactory, that is, the members of the Committee, I believe. The members of the Council also had some conversations, and made some observations about it, but they were out of order.

13549. (Mr. Brown).—Did the Corporation itself take any action in the matter?—No; they left the thing in our hands. We had plenary powers to carry out the work, and they had direct representatives from the Corporation on the Board. Although the curious part is they had direct representatives on the Board, the Board had nothing to do with the Borough schemes.

13550. (Mr. Micks).—Your representatives were Mr. Woodhams and Alderman Dwyer at that time?—Yes.

13551. They asked to have the matter discussed at the Board, and it was ruled out of order?—Yes; while this was going on money was accumulating until we have now, I understand, about £47,000 still accumulating at the rate of this £6,000 a year.

13552. You will not know what to do with it all?—The misfortune is we are starved at present; we have only £3,436 and some other little grants, making something over £4,000.

13553. You don't even get a share of the old Equivalent Grant you used to get?—That ceased the last four years.

13554. And you get nothing under that head?—No.

13555. Nothing came from the Department under any head?—We get some small grant, but I don't think we get it lately.

13556. (Mr. O'Grady).—That would be attendance grants?—Yes; there is another grievance—not a local grievance; but there was £7,000 promised by Mr. Wyndham for a certain time; that was to be applied generally. Not a penny of that has been divided amongst the Boroughs; they don't get any of it, and it should have been given in proportion to the work done, of course.

13557. (Mr. Micks).—That was a consideration for the withdrawal of the Equivalent Grant?—Yes.

13558. Out of which you used to get before over £300?—Yes; that has been appropriated by the Department. I think it is for the Urban and Rural Districts.

13559. Some of the authorities that used to get payment out of that sum got it for two or three years—did you ever get payments out of that?—Yes; I think we got it for two or three years.

13560. (Mr. O'Grady).—Some of those have had their annual amount increased considerably by the Department since that was withdrawn, but you have had no increase?—Yes; no increase. We worked on our penny rate from the Corporation, and the Equivalent Grant has ceased. During that time the number of students in these schools largely increased, and we were obliged to take a temporary house pending dealing with the Corporation with these mono-technic schools. We took a house on the North side. Even in that house we have 400 additional pupils. The Department looked upon the schools, I may say, with ill-disguised contempt. When we referred to the schools, they took-poked them; they were not subjects to be discussed at all, and it was all the future, and what they wanted to get done. In fact, Kerinsstreet was some irregular hedge school; but although they ignored the schools in one way they took care to keep complete control over the working of the schools. They supervised them; they wrote to us if they considered that there were not enough teachers, and the equipment was not sufficiently extensive, and in many cases they exercised their authority. They even went so far in these schools, to which they would not give a

peary, as to ask us to lend them school-rooms as classrooms for the summer courses to train their own teachers. We obliged them, and they gave us a small rent, merely to cover the wear and tear of the rooms.

13551. (Mr. Micks).—As a matter of strict legality, had they any power at all except under a scheme, and was any scheme ever sanctioned?—I don't believe they had any power; they gave us nothing.

13552. You think practically they were intruders there?—I think so; that is what we always thought.

13553. (Mr. Ogilvie).—But while you were waiting for a scheme you were carrying on the classes as classes working for attendance grants under the existing regulations, and therefore the Department as administering the Parliamentary Grant which was given on attendance, should come and exercise supervision in that way?—The grant was one of an extremely minute character.

13554. That gave them a status?—That would be a ground work for them to go on.

13555. You don't know if that is the case?—I only want plead forgiveness about the existence of the attendance grant.

13556. (Mr. Micks).—That is section 2, which transfers the Science and Art and other grants, and looking after them to the Department (producer section)?—Yes; I quite acknowledge in this way—if we said—You are not paying us any money; you won't recognize us—then there might be a complete breach. They might say—if you don't recognize our authority, we won't allow you to have any examinations that will qualify you for the City and Guilds of London. I don't know whether that could interfere with that.

13557. (Mr. Brown).—You refer to your notes to a partial compromise at one time being effected?—We had several conferences. Mr. Gill attended a Committee one evening, and said—I will propose a certain arrangement with you, that is, that we will take this thing step by step, and we will leave alone the organization of the scheme until we achieve certain results, that is to say, we agree this school is to be established for a certain purpose—the two trades—we will authorise the employment of an expert whose remuneration shall be paid out of your fund; and I may tell you we never objected to the expert, because we were very glad, and knew we would want such a person. Then he said after that when we wanted to get in plans and building contracts that each should be formally sanctioned in turn, and when sanctioned the expense will be defrayed out of our fund. That is to say, suppose the contract was £20,000 or £30,000 or £40,000 that sum would be recognized the Department, and paid, although in the meantime the scheme was not sanctioned, hoping that ultimately it would come to an arrangement for the complete sanctioning of the scheme.

13558. (Chairman).—Paid out of the accumulated funds?—Yes.

13559. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Was the expert to whom you referred an architect?—No; he was an education expert. We have him for the last twelve months. He is a Doctor Ryan, who was in charge of several high educational establishments, in the Paddington School, in Bristol College, and in a couple of others. He is a high-class man, and he is now sitting up, not alone by his past experience, but by going to visit the chief technical educational centres in England and Scotland.

13560. In fact, the expert required for this purpose was someone to take the place in advising you, and in consulting with the architect, which the director that the Department had wanted you to appoint as a permanent official at an earlier stage would have done?—We quite recognize there is this difference. That object was once we got a director he was to be not alone the expert in formulating the scheme and carrying it out, but he was to be the future principal and director of the schools. We were quite willing to get an expert, and we got an expert for the purpose of getting knowledge which would enable us to have the school built on a proper satisfactory principle and up to date, and then after that we would have our own principal—the principal would continue his work. That expert was employed for three years. One year has elapsed now.

13561. (Mr. Brown).—Has the site question been settled yet?—That is a matter not for us, but for the Corporation, who are our superior body. With us

the responsibility lay of inquiring into the sites, of getting all particulars as to costs and conditions, and having got these particulars we sent several reports to the Corporation from time to time, and with them rested the ultimate decision.

13562. Is the site yet selected?—Yes; Bolton street.

13563. Since when was that site selected?—Early this year. The only thing that now remains is to get the authority of the Council of Chancery to give an extended term for part of the premises. It is only a lease for 99 years, and they want 400 years. That is the only question at issue now.

13564. But matters have been delayed by this question of a site?—Undoubtedly, for 1½ or 2 years, but we could not help that.

13565. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The question of the appointment of a director appears to have been the one point on which you have had a difference with the Department—in that matter at any rate?—That was the first and chief, and out of that arose other difficulties—that is to say, our pecuniary wants were created.

13566. Was it your idea from the beginning in that matter that you would do better to engage for a limited period a man of higher standing and experience than you could hope to retain permanently as principal, thus bringing in a man of an expert type at a relatively high salary to see the buildings and the institution through the early stages, and then to resort to the principal who had been there; that was your idea?—That was our idea.

13567. And the Department said it would be better to have the best man you could get on a permanent basis, and have him from the beginning as director to carry through?—I don't know that they insisted we should get a very high-class man to continue as director. They may or may not have had that idea in their minds. Apparently the idea was they did not consider the man who was principal there sufficiently skilled to carry it through.

13568. Sufficient of a technical man?—Yes; but we all concurred, the Department and the Committee concurred, in the appointment of the expert. They approved of the appointment, and sanctioned his salary.

13569. (Mr. Micks).—How is that salary paid?—By the Department out of our funds.

13570. (Mr. Brown).—That is part of the arrangement?—It is part of the arrangement with Mr. Gill. Later on our expenses were increasing gradually, and were exceeding altogether our revenue from the Corporation. So we told the Department we could not go on, and in the end they had a conference with some members of our Committee—the chairman, the vice-chairman, and one or two others, with Mr. Fletcher about a year ago, with the result that they pointed out that they ordered us to get certain equipments for the new laboratories that were very expensive. We went into the accounts, which showed we were deficient about £3,500, and a certain portion for equipment already procured, a certain portion for further equipment that was necessary, and a certain portion for increased salaries to teachers and an increased number of teachers, with the result that they came to an agreement to give us £3,500 for all these objects for which we were short, so that was really looking down their own steel scheme, and for the first time in the spring of this year we got the £3,500, the only sum we got from the Department.

13571. (Chairman).—What is that amount grouped under?—A large portion of it was for the equipment of the classrooms, physical laboratories and other matters, the expenses of salaries and working expenses.

13572. Is that the position of the matter now; has there been any change since?—That is how matters stand now, but Mr. Fletcher gave us to understand, if I don't mistake, that if we gave him estimates in time the Department would consider the thing. I think they have toned down to that extent. That is my impression. With regard to this question of funds the Corporation took up the matter principally because they learned we were short of money, and the Finance and Leases Committee, through its secretary, who is also City Treasurer, applied to the Department for some explanation of these funds that were being locked up, and several times we called upon the Department ourselves to give an explanation or give us the funds or give it to the Corporation to be held for us, and they gave us a curt refusal. They would not

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listen to us at all. Then the City Treasurer applied to the Department, and I was informed directly that they did not give a straight answer. They gave a sort of evasive answer, putting him off on a suggested interview. He, on the part of the Corporation, would not listen to an interview. He wanted a categorical answer. Ultimately, lately I saw a letter from him, in which he said he had satisfied the Corporation that on the money so accumulated from time to time the Department would allow interest. That satisfied the Corporation for the present, but they would not give us any information to that effect previously until this strong letter was written by the City Treasurer.

13573. (Mr. Michie).—Is Keble-street practically under the old South Kensington system so far as funds go except that you do not get any payments corresponding to the equivalent grant?—It is separated from South Kensington.

13574. I know it is, but is it practically under the old system?—Up to this year, but we have got now a circular defining the new regulations and the conditions under which pupils will be allowed to enter classes and the standard of education they must have attained.

13575. But practically you have not come under the Act of 1899 except so far as the old system went?—Yes.

13576. Then any intervention of the Department with regard to the old system would be perfectly regular and proper?—Yes.

13577. Such as South Kensington need to exercise?—Yes.

13578. Do you think the Department exercised more control over your course than South Kensington exercised when they had the administration?—South Kensington had a number of subjects for which they made grants. They may change from time to time, and we complain we were hampered very much by the withdrawal of allowances and grants on certain subjects. When we complained very strongly to the Department they said there was what they call the Directory Book. There was no later Directory Book than that of 1901, and that was out of date. They gave us no satisfaction about it.

13579. I am on the question of control. Was the control of the Department anything tighter or greater than that which was exercised by the South Kensington authorities?—I want to point out that in this way it hampered us. The control was so that while under South Kensington we might have made application for grants under certain subjects, the Department said they could not give the grants for those subjects, as there were certain regulations under the old Directory, which were out of date, and they gave us no substitute, and would not allow any fresh subjects to be substituted for others.

13580. But they acted in the same way as South Kensington as regards payment of your grants and fees although you had a principal they did not approve of?—Yes.

13581. They pursued the same policy as South Kensington in that way?—Yes.

13582. But when it came to administering their own Act did they then say they could not sanction the scheme under the Act of 1899 unless you got a principal of which they approved?—Yes.

All the while our examinations under the City and Guilds of London and the Science and Art Department continued although we had, according to the Department, an irregular principal. They were quite willing to let the principal act as secretary, though I may say here he was much better adapted for principal than for secretary; so their judgment of him in that respect was not correct. Then as to the Consultative Body, the Technical Board, we were very anxious that we should be able to make some representation to that Board, and, as has been pointed out, Alderman Woodhouse and the other gentleman who represented the Corporation, Mr. Dowd, made an effort to do so. We think that the Technical Education Committee should have the county boroughs under its purview and control.

13583. (Alderman).—That would mean an alteration of the Act?—Yes. At present we are shut out from it, and the Board only deals with Rural and District Councils, and they want that Board to be a court of appeal, because they have no appeal and no redress whatever at present.

13584. There is no authority to settle this dispute?—Not alone that, but although that dispute is a very serious thing it is only an illustration of what would occur from time to time.

13585. (Mr. Michie).—The Department takes the power under the scheme of approving of the principal?—Yes.

13586. Might they also, in your opinion, with just as much authority, claim the power of giving the Board of Technical Instruction the privilege of looking over matters?—That is a matter I cannot support, but I don't suppose they could; but I don't profess to offer an opinion on it.

13587. My point is that there is no express power in the Act enabling the Department to approve of officials of local bodies?—No.

13588. They take the power under the scheme?—Yes.

13589. Might they not also put in a provision about the Board of Technical Instruction under the scheme?—I suppose they might, but the sanction of a scheme and the subsequent control or appointment of an official I don't think go together. The sanctioning of the scheme means that a certain system of education should be adopted by the local body. If they approve of that scheme they should not interfere with the appointment of officials provided they are duly qualified, and they have no more to say to it.

13590. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Apart from the question as to whether the Department were right or wrong in their objection to the principal—taking it in a wider point of view, it is their business under the Act to see that the money that is distributed or assumed to have been distributed to the county boroughs is effectively spent for technical education?—Yes.

13591. Now, a county borough might conceivably put forward, or the Department might re-adopt, a scheme which looked absolutely straight and proper. This scheme includes as an essential part an institution, and the Department might then say, "This scheme is an excellent scheme, but it is necessary that the institution should be qualified to perform the function that is allocated to it in the scheme, and therefore, in approving of a scheme, we must see that we are approving of a scheme which does not include an imperfect institution." If the institution is minus an important part of the ordinary mechanism of such an institution obviously that weakness in the institution would be a weakness in the scheme?—Yes.

13592. The difference between you and the Department is whether or not a director, such as they want, was essential to the success of the scheme. They may be wrong in their opinion as to the necessity for a director, but I don't see, from anything you have said, that it is beyond their power to look into that in considering whether they would or would not approve of the scheme?—All I know is that in England they allow the technical education bodies to make their own appointments of teachers.

13593. That is absolutely correct, so far as it goes, but the difference is that the funds which are distributed through the Board of Education in England are distributed at the other end of the work, and any inefficiency in the machine affects the funds?—I understand.

13594. It is a difference in mechanism?—Yes.

13595. (Mr. Michie).—Do you think it would be desirable to remove the difference in future?—Yes.

13596. (Mr. Ogilvie).—That is, you think it would be proper to replace this lump grant of £20,000 by a grant on instruction given?—No. I don't mean that, but I meant some machinery or control by which the Department will not be the sole arbitrator in any question, and we would be very glad if this Board would be so constituted that it would be much more representative, and it should not be merely a Consultative Board, because, as I am informed, I may say our representatives, such as Alderman Dowd and Woodhouse, told us when they came back, that there was no one attending that Board, that there were matters brought before the Board, introduced there on the moment, and they were told to take it or leave it, so to speak. There was no opportunity of considering the questions brought up, or of getting information to form an opinion, and if they dissented from it they had no opportunity of explaining their reasons. What it took months for the officials of the Department to hatch and bring to life the members of the Board were expected to decide on in a few sentences. That was not fair. It should be a regular Board that would have time to consider every item on the Agenda Paper for some time before they go there and be able to express their opinions and let those opinions be recorded.

13592. (Mr. Brown).—Would it be a practicable thing to put on an Agenda Paper such details as you speak of; is there not a notification on the agenda that the schemes themselves will be considered?—The schemes should be furnished to the members beforehand, like any other report.

13593. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Are they not?—I understood not. As a matter of fact they were there after the fashion of some of these educational bodies you read about in history. There is a nominal Council, and the Council is to register the decrees of the ruler.

13594. (Chairman).—The point you would like to appeal on is this question of the principal?—That is one item, but we feel from time to time questions may crop up which will be a source of friction between the two bodies.

13595. You assume that the Department discovered their duties under the Statute, and did not actually hand over this money to you, and that according to a proper interpretation of the Statute the money should be handed over, and the restrictions should come in in the application?—Yes.

13596. What difference would that make to you if you could not have used it, if you had it?—Undoubtedly, but we were not aware until quite lately how their deals with that money, whether they had it merely lying as a credit balance or what way they used it. Now they say they will allow interest, but whether it is specially set-aside and invested for our purposes we don't know, and we don't know what the rate of interest is.

13597. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Deposit rate, I suppose. That would be a very poor return, except at the present moment.

13598. (Mr. Mike).—Most likely you would have found some way of investing it if you had it to your own credit?—It would have been the duty of the Corporation to invest it.

13599. (Chairman).—You could only have applied it in aid of schemes approved of by the Department?—That is all.

13600. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You say here the new regulations for grants being ill suited for Irish conditions promise to still further cripple the work and curtail the resources. I would like to know the grounds upon which you make that statement. You don't expect to make as much out of those regulations or to find you can organise your work as satisfactorily for your constituency as under the Directory of 1901 under which you have been working?—Yes, because, as I said before, the conditions of entry of pupils, the standard for entry is so raised that we shall have far fewer pupils to come forward to study subjects and compete in examinations; but we quite acknowledge that the raising of the standard is necessary. Whether it is raised too high or not is another question, but the result will be that for some time there will be a falling off in pupils and of course a falling off in prize that will be given.

13601. The prize don't affect the grants?—No.

13602. You say there will be a falling off in pupils. That must be because there are pupils for whom the higher instruction described under the title technical instruction to which you are limited under the Act is not suitable; that is to say there are pupils who require really a further continuation of their elementary education?—Yes.

13603. It is not on the Department or the public funds of the Department that you must rely for assistance in that respect, but the National Board. They have regulations for giving assistance for such education. How far have you found it possible, or do you expect to find it possible, to take advantage of that?—We made some representations to the National Board. I forget the date now. First of all they promised to make such arrangements as would afford additional elementary education for those who would be applying themselves to technical instruction. Then they gave up that idea afterwards. That is my recollection. We thought to approach them and put the thing before them, but they are a body that won't admit any dependence, or hear anybody. It is all letters.

13604. These regulations, so far as they affect technical instruction pure and simple, afford considerable latitude of organisation and very high rates of grants for pupils who are doing the really technical work?—Yes. There is a provision the pupils must be in the sixth grade in the National education system, and after the preparatory course they should have the

same standard as pupils who have passed through the Intermediate junior grade. That is an unfortunate standard to put down, because there are so many subjects in the Intermediate system, even in the junior grade, a lot of scientific instruction, so much of modern language and classical knowledge, and it would frighten very many to hear that they should be fit to go through the junior grade of the Intermediate.

13605. They don't make that a condition; they only indicate that as a general standard?—Yes.

13606. The only condition is that before coming under that all they should be at the stage of the sixth class of the National Board?—Yes. That is the real standard.

13607. When they are allowed to be two years in the preparatory course before going on to another?—Yes.

13608. Is there any considerable proportion of your students below sixth standard?—Yes.

13609. You will have to make provision for these with the National Board?—The fact is we have a lot of elementary instruction going on. Writing Arithmetic, Junior Book-keeping, and things that ought really to be acquired before the pupils enter at all. The Department complain of that. We cannot help that. If we don't do it we may as well shut up the classes because a great many of the pupils could not follow the teachers. As it is the teachers are losing their time in some of the schools.

13610. You could not arrange to have some of that work done in associated schools for junior pupils associated with your technical schools, so as not to crowd out the provision you are going to make in the technical school proper for the real students because of the influx of students of a lower grade?—No. The only thing we thought was the National Board might afford facilities for doing it, but I don't know how we could get half a system along with the other.

13611. But under the National Board?—They did not give any encouragement as far as I recollect.

13612. (Mr. Mike).—What is your opinion as to the best method of utilising the technical education that is given to the pupils throughout the country; when the young people are trained in the technical schools as far as possible what do you think will be the next step?—There are small industries. Drawing would come in there. There should be drawing for small industries, as, for instance, wood-carving.

13613. Do you see anything else ahead for utilising the instruction given in technical schools?—No, except the woollen industries—weaving. There could be a great deal done in that way, because all these industries started through the country, beginning with the Foxford Mill up to the present have been handicapped dreadfully by getting in girls who spoil the material. I know one mill where they get a lot of girls. They were very backward. They sent them then to another small mill that was a sort of a training school, but though this other small institution was very willing to help they said they could not possibly take those girls because they wasted the material on them, and it was too great a loss to teach them. An immense deal of time and effort is lost in dealing with untrained hands.

13614. Have you ever considered whether it would be possible to do anything towards the development of industries in the country so that development might go hand in hand with technical instruction?—I think there would be an opening, but the surrounding circumstances of the district should be very carefully considered, the materials at hand, and everything else that was of importance.

13615. And the danger of competing with other industries?—Yes.

13616. Subject to those considerations would you be in favour of inaugurating the development of industries in the country?—Yes.

13617. How does that matter stand at present?—There have been a few efforts made here and there, but not in any systematic manner or with any perseverance. The people of the country want a great deal of industrial and commercial training, and they would want to be treated very patiently as if they don't see a result at once they are inclined to throw a thing up.

13618. Unless money is earned they don't think there is much in technical instruction?—No.

13619. You would be in favour of development that would cause the money to flow?—Decidedly.

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13624. You have not any definite idea of how such development could best be undertaken—Nothing very definite.

13625. (Mr. Brown).—You would look largely to the effects of education?—Decidedly.

13626. (Mr. Micks).—Do you think that would be enough?—I think it would go a long way.

13627. If you give technical and other instruction to pupils do you think that would be sufficient?—I think they should be followed up. Young people should be looked after, after they leave school, to be kept up the right path still, and if they went on in the direction of industries they should be encouraged to increase their technical knowledge.

13628. Do you think that the development of industries might be left to individual or joint effort taken with the education that is given in the country?—I think it would require the co-operation of the Department to supervise; I don't mean in a doctrinaire manner, but to supervise judiciously any

scheme that might be brought in in a friendly way. This Return, which I hand in, shows the growth of the City of Dublin Technical Schools from the year 1896 to 1905:—

SESSION.	Individuals Enrolled.	Class Courses.	No. of Subjects Taught.	No. of Distinct Classes.
1896-1897	990	5,706	34	47
1897-1898	1,126	5,479	31	45
1898-1899	1,074	5,071	34	42
1899-1900	1,013	5,296	38	41
1900-1901	1,064	5,296	41	33
1901-1902	1,362	5,512	51	33

Mr. HARRY C. CARTON examined.

Mr. Harry
C. Carton.

13629. (Chairman).—You are a representative of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutes in Ireland?—Yes.

13630. You wish to say something about the present condition of technical education in Ireland?—Yes; so far as it concerns teachers and the view our Body would take of it. Our Association was started, and the first general meeting was held only early this year. As I was one of the original secretaries and was therefore considered to be in close touch with its working and developments the members at that meeting did me the honour of electing me president. I have taken a very keen interest in its objects and in the discussions we have held at our frequent Committee meetings, and therefore, best the opinions I put forward may suffer on account of personal lack of long experience, I would ask the members of the Commission to consider that I am voicing the views of teachers of much greater ability and experience than I have.

13631. Does your Association extend all over Ireland?—It is the intention to extend all over Ireland, and to represent teachers of technical subjects all over Ireland. The objects of the Association are stated in the printed paper giving its constitution and rules. The main object is to attach all teachers of technical subjects to a definite body of teachers whereby they may work more efficiently and be individually more in touch with technical education as it exists in Ireland and elsewhere. One fact on which we are agreed is that it would be to the great benefit of the Department as well as of our body if some means could be found whereby teachers as a body could be influenced by or influence the Department. Under present conditions a teacher in a technical institution is appointed by a local committee to teach a definite curriculum. His appointment is in no sense permanent. The Committee is the authority to which he looks for continuance of his work or dismissal. True, his appointment has to be ratified by the Department, but there—I am speaking of technical schools—his connection with the Department practically ceases.

13632. (Mr. O'Connell).—How many members have you in your Association?—At present about seventy-five members. The visits of inspectors are, or have been hitherto, by no means frequent. This latter fact some of our body impute as a fault to the Department inspectors, who are known to be exceptionally hard worked body of men, but that is a fact we submit. The net result is that the average isolated teacher of technical subjects has no voice in influencing suggested new schemes. That his opinion would be of use in many instances is certain, for he has an intimate knowledge of local conditions that might seriously interfere with the practical working of a seemingly admirable paper scheme.

13633. (Mr. Micks).—What is your school?—Fennbrook school.

13634. How many inspector's visits have you had?—No visit last session in my classes.

13635. How many visits would you have in a year?—The year before last we had one visit.

13636. (Mr. O'Connell).—What is your department?—Commercial subjects, book-keeping, arithmetic, and mathematics generally. The Department is well advised in its work by the Board of Technical Instruc-

tion. We are well aware that the Board as it is constituted is constituted by Act of Parliament, but we think if some change would be made in the constitution of our Board that some member of our Association might be appointed by the Department as a member of the Board of Technical Instruction. If a member of our Association were on that Board it would bring it in touch with the whole body of teachers in Ireland.

13637. (Mr. Micks).—You mean such a thing as your president for the year?—Just so. Another point I would like to raise in connection with the visits of inspectors being so infrequent is that the number of inspectors under the Department is far too small. It seems somewhat of an anomaly that the main work of the inspectors of technical instruction should be devoted to secondary education. The Department, we have no doubt, wanted to build up from the foundations and make secondary education as sound as they can before they proceed to technical education. Our solution would be the appointment of more inspectors. I think that the work which is done in secondary schools exclusive of their proper work in technical schools occupies most of their time.

13638. (Chairman).—Are these inspectors you speak of inspectors of the Department?—They are. Talking of the work of the Department in connection with secondary education, too, we have observed that while they have devoted attention to building up science and art subjects in secondary education, and they have devoted a lot of money and attention to the proper training of teachers in these subjects in secondary education—they have held senior courses for teachers in science and art—we would suggest that some money should be devoted to holding summer courses for teachers of purely technical subjects, not perhaps on the same basis as the science courses in science and art that have been given in secondary education, but I would suggest they might get technical experts to come in summer time and have a course of lectures in Dublin or Belfast which Irish teachers could attend, and also give bodies of teachers here an opportunity of visiting centres of commerce and industry in England and elsewhere so as to keep them in touch with up-to-date methods, and so forth. We think, after all, if science and art teachers have been treated so by the Department that commercial and technological teachers should also be treated in the same way.

13639. (Mr. O'Connell).—Do they stand as much in need of it?—The teachers here have little opportunity of bettering themselves. They may be good teachers and do their work in technical schools correctly, but the course suggested would put them more in touch with up-to-date methods; and the delivery of lectures in Dublin on commercial matters attended by commercial teachers would benefit them to an enormous extent. Mr. Mulligan has given evidence, and he referred to the unpreparedness of the average pupil for technical instruction. There are in this committee one or two points which I should like to touch. In technical schools we find mainly three classes of pupils who come. First, those who come from intermediate or secondary schools; second, those who come from National schools; third, those who, perhaps, have not had much teaching—private study pupils or pupils who have been so long away from school that they have practically forgotten all of elementary mathematics or

such subjects that they ever knew. In connection with Intermediate pupils the opinions of our teachers are generally very satisfactory, and they are quite fit to specialise in technical work, mainly because the Department is careful that the subjects it considers necessary, such as English, drawing, and mathematics, are well taught in the Intermediate schools. Our experience of those who come from National schools is not so satisfactory. Undoubtedly there does seem a strong necessity for some thoroughly worked scheme in the evening continuation schools or preparatory department in connection with the technical schools. We should be ready to welcome a preparatory department in technical schools, but only as a temporary expedient. I do not think that the general opinion of our teachers is that it would be a good thing to be permanently associated with helping people coming from National schools. The reasons are two. We consider that money spent on these schemes in technical schools is spent on work that should have been done by other public money, that is to say, it should have been done by the National Board. These pupils who have been at National schools and have not come to the standard required in technical schools find it difficult to get much help from a technical school, if they are really backward when they come there. The suggestion we would make about that would be that the Department or the Committee of Technical Instruction might see their way to influence the Board of National Education by conference and so on, and in this connection I may point out that Mr. Starkie, the Resident Commissioner of the National Board, is a member of the consultative committee.

13640. (Chairman).—We have had a great deal of evidence on the very important subject to which you refer and shall be very glad to hear any practical suggestions. Of course everyone is agreed that something should be done to bridge over this gap between the National schools and the technical schools—I thought it well to state that the teachers as a body were fully alive to the fact.

13641. I think we may assume that the teachers are quite alive to it. We have practical experience of it every day—for the third class of pupils, precisely study pupils, who are unfit, a preparatory department should be established in the technical schools. The Intermediate pupils are able to take care of themselves. The Department should pay attention to those subjects being taught on which they lay insistence in the National schools—reading, writing, and arithmetic

—and great advantage would come from the additional knowledge of drawing and elementary commercial forms and correspondence. The other teachers who stand as a deprivation from our body will be able to tell you what is required for pupils who want to specialise in science, technology, and domestic economy. In connection with the appointment of teachers the scheme of technical education in Ireland is to a large extent necessarily transplanted, and teachers of experience here have often felt it hard that they had not the certificate qualifications which they would have had on a matter of course if they lived in other countries.

13642. We are only requiring into the methods of the Department?—It is in reference to the sanction of the Department to the appointment of teachers. There would be a complaint by some members of our body that the Department is a little fond of laying stress on paper qualifications, and in many cases it is considered that large experience is just as meritorious in many cases as paper qualifications.

13643. (Mr. Mick).—In the initial administration of the Act?—The point might arise at any time. You might find a teacher who had plenty of experience, and even when the schemes are going on for a long time it is very hard for him to be knocked out because some other man had paper qualifications.

13644. (Mr. O'Donnell).—On the other hand, you would agree that no paper qualification is an absolutely sufficient guarantee that the teacher is qualified to give instruction satisfactorily?—I would quite agree with that.

13645. (Mr. Mick).—There should be some test of his fitness. Do you recommend appointments on probation?—I don't know how the appointment of the teachers would be made, but there is this point to be considered. In some places teachers are appointed for a season. As a matter of fact it is understood that the appointment for a season carries to a certain extent the right of appointment in the next season, but it is not absolute, and the agreements the teachers have to sign are in some cases for a fortnight's notice on either side. The suggestion would be that the Department would take the view that once a teacher was appointed under any scheme his appointment would be permanent in ordinary circumstances. It would make for efficiency, because if teachers had a permanent interest they would naturally become more efficient in their particular districts.

MR. P. BERTHELM FOR EXAMINED

13646. (Chairman).—You are a teacher of science in the City of Dublin Technical Schools and a member of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions?—Yes.

13647. That is the same body we have been talking about from Mr. Mulligan?—Yes; but that only forms a small part of my educational experience. I am also Professor in one of the Training Colleges for teachers. My first point deals with the necessity of preliminary scientific training. As far as my experience goes in connection with that it is a difficulty which will face us in the development of technical instruction, and I think, taking a broad view of the present situation of education in the country one of the most serious obstacles to progress with regard to technical education arises from the nature and the methods employed in the elementary system of education. The whole object seems to be the acquisition of knowledge in the primary system of education.

13648. We have nothing to do with the primary system except in so far as it stands in relation with technical instruction; we have nothing to do with the general scheme?—With regard to the general scheme, I was referring to it merely because your technical instruction will be based on the products of primary education, and what I would suggest in this case is that some attempt should be made in the primary schools to develop more the thinking and reasoning faculties of children rather than devote the whole scheme of education to the acquisition of knowledge. I think that is a fundamental error both in the primary and secondary teaching; concentration of thought and the power of analysis and thinking out problems are essential in any sound system of technical instruction and we should try to secure these points

in both primary and secondary schools—that is, more attention should be devoted to the cultivation of the reasoning faculties. With regard to the present programme of the Department in science I think that programme in great measure meets all, or tries to meet, the difficulties that I mention in primary education. It does a great deal towards building up that sort of knowledge that we want, training in mental development; but at the same time there is a danger of this scientific training dwindling into the defects of the old literary course, because we have now the "coach" and we have now the manual and all the other methods of, I might say, cramming, even elaborately worked. The difficulty, of course, in establishing the changes that I suggest is that it requires careful inspection. The work of the teacher is gauged merely by the amount of knowledge that is acquired by the pupil. There does not seem to be sufficient attention devoted to the mental training of the child.

13649. Are you speaking of the regulations of the Intermediate Board?—Both in primary and secondary education.

13650. We are quite aware of the general system of primary and secondary education, but we have no power to make any recommendations with regard to that?—Then, with regard to the programme at present administered by the Department I should say that we have everything that could be expected in a science programme, but there is a possibility of deterioration in the teaching of science. If we want to maintain the present standard the inspectors will be required to secure the points that I refer to; that is, they will not gauge the results of the teaching on the successful performance of experiments, but will

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sometimes look into whether the pupil really grasped the principles underlying those experiments, and attach more importance to the cultivation of scientific thought than the mere mechanical working of scientific experiments in the programme. There is another point in connection with the introduction of a preparatory course. I think the introduction of the course was not, perhaps, well advised. Its aim is to make up for the very wants we have in primary education, but at the same time there is this difficulty in Ireland with regard to technical education. There is the apparent apathy of the people with regard to technical education, and thus, I think, very often arises from the fact that the Irishman is sometimes in the position of being ashamed of his ignorance, though he may not be at all responsible for it, and in introducing this preparatory course I think it would be better if,

instead of asking students, where it is so difficult to get them to take an interest in technical education to work through this introductory portion, to let them fall into line with the others. The difficulty arises largely from the fact that grown up persons have an objection to working through a preparatory course in conjunction, very often with young people, and I think the difficulty would be better overcome by allowing them to fall into the ordinary run of the class, and then devoting a special evening to teaching them in those elementary subjects in which they required instruction.

13651. These are matters of detail and of organization with which we can hardly deal. I quite see the importance of what you say, but we must have regard to what we have to deal with ourselves—I don't think there is any other point.

Mr. E. M. Le FAY examined.

Mr. E. M.
Le Fay.

13652. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutes in Ireland?—Yes. The first head with which I wish to deal is the need for technical qualifications for the inspectors of technical classes. I don't think there is any necessity to discuss whether such a thing is necessary or not, because so far as the Association of Teachers is concerned we think that some attempt might be made by the Department to appoint teachers having these qualifications. At present technological classes are inspected by gentlemen who could hardly be described as having technical experience, either commercial or educational.

13653. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Which technological subjects do you refer to specially?—My particular subjects are the various branches of mechanical engineering, and also motor engineering.

13654. The number of classes in mechanical and motor engineering in Ireland even under the best probable line of development will not be sufficient to justify the Department in having an inspector in that and that alone?—I think the number would justify the Department in having an inspector.

13655. How many classes do you anticipate there are likely to be in mechanical and motor engineering?—I think there would be classes in motor engineering in Dublin, Belfast, and Cork—possibly not in Cork.

13656. Do you think three centres would be sufficient to justify the Department in having an inspector for them alone?—Not for motor engineering, but for mechanical engineering there should be one inspector, and he could possibly inspect in motor engineering also.

13657. In those centres alone?—There are more centres in mechanical engineering.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—Suppose we make them up to a dozen?

13658. (Mr. Micks).—Would there not be more?—There would be more if the development of the country took place with anything like reasonable speed. The number of individual centres is bound to increase. There are larger centres in the North of Ireland in which classes in mechanical engineering are conducted.

13659. You may assume twenty towns where there are manufactures?—Yes, and in most of those towns you will find some attempt made to give mechanical instruction.

13660. (Mr. Brown).—How many are actually existing?—I am not prepared to state the number. I know the North of Ireland and Dublin, but not the South and West.

13661. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Would it meet your view if the Department were to have at intervals an inspection of each place you refer to by a man who is technically qualified?—Yes.

13662. That does not come to the same thing necessarily as having an inspector fully employed for that particular subject?—No. If the Department found they could not fill up his time, I don't suppose it would be worth their while.

13663. They might make an arrangement to have at sufficient intervals an adequate technical inspection of such special branches as form part of the technical work of the different institutions?—Yes. Then, as the question of teaching experience which is necessary for these inspectors, I don't think it is possible for an inspector, no matter what his technical qualifications might or might not be, to criticize

or be helpful apart from criticizing to the actual teacher of classes unless he has had a teacher's experience, which is a necessity in order not only to appreciate the work that is being done but the difficulties in doing it without the necessary equipment or with physical limitations such as the want of sufficient lighting or room or seating accommodation. I think if the inspector were wanted to express an opinion as to the actual work done in any class is ought to have the practical teacher's experience which would enable him properly to estimate the value of the work done, and give suggestions as to how it could be improved from the teacher's point of view. It is very easy to say so and so is not done right and yet at the same time to give the teacher no possible inkling of what way it could be expected to be improved. Yet this is the help that would be a much appreciated.

13664. (Mr. Micks).—I take it you don't assert there is not a sufficient amount of mechanical and motor work in Ireland fully to occupy the time of an inspector. It is merely you cannot say whether there is or not?—I don't suppose there is enough motor work, but I think there would be enough mechanical engineering. There is an immense amount of industrial activity in Belfast and the North of Ireland.

13665. You know the North of Ireland?—Yes; I served my time there.

13666. You know there are engineering works in Derry, Ballydoan, Ballymena, Lifford, Longs, Portadown, and other places?—Yes, and in Dundalk, Drogheda, and Newry.

13667. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It is not the works that are to be inspected, but the class?—Yes, but the students who attend these classes are to be found in the greatest number in the neighbourhood of the works.

13668. The point is, is there a sufficient number of these classes at present to require an inspector to give his full time to them?—I think if you appointed one inspector with those qualifications he might be available for other inspection as well. It does not follow that because a man has technical qualifications he cannot inspect ordinary schools, too.

13669. (Mr. Micks).—Do you not think there ought to be classes for improving the workers where these workers are; suppose there are no classes for places like Drogheda, do you think it desirable, having regard to the employment for mechanics there, that there should be classes?—I certainly think there should.

13670. Do you think it desirable that the inspector in that case should be a sort of organizer of instruction?—He might probably report to the Department on the advisability or otherwise, but the organization, I think, would be rather beyond his duties.

13671. Not making suggestions?—Yes.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—You want to have an inspector coming in to visit and inspect your work about once every second month, or something like that. Do you contemplate that extent of inspection; what I want to get at is what extent of inspection you contemplate as desirable in the case of technological subjects such as those you are teaching?—We should have about three inspections per session by an inspector technically qualified. My second head is the insufficiency of the proposed preparatory course. My special point of view, of course, is on account of the fact that students attending technological classes mostly fail to come up to a reasonable standard. It is difficult to

give them efficient instruction on account of the almost total absence of mathematical knowledge on their part. That is quite apart from the point mentioned, that commercial knowledge and English. Of course, the English is also of importance, because unless they understand the rules of orthography it is impossible to take notes in any subject; but my particular point is in cases of students attending technological classes and coming without any mathematical knowledge whatsoever, and to suggest that one year's preparatory course, involving perhaps one evening in the week, is not sufficient to enable such students to get the necessary mathematical knowledge, necessary even for an elementary course in applied mechanics next year.

MISS BELLINGHAM TOOK EXAMINED.

13675. (Chairman).—You also come from the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutes in Ireland?—Yes.

13676. Where are you working?—One of my appointments is in the Dublin Technical Schools. One is in the Training School for Teachers. I was formerly examiner to the Intermediate Education Board in domestic economy.

13677. You are working in domestic economy?—Domestic service generally.

13678. I see from your heads there are some suggestions about the position and salaries of teachers?—That has been dealt with—I do not think of going into it at all. I thought it better to give you an idea of my experience in the schools and what I thought. Very little has been done to amalgamate domestic economy and science, and very often the school carrying out of domestic work is done with a total disregard to the principles that the students are taught on the other side in science, and it seems to me it would be a good thing if this could be brought under the notice of the Department, and I lay great stress on the fact that the two things may be worked together; that even in the very simplest operation that we have to perform the principles underlying that operation ought to be taught, and ought to be carried out, and if you will allow me to give a very simple instance—the cooking of a potato—in almost all these schools the children are taught to put the potato into cold water and bring it to a boil, and science teaches them that the parts of the potato which are really valuable are lost. I was trained in Leeds. I don't think they know how to boil potatoes in Ireland. The same rule applies very often in cooking the simplest things. Certain principles are taught in science, but totally disregarded in the actual working. I have noticed it particularly since I have had teachers assisting me, and in the Training College in Kildare-street, in the housewifery course I have experienced it. I know that those principles are totally disregarded. It seems to me that considering the enormous cost of the teaching of domestic science the results ought to be very much greater than they are. One branch that has been totally neglected is that of the domestic servants. They get very little help, yet they are a class we want to benefit very largely. In reference to inspection, I should say that the inspectors in domestic science are so far totally inexperienced, and when an inexperienced inspector comes in to inspect a school or class the cost of examination is almost 100 per cent. greater than it should be, because he can only judge by letting each pupil do a whole dish, and it means that the utensils at hand are inadequate in number, the amount of material required is enormous, and the work done is utterly spoiled and very often a poor student comes out badly in her examination marks. She has had no chance, whereas under a different system of inspection, with more experienced inspectors, they would go into a school and take one or two dishes, and one student to commence and pick out another to continue, and so on. The cost will be very much less, but the result will be very much better. To my mind inspectors, at least in domestic science, should have

13672. (Mr. Brown).—You would not agree with the suggestion of the last witness, that students of that character should begin at once by attending the classes and have an evening in the week concurrently?—They should not break the work of the other students who are better qualified.

13673. That would not apply to your department?—It does to a certain extent. I get students taking the preparatory course who also come to the technical classes, and whatever the result of the course may be towards the end of the session, it is not apparent in the earlier part.

13674. It is a difficult question?—Yes, and I think the system should get a fair trial.

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special training for inspection and never be allowed to go out alone and take full responsibility until they have accompanied a trained inspector.

Miss Todd.

13679. Have you had experience of the system under which the work is inspected at different stages?—I have seen it in England, but not here.

13680. If you had sufficient inspection at one stage difficulties might subsequently arise?—Yes; but you see how much less the cost would be. My experience is that these inexperienced inspectors have frequently inspected the teacher rather than the class. They were themselves learning at the teacher's expense.

13681. (Mr. Miles).—Are your inspectors ladies?—Certainly. We have had lady inspectors of cookery, laundry, and sewing.

13682. (Mr. Gifford).—Would you draw a distinction between the training necessary for domestic service and the training necessary for other young women who are seeking instruction?—For domestic servants it should be more in detail; they want to learn a great deal more; in the technical schools they train them all together in these classes. We find some of them are so anxious that by extra work we can pull them through the City and Guilds Examination occasionally. It is very hard work to do it, but we have done it.

13683. You would like to see special classes for domestic servants who sit by themselves?—Yes, and for housekeepers, I think it is very much wanted.

13684. Does the course in household management not meet the wants of housekeepers?—Practically we have not such a thing.

13685. (Chairman).—I suppose your experience in Ireland has been principally among the better classes?—No. I have given lessons in a little room where I have had only a frying pan and two saucepans. I have been twenty years in the country up and down. When lecturing for the Sanitary Association I frequently did cottage work with the most limited amount of utensils to show how easily a good meal could be prepared.

13686. (Mr. Brown).—Do you think training of domestic servants is of any importance compared with the general raising of the standard of living among the people?—I consider it is most necessary.

13687. Is it more necessary than the general raising of the standard of living?—You cannot train domestic servants without raising the standard of living. When you are training the poor people you are training them to live. In the lessons which you give the domestic servant you are giving her an extensive knowledge which fits her for the better class of houses where her wages are better.

13688. I quite agree with the necessity for these classes for domestic service, but I thought you rather exaggerated the importance of training domestic servants over what is generally considered to be the object of the teaching, namely the raising of the standard?—We are having these classes very much now, and it is very hard to get people to come into them. I made a suggestion in the Technical Schools that they should take a room or two in the city and bring in the poor people there and teach them.

The Committee adjourned.

THIRTY-NINTH PUBLIC SITTING.—MONDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 1906.

At 18, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin.

Present:—

SIR KENNETH DIBBY, K.C., O.C.B. (Chairman).

THE HON. JOHN DAYDEN.

MR. WILLIAM LAWSON MCKER.

MR. FRANCIS GRANT OGLIVIE.

MR. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

MR. J. J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON, C.B., examined.

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Sir Charles
Cameron, C.B.

13689. (Chairman).—I don't quite know what is the proper description of the office you hold?—With regard to Dublin, I am the Medical Superintendent Officer of Health and Public Analyst.

13690. That is to say Public Analyst for the whole of Ireland?—For a large portion of it. I am here on behalf of the Public Health Committee by their request, along with Mr. Watson, who has already been examined, our veterinary surgeon.

13691. Would you kindly tell us what you wish to say?—Well, briefly a very large proportion of the milk supply of Dublin comes from the country districts, and I have examined many samples of milk from the country and found them very often very impure; it is not prepared carefully, not properly strained, and is often very dirty, but the milk in Dublin is under very careful supervision. Dublin is the only town in Ireland in which the whole time service of a veterinary surgeon is given, and we have a staff of Inspectors of Dairies, so that the Dublin dairies are very well supervised, but practically there is no supervision with regard to the places in the rural districts from which at least one-half of the milk supply of Dublin comes.

13692. Does that apply to creameries as well as to home dairies?—It does. My suggestion is that the supervision of dairies and of cow-holds and all the business in fact in reference to the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act and the Milk Shop Orders of the Local Government Board and the Privy Council Orders should be transferred to the Board of Agriculture.

13693. What Department has cognizance of it now?—At present there is a division of labour, a very large portion of the Act is administered by the Board of Agriculture, they have a staff of nearly fifty veterinary surgeons.

13694. You mean the Department of Agriculture, not the Board?—The Department of Agriculture; the diseases of animals occupy the attention of the Department of Agriculture, but the examination of dairy-yards falls to the sanitary authorities, which are the Boroughs and the Urban and Rural District Councils. From my own knowledge I can say that there is practically no supervision of the farmyards in the country from which the milk comes; my suggestion is that part of the Contagious Diseases Animals Act and the Orders referring to cow-holds and dairy-yards should be transferred from the local authorities altogether to the Department of Agriculture, because they have a large staff, which, perhaps, would have to be augmented in order that there might be a proper supervision of the sources of our milk supply carried out generally throughout the country, which is not the case at present.

13695. The supervision is exercised by the local authorities at present?—Yes. The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are the two health officers, but in the country districts the Officer of Health, whether he likes it or not, is ex-officio the Medical Officer of Health, because he is a dispensary official, but the salaries given to the Medical Officers of Health are very small, £10 or £15 a year, and nothing to enable any reasonable amount of enthusiasm from them, and the inspectors are generally

the Believing Officers, who get some ridiculously small salary; there is no provision for inspection with speaking of in the rural districts.

13696. Would you have that administered directly by the Department?—I would.

13697. Without the intervention at all of the local authority?—Yes, or any co-operation with them, which would not matter much.

13698. You would have the inspector appointed by the Department?—I would have the veterinary surgeons examine the holders of the cows and see that they were free from disease and that the hygiene of the farmyard from which the milk was sent out to the towns was good.

13699. That is closely connected with a reform that has been pressed upon us very strongly by a great many witnesses, that is a considerable increase of veterinary surgeons throughout the country?—Certainly I think it ought to be done; I think the Sanitary Authority would be quite willing that that duty should be taken from them, on, at all events, there might be a combination of the two authorities by which there would be more effective supervision of the sources of our milk supply. There is one more point I should just like to mention in reference to the veterinary staff. I have myself condemned not less than 15,000 cases in my time in Dublin suffering from advanced stages of infectious pleuro-pneumonia, that disease was introduced in the 'thirties from Russia and persisted here year after year; altogether the credit of stamping out that disease is due to the Veterinary Staff now attached to the Department, but formerly to the Privy Council. Were it not for the measures adopted by the Veterinary Staff of the Privy Council that disease would still be existing in Dublin and annually carrying off hundreds of animals. In one year alone I condemned very nearly 500 carcasses, nearly all dairy cows in the advanced stages of that disease. The preventive measures, though at first opposed by the Dairywomen's Association, they now acknowledge have saved their dairy herds from almost complete destruction, so that the staff has really been of enormous advantage to Ireland in stamping out disease.

13700. I don't know whether it is in your province does the work that was then being done by the Privy Council go on in the same way under the Department?—They act in exactly the same way, only that their controlling authority has been changed, otherwise it is the same staff discharging the same duties. Mr. Holley, the very efficient Chief Officer under the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council, is still the Chief Officer under the Department of Agriculture. We are very much interested in this country in the butter business, and there is no doubt that an immense quantity of margarine is sold under the name of butter; the Department of Agriculture have taken a great interest in the question, they officers collect specimens of butter or margarine for the purpose of analysis under the Margarine Act; they have no power to prosecute on their own account, but the officer that the Sanitary Authority appoint may without reference to the Sanitary Authority institute proceedings when the analyst states that there is adulterated butter. He can forthwith institute proceedings—that is what is done in Dublin.

13701. He would be an officer of the Local Government Board—Oh, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, an officer of the local authority, or a sanitary sub-officer, or an inspector of markets or of meat, but the Constabulary have the same power and can prosecute without reference to the Sanitary Authority. Unfortunately the Department of Agriculture have no such power, and their officers, when they collect specimens for analysis and they are found to be adulterated, have to report them to the Department and the Department communicates them with the local authority, which will be the Town Councils of Boroughs and the County Councils of Counties, for permission to prosecute; by the time that is done the twenty-eight days allowed for the institution of proceedings usually come to an end. The sample may be taken up just a day or so before the County Council meets, and it will be a month before it meets again. In the meantime all those proceedings go on, and when everything is ready the County Council won't meet until too late. What I suggest is that there should be some means adopted by which the same power that the Constabulary and sub-sanitary officers possess should be given to the officers who are acting under the Department of Agriculture.

13702. That wants legislation, you would recommend legislation to that effect?—It may be done by legislation or by the general body of County Councils agreeing to appoint officers of the Department sanitary sub-officers.

13703. (Mr. Brown).—The District Councils appoint sanitary sub-officers?—The Constabulary are ex-officio inspectors of food, and when they find an article to be adulterated they can at once proceed without referring the matter to the County Councils to authorize each individual prosecution. It takes some time to collect samples, some time for the analyst to make his report. Somerset House generally takes a fortnight or three weeks, and the local public analyst requires some days; he may be very busy and have a large number of samples coming in from time to time, and it may be a fortnight before he can

report, and there is not time to report to the Department and then to the County Council, and to the solicitor to take proceedings.

13704. That does not apply at all to samples taken by the police?—No, there are only certain persons authorized under the Act to prosecute. Medical Officers of Health, Sanitary Sub-Officers, Inspectors of Markets, Constabulary and Police.

13705. Don't most of the samples that come to you come from the police?—Yes; very few from the sanitary sub-officers, from the towns, Limerick, perhaps, but from the counties, altogether the Constabulary. It was I induced the Inspector-General to allow the Constabulary to act some years ago, otherwise the Act in the rural districts would be a complete failure—this is the only suggestion I can make which would render efficient the action of the Department of Agriculture.

13706. If the Councils could make a standing order that prosecutions should be instituted in all cases reported to their secretary, would not that to some extent meet the case?—It would, but they would have to issue the warrants to the officers of the Department of Agriculture.

13707. You mean a prosecution cannot be instituted without a formal resolution of the County Council?—No, or power given by legislation to the officers of the Department. If the County Councils would issue certificates, it would mean that every one of the County Councils would have to issue certificates authorizing the officers of the Department to act as sanitary sub-officers for that particular purpose only—there would be no difficulty in doing that.

13708. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Has any County Council thought of doing that?—No, it is only my own suggestion; it is the only time I have made the suggestion, the other suggestion I made in the form of a paper about the transferring of the powers of the local authorities I read at the Cork Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, and I don't think it has been published yet, when it is published I will send you a copy.

MR. C. LITTLE FALKNER, M.A., EXAMINED

13709. (Chairman).—You appear here as a member of the Board of Visitors of the Science and Art Museum, Natural History Collection and Botanical Gardens?—That is so.

13710. Is the letter of the 15th June it is stated that your evidence will be directed mainly to the present position of the Science and Art Museum and certain matters which, in the opinion of the Visitors, clearly affect its efficiency?—Quite so, sir; exclusively to that point. I ought to say that I appear as one of the Board of Visitors, and I may say as the junior member of the Board, but it was thought convenient for the purpose of informing this Committee on matters to which we wish to draw attention that you should have before you in a succinct form the circumstances under which the Board of Visitors was constituted and the purpose for which it was constituted, in order that you might understand such difficulties as we have found to have arisen in the conduct of matters with which we are charged. I would like to preface everything I have to say, which must be by way of indicating certain difficulties which have arisen, by stating that the Board of Visitors does not appear here in any way for the purpose of raising difficulties in any hostile manner as between the Board of Visitors and the Department. All we wish to represent is that difficulties have arisen, and to suggest for your consideration how those difficulties could be obviated in the future, but we don't at all wish to raise any issue which would indicate that in our view the Department might not be made a thoroughly effective supervisor of the organizations with which we are charged. I should say, to show you how our authority in the matter arises and what we have to do with the Department, that the authority of the Department in relation to the Science and Art Institutes of Dublin is derived from Section 2 of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act of 1899. There are other sections that affect the administrative powers of the Department in relation to the Museum, but Section 2 is the section which transfers to the Department the powers and duties of the Department of Science and Art in relation to any public building or buildings in Ireland within their control. Prior to the Act of 1899 the

Museum and other institutions with which the Board of Visitors have to do had been for the previous twenty-two years under the control of the Department of Science and Art, and with that Department were associated the body we represent, known as the Board of Visitors. It will be convenient to state the origin and the character of the administrative system which was constituted in 1877, a system, which further and otherwise than it is affected by the change between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Science and Art has not been altered in any respect. All the powers that were in existence before 1899 are in existence now unchanged. The functions of the Board of Visitors in relation to the Science and Art Museum are laid down in a document dated 9th February, 1876 (produced). It is a letter that has been known and quoted ever since as "Lord Sandon's letter" in all public documents connected with the Museum. Lord Sandon was then Vice-President of the Council of Education and the negotiations were then going on between the Government, the Royal Dublin Society and the Royal Irish Academy, which preceded the Dublin Museum Act of 1877. This document, commonly known as Lord Sandon's letter, formed the basis of the agreement which was subsequently made for the transference of the Museum, Library, and other collections of the Royal Dublin Society to the Government. Section 16 of the Museum Act, which gave power to the Science and Art Department and the Commissioners of Public Works to enter into agreements for the purpose of giving effect to the objects of the Act, and generally in furtherance of or in connection with the same, provided "it shall be lawful for the Commissioners or the Department of Science and Art and the Society to enter into all or any agreements, contracts, or arrangements which they may think fit." The agreement entered into with the Royal Dublin Society of 1st of March, 1881, embodied the provisions contained in Lord Sandon's letter, and among them the provision relating to the constitution of the Board of Visitors. That is a very important provision. "This arrangement," that is the arrangement for the transference of the Museum, etc., "will necessarily entail the

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Sir Charles
Casson, &c.Mr. C. Little
Falkner, M.A.

On 29.1906.

Mr. G. Liffen
Palliser, M.A.

surrender by the Royal Dublin Society and the Royal Irish Academy of some privileges which they now enjoy, and will deprive them of some of those functions which they have hitherto exercised, but the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education wish it to be distinctly understood that they in no way undervalue the eminent services which the Royal Dublin Society and the Royal Irish Academy have rendered to Ireland. They trust that these services may still be continued. Their lordships also earnestly desire to retain the advantage of the assistance and ability which the continued co-operation of the Society with the Government in this more extensive national undertaking will afford, and in order to aid them in the Science and Art Museum, Natural History collection and Botanical Gardens, they propose to constitute a Board of Visitors consisting of twelve members, four nominated by the Lord Lieutenant, five by the Royal Dublin Society, and three by the Royal Irish Academy, the members to be appointed for a limited time, but to be eligible for re-election, and the President to be elected annually by the Board. The duties of the Board of Visitors would be to make annual returns to the Science and Art Department, which would be laid before Parliament, on the condition, management, and requirements of the Museum, and to advise on points affecting the administration. There was an agreement arrived at with the Royal Dublin Society under that letter in 1851, and there was considerably later, a similar agreement arrived at with the Royal Irish Academy. I think in 1850. The collections of the Royal Irish Academy were the subject of a separate arrangement, embodied in a separate agreement, by which the Academy collection was treated as being in a similar position to that of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, whose collection came under Government custody in 1851. In 1870, after the passing of the Museum Act, the Board of Visitors was formally constituted, and I might point out that the Section of the Museum Act relative to the Board of Visitors, follows the precise words of the definition of its functions that is given in Lord Sandon's letter. The Visitors consider that by the terms of Lord Sandon's letter and especially by the bestowal on the Royal Dublin Society of the right to nominate five and the Royal Irish Academy of the right to nominate three of the twelve members it was intended to preserve the interests and the counsels of these corporations in the management of the institutions with which the Board was concerned. The names of those first nominated to serve as Visitors were representative persons of the day, and their names in themselves indicate the character of the men whose co-operation the Government desired to secure—the Duke of Leinster, the Earl of Rosse, Lord Powerscourt, Lord Ardillan, Sir Robert Kane, Sir Charles Lanyon, Sir Samuel Ferguson, Dr. Jelliffe, Professor Reynolds, and others. I go on to point out that owing to the looseness of that definition, which I read to you in Lord Sandon's letter, of the powers of the Board of Visitors, namely, that the duties of the Board of Visitors would be to make annual reports which would be laid before Parliament on the condition, management, and requirements of the Museum—that is clear enough—and to advise on points affecting the administration—it is obvious that under that there might easily arise as between the Science and Art Department or the Department of Agriculture and the Visitors; they are curiously open words—it might easily arise that the Department would take one view of the matters affecting the administration and the Board of Visitors another.

18721. It would apply to the Privy Council as well as the Department. Quite so. Well, the Science and Art people were the people with whom the Board of Visitors had to do. They were the constant pipe of the Privy Council.

18722. Did any difference arise between you?—Some difference did arise, and we think it right we should indicate this, because we did not desire to say that there was a breach as down to 1890, when the Department came along. Differences did arise. It was perhaps a misfortune that the provision which formed the material part of the consideration for the surrender of the Museum should have been drafted in a somewhat vague and indeterminate manner, and it is not strange that differences should have arisen as to the real meaning of Lord Sandon's letter. But it is plain that the object of the Government was to create an Advisory and Consultative Committee, composed of persons interested

in Science and Art in Ireland who should investigate and criticize the condition of the Museum and of the other institutions for the information of Parliament, and should have authority to make such suggestions for the administration of the Museum as might seem expedient. But although on more than one occasion prior to the transfer of the Museum to the Department of Agriculture differences arose between the Board and the South Kensington authorities as to the proper construction of Lord Sandon's letter, yet the functions of the Board of Visitors as an advisory body have always been recognized by successive Governments. That this is so appears in the correspondence in the past between the Science and Art Department and the Board of Visitors between the years 1851 and 1890. (Palliser correspondence.) The character of there is set out there. Differences arose, and there were deputations to the Lord Lieutenant of the day on at least two occasions and the end of it all was that the Science and Art Department stated on more than one occasion and reiterated their view that the Board of Visitors was a body which not only had been constituted to perform useful purposes, but had performed them, and was capable of performing them.

18723. In the last sentence of this document they sum it up—"The Visitors of the Dublin Museum may rest assured that any views tendered by them in their annual reports will receive consideration, and we are glad to say that such reports have been received and considered by our predecessors."—Yes, the end of it was that there was harmony between the two bodies charged with the supervision of the Museum, and that was the state of affairs when the Department came into being.

18724. That refers to advice tendered in the reports?—Yes, but the correspondence and the general effect of the assurances received from this Department also affected points of administration.

18725. I see here it is indicated in a sentence higher up—"The intention seems to have been to indicate that they were to advise upon points of administration which called upon de do."—Yes, there was a long controversy about that. Whether there are two bodies and no clear definition difficulties will be sure to arise. They did arise, and the Lord Lieutenant of the day was then involved, and he appears to have acted as intermediary with the Department with the result that there was an antiseptic arrangement, by which for the last few years before 1890, certainly from 1890 down to 1896, there was complete harmony between the two bodies. The demand of the Board of Visitors, was that if a body, whose value as an Advisory Committee was so strongly emphasized by the Government at the time of the transfer of the Museum to the State, and whose importance has been constantly reaffirmed by successive Governments, was necessary part of the system set up in 1877, its utility is even more clearly demonstrated as to the management of the Museum under the Department of Agriculture. It was certain that the Director, who was the officer responsible for the management of the Museum, would always have behind him the assistance of the skill and experience in matters of Art and Science which the South Kensington Department had at its command. No such assistance appears to be available under the present system. So far as the Visitors are aware the Department of Agriculture has not here, and never has had among its staff, any officer possessing training or experience in museum matters other than the officers of the Museum itself who were handed over with the Museum to the Department. Nor does it appear from any of the Reports or journals published by the Department that any adequate consideration has ever been given by the Department of Agriculture to that portion of its varied functions. Our point is this—that the Department of Agriculture has a very large and varied number of duties to attend to, and that these duties are in the first instance not particularly relevant to, or particularly closely connected with, the business of superintending a Museum, and it is the view of the Board of Visitors that, without in the least desiring to overlook it, probably its principal officers being fully alive to the importance of maintaining the Museum, still they have not been able to give proper attention, and their constitution is not one that enables them to give the attention that properly ought to be given, to such a Museum as the Museum of Science and Art. In such circumstances and not having these facilities for supervising the Museum it would seem natural that recourse would

have been had by the Department to the co-operation of a body, representative of the scientific and learned societies of Ireland, and expressly directed to supply the administrative authority with the advice and assistance of persons competent to form an independent opinion on matters of museum management. But so far from this being the case, the Department have as a matter of fact one common discouragement of the advice ordered by the Board of Visitors. Of course, the Board of Visitors does not put it to you that advice ordered by the Board ought necessarily to be accepted by the Department, but they do think that the occasions when recourse is had to the Board of Visitors and their advice are few and far between, and they think that when they give considered advice that some adequate reason for disregarding or ignoring it, or not following it, should have been assigned. These reasons have not, as a rule, been assigned, and not only so, but on a recent occasion the Board of Visitors were very considerably surprised at receiving a suggestion that certain paragraphs which the Visitors on their responsibility had inserted in their Report to be submitted to Parliament should be altered in accordance with the views of the Department. Such a suggestion appears to involve an entire misapprehension of the powers and duties entrusted to them. To alter Reports in accordance with the views of the Department would be to nullify whatever value they possess.

13715. Can you tell us what that particular matter was about?—I think it would be more convenient if you got the details from Sir Howard Grubb or Sir James Mansfield, who were members of the Board when that occurred. The reference is to the minute of September 16th, 1905, which our Secretary will have here. In connection with the subject of the Reports the Board of Visitors would further represent that ever since the creation of the Department they have been hampered—there was so in the early years of the Science and Art Department—hampered in the preparation of their Reports by delays in communicating to them the terms of the Director's Report to the Department. The Director is the officer responsible generally for the management, and he makes his Report every year to the Department, and, of course, his Report is conversant with the matters with which the Visitors' Report is conversant and the Visitors thought it would be extremely advantageous that they should know what had been going on as summarised in the Director's Report. To go back on that point about the Report, there are the minutes of the 17th October, 1905.—“The Department received on the 7th instant the report dated the 2nd May last of the Board of Visitors of the Science and Art Museum and Royal Botanical Gardens for the year ending 31st March, 1905. The Department are always glad to welcome any suggestions the Board of Visitors may desire to make for the improvement of the Museum and the Gardens. They, however, cannot but think that certain paragraphs in this Report were written under some misapprehension due to inadequate knowledge of the circumstances. Some of these paragraphs as at present framed would give the public an erroneous impression as to the attitude of the Department respecting the matters dealt with.” They conclude—“The Department trust that in the light of the information now afforded the Board of Visitors will revise the paragraphs above referred to. The Department value the co-operation and assistance of the Board of Visitors, who equally with themselves are anxious to promote the interests of the institutions concerned. Nor do the Department for a moment suggest any restriction of the Board's freedom of criticism, but only desire that it should not be of a nature calculated to give a mistaken impression as to the Department's action.” The Board were of opinion that the request did amount to a restriction of their freedom of criticism, and they were of opinion that the only value of their functions as regards their Report was to supply something in the nature of an expert criticism upon the management of the Museum and if their views were to be revised at the request of the Department that then it would be a very much better thing, if that had to be so, that the Reports of the Department would be taken as concluding the whole matter.

13717. Have you got that resolution?—

(Mr. Ogilvie).—Would you tell us whether, as a matter of fact, the information contained in the letter was new to the Board or entirely within their cognizance when they drafted their Report?—They were of opinion that that was so.

13718. (Chairman).—The letter says there is a mistake of fact.

13718a. (Mr. Michie).—Was any change made in the Report?—No, we declined to make it. This is the resolution:—“The Visitors beg to acknowledge the receipt of the letter addressed to their Secretary by the Secretary of the Department, dated the 16th September, 1905. The Visitors note that this is the first occasion on which their Report has been returned to them by the Department for revision and re-consideration. The Board's report is submitted to Parliament as an independent statement of opinion, and while the Visitors would readily correct an error of fact into which they might have fallen, they are not prepared on this or any other occasion to reconsider at the instance of the Department the inferences or opinions which they may have founded on the facts as they existed on the 31st March, 1905.” The Board of Visitors are not of opinion that there was any mistake as to the facts.

13718b. (Mr. Brown).—I think what they say there is, they refuse to alter any inference or opinion founded on the facts as known to them on the 31st March. The facts may have been altered afterwards.—If you permit me, I think that it is a very large gloss on the terms of the resolution I was reading.—“The report of the Visitors for the year 1904-5, though signed on the 2nd May, speaks from the 1st April, and embodies the opinion of the Visitors as on that date. The Visitors observe that the Department calls attention to various matters which have occurred since that date, which would be dealt with in the report for the current year. As regards the year 1905-6, the Visitors are satisfied of the accuracy of their report.”

13718c. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Were you a member of the Board then?—No, I was not; and it was for that reason I was not desirous to go into the matter. I understood Mr. Brown to suggest that the Board were not willing to correct statements on matters of fact, in the light of corrections they have received; I don't think the resolution supports that view.

(Mr. Brown).—I think I have some reason to complain that in reading the resolution a second time you revisited those words on which I founded my observation.

(Chairman).—I rather think I interrupted him.

(Witness).—Then with respect to the delay in the publication of the Visitors' Reports, when presented they have often been unnecessarily delayed. The Board of Visitors have the more reason to complain of this, because when a similar difficulty arose in the early part of the Board's existence the difficulty was quickly remedied; and for many years prior to 1899 not only were the Board regularly furnished with the Director's Report, but their own Reports were issued and laid before Parliament within a short period after they had been received by the Science and Art Department. So long ago as in their Annual Report for 1881 the Visitors represented to the Science and Art Department the inconvenience which had arisen from not having been furnished with the Annual Reports of the officers until several months after such Reports had been forwarded to London, and that they respectfully suggested that copies of all such Reports should be supplied to them as early as possible after they had been submitted to the Lords of the Council on Education. For many years after that time, the Directors' Reports were furnished to the Visitors as soon as possible after the close of the periods to which they related; but since the control of these institutions has been transferred to the Department of Agriculture Reports have been so long delayed that they became almost obsolete before they were published, and of little use to those interested. The Visitors' Report for the year ending March, 1904, had not been presented or published to Parliament in 1905, when the Visitors adopted their Report from March, 1905. The Visitors consider that such long delay seriously diminishes the value of their Reports which were intended to be laid before Parliament as referring to matters of public importance. The Board feel that they are placed in a position of great disadvantage if when engaged in drawing up their Annual Report they are not allowed to see what the Directors reported for the previous twelve months. That concludes the historical summary of the difficulties that have arisen since the Board of Visitors were constituted as under the Science and Art Department, and later under the direction of the present Department.

13721. Am I quite right in understanding that the Report of the Director is not now transmitted to the

Oct. 27, 1906.

Mr. C. Little
Falkner, W.A.

Oct. 28, 1906.
Mr. G. Litten
Falkner, M.A.

Board of Visitors before the Board of Visitors prepare their own Report.—You are quite right in taking it as I have stated it here.

13722. Is it submitted to the Board of Visitors before their Report is asked for by the Department at all or have you to wait for it until you get it as published?—(Mr. Howard Grubb).—Up to this year we used to receive it. (Witness).—We used to receive it under the Science and Art Department before our Reports were prepared. For the last few years we have not received it until afterwards.

13723. When did you receive the Director's Report for 1899-01? Did you receive the Director's Report before you were asked for your own Report?—We did not, and we have not had it available. That is the reason we complained on that head.

13724. (Mr. Aitch).—Would you have the Report in any form, privately or any way?—Certainly not. We never asked the Director to communicate with us privately.

13725. Would not the Department have sent it an unofficially, a copy of any kind?—No; We have never had it. We are not standing on any technicalities of the kind. It is simply for the purpose of enabling us to report with more advantage. There are some specific matters which will be for the most part dealt with by Sir Howard Grubb and Sir James Macgregor in detail, but before concluding I wish to indicate one which appears to us to be the most striking instance of recent years of the kind of difficulties that have arisen. There are many other instances, in which, as appears from the minutes of the Board, the Department has failed to consult or consider the views of the Visitors on matters affecting the efficiency of the Museum; but the Board desire to call special attention to the refusal to permit them to see the plans for the new buildings adjacent to the Museum. On several occasions since the division of the Government to erect the College of Science and other buildings in immediate proximity to the Museum the Visitors have sought permission to inspect the plans. It is obvious from the proposed situation of the buildings that they may seriously affect the Museum in two important respects. They may interfere materially with the lighting of the Museum as it exists at present, and, secondly, they may encroach upon the unoccupied space in its neighbourhood, permanently limiting, and even destroying, the possibility of a structural addition to the Museum. As regards the first point, the lighting of the building devoted to the Natural History Collection is insufficient, and bringing any structure near it would diminish the light; yet the Visitors have not been allowed to see the plans, and never have seen them. They have questioned the Director of the Museum, and have been informed that he himself has not seen the plans. The Visitors, of course, are not so naive experts in the technical merits of architectural plans, and it is far from their desire to offer any criticism of the proposed buildings, but as they are trustees of the Museum they are bound to be jealous of all that concerns its welfare. It is difficult to conceive anything that could more affect the Museum than interference with its light. The fact that for the five years since the scheme for the College of Science has been announced the Department has refused all information on the subject seems to indicate its attitude towards the Board of Visitors and to the powers which the Board were intended to keep and exercise. As regards the second point, the serious threatened encroachment on the space available for the future extension of the Museum buildings, I need not go into that, because it will be partly dealt with in the subsequent Report, and Sir Howard Grubb will speak of all details connected with these plans. But what we feel very strongly is that while it is perfectly possible that the fullest provision has been made by the Department, in conjunction with the Board of Works, for the protection of the Museum as regards its amenities and light, and for due observance of its future possibilities of extension in relation to the space that is available; while we hope that every care is being taken in these matters, we do feel that we would not be warranted in allowing so large and so vital a matter to pass without notice from the Board. It does not appear unreasonable to say that with every desire to safeguard the interests of the Museum and the Department, and with every desire on the part of the Board of Works to do the same, there may, nevertheless, be interests connected with the Museum which the Board of Visitors are capable of

defining and pointing out to the Department and the Board of Works, and which it would be desirable they should define and point out before the Department has finally committed itself to the plans which involve a great change in the position of the offices of the Museum, and which once acted upon cannot possibly be altered.

13726. (Chairman).—I see in your Report for the year ending March, 1905, there is a paragraph: "The Visitors learn with surprise that the non-compliance with their request that they should be afforded an opportunity of examining the plans for the new buildings referred to in their letter is due to a decision by the Commissioners of Public Works that 'no useful purpose would be served by the submission of the plans to the Board of Visitors.'"—We received a letter to that effect.

13727. Did the difficulty arise with the Commissioners of Public Works?—You will understand we carry on all our correspondence with the Department, and the Department occasionally indicates to us the views of the Board of Works.

13728. *Prima facie*, it seems reasonable that the Board of Visitors should see these plans. What I want to know is where the difficulty arose. There may be some rule of the Commissioners of Public Works which accounts for it!—Quite so. I will get you the letter. I did not mention the Board of Works particularly in that connection because we deal directly with the Department.

13729. (Mr. Miles).—Do you happen to know what application was made for plans, and to whom, by your Board of Visitors?—There were resolutions passed upon the subject. They quote from the letter to the Board of February, 1904, that the non-compliance with their request was due not to the Department, but to the Board of Works. They, therefore, on the 23rd January, 1905, directed that a letter be addressed to the Chief Secretary calling attention to this important matter, and the reply is: "I am directed by the Chief Secretary to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th ult., and to acquaint you, for the information of the Board of Visitors, that Mr. Bryce duly caused a communication to be addressed to the Board of Works on the subject of the desire of the Board of Visitors, as conveyed in their President's letter, to be permitted to examine the plans for the new buildings for the College of Science, and they reported that no useful purpose could be served by such examination, inasmuch as the plans had been already prepared in the only possible way on the site and in the manner approved by Parliament; but also the tender for the first portion of the contract had, in accordance with these plans, been actually accepted by the Board, and the work of erection had made considerable progress." We do not mind whether we are blocked by the Department of Agriculture or by the Board of Works, but we object to being blocked.

13730. (Chairman).—You have come here with a charge against the Department, *prima facie* a grave charge, that they did not allow you to see the plans. That impressed me, and, no doubt, my colleagues, very much, but now it turns out that the objection, whether it was a reasonable objection or not I don't know, is owing to the action of the Commissioners of Public Works?—You will observe, sir, that the reason I mentioned the Department and not the Board of Works is that we have no privity with the Board of Works and no power to go to them in the first instance. All our dealings in relation to the Museum are carried on with the Department.

13731. But surely it is not fair to come to us and say, "It is the fault of the Department that we have not seen these plans," when you have documents in your possession showing that the difficulty arose with the Commissioners of Public Works?—What I am here to represent are not the faults of the Department, but the difficulties in the administrative system under which the Board of Visitors at present work.

13732. If you said so as a reason for giving more power to the Department I could quite understand it. I should have thought, personally, it would have been desirable that such a body should see the plans, but still what we are concerned with is the action of the Department, and if you had said that was a reason for increasing their powers?—I—if I might say so the difficulties that the Visitors, who are affiliated to the Department, have found in carrying out their duties is that we have no means of making representations except through the Department, and whether it is the Department or the Board of Works is not,

so far as the Board of Visitors are concerned, a matter that they are in the first instance concerned with.

12733. (Mr. Miles).—Can you state what communication exactly you had with the Department about these plans; were they in favour of your seeing these plans, for instance?—I could not tell you. So far back as February 18th, 1900, they wrote:—"With reference to the resolutions adopted by the Board of Visitors on the 6th December last and the 7th inst. respectively I have to state that negotiations with regard to the new buildings for the Royal College of Science for Ireland are pending with the Treasury." That

was in response to the Visitors' first communication on bearing it was intended to erect the College of Science.

12734. They are building alongside you?—Yes; but I would rather, as regards the buildings and the details of the plans, you would hear Sir Howard Grubb.

12735. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—When did you join the Board?—As recently as this year. I am the junior member of the Board, and have not first-hand knowledge of these negotiations, and I think, perhaps, on this question of the plans you will get the whole of it from Sir Howard Grubb.

Sir HOWARD GRUBB, F.R.S., examined.

even under present conditions for the collections. I do not want to enter into too much detail, but in the various reports, so far back as 1897, I find paragraphs on the subject will be found in almost every one of them (read extracts from annual reports).

12736. (Chairman).—I think you may assume that the Board of Visitors would be most anxious about light and space, and you tell us that in the past they called attention to it?—Yes; frequently. As regards accommodation in the future, again comes the point, we are under a great disadvantage, being completely in the dark as to how far the new building will allow for the expansion of the present museum. Up to a short time since, the only information we had appeared to indicate that even the very small spaces that have been up to the present time available for the expansion of the museum would probably be occupied by some of the new buildings, but it is fair to say that a short time since we had a communication from the Department intimating to the Board that it was their intention to offer some other small spaces in lieu of these. It is quite possible that if the Board of Visitors had been granted their request for the inspection of the new plans they would have found that satisfactory provision had been made for the present requirements and extension of the museum, but this request having been refused, they consider it would have been neglect of their duties if they failed to enter a protest against any curtailment of the usefulness or efficiency of the Museum which might follow from the erection of the new College. It may be said it is true enough to complain when damage has occurred, but the Board cannot forget that there have been instances in which such a course has allowed of disastrous results, and they naturally desire to escape the danger which fell upon the Board of Greenwich Observatory, for not offering effective opposition to neighbouring buildings, which prove a serious detriment to the work of the Observatory, at an initial stage of that work. The Board have had occasion to complain of the insufficient amount of attention which the museum receives, more especially the Natural History collection. It was impossible to expect that the Director or the Curator of the Department could be able to carry on the work without a specialist, and in the early days gentlemen were appointed, most of whom held positions in the College of Science, being left sufficient opportunities to attend to the duties of the Museum. As years went on, more and more of their time appears to have been occupied at the College of Science, causing a corresponding decrease in the time available for the work at the Museum until lately when the whole available time these gentlemen have to spend in the Museum is, in some cases, not half an hour a day. This being insufficient to carry on the work of the Department, they were allowed to appoint assistants who, in some cases, are not on the staff of the Museum. It is quite possible, under the present arrangement that the responsible officers may find a person, quite a stranger, coming and leaving access to, and dealing with, valuable specimens in the Museum without his knowledge or consent. It is hard to imagine how any officer in this position can be held responsible in the case of any damage or loss of the property, nor is it clear whether anyone in the circumstances could be held responsible.

12737. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Who do you mean by "responsible officer"?—I take it the gentleman who is the Director of the Department—I am not quite sure what the title is. First of all, when the Museum was handed over, Dr. Curle was the Director of the Natural History Museum. He was followed by Mr. Moore, and I think it was found that as there was a general Director for the whole Museum the title "Director" was dropped and the gentleman, I think,

12736. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Board of Visitors?—Yes. Mr. Falkner has entered so fully into the history of the matter that he has left me very little to say. Perhaps the Committee would like to know, as I have been for a longer time a member of the Board, to mention my recollection about that question to the Department sending back the Report for correction. I do not profess to recollect what the individual matters were, but my recollection of what happened was this: that we considered our Report at the time and also when it was sent back to us, to be perfectly correct as regards the facts, as they existed at the time we drew the Report, but the cases of certain alterations and complaints that we made at that time had been removed, or partially removed, by the authorities between that time and the time, six months or so, when they sent back the Report; and they seemed to think we ought to have modified the Report because these matters had been attended to after our Report was sent in. We maintained that as the date our Report was drawn up the facts were correct.

12737. (Mr. Miles).—What date did that Report reach the Department?—Sometime about April or May.

12738. (Mr. Brown).—If I recollect rightly it was dated 12th May, and did not reach them until September. I wish to confine myself to a few points. From time to time the Board of Visitors made representations to the Department as regards what they considered defective lighting in certain portions of the present Museum, and, of course, they watched with alarm the erection of a very large and important building in the immediate vicinity of the Natural History Museum, and they are alarmed that the present lighting, or insufficient lighting as it is considered to be, may be still further diminished. I was about to say before you the Report, but it has really been read to you before. I find the premises are bounded by a wall eleven feet high and fifteen feet from the building. This has, no doubt, slightly obstructed, but very slightly obstructed, the light up to the present time. A personal examination of the place lately showed me—the day I examined it was the 22nd of this month at twelve o'clock in the day—there was full sunshine on the whole of these lower windows, notwithstanding the wall. Taking the difference of the altitude of the sun between that day and the worst day, the middle of December, it would mean that there would be only three feet of the lower portion of these windows obstructed by that wall, even in the worst time of the year. No doubt the new edifice will be something about double that distance from the Museum building, but as to the amount of obstruction which will be caused by it it is impossible for the Board to form any estimate, not having any opportunity of inspecting the plans. We have had a difficulty in understanding, of course, how any building more than double the height of the wall, that is twenty-two feet, could be erected without considerable obstruction of the light.

12739. (Chairman).—Is that further back you say?—It is twice as far off. That would mean that a building twenty-two feet in height would not obstruct any more, but I would expect the new buildings would be a good deal more than twenty-two feet, and we are anxious on that point.

12740. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—That is a matter that could be measured quite well?—Yes.

12741. The implication of the letter was that the defect was that whatever additional obstruction there might be could not possibly be avoided; that is how I read it in the letter from the Chief Secretary?—With regard to the matter of space, the next point I would like to call attention to. The Board of Visitors have often spoken in their reports of the want of space,

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Mr. G. Linton Falkner, M.P.

Sir Howard Grubb, F.R.S.

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Mr Howard
Goslin, F.R.S.

was entitled "Keeper." The point is that those gentlemen, who are specialists, have so little time at their disposal that they have again and again to employ persons under them who are not on the staff of the Museum at all.

12740. (O'Connell).—Are your financial arrangements the same as they were before the transfer?—I cannot say.

12741. (Mr. O'Connell).—I see in the list of the staff the staff is divided into six sections, who appear to be equally responsible to the Director:—Art, Industrial, Ethnographical, Irish Antiquities, Botanical, Natural History, Irish Geographical Survey Collection, Mineralogy, and Geographical Collection?—Is there not one gentleman for the Natural History?

12742. Yes; Dr. Scharf.

12743. Is he not also responsible for the Botanical?—No; a separate man is in charge, Professor Johnson, of the Royal College of Science. Similarly, in Mineralogy and Geology we have in charge the Professor of Geology and Mineralogy, Mr. Green-ville Cole. The Irish Geological Survey section is under Mr. R. J. Seaman, who presumably would be the officer of the Survey?—Yes.

12744. Would you tell us in what department the difficulty has arisen?—I think in the Departments of Professor Cole and Professor Johnson. In both cases I think they have employed assistants.

12745. And they are both, according to this list, responsible to the Director, Colonel Plunkett?—And under the General Director, Dr. Scharf.

12746. There would appear to be no line of connection between Dr. Scharf and these if this is the organisation of the staff?—Yes.

12747. Then the question would appear to be whether these alterations have been made with the knowledge of the Director and not of Dr. Scharf?—Yes; I think you will find that in many cases these valuable specimens are really in the care of, and dealt with, by people who are, some of them, not absolutely on the Museum staff.

12748. They would be in temporary employment for the time being?—Yes. We would like to see these gentlemen, who really are experts in the matter, being able to employ a little more time there.

12749. You feel that at present the growth of work at the College of Science has, to some extent, militated against efficient work being done in these Departments?—Botanical and Mineralogical?—Quite so. I have been a member of the Board now for nineteen years, and during that period many changes have taken place, but my experience is that the Board has always been most anxious to do whatever lay in their power to promote the interests of the Museum. I am sure the Department have always been most anxious to do so as well, but lately it would appear as if the requirements of the new College of Science had overshadowed those of the old institution.

12750. In any arrangement by which the whole time of an officer like Professor Cole is being given to the public service, partly in one institution and partly in another, there may be considerable variation in the proportion of time given to the work, and what you fear is that the increase of the demands by the College of Science is permanent?—Yes; that is really what I mean.

(Mr. Falkiner produces letter of October 17th).

12751. (Mr. Brown).—The Report did not leave the Board of Visitors until on or about the 7th September, the date it reached the Department?—(Mr. Falkiner).—It had not gone from the Board formally to the Department. (Mr. White, Secretary).—The President of the Board was out of town. The Report was finally revised, and the President did not come back sooner.

12752. (Mr. Brown).—Were those matters that occurred between the 2nd May and the 7th September?—(Mr. White).—Yes. (Mr. Falkiner reads letter).—

"The Board received on the 7th instant the Report, dated the 2nd May last, of the Board of Visitors of the Science and Art Museum and Royal Botanical Gardens, for the year ending 31st March, 1906. The Department are always glad to welcome any suggestion the Board of Visitors may desire to make for the improvement of the Museum and the Gardens. They, however, cannot but think that certain paragraphs in this Report were written under some misapprehension due to inadequate knowledge of the circumstances. Some of these paragraphs, as at present framed, would give the public an erroneous impression as to the attitude of the Department respecting the matters dealt with. First, those relating to

Professors Cole and Johnson. These paragraphs are so worded that they may lead to the inference that these officers of the Department have been guilty of neglect of duty. The fact is that their unusually very urgent educational work in connection with the re-organisation of the College of Science prevents them from devoting as much time as formerly to the Museum. The Board of Visitors were informed at the end of February last that arrangements had been made under which these Professors would devote a larger share of their time to the Museum and the Department anticipated they would be in a position to adjust the duties of the College in such a way as to enable the Professors to give a further amount of time to the Museum work. Moreover, the Department have employed continuously since the 2nd January 1906, a qualified assistant in the Botanical section who discharges a large share of the duty formerly discharged by Professor Johnson. In these circumstances the Department verily the recommendation of this paragraph before publication. A paragraph on page 7 begins with this statement:—"No notice has been taken of the Report of the Visitors concerning the inadequate space available for these collections." Presumably it relates to the Industrial collection. It is so it is hardly correct to say that no notice has been taken of the Visitors' Reports respecting this collection. On the contrary the question of providing additional space for the Industrial collection was referred by the Department to the Board of Works for inclusion in the Annual estimates. The Board of Visitors are no doubt aware of the financial procedure in connection with the alteration of Government buildings. All the Department can do is to recommend such to the consideration of the Board of Works and the Treasury, with whom the final decision rests. The particular item is again being sent forward this year for inclusion in the next estimates. With regard to the observation on page 7 relating to the Cretaceous Collection, inaugurated last year, the Department would wish to point out it is due to their action that the organisation of the Collection on its present line became practicable, and they may mention that the expense involved thereby is defrayed by themselves out of their own endowment fund, available for agriculture and technical instruction. In the paragraph—Irish Antiquities, page 7—the Board of Visitors seem to have overlooked the fact that as far back as 21st January last an official Minute was sent to the Director by the Department announcing the decision of the Treasury as to the Museum staff. The Treasury later did sanction provision for the appointment of an assistant in the Irish Antiquities section. Paragraph headed "Natural History," which refers to the staff in this section of the Report is a repetition, in an amplified form, of the statement in the last quoted paragraph on page 4, and, inasmuch as the Board of Visitors were made aware that the Treasury had, in response to the strong representation of the Department, agreed to increase the staff, the Department think the wording of this section of the Report might well be altered. Royal Botanical Gardens.—The various suggestions mentioned in the principal paragraphs of this section of the Report have more than once been brought under the notice of the Board of Works, and the Department do not doubt that they received the consideration, and that their execution had to be postponed to enable more pressing works to be carried out. As regards suggestion No. 2, about the tool-house, the Department's official informed the Director of the Museum early in May that the Board of Works had announced that they had received Treasury sanction for the erection of this tool-house. This paragraph might therefore have been omitted from the Report. As regards the suggestion as to accommodation for the work the Department fully accepted the suggestion made in this Report and the recommendation was sent forward by them to the Board of Works. The Department trust that in the light of the information now afforded the Board of Visitors will revise the paragraphs above referred to. The Department value the co-operation and assistance of the Board of Visitors who, equally with themselves, are anxious to promote the interests of the institutions concerned. Nor do the Department for a moment suggest any restriction of the Board's freedom of criticism, but only desire that it should not be of a nature calculated to give a mistaken impression of the Department's action."

12753. (Mr. Brown).—And the only notice taken by the Board of Visitors is the resolution you read?—(Mr. Falkiner).—Yes.

13768. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Mr. Falkiner's evidence was to the effect that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction did not, so far as the Board of Visitors were able to see, give any particular attention to the Museum section of the work. As you have been connected with the Museum for some time, I should like to know whether, in the five years that have elapsed since the Department took it over, there was any effective change made either in the staff or in the sums available for the work of the Museum, or otherwise, so as to promote the functions that the Museum was intended to promote?—Changes from what it was before?

13769. Yes. I know how the staff has increased, for instance, since 1900?—Not to my knowledge.

13770. (Mr. Falkiner).—Except for the assistant in the Antiquities Department?—(Witness).—That is a Department I don't know much about.

13771. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Has there been any consideration of salaries?—I think I mentioned there was some outside assistance got. That is to say, the experts who had charge themselves brought in outside assistance. That we rather objected to. We would like to see a little more of the experts themselves, but the want of their time seems to have been, as it were, made up by the employment of less-skilled assistants I would not like to answer questions about the staff.

13772. Of course it is a very important point, that the Department has succeeded in the last five years in making additions to the staff, as Mr. White's observations to you seem to indicate. It really points to their having given a good deal of attention to it because it is not without a good deal of attention that so considerable an increase as three assistants, I think, could be made?—One in the Antiquities and two in the Natural History.

13773. So far as the permanent staff is concerned they have not been making additions?—I think on the other hand a good many of the staff have not been available for one cause or another. I think Mr. Coffey has been very ill for a long time, and I am sorry to see Mr. Longfield's death in the paper to-day.

13774. Mr. Coffey is in the Department to which an assistant has been added recently?—I believe so.

13775. I see, so far as the permanent staff is concerned they have apparently been using their power to have it extended. So far as purchases are concerned, have they given any indication of slackening off in the desire to secure additions to the Museum?—No; not that I am aware of; but our complaints rather is that there is a good deal there that cannot be properly established on account of the want of attention. The time of these gentlemen is taken off so much for the College of Science.

13776. This applies only. I gather, to Professor Johnson and Professor Cole?—Yes.

13777. And the Department's letter indicates that they had made provision for doing, temporarily, part of the work that these men had been doing, and they further express the opinion that the large coil made upon Professor Johnson's and Professor Cole's time for the last year or two was not a permanent one?—It has been going on for a great number of years. The Board had concern to complain for many years past and the time that these gentlemen can afford to spend there appears to be getting less and less.

13778. Of course it is a question of proportion, whether it is desirable that the Museum should have in the Irish Geological Survey collection in the Mineralogical and in the Botanical collection, part of the time of men of high standing in their respective departments as against the whole of the time of men of not so outstanding a position. At the Museum advantage

is being taken of the possibility of coupling up offices to secure the former arrangement. Your complaint is that that part has been too small?—Precisely.

13779. In collections of that kind it does not require a very large amount of time from an expert of the standing of a Professor, if you have an adequately trained assistant who could carry out his instructions under his supervision?—Yes.

13780. At any rate I gather from your previous reply that if that outside call was not excessive you would be quite satisfied?—Yes.

13781. And then we learned from the letter of the Department that they caused the portion to be excessive but that it will be diminished?—Yes.

13782. It occurred to me, on hearing Mr. Falkiner, that there were two possible causes for the want of a big forward effort on the part of the Department in connection with the Museum. One has been already referred to, the fact that for accommodation and that sort of thing they have to go to the Office of Works and wait until the money is voted, so that the movement does not appear probably until a year after it was decided on. That is one, and the other is this: how far the Board of Visitors are in full sympathy with the educational work of the Museum, in the sense that it ought to be an important constituent in the educational machinery of the country. Are the Visitors fully in sympathy with that?—I think the Visitors are fully in sympathy with that, and have encouraged, so far as they possibly could, that collection of works made lately for lending, sending round to different parts of the country. They have highly approved of that, and expressed their approval of it very strongly, and did everything they could to encourage it.

13783. I should expect that the lines upon which the Museum would be further developed would depend, to a considerable extent, upon the lines upon which it was most likely to act as an effective component in the educational forward movement of Ireland?—I think so.

13784. It would naturally depend, therefore, upon how far industrial work or efforts were likely to be amenable to assistance by Museum influence and what particular classes of industrial work were to be most effective?—Precisely.

13785. The Department have been working more or less upon that subject outside the Museum for several years. Is it not possible they may have thought?—I have not this in any of their Reports, I am putting it as a hypothesis—that they may have thought it better to hold their hands in the development of the Museum until it was quite clear which was the best direction to put their money in?—Yes.

13786. If that were the case you would approve of it?—It is, I think, an exemplification of what I am saying. If the Department only took the Board a little into their confidence and told us their intentions we might be found to agree with them on a great many points. Whatever direction the museum is developed in, it will require more space and we view with considerable jealousy and alarm other buildings being placed so completely around it as to prevent the capacity of extension of the Museum.

13787. As a former Museum Director, I have every sympathy with that view. Whatever the expansion is to be, it will require space, and you want to see the space conserved?—That is really the case. We don't like to see it made impossible for our Dublin Museum to be extended.

13788. But if the capacity for extension is duly conserved you would not find fault with the exact method of expansion not being defined at a time of transition?—Yes.

Sir JAMES C. MURPHY examined.

13789. (Chairman).—I think you are one of the members of the same Board?—I have been, for fourteen years, one of the Board of Visitors appointed by the Royal Dublin Society. I may first take up the last question that the member of the Committee on my left has been addressing himself to. That is the question of the industrial application of the Botanical section of the Museum. It so happens that the Botanical section is the one I have been for several years asked by my colleagues to prepare a section of the report upon, and, therefore, the questions you are

asking would come directly into the purview of the work that I have been connected with in the drafting of our Report. I want the Committee distinctly to understand that in any complaint I make about the Botanical section I do not mean to imply a single word against the Professor, who I think is one of the best men that could possibly be put into the place. What I want to complain of is not any shortcoming of the officer, but the mistaken system which renders the work of the officers not as efficient as it ought to be. Professor Johnson was originally appointed sev-

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real years ago as what was then known as half-time officer of the Royal College of Science, the remainder of his time being devoted to the Botanical section of the Museum. And there, there has been carried out by him as good and as efficient work as I think could well be imagined, especially having regard to the questions that you have been asking about industrial development. He has gone there into the different departments—he starts with the seed, then shows you the plant; he goes on to the fruit and the flower, and then shows how the different parts of the plant are made use of in industrial development, so that in that respect a very great work has been done, and perhaps I may say that I have some little experience and knowledge of the benefit that has been to the country, because my duties as a public official are those of Secretary to the Royal University, and we have coming before us from year to year a very considerable number of students, and I know that of recent years an increased use has been made by the students of the botanical collections in the Museum, and the fact that an increasing use is being made, to my mind, shows that everything ought to be done to foster that, among other sections of the Museum, and that we ought to have more of the time of Professor Johnson devoted to the botanical collections than he is able to give us at the present. I said a little time ago he was originally a half-time officer. I think about three years ago or so he was made a whole-time officer of the College of Science, and there is no doubt whatever that the College of Science has been developed, and continues to develop, very largely. Whilst we rejoice to see that development, we think that ought not to be carried out by starving the Museum. Professor Johnson, I don't think, is able to give now very much more than—I don't think it comes to—an hour a day to the work of the Museum. He has had for some time past an admirably trained assistant, a lady who got an Honorary Degree in Botany in the Royal University, and she is an admirable assistant. At the same time duties have been thrown upon the Museum in connection with the other work of the Department which, whilst it is very useful to the country, I don't think tends to the benefit of the Museum, that is, seed tests and matters of that kind, which have been added on to the work of the Museum. I heard, I think, that there was some change to be made about that, but of that I am not certain. Mr. Watts tells me, which exactly bears out my recollection of the matter, that this seed-testing was first added on to the work of the Museum. It was then transferred to the College of Science, but from the time it was transferred the amount of time Professor Johnson was able to give to the duties of the Museum has very sensibly decreased. I am told I overestimated the time he gave to the Museum in calling it an hour a day. It is actually substantially less than that.

13794. What you say comes to this, that Professor Johnson's time is taken up with seed tests and that kind of thing in the College of Science, to the detriment of the Museum—I would not say altogether seed tests. That is one of the elements that helps it. There is no doubt about it that the classes in the College of Science are increasing very rapidly, and, therefore, his ordinary duties as Professor of Botany in the College of Science must take up a very considerable portion of his time there. Other work takes up some, too, and the result is that we have not got the amount of his time that we would like to have.

13795. (Mr. Brown).—And you object to his performing any portion of his duties through an assistant—I am not quite prepared to go that length. I like to see a well-trained, well-skilled assistant, but I think the best assistant you can get ought to have a substantial amount of the time of the head of the Department, to supervise and see that the work was done in accordance with his views and his wishes. It is more a question of question than anything else.

13796. Then, it must be a question whether Professor Johnson's duties in the Royal College of Science or in the Museum are the more important—I suppose we must look at it somewhat in that light.

13797. And if his duties in the Royal College of Science are more important than in the Museum there would be a necessity for a change in the Museum?—What I feel is this, that we Visitors have not got in the Department the backing we ought to have in dealing with the Treasury, because we all know that in these matters of public institutions the Treasury are the ultimate Court of Appeal and they are the people

who will absolutely decide the matter, and I take it that the Treasury, like other Departments, are open to persuasion and pressure, and if we had a body such as we had before the change from South Kensington, a body that was more in touch with scientific work, we would have a better chance of getting better provision from the Treasury than we have through the Departments. If you look at the Reports to Parliament for years past you will see that everything connected with the Board of Visitors is disposed of in the Report to Parliament by the Departments in about three lines. Of course, every particular Board may think their own work is some of the most important that comes before the Governing Body, but even allowing for that I don't think three lines of the Department's Report is quite adequate recognition of the work that had to be done.

13798. They embody your Report to them in full. They are obliged to do that, because the Act of Parliament directs it. I don't know whether your experience in dealing with voluminous documents with many appendices is very much the same as my own. I have always felt that half a page in the Report itself is worth all the printing of your Report in the appendices, because the number of people who will read the appendices is very small, while everybody concerned will read the Report itself, and the points covered there will command attention. I don't know whether the Committee clearly follow the work of the preparation of the Report by the Board of Visitors. You will see there are a number of headings in that Report. At the meeting of the Board early in the year the President—our President for many years was the late Lord Powercourt, and he took a very warm interest in the work. On his death, Mr. Justice Madden was appointed President. At the meeting of the Board the President asks the various members who he thinks have some knowledge—we don't pretend to be experts there at all, but some of us have some knowledge of the different sections of the work of the Board; and the President asks the different members of the Board to draft sections of the Report. Then, when these various sections are put into print we all meet and criticise and suggest alterations in each other's drafts, and then the Report is finally drawn up. The Report that there has been so much said about is not being sent to the Department from May 22nd to the 26th September, or something of that kind, was actually drawn up, approved by the Board as a whole, and the draft signed by the President, but you can quite understand a little editing is always necessary in any document of the kind, especially when the different sections have been prepared by different people and the grammar does not always follow in the different sections without being looked over, and accordingly there is always a little doing about that; and then Judge Madden went away.

13799. (Chairman).—The only question was the actual fact that it reached the Board on a particular day?—Yes, and when our resolution was drawn I don't think we had before us the fact that it had not reached the Board until that day. At any rate our Report was supposed to speak of things as they existed on the 31st March, and anything that was done subsequently would not naturally come in.

13800. The real question is whether it was not a perfectly reasonable request on the part of the Department that certain things, which would give rather a wrong impression, appearing in the Report on the day it did, might not have been altered?—I think, sir, we thought it did not quite come to the Board of Visitors even, in the form in which it ought to come.

13801. We have heard the letter and can judge for ourselves?—There was no letter, sir, and that is one of the things we complained of, that a Board such as ours was entitled to a letter signed by somebody. We got a minute initiated.

13802. An official minute?—Communicated to Mr. White.

13803. It is substantially the same thing, a document from the Board?—Yes, but without its being present to our mind that there had been any delay. We assumed they had the document soon after it was signed.

13804. (Mr. Brown).—Some of the matters they allude to had occurred before the 31st March—I am not aware of that.

13805. Of course, the dates show you?—Yes, and judge for yourselves upon that. On the question of

space I would like to say a word about the plans. These plans were discussed in the members' room in the House of Commons three years ago. I cannot lay my hand on it, I cannot say definitely we got a proposal we were to see the plans, but from the time they were sent to the House of Commons we have been perpetually asking to have an opportunity of seeing the plans, and the impression on my mind is we were either told we would see them, or communications were so couched as to lead us to infer we were to see the plans. I think you will all agree it was essential that a Board charged with the duties we were charged with should have an opportunity of judging for themselves as to whether the buildings that were going to be put up would interfere with the Museum.

13792. (Chairman).—I don't in the least wonder at your being very anxious to see them—I don't know whether you have quite present to your mind that a good deal of the space in the present museum was some property which originally belonged to the Royal Dublin Society and was transferred under the Act of 1877 to the Board of Works. They were made owners of the property, but they were made owners for the purpose of the Museum. Now, I happened to hear accidentally early in May last, that a portion of the ground that was occupied by the workshops of the Museum and which was part of the ground that was transferred by the Royal Dublin Society was being made use of by the Board of Works for a portion of the site for the College of Science, and it appeared to me that was directly opposed to the Act of 1877. Therefore I wrote to Mr. White a letter on the 15th May, asking that he would communicate with our president and have a special meeting of the Board of Visitors called for the purpose of investigating the matter. It turned out to be exactly as I had heard it was, that they were going to take part of that ground, and at the last meeting of the Board, within the last three weeks or so, there was a communication from the Board of Works which makes the matter entirely satisfactory, because although they have taken for the College of Science building part of the site of the two workshops they have given, for the purpose of the extension of the Museum, in a different part of the Museum ground to replace that which they have taken, so that in that way they must have to give and take.

13793. (Mr. Nichol).—Are you speaking of the Board of Works giving?—As I understand it, it is the Board of Works, not the Department; but I think it is done with the entire concurrence of the Department.

13794. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—Through the Department?—Yes.

13795. (Mr. Nichol).—That applies also to the refusal of the plans. The Department have never had the plans to refuse you?—I would not like to say that.

13796. At all events, the plans are the property of the Board of Works?—They are; but I have very little hesitation in saying that if the Department wished we should have seen the plans we would have seen them.

13797. What reason have you for saying that?—I gather it from the whole correspondence with reference to the plans. It is only quite recently the Board of Works have been introduced into the transaction in the way of a non-partisan.

13798. (Mr. Brown).—It must have been prior to May, 1906, because it is mentioned in that report?—Oh, there is one thing the Board of Visitors are very anxious this Committee should understand, and that is, as Mr. Falkner stated, that we have no idea at all that anything we report or recommend should be taken as something that must be done. The Board, as constituted, consists of a number of gentlemen, said, to a certain extent, at any rate, they contain among their persons who are experienced in very nearly every section of the work that has been entrusted to us. While we were reporting to the Science and Art Department we were reporting to a kindred society, who had the same objects, the same aims, and whose officers and members practically were to a very considerable extent experts. I don't know how far my colleagues agree with me, but my personal feeling is that the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction at present has got a great deal too many things to do, and cannot pretend to do all these things with equal force and ability, and we think that

ours is just one of the things that is perhaps a little outside of their proper cognisance.

13799. (Chairman).—Was that question raised when this act was under discussion?—I think not. I think it was an "omnium gatherum" Act. All the public Boards were put under the Department.

13800. Not all?—I think I am safe in saying that the Board of Visitors were never committed as a body on the matter at all about the transference to the Department. There is just one point, that there has been—by direction of the Treasury—there has been a very serious cutting down of the official staff. I don't mean the official staff in the sense of officers, but the people employed in the workshops of the Museum. Colonel Plunkett, the present Director, is an engineer officer of very considerable experience, and his ideas are very valuable about the doing of the work, but he has been entirely overborne, whether by the Treasury or by the Department, or by both—I am not prepared to distribute the blame. The staff of workmen and so on has been entirely diminished with a view of obliging the work to be done by contract. I think, from one of the questions asked, the members of the Committee have some idea we have something to say on matters of finance. We absolutely have not. We have not a single penny to dispose of.

13801. (Mr. Nichol).—You are not administrative in any way?—We are not administrative in any way. The administration is done through the Director; but, of course, Colonel Plunkett indicates to the Board matters of that kind.

13802. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—I suppose cutting down of the work done in the Museum workshops would almost entail that new work, which it is possible to put out to contract, would go to local contractors?—I think so.

13803. Has it been given to local contractors?—I don't know. I know that complaints have come before us of the cutting down of the staff of the workshops.

13804. They have not cut down the staff so far that it cannot deal with modifications of existing cases, and that sort of thing?—My recollection is that there is only to be one carpenter in future. I understand that to some extent, at any rate, negotiations are at present going on on the subject of the workshop staff, and at the last meeting of the Board they to some extent modified the views they previously had in order to meet the views of the Director; but certainly it will be impossible.

13805. (Chairman).—What Board are you speaking of?—The Board of Visitors. A great deal of the delicate work that is to be done in the Museum will be very seriously hampered and impeded if the views of the Treasury are carried out.

13806. I don't quite understand the relations of the Director to the Board of Visitors?—He is present at all meetings of the Board. I don't think he is an officer of ours. He is an officer of the Department, but he is present for the purpose of giving information and assisting us by his advice and information, and he is not an officer in any way responsible to the Board of Visitors.

13807. (Mr. Nichol).—Does he stand in exactly the same position towards the Department that he did to South Kensington?—I think he does. I think it was a new transfer.

13808. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—You don't suggest that the change that is contemplated in the workshop staff would have the effect of removing from the staff of the Museum men whose work would lie in connection with the objects themselves as distinct from cases, or preparations for the setting up of objects? My suggestion is that that transference affects only work in the nature of cases or means of exhibiting specimens which could be done by means of outside contractors?—Here you see we are getting to a section of the work that I am not at all perfectly familiar with, but won't it then affect the setting up of cases and objects of that kind which ought to be done, I suppose, by their own hands and not by ordinary outside contractors?

13809. You say the setting up of such objects in the Museum would be very much affected by the change? It is conceivable that the setting up of cases requires the attention of men skilled in the art of plaster models and so on, and it is conceivable—I don't know whether it is the case; I believe it is not the case—

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that there is so little work in the Museum that an expert would be required for it only on very few occasions, and if a very large thing, like some of the large objects you have in the Museum here, had to be set up, it would require more than one expert, and necessarily you would have to go outside for him. It is conceivable, therefore, that it may be better to em-

play a firm who had a staff of men always engaged in that class of work?—That may be.

13320. You have no reason to suppose it is not—I am not a judge in a matter of that kind, and I am not to be taken as giving an opinion on a matter that I am not personally familiar with.

Mr. JONATHAN DRYDEN, D.I., examined.

Mr. Jonathan
Dryden, D.I.

13321. (Chairman).—You represent the King's County Committee of Agriculture?—And Technical Committee.

13322. You live at Leap Castle, Boscra?—Yes, sir.

13323. I think you say in your note you would like to give evidence on diseases in cattle generally?—First and foremost is the want of veterinary assistance for the farming class in general, and especially for the smaller class of farmers. It is first organized, I believe, in the County Wicklow; they took the matter up; and we in the King's County also took the matter up, first by the District Council, of which I am one of the members, and then in the Agricultural and Technical Committee. Of course, you are aware of the enormous amount of stock, and that their value is something very great in Ireland, considering that there are over 500,000 horses, 4,000,000 cattle, 3,850,000 sheep, and 1,250,000 pigs. There is no inspection now of these amongst the farmers, except occasionally from the police, who are invariably ignorant as to cattle diseases and the requirements necessary. That, of course, is very serious. I know by my own personal knowledge there are very serious infectious diseases that ought to be made known to the authorities and are not.

13324. Do you happen to have seen anywhere a report of the evidence which Professor Mason gave us the other day?—I have not, but I am well acquainted with Professor Mason's labours, and he is one of the men to whom we look to develop this question and interest the Irish farmer. But the question remains, too, of course, where are we to get the assistance in sickness? That is a great drawback. The average farmer would employ a veterinary surgeon at half a guinea, and some, perhaps, a little less.

13325. In a great part of Ireland there is no veterinary surgeon available?—None whatever.

13326. We have had instances of enormous distances between them?—There are a few things I wish to draw your attention to. There is one serious disease—I have suffered personally from it—that is abortion. That spread, indeed, in different ways—by bulls and old cows from the county Linsick.

13327. (Mr. Dryden).—That is dealt with by the Department?—Yes. I have privately drawn the attention of the Department to it, and I know at the present time there is no provision in my district as to that complaint.

13328. (Chairman).—I think that the evidence is that the want of facilities for veterinary assistance is very widespread, indeed?—Oh, yes; there is ignorance to begin with.

13329. (Mr. Dryden).—That is a case in which the farmer himself can deal with it if he has the information?—Yes, sir; but I know in one case where a premium bull was kept, and the man had no notion of what the operation meant until I told him.

13330. (Mr. Brown).—They are bound under the regulations?—That is so; last year.

13331. Now, they are bound under the regulations to have instruments for the purpose and to state before they can get a premium that they have used them?—Yes, but in some cases it has come to my knowledge in the District Committee that this has been neglected, and we had to reprimand the man.

13332. It is the duty of the Committee to see that that has been done?—What authority have they to go round and inspect.

13333. One mode in which you might do it would be to issue upon the declaration, informing the premium holders in the first instance that they would be obliged to make a statutory declaration to the effect that they had used this syringe after each service?—Yes, and the farmer who presents the cow the same. I suffered from the cows that were brought there. The cow suffered from the disease, and conveyed it to the bull.

13334. If the bull was syringed it would not happen?—I did not know it. Mine was a private bull kept for the benefit of my tenants; it was not a premium bull. Another great evil is there is not sufficient encouragement to solitary farmers to keep a premium bull. It appears that the competition for premium bulls is so great, consequently there is a problem price. In order to make up for that there are some bulls that are kept by inconspicuous persons for the use of the country people. That ought to be seriously opposed.

13335. (Chairman).—What would you suggest?—I would suggest that if the Department gave some little assistance to the Committee to provide these farmers with bulls that I won't say are thoroughbred, but sufficiently well bred to get respectable stock.

13336. (Mr. Dryden).—What principle would you lay down by which the officials of the Department would have control in the matter?—In the way it has control with pigs. The Department's inspector sees different boars, marks them on the ear with the date, and private brand. These boars are distributed. Bulls might be distributed in the same way.

13337. But boars are all registered?—Yes, the animals that can be registered as thoroughbred.

13338. (Chairman).—What you mean is that at the risk of having less well-bred bulls, though better than the bulls which are in use, at the risk of doing that you would have a somewhat inferior class of bulls recognized?—Some "off" thoroughbred.

13339. (Mr. Dryden).—I see the importance of it, but very great difficulties in laying down a principle which would simply throw it down so that anything could be good?—I would not say that. It is under the supervision of the Department.

13340. I would like somebody to suggest what the Department could do?—The Department's inspector could impose a hard kept by any farmer or promoter, that had good blood. He might very easily ascertain the breeding and quality of the animal and mark him, and put a price he should be sold at.

13341. Mark a bull that was not too bad, but that he might be allowed to serve?—Certainly.

13342. (Mr. Brown).—Would not that come to the suggestion that has been made to us that all animals used for service should be licensed?—That would meet the case.

(Mr. Dryden).—That is not the point. The point is what regulations are you going to make; when you throw down the bars and go away from the registered animals where are you going to stop?

(Mr. Brown).—The suggestion we have received rather points to the elimination of the very bad bulls by this system.

13343. (Mr. Mickel).—It has been suggested by one of the witnesses that it would be desirable to stop inferior bulls serving in the country, by enabling regulations to be made providing that, say, in a couple of years hence no animal should serve except he were approved of by the Department?—Licensed by the Department—yes, that would meet my view.

13344. Do you think that would involve any hardship on people, after they got a couple of years' notice to sell themselves in the matter?—As far as the district is concerned I don't think it would, for this reason, that very often there are premium bulls only two or three miles apart, and the rest of the county is waiting in any kind of fairly bred stock bulls.

13345. (Mr. Brown).—How many have you for the county?—I forget.

13346. (Mr. Mickel).—Do you think they have been distributed reasonably?—No, owing partly to the prohibitive prices asked in the show. I think the Department might give more encouragement to the distribution of rams. I am sure the farmers would

gladly send these calves of theirs if they were given on the same basis that the hogs are now given.

13032. The sheep in your district don't run over commonage pastures?—A hilt.

13033. There is a difficulty raised?—Yes, it does; but at the same time I know from personal knowledge that if these hiltens were given to farmers they would accept them. Those, with pigs the improvement has been enormous, and I think as far as we are concerned in my district it is one of the best systems, and that it has worked for the benefit of pig breeding in the country. Hares are a great difficulty, because there is such a divergence of opinion, and thoroughbred stock are not only expensive, but people vary in their opinions, especially the country farmers. Country farmers like something with more action and shape and bone. Consequently in my district the same hiltens have done some good, and for many years I and my predecessors have used them with very good effect.

13034. (Chairman).—You are a tillage county, a good deal of it, half tillage, half grass?—Yes.

13035. King's County is of that character generally?—Yes. Then a great improvement, of course, has been made in widening the age of the bulls, which I was one of the first to draw the attention of the Department to, and I am glad that Mr. Gordon and the Department have seen that it was to our benefit.

13036. That is partly owing to the shortness of the supply as first?—Partly, and the experience of the breeder that the aged bulls got better stock than the very young bulls. Of course, then there is the vast of more money, and at present, under the head of agricultural instruction, I think we are all agreed that too many things are taken up. If four or five things were well handled they would in time run by themselves.

13037. To what would you attach the most importance?—Stock first; then we might go to dairying.

13038. That varies to some extent in different parts of the country?—Yes, of course. As you are aware the Department at first listened to all we had got to say, but whether they approved of it or not was another matter. I think really some times they might take us a little more into their confidence. We live in the country, and know the wants of it more than they do.

13039. (Mr. Brown).—Surely as regards the schemes the question of adopting dairying or any other form of instruction exists entirely with the County Committee. They need not adopt any of these if they don't like, and they can spend more money on any of the others—I beg your pardon. When we drew up our scheme an Inspector from the Department comes down and says whether he approves of it or not. If we left of dairying, or left off our horses or something else and applied the money to something else the Department might not approve.

13040. Not in the course of the year. But when you are preparing the scheme for the year do you tell us—you a gentleman having experience of the working of the County Committee, that it is not open to you to say, "We will have no dairying next year and appoint no dairying instructor?—If he entirely with the Department to say whether we can do so or not."

13041. Are you not making a mistake there. Do you mean to say that the County Committee in framing their scheme were to say "We wish to omit dairying" that they could not do so?—I think the Department would ask us for our reasons, and then might not perhaps give us a sufficient grant.

13042. (Mr. McKee).—Would you not rather put it the other way. If you wished to have a different scheme and take on something else, and if the money were there, is it your evidence that you would find a difficulty in getting the Department to agree to that?—Certainly.

13043. (Chairman).—Can you give us any instance of that?—I will give you one, that is as to the age of the bulls. I fought that question with Mr. Gordon repeatedly for years. That was one.

(Chairman).—We have had the whole history of that and the reasons for it. It was connected to some extent with the supply of bulls, but that there was any difference of principle I have not gathered from the evidence at all.

13044. (Mr. Brown).—Was not the age extended the first year or second year to two-year-old bulls, and

then it was increased to three-year-old. Is not that the history of it?—Something like that.

13045. (Chairman).—I think you will find that was adopted as soon as the Department felt themselves able to do it. But still it is very important for us to know this, because evidence of the same kind has been given at various places, and we generally found it rested on some sort of misconception of the way these things are done. The question is whether any reasonable suggestion made by the Committee to the Department of a change in the scheme, which the circumstances of the country required, has been unreasonably refused by them. That is what we should very much like to know.

13046. (Mr. Brown).—Did your Committee come to the conclusion that there were too many matters being dealt with by the scheme?—As that is my personal opinion, but at the same time we are of opinion that we should certainly economize by getting instructors who could give such dairying and poultry instruction together as would suit their needs.

13047. That is quite possible, and is done in many cases. Did you ever propose to omit any of these matters, did the Committee as a whole ever come to the conclusion to omit from their scheme any form of instruction which they are giving?—Do you mean in agriculture?

13048. Yes?—As far as I can remember we wished to curtail the poultry.

13049. You wished not to have poultry?—Not so much as we wished to cut that down and the dairying part down to the summer months, because we never got a sufficient attendance in the winter months.

13050. Is it your recollection that the Department refused to sanction that?—The Department objected to that. They say winter dairying is essential in Ireland. Very well, but we could never get a sufficient attendance, or a certain supply of cream or milk to carry on winter dairying.

13051. And you tell us as a matter of fact that your Committee proposed to have dairying only in the summer and the Department refused?—Yes.

13052. What year did that occur in?—Last year.

13053. When you were preparing the scheme for 1906?—For 1904-05. Our technical needs more to be very well supplied as far as the Department can allow us means, but owing to the deplorable state of primary education we are not at all able to benefit by the technical education.

13054. (Chairman).—They don't come sufficiently prepared?—They are not able to appreciate it, not educated enough, and we find now as it is we often have to give a preliminary education in order to allow the pupils to take up the technical work.

13055. Teaching three things they ought to have learned before?—Yes, sir. Arising out of the benefit of our agricultural improvement I may say that there is one thing, perhaps it is not within the scope of your inquiry, I might mention, and that is that we have started a farmer's bacon curing factory in Roscrea, a Company with £10,000 capital. Our factory cost \$6,000, and we have a shareholders list of over 4,000, and we hope in time from 500 pigs weekly to be able to manage 1,000.

13056. That is a voluntary Association?—It is under the Friendly Societies Act.

13057. Is it connected at all with the I.A.O.S.?—We have got some links, but I do not think we have been encouraged by the President, Sir Horace Plunkett.

13058. I am talking of the I.A.O.S.?—Yes, Mr. Anderson came down and gave us his experience.

13059. That is part of the work dealt with by the I.A.O.S., not by the Department?—So it is not by the Department. Mr. Anderson came from the I.A.O.S.

13060. (Mr. McKee).—Has it been opened yet?—No, we have the contracts out now for the building and the machinery, and we are registered under the Society Act, and it compels every farmer who takes a share to give his pigs to the factory and not sell them to other parties.

13061. You have about 4,000 farmers?—Shareholders of all classes and creeds. The thing has been taken up very warmly round us, and it embraces a radius of ten or twelve miles.

(Chairman).—I think there is no doubt at all that it is this kind of thing that is more needed than anything else.

Oct. 25, 1906.

Mr. Jonathan
Duffy, C.E.

Oct. 18, 1906.

Mr. Josephine
Daly, S.E.

13855. (Mr. Michie).—I should not like to agree without knowing more about it!—This is on the Danish lines.

13856. About when will it be opened?—We hope to open early next year.

13857. When you speak of a twelve mile radius you don't mean your pigs would only come from the twelve mile radius?—We are registered under the Friendly Societies Act, and every subscriber gives a promise in writing that he will supply his pigs to the factory. Taking Rosmore as a centre of work on an area of about twelve miles.

13870. Are you only going to work the bacon factory on that small area. To what extent are you selling up the industry?—500 to 1,000 pigs a week.

13871. An area of twelve miles would not provide that number?—You have no idea; it is considered one of the best pig districts, and is looked upon by the curers as one of the best districts in Ireland, and the opposition we are meeting with is very keen on the part of the bacon curers. Three of them have set up scales and agents in the town and are now buying pigs by live weight.

13872. (Mr. Dryden).—You have not started yet!—We have from £3,000 to £3,500 collected and in our books. We have the contract given out for the machinery, and hope to-day to give out contracts for the building.

13873. (Chairman).—This has been worked altogether privately?—Of our own bat.

13874. Not with Government assistance?—I may say the L.A.O.S. gave us some little help, and we hope to get further help in the shape of a capable instructor to send round and tell the farmers how to feed their pigs to the best advantage. We have a very good class of pig, and farmers who know how to rear pigs of the best quality. Owing to the ring in the malt trade barley is now at a very low figure, and ground barley is one of the suitable feeding stuffs for pigs, and we ought to produce him of the best quality as we are in fact.

13875. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose the Organisation Society also gave you some help in registering your Society?—Undoubtedly. Our Committee saw Sir

Horne and the Department and they didn't give us any encouragement but approved of what we did, that we had it started on the right lines.

13876. About how many meetings had you in the locality before you organised it?—We had them in almost every parish, from one to two meetings, and then we got up some little local statement. The people seemed willing to join us, and we found, I may say as far as my district is concerned, that the farmers were keener to join us than we expected. We have had a little trouble just lately from those who signed their name to the agreement about paying up the first instalment, but they have been gradually all.

13877. All the instalment orders have been raised by the County Court Judge?—We had very few.

13878. You had to proceed against them?—Yes.

13879. What speakers had you at these meetings?—Ourselves.

13880. And the Organisation Society?—No, we had no help that I am aware of. Mr. Anderson spoke at our own private meetings and gave us some assistance, otherwise we had none; but the Department, I think, are willing to help us in the shape of an instructor, a man to show the farmers what to do.

13881. As soon as the factory is open?—No, we have already had some help from them.

13882. I thought you meant an instructor as soon as the factory opened?—We have a man who has had very good experience, and has shown the farmers where they are making mistakes.

13883. That is as regards feeding?—Yes, and breeding.

13884. As regards the curing of bacon, would he also be an instructor?—No, that will be one of our main difficulties.

13885. (Mr. Dryden).—That will be where your success or your failure will lie?—Yes, but I hope you will give us your good wishes. If a man is inclined to put his shoulder to the wheel he will succeed. We were looked upon with enormous disfavour by retail meat, but now they have come and joined us without being asked.

Rev. JOHN DELANY, P.P., Rathvilly, examined.

Rev John
Delany, P.P.

13886. (Chairman).—You are a member of the Carlow County Committee of Agriculture?—Yes, sir.

13887. You speak with reference to technical instruction as well?—No technical instruction. The evidence that I propose to give is mainly the result of experience acquired in aiding in the administration of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act in the counties of Carlow and Kildare. I don't pretend to represent the views of the Kildare County Committee, but having had the honour and pleasure of sitting on the Kildare Committee for some years I feel it won't be very presumptuous of me to avail myself of the information acquired in that progressive county. With regard to the Carlow County Committee when they very kindly asked me to give evidence I was told I was not bound to follow any particular line, but left free to express my own views, so I shall confine myself chiefly to the technical instruction department, and trespass only on agricultural ground as far as the educational aspect goes. The scheme of instruction in both counties is substantially the same. Instruction is sought to be imparted by six-month lectures, diffusion of leaflets, by day and evening classes, secondary courses of varying duration, scholarships and commercial and industrial training. I will just say a word briefly with regard to each. As to the six-month lectures I believe they have done a certain amount of good, a great amount of good, in the sense that they have excited attention and awakened interest, and often opened the way to further knowledge, but I believe at present they may be depressed with, for the reason that they have ceased to excite the same amount of interest amongst the people, and they are not attended as we desire they should be attended. With regard to the diffusion of leaflets the idea was undoubtedly a good one, and as far as I am capable of judging some of the leaflets

I came across were ably and well written, but I am sorry to have to admit that it was difficult to get the people to read them. I often distributed them personally, very important leaflets, and twelve months afterwards you would find persons admitting that, though they were in need of the information conveyed in them, they had not read them. I think knowledge of that kind would be best diffused through organised societies. When we organise agricultural and poultry societies we will be able to get the people to take a greater interest in these matters. With regard to the day and evening classes fair results were obtained, but in Carlow we were obliged to discontinue the services of the instructor and instructor in some of the schools owing to bad attendance. With regard to the six-month courses, when they were availed of, I feel confident that good work has been done, and that the success of the classes in these courses is not to be taken from the net result, but to be taken in the circumstances under which the classes were started, and what has been said and reported before this Committee is my own experience, that the failure to obtain the maximum result is entirely due to the utter apathy on the part of the people to receive instruction, and sometimes to bad attendance. I take as an illustration manual instruction. We had people in these classes. It is a notable thing that when the instructor started he had a very mixed class, grown-up boys, boys of twelve to sixteen, and sometimes boys aged up to thirty mixed with little boys of fourteen to fifteen. In the case of the grown-up boys there was no rush thing some years ago in the country as the ordinary school as drawing, and when these classes assembled the advanced boys were unable to appreciate the teaching given by the manual instructor, whereas the little boys, who had just left school, were familiar with the use of the T square, set square and so on. It must have disheartened the older boys

to see that they were not able to keep pace with the smaller National school pupils. That is one of the reasons for the want of greater success in the manual instruction. But I believe also that the course of instruction is too short, too curtailed, with regard to manual instruction. The same term is true of industry. They would want to get more opportunities at actual practice, and the same thing, in fact of laundry work.

13884. In cookery they have not the opportunity of actual practice!—They have. They have just thirty practice lessons. That constitutes the whole course, and that is hardly sufficient. All these classes follow directly one after the other, and they don't get time to reduce to practice efficiently the matter of each class.

13889 (Mr. Brown).—There is a difficulty in attending to the wants of the various parts of the country!—There is no doubt of that.

13890. It is a question of having more teachers!—Yes.

13891. In other words, more money!—More money and, perhaps, a more fixed system.

13892. (Mr. Deasy).—More patience!—We will have to have patience if we are to succeed. The Scholarship scheme has worked extremely well in the Co. Carlow, and has caused healthy competition amongst the boys, and the parents of the boys, and even the members of the County Committee. Of the number of boys who have competed and have been helped by the Scholarships, very few have turned to farming as an occupation. These boys when they enter a secondary school take themselves to literary subjects and clerkships. That may work out all right in a few years when we have got agricultural colleges. If it is kept before the boys that the Scholarships are tenable at the Agricultural Colleges and if some additional inducement is given to them that difficulty may be remedied. Up to the present we have not succeeded in bringing out any very brilliant boy. That is due principally to the limited number of Scholarships. In the County Carlow the penny rate is small, but we have been treated with great leniency and liberality by the Department. Were it not for that we would not be able to carry out the scheme of Scholarships that we have at present. If we had more money to carry out a much larger Scholarship scheme we would then be able to attract the very brilliant boys that the Department seems so anxious to secure.

13893. (Chairman).—The Scholarships are competed for by examination!—Yes. The county is divided into five baronies, and the Scholarships are £15, £10, and £5. The £15 Scholarships are confined to certain baronies, and the boys of these baronies may compete for the Scholarships.

13894. Why are they confined to certain baronies!—Not to let boys come from all parts of the county, because there are certain parts of the county where the boys have good schools.

13895. Is it because there is more need for it in these particular baronies?

(Mr. Brown).—The whole county consists of five baronies, and the Scholarships are divided between these baronies.

13896. (Mr. Quinn).—Are the £15 Scholarships restricted to certain baronies!—No, the whole county is divided into baronies, and the idea really is to make the Scholarships touch the whole county. No boy can compete for these Scholarships unless he is five or six miles from a secondary school. If they were thrown open to the whole county the boys in the town of Carlow would carry them all off.

13897. (Mr. Brown).—How long is the Scholarship tenable!—It is renewable, and may go on for four years.

13898. £15 a year for four years, that provides really for the boy's education at the secondary school!—Yes.

13899. In the county!—Or outside the county.

13900. Is there any provision as to the course he is to pursue or does he simply go there as an ordinary pupil and take up the ordinary course!—He goes as an ordinary pupil. In the conditions of the scheme it is laid down that it is to help a boy for an industrial career.

13901. He does not go in for any special science course!—He must go in for the science course to qualify for a renewal of the Scholarship.

13902. As a matter of fact these boys don't go to industrial pursuits! Up to this we have had no case

of a boy going to industrial pursuits. The industrial training was with a view to induce men who had some notion of starting manufacturers to give them help in a town like Carlow, where we have two very enterprising men, one in hawthorn and one in boot-making. The great difficulty they experienced in the beginning was the untutored hands. They could get no one with any knowledge of industry. There was an inducement in the scheme to get aside £20 so that if any person started an industry there would be an opportunity afforded to him of getting persons around to train. They allowed you to get a proper instructor that the Department would approve of, and then he was to train the boys or girls, but either of the men I am referring to in Carlow did not avail of it.

13903. They train people in their own factory!—Yes. It would deter small enterprising men, men with limited means, because there is a great deal of waste, no matter how simple the industry there is a great deal of waste in the beginning. The feeling is it would deter men after a short time from going on with any industry. Commercial knowledge is very much needed. Country people have a very poor knowledge of matters connected with commerce of any kind, how to address letters or correspondence, or the proper keeping of accounts, even ordinary book-keeping, and for that reason we have started a class of that sort, and it is working fairly well.

13904. (Mr. Brown).—Is it working only fairly for want of attendance!—For want of attendance. It has only started within the past year. Now, I come to what I take to be the main object—the thing I have to say, and that is to point where the work that is to be done by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction seems to over-ride the work that is to be done by the Commissioners of National Education, and is not done, and perhaps cannot be done, by either Board. I am referring to the absorbing importance, the absolute necessity of having such subjects as cookery and laundry work, as well as household management, taught in the primary schools in rural districts, and when I make use of such phrases as "absorbing importance" or "absolute necessity" I am only guided by the official declarations of leading men in various professions who are warning us now of the danger to the race from the appalling increase of lunacy, the ravages of consumption, the prevalence of intemperance, and the flight of the bene and shrew from the country. To enable then Committee of Inquiry to grasp what I am aiming at I will, first of all, ask your attention to a table taken from the Reports of the Commissioners of National Education for several years. I take cookery as including all three, because cookery is always bracketed with laundry work, and it is also made to include household management. In this table there are shown the number of schools teaching, the number of schools operating, and the number of children learning and the number of children on the rolls. In 1895 the close of the results period, the year before the great change took place in the introduction of the revised programme, there were 125 schools in Ireland only teaching cookery out of 8,670. In 1900 you have 253 schools teaching cookery out of 8,684 schools; in 1901, 409 schools out of 8,692; in 1902, 631 schools out of 8,712; in 1903, 737 schools out of 8,730; in 1904, 848 schools out of 8,710; in 1905, 950 schools out of 8,689, and out of these 950 schools 229 are Convent schools. That would show that in the schools I am referring to, primary schools in rural districts, these subjects are hardly taught at all. In 1895 there were only 2,800 children learning these subjects out of 795,165 on the rolls. In 1903 we had 28,659 children in the country learning cookery out of 797,854 on the rolls. In 1904 we had 13,967 children learning out of 736,745 on the rolls. In the present year we have only 14,780 children learning cookery in the country out of 742,767.

13905. (Chairman).—Is there any explanation for the drop in 1904!—Oh, yes. In 1903 the Commissioners of National Education issued instructions to managers believing they would be able to arrange with the Department of Agriculture to take over the cookery, and then all the teachers gave up the subject. Now, what I am going to fasten attention on for a moment is that in this country we have only 14,950 children learning these essential subjects out of 742,000. Of course boys and girls are included in the 742,000. I am not going into the question of whether it would be wise that boys should be taught cookery.

Oct 28, 1905.

Rev. John
Delany, &c.

My experience is that in the country very often it would be. The number of girls is something more than the half of the whole number. The first deduction I drew from the table is that cookery and cognate subjects are lamentably low despite the efforts of all concerned in the teaching of these branches, and the persons concerned are the Commissioners of National Education, the managers, the teachers, the children, and the parents. Now, first of all, I take the Commissioners and look back from the introduction of the new programme. In 1900 the Commissioners introduced the new programme and put that subject on the programme. It was quite clear they were anxious to keep it on. They found in 1901 they were not succeeding, and then they introduced a special system of organisation to aim at special subjects. They took over a lady from a society here in Dublin, gave her a staff, and started her to go through the country to try and teach the teachers. That has worked now for the last seven years, and notwithstanding the working of the organised staff we have only 14,000 children being taught. The Commissioners have expressed again and again their desire to work the subject, and even in this year's Report they say "the need for it has long been felt by us." Now, with regard to the managers, what I am saying here I am taking from the Report of the head organizer. She says that the managers, some, not all, lost no time in providing her and her sub-organizers with the necessary apparatus, so the fact cannot be attributed to the managers. Neither can it be attributed to the teachers, because the same organizer says nothing is more praiseworthy than the industry and ungrudging labour of the teachers in taking up the subject.

1906. (Mr. O'Connell).—How many teachers did she have taking up the subject in that year?—In 1908 she had fifty-three centers and 713 teachers receiving instruction. In 1905 she touched forty-nine centers, instructing 654 teachers.

1907. Then the observation applies to teachers that she and her staff had instructed?—Yes, only to those who took it up. As a matter of fact a great number of them did not take it up. Miss Fitzgerald refers to those who did take it up. Now, I come to the children. Any person who has knowledge of children would say that children would naturally be attracted by a subject of this kind, because where there is intellectual or heavy hard work they are anxious to escape it. But anything that will employ their hands and make matters more agreeable to them they will take to it—that is the general experience of all the organizers, that it was a favourite subject. The children, as Miss Fitzgerald testifies, the children were anxious to remain at school longer because of the

cookery lesson. Now, I pass on to the parents. The Commissioners themselves admit in the VII. Report, that cookery was popular with the parents, and Miss Fitzgerald in the VII. Report says she was sent from house to house to inquire of the parents, to discover their feelings, with regard to cookery, and the given expressions that reached her, showing that the parents were absolutely in favour of it. The inference is that as matters stand now, so far as we can judge, the remedy is not very hopeful, because the Commissioners of National Education state, though they did stop in in 1893, when they thought they had come to terms with the Department, they state now, "We believe that we cannot legally transfer ourselves of the responsibility of teaching cookery in the primary schools." And the decision of the Department as we believe we cannot legally assume the responsibility of teaching primary school children during primary school hours.

(Chairman).—That is under the Act. Practically what it comes to is this, that there is the gap of what you speak, and it is most desirable, that in some way or other it should be bridged over, and that the power of giving instruction in cookery and such like things, which may be found to be desirable, should be facilitated in some way. I think you may assume that we have heard that to a very great extent, and the Committee are quite aware of the importance of it.

1908. (Mr. Brown).—May I ask Father Delany whether from his own experience he thinks the responsibility should remain with the National Board or be cast upon the Department?—I will deal with that later on. It is admitted the Department has no power. I would suggest the Department should get extended powers. The next table I need hardly refer to now. It is to compare the progress of cookery with the progress of dancing and singing for the past seven or eight years. When they started the new programme the Commissioners of National Education said with regard to drawing that it should be taken up in every school where the teacher held a certificate. In the case of cookery they said it was compulsory only in schools where the teaching staff is competent, and where there is sufficient apparatus. The result is that in the same number of years, singing has been taken up in almost every school in the country. In 1899 drawing was only taught in 1,375 schools. To-day it is taught in 6,731. That increase is over several years, and it is the same with singing, which also has gone on increasing. The only thing at a complete standstill is the matter of cookery and laundry work and household management.

MR. THOMAS J. HAYES EXAMINED.

Mr. Thomas
J. Hayes.

1906. (Chairman).—You are Vice-Chairman of the Blackrock Technical Instruction Committee?—Yes, sir. The Blackrock Technical Instruction Committee desire me in the first place to bear strong testimony to the courtesy and attention with which they have invariably been treated by the Department, and to acknowledge before this Committee of Inquiry their obligations for the great assistance they have received from all the officials of the Department with whom they have been brought in contact. The Urban District of Blackrock has a population of 4,700 persons, and the total assessed valuation for purposes of taxation is slightly over £48,000. It extends along the sea coast for about three miles from the confines of Penrith on the Dublin side to the borders of Kingstown. One-third of the area (the Monkstown Ward) is occupied by residents of greater affluence than either of the other two Wards (Blackrock or Booterstown). There are no manufacturing or the like industry recently established. There were up to five years ago no facilities for teaching and training the children who had attained the age of fourteen years and passed through the National Schools. Such was the state of affairs when the Urban District Committee of Blackrock decided to establish a Technical School. They were confronted with considerable difficulties. As promoters in the movement they had to formulate a scheme suitable to the district, and they had not in this country a solitary school in operation which they could copy with advantage. The Urban Council contained no members who had personal ex-

perience of educational work, but having sent a deputation to England and having consulted many times with the heads of the Department in Dublin, they appointed a Technical Instruction Committee consisting of sixteen members of the Council and fourteen co-opted members. The Committee was so fortunate as to secure, with the assistance and advice of the Department, the services of Mr. T. Alexander W. Hill, &c., and to their gentlemen, whose whole life has been spent in wholesale work, is due to a very large extent the success which has attended the efforts of the Committee. Mr. Hill is in attendance and will explain to the Committee some of the difficulties with which he as an educationalist has had to contend, and, if required, he is prepared to offer some suggestions based on his experience of Technical Education in Ireland. I might state at this point that, in my opinion, the educational value of the work done by the Department is not confined to the instruction given in the classrooms of the various schools throughout the country. The bringing together of men of varied religious and political opinions for the purpose of forwarding a movement in which all are equally interested, has tended to soften the asperities which are sometimes characteristic of communities such as ours. We are, however, a very happy family in Blackrock, and although every phase of opinion is represented on our Committee, I can only add to mind one opinion on which a formal vote was taken, and then only to decide who should be appointed caretaker of the school premises. We were early confronted with the question of providing school rooms

modation for the prospective pupils. For one of the few suitably situated houses available the letting value of which was \$50 per annum, we were asked \$200, and even then we would have to erect a wooden house for our manual instruction classes. Finally, Lord Pembroke placed at our disposal, rent free, a house on his property which happened to be the vacant, and by the expenditure of \$800 on alterations, furniture, and fittings we were enabled to open our school in these premises on 7th October, 1901. During the course of our first session we secured 255 afternoon and evening pupils, a number largely in excess of our expectations, and for whose accommodation the classrooms at our disposal were entirely inadequate. The Urban Council, as a temporary arrangement, allowed us the use of the Town Hall for the dressmaking classes, but we speedily recognized that the efficiency and discipline of the school could not be maintained nor the health of the students safeguarded unless we secured a commodious and sanitary building in which to carry on our work. Through the Urban Council we obtained a loan from the Local Government Board, who we found most anxious to assist us in every way. We erected the new school buildings at a cost of £3,360. In them we opened the second half of our first session in January last.

12802. (Mr. O'Grady).—Was that the equipment for the first house placed at your disposal by Lord Pembroke?—Yes.

12811. That \$200 was for equipment which you transferred to the new buildings?—Any fittings that were of any use we utilized them in the new buildings. I am now dealing with our first year. Burdened with the \$200 expended on equipment (towards which the Department gave a grant of £556), and exceptional expenditure for printing, books, class materials, and depreciation expenses amounting to a further sum of £178, we found ourselves at the end of the first year with a school fully equipped and doing good work, but with creditors to whom we owed £200, vainly asking us for payment. In our extremity we appealed to the Department, and a donation from our body attended Upper Mersey-street. We were courteously received by Sir Horace Plunkett, but we were assured that the Department had no funds at its disposal out of which to give us a further grant. We were precluded by the terms of the Act from using any portion of our income in payment of interest on overdrafts or we would have secured a temporary loan from our bankers, and we were for a considerable time placed in a very awkward and unpleasant position. I should mention that we incurred no liability that was not for an absolute necessity, and that we obtained the permission of the Department for every contemplated expenditure. We got over the difficulty by borrowing the money, and closed our accounts showing a debit balance of £187. This debt we reduced to £78 at the end of the second year, after three years we had a balance of £35 to our credit, and we have during the

past two years been as solvent as any respectable body in Ireland could hope to be. Our permanent income consists of £200 grant from the Department, £183 from the Urban Council, £90 from students' fees, and possibly £27 Science and Arts grants, making a total of about £500. The first charge on our income during the current year is £157 incident on our building loan, and thus we hope to meet by increased earnings of the Science Classes and by drawing on the balance carried forward from the previous year. We trust that the Committee of Inquiry will recommend the allocation of a sufficient sum from the public funds to relieve us and other Committees similarly circumstanced of this annual charge, and thus enable us to devote our entire income to the furtherance of the educational scheme. Before leaving the subject of finance I may point out that during the first years our school has been in existence we have raised locally a sum of almost £1,500 for our Technical School. The exact figures are—Raisie, £814; school fees, £400; Scholarship and Prize Fund, £179. These figures in themselves are strong testimony to the interest the Department has aroused on this question and should induce the Government to deal liberally with us in our endeavour to raise the standard of education in this country. The average number of individual students attending our school during the past five years was 232, and it is satisfactory to observe that a little over one-third attend for a second, third, or fourth year. Our new scheme for Day Trade Preparatory Students has only been in operation for a few weeks, and it is too soon to express a definite opinion as to its ultimate success. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Fletcher for the kindly and sympathetic interest he took in this and every other matter concerning our work on which we consulted him. We have twenty students now in the school, and Mr. Hill reports that he is highly pleased with the progress they are making in their craft and with the efficiency of the teachers. We are strongly of the opinion that the qualifications required by the Department are essential, and have found by experience that the teachers in our school are actuated by an intense desire to conscientiously discharge the important duties entrusted to them. I have already referred to the benefits accruing to localities by the formation of Technical Instruction Committees, and I am convinced that the same beneficial effects on a much larger scale are brought into operation by the annual meetings of the Technical Instruction Association. The general interest in technical education is maintained during the year by meetings of a Standing Council elected by the Congress. This Council is brought into direct communication with the heads of the Department and many local difficulties are overcome by the advice willingly given during these periodical interviews.

REV. J. DELANEY, F.R., further examined.

12811a. The first difficulty that confronts the schools is the cost of equipment.

12812. (Chairman).—You are speaking now of the National Schools?—Yes.

12813. You must remember that we cannot go into details on that, because it is not within our province at all. We have to deal with the relations between the Department and the National Board, but as to what the National Schools ought to do that does not belong to us!—The reason that I was referring to it here was with a view of getting the Committee to make some representation.

(Chairman).—That is just what we cannot do with regard to National Schools.

12814. (Mr. O'Grady).—Unless the suggestion is one that bears upon the relations between the two?—That is precisely the point I am on, to show that it is impossible as it stands to work.

12815. (Chairman).—If you can give us any practical suggestion as to what recommendations should be made to bridge the gap between the National School education and the training the Department can give?—It will be necessary for me to refer to the difficulty about the schools' material equipment, because that will require funds on the part of the Department if they are to take it up. That was the reason

given me by the members of the Department that they could not take it up, they had not the necessary funds. The first would be the cost of equipment, the Commissioner of National Education found that to be a serious difficulty in trying to deal with the subject. They say cookery was popular with the parents, but the cost of necessary equipment was in many cases an obstacle to the introduction of the subject in the schools, and their own head organizer says want of funds in providing the initial expenses is the sole obstacle to the general adoption of the subject. Now we come to the class material, it differs from drawing and singing and every other subject; they can be worked with very little expense, but there will be a constant outlay on class material for this subject, by that I mean find and the requisites for practical work in each school. I went into that question. I think it would take £3 or £4 per session to carry out a class of this kind. I even looked carefully into the returns of the head organizer of cookery, and I find her expenses average over £5 in one year for giving lessons to teachers and £5 10s. the next year. There is a distinction to be drawn between classes given to teachers and given to pupils. It appears a class may be given with less expense to pupils than to teachers, but we could not get it under £3 or £4. Then, there is another thing perhaps to which I may refer, there

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are insufficient facilities at present given to National school teachers to take up the subject.

(Chairman).—All this is rather out of our province, it all really has reference to the National Schools, to the improvement of the National schools themselves.

(Mr. Brown).—Except that I understand Father Delany's suggestion is that this work should be done through the Department; there should be legislation to that effect.

(Chairman).—If you want to say that the whole thing ought to be transferred to the Department and the Department ought to do it?—May I inter, then, briefly to what I call the insufficiency now to primary school teachers as matters stand now. First of all, there is a want of facilities before they go into training, during training, and after training. Before training, because the children are for the most part the children of existing teachers, and, as we have seen already, all the cookery is confined to cottages and is not taught in the rural National Schools. In the first examination required by the National Board cookery is not put in as a subject, so that there is no stimulus that they should take up the subject. During the time of training there is very little time given to it, twenty or thirty lessons, and it is insisted by the Board's own head organizer that too limited a time is given to practical lessons. After training we see that even the Organising Staff are able to teach very little of the whole course in six or seven years, and we are at a very low ebb at the present day. I believe myself in a one-teacher class it is practically impossible for teachers to deal with the question, the programme is so overworked. There is another point, any person may say to me—"If you wait for another year you may have to make a different suggestion." This year the National Board has provided a fee of five shillings a head for pupils who get instruction in this subject, I believe that will produce no effect in one-teacher schools. Now, I come to the two-teacher schools, and even there I believe it will have very little effect; by a two-teacher school at present we understand one trained teacher and possibly a junior assistant mistress, and if a junior assistant mistress is not trained she can give very little help in the solution of this difficulty. There is a much more unfortunate point to which I may call attention, it is laid down that domestic science must be taught by any person in two-teacher schools who take up the subject, I believe that will practically deter all teachers from taking it up, because domestic science is made to include portions of mechanics, hydrostatics, hydrodynamics, gases, heat, chemistry, physiology, bacteriology. I even looked into the new code dealing with England, and I find there is no such regulation laid down there.

(1907). Is not that an inclusive list? Would every teacher have to deal with bacteriology?—It frightened them from going on with the subject.

(Mr. O'Connell).—Bacteriology comes in in the seventh standard?—A teacher in a two-teacher class has to deal with all the subjects. The subject here is "Bacteria in daily life"; when teachers have to face difficulties of that kind it deters them from going on.

(Mr. McKee).—Do you think they would not ascertain that it was of a very rudimentary nature?—They say "the Inspector who comes to examine us can never examine us closely in cookery, because that belongs to the women's department, whereas they will be well able to read up books of science, and if we don't pass we will lose the fee."

(1906). (Mr. O'Connell).—We may leave out bacteriology, it is sufficient for you to say that domestic science is a very large order in itself from the fourth standard upwards?—Yes, the Simple Lessons on Health ought to be retained. Domestic Science ought to be transferred to the secondary school body. The evening schools in this country have given us so help worth while in the matter of cookery, laundry work, or household management. In 1904-05 only fifteen schools of 536 taught the subject. In 1905-06 only sixteen taught cookery out of 531.

(1906). Is that because the ground has been cut from under the feet of the evening schools by the instruction given to those who left school by the instructors under the Department?—I think the difficulty is material. Now, I am done; I won't inflict any more statements with regard to cookery, but I will say we are in the very same position with regard to boys in the matter of manual instruction and horticulture and I have reasons to believe that the Commissioners of National

Education are providing similar fees for boys in horticulture, but next year we will be face to face with the very same difficulty; we cannot avail of them, because the Department cannot come to our assistance.

(1905). Oh, no, the Department is able to come in horticulture in the primary schools, but they cannot in cookery?—Our programme is worked differently. "In no circumstances may scholars on the roll of a primary school attend classes under this scheme which meet during school hours."

(1905). Yes, that is technical instruction, but horticulture falls under agriculture?—It will be a somewhat difficult thing to deal with those two subjects.

(1904). You gave me a statement on the part of the National Board that they cannot legally direct themselves of the responsibility of teaching cookery in primary schools. It follows they are taking steps at present to develop that. You have given an explanation of your views to the effect that you don't believe the arrangements they are making are in the least likely to be effective in this matter for the reasons you have stated. What I want to know is whether your suggestion in the way of connecting it with the Department of Technical Instruction is or is not that powers should be given to allow the Department's instructors in cookery to give that instruction in primary schools; is that the suggestion you wish to make?—That it should be given by the Department, but I would not say in primary schools. There is a great difficulty in going to a school where another teacher is opening, if it could be given near the schools.

(1905). By the Department's instructors and the school children whilst still school children to go to the classes?—To go to the classes.

(1905). The County Committee of Technical Instruction might be authorized to establish classes in cookery in the immediate neighbourhood of one or more National schools, and that it should be made legal for the primary school children to attend that class for cookery instruction?—Precisely my point.

(1907). (Mr. Brown).—During school hours?—Yes, because if you get children to do it after school hours you are getting them from doing it altogether, and it is not fair to the teacher or to the children to ask them to do it after school hours. I believe the agricultural classes are the hope of the country, and I am happy to say they are taken up extensively with us. We had thirty-three applications for a class which will only contain eighteen or twenty if the class is properly worked, and these classes might feed the Agricultural Colleges. We will advance considerably in a short time. There is another matter to which I wish to refer with regard to representation on the Technical Board. At present stand at present there are twenty-three members on the Technical Board, and there is not one person from a country town or rural district in Leinster, and I think that is a great drawback to us in ordinary working, because the Technical Board is the fountain head, and the County Committee comes between the Technical Board and its work. They are in direct contact with the people in the country, and I think it would facilitate matters in every way if the County Committee had some representation on the Technical Board.

(1906). That happens in Leinster mainly, because Dublin happens to be in Leinster, and the representatives of the province here, as a matter of fact, have been selected from residents of the Co. Dublin?—Yes, there are eight from Dublin on the Board, Father Flanagan is one appointed by the Provincial Committee. I am only referring to the fact.

(1906). If the Provincial Council had elected persons more directly in touch with the rural districts of the province would that meet your view?—It would, but I think we would require a larger representation than one, and I think it is an important point that the County Committee should get representation upon the Technical Board.

(1906). Do you mean each County Committee?—No; I think if there was a Council of Technical Education like the Agricultural Council, and then to select representatives.

(1905). You suggest at least a second representative for the province of Leinster?—At least. I wish to say in general that I believe the Department has done good work in the country. I have at least some personal experience of its line of action, and I have come in contact with many of the chief officials of the Department in a public and semi-public way, when inflicting motions at the county meetings or proving

some personal interest at the office of the Department, and I have found that reasonable applications were always received courteously, examined carefully, and often permitted. Of course, there are exceptions. This world does not produce perfect departments of any kind, and it would be unreasonable to expect that a Department working, as it has worked in the face of difficulties, would not in occasional circumstances give irritation occasionally to committees and, perhaps, individual persons. It has been referred to already before this Committee that the Department laid it down as a condition for all agricultural classes of the country that these young boys should pass a qualifying examination. No doubt the examination was ample, but when we remember that the country we are living in only thirty-one per cent. of the children attending primary schools are eleven years of age and upwards the majority of these boys leave school at an early age, and when we get the young farmers to come forward they were not able to face any examination on paper; they had no composition in their days. If you speak to some of these young men you would be surprised at the amount of information they had, and what was painful to us was to see the effects made by some of these boys to get into the school. And then people see an instructor, coming from £100 to £150, staying on a class of ten or twelve members, and leaving outside a large number of desirable young men. I believe the Department is right in saying they ought to have a certain amount of education, but at the same time I think the young farmers are quite capable of making observations and gaining information.

12392. (Chairman).—You have said you have more applications than you have places for. I think there is great force in what you say, but how do you suggest that you should select which of them should be admitted and which not?—I would leave that to the County Instructor, who knows the country, and the men locally to deal with the class.

12393. If you leave it to an individual you place him in a very difficult position; he has to justify his choice, whereas if you have an examination it is the system and not the individual so much. But then he refers his list to the County Committee, and lets it be dealt with by them.

12394. (Mr. Brown).—You have an objection to the examinations at present, but later on?—It will be alright later on; the country will be quite alive to it.

12395. (Chairman).—You think it ought to be a little more elastic now?—Yes.

12396. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It was suggested to us that one method of doing it would be to take in the other candidates without any examination at all, if they were willing to undertake to come continuously. The presumption was that they had at least some capacity, and less harm would be done by taking in the eldest first. I would not admit boys out of the primary school into it until fourteen years of age, because they have not settled down in life, and if they go home their parents look on them as mere experimentalists. They would not attempt to carry out any of the ideas on a farm, whereas a man of thirty or thirty-five years of age going to the school would be given plenty of opportunities of carrying out his ideas at home.

12397. You would favour some such idea as that?—Yes.

12398. (Chairman).—You would not keep out the older men because they cannot pass a competitive ex-

amination?—I would not. The other point affecting the Department concerns the Scholarships. This difficulty is cropping up rapidly. It cropped up last year and again this year. It is even on to-day before the County Carlow Committee. I went into the National school and read for the boys of the school the County Carlow scheme, the portion that dealt with the Scholarships, selecting the boys to prepare for the examination and come forward and secure one of these Scholarships that we spoke of to-day. As a matter of fact we got a number of boys to come forward; one boy secured the Scholarship; he took his place at Knockbeg, outside Carlow, and passed a qualifying examination, and went in for the second year, and in the return sent to us by the Department he was marked off as not having qualified for the retention of the Scholarship. I communicated at once with the Rector of the College, and he asked me to stay quiet until this boy went before the Intermediate Board. The boy went before the Intermediate Board in a month after, and not only did he pass the Junior, but he passed the Middle Grade with honours in three subjects, one of the subjects in which he was examined and rejected by the Department. I am sorry to have to admit that, because it makes things very unpleasant for us. You have two examining Boards in the country, and there you see one Board states this boy not only passed creditably, but with honours.

12399. (Mr. Ogilvie).—What was the subject?—It would be experimental sciences.

12400. You say he passed with honours in the same subject in the Intermediate examination?—Not in that one subject. I will read the letter—the number of the boy is 7,639—secured honours in English composition and literature, namely 67 per cent.; secured honours in history, 64 per cent., 50 per cent. in honours, 35 per cent. a pass; secured honours in chemistry. Chemistry is the only subject in which he was examined by the Department's Inspector. In addition to these subjects he passed in Arithmetic, French, and Book-keeping. So now I am right in stating he passed with honours in Chemistry.

12401. That would be a written examination in chemistry?—It would be written with the Intermediate Board.

12402. And the Department's Inspector would examine him in the laboratory practically, and have an oral examination as well?—Yes; I am freely stating the fact. The Department might have good reason for their action, but that is the position in which we are placed before the people. Two Boards examine one boy, and one Board says he is a brilliant boy and the other says he is not up to the standard.

12403. Is a particular subject which is necessary for a Scholarship awarded with a view to his being prepared for industrial purposes?—Yes. It would be better, probably, if the Intermediate Education Board kept experimental science altogether to itself. I say I believe as far as the Department is concerned its methods were well intended. I am sorry to admit the couple of cases I was obliged to admit. Their efforts up to this have been to a great extent tentative. It was necessary so. The Department came into existence and has continued to grow under difficult circumstances, facing prejudice and unpopularity. I believe with a little patience and some mutual confidence, and a considerable amount of self-reliance, we will soon begin to realise that we have been helped into better times.

Mr. T. ALEXANDER W.

12404. (Chairman).—You are Principal of the Technical School, Blackrock?—Of the Urban District.

12405. You have heard Mr. Hayes' evidence?—I would like first to supplement the point about the building grant. We started in a small building which the Earl of Pembroke kindly gave us at a nominal rent; we expected about fifty students, and the next year the Committee in Ireland we found we had many more; far too many for such a building. It was very difficult to work the school there. Our average class entries were 514 yearly; the number of individual students averaging 835; we were dealing also with two local Intermediate schools in the daytime. This year we are dealing with a trade preparatory school in addition. In the old building we were working thirty-two classes weekly, and as in the case of other

HILL, &c., examined.

Committees the Domestic Economy classes always ran very large; we were continually turning students away. We are very sorry to have to turn away servants; many mistresses in Blackrock send their servants and pay their fees for a course in cookery or laundry-work. The cookery kitchen was sixteen feet by thirteen feet, with a ten foot ceiling. We had to build new premises, and we got the consent of the Department. We managed to get a balance a year ago which tided us over last year, and there were some extraordinary savings, not likely to crop up again; there was a refund from the Urban District Council of 250 for furniture, and another amount under an old grant of the English Education Board, 650 odd, which we cannot look forward to for the future. Of course we shall get some increased grant under the new regulations. Personally

On 7th, 1904.

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Mr. T. Alexander W. Hill, &c.

Oct. 29, 1906. I don't think it will be very large in our case, for in order for pupils to enter the preparatory year and go on for the specialised course the standard had been set by the Department is to pass the Junior grade or receive a certificate from the Principal. A Principal would not be prepared to give a certificate without it was somewhere within the regions of what he thought the Department required.

12944. (Mr. Ophiele).—The curriculum contemplated here is that a pupil coming straight from the National school should have a preparatory course for one or two years?—Yes.

12947. If a pupil comes from a National school such a preparatory course is the proper place for him, and grants are provided for it under these regulations?—Yes.

12948. If a student does not come from a National school—in the case of Blackrock he would be very likely a boy who had been at a secondary school?—There would be some cases certainly.

12949. Where a boy comes from a secondary school the only specification to give of the standard of attainment would be the specification that is available for a boy from a secondary school, that would be by reference to the Intermediate examination?—Am I not right in saying he should have passed the Junior Grade?

12950. No; if a boy has passed the Junior Grade of the Intermediate examination he is eligible to be registered, it is not that a boy must pass. In the case of a boy who had come from a secondary school you would have a boy who in that school would have had as the natural measure of his attainments an examination by the Intermediate Board?—Of course.

12951. And, therefore, the proper thing to state as a specification of that standard would be the one to give the least trouble to the school authorities, the attainable standard of the Intermediate Education Board?—Yes, but that will apply to a maximum number of pupils in the school.

12952. But as planned here it is only intended to apply to those; the essential statement of qualification is that the pupil has satisfactorily followed the preparatory course, or (b) in the case of the boys who have been at secondary schools, "have passed in the Junior Grade of the Intermediate Board's examination or its equivalent," that is to say they may not have been in an Irish secondary school, they have been in another secondary school and bring here with them an equivalent of that standard. Now you come to (c) "be certified by the Principal or responsible teacher to have reached an equivalent satisfactory standard of education," not the standard set by the Junior Grade of the Intermediate Examination Board, but the standard set by your own school, that which finished the preparatory course, which as the course settled in your own school as that proper before a pupil commences the specialised course?—I am very pleased to hear you say that.

12953. I am taking it from the paper, if I were in charge of the school and the Department proposed to read that in any other way I should have something to say to them. Have they put it in the other way and fixed the standard at the Junior Grade?—The regulations have only been working for a month. But what I really wanted to say is this, we don't think there will be a large grant at once, because the standard set is the Junior Grade and the certificate given by the Principal.

12954. You have missed my point, the Junior Grade of the Intermediate Board is not the main standard set by the Department here at all, the main standard is that at the end of the preparatory course, that excludes subjects which appear in the Intermediate Board's examination, but are not required for the normal course for artisan students. If it were stated the other way it would be an obviously wrong arrangement for entry to an artisan's course, but stated as the conclusion of the preparatory course it is precisely in the line of education you are giving in the Preparatory school?—We naturally thought we could exempt National school children who had passed the sixth standard, as apparently the standard of admission is eligibility for entrance to the sixth standard. We assumed that one year's work was equivalent to their having passed the sixth standard, so that most of the Principals in urban districts have given a certificate of exemption to students from National schools who have passed the sixth.

12955. Well, I am not going to say whether you are justified in that or not, because it turns on this

question, whether in doing so they have got a knowledge of elementary mathematics and elementary science and drawing, that is the preparatory course, those who enter the sixth class are eligible to start a little later, with two years to bring them up in English, mathematics, science and drawing in addition to that?—It is generally assumed that one year will suit. What will happen I don't know; my own personal opinion is that the grant will not be very much for the first year, I don't think I misunderstood your point about the Junior Grade, and I don't wish other people to misunderstand.

12956. To take the view you put in words would make it a very serious thing to get into the school?—Very well, I will leave that point. The majority of my staff have not received increases during the last three or four years, two members of my staff have. There is a certain amount of expenses necessary in the larger building, at the same time, as my Vice-Chairman said, we feel that the Department have done everything they could for us. They explained that they have no building fund and therefore cannot give us the money. But the principals do feel that the education in Irish Schools cannot be satisfactory if the work has to be done in temporary buildings. The Committee acknowledge their indebtedness to the Department, they have not tied our hands, we have been allowed, and indeed encouraged, to formulate and work out a local scheme, and have received generous financial assistance and expert advice. We have also always found the officials easy of access and ready to help by every means in their power. Further, the necessary financial arrangements should be made with the Commissioners of National Education to enable senior pupils of National Schools to use the local technical school as a day centre for classes in such subjects as manual instruction and domestic economy. I pointed out to my Committee that we had a large room that could be utilised for the purpose, and on the 24th of September, 1904, the Commissioners wrote back that they had no funds available. If an arrangement could be made between the National Board and the Department by which the senior classes in an urban district, at any rate, could come say two hours a week in the daytime, that time would count as part of the National school time.

(Mr. Ophiele).—It is allowed to count as part of the school attendance, but there is no grant for it.

12957. (Chairman).—They earn their own grants by attendance at these technical schools?—We felt we could not legally do it, we could not face the audit.

12958. (Mr. Ophiele).—There are two questions, whether you would get additional money for doing it, and then there is the question, could you do it without getting additional money?—Someone here read a paragraph which is usually put in schemes that so National schools may attend technical classes in the day time.

12959. I wonder whether that clause is the same as in the Act, the expression technical education, and so on, "shall not include instruction given in elementary schools if that is all they put in the schemes then that would not prevent it, it would not be given in the elementary schools?—The wording is that the pupils of the National schools shall not attend technical school classes in the day time. There is another point with reference to the Local Board audit. When we started first we knew our school year was from 1st August to 31st July, and all our schemes are made out on that basis, and as you know the Local Government Board audit is from March to March. We wrote about that, asking that the two years might be the same, because of the difficulty in preparing the double balance sheet, and, further, when we are auditing we are half-way in one account and half-way in another. Really the Local Government Board have not much else to do as how we are spending our money. It would be a great convenience to the Secretary of one year or the other year.

12960. (Mr. Nicks).—Your natural year is your school year?—Naturally. There was a circular letter from the Department of August, 1903, in which they state the fact that the Local Government Board require the accounts to be audited from March to March, and the other year is from August to July, and I think some slight inconvenience may be caused by the overlapping of the two periods.

13063. (Mr. O'Grady).—Mr Hayes said the number of individual students last year was 2461—244 in the evening classes and day technical school. In addition there were over twenty scholars in the day science class for local intermediate schools. He also made a statement as to the number of those who were in their second or third year of attendance. You may take it every year as one-third—eighty-five.

13062. Do you mean to say no more than eighty-five out of 244 would come back to the classes a second year?—Those are the actual figures.

13063. Can you suggest any explanation of that, which is comparatively a small proportion?—Most of those subjects with a considerable number of students enrolled are subjects that naturally formed part of two or three years' course of work. Our courses do run for two or three years.

13064. Then I think you have 224 students, about 180 of whom would not attend for more than the one year?—We have large classes of domestic economy, and some of the other girls' classes are very large. Servants come for one year's tuition.

13065. Shorthand writing, book-keeping, and commercial arithmetic, those are the classes that would attract students for more than one year?—Yes, we run classes for two years as a rule.

13066. The second year class is made up of seventy or eighty continuing students, it strikes you as a large leakage?—If 250 out of 280 go away at the end of the year they are going somewhere else.

13067. (Mr. O'Grady).—Would a considerable number

of people who don't return be domestic servants?—In the domestic economy senior classes you may take them all as servants. We lie between Kingstown on the one hand, and Pembroke and Dublin on the other. If I take a student for stage one of electricity I then probably lose him to Kevin-street.

13068. But taking some of these commercial classes and the junior stages of science work you would be getting them for two or three years before they reached the advanced stage?—Yes; there are advanced classes in chemistry and hygiene, and commercial subjects.

13069. One should not regard your school as a unit, but as bound up with two or three other schools?

13070. (Mr. O'Grady).—It is bound up very much with Dublin and somewhat with Pembroke, you have to represent that to the Department when it comes to be a case of considering the year's work, and writing you down upon the decision as to the second and third years' work?—We do co-ordinate with Kingstown in that way. Mr. Macdonald does not poach on my ground, and I send him students for classes that I do not take. I sent him a number of plumbing students. The same way with carpentry. I can work manual instruction classes, but not carpentry.

13071. Do one of the other schools run carpentry?—Kingstown does and Kevin-street.

13072. And it is near enough to you?—It is only sixpence return by train to Dublin. I send my senior students largely to them.

Mr. E. St. JOHN LUTHER, F.R.S., examined.

13073. (Chairman).—You are the geologist to the Department in the work carried out in connection with the mineral and raw material resources of the country?—I am.

13074. Your first head is the method of collecting information, and bringing the information before the public?—The Secretary of the Department has already given evidence on the general lines on which the work is carried out, he has thought it advisable that I should go further into the matter, and explain how the work is useful to those interested in the development of mineral industries. I would like to point out at once that the work is really of an economic character, really more of applied science. I say first of all tell you that I was consulted about this work when I came back from Africa. The most economical method was to circulate the people and ask them what they had in the country. We sent out a large number of circulars, and with them a form to be filled up by persons sending minerals, glass, sands, building stones, etc., for exhibition by the Department at the Cork Exhibition. By that form we can tell at a glance the nature of the deposit, when we received these forms I was sent round on what may be called a flying survey, lasting two months, with instructions that anything I saw already working, and which was capable of extension by improved methods, I was to note. I noticed several industries that were well worthy of the attention of capitalists. I also noticed about our coal deposits. Two months is a very short time in which to run over the country, but I was particularly struck by what I may call those industries which could be either extended or developed in the country. One of the first things which struck me was the Kilkenny coal fields, that there was an opportunity for development, and one of the first things was, I had reason to believe from the stratification of the district, that more coal could be found. In Ballinacree there were the same indications. The Department's report upon the matter has been found to be correct in our inference that more coal was to be found in the Kilkenny district, and that Ballinacree was worthy of being prospected.

13075. How far have you established this about Kilkenny? It has been established by a bore hole put down about two years ago, they have discovered an extension of the measure.

13076. At what depth?—I understand about 800 feet.

13077. I think I ought first to have asked you your own experience?—My experience is, I was four years at the College of Science in Dublin. I was second prize in mineralogy, and obtained a diploma in the

faculty of mining. During the summer holidays I went to the Lake of Man and learned practical mining. I have thirteen years practical experience of minerals and mining work, mostly in South Africa. I was assistant assayer in the Rand Central Ore Company, and assayer, surveyor, and consulting engineer to various gold mines and mineral properties, and I had experience of coal in the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal.

13078. Have you seen much of the English coal?—I have been on the Welsh coalfields, but not working. I have been through the English coalfields on geological work, but have never been called in to be consulted on the work. I was also an Assistant Examiner in Chemistry in the English Board of Education. I would like to lay stress upon the usefulness of exhibitions for this sort of work in that it is of great assistance to the capitalist or engineer to see information as to the resources of the country displayed in a systematic way by this means, and I would like to know during your visit to Limerick if you saw the collection of minerals there. I think it has been admitted by the technical Press that more especially those exhibitions that we held in London were very well carried on, and I have extracts from the papers here to show the manner in which they were got up, that we catered not for the general public, but really for practical men who might invest capital. When I came here I had a very up-hill task. I was told we really had nothing in the country. I am not pleading that Ireland is an El Dorado merely awaiting development. She is not, but there are deposits in the country awaiting development, and some of these deposits by the efforts of the Department I think, are really getting under way. The second question as to the economic value of the minerals sent up. I have examined about 500 samples, and have stated their economic value free of charge. Any person sending in a sample can get a report they can rely upon. Not one of those reports have been criticised out of the whole lot. Now we seldom do analyses, but we do so in all cases of clay, because a qualified mineral expert can generally tell from the physical examination of the sample the value of the sample, and I safeguard the Department by stating that the report as sent out is based on the sample submitted, and the Department have no means of judging whether it is fairly representative of the deposit or not. But there are various differences in the samples, and in case a sample is taken by myself, I vouch it is fairly representative of the deposit. No. 2 is the Department's policy as regards this, as to the inspection of minerals deposited and the usefulness thereof, and the appreciation by the people, and why prospecting should be done by private enterprise. The manner of examining deposits is first of all inspection

Oct 25, 1905.

Mr. E. St. John
Alexander W
Hill, M.S.E.

Mr. E. St. J.
Luther, F.R.S.

Oct. 20, 1906.

Mr. E. St.
J. Lyons,
Esq.

to see whether they warrant prospecting; the second is prospecting to see if they warrant development, and the third is development proper. We only go as far as No. 1, and we maintain it is of great value to any person who intends prospecting, because all they have to do is to write to the office, and ask for my services. I go down, and go over the land as well as I can, and tell them my idea of what should be done. If there is any indication of coal measures they are immediately told of that. With clay deposits which are outcropping or granitic it is quite easy; prospecting is not necessary; you can more or less take the sample at once.

13678. (Mr. Micks).—Except that you have to get inside the weather-worn rock?—Yes. In limestone you are generally down to the solid in six inches, and granite is much the same. We tell these persons by means of a report what the probable cost of boring 500 feet would be, we tell them straight off whether the thing is worth going on with or not. The people I find from the official files seem to appreciate these reports, but at the same time some say we should prospect by means of diamond drilling. I may call your attention at once to the fact that the Department are not the owners of the mineral deposits of the country, and if this was to be done it would involve considerable expenditure. I am speaking from practical experience of diamond drilling—the risks incurred are great, and there is a great liability to loss. Of course, this thing could be done if we had funds to do it, but I don't know whether it would be a diplomatic move to do it, because we are not the owners of the minerals. There is no country I am aware of except Canada that are doing this. I understand in Canada the Canadian Government have two diamond drills, and charge the people 25 per cent. of the cost of the drilling. I am not able quite to say as regards the minerals, I have only been over the border of Canada. I am not prepared exactly to say how the minerals of Canada stand, whether they are Crown property or the property of individuals.

13679. (Mr. Dwyer).—The diamond drills are probably owned by the province of Ontario, I don't think the Dominion Government has any?—It is the province of Ontario I refer to. I cannot exactly say whether its diamond drills have been successful or not, but I am prepared to say this much in connection with the large iron-mining companies in Ontario, they have found it advisable to buy their own drills. This question of diamond drilling is one about which I have got into a good deal of trouble about the country. "Why don't you bring a diamond drill with you?" It is about twenty-five ton weight and not easy to carry about. Of course, it can be done, and may be done. In the Land Act of 1903 the Crown have reserved the minerals, that brings in a different state of things, but at the present time the Department are not the owners of the minerals, and we have not got a diamond drill.

13680. (Mr. Ogilvie).—As to your methods of inspection, I suppose before you proceed to go and inspect any area you will make yourself acquainted with all the information that is available in the records of the Geological Survey?—Yes, I do; I may tell you that I don't find myself by any survey; I want to see things for myself, and I have found out that in certain cases they are not correct.

13681. All I want to be assured of is that you have access to all the information they have got?—Certainly. The Survey is under the Department, and their information is fully available to me.

13682. And you habitually utilize that as far as it will go, and then go to the ground yourself and verify it or correct it, or extend it?—I won't say I always take their maps to the field, I answer the question by saying generally I do; there are plenty of times I don't, because we have a pretty good knowledge of the country after five years. In the case of inspecting a quarry it is not necessary to have a geological map.

13683. The Geological Survey have been at it forty years, there are cases in which you don't think it worth while to look up what they have done?—I don't say that at all, but I can go over the ground and see for myself. I believe, of course, in their maps, and they are useful, but I don't bind myself to their maps.

13684. I have no doubt that with a survey which has done its work a long time ago there may have been changes in the surface since that time?—Yes.

Another thing, of course, we go into the old records and mining reports published on the district.

13685. What are these available in Dublin in the way of mining records of previous work; there is no Mining Record Office?—No, but in the Home Office they published a list of abandoned mines and I consult that record.

13686. The list of abandoned mines is printed?—Yes, but not the plans; when I was in London I had to call in and see the plans of the abandoned mines.

13687. (Chairman).—I hope you were successful. —I was. I found the information. No. 4 is the Information Bureau. We are continually being asked as to the occurrence of minerals in this country, and we are in a position to send full information on this point. We receive a good many inquiries from England, where at present they are taking rather a large interest in the development of the mineral industries of Ireland. This may be a tall statement to make, but I do not know, and I have practical experience of eight or nine foreign countries, and I don't know of any country which can give such complete information as the Department of Agriculture can do about mineral industries, and the information is appreciated by the producer and consumer. No. 5, I come back upon that question of the mineral work of other foreign countries. I have practical knowledge of what the following countries are doing—South Africa, United States, France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. And our work is of a more practical nature than that performed in these countries. You might ask me, "Why do you make this statement?" I called on the Departments of those countries and inquired for information and got before them a certain number of questions as to what they were doing, and coming back I made this statement, and abide by it. As an example, I would like to call your attention to some samples here (produces), we thought it would be better to bring them before you. If this clay (produces) existed in any of those countries and the proprietor of the day-works called for advice, I do not think that they would take the matter in hands and make these tests and issue a report stating how the clay should be worked, etc. However, when such a matter comes before the Department this proprietor consults my own advice and also that of an expert potter. You see the white seams existing on that tile and a sort of crackleness. That (produces another specimen) is brought here to show you how by means of the Department coming in and taking bulk samples, 56 pounds weight of clay, and experimenting upon it we produced first of all a better colour; we were able to get rid of the white colour, and have done so. We have shown the proprietor of that works how to bake his clay and rebuild his kiln. We have letters here to say that owing to the Department's efforts in taking up this work he has increased his output and wants further advice. We have proved to that proprietor that he should go in for a higher class of articles. Not one of those foreign countries does that. You have heard of the case of the Nerry and, Enne and brick industry. The Nerry people said they wanted to consult an expert. I selected the persons for them, and went into every particular, and I see by Mr. Irwin's and Sir James Henderson's evidence that they are satisfied.

Mr. Gill also dealt with a granite quarry about which we were called in and gave expert advice. Not one of those Governments will send a man down free of cost to give advice on these things, and that is why I maintain our work is of a much more practical nature than that performed by these countries. Let any person who intends to start an industry walk into the Government offices in these countries and ask for information as to a suitable industry, etc., they would be able to give him some information, but I maintain they are not in such a position to give information as the Department of Agriculture are in this country. Sometimes I am told in the country, "Why don't you work these mines?" I reply: We are not owners of the minerals. It is sometimes told me that Germany works her own mines. I say yes, but they work their own coal mines because they own the railway and railway workshops.

13689. (Mr. Micks).—If the railways were purchased you think it would be a good thing to own the mines?—I don't think so, taking it all round, that the Government should work the mines. In Ger-

many, of course, being owners of the railways they are working coal mines. In the Haris mountains the Government are working a lead mine. I think they would like to be out of it if they could. As to the other industrial investigations carried out, I would like to mention glass. The Department being anxious to revive that industry as much as possible, erected an experimental furnace at the Cork Exhibition, and employed two glass blowers and a glass manufacturer from Belfast. I took up the chemistry process, and we brought sand from Donegal, and I think we have shown by these two goblets (produced), one a reproduction of the Waterford glass and the other a Waterford Bazaar glass, that the sand for this exists in Ireland. It is supposed to be rather good work. What we wanted to do was to demonstrate to the people that here was an industry that had died out, and why should not somebody take it up. We were unsuccessful in getting any Irish people to take it up, and we had a special inquiry from an American firm. I examined over thirty samples of sand free of all cost, we gave them estimates of all the ingredients delivered in Dublin, we selected a site and gave them every possible information, we gave them a complete proposition to come to Ireland, but on account of foreign competition they decided they would not go on with it. But that is a case we went into and did everything we possibly could with expert advice to try and get somebody to take up the industry. The same thing applies to pottery. We have had a special inquiry as to the possibility of making common household pottery, teapots, we found out owing to the different conditions in the country, the absence of proper fire-clay and fuel, and the people not having any hereditary training as potters, it was not possible. This is the largest pottery inquiry ever held; over 250 samples of clay were examined, and instead of making a chemical analysis we made a technical analysis. This as to cement. The Department have given the existence of cement materials in Ireland. You may say this was known before! It was in the case of Dublin and Waterford, but it has not been known in the case of Limerick and other centres. There is a cement factory at Waterford. That was a case where by means of an expert's advice and investigation the people had more or less a cut and dry proposition. There is a very marked increase in the number of mineral exploitations and mineral development during the last three years. In copper, mining is going on at Bournashan, Mines, Cusheen, Newpark, Carrigrohane, and the Schull district. In coal mining Ballycastle is being developed and also Killybegs on a much larger scale. Killybegs is absolutely handicapped for want of transport facilities.

12990. You have not looked into any of the proposals that have been made?—It never came before me officially. If you asked me is Killybegs worthy of transport scheme, I should say certainly, either a railway or a canal. There are the Schumanns and Jarroo were quite capable of making producer gas. As regards quarries, you have Galway granite, Carrigart, Mount Charles, New Donegal, Newcastle (Co. Down), Lisnagarney, and Longstone. Brickworks—Newry, Carrington and Carrigrohane. These and others represent nominal capital to Ireland in these years of about a million of money. I should estimate the actual capital at £200,000. An argument which I expect might be used against me is this, that there was a decrease in coal last year of about 10,000 tons; my reply is that that is due to the melting of shafts and setting of machinery at Killybegs, so as to get ready for increased output in future. There is an increase in the stone output of Ireland of about 60,000 tons, increase in value, £17,000, the increase in workmen is 440. There is a decrease, as I told you, in coal, which was to be expected.

12991. Have all the quarries increased proportionately or have some dropped and new ones started?—I am depending for the facts I give you on the Inspector from the Home Office, we have really nothing to do with him.

12992. (Chairman).—Who is the Inspector of Mines?—Mr. John Gerrard.

12993. What do the statistics show as regards coal?—As regards coal, I may tell you this, that in 1903 the Royal Commission upon Coal Supplies wrote to the Department for information as regards Ireland, asking us if we would take up the work of collecting and estimating the amount of available coal in the

country, this was put before me by the Secretary of the Department, and I very frankly told him that I could not be a party to taking up this work, knowing, as I did know, that there might be some mistakes as regards the plans which I was to bring round. The Secretary wrote to the Secretary of the Commission and told him that the Department considered certain plans should be revised; the matter then dropped, and Professor Hall came over here and published his Report. It was sent to the Department by the Royal Commission for observation, we sent back a letter that we were unable to concur in the views expressed by Professor Hall upon the question of the necessity for a revision of the Geological Survey of the Irish coal-fields. The matter stopped there. Professor Hall's Report was published, and Ballycastle and Killybegs have since that been proved to contain more coal. As regards the Ballycastle fields he says, "This small coal tract, occupying part of a lofty cliff, may be considered as practically exhausted." We called attention in 1902 that Ballycastle was worth exploiting, and I understand that boring operations have proven that the quantity is about fifty-six million tons.

12994. Mr. Gerrard says the prospects are distinctly encouraging?—You asked me what my opinion is of the amount of available coal in the country. The Royal Commission gave it as 175 million tons. I am of opinion that the coal reserves of Ireland are about 200 million tons over that.

12995. If the Royal Commission is right it is a very considerable amount?—The Royal Commission, I think, are wrong, because here they say Ballycastle is exhausted.

12996. (Mr. Michel).—Was not that a different place along the cliff?—No, it was more or less the same ground. The same thing will occur with Killybegs. You will find Killybegs will come out with nearly double her estimated quantity. There may be another concealed coal field in the country between the shores of Lough Neagh and the seacoast of Antrim.

12997. (Chairman).—What is the evidence of that?—Of course, it is geological, but there is a possibility of coal being found there.

12998. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—I think attention has been drawn to that by the Geological Survey's Memoir?—I don't think so. If you were to say to me, "I want to bore for coal in Ireland," I would not bring you there first of all; I would bring you to some of the known fields. The Sherrinstown district opposite Arigna is well worth looking into.

12999. (Mr. Michel).—You are leaving out the largest field, the Tyrone field?—That is the Lough Neagh field I was mentioning, and about there again I would point out is a field very worthy of exploration, and I think you will see a borehole going down there in the next six or seven months.

13000. The amount brought up there is very large!—Not at present. The principal extension of this field may be found between Lough Neagh and Antrim. We have pointed out this Tyrone field as worthy of exploitation, and also Ballycastle and Killybegs. Although we had very little to do with expert advice, at the same time we must get credit for pointing them out as being worthy of further exploitation. They are now being worked by private people. The following three industries are very worthy of consideration; glass brick, cement, and glass. In connection with the glass brick I think private enterprise will take up that; we have carried out experiments on glassing brick. Cement-making will, I hope, be taken up; if you return here in a year or two you will see a cement factory erected as to which the Department have been asked their opinion and have given their advice. As regards glass, we are also in communication at the present time with people who are going into these matters, as I hope in time we will have these industries established.

13001. Then, the action of the Department at present is—?—As a bureau of information and economic advice.

13002. (Mr. Bruce).—And making experiments?—Yes.

13003. (Mr. Michel).—Your travelling expenses are free; they are not charged?—We are charging nothing. I am bound by an agreement with the Department not to accept any private fee. I may say we are continually

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being consulted by capitalists. I am booked in places for the last two years, and the demand for my services are so great that I cannot tackle the work. I have to do everything myself.

14004. (Chairman).—What is your list of engagements?—I am two years due in Kerry to finish a mineral survey of Kerry. I have a mineral survey in the south-west portion of Cork. I have to attend to certain business in connection with new industries. I have had no leave for five years except a week or two, and I am full up of all sorts of economic work, which takes a lot of time.

14005. (Mr. Miele).—Have you any other duty except in connection with minerals?—I have got a lot of other industrial matters to advise upon. I am dealing with seaweed.

14006. Kelp?—No; that is not the industry I refer to. It is for the manufacture of a new material from seaweed.

14007. Your time has not been given to mineral matters only?—Well, it is nearly all mineral matters except that. There is the organising of these exhibitions.

14008. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you much correspondence?—A good deal.

14009. It must take a lot of time?—I have to do a lot of my correspondence in my private house. If I want to find out the economic value of certain minerals I write from my private house. I have to draft my reports at home. I am constantly being interviewed by people who want information and this takes up a large amount of my time at the office.

14010. (Mr. Miele).—If you draft a minute it would be written for you in the secretariat?—I draft my replies and they are written. I write in pencil that the following reply should be sent.

14011. (Chairman).—I take it from you, generally, that your time is fully occupied?—My time is more than fully taken up. I am more than two years in arrears. If I were working for a private firm as a mining engineer, I know what people would have to pay if they wanted advice.

14012. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—What is your relation with the Geological Survey generally or with Professor Cole,

the head of the Survey?—Our work is co-ordinated and we do not clash in any way.

14013. What are the relations of your office with the Geological Survey? what do you call your office?—Economic geologist.

14014. What is the official connection between you and the Geological Survey, or between you and Professor Cole?—Is there any at all?—The Geological Survey deal with the soil and structural geology of the country, but when people want to know the economic value of a mineral they come to me. Professor Cole and the Geological Survey do not receive any samples of minerals sent into the office for the purpose of their economic value. It was arranged with Sir A. Geikie that all economic enquiries should be attended to by the Department. The work of the Geological Survey has been, up to about a year ago, directed by the Science and Art Department. The work consists of a drift survey of Ireland. Since the Department took it over that work, I understand, part of the Kilkenny coal field has been re-surveyed by the Geological Survey, but Professor Cole does not give me my instructions, and I have not to give him any; we are quite independent, but work together.

14015. So far as you are concerned there is no change in your relations with Professor Cole or the Geological Survey since the Survey was handed over to the Department?—No, it is exactly the same. We work in every way together. It is this way in the mining world; we deal with the present, and I think Survey deal with the past, i. e., Stratiographical Geology.

14016. (Chairman).—And the minerals live in the future?—We have really been acting as a bureau of information for the last five years, and in that way I think we can best help the working of the mines and other industries. If there is money you can do anything.

14017. What do you point out as the newest and development?—Ballycastle; it is said they are going to turn out 8,000 tons daily. The principal copper development appears to be Benmore. I think the Commissioners should see some of the files.

The Committee adjourned.

FORTIETH PUBLIC SITTING.—TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 1906.

At 18, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin.

Present:—

Sir KENNEL DIGBY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MOSES.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Sir CHRISTOPHER NIXON, Bart., examined.

14022. (Chairman).—You are President of the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland?—Yes, sir.

14023. And you have given us a statement concerning the position of the College and its relations to the Department. Perhaps you would kindly read it?—A Statement was submitted on the 25th April, 1906; and I may point out that the scheme given on our Minute Book (produced). But the scheme adopted was very considerably different from that; and later on in our Minutes we show the scheme which is in actual operation.

14024. Have you a copy of the scheme which you can hand in?—That (produced) is the only copy; and that is not the scheme that is working now. The point I call your attention to particularly is the part of the scheme which deals with subscribers and non-subscribers.

14025. The sources of income are students' fees; monthly, subscribers'; and thirdly, non-subscribers' fee. All persons subscribing a sum of two guineas annually to the College have certain privileges which are enumerated, and may have horses examined at the College, and might, in case of outbreaks of disease, on payment of fixed charges, have a post mortem examination?—That is the point which deals with the original intention of the staff of the College, to provide as veterinary surgeons, and derive an income from it. You will see the very important bearing of that as I proceed.

14026. (Mr. Micks).—For the purpose of getting discharges, mainly?—That was one of the purposes, and also getting an income. After some years of agitation the project of establishing a Veterinary College for Ireland at last received the favourable consideration of the Government of the day, and the Chief Secretary, Mr. Morley, announced that a grant-in-aid of £15,000 would be given in furtherance of the movement.

Before the sanction of Parliament was obtained for the grant, the Government went out of office. Prior to this, however, a Charter of Incorporation was granted in which a provision was made for the creation of a Board of Governors consisting of thirty-two members, twelve of whom were to be nominated by the Crown, twelve by the Royal Dublin Society, four by the National Board of Education in Ireland, and four by the subscribers. In 1899 the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act was passed and a provision was made in this Act for the granting of a sum of £15,000 for the purpose of providing suitable buildings, fittings, and appliances for the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland. On the 31st January, 1900, a letter was received from the Department asking that a scheme for the working of the College should be at once prepared and submitted for their approval. The scheme was submitted upon the 27th April, 1900, and on the following day the submitted letter was received from the Department.

Birmingham, on behalf of the Governors of the Royal Veterinary College for Ireland and the Vice-President and Secretary of this Department, I am directed by the Vice-President formally to notify to you, for the information of the Governors, that in the opinion of the Department the existing Charter ought to be altered so as to provide for an increase of the number of Governors to forty, the additional eight members thus provided for to be appointed by this Department.

Pending this alteration it is obvious that no important decision should be come to as to the future administration of the College. But the Vice-President, in view of the strong representations made to him as to the necessity of immediately deciding on the site for the College, and appointing the Principal thereof, desires me to inform you that the Department will assist to the Governors taking steps necessary for the attainment of these objects on a receipt of a resolution of the Governors agreeing to make the required alteration in their Charter.

"I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

" (Signed),

T. P. GILL, Secretary.

"Sir Christopher Nixon."

Some difficulties arose but were surmounted in reference to a claim made by the Royal Dublin Society for a proportional increase of its representation on the Board under the new Charter. Under the original Charter the Royal Dublin Society nominated twelve out of the thirty-two Governors, and then when the number was increased to forty, they asked that they should have a proportionate increase in their representation.

14027. (Mr. Brown).—May I ask you how the administration of the Veterinary College came to be vested in the Department?—It is not vested in the Department, but is a Board of Governors, consisting of forty, of whom thirteen are nominated by the Department of Agriculture, twelve by the Crown, and fifteen by the Royal Dublin Society.

14028. What are the powers of the Department in relation to the Governors?—This draft is written with a view to showing the relations of the Department to the Veterinary College. I don't think there is any statutory relation further than that the Act of Parliament which established the Department provided that the Department should have the power to grant £15,000. It was in the Department that that power was vested, and a further provision exists under the Act enabling it to dispose of other moneys in favour of such a project as a Veterinary College.

14029. (Mr. Micks).—Your impression is that the Department made an extra grant and owing to having made an extra grant considered that they should have representation?—Yes.

14030. In the same way as the Royal Dublin Society got representation for their £1,000?—Yes.

14031. (Chairman).—This letter of the 28th of April, 1900, seems to assume a right on the part of the Department to advise, at all events, as to the constitution of the Veterinary College. They suggest

Oct. 30, 1906.

Sir Christopher
Nixon, Bart.* DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION FOR IRELAND,

"Upper Merrion-street,

"April 28th, 1900.

Sir,
Referring to the conversations which have taken place between Sir Christopher Nixon and Professor Com-

Oct. 26, 1906.

St. Christopher
Winn, Bart.

that, "In the opinion of the Department the existing Charter ought to be altered so as to provide for an increase in the number of Governors to forty, the additional eight members thus provided for to be appointed by the Department." That, I suppose, is intended by the Department as a condition before giving any pecuniary assistance to the Veterinary College?—Yes; but furthermore, antecedent to that, they asked the Government to submit to them a scheme for the working of the College for their approval.

14030. In order to see whether they would be justified in granting any money?—Yes.

14031. There was no other connection than that?—No other connection further than that the Department constantly made use of the Veterinary College for carrying on works of importance in connection with agriculture throughout the country, and the outbreak of epidemics.

14032. But all that rested simply on the pecuniary relations between the two?—To a large extent it did; and the Department had the keenest possible interest in the working of the Veterinary College, and aiding it up to a certain point, and I should like to put it very prominently that the Department was extremely sympathetic towards the movement from its inception. It never failed us at the critical moment. In the original Charter there were four Governors to be nominated by the subscribers, and four by the Board of National Education in Ireland. But as the duties of the National Board of Education were transferred to the Department they naturally held that those four representatives should be given to them.

14033. (Mr. Brown).—When did the transfer of the duties of the National Board take place. It is not mentioned amongst those being transferred?—The Act provides that "The powers and duties of the Commissioners of National Education in connection with the Albert Institution and the Munster Institution" shall be transferred to the Department.

14034. That does not include the Veterinary College?—It does not; but it determines the representation that was given on the Board of Veterinary College to the Commissioners of National Education. The non-representation of the subscribers, who were to be represented by four Governors under the first Charter was brought about under the following circumstances, a matter of great importance in connection with the financial position of the College. In the scheme for the working of the College which was submitted to the Department, provision was made for clinical teaching at the College, by which two material advantages would be secured, first sufficient material for the purposes of instruction; and, second, a steady income from the practice of veterinary medicine amongst subscribers and non-subscribers, a source of income largely availed of by the Royal Veterinary College, London. This proposal excited the keen opposition of the members of the veterinary profession, not confined to those practising in Dublin, but also of the provincial members of the profession. The question became an acute one.

14035. (Mr. O'Brien).—Were the fees from the subscribers to go into the funds of the College absolutely?—Absolutely.

14036. The Professors giving advice to those subscribers had no interest in those fees?—No pecuniary interest. It came to the College.

14037. (Mr. Micks).—It was a matter of express contract between the Professors and the College?—Yes; we give the Professors their salaries, and some of them devote their whole time to it.

14038. (Mr. O'Brien).—But according to the original proposal they were to be permitted to practice outside the College?—No; they were not; they were obliged to give all their services to the College, and that arrangement exists at the present time. The veterinary profession contended that it would be an injustice for a State-aided College to enter into competition with recognised practitioners, whilst the Government of the College regarded its interests as their paramount concern. Various consultations in connection with this matter took place between the College on the one hand, and the Department, and representatives of the veterinary profession on the other hand. Without dwelling unnecessarily upon all the steps taken in connection with this matter it will be sufficient to refer to the following developments. A Veterinary Defence Association was formed, and a Committee of this Association waited upon the De-

partment on the 31st May, 1900, putting before the Vice-President their views as to the College, and taking practice. A letter was received some days afterwards from the Secretary of the Defence Association stating that the contention of the professors had weighed very much with the Vice-President and that he had asked the Department to submit an alternative scheme which would provide facilities for clinical teaching without encroaching upon the rights and privileges of veterinary practitioners. In due course the scheme was sent to the Department and forwarded to the Board of Governors of the Veterinary College for consideration. Before the meeting of the Governors was called for the purpose, Professor Cunningham and I waited upon the Secretary of the Department and we discussed with him the exact position of the Government in relation to this question. The sum named as representing what we expected to derive from practice was put down at £400 a year. A proposal was made to limit the responsibility of the Department to £300 a year, but both Professor Cunningham and myself stated distinctly that no sum less than £400 a year would be sufficient, and it was upon an understanding that this sum would be provided that we undertook to recommend the Government to accept the alternative scheme which had obtained the approval and support of the Department. It is sufficient to say that the scheme of a free clinic formulated by the veterinary profession was adopted, and, at a meeting of the Governors of the College, held on the 2nd February, 1903, the following motion was unanimously carried: "The question of private practice by the College having been raised it was resolved that in view of the expressed desire of the veterinary profession, and in recognition of the reasonable claim made by it, in its own interests, to private practice be undertaken by the College." This resolution would not, I believe, have been carried but for the assurance given by me to the Government that the College would be compensated by a grant from the Department, and in the minutes, of a meeting held on the 15th September, 1903, in the estimate given of the income and expenditure of the College for the year the following note in reference to income appears: "This sum does not take into consideration the yearly grant promised by the Department for the abandonment by the College of fees derivable from practice and subscribers."

14039. (Chairman).—Was that undertaking, or promise, or whatever you call it, understood to be given at the interview between yourself and Professor Cunningham and the Secretary?—Yes; Mr. Gill was extremely anxious that the College should be established without any serious hitch, and this hitch was a very vital one; and if the Veterinary College had persisted in its opposition, and we had insisted on our right of carrying on the College as a Veterinary Institution taking practice, I am afraid the College would not be a success. Mr. Gill recognised the vital nature of this question, and he and the Vice-President having asked the veterinary profession to submit a scheme which would not trench on their privileges, he saw it was necessary in the interests of the College that it should be established without this right to practice, and then it having been pointed out to him that it would mean a loss to us of £400 a year, he undertook, or at least, he stated that £400 a year would be given.

14040. Can you state as accurately as you can what passed at that interview?—I am not quite certain whether the sum mentioned was £200 or £300.

14041. (Mr. Micks).—By whom?—By him. I am inclined to think it was £300.

14042. As opposed to the £400?—That probably £400 was rather large for a grant.

14043. (Chairman).—We are all familiar with the way in which negotiations of this sort are conducted. What I want to know is, was this taken by you subsequently as a definite promise and undertaking?—Quite definite.

14044. There is a difference, in a way, between mere negotiations and a definite undertaking. You seem to have taken it as the latter, and as far as I can gather, whatever passed at that interview, the Department took it as being only the former?—It was so what transpired at that interview, on that promise made by the Secretary of the Department that the Board of Governors passed unanimously the resolu-

was undertaking not to practice. I will just show you what is a matter of some importance. It is the marginal note made by Professor Carroll, who was acting as Secretary to the Governors. You will observe that amongst the sources of income new subscribers' fees, and we estimated that the subscribers would be 150, and that multiplied by two guineas was £335; and then we thought we would have at least £500 from non-subscribers; so we put down the income altogether at £835 a year.

14042. The fees you would lose by this arrangement would be about £400 a year?—Yes.

14043. (Mr. Brewster).—You would not have any subscribers unless you had something to offer them?—If you will allow me, the advantages to subscribers were very considerable.

14044. I assume when the advantages were withdrawn the subscribers would not be forthcoming?—It is right to say that in the anxious negotiations which took place in reference to this exact question, one which seriously threatened the progress of the College, the Secretary of the Department showed the warmest interest in having what he and the Governors regarded as a critical situation satisfactorily arranged. And I may say that has been the attitude both of the Vice-President and of the Secretary of the Department, generally speaking, towards the College. The question of the completion of the College building had for a considerable time engaged the attention of the Governors, and it was the subject of repeated representations to the Department. In addition to the £15,000 mentioned in the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act—

14045. (Chairman).—Where does the £15,000 come from?

(Mr. Brewster).—A capital sum which shall not, save with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, exceed £15,000, shall be applied for the purpose of providing suitable buildings, fittings, and appliances for the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland.—The Department advanced an additional sum of £5,000, the greater part of which has been expended in completing and equipping the three blocks of the present buildings. It is right to say £2,000 was spent in acquiring the site for the College with the Principal's house, and £100 was spent upon temporary buildings to enable us at once to commence the work of veterinary education. So you have to take £3,000 out of the £15,000. There is, however, practically no provision as regards buildings made for the teaching of chemistry, a subject of such importance in a Veterinary College, especially in reference to the various forms of analysis which have to be made; there is no museum or library, no Board room, and no Department in connection with the study and manufacture of toxins and anti-toxins. That has been a very considerable loss to the College. During the South African war the Veterinary College of London had, I am told, an income of something like £400 a year in the manufacture of mallein in the treatment of glanders. There is a great future before Veterinary Colleges in the preparation of anti-diphtheric and tetanic toxins, and a variety of others. It has two aspects—the scientific aspect and the commercial aspect.

14046. (Chairman).—The anti-toxins you prepare these are mainly for use in hospitals?—Yes, and in veterinary institutions. Plans for the completion of the College were prepared, and, after careful consideration, adopted. These were in due course submitted to the Department by a deputation from the Governors of the College who waited upon the Vice-President and Secretary of the Department upon the 2nd September, 1904. At this interview a full statement was made as to what the Governors considered necessary to make the College a complete and thoroughly efficient institution. The view was expressed by the Vice-President that some buildings of a temporary character might be erected to lessen the expenditure indicated, whilst the Vice-President stated in reference to the proposed annual grant that he was unaware of such an undertaking being given by the Department. It was specially in reference to this statement the following letter was written to the Secretary of the Department on the day following the interview:—

"September 5th, 1904.
"DEAR MR. GILL.—I think it is my duty in the interests of the Veterinary College to formally protest against the ignoring of the understanding between the Department and the Governors of the College with reference to the compensation which the College was entitled to for giving up an important source of income, namely, fees derivable from practice and subscribers.

"As you are aware, the Memorandum from the veterinary profession dealing with the establishment of a free dispensary was sent from the Department for the consideration of the Board of Governors of the College. In the interview which Professor Cunningham and I had with you, we discussed very fully the various points detailed in the Memorandum, and especially the rights of the College to undertake private practice, from which a yearly income of £400 was anticipated. As it was clearly understood by Professor Cunningham and myself that the Department would be responsible for that amount, I made a statement to this effect to my Board, and in the absence for the working of the College, considered at the meeting held on the 9th September, 1903, after details being given of the income and expenditure of the College, the following appears in the minutes:—'This sum does not take into consideration the yearly grant promised by the Department for the abandonment by the College of fees derivable from practice and subscribers.' It was upon this understanding that the following resolution, proposed by me and seconded by Professor Cunningham, was passed, *nam*—'The question of private practice by the College having been raised, it was resolved, that in view of the expressed desire of the veterinary profession, and of the reasonable claims made by it in its own interests, no private practice be undertaken by the College.' Having regard to what took place in reference to this matter, I think I am justified in expressing my surprise at the statement made by the Vice-President at our interview on Friday last, that he never heard of the arrangement made between the Department and the College.

"That no College like the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland could, under existing conditions of professional education, be completely self-supporting is, I need hardly say, well known by you, thoroughly acquainted as you are with what has been done by the State for veterinary schools in the Continent. There is now no Veterinary College in the United Kingdom which is capable of doing its work with efficiency without external aid, and it is not unreasonable to expect that a College in which twenty-two out of forty Governors are practically nominated by the Government of the country, should obtain sufficient financial support to provide it with what is absolutely essential for its success, buildings, equipment, and endowment. In conclusion may I be permitted to quote some remarks made by the Vice-President of the Department at the opening of the College buildings on the 1st October, 1903. After alluding to the grant by the Department of £20,000 towards buildings and equipment expenses, Sir Hercules Plunkett said, 'With regard to the further benefits that might be expected from the Department he was not in a position to commit anybody. He could not apply any further sums to the purpose without getting the consent of the Agricultural Board, whose consent he had to get to the payment of the extra £5,000. But whatever the Department could make a sound case the Board always unlocked the Treasury and gave them all the money that was required to perform any public service demonstrated to be useful. And if this College could show that the great National interest in which the Department and the College were jointly concerned demanded a further expenditure, he was perfectly certain that the Agricultural Board would not stand in the way.'

"It was in accordance with the spirit of these remarks that the deputation from the Governors approached the Department on Friday last.

"Believe me, Dear Mr. Gill,

"Yours faithfully,

(Signed), C. J. NIXON.

"T. P. GILL, Esq., Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Technical Education in Ireland."

Oct. 26, 1906.
 Sir Christopher
 Wilson, Bart.

To that letter an official acknowledgment was received. The immediate result of the interview was a reasonable request that the plans submitted, which were adopted by the Board of Governors constituted by the original Charter, should be carefully considered by the enlarged Board nominated under the amended Charter, and that their views should be submitted to the Department. A meeting of the new Board was accordingly held on the 27th March, 1906, and it was unanimously resolved that the Department should be asked to provide funds to complete the College upon the plans already submitted. In reference to this the following letter was written to the Department on the 11th October, 1906:—

"ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE OF IRELAND,
 "11th October, 1906.

"SIR,—At the interview between the Governors of the Veterinary College and the Department on the 2nd September, 1904, you suggested that a full meeting of the Governors of the College, including those appointed under the provisions of the new Charter, should take into consideration the plans submitted for the completion of the College buildings, and that their views should be laid before the Department for its consideration. The meeting of the Governors was duly held, the plans for the completion of the College buildings and the cost of suitable equipment were carefully gone into, and a resolution was unanimously carried recommending the adoption of the plans, etc., and asking the Department for a grant sufficient to carry out the proposed works. In formally bringing this matter before the Department it may be well to state briefly the claims which a College of Veterinary Medicine has for aid from the State.

A Veterinary College may be said to exercise three functions, an institution for the training of Veterinary Practitioners; a centre for the purposes of scientific research not merely in veterinary but also in human medicine; an important centre for reference and treatment of various conditions intimately associated with the well-being of the agricultural interests of the country. Of the College as an educational institution it may be pointed out that its progress has been steadily progressive. Since its establishment in 1900, the number of its students has increased year after year, and during the past session the number on the College roll was 128. A still further increase is to be recorded for the present session, the number of students on the roll being 153. There has been a satisfactorily good average of success at the various examinations held by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, as an instance of which the return of the examinations held last session may be given:—

CANDIDATES.

1st Prof.	53	31 Passed.
2nd "	27	13 "
3rd "	19	16 "
4th "	10	9 " Registered M.R.C.V.S.

"It should be borne in mind that the Irish College has to compete with two old-established Colleges in England and Scotland, both complete in buildings and equipment, and endowed, and with the Veterinary College recently established in Liverpool in connection with, and forming an integral part of, the University of Liverpool.

"19047. In what respect had it to compete with this College?—Before the Irish College was established all Irish students went either to Edinburgh, Glasgow, or London, for degrees. We are keeping those at home, and, of course, there is competition to retain them. (Continues to quote from the letter.) "It is scarcely necessary to point out how essential it is, in the face of what may be regarded as healthy competition, that the Irish College should be fully provided with the buildings and equipment necessary to carry on its work. The conditions under which teaching in Chemistry is carried on are not alone completely inadequate, but they exercise an influence distinctly harmful when contrasted with the excellent provisions made for the teaching of the other branches of the Veterinary Curriculum. The want, too, of a suitable museum and library is a serious deficiency. Everything that tends towards the perfection of scientific training in the laboratories and lecture halls is of the utmost importance in laying the foundation for prac-

tical work which otherwise tends to become merely routine and empirical in its nature. The necessity for a thoroughly sound training for Veterinary Students has been fully recognised by the great Continental schools, and in Germany, France, Belgium, Russia, Italy, Austria, and Hungary, adequate provision is made by the State for the carrying out of this object. In Switzerland a Veterinary Faculty has been established in connection with the University of Berne, and a similar provision has been made in the University of Sweden. In Germany a Veterinary High School has been provided for each State, and those in Berlin, Hanover, Dresden, Munich, and Stuttgart have obtained a world-wide reputation. In Hanover the new school has been quite recently completed at a cost to the State of £120,000. Such importance was attached to having the school located there that the citizens of Hanover undertook to provide half the expense incurred rather than have the College established elsewhere or abolished. In Belgium, one of the most flourishing of the lesser Continental States, an entirely new Veterinary College, erected at considerable cost in one of the suburbs of Brussels, has replaced what was an efficient College but one not considered up to the level of modern requirements. The Government of Denmark, a country which may be regarded as being like Ireland, pastoral in its nature, has established a Veterinary School which is associated with the Agricultural College, and recently it has spent more than 1,000,000 kroner in the erection of a Veterinary Museum and Anatomical Department.

"19048. (Mr. Mickel).—What is a kromer?—One shilling and three-halfpence. (Continues to quote from the letter.) "In France, where there exist three old-established Veterinary Schools, the State provided for the late Professor Noeud, at a cost of over £20,000, laboratories for the sole purpose of conducting investigations into the nature and causation of foot and mouth disease. In Italy there are six Veterinary Colleges, some of which are connected with the Universities, which regard Veterinary Science as being a branch of University training. Even in the less progressive of European nations great importance is attached to the progress of Veterinary Medicine. Spain and Turkey have Veterinary Colleges fully equipped in every detail, that in Madrid being equal up to the level of modern requirements. Russia has not long since become alive to the importance of Veterinary Science as a branch of knowledge inseparable from her agricultural department. Her live stock has been devastated with disease, the loss from rinderpest and glanders being an enormous drain upon the country, but owing to the establishment of an efficient Veterinary Department these diseases have been brought under control. Rinderpest may be said to have been eradicated from European Russia, and so efficiently has glanders been dealt with, that the disease was rarely met with amongst the thousands of horses which were imported into South Africa during the recent war. Further the utility of veterinary research in Russia is shown by the discovery of Mallein, one of the most important of modern adjuncts in dealing with this grave disease. Taking the most progressive of Asiatic nations we have an instance afforded by Japan of the importance attached to veterinary observation and research. Soon after her emancipation she founded a Veterinary School which has for its Professors men obtained from the leading Veterinary Schools of Europe, and at the present time this school forms an integral part of the University of Tokio.

"If it were necessary to multiply instances of what the State has done for Veterinary Medicine mention might be made of the Veterinary Colleges established in North and South America, and in various British Colonies throughout the world. One is specially worthy of notice. The College established in Lahore provides not merely for the education of Veterinary Surgeons, but of native Veterinary Assistants, and it would not be difficult to show that this College, one of the finest in the world, has over and over again repaid the money spent upon its building and staff by the saving which it has effected in the prevention and treatment of disease amongst the live stock of the country.

"If it be recognised by Continental States that in connection with the agricultural interest of a country it is of paramount importance that every facility and encouragement should be given to the study of Veterinary Medicine, especially by its adaptation to the

needs of the agricultural community, it is scarcely necessary to urge that in Ireland, where the main source of income is derived from its live stock, ample provision should be made not alone for the training of Veterinary Practitioners, but also for the understanding of such research work as will lead not merely to better methods of treatment of diseases amongst animals, but what is of more importance, the prevention of such diseases. These objects can only be obtained by providing a College which shall be complete in every detail, both as regards buildings and equipment.

Serious deficiencies still exist in connection with our College. That for the teaching of Chemistry and for the prosecution of research work in this department have been already referred to. The existing arrangements, although no doubt of a temporary character, are not merely insufficient, but discreditable. There is no provision for a museum of Hierarchy, no facilities are afforded for the investigation of the action of toxins and anti-toxins, a method of investigation intimately bound up with the progress of Veterinary Medicine, and in itself a source of considerable income, and the College is still overprovided with a boardroom and suitable provision for the accommodation of the Principal. Up to the present the College may be said to have been self-supporting, although there was a distinct understanding that a sum equivalent to what might be derived from pension, a sum estimated at from £400 to £500 a year, would be granted by the Department as compensation for the surrender of this right. Excluding a sum of £1,000 granted to the College by the Royal Dublin Society, the entire amount provided for building and equipment is about £19,000, £4,000 more than the sum mentioned in the Act creating the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. It is not necessary to urge upon the Department that no modern school of Veterinary Medicine can be established upon such a totally inadequate grant—

14048. (Chairman).—Does the £19,000 mean the total estimated expenditure?—No, sir; we received in addition a thousand pounds which we got from the Royal Dublin Society.

14049. (Mr. Brown).—I thought you said the total provided was £20,000?—That we have spent £28,000, and have still to your credit something under £1,000.

14050. (Chairman).—What is the estimated amount you require for completion?

14051. (Mr. Micks).—I have made this out in a short form. The total estimate at first was £22,290 for the buildings and equipment, and £3,000 for the site makes £25,290. Then £15,000 from the Department reduced this to £10,290. £5,000 a further grant reduced it to £5,290; and you have got additional estimated buildings that will come to about £5,000—About £5,000.

14052. So you will require a little over £10,000 to complete your premises?—Yes.

14053. (Chairman).—What claim do you make on the Department. Would this £10,000 a year that you say was promised go to the equipment of the buildings or the maintenance?—Go to the College funds in payment of their expenses—College income.

14054. What claim do you make in respect of the £20,000?—The claim we make is this, that if the Department thought the institution was sufficiently meritorious to give us £20,000 the same principle ought to move them to give us a sufficient sum to complete our buildings.

14055. You want the whole £20,000 from them?—Certainly.

14056. And an income of £400 a year?—Certainly. (Chairman to guests from letter). "Either the College enters upon its career as a merely provisional institution with the sole function of teaching a limited number of students the principles and practice of veterinary medicine in an incomplete or halting fashion, and this in the face of keen opposition, or it is to be an institution from which the country at large is to gain solid and material advantage and which is to develop into a centre of research work which will hold its own with the most progressive of modern veterinary schools. After the long persisting and strenuous efforts made to establish a Veterinary College for Ireland it would be in the last degree lamentable if sufficient financial aid were not forthcoming to enable us to make the College a credit and source of gain to the country. The Government, however, confidently

look to the Department to help them to make it such as it should be, a centre for the highest class of work in veterinary education and research. It has, during the short period of its existence, given an indication of what it is potentially capable of doing. It would be a matter of poignant regret to the Government if their efforts to carry out the work which has been entrusted to them were paralysed by that support being withheld without which the College cannot make material progress.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. J. NIXON, President.

The Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Education for Ireland.

No reply, except a formal acknowledgment, was received in reference to this communication until the 24th November, 1905, when the following letter was received from the Department:—

"DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION FOR IRELAND.

Upper Merrion-street, Dublin,

24th November, 1905.

No. 26587/05.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 11th ultimo, on the subject of increased provision for buildings and other purposes of the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland, I have to acquaint you that the Department will be glad to receive from the Board of Governors of the College particulars as to the precise proposals of the Governors in regard to each of the requirements now put forward, in the light of the experience that has been gained since the opening of the College, together with an estimate of the cost of each requirement.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. P. GILL, Secretary.

Sir Christopher Nixon, M.A., President of the Board of Governors of the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland, Pembroke and Shelburne-road, Dublin.

This letter was duly considered at a meeting of the Governors held on Dec. 15th, 1905, and again a resolution was passed unanimously to the effect that the plans already submitted for the completion of the College buildings are those most advisable, and that the Government earnestly urge upon the Department the importance of carrying out these plans without further delay. Not hearing from the Department in reply to the letter enclosing copy of this resolution the Principal of the College wrote at my request to the Secretary of the Department, asking for an interview in the hope that some *modus vivendi* might be reached. To this application the following letter was received:—

"DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION,

Dublin, 6th January, 1906.

Dear Sir,

With reference to Professor Motion's letter of the 28th ultimo on the subject of the representation of the Board of Governors of the Royal Veterinary College respecting the College buildings, Mr. Gill desires me to say that he will be glad to see you and Professor Motion on Wednesday next, the 10th instant, at 12 o'clock, on this subject. Mr. Gill hopes that this will meet your convenience.

Mr. Gill would like to know, before the interview (1) whether the Government have made any efforts, and, if so, with what results, to obtain the aid from other sources than the Department's funds that it was suggested to them they should make when last they visited the Department; and (2) which of the works proposed by the Governors they regard as of the greatest urgency.

G I

Oct. 22, 1905.

Sir Christopher Nixon, Bart.

Oct 24, 1905.

St. Christopher
Nixon, Esq.

Mr. Gill would also be glad to receive the plans and estimates in connection with the proposals of the Governors, before Wednesday next.

Mr. Gill has also written asking Professor Mettison to come at the time I have mentioned.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT H. LEE.

Sir Christopher Nixon, M.D., etc., etc."

The interview took place on the day appointed, the Governors being represented by the Principal and myself, the Department by the Secretary, Professor Campbell and Mr. Cantrell; the situation was fully discussed, and some modification of the plans submitted were considered. It was not deemed prudent to press for the carrying out of the plans submitted in their entirety, but the tone of the interview was of a more or less encouraging nature. It was, therefore, with considerable surprise that after all the conferences which had taken place between the Department and the College, and the expense incurred in procuring plans, with various modifications of these plans, the following letter was received from the Department:—

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION FOR IRELAND,

Upper Merion-street, Dublin.

26th April, 1905.

No. 9355/06.
SIR,

I have to inform you that the application of the Governors of the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland for a grant to enable them to complete the buildings of the College and to provide the necessary equipment has been duly considered by the Department. In view of the fact that the College has already benefited largely from the Department's endowment, and this fund is now barely sufficient to meet the demands upon it, the Department and the Agricultural Board are of opinion that the College authorities should endeavour to obtain a part of its requirements from other sources, of which the Ireland Development Grant was suggested as one.

I have to add that if it can be shown that many students trained at the College will take service under the Army Veterinary Department this fact might be made the basis of a claim for contribution in aid of the funds of the College from the War Office.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. F. GILL, Secretary.

The Principal, Royal Veterinary College, Dublin."

I do not think it necessary to add further to the history of the relations between the College and the Department. I shall merely observe, in connection with the suggestion of obtaining a part of our requirements from other sources besides that of the Department, that it would appear from Sec. 5 and Sub-Sec. (3), Sec. 6 of Part I. of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, and Sub-Sec. (5), Sec. 15, Part II., that ample power exists under the Act for applying money in aid of a Veterinary College, if the existence of this power were not shown by increasing the sum mentioned in the Act for providing buildings, etc., for the College from fifteen to twenty thousand pounds. It is hardly probable that, under such circumstances, any other public body would distribute the funds as its disposal for the benefit of an institution provision for the maintenance of which has been made by Act of Parliament. An aspect of serious importance must not be lost sight of in considering the financial position of the College. Quite different from what obtains in a school of human medicine all fees derived from students are paid to the Treasurer for the purposes of the College. Out of these fees all expenses are defrayed, including the salaries of the Professors. These salaries, although individually small, having regard to the high professional position of our teachers, and

to the high character of their work, in the aggregate amount to £11,750, distributed as follows:—

Principal (Prof. of Pathology),	500
Professor of Medicine,	325
Professor of Surgery,	325
Professor of Anatomy,	325
Professor of Materia Medica,	150
Professor of Physiology,	100
Professor of Chemistry,	100 + 40 Cap. Gen.
Two Lectures on Biology,	75 + 40 "
College Tutor,	120 "

Capitation allowances, 90

Total, £11,750

I should point out specially that the Principal, the Professors of Medicine, Surgery, and Anatomy are obliged to give their whole services to the College, and are not allowed to practise. The Professor of Physiology does not practise, but he holds a position in the Catholic School of Medicine, and is an Examiner in the Royal University.

14057. (Mr. Gillies).—The Professor of Materia Medica—He does practice.

14058. (Mr. Michie).—Pathology includes Bacteriology?—Yes; Professor Mettison understands that in addition to this a sum of 2400 is spent on rent and taxes, cost of clinics, servant's wages, &c., bringing up the total yearly expenditure of the College to £2,150, a sum which does not include the cost of upkeep. This amount cannot vary, but it is quite possible, nay, probable, that the income derivable from students fees may not be of this unvarying nature, and the Governors may be brought face to face with a condition whereby the present balance of receipts and income may not be maintained, a state of things which cannot but be regarded as serious in the absence of any form of endowment, and the non-existence of a reserve fund. It is, no doubt, encouraging to find that when the College was established in 1890 the number of Freshmen on the College Books has steadily increased, rising from twenty in the Session of 1900-1901 to fifty in the Session of 1904-1905, the total number of students attending being in this Session, 153.

14059. Before you leave the question of salaries, I think you mentioned that the salaries are too small?—We have applications for the Professors of Medicine, Surgery, and Anatomy for an increase of £75 each. I think the Professor of Materia Medica also expects an increase of salary. I think the salaries are too small, especially for the class of men who undertake the duties.

14060. You had to fix the salaries according to your means?—Yes.

14061. And is your application for additional income largely that you may be able to increase the Professors' salaries?—Yes, altogether. Of course, we would like to have a small reserve fund that we could draw on. We think if we have our College completed we will have a much larger number of students, and will be able to maintain a larger department, which will be a source of revenue. I am reminded by Mr. Hickey that, of course, we have to meet the upkeep of the College and maintain it in a condition of repair. At the present time the whole College wants to be painted, and that will involve a large expenditure.

14062. (Mr. Gillies).—The appearance of the variable element, the payment of fees by students, so that it is going up steadily?—The number of freshmen this year has fallen from fifty to thirty-one. But the reason of that is that a change has been made in the requirements with regard to preliminary education, and that has shut out a great number of men. I am informed now that the freshmen have fallen to twelve in the London College, whereas we have thirty-one. I was not aware of that.

14063. (Mr. Michie).—They would have a claim for compensation against you?—Yes. The London College has quite recently got a grant of £5000 from the Treasury.

14064. (Chairman).—I don't like to trouble you with legal questions; but I do not wish to let you go away without indicating what is passing through my mind. My doubt is whether there is any power whatever, under this Act, to give anything to the Veterinary College except under Section 15, Sub-section 1 (a) "The money placed at the disposal of the Department by this part of the Act shall be applied for the purposes

and in the proportions following: a capital sum which shall not, save with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, exceed £15,000 shall be applied for the purpose of providing suitable buildings, fittings, and appliances for the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland." That is the sole money in the Act for the Royal Veterinary College. The only money out of the endowment fund which is to be applied, as I read the Act, is this capital sum of £15,000, subject to the concurrence of the Board of Agriculture. I see no other provision in the Act, speaking on the spur of the moment—Kindly look at Section 5, "The Department may make, or cause to be made, or aid in making, such inquiries, experiments, and research, and collect, or aid in collecting, such information as they may think important for the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries."

14064. I don't think that covers your £400 a year!—A very large part of the work of the Veterinary College is in connection with agricultural interests and developments in the country.

14065. (Mr. Meade.) Section 16, Sub-section 1 (a) says: "The surplus remaining of the aforesaid money shall be applied, subject as regards any particular application to the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, for the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries and sea fisheries." Then, Section 20 defines agriculture. It says: "The purposes of agriculture and other rural industries include the sowing, improving, and developing of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairying, the breeding of horses, cattle, and other live stock and poultry, home and cottage industries, the cultivation and preparation of fur, inland fisheries, and any industries immediately connected with and subservient to any of the said matters, and any instruction relating thereto."—Well, it is a matter for a lawyer. A very brief reference may be made to the research work carried on in the College since its foundation, most of it done at the request of the Department by the Principal, assisted by his colleagues. The investigations comprised practical researches in connection with glanders, epizootic lymphangitis, scours in lambs and calves of a bacillary origin, calf scurvy (a special investigation undertaken in connection with the late Professor Nozard), foot diptheria, calf diptheria, Westcott calf disease, contagious abortion in cows, disease among sheep in the Dublin mountains, haemoglobinuria in cattle, tuberculosis, and other diseases in fowl. In addition to this work some hundreds of specimens of various morbid conditions have been examined and reports furnished to the Department or to the veterinary practitioners throughout the country. I may observe that so intimate has been the existing relations between the Department and the College that no communication of an official or other nature was made either to myself, as President of the College, or to the Board of Governors as to the employment of our Principal for such work; however informal such a course may have been, the Governors of the College were perfectly satisfied that the College should prove of service to the Department and to the country at large. The foregoing statement puts before the Committee the relations which exist, or did exist, between the Department and the Veterinary College as well as the present financial position of the College. The state of things is one which the Government have no desire to over-state or under-estimate. The onerous position of being responsible to the country and to the State for the management of a great National institution is not one that can be lightly undertaken by the Government. It has been repeatedly urged upon the Department, that it is impossible that the College can fulfil its functions in relation to veterinary teaching, to research work, and in connection with agricultural needs of the country, if it is not made complete as to its building and equipment, and if it does not receive a substantial endowment from the State. It is not possible in this age to maintain a school of either human or veterinary medicine without endowment, whether this is derived from public or from private benefactors. In a small way within the past six months this principle has been recognised by a Treasury grant of £200 a year being given to the Royal Veterinary College, London. The sum is, no doubt, a small one, but it may be observed that a comparatively large sum is derived from fees obtained from subscribers and non-subscribers. The principal Veterinary College in Scotland has been largely endowed by

the late Professor Dick. It can hardly be expected that the Irish College will hold its own if, as far as extra aid is concerned, it occupies a position of isolation, and that its sole source of income should be desirable from students' fees, especially having regard to the fact that the country which it serves is almost purely agricultural in its nature. I shall only add that the management of the College has been conducted upon the most economic principles. Up to the present the Governors have not had any paid official to take charge of the clerical work of the College, such being undertaken by the Principal without salary. The responsible duties of treasurer, with the considerable amount of labour and expenditure of time involved in investigating the accounts of the College, preparing them for audit, &c., has been most kindly undertaken by one of the Governors, Professor Carroll, without fees of any kind, and I can truly say, since the foundation of the College no expenditure has been incurred except what was essential for the carrying on of its work. I believe I express the views of those with whom I have the honour to be associated in the Government of the College when I say that but one spirit has actuated us to make it not merely a durable institution, but one which will hold a high place amongst the scientific bodies in Ireland. But, if one may be permitted to use a homely expression, we cannot make bricks without straw. If a Veterinary College has a utilitarian object it must receive support in proportion to the benefits which it confers, and it would be to the last extent unreasonable if the Board of Governors were left to provide a highly expensive form of technical education, with results pregnant with good to the country at large, without adequate endowment. It is manifestly the duty of the Government to make their position quite clear, and to show that however desirable they may have been of carrying to a successful issue the establishment of a Veterinary College for Ireland, they most respectfully submit that it lies largely in the hands of the Department to determine whether our work in the future is to be fruitful or barren of results.

14066. (Mr. O'Connell).—I should like to be quite clear. I may be stupid in the matter. But is it correct that you have received in all from the Department £20,000?—We have.

14067. And £1,000 from the Royal Dublin Society?—Yes.

14068. And you have spent on buildings about £15,000?—It is hardly correct to say that we have spent on buildings as much as that, because we had to provide a site and temporary buildings, part of which have been renewed. But the expenditure so far has been £20,000, £18,000 spent from the Department, and £1,000 from the Royal Dublin Society.

14069. So that there is roughly a thousand pounds in hand?—Yes.

14070. But the further extension of buildings and equipment required would run to something like £25,000 or £31,000?—I think about £30,000. Of course, it would not carry out what was the original plan of the Government. The original plan of the Government was this (explains on map). The original plan would have given a College complete in every respect which would have been a credit to the country. But acting on the suggestion of the Department we thought that was a little too expensive. What is now proposed is to leave the Principal in his wretched old house for the present until better times come; and in place of completing the buildings in front we propose to complete a quadrangle by having the buildings behind the Principal's grounds. That will give us a lecture room, museum, and boardroom, and it will cost, roughly, with equipment, about £10,000. We shall be satisfied when we get that and £400 a year, and wait for a further increase of our yearly grant.

14071. With reference to the annual expenditure, you estimate that with £400 a year and in possession of the buildings such as you would be in possession of when you completed this contemplated extension, you would be able to retain the confidence of the students of Ireland at any rate and keep up a considerable College?—Certainly.

14072. That is to say, you would have an income from these which, added to £400 a year, would put you in a position to maintain a National Veterinary College creditable to Ireland?—Yes.

Oct. 20, 1906.

Sir Christopher Stans, Bart.

Oct. 28, 1906.

Dr. Christopher
Nash, Bart.

14073. You mentioned just now a possible extension or addition to the £400. How would that arise. You indicate that the £400 would not be final?—It is just a question of how much the State would allot for the prosecution of research work. It would be merely in connection with research work; but I think that £400 a year, with the students' fees and the sums that we will probably receive in connection with the technical department, that would give us a certain amount to carry on the work of veterinary education in the country, though I don't think it would give very high salaries to our professors.

14074. But it would give adequate salaries and enable you to give them £400 a year each at any rate?—I am not quite sure it would enable us to do that. We have a considerable number of professors.

14075. To the whole-time Professors?—Yes, I think it might. The Principal should have a much larger salary, for he is responsible for the whole management of the College. He takes the place of the Dean. I never came across a body of men who worked so zealously for the interests of a College. I have gone to the College at all hours. I have gone on Sundays and have seen them working in the Laboratory. I don't know whether the Committee would approve of that.

14076. At any rate it is like this, that with £400 a year you could maintain a creditable Veterinary College, doing all the work that should be looked for from it in the matter of teaching, and having that accompanied by so much of research work as is a necessary and proper accompaniment of the teaching activities of the institution. But if there was any further research work which it was desirable to develop upon a Veterinary College, that, of course, would have to be a matter of future arrangement and of further subsidy?—Certainly. But it should be clearly understood that in providing £400 a year the College must be completed.

14077. With the completed College you could then treat to maintain a College that would continue to attract Irish students desiring veterinary instruction?—Certainly, and I think attract some students from over the water as well.

14078. (Mr. Miles).—I don't understand you to say that you would wait for the completion of the building before you were willing to receive your £400?—We are willing to receive that at the earliest possible moment, and we would like to make it retrospective, too.

14079. (Mr. O'Connell).—I could not quite gather from what you said or from the prospectus what is the existing arrangement for securing adequate clinical work. If you are not charging fees or anything equivalent to fees to the outside public, how do you contrive to secure clinics?—Run your eye over that. (Producing minutes.) That is the scheme for carrying on our clinical work by which an arrangement was made that any veterinary practitioner could send in an animal to the College which forms the subject then of investigation and demonstration by the Professors. That is done very liberally.

14080. (Mr. Miles).—And you get carcasses for dissection and all that?—Yes; and a very valuable source of teaching is provided by the Corporation, who permit our Principal to attend at the Abattoir every Friday; and he examines different conditions of disease in the animals that are slaughtered there.

(Mr. Miles).—That is not under the Public Health Act. That is for scientific purposes.

(Professor Mettison).—Just for scientific purposes with a small anatomy class; and they put at my disposal all the diseased organs. It is a privilege the Markets' Committee have given me.

14081. (Mr. Miles to the Witness).—Professor Cunningham is now resident in England, I think?—Yes.

14082. As regards that £400 a year and the interview you and Professor Cunningham had with Mr. Gill, have you had an opportunity of consulting Professor Cunningham in any way as to his recollection?—It is identical with mine.

14083. Have you any document at all?—Except some letters from Professor Cunningham in which he gave me his impression as to what took place at that interview.

14084. Could you have a statement in writing sent in by Professor Cunningham giving his impression of that interview?—Yes; if you think it necessary. But I have never heard any contradiction of it from the Secretary of the Department.

14085. Mr. Gill does not contradict it?—He does not as far as I am aware. But I should like to emphasize what I say about the Department, that they have shown the kindest possible interest about establishing the College.

14086. (Mr. Evans).—Of course, you are aware that neither the Secretary nor the Vice-President could bind the Board of Agriculture, who are the body who give the money?—I should say they would have to consult the Agricultural Board.

14087. And have their absolute consent?—Yes.

14088. You are aware that the Vice-President in the last of October made a public statement?—Yes; I referred to it.

14089. He says:—"With regard to the further benefits that might be expected, he was not in a position to commit anybody. He could not apply any further sums to the purpose without getting the consent of the Agricultural Board." The resolution of the Governors when they agreed to abandon the fee was on the 2nd of February, 1903, about four months later. They must have been aware of that public statement of the Vice-President at the time they passed the resolution?—I was aware of everything that appears in my statement which has been presented to you.

14090. The resolution itself contains no reference to the promise?—We have always been led to regard any recommendation by the Vice-President and Secretary to the Department as absolute in conveying consent to what we have asked, so great has been their sympathy in connection with the work of the College.

14091. But so far as the Vice-President is concerned, the only statement you refer us to is of his in that statement of the 1st of October, 1903?—That is the statement which is referred to here.

14092. (Mr. Atkin).—Would you mind turning back to page eleven of your Memorandum, the letter of April 26th, 1906, from the Department. Did you make any application to the administrators of the Development of Ireland Grant or to the War Office under that letter?—No; I heard that the Ireland Development Grant had obligations to make payments which were simply out of correspondence with its resources, so that it would be perfectly useless to make any application. And, then, I thought, that recommendation really to the War Office rather a mythical one. But what we did was, we sent the letter to the Royal Dublin Society asking them for a continuance of the grant of £200 a year. But the Royal Dublin Society, I don't think, have sufficient funds at their disposal to enable them to accede to that request.

14093. About March or April of this year, or at any time this year, did you receive any notification of any further grant from the Department to you either annually or in a lump sum?—No, sir; I didn't receive any instruction whatever except in the most casual way from a prominent official of the Department. I don't think it is right to mention his name, because what he said was more or less in private conversation. He said, "You are going to get something good. It won't be all that you expect." And, then, a few days after that we got this letter suggesting to us to make an appeal to the Irish Development Grant or the War Office.

14094. You got no formal letter from the Department informing you that any further payment would be made either of a lump sum or annually?—None whatever, no communication of any kind. Would it be regular to ask if there was any proposition of that nature?

(Mr. Miles).—That would be a question to address to the Department.

14095. (Mr. O'Connell).—The point really is that in this letter of the 26th of April, 1906, you got an intimation in the name of the Department and the Agricultural Board, bringing in the two; and I don't gather that you have replied to that letter. You have stopped the correspondence?—Well, I think that matter will be corrected at once. Perhaps you will allow me to say, sir, how deeply indebted I am to you for the kindness and courtesy with which you have received my evidence.

Mr. MAYNOR J. BYRNE examined.

14096. (Chairman).—You reside at 5 Hardwick-street, Dublin?—Yes, sir.

14097. And you say that in your youth you graduated at the Athy and Royal Albert Institute, Glasnevin?—Yes, sir.

14098. In that way you were trained in horticulture?—Yes, sir.

14099. I don't think we need go into the history of your previous travels, and where you have been, but, however, you have had a good deal of experience in horticulture?—Yes, sir, both at home and abroad—in California, Australia, and Canada.

14100. (Mr. MOORE).—And when you were there you were employed as horticulturalist?—Yes.

14101. (Chairman).—We know the way in which horticultural instructors are appointed. Were you appointed by the County Waterford Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—I was elected in the first instance, and was afterwards passed on to the Department; but since that the system is changed, and the first making of the appointment is by the Department itself. I was elected by the County Council in Waterford in the first instance, and then my name was sent forward to the Department. I passed my examination and gave satisfaction, but now that thing is changed.

14102. Did you act as horticultural instructor?—Yes, sir, for six months.

14103. What have you got to say about your experience?—I have had a very varied experience, both at home and abroad, but I learned more in one year in California than I did anywhere else.

14104. You say you acted as horticultural instructor for six months. What was your experience during the time you were acting as horticultural instructor?—I gave full satisfaction, as the testimonials here show, and the County Council were very anxious to part with me.

14105. Then, you were parted with?—I was. I was called up for a second examination by the Department. Mr. O'Shea asked the Chief Secretary whether he was aware that Mr. M. J. Byrne was originally employed as temporary horticultural instructor for the County of Waterford, and the Department refused to sanction his further appointment, although the Curator of the Glasnevin Gardens reported to the Department that he was perfectly satisfied with Mr. Byrne's practical knowledge, and whether he would explain why Mr. Byrne was subsequently tested again.

14106. (Chairman).—Are you coming here to say you were unfairly turned out of office because you did not pass an examination?—Yes, Mr. Chairman. Here is the reason given in Parliament by Mr. Boyce:—"He was examined a second time because the Department pointed the Waterford Committee to make a second test"—which was not true.

14107. We cannot go into the question of your grievances. We really cannot consider whether you ought to have passed the examination?—"There is no doubt as to his experience," the Chief Secretary said, "the Waterford Committee gave him the testimonial, but it is not recorded that it contained any reference to his fitness." I got a second testimonial. "He was not rejected because of his ignorance of the scientific aspects of these weeds. His experience of horticulture was gained forty years before he went abroad." I was not forty years abroad. I was only five years in California. I returned and was six years in Ireland, and I went out again to California and Canada and was there for seven years. Then, I returned and was in Ireland again, so the whole reply is completely in error.

14108. They gave you credit for long experience abroad. I don't see what that has got to do with our inquiry?—It is a Parliamentary question. You and Mr. Ogilvie have asked has any teacher been disqualified who was competent. I want to show that I was competent.

14109. That has been tested in the proper way?—This case is coming up in several counties in Ireland, and it is a very unfair thing that an employee is thrown overboard without any cause. In Canada there are two educational boards, and the local board cannot reject. The teacher can apply to the upper board, and the schools there are all under trustees,

and work much more harmoniously than they work here in the hands of one man. I myself was elected by the County Waterford Council at Dungarvan. The resolution appointing me was forwarded to the Department.

14110. We have heard about that?—Outside the directions in the Department's scheme no curriculum was laid down. I never got any instructions from the Department, except not to influence on National school children during school hours, and that was very inconsistent. I got a letter from the Department saying I was not to attend or give instruction during school hours in schools, but I have a letter here showing that they appointed those lectures in the schools. Here is a letter from a National School teacher.

14111. I don't think we have anything to do with that?—It shows horticulture is appreciated, and how injurious it is to the country that it is being cut off.

14112. It does not really concern our inquiry?—It is a public matter. It shows the want of instruction in horticulture and agriculture, and you have had it in your evidence here again and again that the rural children are being educated apart from agricultural and horticultural education.

14113. Listen to me please. We are not enquiring into the education given under the National School Commissioners?—Mr. Chairman, you and Mr. Ogilvie asked the question whether any teacher?—

14114. You are not to argue with me, please?—Excuse me. I did not mean to.

14115. What I want to know is whether you have anything to say which is relevant to our inquiry?—Some of the school teachers were most favourable to receiving the instruction.

14116. Now, I have already told you that we have nothing to do with education in the National schools? Well, if you have nothing to do with education I don't know what to say. The Secretary of the Committee furnished me with the names?—

14117. (Mr. MOORE).—I just want to understand clearly what your grievance is?—I wanted to show the case, one?—

14118. Wait and answer a couple of questions. You say you held positions under the United States Government as an industrial teacher. Was that in connection with horticulture and agriculture?—Yes.

14119. And forestry and tobacco-growing. How long ago was that?—About six years ago.

14120. Then, when you came back you were appointed by the County Committee of Waterford?—Yes.

14121. As horticultural instructor under the county scheme?—Yes.

14122. You acted for the remainder of the year in that capacity?—Yes.

14123. The Department sanctioned you as a temporary instructor?—Yes, pending a second examination.

14124. Then you went up for examination to Dublin?—Yes.

14125. Who examined you?—It was the Botanist. Mr. Moore was present. Mr. Houston asked me three weeds only—the botanical names, and point out their roots.

14126. Was that in a room or outside?—In the room. It was a verbal question.

14127. And did he merely ask you the names of three weeds?—Yes, and show him the roots.

14128. And, as it is stated in Parliament, it was not on the ground of want of experience that you were rejected. Are you sure that was the only question he asked?—Nothing else. Mr. Moore asked me some questions about my experience.

14129. Have you any testimonial or documentary evidence from Mr. Moore about your qualifications?—Yes. "20th March, 1905.—Dear Sir,—Your letter received, also plan and paper notes regarding orchards. With regard to your letter I may say that I was perfectly satisfied with your technical knowledge of agricultural details of gardening and horticultural matters, and I have reported favourably about you to the Department.—I am, faithfully yours, T. W. Moore."

Oct. 20, 1905.

Mr. Matthew J. Byrne.

Oct. 26, 1906.
Mr. Matthew
J. Hyne.

14130. It was announced to the Committee that you were not considered competent by the Department to hold office?—Yes, having failed at the botanical names of three weeds.

14131. But, at all events, owing to the result of the examination they said they were not satisfied, and your complaint is that having regard to Mr. Moore's opinion of you, and the fact that you had held similar positions, that the Department acted unreasonably in not sanctioning you as an instructor in Waterford?—Yes, I hold endorsements from public boards as having worked exceptionally and successfully. There was not a single one against me, even the Bishop of Waterford.

14132. Since that letter came from the Department did the Waterford Committee pass any resolution on the subject?—The County Council objected to it, and they would have held out, but it was pointed out to the County Committee that if they upheld me they would have to pay my salary out of their own pocket.

14133. The County Committee did not give you any testimonials?—I have been a resolution passed unanimously by Waterford County Council on April 10th, 1906. "We have much pleasure in testifying to the energetic and satisfactory manner in which Mr. M. J. Hyne carried out his work during the time he was County Agriculturalist."

14134. (Mr. O'Connell).—Can you tell us the years in which you attended the Albert Institute, Glasnevin?—About 1885.

14135. Had you any previous experience of gardening before that?—Yes, I was gardening from my boyhood. My home farm was 1,000 acres. I always took an interest in gardening and experimenting with potatoes. I planted one potato and had fifty-two potatoes from it.

14136. You had a farm of 1,000 acres before you went to the Institute at Glasnevin?—Yes, and for seven years on this farm under my step-father I was his right-hand man.

14137. Six years ago you were in the United States—in what capacity?—Horticulturalist, and then I was engaged in Canada with one of the largest nursery and orchard men.

14138. Who were you with in the United States?—William O'Donnell, a nurseryman. I was his foreman for three years.

14139. (Mr. Dwyer).—Where were you employed in Canada?—At Montreal. I was agent for Stone and Wellington, of Toronto, and they published a fine large book which every horticulturalist going round to farmers ought to have.

14140. A very pretty book. I have seen it?—It is a great pity we have not some of the Canadian instructors in this country. They are far better than Englishmen. They are more practical. Take the Montreal school. There they have a large paying farm and a large orchard and a large nursery, and the boys get instruction there. When I left Glasnevin I did not know anything about horticulture excepting. I got some idea of pruning.

14141. You got all your information in Canada?—

Mainly in Canada and America. They were growing tobacco on the model farm at Glasnevin, and I wrote several articles. I saw the system they were following was an incorrect one. It is proved to be a perfect failure. If they had allowed me I would have shown them what to do. They had a Cuban and a Frenchman there, and it was a perfect failure. At all these schools they have chemistry. What is the good of chemistry? When a man in America—a tailor or a shoemaker—gets a bit of ground the first thing he does is he sends up a sample of the earth to the University, and gets it analyzed, grain, and they know what it is good for.

14142. (Mr. O'Connell).—Without knowing any chemistry?—Yes, he has the soil analysed for selling in Canada. They furnish hats and hosiery and other things. It is better than our country here. In going round I brought several tools. I have 22 worth of American tools, and they were much appreciated in the County Waterford. These should be uniformly among the teachers when they go out. If one teacher leaves or gives up for one reason or another when the new teacher comes in he does not know where he is. There was a teacher before me and when I came in I did not know where he had left the instruction. As a curriculum I would suggest the advantages and financial profits of a well-kept garden and fruit crop. I asked the Department what were the profits of a fruit garden and they could not tell me at the model farm.

14143. (Mr. Meade).—I think you have made your point clear, but we have no power to go into the methods of teaching?—If you will allow me to read this letter in reference to the National school. (Read letter dated September, 18th, 1905, from Councillor National School), and also Mr. Sleekie said there was no reason, why instruction could not be given in the schools, and you have had that before you several times here, and here I was forbidden to go into any school. The educational system in England is entirely wrong, as declared by Sir John Goss after he had been in Germany and France, and in a school meeting in distributing prizes he said that the backwardness of English education, especially industrial education, was most alarming. It is the blind leading the lesser blind when Englishmen come over to teach us Irishmen. Our statistics show that we grow better crops than they do in England. In the County Wicklow they wanted a horticulturalist and the County Council met and indefinitely put off the appointment. One of those who gave evidence here said horticulture was a failure in the County Wicklow, and why would it not be? There were two applicants for the post, Messrs. Doyle and Hyne, both of whom had been formerly engaged. The Department only half sanctioned Mr. Doyle's appointment, and they intimated him from giving lessons. The other applicant, myself, had greater experience at the model farm and numerous testimonials of qualifications. I was thrown over. I had applied to Sir Horace Plunkett in 1900 and he promised to put my name on for employment, but never did it. I was as competent in 1900 as I was in 1905, and I am as competent to-day as I was in 1905, or better.

Mr. Michael McKenna examined.

Mr. Michael
McKenna.

14144. (Chairman).—You came from Drogheda?—Yes.

14145. Will you tell us what you are?—A fruit-grower and expert at Julianstown, County Meath. I had the pleasure of having an interview with Sir Horace Plunkett. He came to visit me on 14th July, 1900, himself and Professor Campbell, and asked my opinion of the best way of starting this horticultural matter in the country. It was a Sunday, and I spent the whole afternoon with him. I took him over our ground, and I suggested to him that if he wanted to start he should plant a little College in the district where the fruit is growing. He said he would consider the matter. He asked me up to town, and I was also out in Glasnevin the same day, and they made up their minds they could not start any Little College of the kind in that dis-

trict. They asked me what I thought of starting a place at Glasnevin. I said it might be very good in a certain way, but I had no faith in it. There have been a lot of young men brought up from the country to that College, and getting a short course, but there is no knowledge in that place to teach horticulture. There is no fruit-growing. It is a seaport business. It is a mock firm—an experimental business. They turn all these young men out after two years. They go through the world, and there is not a professional place in England, Scotland, America, or Ireland that would take one of them in at 5s. a week.

14146. Why do you say that?—Because they are not up to the standard of commercial knowledge.

14147. That is your idea of what would be likely to happen?—That is what is happening. There are young men all around Ireland who have abundant

information, and can give advice in fruit growing and carrying on commercial fruit business in the country. There was an examination held in 1905. There were 200 applicants, and at that examination there were 150 applicants.

14148. (Mr. O'Neill).—For what purposes?—For horticultural purposes as inspectors.

14149. Essential as to their capacity to give instruction in horticulture?—Yes; out of that 150 there was not one failed. They put on fire as demonstrators afterwards, and I know of my own knowledge some of those men stand in the highest position they can possibly stand before the nursery trade of the world.

14150. As practical nurserymen?—Practical men.

14151. But not necessarily qualified to give instruction?—They are well able to give instruction, and to give trees and tons of the finest fruit and send it to the English markets.

14152. They are able to show how it is done?—Yes.

14153. But you don't know how far they are able to teach others the principles underlying what they themselves were doing?—They are able to teach every art and part of the branch. You don't want to go out of the country at all to get information or knowledge about horticulture, good or bad.

14154. (Mr. Brown).—Were those men owners of plots themselves?—Some of them very large, extensive growers, and it has gone so far that through Sir Horace Plunkett the L.A.O.S. got up the jam factory down there.

14155. (Mr. Micks).—We know all about the jam factory?—You don't know a single thing, with all respect to you. I saw your Report.

14156. (Mr. O'Neill).—You don't know how much I know about it?—You may know certain things about it, and I say that without disrespect. It is a hobby of mine. This jam factory was started, and we invested share capital to the amount of £5,000, all of which we did not get in. We got the place started. It was started on the condition it would be under the control of the fruit growers who took shares, and the Board was to be elected from the fruit growers. It went on very well until the place was flooded, and there was no person put on that was competent to manage a jam factory. There was a man put on who never saw the outside of a jam factory much less the inside of one, and the result was that a few of the fruit growers and myself came to the conclusion we should see Sir Horace Plunkett. I called on him and asked him would he reconstruct the Board—that the great danger was that the factory and the capital would be lost.

14157. (Mr. Brown).—Was not this a co-operative society?—Yes.

14158. Which elected its own officers?—Yes, but Sir Horace Plunkett was after lending £3,000 to the factory. He had a mortgage on it.

14159. (Mr. Micks).—That is, the Department had?—The Department had.

14160. Are you sure you are right now?—I am positively sure. I saw the balance-sheet.

14161. You were one of the co-operators?—Yes, sir. He could not see his way to interfere with the Board that was elected. I pointed out to him that that was the end of the whole thing, and it turned out to be so. The people had no redress, and the whole capital was lost to the country. The Department then closed down the premises for their £200. There was £200 of it paid off, and they ran the place for a certain time, and could not make it a success, and I and some others in Drogheda and in Dublin heard tell of the Department going to give up the premises. I was asked to see Sir Horace Plunkett—would he be willing to give the premises over to a little company that would be started down there. I wrote to him, and he told me he would consider my application. In the course of a few days I got the following letter from him through the Secretary (letter produced).

14162. (Chairman).—That is simply a refusal to lease the premises?—They told us they were not going to part with the premises at all, at the same time they were after giving the place over to a man named Chapman, of Portladora, which was a great injustice to the people of Gormacstown, Julianstown, Duleek, Binnacree, and the people of Drogheda, whose money was in it. It was an injustice to the people to give it away for a trade to a man from the North of Ireland.

14163. (Mr. Brown).—Were you a member of the Board?—I was on the Provisional Committee. I was not on the new Board.

14164. Did you go to Sir Horace Plunkett and ask him because the Department had made a grant of money that he should interfere with the action of the elected Board?—I went at the request of the fruit-growers who were shareholders. I went for the protection of the factory.

14165. What you asked him to do was to interfere?—Yes, and re-construct the Board on the principle on which it was first intended.

14166. And his answer to you was that he could not interfere with the elected Board?—Yes.

14167. And the elected Board continued to run matters?—Yes, and finished the thing up in three months, and then they dismissed the manager appointed by the Provisional Committee.

14168. That is all that the Board did?—When he was dismissed. Then they got a man over from Scotland, a man known in the trade as "working below the gangway." He was not an expert at all. We can't mind that matter now.

14169. (Mr. Micks).—Where this concern as is that there were £500 of the Department's money in this undertaking?—Yes, the whole thing was lost by the Department not taking the proper course.

14170. (Mr. O'Neill).—That is to say, the Department allowed the Committee of Management elected by the Company to manage on their own account?—Yes, that was it.

14171. Do you know whether they had power to interfere?—I think they had, according to the rules, because they had a claim upon the place.

14172. That was their ultimate resort, but not to the extent of interfering with the management of the company at all. The building was their security?—Yes, it did not get into liquidation until the money was all exhausted.

14173. (Mr. Brown).—Was it a limited liability company or a friendly society company?—A friendly society, I think.

14174. Or an industrial and provident society?—Perhaps so. The Department got up this report and got all the people of the locality to go into it. It was the gravest error that came to that part of the country. It killed the fruit-growing.

14175. (Chairman).—You think the Department ought not to have had anything to do with it?—Never touch it when they did not do it right.

14176. (Mr. Micks).—Did their expert visit the factory?—He was only the form of an expert. Mr. Forrester was brought there by the Provisional Committee. He was a first-class man if they kept him on.

14177. But they had their expert?—They had that man called Harpur there. He knows nothing about it. The fellow knows nothing. He has written an article on cider making. I showed it to my friends in the trade in England. They laughed it to scorn. He is going on with nothing only suggestion or imagination. He commenced to make cider out of dessert apples that were not fit for it at all.

14178. (Chairman).—You have made an understatement now that the Department ought not to have had anything to do with it?—They should have gone out of it when they got the people into the trap.

14179. (Mr. Micks).—How was this undertaking got up?—Got up through this report from the Department. That was the first commencement of it.

14180. Who was it got this document up? What gentlemen had you there? Who attended the meetings and gave information on the subject?—We had Mr. Anderson, of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

14181. Was that before it was started?—Yes, this report is made on the 29th June, 1906.

14182. (Mr. O'Neill).—That action was not by the Department, but by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—Yes. We had that printed from the report in the paper and circulated.

14183. (Mr. Micks).—This was the time when the fruit industry started?—Yes.

14184. Have you formed yourselves into a limited society?—Quite so.

14185. Only you lost all your money?—And the Department prevented how they would look after our interests.

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Mr. Michael
McKenna.

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Mr. Michael
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14186. (Mr. Brown).—The Department promised the Department, from time to time. We had several visits from their agent, and they promised to see after our interests, and the people of the locality were so much carried away that they thought at the time the place was devoted the Provisional Committee was on the Board still, but when they found those gentlemen left out in the cold they knew the place was going to piece.

14187. (Mr. Micks).—Did you, or anybody in connection with you, make any offer to the Department for this building and machinery?—We did not get the chance. We made an application.

14188. What was the nature of the application?—Whether they were going to let the premises or give it over to us to form a company.

14189. Was that before it was said?—That is a matter we don't know.

14190. (Mr. Brown).—You have not a copy of the letter you wrote?—No; but I have Sir Harace Plunkett's letter to me in reply.

14191. How did it happen that being on the Provisional Committee you were not on the other Committee afterwards?—There was some ring got up not to let the men on the Board that were on the Provisional Committee, and the Provisional Committee were the men who were out of pocket getting the place up. I was not elected on the Board.

14192. (Mr. Micks).—Were any of the other members of the Provisional Committee elected?—Yes, some of the Drogheda men were, but the growers wanted to have a representative on the Board for Julianstown, Gormanstown, Slariff, Baldoon, and Dalkey, and three members from Drogheda, and all the men from the county to be fruit-growers. I want to speak about the system of giving horticultural instruction. The Department got up this examination at Glasnevin, and discredited all the gentlemen who came up.

14193. (Chairman).—You have told us about that?—Amongst the number was myself, and I was appointed down in Curran by the County Council at a guinea a day and 15s. for maintenance and travelling expenses, and here is the way I got my appointment. They sent down the names of three gentlemen, and two were Scotchmen, and one was an Irishman, myself. I was at the bottom of the list, but the men at the bottom of the list was taken by the County Committee.

14194. (Mr. O'Leary).—The Department had sent your name down as one of three of whom they were prepared to approve?—Yes; when they found that the County Council appointed me they would not let it be passed on that salary. Mr. Gannon pointed out that the Department sent my name forward and that I was fully qualified.

14195-6. (Mr. Brown).—Is there any other horticultural inspector receiving a salary like that?—Oh, yes; there are some of the men getting a good deal more.

14197. Can you mention them?—I would not care to mention them.

14198. (Mr. Micks).—Could you mention them?—I could if I liked but I won't.

14199. (Mr. Brown).—I think it is very important to test your statement. You decline to mention the names?—There is one of them dead. I won't mention his name.

14200. That being so there is no harm in mentioning his name?—Mr. Orr.

14201. Mr. Orr was not in the service of the County Committee. He was in the general service of the Department for all Ireland?—He was not an expert. The L.A.O.S. made an expert of him. He did not know a single thing about it because there was not a time he was going to talk about anything in the neighbourhood that he would not come to me first and learn what he was to speak about.

14202. (Chairman).—Did you take up this appointment?—I did. The Department sent my name forward to the County Council and I was appointed. The result was that I would not be let go on at that salary.

14203. (Mr. Micks).—What was the salary they told you ought to get?—I can't say.

14204. (Chairman).—But was not the amount shown in the schedule?—I was asked by some friends down there to go down, and I went down for a short time at least. The County Council in Curran were fully aware of the dodgery of the Department.

14205. Did you act under your appointment?—I did. I was there from the 16th March until June.

14206. How did your appointment come to an end?—23 a week was all they would allow me and unkind and train-fare in the district. That would not pay me.

14207. (Mr. Micks).—You wanted to get 25s. a year?—Oh, no, sir; it would not last for the whole year. It is a waste of time to have men out the whole year, and waste of money. In the summer time you can do nothing for the people very much. There is a period in August when the men can do a lot of good. I could not get board and lodging in some of the places under two guineas a week. When I got up near to King'scourt I packed my pertinacious one day. I was so disgusted with the letter I got from the Secretary I came down to the railway and came home.

14208. (Mr. O'Leary).—You did not tell them you were going?—No, not that I had gone. They found it out in time. If I could not do some good to the people I did not want to be doing it at my own expense. I would be glad to do some good if the Department would have permitted me. The County Council of Curran passed a resolution I should get 5s. a week as maintenance. Even that the Department would not sanction.

14209. (Mr. Micks).—Was that the letter that annoyed you?—No; I got a letter from the Secretary, Mr. Gill, while I was in Cootshill.

14210. (Chairman).—Have you any letter in reference to the salary?—Not here now. (Witness then produced two specimens of apple grown by him).

14211. (Mr. Micks).—About starting the jam factory. You said that the Department was concerned in that (pointing to Report) paragraph what you are referring to?—That refreshes my memory. This is the gentleman.

14212. That is, Mr. Macartney-Filgate addressed the meeting?—Certainly; that is him.

14213. (Mr. Micks).—(Reading). "He said he had come there as the representative of the new Department they possessed in Ireland, from which they all looked for such great results—the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction." As representing that Department he had been directed to convey a message to them that the meeting had the warmest sympathy of the Department, and the Department was willing to assist them in every way so far as the Department could. "I—Yes; with regard to the matter got up at the different shows—the packing of fruit. They are supposed to put fruit up in little boxes that hold a dozen. These boxes cost 3d. each. They will cost 3d. at least for packing the stuff and tying—the whole would be 4d., 3d. or 2d. carriage on each box to Dublin—6d., and there will be commission on it, and the whole contents is sold for 6d. Where is the profit? This is what Mr. Orr had been speaking about—the system people had of putting up their goods. Mr. Perry, of Camden-row, has written to me and asked me what was the reason the trade never took up these boxes some time ago, and I pointed out to him, as I am telling you now, because they were worthless. No system can exceed the system that has been in force and in use for packing. There is no better system in the world than the English or Irish system of the people who grow quantities of good fruit, pack them well, and get good prices for them. There is another matter—the waste of money carried on it shown. What is the use of giving money for fruit shown, and no fruit grown in the district. It is a public waste.

14214. You have shown us some fruit of the country?—There is no fruit grown under the new system. I know Ireland from Cork to the north, and I know everybody in Ireland, and everybody in the trade in England, and that is the result of it, that it is all a waste of money—the system now adopted by the Department to develop the country in fruit-growing.

14218. (Chairman).—You are the Chief Veterinary Inspector?—I am the Chief Inspector of the Veterinary branch.

14219. Perhaps you would just give us a sketch of your duties?—I only received notification last night at 8 o'clock that I ought to be examined to-day. I have, therefore, not prepared anything, but the points on which I am requested to make observations are with reference to certain articles or reports which have appeared in the public Press, more particularly relating to the section with which I am most closely connected. In the "Irish Times," on the 19th, a report is given of Mr. Joseph Mooney's observations, from which it would appear that the Department had a staff of forty-five veterinary inspectors as effective steps were taken to stamp out swine fever in Ireland, and the result was that the English Board of Agriculture enforced the Swine Fever Order. It is not quite clear to me, as an officer of the Department, what is really meant by that; but if it is meant the Department takes no steps to deal with swine fever I most respectfully direct the attention of the Committee to page 73 of the report of proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1905, and I will mark the column to which attention might more particularly be directed which indicates the number of places at which swine fever was found to exist during the several years since it commenced. In 1865, between November and the end of the year there were 426. Next year there were 526 places on which disease was found, and the following year, 3,153. Then 724 cases, and so on, until in 1905 there were only 136 places at which disease was found, and this year we were less than that. This improvement has been brought about by the energy of the Department, and Mr. Mooney has been seriously informed. The forty-five veterinary inspectors to which he refers are not all engaged on the duties in connection with swine fever. Twenty-two, plus six local veterinarians, are engaged on period duties.

14220. Can you give us, generally, the organisation of your Department? How many inspectors you have?—Belfast has three, Cork, two, Dublin, five, Waterford, two, all the other parts have one inspector each. There are nineteen temporary veterinary inspectors, with such help as can be obtained from the period staff. The country is divided into a large number of what are termed swine fever districts. In each of these districts I have one of the veterinary inspectors located. I think there are twelve districts, and in each an inspector. The rest of the staff are retained within the office and from that staff I must supply local disease in the case of sickness; supply extra help at any of the parts where there is a special pressure, such as at certain times of the year when there is a large shipment of exports to the English markets, probably owing to the Christmas period or some special period, when the shipping trade is good or the character of the swine market demands a larger exportation of swine. I think the question that is referred to by Mr. Mooney is in reference to certain action of the English Board, who made an Order regulating the importation of swine, when, notwithstanding all the care that is taken by the Department, it is quite probable that some cases of swine fever did go over to England. We are not in a position to say they did not.

14221. (Mr. Miché).—Would the disease be obvious in the early stages?—Oh, no. Our experience in the disease may remain in the system for a long period, even up to three months and not exhibit itself. We cannot state definitely what the incubation period is. There have been some odd cases where an outbreak of swine fever has occurred after the only infection known—six months afterwards. The result was that the English Board, to protect themselves from the recognition of these swine, made a regulation which has been applicable to the whole of Ireland.

14222. (Chairman).—When was that?—I think two years ago. The second point which is dealt with by Mr. Mooney is that which relates to Epizootic Lymphangitis, and he says the Department allowed it to come into the country. The Department certainly did not, because there was no knowledge that the horses which were bringing the disease were coming into the country until they were actually in it. It has not been necessary to make any inspection of horses landing in Ireland. Presumably the horses coming from an infected stable, where there was Epizootic Lymphangitis, it is quite possible a horse might come in,

and the most onerous veterinary inspection at the port would be unable to say whether that animal was suffering or not. The disease would not be clinically apparent.

14223. In any case would you have power to inspect troops?—No, sir. No civil authority can touch the King's horses, and we can make no regulations relating to military horses, and that is one of the reasons why in all the orders issued there are exemption clauses inserted relating to the military horses. In the glanders order of which I was referring there is an exemption clause—"Nothing in this order applies to horses, asses, or mules kept in stables of military barracks or in camps under the care and supervision of the Army Veterinary Department." The same thing would apply to other animals belonging to the Crown. The Department could not interfere with any cattle under the care and supervision of the Army Veterinary Department.

14224. The only action you can take would be to communicate with the War Office?—That is all we can do. They can refuse us any right to enter the barracks to see anything. They could refuse us any information.

14225. (Mr. Miché).—In the same way as they could refuse the Public Health authorities?—Yes.

14226. (Chairman).—Was any action of that kind taken. Did you communicate with the military authorities?—They have taken action. There was a Conference which took place between the military authorities and the Department at the Royal Hospital, and so far as the importation of horses was concerned they put the matter before the War Office and said whatever was done with reference to civil horses that they would be quite willing to do the same with reference to military horses, but it could hardly be expected that they would be required to do something with reference to military horses which we could not enforce with regard to civil ones.

14227. Under that arrangement were there any horses destroyed?—No, sir. With reference to Epizootic Lymphangitis, which broke out in Waterford, every horse that became affected, except one that was kept for experimental purposes, was slaughtered in Ireland, but in England they did not slaughter them. The view they took of it, I understand, was that Ireland was a horse-breeding country and there was a certain amount of risk to run which might injuriously affect horse-breeding, racing and sale, so that it was desirable to remove any ground for suspicion, and any animal that would be likely to spread disease. With very little delay, in the first instance, they set about slaughtering all these horses, and, with one exception, all the horses were slaughtered.

14228. Have you any idea of how many horses were slaughtered?—I am sorry I have not brought statistics, but I will hand them in.

14229. (Mr. Miché).—It spread to a considerable extent in Waterford and Kilkenny?—Yes, and the Department took action to prevent the disease spreading to other counties. Then there is the reference in the next part of Mr. Mooney's observations. He said that the Department also allowed glanders to come into Dublin. I have searched the records, and cannot see what case he is referring to. In 1905, the only case of glanders landed in Ireland was an outbreak that took place in Belfast, and on that occasion it was found that certain horses brought over from London to Belfast for contractors' purposes in connection with the classification of the tramways showed clinical evidence of glanders. The others were tested with Mallon, and I think the whole and was slaughtered, but I am not quite confident. I think it consisted of nine horses, of which seven were found to be affected. Of those seven all of them did not show clinical signs; it was only due to the Mallon test that we were able to determine during life that they were diseased, and the presence of the disease was verified by post-mortem examination.

14230. Is there any disease similar to glanders?—Epizootic Lymphangitis might very often be mistaken for glanders.

14231. There is a disease known as Farcy?—That is a form of glanders. The color is called the Glanders and Farcy Order.

14232. Yesterday Mr. Jonathan Darcy, D.L., a member of the Queen's County Committee of Agriculture, complained of the inspection of cattle and notification of disease, which was a very serious

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master. To his own knowledge there was very serious infectious diseases which ought to be made known to the authorities and were not. The farmers had great difficulty in getting veterinary assistance in the case of sickness, as the average farmer could not employ a veterinary surgeon.

14320. (Chairman).—That is with reference to the want of veterinary assistance in the country districts?—I think Mr. Darby was probably referring to diseases not scheduled under the Act, and therefore that is a matter the Department cannot deal with under my Branch. But with reference to veterinary surgeons, I submit this returns (proceeds). It shows the number of veterinary surgeons located in the various counties in Ireland. The next point is in reference to Mr. Watson's evidence.

14321. Your experience does not enable you to say much about the question of veterinary dispensaries?—As a member of the Veterinary Medical Association of Ireland this question has been up before the profession on two or three occasions. The feeling which has been manifested is that in the first place there is no real demand for veterinary assistance except what has been kept up by two or three at a leading city, and, secondly, the payments proposed by the County Councils is hardly equivalent to an existing wage. The schemes which have been put forward are not workable.

14322. Still there must be many counties in Ireland where there is considerable need?—The lists there will give you the number. I think Donegal has two and Mayo three.

14323. (Mr. Micks).—West Cork hardly any?—There are about nineteen veterinary surgeons in the county. In Donnamore there is one. I don't think there is any one beyond that.

14324. (Chairman).—However, you don't come here to speak on that point?—I do not.

14325. (Mr. Brown).—Has any formal decision been come to by the Association?—The formal decision the Association came to was embodied in a resolution which declined to take the matter into consideration until there was a more feasible scheme put forward.

14326. It is to the details they object rather than the principle?—If you wish a copy of the resolution I can send it to you. The general tenor of Mr. Watson's evidence appears to be such as would indicate a necessity for change in the present law. The question with reference to Imperial funds is one I can't deal with. I believe it would require a new Act of Parliament. The question of transferring from the Local Government Board to the Department those powers which they possess relating to dairies and cow sheds is also one that would require special legal changes.

14327. (Mr. Micks).—Could not that be done under the Act of 1901?—It was transferred under an Act, and therefore it would take another one to transfer it back again.

14328. You think it ought to go back?—That is my opinion. I quite agree with Mr. Watson there. It was originally dealt with under the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council.

14329. (Chairman).—Would it be possible without legislation to associate with the poor-law inspector a veterinary surgeon?—I could not answer that question. I don't know what powers the Local Government Board have, but they have no veterinary advice. In fact I don't think myself that they have very energetically worked this particular disease.

14330. You agree with Mr. Watson that it is desirable to effect the transfer?—I agree with Mr. Watson and Sir Charles Cameron that it is a matter which ought to be dealt with by a veterinary body. The second paragraph of Mr. Watson's observations refer to the Executive Committee, urging that local authorities should be invested with the fullest powers for the eradication of contagious scheduled diseases. The powers which are granted to the Irish County Councils are just as full as those granted to the English and Scotch and Welsh. One of the great things in connection with the Diseases of Animals Act has been to have uniformity as far as possible both in Great Britain and in Ireland so far as the circumstances admit. In Scotland they require certain modifications, and in Ireland they require certain modifications, but these do not touch the principle. The principle is uniformity as far as such is practicable. If any alteration is to be made that will be a question for legislation. In Section 3 a protest is made as to the necessity for obtaining

licences from the Department for the removal of animals whilst under restriction, as it inevitably caused delay. The same condition of things exists in England, and even if it did not the City of Dublin local authority is in a very much better position than those counties remote from the centre. It is a very easy thing for the City of Dublin to send a messenger on to the Department and procure a licence if it is thought desirable to issue a licence. I don't think myself there could have been any occasion on which there was an intended or wilful delay in issuing a licence to the representatives of the Veterinary Inspector of the City of Dublin or the County Council. I don't think he complained of that. His complaint is that generally speaking it is a cumbersome method. I don't see how we can alter it unless it is altered for the whole of Ireland, and disturb the uniformity to which I have referred already. The Executive Committee are of opinion that the importation of Horses, Asses, and Mules (Ireland) Order is insufficient to deal with the question. The Department quite admit it, but it is to be remembered that this is a tentative Order made to see what other arrangements are satisfied that in its present state it does not meet the case, and will require alteration, so that probably the alteration when made will meet the local authorities' wishes. The Executive Committee strongly urge that legislative powers be obtained for the enforcement of the Mallein test, when all re-acted animals should be slaughtered, and provision made to pay the owners out of the Cattle Diseases Fund as was done during the outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia. In the first paragraph it suggested that everything should be paid out of the Imperial funds. In this paragraph they suggested that it should be paid out of the Cattle Diseases Fund, which is inconsistent. The General Cattle Diseases Fund is the fund Mr. Cantrell referred to in his evidence. It is raised partly out of the rates. The question of enforcing the Mallein test is one that has been before the Department for some little while, and is now a matter of correspondence between the Board of Agriculture and also the Department. I was over in London last week in reference to it, and until the matter is determined we cannot issue an order, because a larger number of horses will be affected thereby, and Treasury sanction for the expenditure must first be obtained. A complaint appears to be made that copies of the Reports sent in by the various inspectors and others to the Department are not sent to the local authority, that they are not accessible to the Executive Committee to assist them in their deliberations. That is only one local authority. There are a great number of other local authorities in Ireland. We should require a very largely increased staff if we sent copies of our documents to all the various local authorities. That would be another instance where the uniformity we are expected to maintain would be interfered with. Besides, independently of that, these are confidential Reports made by veterinary surgeons which they would not make if their Reports were to be open to everyone, even the persons who owned the animals. If these particulars were stimulated to the general body of people who were governing like the local authority.

14341. (Mr. Micks).—With the possibility of becoming public?—The probability of the reports being made public would interfere with the ends the Department had in view, and the Act really contemplates.

14342. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose extracts would be sent if any communication was asked for by the local authority?—When the local authority have asked for information we have sent as full information as circumstances admit. If it is possible to give them more within the limit stated, the Department are willing to do so.

14343. (Chairman).—You report to your own Department, and one question the Department has to consider is how far it can properly and usefully communicate any portion of the reports to the persons concerned?—Yes. Of course all reports sent in are privileged documents. The next question referred to by the Executive Committee is that which relates to the slaughter of animals on premises other than the abattoir. When we first commenced to deal with the condition of swine fairs there was no arrangement at the abattoir, which would admit of swine being dealt with. We had therefore to go to the place, which is at present utilised, and since then

we have had no reason to feel dissatisfied with the manner in which we have been treated, and with reference to the practice being greatly deplored and strongly protested against by the Committee, if the Committee are not satisfied that this place should be used why should they not compensate the owner and shut up the slaughterhouse.

14264. (Mr. Brown).—Have they power to close it?—They have, and to pay the owner compensation. We have been using the place since 1883.

14265. And these people have incurred some expense perhaps?—We have required them to incur considerable expense.

14266. (Chairman).—Is it the case that the Dublin Corporation have a suitable establishment, and have requested the Department to slaughter the pigs therein?—Yes, we had a communication from them, but still it would be unfair, as we have required the owner to make repairs on their premises, and incur the cost of erecting, to now leave them because another body had thought fit subsequently to make a place that was satisfactory (c).

14267. (Mr. Brown).—Was not the slaughter in existence then?—It was for the slaughter of sheep, but no arrangement for the killing and scalding of pigs. It is hardly worth going there now, we have very little to do. The firm with which we are dealing have got into the method of disposing of the swine, and a great many of these things are transmitted to the other side and sold in Great Britain. Then the Executive Committee point out that pigs killed under the Swine Fever Order are passed or rejected for food without the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health of the Corporation or other officer authorised on their behalf. The method of procedure which is carried out in Dublin is the same method of procedure carried out in Belfast and all other places. Our veterinary surgeons, who are acting as veterinary inspectors, are fully qualified to determine whether a carcass is fit for food as any other veterinary surgeon who might be engaged in the country, and, as a matter of fact, we have cut down a good many carcasses suffering from tuberculosis, or which, from the appearance of their skin would make it undesirable that they should go into the market, although they might be fair food, but it should raise an outcry that improper food was being disposed of. And when we are sending the food over to the other side we have to be very careful that we don't send anything injurious, or it would be spoiled. We had one occasion when food was sent over in the heat of summer, very unwise, and it underwent decomposition before it was put on the market. Our salesmen lost through injudiciousness in forwarding these carcasses.

14268. (Chairman).—What were they?—Swine.

14269. Were they slaughtered here?—Yes.

14270. Is it part of the business to see that they are properly disposed of?—Yes. She contracts to do that, and is paid so much a head for slaughter, storage, and disposal. The more she can sell the higher her commission.

14281. The swine slaughtered there are fit for food?—The swine which are clinically diseased are sent down to the knacker's, unless it should happen that, although the animal has not shown clinical symptoms of disease, but has been found to be diseased on post-mortem examination. That is sent to the knacker's, and we receive from the knacker's a receipt acknowledging the delivery of the carcass and certifying that it has been destroyed.

14282. Then every pig sent for food is passed by the veterinary inspector of the Department?—Yes.

14283. And there is nothing whatever to hinder the Medical Officer of Health or his representative from going into this place at any time, within reasonable hours?—No.

14284. (Mr. Brown).—He has absolute power to

enter any premises?—Absolute power. We don't interfere with him doing so. If he saw a carcass which he thought ought to be cut down, and would intimate that fact to us and we agree with him we will cut it down.

14285. (Chairman).—You say that the Corporation, if they choose, might make arrangements with the owner to close the slaughterhouse?—Quite so. I believe they have the power to buy up all the slaughterhouses in Dublin (c). Now, the Executive Committee institute proceedings under the various Orders in Council and carry out the same at their own expense, while they are only entitled to one-third of the fines imposed. Well that the Department can't deal with. It is laid down in Section 76 under the Act of '94 one-third is paid to the local authority and the other two-thirds is added to the General Cattle Diseases Fund and becomes available for all cattle disease expense.

14286. (Mr. Brown).—All local authorities benefit by that?—Yes. I might also refer to Section 78 of the Act, which relates to the General Cattle Diseases Fund. Then the Executive Committee are of opinion that the power of granting licenses under the Public Sales and Lairs Order should be entrusted to them. I am not aware that there has been, as Mr. Watson says, any conflict between the Department and the local authority under this head. I must trouble you for the moment in dealing with this matter to pass back to 1883 at the time that the foot-and-mouth disease appeared in Ireland, and it was devastating the country. The Dublin market was regarded as the centre that was distributing the disease very largely, and it was difficult to cope with. The floor of the market could not be properly cleaned, the Corporation was called upon to put the floor in proper order. They demurred about doing it. At first they refused. At that time Lord Spencer was Lord Lieutenant, and the matter was put before him, and he ordered that the market should be closed wholly until the Corporation should see fit to put the floor in proper condition, and in the interim between putting the floor in proper condition and the opening of the market the question arose as to whether all the sales of stock should take place, or whether some other condition could not be arranged by which the trade would not be wholly lost, not only to Dublin itself, but to Irish people who usually go to Dublin and do not have any salesmen. It was then determined to utilise the yards of the various salesmen. They were called upon to put their floors in proper order, concrete the surface, make proper arrangements for washing, and have places for the retention of manure, and so on. That relates to the lairs. Then afterwards there was a new question as to the sales. None could sell an animal in the market, but the Department found there were people who were selling animals outside the market, and making it exceedingly difficult for the Department to deal with them, and at their instance the Public Sales and Lairs Order was passed. Under this Order a new condition of things arose. These were sales by auction. I believe there was some right given to these people, as well as persons having auctioneer's certificates for horses in the city. We are not aware that any sales took place on those premises where the tolls are not paid (c). If it is the case it is quite within the right of the Local Authority to at any time step in there and see whether any sales take place, and take such proceedings as they see fit under the Orders of the Local Authority. I think that I have gone over all the points in the evidence.

14287. (Chairman).—And have you given us as much information as you think we ought to have about your own particular work?—I think so. That is all I am authorised to give at present. I don't know whether anything else will arise out of the subsequent evidence.

MR. EDWARD P. O'KELLY, R.N., Ballinglass, examined.

I have been asked to come here. I am a member of the Wicklow County Committee, but I never attended a meeting of it.

14288. (Chairman).—You are Chairman of that Committee?—Yes, but I never attended a meeting of

(c) The Secretary to the Executive Committee, in a letter dated 26th November, 1904, states "that the Committee are quite sure the Corporation are already well aware of their power, and were also that the encouragement of a private slaughter-house by so important a Department as that of the Board of Agriculture for Ireland, as is the present instance, is a serious impediment to them."

"and shown disregard of the feelings of the Royal Commission."

(d) In the same letter the Secretary states "that a member of the Executive Committee is prepared to prove on oath, if necessary, that such sales frequently take place in the city."

the Committee, because it would take three days to go from Ballinglass to Wicklow and back.

14289. Are you Chairman of the County Council?—Yes.

14290. (Mr. Brown).—You are a resident in West

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Wicklow, and it would, as you said, take practically three days to go and return!—So it would, and I wish it would be possible to have two Committees, one for West Wicklow, and the other for the East. However, the evidence I would give would be mostly about agriculture, and I think it would be well, if possible, to have the lectures discontinued, and to have the lecturers go round and visit the various farms in order to give them information there.

14251. (Chairman).—You mean on the spot?

14252. (Mr. Dryden).—You must take the farmer, on his own system of farming, on the spot!—Yes, I certainly think, with regard to the butter-making industry, an instructor having gone round once, it would be sufficient.

14253. You mean the lecturers having gone round once!—Yes, I think all the information necessary will be then given.

14254. You require to have it in classes, or you would not make much headway!—The way they come round now, with the paraphernalia, it is so cumbersome that I don't think they impart much information to people as to how to make butter.

14255. Have you any dairy classes in your county, that is to say eight, ten, or twelve young women taught for some days, or even weeks!—Yes, they come round, and the instructress teaches them for a couple of weeks.

14256. Do you think that this is time thrown away?—I think, having come round once, they have learned as much as they would learn.

14257. Probably an additional number want to get information who did not get it before?

14258. (Mr. Brown).—You would already exhaust all the girls in the neighbourhood!—I don't mean at once, but I think they have come round sufficiently often now to impart any information they could give.

14259. (Chairman).—Do you think the lectures and classes have done their work!—I think they have. The proper way to do it now would be to go round to the various farms and inspect them.

14260. Do you think they have been useful in the past!—Yes, I think they have introduced an amount of cleanliness that was not known before.

14261. You say it should be carried into practice on two example holdings of twenty or fifty acres!—That would be for agriculture. These are the instructions that I got from the Committee. They would like to have a couple of farms, demonstration farms, established, one on each side of the county, so that it could be shown from the profit made whether these things are practical or not.

14262. (Mr. Dryden).—Supposing there was a loss, what conclusion would you come to!—Then they are evidently theoretical men, not practical. Then they are very desirous too that more facilities should be given for the breeding of stock. We have very good stock in our neighbourhood, and the premium bulls are not in the neighbourhood, for the simple reason that people who can purchase them are a bit apathetic, and the other people are too poor to purchase them, so if a station could be established where a service of bulls could be obtainable I think it would be very desirable.

14263. You want more of these, and more accessible!—Yes, I mean that the Government should give the people who are not able to purchase bulls the money to purchase them.

14264. (Mr. Brown).—Don't they lend money at present on very easy terms!—I don't mean to make a present of them at all, but I mean to make them available. For example, in our neighbourhood, with the exception of Mr. John Nolan and Mr. Wright, there

is not a single premium bull, and they are both in the County Kildare.

14275. The people know the terms upon which advances are made by the Department for the purchase of premium bulls!—I don't think they do, because I know there are some very anxious to obtain bulls to improve the breed of cattle in the neighbourhood.

14276. They don't have to pay more than a third to begin with; they can get the rest advanced, and the premium repays the advance. Perhaps you are not familiar with the system!—No, I am not, I am sorry to say.

14277. (Chairman).—Do you think the farmers in your district would have any difficulty in getting premium bulls!—No, I am quite sure there are two, or three, who would have them, if they thought it would pay.

14278. (Mr. Brown).—The real difficulty is distance from the centre in your district!—That is the difficulty in working it.

14279. And there is no one from your part of the county to look after the applications, if they are taken!—Well, unless they go forward.

14280. (Chairman).—Is there anything else you wish to say about improvements of methods!—There is a matter that would suit very well in our district, and that is re-afforesting, the re-afforesting of mountain slopes. I think if suitable trees could be sent, such as larch that is doing very well, and is going out of cultivation in Ireland altogether, it would be a great improvement.

14281. Have you anything to say about the Avondale establishment!—I see that passing by in the train. They appear to have numerous, but I don't approve very much of the poultry farm. I don't think that is worked on good lines. Furthermore, I remember one of our poultry instructors was coming one morning from the market, and I asked her to look at our fowl. I asked her what she thought one fowl in a cart would be worth. She said if they were fed for about a fortnight, and sent to Avondale, they would be worth 5s. a pair. The old fellow who had them said that would never suit. "I am selling them," he said, "for 4s. 6d. now."

14282. You have some criticism upon the poultry fattening station!—That is all I have to say.

14283. Do you wish to say anything about horticulture, about the school gardens!—The horticulture course is very good, but I think in this country it is very hard to make fruit pay. However, I may say myself, that as far as apple trees are concerned, they were a very great success with me. There were two forms especially one, the Prince Albert, and the other, the Lord Grosvenor, they were magnificent croppers.

14284. (Mr. Brown).—Were these new trees you purchased!—Yes, I had 500 apples on the two young trees.

14285. (Chairman).—Was that done through the horticultural instructor!—It was not.

14286. Have you anything to say about the technical side of the work!—We have very little to do with that, but I think it would be well if it was done. There is a class in one of our schools—now the National schools—and if it were done in the National schools it would have a wonderful effect. We have a very good school of domestic economy in connection with the National school at our County, and if it could be subsidised I think it would be a wonderful improvement, because the younger people are taught, and if there was some demonstration in the neighbourhood of the schools of horticulture it would be very good.

MR. JOHN SWEETMAN, Drumbaragh, Kells, examined.

Mr. John
 Sweetman.

14287. (Chairman).—You appear here as representative of the General Council of Irish County Councils!—Yes, sir.

14288. We have had evidence, I think, from one of your body, Mr. Kinsla, and he has given us the resolutions that were passed; but you might say what you wish to add!—The General Council of the County Councils gave us instructions on one point, which, as you say, has been already handed in to you. These instructions of the General Council touch only that one point, that of impressing on the Commission that the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Department should be managed by the Irish nation, and not by the English

Government. To provide Ireland with an English Government Department advised by bodies, some of whose members are elected, and others nominated by the Government Department, is treating us as if we were Hindoo, and talking for granted that we should be well satisfied with a system of government on the lines of the Indian Council. The view of the General Council is that Ireland will not be satisfied with the system, and that in the case of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Department the whole control of the money that is spent on agricultural improvement and technical instruction should be in an elected body representative of Ireland. It considers that as we have not

as yet, an Irish Parliament, the existence of the General Council of the Irish County Councils offers a simple way of supplying such an elected body, as it represents every electorate body in Ireland. In support of the instruction of the General Council I should like to draw the attention of the Commission to a statement I have here. Baron Speck von Sternburg, the German Minister to the United States, stated the other day at Pittsburgh, that the main-spring of German industrial development was a strong national spirit. Next to this the most important factor had been scientific research, and the application of research to practical industrial problems. The Department at present aims, undoubtedly, at supplying the application of research to practical industrial problems, and thus aims at what Baron Speck von Sternburg calls the most powerful factor in favour of German industrial development, after or next to the existence of a strong national spirit. The General Council, however, wishes that what the German Ambassadors call the main-spring of industrial development, viz., a strong national spirit should not be lost sight of. I remember reading a lecture some years ago by Mr. P. J. Hanmon showing that in Denmark the national revival prepared the way for the revival of industries. Lectures on the history of Denmark came in advance of scientific lectures. The General Council maintain that if the English Government, which has appointed this Commission, wish that there should be a revival of agriculture and other Irish industries, it should boldly place this whole Department under the sole control of an Irish representative body. We shall then see Ireland, as a whole, taking an interest in the work of the Department, and getting its best men in charge of it, and if the first men it selects do not satisfy the wants of the nation, the nation itself can see that different men are appointed. The present English Government professes to wish to lead up to Home Rule by what is called Devolution. Here is a case in which Ireland can be given a certain amount of Home Rule, without in the slightest degree interfering with England, unless it be maintained that the material prosperity of Ireland would injure England, or unless it be maintained that if Ireland found that it could manage the funds spent by this Department to greater advantage to Ireland than has been done by the secretaries of the English Government, Irish Unionist might become Irish Home Rulers. The present English Government which professes to be in favour of Home Rule cannot, however, logically object to this. The work of the Department at present is ridiculed by the vast majority of practical farmers, and they blame the English Government for its failure. Place the Department altogether in the hands of the representatives of the Irish people, and no longer can the English Government be blamed if the Department fails to do any good. I maintain that the system of the Agricultural Council and Agricultural Board is one which imposes on the Irish people by pretending that the Department is partially controlled by representatives of the Irish people, whereas care has been taken that the majority of the Agricultural Board which, alone, has any power, represents the Department.

14250. I don't quite follow that.—That is a point I wish to explain my reasons for saying. The Board consists of twelve members, and the Vice-President as Chairman. Four members of the Board are directly appointed by the Department, and one-third of the remainder, eight members, are indirectly appointed by the Department, as the Department appoints one-third of the Council of Agriculture who elect those eight members of the Board. The Department is therefore represented on the Board by the Chairman, who practically is the Department, four members directly appointed by the Department, and if one can speak of persons as if they were divisible things, by two two-thirds members indirectly appointed, making seven two-thirds votes, whereas the Irish County Councils are represented on the Board by two one-third members. As some of the County Councils in the north of Ireland always support the English Government one may safely give the stray one-third of a member to the Department, which is therefore represented, at least, by eight votes on the Board against one representing Ireland.

14251. (Mr. Brown).—I don't quite follow that. The elected members of the Board are elected by the

Provincial Committees of the County Councils.—They are elected by the Agricultural Council.

14252. Not by the Agricultural Council as a whole, but the Provincial Committees.—By the Agricultural Council divided up.

14253. How can gentlemen from the North of Ireland, advance the election of representatives of Munster, Leinster, or Connaught?—No, but the gentlemen from the North of Ireland elect a certain number of representatives.

14254. Ulster elects two.—I have only given you one-third of one, but it appears from your statement, which is very correct, that Ulster gives them two, so that instead of having one-third they get two whole men from Ulster for the Government.

14255. (Mr. Dryden).—Take one of these groups, what is the group composed of?—They are separated into four groups.

(Mr. Brown).—It consists of the Provincial representatives.

14256. (Mr. Dryden).—Take one of these groups. There is a certain number of that group elected by the people, and certain others nominated; which one of these groups is in the majority?

(Mr. Brown).—Of course the elected are.

14257. (Mr. Dryden).—Then the elected members have the power to select whoever they like, and the nominated members have nothing to say?

(Witness).—In that case what was the object of nominating members, if they have nothing to say. You will find, practically, it is very much the other way. It is the nominated members who have a great deal to say.

14258. (Mr. Dryden).—The evidence so far goes to show that you cannot distinguish any difference between the nominated and elected members.—I agree with that, and I gave you the reason. In practice the Department is very much more largely represented, as the County Council only elect members to the Agricultural Council who are in touch with the Department, one reason being that the members—I don't speak without having a meaning in what I say—one reason being that members of the County Council who are not in touch with the Department would not go on the Council which has been so manipulated that the Department has in reality sole power, whereas the admirers of the Department are quite willing to be nominated. Thus I know to have been the case in the County Month, as I was, myself, asked to go on the Agricultural Council the first year, and on my positive refusal Colonel Erward was proposed. The point is this, that men will not go on a Council if they have no power. Any man who is not in touch with Horace Plunkett knew he would have no power, and he simply would not go. Others, like Colonel Erward, who is a kind of Siamese twin of Horace Plunkett, no doubt were very glad to go, and Horace Plunkett was very glad to have them. As I told you, the General Council has only given us an instruction on one point; that is the point that it should be nationally controlled, but perhaps I might be allowed to give you my personal views on subjects which have not come before the General Council. It is for you to say whether you wish to hear me or not.

14259. Oh, yes.—The Department is ridiculed by practical farmers, because they know it is absurd for young lecturers who have gone through a course of what is called scientific farming, or theoretical farming, to attempt to show farmers who have had practical experience all their lives. Practical farmers have not become lecturers, unless they had first failed themselves as farmers. The choice of lecturers rests between the theoretists, and the farmers who have failed. Therefore, I say that farming is not going to be taught by lecturers. Neither do I believe in Government model farms teaching practical farming, as such farms have the State to pay all the expenses, and they have not, therefore, to make ends meet. Government farms might be useful to make experiments which would be afterwards useful to practical farmers, but they cannot teach general practical farming. In the County Month I think what is required is to induce the holders of second and third-class grazing land to till their land instead of grazing it. I do not believe that lecturers will do this, but I think encouraging farmers to till, by granting money prizes to those farmers who till their farms best, would have this effect, if the prizes were sufficiently large. If all the money that is now spent in the County Month by the Department on horses, cattle, and

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lecturers, were spent in giving prizes to the best managed tillage farms. I think that after some years an appreciable effort would be made on the amount of land that is tilled in Meath. The horses and cattle are very fair in that county, and don't require public money to be spent on them as much as tillage, which scarcely exists, and which requires encouragement from every source possible. The Department spends large sums of money on what are considered by practical men as facts, such as the growing of apples for profit.

14298. (Mr. Brown).—Before you pass away from that question with reference to the allocation of money under the control of the County Committee, if your County Committee were of opinion that their money would be best spent in that way—are they of that opinion, first of all?—I will tell you with regard to that that the County Committee's scheme was sent up to the Department, and was sent back to them nearly two years ago on the very ground that there was not sufficient money spent for the encouragement of agriculture.

14300. That is a matter which is entirely under the control of the County Committee?—No; their reply was that it was not. Their reply was that the money was so divided up by the Board that unless they spent it on cattle they could not spend it at all, that it was divided up in that manner that although the County Council considered it should be spent more for the encouragement of agriculture and less for cattle and horses they said, "Oh, we cannot do that, because the Board has divided up its money for the cattle of Ireland in such a way that unless you are willing to get it for the cattle you cannot get it at all. Very externally the County Council came to the conclusion that if we cannot get it at all it is better for us to get the money than be without it."

14321. Perhaps you could give us the resolutions, both of the County Council and of the County Committee on this subject?—I have not got a copy of the resolutions with me now. It was sent back to them to reconsider it, and they replied, at the next meeting, that they could not re-consider it. Instead of spending it on what should be the main industry of the country, namely, good tillage farming, such as growing crops, sowing crops, green crops for feeding cattle, sheep, and pigs—farming as it is carried on in Belgium. As a proof that practical men expect nothing from the Department, I shall draw the attention of the Committee to the letter of the bacon manufacturers to the *London Grocer*, which appeared in the *Freeman's Journal* of June 5th, signed by Messrs. Lusk, Bros., Malton and Sons, O'Mara, Limited, and Shaw and Sons. The writer says: "We regret that it is left to private firms like ourselves to vindicate the reputation of Irish goods. Such a duty should be undertaken by the Irish Board of Agriculture, but we have long ceased to look for assistance in that quarter." No one doubts the good intentions of Sir Horace Plunkett, but many agree with me in looking on him as a wealthy landlord, and not as a practical statesman. I want to bring before you a case in which I think the Department, either from want of power, or want of will, made a serious mistake. Last year three ponies, which were in contact in the County Dublin with a horse which had been slaughtered for having the South African horse disease, were brought by road through the County Meath into the town of Navan, to be kept in quarantine in the military barracks. The County Council objected, and I, as Chairman of the Council, called at the office of the Department, and requested that, as one of the three ponies had been slaughtered, owing to symptoms of the disease having shown itself since its arrival in Navan, the other two should be immediately slaughtered.

14302. Were they military ponies?—They belonged to some officers. That was the excuse the Department gave, that they were in the military barracks.

14303. They have absolutely no power under the Statute to do anything in the case of military horses?—Well, that was just it. They had no power, but they had these horses carried through Meath.

14304. Not they; the military authorities did it—I think it was they ordered it; who had power to order them through Meath?

14305. The military authorities?—The Department took the precaution to put nose-bags on them, which shows they had some power.

14306. They have no control over the military horses; we had it from a witness just before you came in?—They told me at the same time, they had no control, but it is very curious that they knew all about it, how they were carried and brought through, and the precautions taken.

14307. It is quite possible they knew all about it, but had no power?—Here is what actually did happen. I received a lot of polite talk from the heads of the Department, including Sir Horace Plunkett, but no practical satisfaction for what the Meath County Council thought an outrage, viz., the importing by the Department of this disease into the County Meath.

14308. (Mr. Brown).—By the Department?—No. The Department ordered them to be brought under special precautions. I know Sir Horace Plunkett took all the credit that they took these precautions.

14309. (Mr. Dryden).—I think it is a misunderstanding. The Department had nothing to do with introducing them into the country when they were here?—I did not say into the country; into the county.

14310. (Mr. Brown).—They have no control over them when they are here?—Then why did they boast that they had taken such care and precautions about them. At any rate, the fact is this—I must acknowledge it makes very little difference—both the Departments are the same; they are the English Government. They are both the English Government, and that was an outrage we considered that the English Government should have carried these horses into a county where there was no disease, and which had been previously entirely free from it. Broadly the remaining ponies and the harness were slaughtered, but the remark was that it was owing to Mr. John Watson, the Master of the Meath Hounds, threatening Mr. Long, the then Chief Secretary, and a well-known hunting man, that if they were not slaughtered he would stop hunting the Meath Hounds the following year. Of course, there may be no truth in this remark, but if there was not it was a well imagined story to show the way Ireland is governed. If an Englishman is to lose his hunting he will condescend to do something, but if the country is to suffer it makes no difference. Of course, the Department may get out of it by saying that they had no power, but why did they not induce the other authorities. Were they not supposed to be in touch with the other authorities, both Government bodies. I may say that everybody in Meath considered it a most atrocious outrage. As I said before, the point I wish to draw attention to is the fact that the General Council consider that the Department will not be any success in Ireland unless it is to be under the Irish nation.

14311. (Chairman).—There is just one point I want to get on the notes. The General Council does not now consist of all the County Councils in Ireland?—I beg your pardon. It consists of every County in Ireland that wishes to send a delegate to it. There are several Councils that don't; I can give you the particulars. They have to subscribe a very small amount, each Council £5, though they are allowed to subscribe by Act of Parliament up to £10. Arran has needed, but their attendance for the nine meetings previous to their secession was just one, and Arranagh, which attended three times out of nine, and then Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Tyrone, and Belfast. The General Council represents each County Council, and each County Borough Council. There are six Borough County Councils in Ireland; there are practically thirty-three counties.

14312. Then, of the other counties, the County Boroughs still remain?—I think practically so, except I don't think Waterford City will ever be a member.

Dr. J. F. O'Bray, Tipperary, examined.

Dr. J. F.
O'Bray.

14313. (Chairman).—You also represent the General Council?—The General Council and the County Council of Tipperary South Riding, of which I have been a member from the first, and I have been on the Com-

mittee of Agriculture. There are two technical bodies in the County of Tipperary. One comprises the town and union of Tipperary. That is the Joint Urban and Rural Council, and the other the remainder of the

County Tipperary. I have been a member of the Agricultural Committee of the County Council since the commencement.

14334. Do you agree with Mr. Sweetman?—I agree with the great part of what Mr. Sweetman has said. I would say first, having seen some evidence given about it, that I don't think there was any prejudice against the Department in the commencement, or that it was looked upon as a Government Department in the sense of being a new branch of the government of Ireland. I think it was taken in very good part by the people, and that all looked forward, as far as my experience and knowledge went, and I know in the county of Limerick as well as the County of Tipperary the people were very hopeful of its doing a great service in connection with agriculture, which was, of course, generally understood, and technical instruction, which was less well known. I think it well to state that in the commencement, because I have seen it stated that it was looked upon in a rather hostile aspect, which I don't think was the case. I think the political aspect was given to it by Sir Horace Plunkett being required to be a member of Parliament. I think that was a great misfortune, and the prime cause of its failure to obtain an amount of popular support which it would otherwise have had.

14335. What are you referring to exactly?—The Vice-President being required to be a member of Parliament.

14336. It is not required, but it is permitted by the Act—it was something more than a permission.

14337. He was a member of Parliament when he was first appointed Vice-President?—He was a member at one time.

14338. I don't quite understand why you said that his becoming a member of Parliament produced this feeling?—I think it gave a political complexion to the whole thing, because then he was obliged, not being able to obtain a seat in England, to come to Ireland and seek for a seat there.

14339. You are referring to the Galway election?—I was referring before that to the County Dublin election.

14340. He was member for that before the Department was started?—Yes; he got in on a three-cornered election.

14341. And he lost his seat for Dublin?—Yes. He was partly opposed by the Unionist party, but owing to us being a three-cornered fight he lost his seat, and then, not being able to get a seat in England, he attacked a Nationalist seat in Galway, and gave rise to a good deal of bad feeling. I have always been convinced that that was the greatest misfortune in connection with the Department, and I personally could never see any necessity for his being in Parliament, inasmuch as the Chief Secretary for Ireland could represent the new Department, as well as the other forty or forty-one Boards that we are told make up the government of Ireland. Then I come to the methods of the Department, and they appear to me all through, both in connection with the County Agricultural and Technical Committee of Tipperary, to be dictatorial to an extent that is very unwise, and patently descending to minutiae—very small matters which are entirely unnecessary. My view is that if we get a body of good, intelligent men who were capable of carrying on the business in a workmanlike fashion they ought to avail themselves of their local knowledge and intelligence, and put the matter before them in this way: "You can have a certain amount of money; keep within certain bounds. If you are in difficulties consult us, and do the best you can." Instead of that they endeavour to do everything, even from the very smallest matter up to the highest, and as a consequence members have not been thoroughly informed. They are always contradicting themselves. One circular says, say, half of the one that went before, and confirms the other half, and another circular comes down in perhaps a fortnight which upsets perhaps half of the second one, and another circular upsets, perhaps, the entire thing. The Committee had to start afresh, with the result that they were thrown very much behind hand, and every thing was in great confusion. On the Tipperary Technical Committee a better secretary could not, perhaps, be found in Ireland than Mr. Paul Flinn, who gave evidence before you. I don't think it would be possible to have a better man with greater capacity and industry. He found it very difficult to conduct the business of the

county owing to interference in every small detail and contradictory orders. Of course, they may have found in parts of Ireland committees mainly composed of men who had not very much knowledge, or experience, in public business or matters of that kind; they might have found in the west, perhaps, committees that would require guidance in very small matters, but I think they made a great mistake in not discriminating between the two bodies, but applying the same measure of rather petty interference and direction to all alike. The next point is with regard to the South Kensington grant, and that also excited a great deal of disappointment, and did harm in the county. When we were first getting these up in Clemons Mr. Blair, who was one of the principal secretaries, was down, and Mr. Gordon, and all the Agricultural Committee, except myself, went in with Mr. Gordon to get up the details of the agricultural scheme. Mr. Blair asked if anyone was interested in the technical side. I said that I was, that although I had not practical knowledge, perhaps, to profit by what he might say, I certainly was interested. I had then a long conversation for an hour and a half with him. The fault that I found with him was that there was too much mystery. There was no frankness, and I found the same thing with the Department at all times; there was too much mystery. The main bulk of a subject was kept in a document, and no part of the real intention was disclosed. I talked to him for a long time from the point of view of how a technical scheme would succeed in Tipperary town with its 6,000 inhabitants. I endeavoured to get from him how many pupils might be expected, and what might be the returns and remuneration of the teachers. His replies were generally that he could not tell me; he had not been there yet. I said "Ferny is a town on almost all fours with Tipperary, the same population, and the same amount of business." I said "from your experience of that what would you say?" Well, I really could get no information. I am not bringing any charge against Mr. Blair, but there was an utter want of frankness. Talking of science teaching, and the amount of money to be got, he said there was another fund from which money could be got. I asked him what that fund was. He would not name it. I said I think there is such a thing as the South Kensington grant—is that what you allude to. He rather reluctantly admitted that it was. He said the amount of that was £25,000, which, of course, I know, although I was aware that very little of it was assigned to Ireland owing to the fact that in '83 they refused to give any grant out of the South Kensington endowment for any but first-class passes, whereas previously the proportion coming to Ireland had been far more, because second-class passes were recognised in Ireland, and Ireland was receiving a fair amount, but from that out it fell by heavy gradations, until there was only from £2,000 to £3,000 being earned at that time. Part of that was due to the starting of the Intermediate Department, which took away a great many people who would go in for these examinations of the South Kensington Department. He said, then, that \$300 a year might be earned from South Kensington in aid of the teachers, that the Committee in Tipperary might appoint. I took it that he was stating, and promising, that the entire amount of this £25,000 which by Act of Parliament had been available for Ireland would be added to the funds of the Department, but in a short time we found that this money was not being given at all. After some two or three years a sum of £7,000 was given, but this produced a very bad effect all through the country.

14342. (Mr. Meade).—That is being paid still?—No, it has been stopped two years ago.

14343. I think you are wrong there?—I feel quite certain, but I may be mistaken.

14344. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—And there never was £55,000 given, and it had no connection whatever with the payment of grants upon the results of examinations?—I think it had. I also may be wrong, but I can produce my authority. It is to be found in Dublin, and to make myself certain of it I looked it up last night. It is to be found in Ireland's Agricultural Industries, page 158. That was given as the results of what are called second class passes, and that was altered, with the result, of course, that so many, or anything like the same number, did not pass. The amount was not given. Very little was known about it in Ireland. The amount existed, and it was supposed to be given

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for the benefit of Ireland, and the amount earned was increased up to 1885, when they made this change.

14325. You have mixed up two or three different things!—It may be in my way of expressing myself, but I am quite clear as to what I am talking about, and that there was the £55,000 which for fifty years or so had been spent, as it were to the credit of Ireland, to be earned, and distributed, if there were a sufficient number of applicants.

14326. The grant of the £7,000 that is given now, and as you know was given recently, that had a very recent origin. The £55,000 you said was available for fifty years. That must not refer to the technical instruction grant, but the grants for science and art passes; they are quite independent of the £7,000!—It was in line of the entire withdrawal of that. The point I have been trying to make was this, that it was generally understood, and Mr. Blair said to me in the clearest manner, when I questioned him, that this £55,000 was still forthcoming, and would be earned especially in urban centres, to increase the salaries of teachers, and that £500 a year was about the amount that we might expect to obtain in Tipperary. If we had 100 pupils attending the science classes, I was very precise in my inquiry to him, because I considered that the success of the technical part of it depended on how it was taken up in the towns, and unless the endowment was generously given it would be hardly possible to go on. I dwell upon that, because I think that had a very serious effect in exciting a latent opposition to the work of the technical side of the Department. The general feeling among the members of the Committee, and the general public, and clergymen in many parts of the country, was that a trick had been played on the people of the country, that that amount really was included in the endowment that was to be given under the Act of Parliament, and that it had been withdrawn.

14327. (Mr. Michel).—The Equivalent Grant controversy—I am not dealing with the Equivalent Grant, but the £181,000 given for primary education. The next point is the connection of the Vice-President with the I.A.O.R. At first very little was known about that, but in the last year or two since it became known that the I.A.O.R. was being largely financed by the Department, a great deal of feeling has been created. In the first place it is believed to be a withdrawal of funds that should not have been withdrawn. If there was any right to make any grants to that organisation—especially since the organisation has become a sort of wholesale supply association—I am a townsman, and a provincial man, and I know the feelings of the towns especially is very strong on that point, but apart from that I have never limited my sympathies to being merely a townsman. The Organisation Society is too little in the hands of the people, and that added certainly very considerably to the suspicion engendered by some of the proceedings of the Department. With regard to the constitution of the Department I am entirely opposed, and so is everybody with whom I have talked on the subject—I may say that I was proposed to become a member of the Agricultural Council in the first year, but having other matters to attend to I did not wish to take up too many things. I have had a great deal of conversation with members of it in various parts of Ireland when I met from time to time. It is too concentrated; it has all the vices of the old system of half nomination and half election. I believe there should have been only one Board popularly elected or chosen by the County Council, that that Board, or Council, as the case may be, should be an administrative body, guided, of course, by the Vice-President and Secretary, as I am quite certain they would be to a reasonable extent, but they should be a governing body, and control should be in their hands, or in the hands of an Irish representative body. I believe it to be absolutely impossible to introduce great prosperity in Ireland until such a representative body is formed. I agree thoroughly with Mr. Sweetman about the members of the Council. Many of them have told me that they had no practical knowledge of, and no influence over, what was being done. They heard matters of little moment, but what was really being done they did not know at all. I might go further and say that men who have become members of the Board say it is a very different thing; when they are on the Board they know something, when they are on the Council they know no-

thing. At a very early period we were told there was a clerk employed for every county in Ireland. I think having the Department managed by an elected body would lead to economy and efficiency. The staff seems to me very much too large. I have been informed that there was a clerk to every county in Ireland. I think that was a bad system.

14328. (Chairman).—Do you mean a clerk in the Department for every county in Ireland?—Yes, for the thirty-three counties, and six borough Councils. They are probably falling over each other.

14329. (Mr. Michel).—They want to get a large house—I think a smaller number in the house would be better—I think men of wider knowledge. I am in good of having one man for Cork, and another for the County Louth, which is about one-fourteenth of the size of it.

14330. (Chairman).—Is that so?—At least as they said. I have it on the authority of the Department itself; it is a few years ago.

14331. (Mr. Doyle).—You have been informed that all the papers that came from a particular Committee go through one man's hands, but it does not follow that the same man does not deal with papers from twelve or three other counties!—What they stated to us was that there was a clerk for every county in Ireland. We had it in a typewritten circular. They might have men to deal with subjects common to all counties.

14332. (Mr. Michel).—I think that is the system. That is an improvement. I think there is too much of the statistical method, and it takes up too much of their time. It is an opinion I have held for some time that gathering statistics dwells the intelligence and intellect of a man dealing with these things. I believe it was Herbert Spencer, who declared that he believed the Government of England was being hampered by too much devotion to statistics, and similar subjects. I think there is too much of that, and it does not lead to anything. I came now to the County Committees that we appointed. There was a great deal of dissatisfaction from the commencement as regards the bulls—the pedigree bulls—foreign to Ireland—Scottish chiefly. It increases expenses very much. In the first year we sent over two of the best men in the country, one the chairman, and another a large estate dealer, to Paris to buy. They expected to get bulls at £20, or £24, each. They had to pay over £50. They considered they were badly treated, for all the bulls likely to suit them were marked for premium by the Department.

14333. (Mr. Doyle).—They were sold by auction.—They were sold by auction, but they were run up on them. They were only able to bring home fourteen instead of thirty-two they expected to get. I don't know that that is continued since, but I was told the same thing from Armagh, the very same thing. In fact they gave it up altogether. There were some complaints of want of condition and other matters, which I won't go into. With regard to horse-breeding in the County Tipperary, I don't quite agree with Mr. Sweetman; I think it has been a great success. The principal dissatisfaction was that that the half-bred sires were not suited for premiums, and this has been removed within the last year, because it is a well-known thing that a great number of the best mares have been picked up, and sold, and taken out of the country, and the result of sending the remaining ones to a thoroughbred is to get a steady herd and the people are very anxious to have a good sound half-bred, to get the use of better mares in demand. This has been allowed during the last year for the first time. I speak about the Tipperary Urban Rural Committee, and the difficulties they had. Some of their difficulties arose from conflict with other departments, and they thought they were not perhaps more to blame than the other departments. I have just taken two instances that come under my notice, the confusion caused by the apparent powerlessness of the Department of Agriculture and the Local Government Board to agree as to a common financial year. This is a very serious matter. The financial year of the Local Government Board ends on the 31st of March, and the auditor requires the accounts to be furnished up to that time, just as in the Borough Councils, and County Councils, whereas the Department's year begins on the 1st of January, and let of July. The result was that the Secretary had always to try and balance his accounts for two different periods.

14334. (Mr. Micks).—Four times a year, instead of twice?—Yes; and he could show no voucher for the quarter. Of course the expenditure of the Technical Committee is a varying thing, not the same every quarter, and he could not show vouchers for this. Therefore, the Auditor was practically obliged to take his word for it, that it was the amount inspected. He could not show vouchers properly until the end of the Department's half-year. The Auditor of the Local Government Board came down, say, in March, or in April, and he required that the accounts should be presented to him up to that time, whereas the Secretary could not present these accounts for the half-year, because his half-year was going on. That caused a great deal of confusion.

14335. He could not show a receipt for any money that was paid?—Yes; and the money was being paid on account in various ways, and I think, having to present accounts four times a year, instead of twice, an anomaly that should be removed in some way. Another instance was in connection with the Education Board. In 1903 the Department, and the National Board of Education, came to an understanding by which the National teachers could attend science class certificates, and the certificate that was obtained from the Department would be recognized by the National Board. The advantages of the arrangement are obvious when contrasted with those previously in existence. Of course it brought all the teachers into contact with the technical body, and encouraged them to train their boys so as to be fit to go into science classes, and take an interest in them, and it would have increased the number attending the science classes. At that time the National Board had only a few science organizers over all Ireland, one of whom was sent to our particular district for a short time. The substitution of permanent instruction in well equipped laboratories would seem to be eminently desirable, but the experience of the Tipperary Council would seem to indicate that the National Board never had any real intention of carrying out the new arrangement. We fitted out a laboratory at a cost of £120, and there have been additions made to it in connection with the Christian Brothers' secondary schools.

14336. (Mr. O'Shea).—Then it would not be under the National Board?—No; but the teacher had qualified under Father Dowling as a teacher in the secondary system.

14337. How did that affect the National Board?—The National teachers all round were to come in and attend his lectures, with a view of placing them in contact with the system, so that they would encourage their boys to join science classes afterwards, in this secondary school. The classes for teachers under the National Board were being held in these secondary

schools, not in the National schools, but by one of our science teachers, a highly qualified man. The question arose as to whether the teachers should get certain small travelling grants which they used to get formerly, and actually the National Board said they could not pay those, as no provision for such had been made in the Treasury estimate for the current year. They were then asked to apply to the Treasury for a provision, in this respect, for next year. They did so, and informed the Committee they had succeeded, but in a week or two they sent down their own organizers, as if no communication had passed on the subject, and enrolling all the available teachers naturally put an end to the attempt of the Committee to establish a class, without the smallest notice of any kind, and of course the good effect of the teachers' attendance was entirely lost. We had a troublesome experience in Tipperary to get up a central technical school in Tipperary, in connection with the Tipperary Urban and Rural Council, at first. A site was promised with some lands, on the property in the town, with four acres of ground. That was set down, however, and lapsed, the area was accepted, and plans and estimates for it made, and got. The plans were drawn up, but the agent of the landlord objected to the structure of the building. He said it might be used for holding concerts in, and he was told no public concerts would be held. He then required that we should make ourselves responsible for the nature of the building, and probably as the Department would be at an end before the seven years we had a lease for, he wanted that we should guarantee the use of it. He finally wound up by saying he would not allow this building to be put up. He manages the Town Hall, and he said he would not have an opposition shop. General Messer and I applied to the County Council for the use of a disused barnyard for which they were paying rent, and we got it, and estimates were got from Mr. Hill, Architect, in Cork, for changing this to suit our requirements. We had a balance of about £240 available. If we got £100 the Department had sanctioned, but did not agree to give us, that is, they withdrew it, and not only that but they cut down a further amount of our resources which I thought was the most injurious act that they ever did in connection with technical instruction in Tipperary. It did more harm, in my opinion. I know the feeling against them. I had great hopes from the inception of the Department, but their act in withdrawing this £100, and rendering it impossible for us to get up a central technical school did more harm to the cause of technical education in Tipperary than all their other acts put together. Having been in contact with this business all the time it was in existence, seeing it from various points of view, and having had great expectations from it, I have been naturally disappointed.

Mr. H. P. O'SHEA, Dublin, examined

14338. (Chairman).—Are you a mining surveyor?—Yes.

14339. What does your business relate to?—Coal.

14340. In Ireland?—In Ireland. My professional business is land surveying and general engineering surveying. I am a mining surveyor also, and I hold a certificate in mining surveying; I hold the certificate of the College of Science.

14341. (Mr. O'Shea).—In mining?—Yes.

14342. You are an Associate in mining?—Not an Associate but I hold a certificate.

14343. A class certificate?—Yes.

14344. (Mr. Micks).—For science lectures?—For science courses.

14345. Have you ever practised in mining?—I have.

14346. (Mr. O'Shea).—In what parts of Ireland?—In all parts of Ireland.

14347. (Chairman).—Can you mention in what particular works you have been engaged?—I have not held any appointment in mining. I have reported on mining generally.

14348. Have you reported on any particular mines?—The Arigna district. I have reported on that to a company.

14349. Who thought of working it?—Yes; who employed my services.

14350. Anything else?—No other appointment.

Mr. H. P.
O'Shea.

14351. Do you think your experience in Ireland

has been sufficient to make your evidence of value.

We have already had a good deal of evidence?

—Except that I would like to substantiate and

strengthen the evidence of Mr. Lyburn. I want to

deal particularly with the question of coal, the entire

coal of Ireland. I have taken it under several heads,

the situation of the coal fields, the quantity of coal,

the yearly output, the persons employed, the Govern-

ment help, local district schemes, coal supporting, and

suggestions for the future working of the mines and

minerals.

14352. What is important to note is whether or

not there is a prospect of workings?

14353. (Mr. Micks).—Is what you have got in your

hand the *Homestead* newspaper?—Yes.

14354. You are going to quote something from it?—

Yes.

14355. Well, give us the reference to the page, and

number?—Notes appearing in the *Irish Homestead*,

page 756, September 23rd, and September 15th, 1904.

I would just like to refer to the suggestions I make.

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O'Sullivan.

I refer to the coal fields being a national asset. I have suggested that a proper working service, and up-to-date methods of the mines and quarries of Ireland should be made by the Department of Technical Instruction, so that reliable information could be had by the local District Councils who undertake the working of the mines and quarries in their districts. In America the State provides all such facilities, and sends out mineral surveyors to the localities required by the local bodies, or private owners. It is painful to see the want of enterprise and energy of Irishmen in their own country. I believe that Ireland wants financial help, and she has immense material to create large industrial development in her mines and minerals. If the Bishops and clergy of Ireland would take this matter up with the help of the Board of Technical Instruction in Ireland, and get the local districts to work in forming Committees, work could be got for Irishmen in their own land, and some stop put to the constant drain of our population through want of employment. Any little help of a technical nature as regards the working of the mines and minerals, and the quarries of Ireland which I can give are always at the service of those who will forward the industrial enterprises as carried out in other countries. I say that with the plant, and appliances, and instruments, and able teaching staff of the Royal College of Science in Ireland there should be no difficulty in supplying the requisite amount of trained mining engineering men to work the collieries and mines of Ireland.

14355. (Chairman).—Is there any other suggestion?—Yes. Mr. Lyburn said he did not see that the Government should work these mines. I am of a different opinion. I think that by the passing of the coal mines through the purchasing of the land by the Land Commission, and the Land Commission securing rights as regards minerals and quarries, etc., that the mines therefore become a national asset, and it should be the interest of the State to get some work.

14357. (Mr. Mickel).—Are you aware that they reserved coal in connection with any single estate, have they reserved it in Arigna, or Coalbrookdale?—I believe in Coalbrookdale they have done something towards reserving it.

14358. Were you ever at Coalbrookdale?—I was.

14359. How do you want the traffic developed there?—By connecting a railway with the mines.

14360. Where would you connect with?—A branch line could be run.

14361. From where would you run it; are you familiar enough with the matter to reply straight off?—I don't know where the branch line is wanted.

14362. Your inspection must have been of a very cursory nature?—It was.

(Mr. Mickel).—I think you have not a sufficient amount of information to come here to give evidence to us. I really think we have heard enough of your evidence.

The Committee adjourned.

FORTY-FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER, 31st, 1906.

At 18, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin.

Present:—

Sir KENNEL DIGBY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGHILVIE.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Mr. F. W. MOORE, M.R.S., examined.

14363. (Chairman).—You are Currier of the Botanical Gardens?—I am, sir, my proper title is Keeper.

14364. The Gardens are under the general control of the Department?—Yes, sir. They were formerly under the Science and Art Department, then we were transferred to the Department when they were created.

14365. We are anxious to hear from you that side of the work which is done under the supervision of the Department, how it is organised and working?—When I was transferred to the Department they had no expert in horticultural matters, and although it was not part of my duties as defined by the Treasury Professor Campbell asked me would I assist in horticultural matters at first, and I was, of course, very willing to, as I believed in the matter, and thought there was great room for development. The first thing we found when we wanted to start anything was the absolute want of trained and competent men to do anything—we could get good gardeners, but they had not been trained to write reports or measure ground or give instructions to others, they were not capable of lecturing; that was the great want that was found. To meet that came the question of County Council instructors, and I have to examine them all before they are appointed, I have to certify that they are fit for County Council work. That is one of the duties that I have to perform. We find it very hard to get really good men. Professor Campbell said the best way to get to do that would be to start a school of horticulture up at the Agricultural College, not for the general public, but for men likely to be of other use in the Department. He admitted them by examination and planted a four-acre orchard, this orchard was put in, not exactly on commercial principles, because we wanted to give them a chance of learning. A great many varieties of trees were planted, and it was not put down just as an orchard ought to be planted if worked commercially and soundly. These men are admitted by examination for a year, and get a year's course there.

14366. Are they in residence in Glasnevin?—Not at the Agricultural College, Glasnevin; they get lectures in insect work, in plant diseases, and in the ordinary life of a plant.

14367. The object being to train them as instructors?—As instructors and County Council men afterwards, and these men have turned out extremely well. Our first batch we took in twelve or thirteen, and eight of these men are capable of going to any county or place at present, they are about the best men I have come in contact with for years.

14368. Are they Irishmen?—I cannot say, there is certainly not one of them that has come from England or Scotland for the purpose, they are, everyone, men who had had a residence of at least eight to twelve years in Ireland before we took them.

14369. But not Irish by birth?—I cannot say, but everyone, I think, held a gardener's position in Ireland.

14370. Either by birth or adoption?—Yes, there was not one of these men who had not discharged to show they had been at least eight or ten years in Ireland before we took them. Although we had numerous applications from the other side we let no

man come over from the other side to be examined, the object was to get our own men trained.

14371. You have found a fair supply of raw material?—Only at first, it has got very short now, I cannot explain it, the class of men who came up at the last examination were very different, we got Constabulary pensioners, clerks, Civil Servants, and retired postal officials.

14372. Is there any limit of age?—They must be over twenty.

14373. Any the other way?—Not that I am aware of, except that we would not take them over forty-five. There would be no use in training a man when the best of his life was gone.

14374. (Mr. Micks).—Had you any applications from pensioners under the 45 Rule?—No, we did not go so far as that. The first examination we had fifty-six candidates, everyone of those had been a gardener, and had had some training in gardening. We won't take them without some knowledge of gardening, so as to make them useful.

14375. These men you have trained have they been employed in Ireland as instructors?—Without exception everyone who has passed through that training school is now either employed by the Department or as a County instructor. There were two exceptions—one of them had to leave, and the other left us voluntarily. The others have all found employment, and of everyone of them we have heard good accounts. I have endeavoured not to take a man in unless he was thoroughly practical, if you go to teach these farmers and the man who is sent to teach them does a thing awkwardly the farmers lose confidence in them. The endeavour has been to give a minimum amount of classroom instruction, and the maximum amount of thorough practical work in connection with the Department. Horticulture was extremely backward, there were splendid gardens, splendid private institutions, but there was no opportunity of teaching the people, and that was one of the things that led Professor Campbell to adopt the present plan. It was Professor Campbell's plan and I carried it out. We surveyed Ireland and went about and found districts where fruit-growing was likely to be successful. We found that there were districts in Ireland quite equal to and better than the best Kent and Hereford districts that were producing material under the most adverse conditions, it was astonishing to see what fruit was produced in Ireland under circumstances of the greatest neglect. Then we got a local Secretary and said, "If you get in your centre twenty farmers within a radius of five miles any way, and each of these farmers will undertake to give one-acre for fruit, he must undertake to fence it and cultivate it to the satisfaction of the Department, if that is done, the Department will supply absolutely free of cost the whole material for planting that acre, they will send a skilled instructor to supervise the planting of that acre, and they will leave him and pay his wages and expenses for five years in your district. In the meantime each farmer must sign an agreement to keep his orchard under the instructor's directions for that five years; every single piece of produce from the orchard is his, and during the five years the Department will

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pay half the railway carriage on his produce to the market, and they will put an expert in the market to see it gets fair play." We thought that at the end of the five years the men will be sufficiently educated to carry on that work themselves. I believe there is no other country in the world where fruit-growing has got such eminently practical and satisfactory support as that, and the result has been entirely satisfactory, our returns show that there has been this year a very good profit on all the well-managed plots, and those where the plots are not so well managed it is because you always find a man who will take a thing up because he sees his neighbour doing it, and then will complain of want of labour, and say, "How can we get it wooded, how can we spray the trees?" Our instructor has to enforce that. I have been through the best Kent orchards and I know some of the Belgian and German orchards, and I have never seen anything equal to Piltown or Wexford. This progress has been made for the last three years. The difficulty we had to face in making the five years' agreement binding, is that it is so hard to keep these farmers in spirits waiting for returns, and they will get no return from bush trees for three years. This year they have been getting quite a nice return. This has been a fair year for apples in Ireland in some districts very good and other districts average and fair. Right such centres have been established in Ireland, one has forty acres instead of twenty. So great a success are they that we could plant twenty more centres this year if we liked, but there are no men to do it, we have not material, and also I think after the support that has been given, it is not necessary to push it so far now as it has been done. The men are taking such an intelligent interest in it, they are quite different to the orchard work from the ordinary farm work.

14375. Is that movement confined to the more progressive counties, or does it extend to the poorer parts of Ireland as well?—We have Monaghan in the County Tyrone, Tipperary, County Wexford, and Broadway, we have Dungannon, Clonsilla, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Nass and Mountbellew.

14376. (Mr. Butler).—In addition to Nass you have a district called Nurney, with small holdings?—No big farmer will be taken into this scheme. We try to get the small man in and give him something extra. Monaghan has applied for more, Wexford has applied for more, Piltown wants more, so does Tipperary and Sligo.

14377. (Mr. Alick).—Have you visited Sligo with reference to this matter?—Generally.

14378. The country round Tabernamhilly?—No, I have not been down there.

14379. That is a very large apple and fruit district?—Sligo is one of the places we have in view as one of the most likely places we have seen.

14380. They have old orchards there?—There is no use going to exposed, or mountainy, or boggy sites, that would kill our work at once, they would be hampered with bad growth and disease, and the result would be demoralisation and discouragement instead of encouragement, and that is the reason I am always sending, say a man like Mr. Irving or Mr. Springuear, some of the best men I have, to make a preliminary survey of the old orchards, what the shelter is like, and we won't go too far from a railway station on account of the cost of the carriage of goods.

14381. (Chairman).—I suppose that is one of the difficulties—dealing with the produce afterwards?—That is the great difficulty. The great difficulty is to get them over the first two years, to help them to bridge that we give them seeds of vegetables, each plot holder gets a bundle of seeds of good marketable vegetables for his first year. First of all to give him some profitable crop between his fruit trees, which we insist on being kept in broken ground, and, secondly, to give him some variety for his own house. They count in the produce of the plot what they take in for their own consumption, they are taught to keep accounts, and our instructors see that they keep these accounts accurately. He must monthly go through the books and see what sums have been entered, so as to get a good idea. Then we find that there was a great scarcity of suitable fruit trees in Ireland. Some nurseries had good stuff, but we found many nurseries were selling rough trees not suitable for the farmers, as a result of that we called

for inspection, we asked all the big traders for estimates and samples, we bought everything through the local houses, but at the same time most of the trees planted came from England. Professor Campbell said one day, "We must get our Irish nurserymen to grow suitable trees." We got two kinds of samples, and to about a dozen nurseries we sent these samples round and said "If you will grow these trees we will take them from you and recommend them to the County Councils for farmers to plant." That has been a decided success, and the result of the Department's work is that the market for trees in the Irish nurseries has improved about 50 per cent. in the last three years, there is no question about it. Really good growers are growing their stuff to meet the demand. Now, the farmers when they see what is being done become disheartened with what they got before and want better. When I first went down to Piltown the first plot I went into the owner was ploughing it up and getting ready for planting. I said, "I hear you are going to join our scheme." He said, "That depends where the trees are coming from." I thought I was in for trouble. I said, "There is no use telling you a lie, they are brought from an Irish house, but the trees are English." "That is all right," said he, "because if they come from one of these nurseries," mentioning two or three Irish houses, "I would not have planted under your scheme." Going through the orchards we found the names and labels on the trees were those of English firms. Now, it is quite the contrary, and I attribute that entirely to the work of the Department, insisting on not buying anything but suitable plants, it is very marked indeed.

14382. (Mr. Alick).—There is a fruit nursery in Roscommon?—Most excellent, and in Wicklow, these are the firms I allude to as meeting the requirements.

14383. There are a great many of the poorer districts in Roscommon and East Galway and East Mayo, have you visited those districts with a view of selecting sites for introducing fruit culture?—No, sir, the nearest approach to Roscommon is Mountbellew, we have a twenty-acre centre there and an intricate down there, it is impossible to do too many, these are a great many desirable places.

14384. For these very small farmers, would you take less from them than one acre?—No.

14385. Where you have very small farmers, when their tillage amounts to three acres, and a man could not afford to give up an acre?—Then he would come to the County Council and buy a few fruit trees, but if you are going to make it a commercial thing it is no use starting under one acre.

14386. Down in East Mayo, round some of the places, Ballinagharra, or Killybegh, where you would get hundreds of holdings ready to give up a quarter-acre near the railway station, don't you think there would be the elements of success in that?—Yes, there might be, but there is the difficulty of inspection.

14387. They are all together, your inspector would not have so far to travel?—No, but you would require eighty inspectors, and there is a great difficulty in logging all those when multiplied up like that experienced.

14388. I am asking you about the great desirability of bringing in some source of income to these very poor people?—I think small measures ought to be made under the County Councils' instruction—not under the Department. Once the Department has shown the system it has pretty well done its function.

14389. Does it do anything for these people?—Every one under this scheme must be a small holder.

14390. You won't get any holders as large as the West as you are operating on in Piltown and other districts?—We have holders with as little as fifteen acres.

14391. That is a big holding in the West?—I am not acquainted with that.

14392. This is a country where you are close to the celebrated fruit country of Tabernamhilly?—Our object has been to keep to the districts where there has not been much fruit grown, but promising to be good fruit-growing centres.

14393. That is exactly the condition of affairs in East Mayo—they are near a county where it is grown, and are near a nursery?—How about their market?

14394. They have a railway running through their farms practically?—Exposure means so much.

14398. Would reclaimed bog be bed?—Yes; you get senior in at once.

14399. (Mr. O'Neil).—Who is it exactly that supervises the work of these plots?—We have a trained instructor in charge of each plot, certainly resident amongst the plots, entirely paid by the Department.

14400. Not the County Instructor in Horticulture?—No; one of our own men, subject to the Department.

14401. (Mr. Brown).—There has been an exception to that in Kildare—It was supervised by the County instructor?—He has now ceased, but he was an exceptional man. Mr. Tyndall was very progressive. I think he was paid something extra by the Department.

14402. (Mr. O'Neil).—The work of supervising plots, with this single exception, has been undertaken by a separate man, sent by the Department?—Absolutely; paid his whole wages by the Department and his travelling expenses, a man guaranteed to each centre for five years, not necessarily the same man.

14403. Do you know whether the horticultural instructors of the County Councils are capable of supervising whatever plots under a more elastic system of establishment the County Council might see fit to had these services for?—I should say in the great majority of cases they are. In some cases they are not, because they have had no experience of extended commercial fruit-growing; they have been private gardeners, but in a great many cases the County Council instructors are very good men, surprisingly good with the encouragement they have. There is no impediment for a first-rate man to become a County Council instructor at present rates.

14404. Is there a County Council instructor in Mayo?—That I don't know.

14405. But supposing there was one there, and his previous experience did not cover so large a knowledge of marketing as is necessary, but did include sufficient experience of the governing part of the operation, could that man have ready access to skilled officers of the Department supposing he was in any difficulty or wished an occasional visit for consultation?—Without any difficulty, in fact there is an officer of the Department, whose function is to superintend the marketing and render every assistance, and he has just returned from the Queen's County, where he went down to advise a gentleman who was marketing his apples and complained of the price he was getting, that they were not such prices as he had informed him he could get. Our expert, Mr. Harper, went down, and spent the afternoon with him, and showed him how badly he had packed his apples. And I saw yesterday a lot of boxes coming up to Friday's market beautifully packed under Mr. Harper's direction equal to Canadian or Tasmanian apples.

14406. Then it would, in your opinion, be quite possible for any county to institute a scheme on the same general principle as the Department has established, but suited to the particular circumstances of the locality?—I do, but it would be extremely expensive on any county. Before these plots are planted it costs at least £35 to £40 a plot and you see there are twenty of these plots in a centre.

14407. Is that occupied in any way?—Not in any way. That is absolutely not revenged in any way to the Department; at the end of five years our instructor is withdrawn and the farmer becomes absolutely owner, untrammelled of his plot, fully planted, pruned, and sprayed, and left up-to-date.

14408. Can you tell me whether, in view of this ultimate, though not immediate, great benefit to the farmer, you have had any trouble in districts by having many more applications than you were able to take in?—Far more; in Phoenix we had to make forty instead of twenty; the district was so promising, and applications so urgent; we have, from Monaghan, applications urging us to make twenty more plots. Mr. Byrne, the Secretary, who is working it up, has written to me, urging me, but it is not in my hands and I don't think it is desirable; if you are going to spend more give some other locality a chance.

14409. Where you have had to exclude any, because there were more applications than the twenty required for the centre, on what principle have you excluded them?—Situation and suitability of the plot, entirely. I went through thirty-eight plots in Monaghan, and I had to limit them down to twenty; several were very discoloured. I have had the soil turned up to see was it drained, and what the sub-soil was, and I selected the twenty most suitable plots for it. I was never in

the locality before and had no idea of who the owners were; we always selected the most suitable plots for the purpose.

14410. Then if the Department were to establish five or six more centres you would advise that these should be established in localities or areas which had not already the advantage of the demonstration of the existing plots?—Certainly.

14411. (Chairman).—I suppose you look, on one of the benefits of establishing this system, to its spreading over the country?—That was the whole object in starting, to make them examples and demonstration plots to show what could be done. We know perfectly well when the thing was got properly started, and the districts had decided for themselves whether they were suitable or not, the people would come in.

14412. Do you think it has had that effect as yet?—Very much, especially in certain districts they are planting more and more; they are all inclined to plant. If you could get the statistics now of the number of fruit trees sold last year as compared with four or five years ago by the County Council, they are increasing so much.

14413. (Mr. Brown).—I suppose you are not prepared to give us those statistics?—No, I have nothing to do with that, but I know by the nurserymen's action, they have told me, "Look here, Mr. Moore, there is no use in going round, we are sold out"; in several cases they have been cleared out of their available available material; it has with the County Councils to back up the Department by rejecting anything that is not found good.

14414. (Mr. O'Neil).—It appears from what you say to be pretty well established that in the case of the farmers who can afford to give out some acre the business is a sound one where the circumstances are suitable. As to the suitability of the circumstances, the farmer has the valuable advice of the county instructor, and, if necessary, consultation with the Department's other officers. In view of the wide-spread distribution of the examples of the acre plots do you consider that it would be desirable for the Department now to modify its scheme so as to demonstrate the conditions under which the work would become remunerative in the case of such smaller farmers as Mr. Micks has referred to?—It is a very doubtful question; it is very hard to answer that straight away; any success that has ever attended the fruit-growing thing has been with men who had a considerable stock in it; it is very hard to market a small quantity.

14415. (Mr. Micks).—You are not considering cases in France or Belgium, where small plots are cultivated?—I am; I served my time as a horticulturist in Belgium. I cannot compare them because the Belgian growers are nearly all men who are interested in the fruit question; it is not a new growth with them, because it has spread from the big man to the small man, and of those men who are carrying it on round towns like Ghent; a lot are men who worked in nurseries and had a personal knowledge, and handled their own trees, and the first thing they do when they have a brood-ended barn, they plant a good pear against it, and they commence in Belgium so much of their own fruit. I lived with a mere cottier in Belgium, and stored apples were a constant thing in Belgium at dinner, a thing you would not get in Ireland in twelve months. That has been what influenced Professor Campbell so much; he thinks the poorer people here ought to have a better class of vegetable and more fruit; that in every sense is a more economic way to encourage them. He has tried to do it by demonstration and practical results instead of lectures, and it is the only way I believe it can be successfully done, by getting people taught themselves to do it.

14416. (Mr. O'Neil).—I would like to put to you one special advantage that the small man has, that as the area he has to cover is smaller he will be better able to give personal attention to the work and that might have an influence which would counterbalance some other defects. I ask whether you think it would not be possible to get sufficiently good results under such conditions to make it at least worth while trying to show what the defects were?—Yes; I think it is worth trying it on a small scale if you are not going to do with the larger thing; but I would not certainly start a great many at one time in any centre.

14417. (Mr. Micks).—I think the reason that was put to you was that twenty acres would be as small an amount as could be marketed properly?—No; but that

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would make an effect on the market, getting it known as a place for fruit.

14412. A smaller amount of trees could be marketed?—Undoubtedly; but the great difficulty is they export to get returns for very small quantities of fruit that is sent up, but the dealer wants a steady supply, and that comes in when you have a district that can supply regularly.

14413. Does the selection of the locality at all depend on you?—No; in the first instance it did; when the schemes were started I was asked what I thought were likely localities.

14417. Lately have any questions been put to you?—Now, for instance, Monymore was put under another scheme, and I was sent down to see what is a suitable district before anything was decided on; in that way it comes to me.

14418. That would be only reporting on the suitability of a locality provisionally fixed upon?—Yes.

14419. Have you ever been asked?—Where, in Ireland, do you think might we next think of starting orchards?—I have, in the first two years.

14420. Have you joined in discussions lately on the question?—Yes, under another scheme, but not under the scheme I have told you of. We have an extremely smart man, whose business is to go about Ireland reporting on suitable places, Mr. Irving.

14421. He selects the sites?—No, I don't say so; he goes round and keeps his eye open for fruit-growing, and he has to inspect the County Council man and all our instructors, and his reports give a guide to us. Now, last year Professor Campbell said, "We want to lay down a couple more plots, and I want you to go round and see what place you think desirable. Monymore had applied, under another scheme, and I was sent there first, and reported that it was not a suitable place for the first scheme, but was for Professor Campbell's scheme. The reason for not going to the North of Ireland before was that fruit-growing was already in existence there. Professor Campbell said, "We will take that for one and I want you to go round and put another plot in the South; I drove about districts in Tipperary and Waterford, Ferns, and Cork, and then we selected Dungarvan, and that was the place where we planted our twenty acres last year.

14422. I am not sure whether you have expressed any definite opinion as to starting in a district where the population is very thick and the holdings are very small?—It is a very difficult question to answer; if I were convinced the people were in earnest, and would attend to it, and intelligently attend to it, I think it would be very desirable to start experimentally with them, but I would not start with many at first. And, in any case, once you had their fruit-trees superintended for five years, and got established, I believe they would become so keen on them themselves that they would keep them for their own use.

14423. Do you think it would be of use if they took it up for earning money as well as dietary?—Yes; they would have a nice little addition to their income without much trouble on their part; the one hard thing to buy is a decent apple in Ireland until the Americans come in; the vast majority of the American apples are infinitely inferior to our own; they are mealy and bad colored; on the other hand we know that some of the American apples are very fine apples, but they are only for the rich.

14424. And, of course, picking them before they are in as good condition?—Yes, unless you get the late keepers or Newtown Pippin, but they are generally in. 6d. to 2s. a dozen.

14425. (Mr. Dryden).—Are you speaking of the Canadian or the United States apples?—I am speaking of the Canadian apple principally and the United States.

14426. We are rather jealous of our own?—And you have every reason to be proud of the way you have established that trade; without meaning disrespect, I think your trade has been established by absolute care in grading and packing and sending sound fruit through the fruit is inferior.

14427. We have changed our packing lately?—Yes, so many suffered from bruising in the barrels, but still they were wonderfully well packed. Two years ago the Department of Agriculture, to show people what they could do, initiated two large shows of apples, one in Cork and one in Dublin, in 1902 and 1904. These were extremely good and successful. Sir Horace Plunkett thought if the gentry could be got to plant

orchards the people would follow them, and he started a scheme two years ago to induce landed proprietors to plant; he would send down an expert and advise them whether their ground was suitable, and he would charge them the price of the expert. I pointed out that that was no use; they must be shown some benefit from it, and after some persuasion he consented to pay half the cost of the apple trees and allow an itinerant instructor to go round. Under that system there have been thirty-four acres of apples planted, and two or three of them will be the finest orchards in Ireland. Lord Fingal has planted seven acres in the most up-to-date method, Lord Dunry four acres, Lady Stourton three acres; the centres were Drumeau, Narin, Kells, Foxrock, and Queen's County, and I have been away for the last two days in the Queen's County. The whole difficulty we are in at present is getting adequately trained men, men with education enough to keep accounts, write a report, measure up and map a piece of ground, and calculate the best trees that are required in it.

14428. (Chairman).—It is rather unsatisfactory that the supply of instructors should be diminishing?—I cannot explain why. My own explanation is that the ultimate result these men can expect is not sufficient to induce them to come up and remain in. A County Council horticultural instructor gets £2 a week and his travelling expenses; he gets no perquisites of any sort, and he is not a fixed man. He has no room at his office, and has to travel all over the county. If for a man who has to put up at hotels every week a very poor remuneration.

14429. As to the salaries of the instructors?—They are about the same rate as the county man, but they are fixed. They rent a cottage, and have £2 a week and third-class railway and a bicycle allowance. They are definitely in a centre, and make their home there, whereas if a county man has a home he has to keep a second home if he goes away.

14430. (Mr. Brown).—What inducements do you give them during the learning period?—I think they are treated more liberally than any men I know of. They are given £12 a week, and absolutely free instruction. At the end of six months, if satisfactorily examined, they rise to £13 a week, and during his year of instruction a man has got ample to maintain him. All he has got to do is pass an examination, to show he can write decently and spell decently, and knows something of gardening.

14431. (Mr. Midge).—Is his work at value?—Yes; we make him keep the orchard and garden.

14432. I suppose he is worth his £12?—Oh, no. His hours are from seven o'clock to six o'clock, with one hour off.

14433. (Mr. O'Neill).—How many hours a day in the school does that include?—Averaging for the week not more than two or three hours a day for the week.

14434. So that he is working about seven hours in the field?—Yes.

14435. (Mr. Brown).—That is probably more than these men would be able to earn without instruction at all?—Yes, it is only some of them that would have a busy to live in. There is no lodging accommodation, in a garden, and a man would have both accommodation and £12, or 16s. a week, and in that hobby he would probably get coal and milk and vegetable allowances.

14436. You don't give them their food?—No; but if the Department wanted a labouring unit of garden to do their work they would get him at 15s. a week, but we cannot get the trained and skilled men.

14437. (Chairman).—How many inspectors are superintendents of plots?—At present we have eight men out, and there are two or three men travelling about the holdings when there is pressure, and all our other men are out as County Council instructors—Haden in Waterford and Bowers in Roscommon—and these are the men who have given the greatest satisfaction.

14438. Has this deficiency of students been progressive?—Have the numbers been diminishing progressively?—No, it has been about the same for the last two years. We are four years in existence now. At our first two examinations we got all the men who are doing our best work now, and for the last two years we have not got good men. We have got men who turned out well, but they were not the class we would like to have got. We have had to take them below the knowledge of gardening we would like to

have had, but simply because they were the best material that presented.

14439. You rather attribute that to the fact that their prospects are not good enough—I do. I think that has a large influence on them. There is no other horticultural country I know—I am acquainted with the Belgian Horticultural schools—able to give anything like this advantage to learners. In England there are excellent county schools; they are largely endowed, and learners must get in by competition. The best examination we had within the last fortnight, the candidates we selected from the oral examination, those who passed in gardening here Oct. 31, 1898.

14440. (Mr. O'Neill).—In the case of men who failed in arithmetic, is there any prospect of their mending that next year?—I think there is every probability of their being taken in and taught their arithmetic. We judge a man's intelligence by his examination.

14441. You will endeavour to make good their defects?—Yes, but I would be sorry they knew that.

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Mr. GEORGE W. BOWEN examined.

14442. (Chairman).—You are the superintendent of Agricultural Credit Organisation?—Yes, sir.

14443. Are you going to tell us something about the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—I understand that the Secretary of the I.A.O.S. has landed in a Memorandum indicating the nature of the evidence to be given on behalf of that body. I have had the general direction of the work relating to the formation of Agricultural Banks since 1897, and I have been asked to give evidence regarding this branch of the Society's work. I think I will do this in the best way if I first refer briefly to the economic conditions in Ireland which make it desirable to have cheap credit institutions established. The latest statistics show that more than half of the agricultural holdings in Ireland are under fifteen acres, the exact number of such holdings being 294,667. All of these are worked by men, whom we may call small farmers. 140,137 of these holdings are under five acres. It is an unfortunate fact which is generally well recognized that it is precisely the poorer classes who need to effect the greatest economies in their business who are most unable to do so. They are not able to offer the same security as men in more prosperous circumstances, and they pay dearly for whatever credit they obtain. They are not able to buy in bulk, and buying in small quantities they pay dearly. It has been the general experience over the Continent that communities of small farmers are the prey of the usurer, whom, we here in Ireland, call the ginseng-man. I am glad to be able to say that this type is disappearing from Ireland except in the western districts, but so long as farmers are poor and unorganized and unable to offer the best security to those who give them credit they will suffer from disadvantages which the more prosperous man is not subject to. Farmers need a very flexible system of credit which will adapt itself to the varying needs of an industry which is very unreliable. A farmer is not like an artisan or a clerk who can depend upon his wages being received on certain dates. He is generally uncertain about the amount he may receive from his industry or the dates on which he will receive it, and it commonly happens that he has to buy on credit, and sometimes even to live on credit. So it becomes of great importance to him to get that credit as cheaply as he possibly can. There are a number of institutions in Ireland which profess to meet this need of the farmers for cheap credit. There are the large Joint Stock Banks, the Loan Fund Societies, and the private money-lenders. The large banks are in every respect the best constituted, and the co-operative movement has no complaint to make against them at the present time. We consider, however, that their system is not flexible enough to meet the needs of the small farmer, and that the interest charged on small loans is rather high.

14444. (Mr. Mitchell).—Seven per cent. might it be?—On a £5 loan it would be 25 per cent. Those banks do not cater for the very small farmer, and as the branches are only established in country towns of fair size there are large areas in Ireland where the borrower would have to travel twelve or thirteen miles to one of these banks or even a much longer distance to get accommodation. The bank managers naturally do not like advancing money to small farmers when they do not know, and the borrower himself is put to considerable expense in travelling to the town where the branches of these banks are situated. He has to bring in queries and put himself under a compulsion to those men who go surety for him. I remember one farmer telling me his experience in getting a loan of £5 from the National Bank in Ballina. He lived

about fourteen miles from the bank; he had to bring Mr. George W. Bowen. in two carriages and pay their return fare; he had to give them a dinner and "hashings of whiskey," to quote his own phrase. The bank deducted 2s. 6d. for a sum of £5 for three months. There was the cost of a stamp. He had to give the men a day's work for the day he brought them away from their work, and as he knew he would not be able to make the profit out of his loan in three months and would be forced to renew he had to be good to these men and trust them occasionally to keep them in good temper, or they would not have renewed the bill. I counted up all the expenses this small farmer was put to, and found that when the interest and expenses were added together that they amounted to a charge of 42 per cent. altogether.

14445. (Mr. O'Neill).—For example?—Yes. I think that the story of this farmer represents very well the conditions under which almost any small farmer in Ireland living at this distance from a Joint Stock Bank would borrow money. Very often, too, bank managers not having any knowledge of these farmers who come from remote districts will not advance money unless they can get as security somebody who has a deposit or an account with them. Such men are generally the local tradesmen, who by this means attach the farmers to themselves and put them under obligations for which, in my opinion, they are amply repaid in their shop-dealings. The system of three or four months' bills, usual in these banks, is quite unsuitable for small farmers. It may be seven or eight or nine months before the man can get a return from the money he has expended. If he is buying young pigs it will certainly be at least that time before he will be able to sell them, make his profit, and pay the bank back. To ask him to pay the money back before he has made his profit out of it is not to help him, but to cripple him, and even if the banks rescue the borrower is put to the same expense in travelling, treading, etc., which I have referred to. I do not in the slightest degree blame these large banks for the action they exercise with respect to small farmers coming from a distance. The Loan Fund Societies I need not refer to at any length, as the system and its dangers have been fully exposed in a Report published some years ago by a Committee of Inquiry into their working.

14446. (Mr. Mitchell).—Are you aware that men with deposits often borrow on bills?—Yes.

14447. I suppose they would lend to that man without any surety?—I think they would sometimes. Improvements have been effected in management, but the same want of flexibility in methods of repayment which I have referred to in the case of Joint Stock Banks applies to the Loan Fund Societies. The interest is even higher. There are a very great number of private loan offices, nearly all of which lend money at enormous rates of interest. There is hardly a paper in Ireland where advertisements cannot be seen from benevolent philanthropists who offer to advance money to farmers, clergymen, schoolmasters, and others at moderate rates of interest. I can only say of these people that almost invariably their terms and methods are like those of their class the world over. The interest charged ranges from fifteen to sixty per cent.

14448. (Chairman).—That is quite moderate according to my experience in England, 4d. per lb. per week is the regular rate. The difficulty of getting money at reasonable rates has forced the small farmers in many districts in Ireland to the most extraordinary devices. One of the most widely spread systems of obtaining money is through what are known as Ulster as Trust

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Auctions. By this system the auctioneer will allow credit to the buyer and will pay cash with a discount off to the seller. He has the interest on the bill which he gets from the buyer, he has his auction fees and the discount for cash to the seller. This system has been utilized in a great many ways by the farmers who require money. Farmers will drive in cattle to an auction, one of them will offer them for sale as if they were his. The others will bid them up to a good price, the auctioneer will pay cash with a discount to the supposed seller and will give credit for three or four months to the supposed buyers. The men will drive the cattle home to the sheds they came out of originally and divide the money between them, less the various discounts, interests and auction fees. The money was what they really required. I have known men to buy cattle at such an auction for sums beyond their real value and having credit for four months they have sold the cattle immediately afterwards for cash, which was what they required. One man I know told me that on one hour before I met him he had bought a cow and gave the auctioneer a note to pay in four months, £13 12s. The man sold the cow for £10 immediately afterwards, the money being what he really was in need of. In many districts in Ulster this system is ruinous in its operations. It has got so far that men will auction anything. They will auction the crops in the ground, the letting of their fields, and other people buy and speculate in them very much as a gambler on the Stock Exchange.

14443. (Mr. M'Neil).—Options!—Yes; they pay £10 as cover and have four months in which to speculate on the rise. The remedy which the I.A.O.S. proposes for this state of things in Ireland is the establishment of agricultural banks on the Raiffeisen system, which is so popular all over Europe, and which it is generally agreed is the most suitable system of credit for small farmers, not only on account of the material advantages it offers but because of the educational and moral influences directly engendered by the system. The method by which Raiffeisen enabled small farmers to obtain money on as good or better terms than the wealthy farmer was very ingenious. The borrowers who can offer good security can, in almost any country, obtain money on reasonable terms. What Raiffeisen did was to join a number of the small farmers together and by their union created a greater security than the individual borrower could offer. They jointly borrowed a large sum of money insufficient for their needs at a low rate of interest, which they lent out to each other through a Committee elected by themselves. This system, with hardly any modification, has been adopted in Ireland. The societies are registered under the Friendly Societies Act, which permits of the principle of unlimited liability. A number of farmers, varying from thirty to 200, join together in a society, which is registered under the Friendly Societies Act, and having by their union, created a greater security than any of them individually could offer, on their joint unlimited engagement, to be responsible for whatever money they may have entrusted to them, they borrow as much money as they may require for their needs at a low rate of interest, which money is utilized for reproductive loans to the members. It has generally been found possible in Ireland to obtain money in these societies at from 3 to 4 per cent., and to lend it out again to the members at 1d. per 6 per month, which is a popular rate of interest and easily calculated. The money has been obtained from three sources; first, local deposits; secondly, the Department of Agriculture or the Congested Districts Board, both of which bodies have advanced small sums of £50 or £100 at 3 per cent. as a nucleus of capital to encourage the members and to show depositors that the system has the confidence of the State, and that they regard the joint engagement of the farmers as excellent security for their money.

14450. Do you think each member of that bank understands it is an unlimited liability?—It is carefully explained to him and he gets a copy of the rules.

14451. Do they put any money of their own into it?—Oh, yes; I will give you statistics about the deposits later on.

14452. I mean in the nature of capital?—No; there is no share capital.

14453. So that there is nothing to mislead them as to the extent of their liability?—Nothing whatever. The third source from which capital has been obtained is the Joint Stock Banks, which are not at all unfriendly to the Credit Societies, regarding them rather

as useful auxiliaries than as rivals. The Joint Stock Banks, with hardly an exception, are willing to lend money to properly constituted societies at 4 per cent. on overdraft. This enables the society to lend the money to its members at a penny a pound a month, and on their own terms as to time and method of repayment. It makes one per cent. on every transaction. The societies are managed by a committee elected at the annual general meeting. In this way the members of a credit society can through his association get money on better terms from a Joint Stock Bank than if he borrowed directly from it on his own responsibility. The committee is generally seven in number. The duty of the committee is to admit members and grant loans. A small entrance fee is charged—either sixpence or a shilling. No shares are taken. It would be absurd to ask men who themselves require money to take shares before they received it. The member simply signs a form applying for membership, and promising to keep the rules of the society. The society is restricted, generally speaking, to a parish or to those farmers living within a radius of 2½ or 3 miles round the office where the society works. In the Congested Districts the area is much wider.

14454. Some well-known boundary is taken?—Yes. This restriction is for the purpose of enabling the committee and the members to judge of the character of applicants or members who are borrowers. It would be impossible in a society whose foundations were mutual trust and the good character of the members to admit borrowers from a distance whose character or circumstances would be unknown to the committee.

14455. Everybody must know everybody else?—Yes. Besides the restriction lessens the work of the office, who almost invariably are unpaid. The result of the insistence on good character has been gradually to create confidence in a new security, that is the security of character. When men, all of whom are very poor, have been working together for some time, it comes to be realized that the poor but honest man, who is hardly any security to offer except his good name, will do almost anything rather than lose his good name, and that the faith which is built on a number of honest men working together is built upon a rock. The system is peculiarly suited to farmers. First of all, the interest charged is very low. The farmers in many districts think that to get money for a penny per pound per month is to get money for nothing.

14456. (Chairman).—Is there any limit in most of these societies as to the amount of the loan?—The Friendly Societies Act fix the limit that no member can borrow more than £50, but each bank limits its own district the amount given—in the poor parts of Ireland £5, in others £10 or £15.

14457. It is one of the conditions that there should be a limit of some kind?—Oh, yes; that is limited by the committee. The interest is not deducted beforehand, but it is repayable whenever a loan or the instalment of a loan is payable. The borrower gets his own time and his own method of repaying the loan. The length of time allowed is in proportion to the purpose; and the method of repayment, in the same way being varied so as to be repayable either in one sum or two or in instalments, according to whether the man makes his profits gradually or obtains them in one sum from the sale of his produce. When he purchases manure, seeds, implements, young stock, the repayment is generally deferred for six, seven, eight, or nine months. If he is buying a milch cow, and is getting his cheque from a creamery every month for the milk, payment in monthly instalments is accepted. The farmers' needs are met in every possible way. If he repays by instalments, interest is only charged on the money which he actually has had the use of. As each instalment is paid the interest is paid also, so that the system does not allow a nominal rate of 5 per cent., which might easily work out at 12 per cent. or 14 per cent. if the repayment was by instalments and the interest on the full amount for the extreme term was deducted at the time the man got the money. The greatest care is exercised in the management. The members of the committee know that if a borrower and his sureties fail to pay up a loan that it is a borrower and his sureties fail to pay up a loan that they will have to pay their share, and we have heard that the fear of loss operates perhaps even more efficaciously than a salary to secure good management. Money is only lent for profitable or productive purposes, or to effect some economy or saving to the bor-

never. The man must state on his application to the committee what he proposes to do with the money when he gets it, and the purpose must be one which, in the opinion of the committee, will enable the borrower to make a profit, and pay the society back. The borrowers are in this way taught the true use of credit, which is to borrow money to make more money, and the old tradition that to be seen borrowing was discreditable is vanishing. To serve on a committee is a great education for these farmers, as they begin to get very sharp and business-like, and realize in a way that they never did before, the amount of money which was lost in small expenses in buying goods on credit, and having them charged up in the shops at long prices.

14458. (Mr. Micks).—Do you think that is becoming too frequent—getting food on credit?—I think it is. From my examination of the papers I found that sometimes money has been lent to enable them to get out of the clutches of the grainmen men.

14459. You think there are more goods got for cash or on short accounts?—I think so. The borrowers are safeguarded against making bad investments, and their surpluses are loaned with them, not only for the repayment of the money when it falls due, but also to see that the money is applied to the purpose for which it was borrowed.

14460. (Chairman).—How do they do that?—This (grainmen) is a form of agreement we supply, and the two parties agree with the society to see that the man applies the money to buy a cow or whatever it is.

14461. (Mr. Brown).—If he does not do so?—The committee have power to sue him at once. It is an agreement form which does not require a stamp.

14462. That is really the penalty that the loan may be called in at once?—Yes. Our organizers have made minute inquiries into this matter, and we generally find the money has been applied. We even made surprise visits to some of the borrowers, and we have gone round and asked the farmers about the matter, and we have not come across a single instance where the man had not expended on the object for which it was granted.

14463. (Mr. Micks).—That did not operate in the old Fishery Loan transactions. There was one boat, known as The Boat, which received the payment for numerous loans—I have heard that. The number of societies existing in Ireland at the end of 1905 was 231. The Organization Society has not yet completed its statistics for that year, and there are twenty-five banks of which I have not yet got the full returns, but of those of which we have got particulars the membership was 12,038.

14464. Can you give us any idea of the growth of the system?—I have got the figures. The loan capital amounted to £36,636; the number of loans granted in 1905 was 7,453. The total amount granted was £45,741, the average loan being about £5. Very small farmers sometimes take £1 or £2 or £3. The working expenses are very small, £186 12s. 6d., or about 16s. per bank. They made during the year a net profit of £231 6s. 6d. I may mention that the societies do not aim at making large profits. The small margin between the amount they pay for money and the interest received from the borrowers goes to a reserve fund which can be used in the case of a possible bad debt. The reserve of accumulated profits at the end of December last was £1,717. At these societies go and on the reserve fund steadily mounts up, and creates a kind of free capital on which no interest is paid, and which can be used to lend money at even lower rates to the members. Some of the earlier societies have got a reserve fund amounting to £100, and in twenty-five years almost all the societies now existing should have a large free capital, and if the system is permanently established half a century will see them with almost all the capital they may require free of interest.

14465. Did any society fail to earn some interest?—Two or three societies may have lost 4s. or 5s. owing to not having their capital all out. They are extremely cautious in lending.

14466. (Mr. Brown).—I thought they worked usually on overdrafts?—That is a very popular form and a very useful system; then they don't lose anything at all.

14467. They have only to pay interest on what they have actually advanced?—I think the overdraft is the safest system of any; but I like to see local deposits, because it increases the local interest. I saw from a report of Mr. Lough's evidence that he put down the cost of organizing and superintending agricultural banks at £200 apiece annually. I don't know what figure he gave in support of his statement, but I can only say that during 1905, if his figures were true, that the 231 banks should have cost the I.A.O.S. £46,200 to superintend. The amount actually spent was a trifle over £1,900. The whole income of the I.A.O.S., out of which its secretary, clerical staff, treasury, home industry, agricultural, poultry, and flax organizations were paid only amounted to £5,000. There are three bank organizations employed by the I.A.O.S., the salaries varying from £150 to £150 a year. We calculate the travelling expenses of an organizer continually employed in the country as about £250, which is very moderate, and the I.A.O.S. actually spent last year about £3 apiece in superintending already existing societies, and in organizing new ones. It is very necessary, in my opinion, for the societies to be closely looked after during the first two or three years of their existence. It is most important when establishing a new system of credit in the country that a good business tradition should be created, that the borrowers should be taught to recognize that punctuality in payment is necessary, and that no laxities such as destroyed the Loan Fund Societies should be allowed. It is more necessary to have this supervision, because the members of the society are for the most part elderly men, the heads of families, who take some time to understand the working of a new society. Many of them are very unfamiliar with account-keeping, and we find that they do not at first realize the importance of attention to small details, which might make the agreement forms invalid in law. The I.A.O.S., in addition to organizing the society and instructing the members and committee, also supply books of rules, ledger, minute book, and the forms necessary for the work of the Society free of expense. They also audit their accounts. In return for this a small affiliation fee is payable to the I.A.O.S. This fee is calculated at the rate of 1s. on every £1000 of the turn-over. When a society does a business of £1,000 or over this affiliation fee would almost cover the expense of audit and the supply of stationery, but it has not been the policy of the I.A.O.S. to advise the Societies to start on a very large scale or to borrow very large sums of money at the beginning of their operations. After they have worked on a capital of £100 or £200 for a year or so the members and those who might deposit get more confidence in its working, and we find the business transactions of societies and the deposits increasing from year to year. We do not think that small farmers who individually may never have had £20 in their possession at any time of their lives, should without experience have the disposal and control of money amounting to £1,000 or £1,500. Without some preliminary experiments with the lending of small sums they might find that they had miscalculated the demand for money in the district, and might find money lying on their hands which they were unable to lend, and for which they would have to pay interest. The societies slowly increase their capital until they find the amount which can be kept in constant circulation, and when this amount is reached they receive no more deposits. We think the establishment of these banks is of great importance. Their presence will always tend to make a low rate of interest generally prevail. It will tend to put down usury, and owing to the adaptability of the system to small farmers, it will enable these men to work their holdings more profitably. They are of special importance, where, as in the West of Ireland, mismanagement of holdings takes place. The farmers who have been working on small holdings of three, four, and five acres, who are put into possession of additional land, will require capital to enable them to work them profitably. Up to a certain extent these loans are immensely profitable to the farmers. We once received reports from the secretaries of agricultural banks showing the expenditure of loans, and the profits made by the borrowers. We found that these profits varied from 100 to 200 per cent on their outlay. For example, a man would borrow £1 or 25s. to buy a couple of bonanzas. He would sell them in nine months for £6, pay back his

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loan, pay his rent, and have £1 or £2 over. May a small holding could be made much more profitable if the occupier had capital available on application to a committee in his own neighbourhood which would enable him to stock his holding to the fullest extent it could bear, or get the advantage of such prices in paying for his manure, seeds, and other requirements, and in this way be kept free from shop debts. It is much more desirable that the farmers should be responsible to each other for money than to local traders, who sometimes are not very scrupulous about the prices they charge when a man is deep in their books, and cannot very well withdraw from them. A very different feeling about repayment is engendered when poor men owe money to each other than when they owe it to the State, a landlord, or a wealthy trader. They understand too well each other's needs to have the same carelessness and lack of punctuality, and the public feeling in favour of honesty is immensely strengthened by the fact that a great number of farmers in a district are in a society where the dishonesty of one affects them all, and each has to pay his share of a loss. It is this sense of mutual responsibility which has kept the agricultural credit societies in Ireland numerous from time to time. Societies have been started in the poorest districts in Ireland—in the inland of the coast, and in the most barren parts of Connemara, Mayo, Donegal, and Kerry, and while the I.A.O.S. has in a few cases been obliged to advise the winding-up of a society, in no case has a society wound up with any loss to either member or depositor. During the ten years agricultural banks have been in existence in Ireland in no single case has a call been made on the members on the score of joint and several liability.

14465. (Mr. Minto).—I thought they were started a few years before that!—We only began organising them regularly ten years ago, but there was one bank started at Doneraile. I do not wish to make any rhetorical statement about the work of these societies, or to say that everything connected with them is in perfect order, and that the finest prosperity in the world menage to conduct the most model agricultural banks, but I do say that the societies have been looked after with great care, that they have been of great use to the members, that they are very popular, and that they are steadily growing in numbers, membership, and capital. As an instance of the trust shown, I may mention that in a bank in the congested districts near Belmullet a considerable sum of money, between £250 and £300, was sent back from America by emigrants who had made a little money on the other side, and wished to help on the most popular institution in the district they had left.

14466. (Chairman).—What place is that?—Guala. I also have at my authority of the secretary of this society, who is a Catholic clergyman, that it was the means of closing up two drinking shops in the district, as the committee decided that any member found guilty of drunkenness would not be permitted to receive a loan. We have had many letters from officers connected with these societies telling us of similar good results obtained, and we believe it would be a great loss to these societies and indeed to Ireland if the I.A.O.S. were unable to continue the supervision of the old societies and the organisation of new ones. This would mean that the societies would be unable to have anybody to advise them in difficulties, that they would be unable to secure the services of an organiser to attend their meetings when required, and having no central body to rely on a general lack of confidence on the part of members and depositors would result, and I have no doubt that in the future a good many societies would lapse into any-going methods, and that renewals of loans would become more frequent. Ireland and Irish farmers have been so lax and unbusinesslike that it needs a number of years of steady, persistent instruction to establish what I said was most necessary, that is a good tradition of business. Once a tradition of this kind is established, in which strict adherence to the rules has become a matter of habit, and firmness, as well as kindness, habitual in the treatment of borrowers, the societies will for the most part require little or no aid beyond the yearly audit which will give the central body sufficient information about their work I hand in the following table:—

AGRICULTURAL BANKS.

Statistics of Growth.

Year	Number Organised.
1898	1
1899	2
1900	3
1901	15
1902	48
1903	76
1904	102
1905	146
1906	201
1907	300
1908	331
At present date	346

Agricultural Bank Statistics for 1905

Total number of Banks	322
Membership	13,000
Loan Capital and Deposits	£26,428
Number of Loans granted	7,453
Amount of Loans	£45,741
Working Expenses	£236 12 6
Net Profit	£51 8 6
Reserve Fund	£1,717 17 10

Returns not complete at present date. Twenty-five banks have not yet sent in statistics.

(Witness explains map, showing the operation of the I.A.O.S.)

14470. (Mr. O'Connell).—You said in the earlier part of your evidence that the area was generally that covered by not more than 2½ miles radius?—I excepted the West of Ireland.

14471. I am excepting the West of Ireland, but on the other parts of Ireland the area of these green dots on your map nearly represents the area of the banks?—In the case of banks it would be so.

14472. That indicates that there are considerable portions of the country absolutely untouched by banks?—Yes.

14473. Can you give us any explanation of that fact?—as it want of adaptability of the system or what? It generally works in a more or less haphazard way; if a bank is started in one district the people in the neighbouring parishes hear of it, and we get letters asking us to go down and organise. Round Belmullet and Galway and places like that the societies spread out farways; we don't like to venture into a district until the people have heard of the banks. In the central parts of Ireland there are very large farms, and there are few societies.

14474. (Mr. Newes).—There are also very poor districts where the banks would be of great benefit?—We don't see the necessity of forcing ourselves on districts where we have not been heard of. It would be very expensive to go down to a new district, and call upon important persons in the district, explain it to them, and it would cost perhaps four or five days to arrange a meeting. Now when anyone writes to us the meeting is ready for us when we go down.

14475. (Chairman).—Then it depends on the movement in the place itself?—Yes. When we began to organise first nobody in the country knew about banks. I went down to the congested districts, and made myself an undesirable nuisance and bore to every parish priest and schoolmaster I met until I induced them to call meetings. Once I got the meetings and started the society I found no difficulty afterwards. At the present time we find no difficulty at all in keeping our men fully occupied. The requests for banks come not only from people who have read the reports in papers, but also from the Dairy and Agricultural Societies, where having tried one form of co-operation, they wish to adopt another.

14476. Looking at that map, it shows the societies at work in the poorer districts?—We have 50 or 70 societies in the congested districts.

14477. (Mr. O'Connell).—The distribution of the green spots indicates to me that apart from the congested districts you have an important region of activity in the West, but that there is a great portion of Ireland absolutely untouched?—Yes.

14478. Is there any reason to believe that the system would not be equally of use in that part?—No.

14479. (Mr. Micks).—Those are practically the grass lands of Ireland?—Yes.

14480. (Mr. Brown).—But you are aware there are interspersed with the grass lands great areas of bogs and small holdings in Kildare and the Queen's County.

(Mr. O'Leary).—I want to know whether or not there is anything in the condition of holdings in the area of Ireland not yet touched by this system of banks, that would make the system inappropriate?—Not that I know of.

14481. Therefore there is a very large field that it is possible for this system to be applied to if steps were taken to realise the possibilities and advantages known?—Yes, I think myself if the organization continues we ought to have 2,000 agricultural banks in Ireland, not 800. I can hand in leaders on the subject of co-operative credit (proceeds).—We have also one written in Gaelic by Dr. Douglas Hyde, of the Gaelic League. These (proceeds) are copies of the rules and instructions for secretaries, who have to be told how to make every entry. There is little or no knowledge of book-keeping in rural districts, and the farmers must have all possible entries explained to them with specimens.

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Mr. R. A. ANDERSON examined.

14482. (Chairman).—You are Secretary of the L.A.O.S.?—Yes.

14483. I think I had better ask you to take your own course—I am afraid I have not provided a written statement of my evidence to cover the whole ground.

14484. I have got it here under four heads; we will take the heads, one by one. I might say, before dealing with the evidence under the heads mentioned in the Memorandum, that the Organisation Society had not any intention of giving evidence before this Committee at all in the first instance, but finding there was so much misapprehension as to its work, and its relations with the Department of Agriculture, and having heard a statement made by you at Limerick that you thought the L.A.O.S. should be given an opportunity of explaining the relations with the Department, our Committee decided on offering the evidence entered in this Memorandum.

14485. I think it is very useful that you should give that explanation?—The first thing that struck us was about the attack made on the Department for helping the Organisation Society. It seemed rather anomalous than otherwise, for we had been blaming the Department for not helping us more, and we were astonished to find the chief offence of the Department was for having unduly favoured the Organisation Society. We felt that bodies that had given such hostages to fortune as our societies were entitled to help more than people who had not done anything to help themselves. In '80 there was no knowledge of co-operative organisation in Ireland at all, and the condition of agriculture generally was one of great depression. At that time Mr. Horace Plimmet, who had been making a study of this question—not abroad, because he was unaware of the co-operative movement abroad—with some friends in Ireland, decided on applying the principle of co-operation to the production of butter. That was our first step. There were no co-operative creameries in existence. There were a few creameries owned by Joint Stock Companies and farmers, and there were a certain number of creameries owned by proprietors. In most of these creameries the ordinary milk supplier had no voice, and nothing to say to fixing the price of his milk. His relations were merely that of a seller of milk to a company which tried to buy it as cheaply as it could. In that year we succeeded, after holding fifty meetings, in starting one society, and the number did not increase in 1880. But in 1881 we had seventeen, in 1882 we had twenty-five, in 1883 we had thirty, in 1884 we had twenty-five, in 1885 we had 110, in 1887 we had 143, in 1888 we had 335, and at the present time the number of societies of various kinds is 800 all told. Now, after having proved to the satisfaction of the farmers that they could, through co-operation, manage to control their own butter-making industry we next thought of applying the principle to the purchase of agricultural requisites. Up to that time there had been no such thing as joint purchase of artificial manures, or seeds, and in the case of the latter the quality was almost invariably exceedingly bad. In the case of artificial manures the farmers were deplorably ignorant. They did not know the difference between one class of manure and another, nor did they know to what crop, or in what proportions, the manures should be applied. The people who sold both seeds and

manures were equally ignorant, and the condition of things was very deplorable. The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, which had been passed to give protection to the farmers in the purchasing of artificial manures and feeding stuffs was absolutely a dead letter. The Local Government Board, which had the administration of the Act at that time, had not even arranged for the provision of the necessary forms on which certificates were to be given. The Organisation Society formed a number of small associations in the County Tipperary, and on the borders of Kilkenny; there were about six of these societies formed. These were parish societies, such as Mr. Russell has described the banks; they had a nominal capital. The farmers took a five shilling share on which they paid up one shilling. They consisted, on an average, of about 100 farmers. They had been in the habit of using considerable quantities of superphosphate as top dressing for grass lands. The committees met together, and decided that if they could bulk their requirements they would probably get better terms, but, at that time, as now, except that it is much stronger now, there was an association of Irish manure manufacturers, and this body had set its face against the introduction of co-operation, fearing it would interfere with the existing methods of distribution through its agents, and they refused to deal with these individual co-operative societies. But when the committee met, and asked for tenders for the supply of several hundred tons of manure, one of the firms was not puffed against the situation, and offered to tender for the supply, and by this means the first co-operative purchase of artificial manures was carried out. The price at which they bought is not as low as it is now, but it showed a remarkable reduction on the price previously paid.

14486. (Mr. Dryden).—What year was this?—1894. The prices at which the farmers were able to get their requirements were twenty-five, and even forty per cent., under the prices they hitherto paid the retailer, and what was far more important, they bought those manures under a guarantee of quality, and in one particular case the consignment of manure was deficient in soluble phosphates to the extent of three per cent. They promptly claimed the milk value, 4s. 6d. a ton, and with equal promptness they got a cheque back from the manufacturer. This system of purchasing manures spread very rapidly. To a limited extent they also bought feeding stuffs and seeds, but they confined themselves in the main to the manures they were using, because it was a simple business for them to transact. Gradually other forms of societies were embarked upon. There were societies for the provision of cheap credit, there were societies for poultry keepers, bee-keepers, and flower-growers, and societies for the purpose of saving expensive machinery, and buying it out to people who could not afford to buy it individually. There were also societies for horticulture, the promotion of home industries, and so forth.

14487. Have you any particulars of these societies?—Take this—I have. Perhaps if I give a general outline of what we did it would be better before I describe these societies in detail, or explain to the Committee the different work which the societies undertook—I think I ought to give you a general outline of how the societies were started. Mr. Russell has told you that the agricultural banks are registered under the Friendly Societies Act with unlimited liability. All our trading

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societies have to be registered under the Industrial and Provident Society Act, limiting the liability of the members of the society to the number of shares which they hold.

14438. (Mr. Mills).—In Germany are these institutions of unlimited liability chiefly?—In Germany and France, and I believe in other Continental countries, the law does not prohibit a society with unlimited liability from engaging in trading.

14439. Is not the liability more frequently unlimited there?—No, I think they are about equally balanced in Germany. There was, as I dare say the committee know, a great feud in Germany between the limited and unlimited schools. Members in co-operative trading societies have equal voting power, but they are prohibited from holding more than £200 worth of shares by the Act of Parliament. The Committee which manages the business of the society is elected by the shareholders. The societies get no financial assistance from the Organisation Society. They are absolutely self-supporting, and entirely independent of us. They are under no obligation to pay any subscription, but if they do pay a voluntary subscription the I.A.O.S. will give them whatever assistance it can in the way of advice. The subscription fee is based on the trade turn-over of the society, but some societies prefer to give a subscription in the way of a capitation fee, so much per head. Mainly, the object of the society is to enable the farmers to do jointly anything where joint action can be shown to effect economy, or profit. The societies comprise not only chemists but agricultural purchase societies, societies for the sale of crops, fax societies, banks and large industries societies. As regards the formation of the I.A.O.S. itself I might with advantage put in the report of the inaugural meeting of the society, held under the chairmanship of Mr. Horace Pinfield, as he was then, on the 18th of April, 1894. In this report (produced) Mr. Pinfield laid down the policy of the Organisation Society, a policy which has never been departed from to the present time, so that if people now come forward to say that the Organisation Society is doing anything unlawful or wrong, it has been doing so for the last twelve years without being stopped. In this report, on the third page, Mr. Pinfield stated that he looked forward to the construction of a Central Chamber of Commerce to which delegates should be sent from local societies organised by the I.A.O.S. There he indicated that the Organisation Society was only going to be a temporary body, constituted, as it then was, as a philanthropic undertaking, that the time would come when the societies themselves would take up this work and do it with funds of their own. The reason I make this point is that it will bear on a great deal I have to say on the subject afterwards. We never regarded ourselves as a permanent body. We had simply to do work which the farmers could not be persuaded was a necessary work to be done for them, and for which they were not prepared to find funds. Now, the source of the revenue of the Organisation Society has been mainly philanthropic. The sums subscribed were from outside sources. I am not now dealing with what the Department paid, but with the £25,000 which had been spent on this work of organisation since the I.A.O.S. came into existence. That is quite irrespective of what the Department has paid to the funds of the society. In dealing with that I should like to emphasise the fact that up to the time that the first joint scheme of work was agreed on between the Department and the I.A.O.S. every penny of the £25,000 which they had at that time paid to the Organisation Society was paid under the authority of a minute of the Agricultural Board, passed on the 11th July, 1900: "That the agricultural instruction now carried out by the I.A.O.S. may be taken over by the Department, and the experts engaged in such instruction may be employed by them as from April 1st, 1900, to such extent, and subject to such conditions as the Department may approve." That resolution was approved by the I.A.O.S. I must except, of course, the organisation of agricultural banks to which nobody made any objection, because they were not calculated to interfere with any existing branch of trade, except the auction.

14440. And the Joint Stock Banks did not object?—No. None of the money given by the Department was paid for organisation of trading societies. The first money paid for organisation was under the Joint Scheme, 1905-06, when £2,000 was voted for

definite work, the organisation and supervision of agricultural banks and live stock insurance for which £1,450 was provided; for the same duties in respect of Home Industries Societies, £200, and jointly for administrative expenses, £250, being a total of £2,000. But now, with your permission, I should like to bring out a very important point. That although the Department has paid to the Organisation Society £25,000 for this expert work which the I.A.O.S. had been forced to do, owing to the fact that there was no other body in existence to do it, and the societies demanded this assistance, the Department paid nothing at all for the expenses of administration, and instead of its being an advantage to us to do this work, it cost us a great deal of money, annually, to supervise the work and the experts so engaged. Then, to come to the present time, we work under a scheme with the Department which Colonel Rowland will explain in detail, and also he will deal with the relations between the Department and the Organisation Society. He is a member of the Agricultural Board, as well as being President of the Society. The only connection I have with the Department is that I happen to be a nominated member of the Council of Agriculture.

14441. The Organisation Society still work under the early Minute?—No; that was cancelled at the time the scheme for 1905-6, paying the Organisation Society a lump sum of £2,000 for certain work was agreed to. The present scheme for 1906-07 provides for the payment of a sum of money by the Department to aid the Organisation Society in its general work, without any reservation, amounting to £2,700 a year. That was agreed to last February, I think, but on the 3rd April, 1906, there was some preliminary Conference between the Organisation Society and the Department which resulted in a decision being taken by the Agricultural Board. I find that on the 26th February last I submitted an estimate of the cost of carrying out our work, showing an expenditure of £5,597 10s., as against an estimated income of £2,700. That left a deficit of £2,897 10s., which the Department's subsidy was calculated to meet. I was dealing with the source of income, in the first instance, of the Society, and I think I told the Committee that a sum of £45,000 had already been spent, derived from private sources, and other than the Department spent on our work. The original rules of the Organisation Society are here (produced), and I hand them over for the Committee to see if they wish. The object, briefly stated, of the Society was to improve the condition of the agricultural population of India by teaching the principles and methods of co-operation applicable to farming and the allied industries. That object has not been departed from under the new rules, but under the new rules the Society is absolutely democratic in character. When it was first started the entire fund for organising and other purposes was contributed by private individuals and from private sources. Consequently the administration of the fund was entrusted to a Committee elected by the subscribers. The very first year of its existence, however, the Organisation Society invited the local societies to subscribe and take part in the work of the business, and this invitation was responded to, by degrees, to a very considerable extent. At the present time various changes have been made in the rules from time to time to give the societies additional representation, but from the very first there was no desire to keep local societies out of the Organisation work, but rather everything was done to induce them to subscribe and assume control of this body for themselves, with a view to making it self-supporting. Under the rules under which we are working at present which were reorganised this year, the entire management and control of the Organisation Society is vested in the Societies themselves. Subscribing members, original subscribers who put up nearly £50,000 of the funds subscribed to this work, are now only entitled to be represented by four members on a Committee of twenty. The other sixteen members are representatives of the Societies who are elected, four for each province, with the President and Vice President. As our work went on in the country the societies began to complain that from very limited business experience, and want of knowledge of markets, and business training generally, it was impossible for them to get on without getting expert advice. All our money had been subscribed for the purpose of introducing agricultural organisation, that is co-operative organisation, but the Committee felt that if these Societies which they had organised were to succeed it would be necessary to supply them with a certain

measure of technical instruction which was not then available in the country. Consequently, from time to time, the following experts were employed—two creamery experts, two poultry and egg experts, one beekeeping expert, one horticultural, one agricultural, four expert accountants, one consulting architect, one home industries expert, two flax experts, two fruit-growing experts. In addition to that all the organisers have a certain amount of expert knowledge. I may lay claim to have some little expert knowledge myself, because I had to make a study of the various kinds of co-operative organisation which I recommended, when I was the only organiser employed by the Society, and my colleagues are all much better equipped in that way than I was. There was no provision at all for technical instruction in connection with agriculture at that time, beyond a very limited measure of instruction given by the Education Commissioners, and this was wholly inadequate.

14492. (Chairman).—Is the primary schools?—Is the appointment of dairy instructors. This was wholly inadequate. The creameries were increasing rapidly, and when I went abroad to study the question I found in Denmark they had twenty-four and in Sweden twenty-seven dairy experts, while we had only one. We began to find as time went on that it was rather difficult to define the duties of an organiser as distinct from those of a technical expert, because as the work of organisation involved a technical knowledge, the two duties became merged in each other to such an extent that you could hardly separate them. Up to the time the Department was started we had spent nearly £4,000 in providing this expert instruction, and continued to do so until the Department took over the services of these experts. In addition to this the Organisation Society published a long series of leaflets on technical instruction questions, giving much valuable practical information to the Societies which we had organised. These were all circulated, as were other publications, free to the Societies, or to anybody who wished to get them. Now, I came to give a description of the various kinds of Societies, and to tell the Committee, briefly, how they are worked. The map, which you permitted me to hang on the wall, will show you where these Societies are scattered over the country, and also the type to which each belongs. The creameries are the most important. They are turning out about one and a half millions worth of butter in the year. In all cases the shareholders elect the Committee, and in all cases the liability is limited, but the different Societies have to be worked in different ways. The way the creameries are worked is this: the farmers taking shares in the concern supply the milk voluntarily to the creamery. We don't bind them, as they are bound abroad, although, I think, it would be very desirable that we should. The better fat in the milk is bought by weight, and they are paid the price for that in proportion to the current market price for butter. If a profit is made on the year's working, when the accounts are audited, that profit becomes the property of the shareholders after providing for depreciation and reserve, and is generally divided 5 per cent. to shares, and the balance as a dividend calculated on the value of the produce supplied by the individual. That mode is adopted, because it would be possible that a considerable portion of the capital in a dairy society might be subscribed by persons other than the cow owners, and it is to prevent them getting more than a reasonable interest on shares that the dividend is strictly limited to 5 per cent., and the balance is divided up in proportion to the trade of the members with the Society. These creameries belong to two classes, broadly, central creameries and auxiliary. In the central creamery it may be either a creamery perfectly self-contained operating over an area without any auxiliaries, or it may be a central place for churning, supplied, to a great extent, with cream as well as milk, or it may be a churning factory only, taking in no milk but receiving cream from auxiliaries which separate the cream from the milk, but in all cases the basis of relation between the milk supplier or the auxiliary and the central creamery, is payment for the milk in accordance with the amount of butter fat which it contains. Up to the time the co-operative creameries were started there was no such accurate system of determining the quality or value of the milk, and the creamery proprietor paid for it in the most arbitrary way, and sometimes in a way that was not fair to the milk supplier. For example, if a man

lived on the borderland of two districts, served by competing creameries, that man's milk, for strange reasons, was worth a penny a gallon more than the milk of the man who lived near a creamery, and could not go anywhere else. The next type of Society I wish to describe is the Agricultural Society. That may be either a Society for the purpose of agricultural requirements, or the sale of agricultural produce, but in the great majority of instances an agricultural society confines itself to the purpose of agricultural requirements. It is a simple business, comparatively, whereas the sale of agricultural produce is a business of very great difficulty, and indeed it has not been undertaken with any great success, or to any great extent up to this time. These Societies are now being started on rather more ambitious lines than those which originally made the joint purchase of artificial manures, and brought down the prices. No society, except in a small way, has done any business in selling agricultural produce, except those merged with a farm. These are the Wholesale Society, the Agency Society, and the Poultry Federation. The type of Agricultural Societies, which we advocate being formed at the present time under our Society, cover a large enough area to do a sufficiently large business to pay a secretary a sufficient salary to give the Society good service. The ordinary parish society is no longer possible if you are to make enough money to pay a secretary, so what is done is this—the farmers in each parish are organised with the object of getting shares taken, and securing local representation on the central Committee of Management. The centre of operations of the Society is fixed at some place where railway or canal facilities are available, and there a store is erected for the agricultural requirements of the Society, that is to say, for their seeds, manures, and feeding stuffs, and such implements and machinery as they buy, and sometimes, also for coal. So far none of the Agricultural Societies have gone in for the sale of household requirements such as groceries, but some of the creameries have done so.

14493. (Mr. Gifford).—For the purchase?—For sale to their members. Then another very important type of society is the Society of Poultry-keepers. That is of great value, because it comes within the reach of the very poorest people in the country, and in the poorest parts of the Congested Districts it is possible to start these societies, and work them with success. All our experience goes to show that the little parish trading societies cannot succeed as well as a number of parish units joined all together round a convenient centre, and working as a federation of societies. We are engaged in organising, and have organised in one county a poultry society which covers the whole county. In Londonderry, with the aid of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, a society has been established which has twenty branches, and ramifies all over the county. The same thing is in process of establishment in Carlow, and also, we hope, in Wexford. The business of a poultry society being primarily the sale of eggs, their object is to secure that there shall be as perfect a grading as possible of the eggs. In dealing with this industry we found it would be utterly impossible for us to compete with a foreigner like the Dutch, unless we were to adopt his methods and carry them out with the same accuracy. If you have a small volume of eggs of various sizes you cannot grade them properly so as to guarantee the weight; you must work over a wide area to get a sufficient number of eggs. The suppliers to these societies are shareholders. They don't buy eggs by the dozen or the score as was formerly the case, or barter groceries for them; they buy them at so much a lb. The price per lb. is based on the market price for the time being. The effect of this has been, in some cases, where we have started it, after several years' working, to increase very considerably the average weight of the eggs produced. The people have come to see that it does not pay so well to keep hens which lay a small egg as the ones which lay large eggs, and in these districts it is now the rule, where the societies are started, that the eggs are over the average of those where there are no societies.

14494. (Mr. Dwyer).—Does that lead to the selection of the non-sitting breed?—It depends upon whether the people who are going in for a mixed policy of fattening and selling eggs. The pure laying breeds will lay twice as many as the other breeds. Some of our poultry societies have taken up the business of creaming and coop fattening. In North Kil-

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henry they have 1,000 or 1,200 birds in the coops, and the Longford Society is going to do something in the same direction, and so also the society of Forth in Wexford. In those places where they have taken up the fattening of poultry there is as well a large supply of eggs, which fetch a good price in the London market, the buff eggs. Before the eggs were sent up to the market they are all carefully graded and weighed. They are also carefully tested, and any egg which is at all doubtful is removed from the case and put aside. At the present time the price of the egg is so graded and packed, and sold under the trade mark registered for them exceeds the price realised by the Danish Egg Export Company by 1s. 6d. per hundred.

14493. (Mr. Micks).—Is that a special trade mark, or the Irish trade mark registered in Cork?—We register it ourselves; the egg with the word "Gaele" being the Gaelic for poultry. I think Mr. Dryden asked me about the fax societies.

14494. (Chairman).—The poultry societies are marked yellow on that map?—Yes.

14497. They have not spread much into the western or south-western districts?—No, but that single yellow dot in Longford represents an area which would be occupied by about twenty ordinary societies. The fax societies are worked in this way: farmers take shares as they do in the creamery and poultry societies. They hire a mill for scutching fax, sometimes they buy it and equip it themselves. This is the only society, except the home industries societies, assisted by the Department. The Department provide them with a share of the services of an expert, who introduces improved methods of scutching fax, but for this the societies have to support instruction to a certain number of young men, who may all become managers of these fax factories. We have not applied co-operation to the purchase of the crop, which, I think, is the ultimate thing we ought to aim at, and the co-operative sale of the finished product, but there is a great difficulty in dealing with farmers, particularly northern fax-growers. Everyone considers his crop is so much better than his neighbour's, and is unwilling to sell it if it is going to be mixed with his neighbour's fax.

14498. (Mr. Micks).—That is a healthy feeling?—It may be, but it is quite impossible to introduce a thorough-going system of co-operation if that feeling exists.

14499. If they all have to shuffle their fax up together there would be a danger that the quality would deteriorate?—No, it would have to be carefully graded. The crop would have to be valued as it is done abroad. Belgian fax is all dealt with in this way, except that it is not a co-operative society that purchases the crop, but a fax merchant. He picks the crop, steeps the stems, scutches and sells it, and the price they get is far higher than the price we get for our fax.

14500. (Mr. Dryden).—It seems to me it will not be possible to get the full value, unless there is such an organisation?—Co-operation is further useful this way: instead of purchasing fax seed locally, and getting inferior seed, they purchase co-operatively, and get their seed from Rotterdam or Russia.

14501. (Mr. Micks).—Co-operation for the sale of fax has not been started?—It has.

14502. Do they keep an account for each man, virtually, a ledger entry for each man?—Yes.

14503. So that you really keep a strict account for each man?—Yes. I would say that co-operation has hardly been applied to sale, except that they employ a joint salesman. They have a depot in Belfast where they employ a fax merchant of standing. They send samples up from the co-operative mill to the agent in Belfast. The agent shows these samples to the buyers, and they are sold on the sample. Sometimes, if he is rather doubtful about the quality of the fax, he gets it sent in in bulk, and examines it. Last year it worked very well, and the farmers got very satisfactory prices.

14504. You can identify each man's fax in the sales book?—Yes.

14505. And there is a percentage for agency fee?—Yes. I should like to say I hope we will have a thorough-going co-operative system applied to the fax industry, just as we had in the creameries, if you have a sufficiently reliable body to value growing crops in which the farmers will have confidence.

14506. You have never tried to apply co-operation to egg-fishing?—We have talked of it, but the difficulty seemed to be very great, but still I think co-operation might be substituted for the present partnership system, in a number of cases, and be of great advantage to the fishermen.

14507. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—How do you mean partnership?—In the boat.

14508. Does the partnership extend over more than one boat?—Not in Ireland, but in the Isle of Man it does. The societies, when they increased to a certain number, found it was just as necessary to combine for purchase and sale as it was necessary for the individual farmer to join with his fellows in the parish, and in 1893 a federation of Co-operative Dairy Societies was started in Limerick called the Irish Co-operative Agency Society. Societies were admitted to membership by taking shares in proportion to their trade. These were the original members, and subsequently a share qualification was fixed at a definite sum. This body has done very great service to the creameries, but owing to the great number of difficulties which it had in its early stages, bad management, and anomalous directorship, it made heavy losses, which it has now recovered, and has a substantial reserve and a large trade, but unless all the creameries were to sell all their produce through it, it could never attain its full degree of efficiency. The ideal of the Agency Society was that all the creameries should through it sell the whole of their produce, and then this body representing their interests would practically control the Irish creamery butter trade. It has not been able to do that, owing to the fact that the societies have not supported it in the way they ought to have done, but it has acquired a controlling influence on the trade, and exercises that influence to steady prices, and also helps the societies when markets are dull. Sometimes, when markets are brisk, the societies have to many offers for their produce that they don't know which to take. When markets are dull they are glad to have the Agency Society to relieve them of their product. Some societies always sell through the Agency. That is one Society now selling produce. Another federation for sale has more recently been formed, called the Irish Federated Poultry Societies. That is working on more rigid lines than the Co-operative Agency. All the Poultry Societies formed by the Organisation Society are bound by their rules to become members of the Federated Poultry Societies, and as long as they remain members are compelled to sell all their eggs through it, and it is by that means that we have been able to get for this brand of eggs 1s. 6d. per bird, over the Danish price. It worked extremely well in 1906, and the turn-over at the present time is about £30,000 on a capital of £200, which is a very remarkable achievement, and we expect to do a trade next year of close on £100,000. So much for the co-operative sale of produce. The Co-operative Agricultural Societies are federated together into a body called the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, which has its headquarters in Dublin. This body purchases feeding stuffs, seeds, artificial manures, implements, machinery, and all sorts of farming requirements. It has entered into a contract with an Irish Manure Factory for a period of five years, three years of which have run, to supply the Co-operative Societies on special terms. The Irish manure trade, recognising that the co-operative movement had come to stay, thought it would be better to have all the trade concentrated through one Federation than to look after several hundred societies throughout the country, and therefore they gave the local Co-operative Societies full traders' terms for their manure, and they gave the Wholesale Society an overriding commission of 2½ per cent., for the purpose of consolidating the trade and keeping it together. Last season the total sales of manure manufactured by Irish firms was 175,000 tons. In 1900, the total sales for the year from the same sources were 120,000 tons; that is an increase in six years of 58,000 tons, and the members of the manure manufacturing trade fully admit that this increase in the use of manure has been due to two factors, one is the cheapening of manure by the Co-operative Societies, and the other to the more intelligent application of those manures owing to the teaching of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Chairman, I mentioned to you, I think,

some time ago that the very first year the Organisation Society was formed an invitation was extended to its members to subscribe to its funds and take part in its management. The societies did not come in in any considerable numbers at first, and there are still a number of societies which are not affiliated with the Organisation Society, but that is explained by the fact that these societies, although they are not unaffiliated, are still struggling to get out of debt. In no case in Ireland that I know of was the share capital sufficient for the preliminary organisation of the society's business, but in every case the Committee of the Society had to go to banks and obtain money on their own security to a considerable amount. You will see they are not wealthy bodies; they have not much money to spare, and while they are willing to pay a fee for a reasonable amount of service to themselves, they are not willing to pay fees for the creation of societies elsewhere, or the benefit of other societies. When the Department of Agriculture was started a cry was raised that here was a Department with unlimited funds which ought to do the work hitherto done by the Organisation Society, and it was imagined the Department could, and would, do all these things, and from that day our subscriptions began to fall off, and then, although the number of our societies increased, our affiliation fees did not increase in the same proportion, so that in that way the establishment of the Department actually weakened our connection with the societies to a very considerable extent. Furthermore, the Department, very shortly after it started, proceeded to take over and do for societies a great deal of useful work in the shape of expert instruction, which we had been giving them before. In connection with that our Society has been criticised for having spent a great deal of money and wasted a great deal of money, but nobody, and I see there are some members of the Committee who are familiar with the condition of things in Ireland—Mr. Micks and Mr. Brown both know perfectly well the state of things when we started—nobody would be surprised if we spent three or four times the amount on the work, the people were so prejudiced against anything new, so conservative in their ideas. Sir Horace Plunkett and I attended fifty meetings before we succeeded in starting our society. We were attacked by a number of people who thought this movement had some ulterior object. Our critics, who were pretty numerous, very much increased the cost and difficulty of our work. Almost every newspaper was against us, and the politicians of all schools looked askance at us, and only a few farmers who had benefited by the societies were impressed with the work we did, and had it not been for the help we got from the clergy of all denominations we would have made no headway at all. They stood by us, and gave us splendid help. Now, there was a resolution which was sent in, I believe, by the Killesnoe Dairy Society to your Committee protesting against the action of the Department of Agriculture in making payments to the Organisation Society. I propose to put in that resolution, because it is the only resolution which has come in to us from the whole of Ireland, from over 300 societies, and which contains the aid from the Department. On the other hand, I should like to put in resolutions which we have received from societies in favour of our work.

14509. (Chairman).—Before you do that, will you tell us exactly what the change is. At present, we know, this question is under discussion by the Department. It stands over. Is that an additional help, or is it in substitution of what the Department has subscribed before; how does it stand? The Council of Agriculture will meet next month, and will decide whether or not the Organisation Society should be employed to do this organisation work, or whether it should be done by the Department itself either directly or through the County Committees. The Council of Agriculture have passed a resolution in

favour of the Department's supplying the funds for agricultural organisation, but the precise channel through which they should be administered, has yet to be decided. It would be impossible to wade through all these resolutions, but I have resolutions here from 180 societies, consisting of 70 creameries, 24 agricultural, and 26 credit associations, and 26 miscellaneous societies having an aggregate membership of 21,537, and an aggregate turn-over of £219,566, and when I tell you that it was not until the 1st of September that we issued a circular to the societies asking them to express their opinion, you will admit that that was a very considerable response to the following appeal: "The Irish Agricultural Association has received several resolutions expressing the confidence of the societies in the I.A.O.S., in answer to the numerous attacks which have been made upon it during the course of this inquiry. The Committee considers that societies throughout the country should take steps to pass resolutions stating the value of the work which has been done by the I.A.O.S. since its inception, and also the benefits which farmers have received from the Organisation generally." I will hand Mr. Taylor copies of the resolutions which, I think, are a very interesting refutation of a great deal of the evidence you have heard here.

14510. (Mr. O'Grady).—What is the general tenor?—Here is the Garrison resolution (reads resolution). The Glenageary County Society writes (reads resolution).

14511. (Mr. Micks).—Are all these resolutions from co-operative societies?—Yes.

14512. These are all favourable resolutions?—Yes.

14513. (Chairman).—At the outset, as I understand, the first step the Department took was to take over your expert instructions?—That was the first step.

14514. Is it now, for the first time, proposed that there should be a direct contribution from the funds of the Department to your society?—No; because the direct contribution was made to the scheme for 1903-04, and was limited to the following work—Agricultural Banks, Live Stock Insurance Societies, Home Industry Societies, and £250 for administration expenses.

14515. This is the first time it is proposed to give a general subscription of £5,750, without specifying a particular purpose?—That is so; it is in operation, and will terminate on the 30th of February next.

14516. Is that for one year?—Yes, that was to supplement what funds we ourselves had.

14517. Practically, the question is whether that should be continued; that is the question which the Council of Agriculture will be asked to consider, or some modification of the arrangement? This is the Killesnoe resolution (reads resolution). I think I had better not call it anything stronger than a resolution, here, in saying that the Society was not responsible to, or elected by, the Society, until 1904. The opportunity was offered in 1894, and the actual change in the rules, giving the societies representation, followed a year, or a year and a half, after that, and it was open to the societies at any time to come in and take complete control of the Organisation Society.

14518. (Mr. Micks).—Is it an accurate statement that the payments by the Department do not appear in the accounts of the I.A.O.S.?—They do not, because the money paid by the Department was not for organising work, but expert instruction work which had been taken over by the Department. The Committee consulted as to whether it should appear, and they thought not, because it was not for organising work.

14519. (Mr. O'Grady).—And not used?—Not a penny. As a matter of fact a great deal of the money subscribed for organising work had to be used to administer the expenditure of these payments.

14520. (Mr. Micks).—Have you any other accounts for other working expenses?—There were certain accounts kept in our ledgers.

On resuming after luncheon.

14521a. (IFBess).—I put in (produces) the rules of one of our co-operative creamery societies that has been adopted by all the newly-formed societies, they are model rules. The next item on the Memorandum of mine is the effect of our work on the material and social condition of the people. The material effect of the work, I think, is evidenced by the stability

of the societies which we have formed and are still in existence to a very considerable extent. The actual number of societies on the list of January last was 344, made up of 322 creameries during an estimated year—because our returns are not quite complete yet—of £1,346,500, with a membership of 62,710, and paid-up capital of £114,942, and a loan capital of

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£105,737; of 153 agricultural societies with a membership of 14,066, a paid-up capital of £25,838, a loan capital of £21,979, and a trade turn-over of £36,000. Mr. Russell has given particulars of the agricultural banks, they were 231, with a membership of 13,035, a loan capital of £38,428, including deposits of members and an estimated turn-over of £46,000. The poultry societies number 23, with a membership of 8,049, and a paid-up capital of £3,750, and a loan capital of £6,600, and an estimated turn-over of £40,000. The home industries societies number 86, membership, 2,811; paid-up capital, £2,330; loan capital, £775; turn-over, £15,000. Flax societies, 9; membership, 430; paid-up capital, £103—this I may just here remark is a new type of society—loan capital, £1,300; trade turn-over, £5,000. Trade federations, which embrace the Agricultural Wholesale Society, the Agency Society, the Federated Poultry Societies, and the Bee-keepers' Federation, 4 in number, with a membership of 280 societies, paid-up capital £4,010, loan capital of £3,830, and trade turn-over of £388,000. Miscellaneous societies, including Bee-keepers, 26, membership of 3,995, share capital £5,078, loan capital £3,520, trade turn-over £12,600. The totals are 844 societies, membership, 32,532; paid-up capital, £122,043; loan capital, £150,468; trade turn-over, £1,775,000. The increase per cent. of these societies between 1896, when the Department was constituted, and the present year, have been as follows—104 per cent.; that is, the number of societies, agricultural societies, 108 per cent.; poultry societies, 155 per cent.; banks, 452 per cent.; miscellaneous societies, 60 per cent.

14521. (Chairman).—Has the increase in the numbers been uniform, has there been a progressive increase? In the case of co-operatives the rate of increase in the future will be very considerably diminished, because most of the ground is occupied, but if winter sowing can be introduced to any extent, co-operatives will increase in considerable numbers in tillage districts. In the other districts I should say the rate of accretion would increase in the future now that the advantages of these societies have become better known.

14522. In what ratio has it increased in the past? It has increased not exactly in arithmetical progression, but it has increased, each year has been an increase on the preceding one!—Yes, a very considerable increase. Another item of information which might be interesting to the Committee is that the value of plant and buildings owned by these societies is an round figure, £250,000. That, I submit, is evidence of the value which farmers have derived from these societies, that they have not only been induced to invest capital, but they start these societies, and in almost every case the trade of these societies has increased. The effect of co-operation as far as we can judge on the people is this, it makes them more inquisitive for information and were inclined to take advantage of the teachings of such bodies as the Department of Agriculture. In districts where co-operative organisation has been pretty well advanced, the work of the Department has been rendered very much more easy, and the people adopt the recommendations of the Department and apply them with a great deal more intelligence. I think the reason of that is this, that in the co-operative societies there will always be some few men who will come to the top, the natural leaders of thought in that part of the world, and the initiative spirit is very strong in Ireland, and the rank and file of the members of the society when they find the business of the district have adopted new methods will follow them, as a matter of course, so that the progressive ideas and acts of these people become the common practice of the whole neighbourhood through a co-operative society. Since I began my present work, seventeen years ago, I have seen a very great change in the country, notably in connection with the standard of living, the standard of living is very much improved, and people have got a higher idea about their rights and pleasures than they had in the past. There is also another very noticeable improvement, due to the starting of co-operative societies, as the particular change I am about to refer to now unquestionably is. In the North of Ireland there are districts which unfortunately in the past have been at war with each other, where the two principal religions have been pretty evenly balanced, and religious animosity and bigotry was carried to a great extent. Until our movement took root in these places, you would find it very difficult to get the people to work together at all, they had no intercourse with each

other, and when they did meet on certain occasions of the year it was to exchange hostilities.

14523. (Mr. Micks).—Don't you think that is rather too strong a description of the animosities of the North—Of course, I am not speaking generally, but of certain districts, where the balance of power are even.

14524. Is it not a fact that they live together in a friendly way, except on those few days in the year?—They did not mix, as a matter of fact, with each other or do much business in common, but we found where our societies were started it was the means of getting them together to work together for a common purpose on which they could all agree, and as our societies have a rule which prohibits them discussing religious or political questions, these questions were at once, and so there was no cause of disagreement. The instance I was going to refer to may give you a good idea of what these societies can do. There was one particular parish in the North of Ireland where there were two rival factions, and both were equipped with the usual fire and drum band, and on a certain celebration in July it was discovered that the band of one party was out of order, so they sent a requisition to the opposite party to know if they might borrow the band for the occasion, and the drum, which was the principal part of the band, was lent to them. I don't think that would have been possible in the past.

14525. They co-operated in the matter of the drum!—They did. On the whole, I think the movement has done more than to put money into the pockets of the people, it has merely given them a business training; they had never kept accounts, and had to be taught everything from the commencement, and that was one reason why the expenses of the organisation was so great. We had uneducated material to deal with. There is still a difficulty in connection with managers for the societies, but that is gradually being overcome, as they train apprentices now to become managers.

14526. (Chairman).—Where do you get your managers?—They are practically all Irish; we try to avoid as far as possible the employment of local men for obvious reasons. It is better to take a man out of his own parish and put him somewhere else and get a stranger in.

14527. (Mr. Gylisig).—Do the societies generally concur in the desirability of that policy?—Well, they do; at first it was a difficulty, because naturally the man with the most relations had the strongest claim for the appointment, now they have found that is rather expensive, because it is difficult for a man with local ties to go square and fair with people who are either good friends of his or the reverse.

14528. (Chairman).—Do you adopt that as a principle that you don't appoint people in their own locality?—We don't recommend the appointment of local people; of course each society appoints its own officers. Since the Land Purchase Act was passed it has given a very considerable impetus to the co-operative movement. I think that was due to the fact that an idea got abroad before the passing of the Act that any additional profit reaped by the tenant farmer might be used as a lever to raise his rent. I think that is gradually being got out of the minds of the people, but that certainly did interfere with our work in the early days. I may say here that it is the opinion of our Committee that co-operative credit, for example, as Mr. Russell pointed out this morning, and co-operative live stock insurance, and a better system of co-operative marketing produce, will be absolutely essential if the nearly-reached peasant proprietary is to hold its own even with the improved conditions under which they live. I should just like to refer to something I said before the adjournment as to what Sir Horace Plunkett had said at the inaugural meeting of our Society, as it is just possible that the quotation I made might lead to a misconception of what he said. What he said was—"I look forward to the constitution of a Central Chamber of Agriculture to which delegates would be sent from the local societies which we should have organised. As soon as the local associations were sufficiently numerous to give this body a right to speak for a large portion of Ireland, the mission of our Society would be fulfilled." That does not mean that the necessity for a central organising body would disappear, but rather that the control of that body would be transferred from the original subscribers to the farmers themselves. We don't expect the Department of Agriculture to contribute a fund per

mentally for co-operative agricultural organisation, but in the present condition of things it is clear that we cannot expect to get subscriptions from private individuals or sufficient subscriptions from societies to carry on the work efficiently. I think we have made up our minds that the future of this co-operative movement must be provided for out of the movement itself, and from the earnings of the movement itself, which has been the case everywhere else, but the Committee, of course, are conscious of the fact that Ireland is a good deal more backward than other countries where co-operative organisation has succeeded. It is our general opinion that in trade federations, linking up these societies and doing their business in the most up-to-date and efficient way the funds will be found to carry on the local organisations. A very small percentage charged on the total trade of these societies would suffice to provide an ample organising fund which would free the Department of Agriculture from all obligation to contribute under that head. Dealing with the evidence given at Limerick, which I think you indicated we should have an opportunity of replying to, I should like to speak as to our attitude towards co-operative bacon-curing in particular. More than one witness attacked the policy of the Society regarding that, but I find that as far back as 1898, the Organisation Society approached the Association of Bacon-curers, which was presided over by Mr. Deany, and wrote a letter from which you will perhaps allow me to read a few extracts:—

"27th June, 1898.

"Dear Sirs,—I am directed by the Committee of this Society to send you by this post a copy of their Report for the year ending 31st March, 1898, together with a copy of the Report of the Annual General Meeting held on the 8th May. The Committee desire us to request that you would be so kind as to carefully peruse both these Reports. From these you will see that the success which has attended the introduction of co-operative systems among Irish dairy farmers has encouraged the promoters of agricultural organisation to extend their operations to other branches of agriculture, with the result that a number of agricultural co-operative societies have been organised in non-dairying districts. The primary object of these societies is the joint purchase of their members' requirements, but it is further contemplated that they shall be utilised for the joint sale of their members' farm produce, and, ultimately, by federation, for the sale of live stock. The co-operative dairy societies, likewise, are undertaking these developments. Between the dairies and the agricultural societies there are now existing in Ireland close on 100 co-operative societies of farmers, with a total membership exceeding 8,000. The point to which the Committee desire to draw your special attention is this:—Very frequent complaints have been made to our organisers by farmers assembled at co-operative meetings, that the present condition under which the bacon trade is carried on have reduced the profits of pig-feeding to a minimum. It is obvious indeed that foreign competition—especially that of such countries as Denmark, where co-operative organisation has made such strides—is having a depressing effect on the Irish bacon trade in general, and that the industry is threatened with a similar crisis to that through which the Irish linen was passing when co-operation came to its rescue. The farmer, or producer of the pig at any rate, has seen his profit vanish to the point at which he is forced with the alternative that unless something be done to improve the situation, it will no longer pay him to keep pigs, while on his part the home markets undergo a serious shrinkage. In considering the various remedies suggested to this state of things, it seems to be the general impression that the unprofitableness is due in a great measure to unnecessary expenses incurred in the selling and buying of pigs, and that if these expenses could be reduced, a larger margin of profit would be available at each end, that is, both for the pig producer and the bacon manufacturer. It has also been represented and argued with much force that the present system of selling by gross-weight ought to be abolished, and that all pigs should be bought by live weight. We are aware that purchasing by dead weight has been tried by some cures, but the fatal objection to this system is that the producer always exhibits a feeling of uncertainty and dissatisfaction with regard to the actual weights returned by the manufacturer, and no desire is expressed for such a change.

14522. (Mr. Micks).—Would it not be weighed in the market where he drove his pork?—He does not kill them in the South, this refers to the South, the live pigs go to the owner's factory and they are there killed and then weighed.

14523. You suggest live weight?—Yes. "The objection that the live weight of the animal is not a sufficient guide will not be made by any who are conversant with the system in America. We would impress upon you that our present intention is not to advocate the establishment of the co-operative bacon curing factories, such as have been recently started with notable success in Denmark, but rather to suggest to our federated agricultural and dairy societies some means by which their members could dispose of their pigs to the existing curing establishments on an equitable basis, and without the intervention of any unnecessary middlemen. We believe that by so doing we shall improve not only the position of the producer but also that of the manufacturer. Our aim is to bring about an amicable adjustment of the relations between these interests, and to avoid the friction which our recent experience at meetings of farmers continues to meet otherwise occur. The Committee, therefore, desire me to invite you or some member of your firm to confer with them on this important subject. If you agree to do so, will you kindly let me know, and suggest what time would be the most convenient for you to attend a conference either here or in Limerick."

"I am, yours faithfully,

"(Signed), R. A. ANDERSON, Secretary."

They met us in conference.

14531. You were present at these all?—I was. Then, as a result of all the conferences the following minute was adopted by the I.A.O.S. about the 30th October, 1898. It was decided that "As the society had not only refused to accept the suggestions which the society made at the Conference at Limerick Junction, but also had refused to deal with co-operative dairies and agricultural associations on such within the I.A.O.S., its sole position being that of monopolists and representative of these societies they are thus precluded from continuing the negotiations." The Secretary was directed to write to Mr. Deany to the above effect, and express the great regret of the society that the matter had thus terminated. After that the Organisation Society was asked by the farmers of Roscommon and Monaghan districts to organise bacon-curing factories, and two small factories were started, a very large area of country was organised, but the very important precaution of effectively binding the farmers to supply pigs to these factories until such time as their success would be assured was not taken. The result was that since these factories commenced to work the pig-buyers offered prices which they had never offered before, and the co-operative bacon-curing factories were left without a supply, and they had to shut down.

14532. Do you happen to know whose buyers bought at Roscommon?—I could not say with certainty.

14533. Could you tell me whether they were from Waterford, Cork, or Limerick?—I don't think they would have to come from as far as Waterford.

14534. Were they from Ulster?—No, they never came to that part of the country, they were southern buyers, and, I think, principally came from Limerick.

14535. (Mr. Brown).—What year was that?—1895, the starting of these societies took place almost immediately after the conclusion of negotiations with the bacon-curers.

14536. How long were they running?—Not running a year.

14537. (Mr. Micks).—Did you tell us exactly what took place at the negotiations, when you asked for live weight?—As well as I can recollect. Unfortunately we had a flood in our office which destroyed a great number of important papers. What happened was this: we asked the bacon-curers to purchase pigs from the co-operative societies, and to buy corporate capacity at co-operative societies, and to buy these pigs by live weight, and they refused to recognise the societies, or to introduce the live weight system. Three years ago Tipperary invited us to go and organise a co-operative bacon-curing industry there, and I attended the preliminary meeting myself, and at that meeting I used every argument I could

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think of to try and divert the people from going in for it. I was alive to the dangers of it, and had fresh in my recollection the failure in Roscommon and Monmouthshire. So much did I insist on those dangers that I was told at the end of the meeting the Tipperary people did not want any more visits from me, they wanted encouragement and not cold water. The organisation went on, and a number of pigs were guaranteed to the factory, but for some reason or other Tipperary did not proceed with the project.

14530. Is it abandoned?—It is in abeyance, the society has been registered.

14530. And they have acquired a site?—I don't think they have gone as far as that. At Roscrea, however, the organisation has been applied to some twenty parishes, most of the organisation work has been done locally. At the preliminary stages of the movement there I went down and used the same arguments as I did in Tipperary, I told them that the first thing that would happen when they started was that the price of pigs would be raised, and they would probably have to meet this competition at home, and reduced prices at the other side, and they would have an unknown article on the market to compete with, an article sold under well-known brands. I recommended them that it would be better to try and improve their methods of breeding and feeding, so as to produce a thoroughly good pig, and then arrange terms with the curers. The answer to that was that if they went to all this trouble in improving their pigs they thought they might as well have the profit, and were prepared to take all the risk I have enumerated. To-day in Roscrea they have over 3,000 shareholders, and a subscribed capital of £10,000, they have acquired a site near the station, they have given a contract for the erection of the necessary buildings, and its equipment with the most up-to-date machinery at a cost of £6,000 and they are going ahead.

14540. (Mr. Dryden).—Working on a different basis, pigs are guaranteed to them?—Yes, under a penalty of ten shillings a pig, the farmers who join that society have not only to take shares, but to guarantee a certain number of pigs for five years at current market prices.

14541. (Mr. Micks).—In some particular markets?—Yes, it is not thought this factory will compete seriously with the Limerick bacon curers, because they propose to take all classes of pigs, the Limerick curers, who make a high-class bacon, only take pigs between certain weights, the Roscrea factory proposes to take pigs of all sizes, and, while it will cure to a certain extent bacon that will be sold in competition with the Limerick bacon, they will also cure heavy pigs and sell them locally in place of American bacon.

14542. Do they expect to be able to compete with the American bacon?—They think so, and also expect to be able to do a certain amount of trade in connection with exporting pigs.

14543. So if they lose at one end they gain at the other end in the price of the live pigs?—Yes, I ought to explain that this society is taking steps to send a local pig expert round all these parishes to instruct the people in better methods of feeding and producing pigs.

14544. (Mr. Micks).—At first year attitude to this society was to try and dissuade them from starting this factory?—I did my best to do so.

14545. They would not take your advice, what is your present attitude?—Our present attitude is certainly one of approval of their enterprise.

14546. And affording them guidance?—Yes, we advise caution as far as we can, and give them all the information as far as we can.

14547. (Mr. Dryden).—Might you not have taken an attitude against the first and in favour of the last, with perfect consistency?—That is quite true, but we did not know as much as we do now.

14548. Because it seems to me we are starting on a different basis, and these farmers would be relieved of all the dangers they were in at the beginning?—Yes, but we were not sufficiently informed at the time the Monmouth and Roscommon factories were started of the necessity of securing a valid guarantee from the farmers.

14549. (Mr. Micks).—It is anticipated you can make that guarantee effective?—They have all been legally drawn. The penalty is ten shillings. In giving evidence at Limerick Mr. Shaw, who is the

head of one of the best curing houses in Ireland, stated that the Organisation Society had persistently attacked the curers, and owing to their action the supply of bacon pigs had been reduced to one-third. I think Mr. Shaw must have spoken in ignorance of the real state of affairs, because I find in 1890, approximately, at the date at which these regulations were going on the number of pigs in Munster was 263,264, in 1905 the number of pigs had certainly reduced, but only to the extent of 263,100, a reduction of 59,219. There is no use in going outside Munster for the Limerick supply. I find in the same statistics that Ireland exported alive 363,823 pigs to Great Britain, or 31 per cent. of all the pigs produced in Ireland. Why should these 363,000 pigs have been exported from Ireland if the curing houses were sufficient to turn them into bacon.

14550. (Mr. Dryden).—They might not be suitable for bacon?—I mean pigs of all descriptions.

14551. (Mr. Micks).—They were cures, most of them?—I don't think the most of the pigs which leave Ireland alive are cures, they are sold as fresh pork.

14552. (Mr. Brown).—You have not the figures of export for 1896?—No, but they are given in the Department agricultural statistics just issued. In 1896 the total number of pigs in Ireland was 1,264,216. In the last year for which we have returns from Denmark, in a country only one-third the size of Ireland, in 1903 there were 1,456,669 pigs, and the number was steadily increasing. In 1903 there were in Denmark twenty-nine co-operative bacon-curing factories, killing 800,000 pigs per annum, there were also twenty-five proprietary factories, of which Mønsen, Denny owns the largest. There is apparently plenty of room for these factories in Denmark, and they work side by side with each other, and we cannot see how the starting of one or two small factories owned by farmers themselves in Ireland, and established on co-operative lines, can have any injurious effect on the Irish bacon-curing industry. It was never the intention of the Organisation Society to do anything unfair to the bacon-curers, but they acted solely in what they believed to be the interest of the pig-farmers of the country in taking whatever action they took.

14553. (Mr. Micks).—As regards Roscrea, what assistance has been given to it?—We made a small grant of £20 towards the cost of local organisation on condition that the local people would subscribe a similar amount, and they took steps to get up a fund for local organisation by having concerts, the proceeds of which were devoted to paying their local organiser.

14554. And what assistance is promised by the Department?—The Department has promised them a grant of £100 to give instruction in improved methods of feeding pigs, and not for organisation.

14555. (Chairman).—Through the County Committee?—It would not be well worked through the County Committee, because three counties come in there, King's County, North Tipperary, and South Tipperary.

14556. (Mr. Micks).—Then the expert does not assist in the factory part of the work?—No, he knows nothing about it.

14557. But only in the feeding of the pigs?—Yes, this man was employed by one of the curing houses in Limerick as their buying agent for pigs, and he was appointed to do this work because of his special qualifications. He was a small farmer with a great knowledge of pigs, and able to judge the approximate dead weight of an animal once he knew its live weight, which was a rare qualification. I think I have dealt with the allegation that the organisation is not a representative body, which was another charge made at Limerick. It was also stated that our co-operative creameries competed unfairly with proprietary concerns, and it was thrown in our teeth that the quality of our butter was not as good as that produced in Denmark. As regards the unfair competition of co-operative industries with proprietary industries, that is a matter entirely for the farmer who owns the creameries, they regulate the price, we have no control over them. But if it is suggested that we advised the starting of co-operative creameries in places where they would overlap the districts already occupied by proprietary creameries I deny that. Our attitude towards the proprietary creameries was always this, if the farmers wish to make their own

butter in a district where the proprietary creamery was in existence we advised them to approach the proprietary creamery with a view of purchasing the cream. From the English Co-operative Wholesale Society, the Maypole Dairy Company, the Messrs. Lonsdale and several other creameries have been bought, and the full abstraction value paid by the farmers. As regards our butter being not worth as much as the Danish butter I am obliged reluctantly to admit that, but we are working it up gradually, and year after year the price paid for Irish creamery butter is more nearly approaching that paid for Danish butter, but until we can create a condition of things in this country analogous to that obtaining in Denmark, where the same amount of butter is produced all the year round, we cannot expect to get the same price as the Danish.

14558. In your summer butter as good as the Danish?—It is much better.

14559. Does it fetch as good a price in the market?—At times of the year it does the Danish, I have known cases where it went higher, but the tendency of the buyer is to give his custom to the place where he can get the same quantity and quality month in and month out. In winter we lose our customers to some extent, every spring we have to go into the market and offer our butter at a lower price than it is really worth to recover our trade again.

14560. (Mr. Dryden).—Do your people undertake to make the same grade of butter as the Danish?—There has been no system of grading butter here in order to secure a uniform product, it would be very difficult to do so, because butter is not exported from one or two ports as in Denmark, but from a dozen ports.

14561. The Danish butter has a certain standard, and you expect all Danish butter to be of that standard, it is a different standard as compared with yours, a different kind of butter?—It is a drier butter, rather more body. It is a great difficulty to get people who have never gone in for tillage to get great extent to change their system of farming to such a degree as to produce a sufficient amount of butter in winter months as to keep the markets, we try to do it, and I think ultimately we shall succeed.

14562. (Mr. Micks).—When did you move in that direction?—We commenced at the very beginning of winter dairying, it was mostly by lectures. In all our lectures dealing with creameries there is a reference to the necessity for winter dairying, and it is urged in season and out of season.

14563. It has not been seriously attacked anywhere?—Yes, there is one society at a place called the Lagan, outside Londonderry, and there they began by securing a couple of valuable contracts for milk during the winter months from the City of Derry, these enabled them to pay a remunerative price to the farmers who supplied the milk, the winter production was gradually increased, they got no assistance or advice, because this was before the Department started, they advised a system of winter-feeding which enables them to produce milk in the winter months in considerable quantities.

14564. That is for milk as distinguished from butter?—They make butter now owing to the larger supply of milk. In Omagh they have also done a great deal in that direction.

14565. In the south, which I was thinking of when I asked the question?—It is not so noticeable; they are in some cases, I think, producing more.

14566. (Chairman).—Is that because of the small amount of tillage?—If I was asked for my reason I would say it was laziness; it does take a good deal of work. There is another difficulty, that labour is hard to get in the north, and there is a good deal of rich land in Limerick, Tipperary, and Cork that is not suitable for tillage.

14567. (Mr. Dryden).—I should think if there was any country in the world where you could carry it on to advantage in the winter it is Ireland?—They would require to spend considerable money in providing suitable housing for their cattle.

14568. (Mr. Micks).—That they can get easily from the Board of Works?—I think the future of winter dairying does not lie so much in the butter-producing districts as in the districts now given up to dry stock and tillage, and also in the north of Ireland.

14569. (Mr. Brown).—What is the future of these

districts; do you see any prospect of their adapting tillage to any extent in the rich grass lands?—If they find they are left behind by the other districts they may do so, and possibly without great difficulty, for example, they mostly produce a certain amount of oats, at present not very much, and a certain amount of cabbage, and if they extend their cabbage and oats growing operations, they would have struck on almost the best facts there are for winter dairying. I might mention before I leave the question of the value and the quality of Irish butter that at the Birmingham Butter Competitions held by the Department, the co-operative creameries have invariably headed the list, and if the proprietary concerns are, as we are told, so much better managed and ought to occupy the whole field it seems strange they should not have beaten the co-operative creameries, but they did not as a matter of fact.

14570. (Mr. Micks).—Where are the competitions held?—All held in Dublin now. The butter is called up by telegram from all the districts. There is no preparation possible with regard to these samples of butter. The butter is examined by three judges, who are changed each competition, and marks are awarded for the then apparent quality of the butter. Subsequently, after the butter has remained in the store it is weighed to ascertain what it has lost in water, and examined as regards its keeping qualities, and fresh marks are given, and the sum total of the marks decides the position of the creamery in competition. The butter is analysed to test it for the percentage of water.

14571. Where are these examinations held: at the Royal Dublin Society?—No, by the Department; the butter is judged by butter merchants brought from the United Kingdom. At Limerick Mr. William McDonnell said co-operation is not adaptable to the manner of thought of our people. In answer to that I would say that those 30,000 old farmers who form these societies say it is, and our experience goes to show that it is quite the contrary. Irishmen show a remarkable aptitude for combined action and very little aptitude for individual effort, so that the argument was advised without considering the facts. I come now to the evidence given by Mr. Lough, and I am rather at a disadvantage there, because I have not got even the newspaper report of what he said, but at all events I know the general purport of what he said. Now, he stated in his evidence that the Organisation Society made a grant out of the funds of £3,450 to the funds of the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, a trading body, making good the losses of that trading body; that is not the fact. The grant in question to the Agricultural Wholesale Society was made out of a fund contributed by the late Sir Henry Chichester, and was handed over to Sir Horace Plunkett and Mr. W. E. Holmes, to be applied by them as trustees in their discretion in the way they thought best to advance agricultural and industrial organisation in Ireland. The money never belonged to the Organisation Society and never was paid to it, and the Organisation Society passed a minute in reference to it which shows that while it was not their money, they did not quite approve of the application of the money in this case. The minute was passed on the 21st October, 1904. It was proposed by the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. O'Brien: "The Committee approve of the Trustees' action in coming to the relief of the I.A.W.S.; the Committee do not feel called upon to express any opinion on this question, for which the Trustees are solely responsible." I understand that Mr. Lough stated that the losses which this £3,450 was to make good were occasioned during the Chairmanship of Captain Loftus Bryan, who gave evidence before you the other day. That is not quite correct either, because the Wholesale Society had made a very considerable loss before Captain Bryan ever was elected as Chairman. It embarked in a very ambitious scheme of selling live stock in England, on which it dropped a good deal of money. It went into the system of grading barley at Trawlemore to get a uniform quality to be sold to brewers and distillers. It lost money over that, and it is quite unfair to state that those losses had been made under the chairmanship of Captain Bryan. Then Mr. Lough referred at considerable length to the error in the Organisation Society's statistics. That error was admitted and corrected as soon as we discovered it. It was a printer's error, and in every copy of the Report there is a slip inserted pointing out this error

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On 11, 1906, and correcting it. Possibly Mr. Lough's copy had not that slip inserted.

Mr. B. A. Ardman.

14572. What were the statistics about?—The price of butter in creameries. Mr. Lough also took exception to the fact that a grant of £200 was made one year by the Organisation Society for the organisation of agricultural societies by one of their officials, Mr. Shaw, who had been, at one time in the employment of the Organisation Society, and he pointed out that the Organisation Society while taking money from the Department was paying out money as a subsidy towards a trading body. I wish to point out to the Committee again that up to the year 1905, the spring of last year the Department of Agriculture never contributed anything for organisation except for the organisation of Agricultural Banks, and in last year's scheme it did not contribute anything at all for general organisation, but only for Agricultural Banks, live stock and home industries. We found there was spare time at the command of the official of the Wholesale Society and he was paid £100 for any work he did in organising societies when he was going round as traveller for the Wholesale Society, and that is the whole of that transaction.

14573. A lump sum estimate for the value of the time he gave?—Yes.

14574. What was his salary?—I think he got £200 from the Wholesale Society, or £150 and some expenses, to which our contribution was £200. I may add that since the Department began to subsidise our general work this subsidy to the Wholesale Society was discontinued at once, and when this happened steps were taken by the Organisation Society to separate itself from the Irish Revenue, which was a paper run in the interests of co-operation, but originally owned by the Organisation Society, but it was felt by the Committee that while they were accepting a subsidy from the Agricultural Department they ought not to have any connection with a paper which might be held to be either directly or indirectly the organ of the Department. May I say a word about the organisation of the County Council, which I understood was also referred to by Mr. Lough. The society which passed this resolution, Kilshearra, is, I understand, a society working very successfully, but we have no means of knowing, because they have no dealings with us, but after it had been at work for some time Mr. Lough decided on starting another society on similar lines at Ballyhaunis. He consulted the Organisation Society as to the best mode of working this venture. He proposed to make it a limited liability company, and give the management of it to a board of directors in the ordinary way. He also suggested that instead of having separately organised and self-contained societies in each of the districts in which it was proposed to operate that branches of this body at Ballyhaunis should be extended to these districts. He sent the prospectus to me to criticise, and I criticised it freely, and pointed out that if branches were started on this plan and had no responsibility to maintain an effective supply of milk in their districts they would lean on the Central Body and become a drag on it instead of a source of profit, and that the scheme would break down. After attending one or two preliminary meetings the Organisation Society took no further part, and Mr. Lough organised it himself.

14575. It was not affiliated with you?—No. In 1905 the returns from that Society showed that it paid practically the lowest price for milk, it received the lowest price for butter, and it incurred the heaviest working expenses of any co-operative society in Ulster. The farmers got very dissatisfied with it. They had no say in the concern, and asked us to devise a scheme of reorganisation that would put the matter on a more satisfactory basis. We undertook the scheme.

14576. With the consent of Mr. Lough?—He came into it after a while. We almost succeeded in getting it through. A good many meetings were held, and negotiations took place, and the thing was being up, and finally the scheme was abandoned. Things went from bad to worse, and the Society was in a hopeless state of insolvency, and a meeting was called in Curra to which I was invited, and there I suggested the possibility of coming to an agreement with the creditors, whereby they would accept a lesser amount than was due to them. That fell through, because the Societies said, "If the present manager is going to control the business in future it would be better let it go into liquidation and have an end of

it." So it did go into liquidation, with the result that the Organisation Society is at the present time engaged in re-organising the whole district. Most of these small creameries are at work again; they have attached themselves to other central dairies; they are separately registered and with separate share capital, and they are now working in what I hope will be a more satisfactory way. I think I have said now all that I need, and I have to apologise for the inordinate length of my evidence, but I had an enormous amount to deal with. Mr. Taylor in his letter said, "Whether this work had been left to be undertaken by such a body as the I.A.O.S.F." In reply to that I think, perhaps, that the evidence ought to be given by me, President, Colonel Everett, but I may be permitted to say of the three alternatives, organisation by the Organisation Society aided by the Department, organisation directly by the Department itself, and organisation by the Department through the medium of County Committees of Agriculture, the first appears the most likely to be efficient, and best for the country. Voluntary subscriptions and voluntary work are not likely to be given to work that is the duty of the Department that would be given to a body such as ours. With regard to the second alternative, the Department doing the work itself it is open to this objection, that it would be restrained from going as far as the Societies would require an expanding body to go, simply because of trade considerations.

14577. Is there no restraint on them in the Anti-No, but I think there would be other restraints imposed on them.

14578. Would it not be very much the same whether done directly or indirectly?—No, because the Organisation Society could put its work into watertight compartments and do portions of its work with money provided from other sources.

14579. (Chairman).—That was the case as long as the money of the Department was given for certain specific objects, but now they give their assistance to the Society generally; they do make themselves responsible for the whole of the dealings. They lay themselves open to this—I think that is so; it is open to that objection.

14580. (Mr. Mich).—So the same objection applies to both these?—Not if the grant of the Department were made contingent on the Organisation Society itself securing a certain income and then making the grant proportionate to what the Organisation Society should get.

14581. (Chairman).—Are there any conditions at present attached to the grant of the Department?—Yes, I think the conditions are printed in the minutes. The other alternative, the organisation of agricultural co-operation through the County Committees, if they took it up at all, which is doubtful, would lead to very likely thirty-four separate schemes of co-operative work with thirty-four separate staffs, and that would mean a lot of waste of money. From our point of view it is very important that the movement should retain its National character, which it would utterly lose if it ran up into fragments.

14582. (Mr. Mich).—If it went into the Department would it also lose its National character?—I think to some extent it would. I think taking our work by the Department is objectionable, from many points of view.

14583. At luncheon time I was asking you about the Kilshearra resolution, and putting into the balance-sheet of the Organisation, or rather not putting into it, the payments that were given for instruction?—Did they use the word "instruction"?

14584. I don't know that they did, but is that what it comes to?—The money we received from the Department up to 1905 was £15,915. That was for agricultural instruction carried on by experts, not for organisation.

14585. And on that account it was not put into the accounts?—No, because it was never regarded as the proper work of the Organisation Society at all. We had to take it up, because there was no other body to do it, but since the Department came on the scene we addressed a letter to the Department asking to be relieved of this work, saying we had spent nearly £4,000 on it, and asking the Department to take it up, which was accepted in the month of July, 1900.

14586. Were these the only payments in all your receipts that did not appear on the ordinary accounts?

—I think so. I don't think there were any other receipts that did not appear.

14587. No payments towards that head of instruction except that?—No, I don't think so.

14588. (Mr. Gifford).—Did you refer in your Annual Returns to the fact that you were acting as trustees for the Department in this matter of agricultural instruction?—Oh, we did.

14589. Receiving so much money and spending it?—I don't know that we put in the actual amount we received, but it was referred to most distinctly in the Report. In the Report for the period extending from 31st of March, 1899, to the 31st of December, 1900, it says: "The work which the I.A.O.S. had been carrying out in certain subjects has now been taken over by the Department and embodied with its general scheme of technical instruction, but the services of the experts employed in this work will be available as before to the Societies in the same manner as has been those of the dairy experts of the Board of National Education, who have been transferred to the Department."

14590. (Mr. Michie).—One would not infer from that any payment?—Yes, but the Department actually supervised the work.

14591. The money were your officials?—Yes.

14592. Then, the fact of receiving any financial assistance from the Department does not appear in any of your Reports?—No, it does not.

14593. (Mr. Gifford).—I should have supposed from that that the Department was paying the salaries of these experts?—They were. As a matter of fact, their salaries and expenses, having to be discharged the expenses of administration.

14594. (Chairman).—How, as a matter of fact, were these expenses accounted for? were they paid direct to the expert?—No; they were paid to us.

14595. You still paid their salaries and expenses?—We furnished periodical accounts for the services rendered by these men individually including their salaries and expenses, and these having been checked, and in some cases deductions made, a cheque for a lump sum was paid to us and this was distributed to the people by whom the money was earned.

14596. (Mr. Gifford).—You act as sub-accountants for the Department?—Exactly.

14597. (Mr. Michie).—These accounts are with the Department now?—Oh, yes.

14598. (Mr. Gifford).—Is there any corresponding reference in subsequent reports?—I will hand in those reports. There is a long paragraph in a succeeding report about the work of the Department. "The Committee here wish to carefully recognise the enormous help which the Department has given to their work, that part of it which consisted of expert advice, properly belonging to a Government Department, but which owing to the needs of the societies had been hitherto discharged by the Society has now been practically taken over by the Department, but the direction of the work of the various experts whose time is fully engaged by the Society has been left in the hands of the I.A.O.S. subject to the approval of the Department."

14599. In that report you were assuming it was a matter of public knowledge that the Department was carrying on this?—Everybody knew it as a matter of fact, there was no secret about it, there was certainly no attempt at concealment on our part, there was nothing to conceal.

14600. As a matter of fact the salary payments made to this Committee of the I.A.O.S. of funds provided by the Department were absolutely and entirely to these officers?—Yes, and more, because some times it would happen that an account would be put in in respect of £25, and a reduction of £1 would be taken off, and we would only receive £24, and we would have to pay that man the £1; they might say that this was more organising work than technical instruction. Often a man would send in a bill for telegrams, and the Department's clerks would consider such an expenditure was not warranted by the facts.

14601. (Mr. Michie).—Ordinary small items taxed out?—Certainly.

14602. (Mr. Gifford).—But the Department takes steps to see that the payments made from this fund were entirely in respect of work of the category they approved?—We used to send to the Department a forecast of work for each of these men; they were obliged to make out a forecast a week ahead; this was sent to the Department and had to be initiated by one of the Department's officials before this man could undertake that work; it was sent back to us again, and periodically the accounts were made up by them for salary and expenses, and were sent in to the Department checked by the accountant of the Department, and by the official having special charge of this work, and payment was made to us of the net amount allowed.

14603. (Mr. Michie).—At present the Department have some representative arrangement on your Committee?—They are represented by Professor Campbell and Mr. Porter.

14604. They have all the powers of ordinary members of your Committee?—Yes; but no further power.

14605. (Mr. Gifford).—Do you mean that during all the time that you were a sort of sub-contractor for this work that week by week the work to be done was brought under the cognizance of the Department?—Yes.

14606. And, therefore, the Department in checking the expenditure had before them their own check of the week's work that was to be done as well as the expenditure in addition?—They had the forecasts, the accounts, and the diaries.

14607. And the diaries showed work absolutely disconnected from the organization, and if there were any appearance of connection between that work and organization, that was disallowed?—Yes, in some cases where our officials occupied the dual position of organizer and expert, for instance, Mr. Russell used to deliver lectures for which he was paid by the Department, and ordinarily he was an organizer; in furnishing the accounts to the Department we used to get the accounts furnished in duplicate and instruct our officials to mark the items for which the Department was charged "D.A.T.I." and the other "I.A.O.S." to distinguish between them.

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14608. (Chairman).—You are a nominated member of the Council of Agriculture?—Yes.

14609. A nominated member of the Board of Technical Instruction in 1900-3, and of the Board of Agriculture from 1900 to the present time?—Yes.

14610. You were President of the I.A.O.S. in 1898, succeeding Sir Horace Plunkett, and about twelve months ago you resigned it, though still a member of the General Committee?—That is so. I might just remind the Committee that I gave local evidence in Limerick, but I then stated I might have some evidence to give with regard to the I.A.O.S.

14611. There is that resolution which you seconded which is now under discussion?—I am not sure if you have that resolution; I take that rather as my starting point; the resolution passed at the last meeting of Council last May. "That in the opinion of this Council it is desirable that the Department should promote agricultural organization and provide the funds necessary for the purpose." That was moved by Colonel Everett and seconded by me and passed

unanimously. Then the further question, and much more difficult one, of how this should be done was postponed, as the Committee are aware. I take that as a starting point, and I think that, broadly stated in that way, that resolution really disposes of the main criticism of the Limerick witnesses, as it is practically admitted on all hands now I think that the farmers should be encouraged and even taught by public funds how to carry out themselves that portion of their business or anything connected with their business which they can do as well as it could be done for them by private individuals. The complaint of the Limerick witnesses really came to this I think that the Department taught farmers to do for themselves what was being done for them by private individuals outside in such matters as co-operative creameries and so forth. Where it has been proved the farmers can do these things for themselves, I think it is now admitted on all hands that it is desirable to spread that system.

14612. (Mr. Michie).—The way they put it in Limerick was that a complaint was made that it was

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objectionable for the Department to assist in competing with existing industries in the hands of private capitalists?—Yes; I think it was put that way.

14613. That objection still remains; a great many people still hold that objection—I don't think that is the general opinion now; it may be as regards some things, but as regards creameries I should have said that the case was fairly admitted now that it was desirable that this work should be done by the farmers.

14614. (Chairman).—I don't think we can take it for our own purposes as quite admitted, for we have had a great deal of evidence objecting to the principle and objecting to the application of public funds to promote a system of co-operation which is alleged to conflict with the interests of private traders; that is a question which we have to consider quite apart from any resolution which has been passed or anything of that kind; we have to consider, if necessary, the question both of the state of the law and the practice and the methods on which the Department work, but I think that has been very fully dealt with; the reason why co-operation is desirable has been fully dealt with by Mr. Anderson and other witnesses, and I don't think, unless you wish to add anything, that it is necessary to go over that ground any more.—Then I will leave that point; there is just one matter in connection with that that I ought to go into. In giving evidence, on the spur of the moment, in answer to Mr. McDonnell, I made certain statements of facts, and I find I was wrong, with regard to the date of the Co-operative Creamery being started at Shanagolden; speaking from memory I stated that Society was not started for several years after the first co-operative societies were started at Ballyhabill; I find I was wrong in that respect, and I feel bound to correct that statement; the difference in time in registration was only three or four weeks, but the broad fact remains that we began in Ballyhabill where there was no proprietary creamery; it was not a rich district; that society was started some time before, and was registered before anything was done in Shanagolden.

14615. I see you wish to observe on Mr. McDonnell's view that co-operation is only of use when farms are small?—Mr. McDonnell's theory, and I think of the other industrial witnesses generally, seemed to be that co-operation was all very well to be introduced in poor districts or out-of-the-way places where the enterprise of private individuals had not come in. I entirely dissent to that. I think where we have proved the thing can be done by the farmers there is no reason in the world why the farmers should not organize, and if they come to us and ask us to organize I see no objection in principle to meet them; we did not invade other districts of our own nation; we only went there when asked by the farmers, and it was almost invariably done by way of purchase on arbitration terms.

14616. And of course the poorer districts are the districts principally where there are forest traders, and there is more need of the organization?—There is more need in some ways, and it is more benefit to the people, but I see no reason why the better-to-do farmers should be shut out from co-operation.

14617. What do you say your policy has been with regard to avoiding interference with trades as far as possible?—Where there was any doubt as to the advantages of co-operation, as for instance in the case of the mature business and the bacon factory, as already explained by Mr. Anderson, our policy was to try and induce the farmers to come to terms with the existing trade and it was successfully done, as you have heard in connection with the mature business, with very good results all round, I think to the mature merchant as well as to the farmers and general public and an immense stimulus has been given to the mature trade.

14618. That has been already pointed out?—But I need hardly say that we never had any intention of injuring traders and shopkeepers; on the contrary we believe that the indirect benefits to trades would be very great. Of course in the course of any large change like this there may be injury inflicted here and there upon one or two individuals—the smaller shopkeepers, for instance, who were dealing in mature in the towns would suffer a certain loss, but the change takes place very gradually and they have plenty of other business to do, and we think, generally, there is plenty of scope in Ireland for the enterprise of pri-

vate individuals outside the field that co-operation was touch at all.

14619. Do you wish to say anything in addition to what Mr. Anderson has said with regard to the relations between the Department and your Society in the past?—As regards the past I don't think I need add anything to what Mr. Anderson has said. Colonel Edward, who is President of the Society now, will also give any evidence that may be necessary on that, and he is also a member of the Agricultural Board, we are very much in the same position, except that he is now President and has more recent and complete information than I have. I should also like to say with reference to the relations between the I.A.O.S. and the Department that I believe that some suggestion was made by Mr. Lough that members of the Agricultural Board who were connected with the I.A.O.S. had information that was not open to other members of the Board. I have not seen Mr. Lough's evidence of course in full; I have only seen newspaper reports of it and perhaps I have been misinformed.

14620. (Mr. O'Brien).—He did not quite put it in that way; he said it was a coincidence that certain members of the Board, being members also of the I.A.O.S. Governing Body, were familiar with the facts which enabled them to judge upon more complete information than men who had not got the double sources of information these had?—Well, I only wish just to say that I am not aware that I ever received any information that was not open to any member of the Board if he asked for it; very likely I asked for more information than other members did.

14621. He did not imply that; what he meant was that you naturally came there—just as he might have come there, with more knowledge of Cavan than you had—you came there with more knowledge of the I.A.O.S.—We at the I.A.O.S. often thought we had to complain we did not get information from the Department, but I always put that down, as other little matters one had to complain of, to the immense pressure of work at the Department, of which I was perfectly well aware; I don't think sufficient allowance has been made for that either by the Treasury or the one hand or the general public on the other.

14622. (Chairman).—As to the question, which is a serious one at the present moment, whether the Department should carry on the work of organization itself or contribute towards the funds of your Society in order to enable you to do it?—The question is practically whether the Department should carry on the work of organization itself or pay the I.A.O.S. to do it. On the one hand there is the broad popular argument that whatever work the Department undertakes it should directly control and that any work assigned for the State to do itself at all should not pay for. On the other hand certain facts should be borne in mind; in the first place the I.A.O.S. was established for this very purpose and has all the machinery for carrying it on; secondly, the Department certainly has the hands full enough and has been perhaps tempted already to undertake too many different branches of work and is constantly being asked to add to them. Thirdly, the work of organization has two fields, partly educational in teaching the farmers how to start societies, which is a comparatively simple matter, and partly commercial, so to speak, in advising them how to conduct and maintain their business, which leads on to higher forms of co-operation by combining societies in trade federations for buying and selling. Now, these latter stages are more difficult and more important than more initiative. It is distinctly not the case of the first step only creating, and though the educational part of the work is certainly a proper object for State aid, as we maintain, that of raising the commercial advice is more doubtful, while the formation of Federations is obviously outside the sphere of the State. But yet there is evidently a great advantage in the whole work of organization both educational and commercial being in the hands of one body, otherwise one branch of it might get ahead of the other. Particularly it is important that the commercial work of maintenance should keep pace with the educational work of initiative, and it is comparatively so easy to form new societies that there is a constant tendency for the number of societies to increase faster than the available machinery for commercial organization would justify. For these reasons I am strongly of opinion that the work would be better done through the I.A.O.S. than by the Department itself.

14623. But accepting the reasoning in that paragraph for a moment, supposing the I.A.O.S. set before

just these objects; supposing one is work to which the State may very fairly and properly contribute, educational work, but that the principle of organization, and so on is, according to the reasoning of these persons, a work to which the State should not properly contribute—is not the difficulty this; if you make a distinction generally to the funds of the Society you are carrying on that part of the work which lies outside the proper province of the State as well as that part of the work which lies within it—I don't see part of the work more than when the National Board pays a Convention for education; they are not paying to maintain the Convention. You pay for the part of the work that you want to get done and you see that it is done.

14624. That was so when the contributions were earmarked, but if the contribution is general to the funds of the Society it is in effect one towards the carrying on of all its trade as well as that part which lies within the direct province of the State; that seems to me the difficulty—I should be satisfied if we were paid to do what is admittedly within the sphere of the State.

14625. That may be possible by the conditions of which we shall hear more from Colonel Edmund presently, the conditions under which the grant is given.—There is one other reason that I wish to advert to, I think it was touched on by Mr. Anderson.

14626. (Mr. Miles). It may be said by people who object to the work of the I.A.O.S. that if the payment was not made for the educational part they could not afford to keep a man going for the other, and virtually it is burning in that way.

14627. (Chairman).—It comes therefore to the same thing.—When you pay for work done, if you are satisfied that the work is done, are you not getting value for what you pay for?

14628. (Mr. Miles).—You may be doing something that might not be approved of by reason of the contribution for the legitimate object.—If you only pay for the work that is within the province of the State, and that work is done, I don't see where that objection arises.

14629. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Do you consider that the case you put of paying for educational conveniences in the Convention is quite apropos of that, or do you see any distinction?—I don't say that it is an exact parallel, but it seems to me fairly the same position.

14630. The difficulty is that in the one case, say in any payment made in respect of the educational work done in the Convention the payments are made upon direct units of work which are measured according to the scale provided in the regulations of the Department. Any payment of a lump character to the funds of the I.A.O.S. could not be regulated in respect of estimation of the work done in any such simple form.—Yes.

14631. (Mr. Miles).—Some payments to Conventions are, as Lord Monteagle said, in a lump sum.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—But there are the pupils there, and there is the amount of instruction given, and so on, what I am asking in effect is whether it would be possible to measure in any similar way the work of an educational kind done by the I.A.O.S. on behalf of the Board?—Of course, I quite admit that it ought to be checked, the State ought to be assured that it is getting value for its money. I am afraid I am not prepared to suggest in what way that could be done.

14632. (Chairman).—However, your position is that the I.A.O.S. is doing public work of sufficient importance to justify a contribution from the State?—Yes. There is one other reason for saying that if this work is to be done, it had better be entrusted as liberally to the I.A.O.S., that is, that I think it is of vital importance that the people themselves should be brought in, the farmers themselves should be brought into this work. The whole system of the Department's work relies on local assistance, that the work should be done not only for the people but by the people, and our organization provides the means of bringing the people into this work by the very democratic constitution which has been explained by Mr. Anderson. I think that is of vital importance, because I suppose we are all agreed that we want to teach the people habits of self-help, and this is one of the means of doing that by the co-operative organization, the people themselves should be associated in that work of carrying on the organization. It may be said to get the people into this you might work through the County Councils, but I think there are objections to that, some of which were pointed out by Mr. Anderson, for instance there might be thirty-two

different schemes, and also I am not sure if Mr. Anderson alluded to it, but there is the very obvious objection that on the County Councils you have many other interests represented, shopkeepers and other classes, some of them might be actually hostile to this work, and many of them would not understand it.

14633. (Mr. Miles).—Was the third course ever proposed by anybody?—It was suggested, I think, in a resolution moved but not passed at the last meeting of the Council as a sort of rider to the resolution, which was carried.

14634. (Mr. Brown).—It is one of the alternatives to be considered by the Council of Agriculture at its next meeting?—Yes, at any rate the nucleus of this democratic machinery is there already in existence in the I.A.O.S., and I think it would be a thousand pities if it was destroyed or starved out.

14635. Do you know how County Committees do anything to promote the Organization?—Some of the County Committees have asked the I.A.O.S. to undertake certain work, for instance, the co-operative banks, and I think myself that that is likely to spread, for instance, only the other day my own County Committee in Limerick passed a resolution in favour of appointing an organizer, a sort of expert in dairying, who should not only give instruction in the expert work, but also in co-operative organization.

14636. For dairying purposes?—Yes; I am a member of the Committee; I was not present at the time, and did not hear the discussion, but the mere fact that such a thing was proposed in the County Limerick, I think, is very significant.

14637. There is no doubt that for co-operation, or even agricultural banks or institutions such as creameries, that County Committees might very fairly be entrusted with the work of promoting organization, but do you think the same thing applies in the case of trading societies?—I don't think that the agricultural trading societies would have the same chance certainly under County Committees, and I should doubt, Mr. Brown, whether the work with regard to creameries would be as well done, but the work of self-help would be much more difficult.

14638. Do you look on the work of the trading societies as an essential part of the co-operative movement?—A very important part of it; I hope to see creameries, many of them, take up that, many of them are joint societies, and there is an increasing tendency for creameries to take up that branch, supplying their members with agricultural requisites of all kinds.

14639. That is, they make a sort of composite agricultural society round a creamery, and also being a trading society?—Yes, many of them are known as agricultural and dairy societies. In Limerick, I think, they could do excellent work in spreading the use of manures and feeding stuffs, and so forth.

14640. (Chairman).—I see you have a paragraph here which does deal with that subject?—Yes, I mean as regards the form of the Department's subsidy. I think that if we were starting afresh it would be a simpler and better and cheaper arrangement for the Department to give a block grant to the estimated amount of the educational part of the work subject to inspection as a guarantee of quality and quantity while the Department being represented on the Committee of the I.A.O.S., under a system of dual control, though I recognize in connection with that there may be difficulties of the kind Mr. Ogilvie hinted at, but now that the dual system has been introduced, I think it ought to get a fair trial.

14641. (Mr. Miles).—To what extent is it a dual system?—That the Department has two representatives on the Executive Committee.

14642. And how many are there on the Executive Committee?—Five, I think, with the President and Vice-President, with two members of the Department.

14643. Two out of nine?—I am not quite sure of the figures, that is about the number. I think it was originally five, with the President and Vice-President, and then the members of the Department were added.

14644. You would hardly call two out of nine dual control?—The Department has the power of the purse to a large extent, so practically it is; while I was on the Executive Committee I don't think we ever had a division.

14645. You think with two on and the power of the purse, they could direct your movement altogether?—We were pretty harmonious.

14646. Would not that make really the Department completely the manager of the I.A.O.S.?—We did

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not find practically that there was any difficulty in working; of course I want to show here there is always a difficulty in working a dual control, it largely depends on a good understanding between the different Members composing the controlling body.

14647. I was pointing out that the representation was very small, that you set me right by pointing out that they had the power of the purse!—They have not the power of the purse entirely, because we have our own funds, but in virtue of the large contribution of the Department their views would be entitled to great weight in all matters that came within their sphere.

14648. Do you think that really gives them a controlling vote over the I.A.O.S.?—I should not say it was an absolute control.

14649. (Mr. O'Connell).—So far as the educational work is concerned, is it absolute?—I suppose we should regard it as a very serious matter if the Department said they disapproved of any action that the Executive Committee thought it necessary to take, because, as Mr. Micks said, it might affect our future relations with them, but I think that on occasion we did insist on carrying our point. I cannot say that I recollect the chapter and verse.

14650. (Chairman).—Then you make an observation about the importance of offering some inducements to other societies to contribute to the funds of the I.A.O.S.?—Yes, I think that subsidy was given in a form that rather tended to discourage our societies from contributing, because I think that whatever sum, I forget exactly how it was put, but any contributions that we got from outside were to be in reduction, I think, of the Department's subsidy, if we got more than was estimated it was to go in reduction of the subsidy. That is an obvious intimation to the Irish farmer to reduce his contributions. I think it would be much better if it took the form as it is between the Department and the County Committee of a pro rata aid in certain definite proportion to the contribution from outside.

14651. Do you wish to add anything to what Mr. Anderson has said with regard to Mr. Lough's evidence?—I think only this, that Mr. Lough, I think, implied the Irish Co-operative Agency as well as the Wholesale to his statement, and implied that payments might have been made through the I.A.O.S. to the agency to make good trade losses. I am President of the Agency Society, and I wish to say on their be-

half that we never received a single penny either from the I.A.O.S. or the Department, and I am glad to say we have not any trading losses to make good. Though we started with a very small capital, our profits are now over £2,000, and for the last ten years, as Mr. Lough ought to know, because his society is one of the shareholders, for the last ten years we have been paying our society shareholders on their shares, and we have also paid interest on our loan capital for the last ten years.

14652. (Mr. Micks).—They did not get any of the £20,000 grant of Sir Henry Cochrane?—No, none of that, the Agency has been entirely self-supporting from the first, and worked its way gradually up. As regards the alternative, if it should be decided not to employ the I.A.O.S., but for the Department to undertake the work itself, I think the Department should in that case confine itself to credit loans and fire stock insurance, and such other matters as it could undertake altogether from start to finish, and leave all the other things outside, and let the I.A.O.S. do the best they can with them. I regard the principle of continuity of the work and its being in the hands of one body from the beginning right through as so very important, that I should deprecate a division of the work which has sometimes been thought of at a certain stage, viz.—at the first business meeting—that the Department should organise the societies and then leave them to sink or swim. I think it is very important that their subsequent history should be followed up, and if we are paid to do the educational part of such organisation, we can take care that that does not outstrip our capacity for looking after the societies in their subsequent career, but if that is not provided for, I think it would be a very serious responsibility for us.

14653. (Chairman).—It comes to this, that if the Department takes over the work they will have to drop all but the credit loans!—Anything that leads up to trading.

14654. (Mr. Brown).—Then would there not be the disadvantage of two distinct organisations dealing with these co-operative societies, the Department on the one hand and the I.A.O.S. on the other?—In that case the Department would deal with certain kinds of societies, and the I.A.O.S. with others, there would be a division vertically instead of horizontally of the work. I think that is undesirable too, but I think it would be the lesser evil of the two to divide by subjects than to divide by time.

Colonel EUGENE EVERARD, M.P., County Meath, examined.

I did not bring up any Memorandum with me, because I thought probably most of the details of the work, and answers to the objections made would have been put before you previously.

14655. (Chairman).—I think you have been in the room all day and have heard the other witnesses!—I have heard most of the evidence given. Perhaps I might state that personally I have been a member of the Organisation Society practically from the commencement, that I was elected on the Committee in 1897, that I have been Chairman of the County Committee of Agriculture and of the Joint Committee of Technical Instruction since their first initiation, and I have been elected a member of the Council of Agriculture also since its first establishment. I am a nominated member of the Board of Agriculture.

14656. Would you tell us about the conditions which are attached to this grant?—I have the conditions here, and in reading them over I might perhaps add a few words. This is the letter from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture addressed to the Secretary of the Organisation Society:—

"20th March, 1906.

"Sir,—Adverting to your of 28th Inst., I have to inform you that the Department, with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, have allocated a sum not to exceed £3,700 towards the cost of agricultural organisation on the conditions submitted. The arrangement now approved of is in respect of a period of twelve months from 1st of March, 1906, and should be regarded merely as a provisional measure. Before considering any further contribution for this purpose, the Department have decided to consult the Council of Agriculture at their next meeting as to the best methods of aiding agricultural organisations in Ire-

land." The conditions are given:—"First, the officials of the I.A.O.S. shall confine their work to organisation and advising only. By the term 'organisation' is to be understood (a) the convening and addressing of meetings of persons whom it is desirable to instruct in the principles and working details of co-operation for mutual advantage among members of the agricultural classes. (b) Attendance when necessary at general and Committee meetings of societies, and advising them upon the conduct of such meetings, keeping of minutes and accounts, methods of business correspondence, general observance of the rules, including statutory obligations, the conduct of arbitrations, the settlement of disputes, and giving general business advice. (c) The explanation of the functions of and desirability of joining the I.A.O.S., and the principal federations of the movement. (d) The Society's organisers are not to give advice on individual subjects within the range of the Department's scheme except with the approval of the Department. For instruction and advice on these subjects the organiser should urge the societies to get into touch with the County Committee, the scale of salaries, travelling and other allowances of these officials shall be submitted for approval by the Department, and none shall not be changed in any way without the permission in writing of the Department. The Department's representatives shall be given every facility for examining the accounts of the I.A.O.S. as well as the reports, diaries, and expense-accounts of the organisers. All applications to the Department relating to matters of co-operative organisation from co-operative societies organised by the I.A.O.S. to be submitted in the latter body, and the Department's officials and inspectors are to encourage such inquiries as far as possible. All societies or other co-operative bodies

when fully organized must in future pay the travelling expenses and subsistence allowance of organizers, provided, however, that the Executive Committee shall provide, however, that the amount so charged shall be empowered to meet the charges because of the poverty or other exceptional difficulties. Where premiums are required, a charge of 10s. 6d. a day must be paid in addition. Agricultural books and most other societies which do not trade for a profit are not to be bound by this agreement. Credit may also be given in each year to any society in an amount not exceeding the amount of its per capita contribution, according to the I.A.O.S. in that year. Then this answer, I think the question which the President asked as to what control the Department had over the working of the I.A.O.S. "The selection of districts in which it is desirable to organize societies shall be referred to a special Committee of the Executive Committee on which the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and the I.A.O.S. shall be equally represented, and that this sub-committee, before determining on the organization of a new society in any district shall, except in urgent cases, ascertain from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction that the material facilities for such society exist in the proposed district, the proceedings of the said Committee shall in every case be reported to the meeting of the Executive Committee next following. When furnishing claims monthly for reimbursement of expenditures, the I.A.O.S. shall submit the reports of their organizers with their claims with a view to prevent the overlapping of unnecessary expenditure, the Department's representatives shall attend at the offices of the I.A.O.S. at least weekly for the purpose of assisting in co-ordinating the work of the Society and of the Department. The contribution of the Department will be paid in advance at such times and in such amounts as may be required in order to enable the work to be efficiently carried out. Any unexpended balance is to be carried forward. It is understood that the amount voted by the Agricultural Board is intended to supplement the amount of I.A.O.S. fund in order to enable the Society to carry out the work agreed upon, and that the Department's grant shall not be drawn upon further than is required for this purpose.

"I am, sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"T. P. GILL, Secretary."

Now, Mr. Chairman, this was practically the set of conditions imposed upon the I.A.O.S. I cannot say that it was an agreement, it was a set of conditions to which we were bound to subscribe, if we wished the organization of agriculture to be carried on in an efficient manner. As has been already explained to you, for various reasons the subscriptions to the I.A.O.S. had fallen off not from any dissatisfaction at the progress of the work but because those of our friends who had hitherto subscribed imagined that the Department was practically instituted for the purpose of carrying out the improvements in our agricultural position which they considered could be best effected by agricultural organization, therefore our subscribers naturally thought that where the Government had provided for organization there was no need for them to come to our assistance, especially as a large part of our work had been taken away, the Technical Instruction, which undoubtedly was the business of the Department of Agriculture. Then as to the contributions from the societies, I do not say you have already realized that many of the societies are exceedingly poor, especially those in very poor districts, consisting of struggling farmers who cannot avoid occasionally making losses, therefore they have not got very much money to spare. Then you have the large successful societies who require no assistance from the Organization Society at all, and therefore many of them, perhaps having upon their executive not very public-spirited individuals, don't see why they should subscribe at all, as they describe it, they get no good of the Organization Society, they don't require their assistance. I would rather like to compare the I.A.O.S. to a missionary body, you don't hear of a missionary body obtaining its income from its converts generally, it is from friends and supporters who wish the missionary work carried on. What is prin-

cipally objected to in this agreement is the control of the Department in the selection of districts; you may recollect I read that part of it in which it mentions that the Department shall ascertain if the material facilities for such a society exist in the proposed district. We looked upon that as interfering with our work, because it was not likely that we should propose that a society should be started in a district unless we had evidence that not only was there an anxiety for it, but that the material facilities for it existed, and that they should send down an inspector or call upon their agricultural instructors to carry on an investigation in that district, looked either like distrust of the Organization Society or was a wild waste of money. That was one objection we had, and then the whole scheme, to our mind, of merely making good what our societies did not contribute in order to carry out the schemes, was rather demoralizing, because obviously if the Department were bound to pay up in the inverse proportion to what the societies contribute, the societies would contribute less in order to make the Department pay more; they would not feel they were doing the Organization Society an injury if they did not subscribe, because their commitment would be, "They will get it from the Department." I think the suggestion was made—I am not sure whether it was by Mr. Miles—that there should be a pro rata contribution; it certainly would, I think, more encourage self-help, besides that is the principle applied to most of the schemes of the Department.

14657. We have gone over the matter very fully with Mr. Anderson and previous witnesses. I would put it generally to you whether there is any point you wish to call our attention to?—The issue is so very late, otherwise I should have wished to have given you an instance of what the working and benefit of certain types of societies are in districts.

14658. (Mr. Miles).—Before you pass to that would you mind telling us what your recollection is of the question of not including the grant from the Department in the accounts of the Organization Society?—That is to say, the grant that was given previous to 1905, the reason it was not included was it was for work that was done for the Department for which they paid our experts; we thought it would hardly come into our accounts at all.

14659. It used to be in your accounts before the Department was created?—It was.

14660. (Chairman).—They took over the work and paid the money through you?—Precisely, in fact I don't know whether it is quite fair to put the question the way it has been so as to represent that the Department was assisting the Organization Society in this matter, we always considered that the Organization Society was assisting the Department, and some of us gave the assistance rather grudgingly, because we found we were saddled with expenses in the matter and got no credit for it. I was just going to mention the type of society of which I am, perhaps, specially qualified to speak, that is the agricultural societies. In 1905 there was a society started by the Organization Society in my parish called the Donaghpatrick Agricultural Co-operative Society, that society was formed in a district which was, perhaps, the least promising for a society of the kind, because the County Council is, I might say, almost virgin of co-operative societies, it consists nearly altogether of green land, with a very large proportion of large farmers. But to show you what good a society can do even there this society was joined by members of all creeds and classes, both priest and person, I think the fact that it brought all classes together tended distinctly to the mutual advantage of the district. We did not confine ourselves to mere breeding work, we were the first society that instituted the system of experimental plots. We carried out a system which now the Department has adopted, that is to say, providing the seeds and the manure, and the farmer to have the seeds and produce in return for these seeds and manure, which carrying out the directions of the Inspector, which in this case was the Committee.

14661. (Mr. Miles).—Are you under the impression that that was entirely a novel experiment in Ireland?—I think the conditions were novel, I may be allowed to say the reason why I thought they would be of use was that for many years I had carried out experi-

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ments on my own land, but never forced the farmers to take the least interest in them.

14662. I mean the operations carried out by the Royal Dublin Society and the Congested Districts Board?—Quite so. This was done by a society of farmers, and therefore all the members took an interest in what was going on. I used to carry experiments out on my farm, but I found whatever results I obtained were generally received with incredulity, and the remark generally made was, "Your honor has a very clever steward." When three plots were started they were placed close to the high road on one of the member's farms. We first of all introduced the practice of spraying potatoes, which was exceptional at that time.

14663. For that district?—For that district, and we had it demonstrated for two or three years before it was generally adopted. There was always some specious reason why the sprayed portion of the potatoes succeeded, whereas the rest were failures, either a stroke of lightning or the land was better at the top of the hill than at the bottom. At last we sprayed it in chess-board fashion, and there could be no gasconading that spraying had something to do with it, and spraying is now the rule in the district. We also grew a plot of tobacco that succeeded very well, the crop was sold and realised a fair price. We also instituted a system which may be of use, and it is provided for in the Land Act, in certain districts, that is co-operative grazing. The society hired land for which it paid a rent, which unfortunately had to be a competitive rent, and put their young stock out on it. It was needed at that time owing to the fact that nearly all the land was in the hands of graziers, as they are called, and there was no place for the poor man's cow or his calf.

14664. Except the road?—That is what we call the long acre, that is very much wanted of. The result was that we were able to pay the rent, and having changed the usual rates for grazing cattle we were able to return about 15 per cent. to the people. If that system was adopted, I think it would help to solve the congested districts problem in cases where you cannot divide a ranch owing to want of water, or for other reasons, but it could be taken for common grazing. That is provided for in the Act by enabling trustees to purchase land for that purpose. Then we carried out various other interesting experiments.

14665. Do you ever take any hay off that to accommodate people with winter hay?—We had no power to do anything but grow it for eleven months. Another line which was adopted, which has been very useful, was acting as forage contractors for the hunting venison who come in large numbers, and that enables them to deal practically direct with the farmer through his society, so that there is no imposition on either one or the other, and no blackmail levied by grocers as is usual. This society has been working now for eleven years, its trade has been over £60,000, it has a turn-over now exceeding 25,000 a year, its reserve fund is four times its subscribed capital, and it has paid 5 per cent. over since it was started, and the amount of benefit to the small farmers has been very great, because they have been able to purchase all their requirements at the same price as the very wealthiest farmer in the district. They have been able to purchase grass seeds and manures and feeding stuffs, and the amount of education I think which the farmers obtained in this way before the advent of the Agricultural Department certainly prepared the way for their work. I recollect a small farmer who had been in the habit of purchasing his grass seeds from his grocer, not knowing what he was buying, or else using the sweepings of his hay loft, was very anxious to know from our Secretary as to whether the firm from which he obtained them guaranteed a certain percentage of germination, that showed that the society had had on that man an educational influence. There is another type of society, a Home Industry Society, which was also started in our county, called the Meath Home Industry Society, started by some philanthropic ladies, and it eventually obtained a very large trade and accumulated a considerable reserve, but the difficulty arose as to who the money was to belong to, and that is a difficulty that must meet all such philanthropic societies. The Organisation Society came to

our rescue, and the society is now co-operative, that is to say the workers are entitled to hold shares and be represented on the committee. The reserve which has been accumulated in their property, and after providing for the five per cent. on the capital which is contributed by the workers alone, the committee of ladies who assisted them before, taking what is called guarantee shares which guarantee the workers against loss. There is a large bonus given to the workers, paid in proportion to the money they have received for work. This society works in all parts of Meath, and its turn-over last year amounted to £1,800, which is, of course, an advantage to the workers, especially the poorest farmers and labourers, and some who have no other means of making a livelihood. I don't know whether it is necessary for me to say any more on the subject.

14666. (Mr. Brown).—Is the work of this society of which you have just been speaking done in the homes?—The work is done in their own homes, and there is a depot at Navan, where a manager receives the work and pays for it.

14667. What is the nature of the work?—Lace and crochet and drawn work, and fine muslin work, knitting, weaving, and all description of work of that kind that can be carried on in the homes of the people.

14668. (Mr. Mickel).—Is there any report of that society?—Yes, you will see the report and statement of accounts in the Annual Report of the Organisation Society. If you have nothing more to ask me on behalf of the Organisation Society perhaps I could give my evidence on the County Committee work. I have unfortunately to refer to evidence that has been given, because I have been personally ordered to. I want to say in the first instance that Mr. Sweetman's evidence yesterday stated that the Department was laughed at by practical farmers. I think that is a serious statement for a gentleman occupying such a very responsible position.

14669. (Chairman).—He is Chairman of the County Council?—Yes, and not only that, but he is the representative of the General Council of the County Council, which is said to represent the Irish nation. I just want to state that he has himself consistently opposed the schemes of the Department, and his view is in a minority of one in his County Council, composed principally of practical farmers. As to the progress that has been made with the work in the County Meath, the fact remains that the number of those who have taken advantage of the schemes has increased every year, and the only scheme which has not been a complete success is the Farm and Cottage Prize scheme, for which entries have fallen off, and we cannot ascertain the exact cause, except that constantly improving and failing perhaps discourages people from entering, that may be the reason.

14670. Are these deferred from going in its subsequent years?—Only those who take first, second, or third prize, and we have a champion class for them, but allowing for that they had these additional classes of their own in which they might all have competed, it is impossible to account for it except a disinclination to be constantly beaten.

14671. (Mr. Brown).—We were led to understand by Mr. Sweetman yesterday that the County Council wished to appropriate the entire of the money available towards this Farm and Cottage Prize scheme?—I think Mr. Sweetman made a mistake. The County Council passed an abstract resolution as to the encouragement of tillage, and we have endeavored to do so in every way possible by having ploughing matches, and so forth. We cannot initiate schemes, the Department take our suggestions and draw up schemes, but we cannot initiate schemes for ourselves.

14672. (Mr. Mickel).—Can you not?—We have no power to initiate schemes without the Department approving of it.

14673. (Chairman).—You draw up a scheme and send it to the Department for approval?—Then the Department have to bring that before the Board, and if the Board approve then the Department are entitled to spend money on it, but the principal cause of difference between many of these committees of agriculturists, of whom a great many representatives have given evidence here, the principal cause of disagreement with the Department I think arose from an error and mistake. They appear to think that the Department has power to vary all

these schemes according to their own sweet will. What would that mean? It would mean that an individual official of the Department has power to vary the schemes which have been agreed upon by the Board of Agriculture, and upon which alone the Department can spend money. Every County Committee is requested to send up to the Department before a certain date any suggestions that they have to make for the improvement or alteration of a certain scheme, then those alterations are brought before the Advisory Committee on whatever it may be, live stock, or some other, or perhaps a Technical Committee, and with the amount of wisdom they have there they decide whether such alterations would be an improvement or the reverse. The scheme as altered or unaltered comes before the Board of Agriculture, we can further alter it if they like, but as it leaves them, the Department are bound to carry it out, and they cannot vary it to suit the wishes of any individual County Committee of Agriculture, but that does not appear to be thoroughly understood, and the Department in the Department, and the Board of Agriculture is not counted as an important factor in the matter by the public at large. But, as a matter of fact, although the Board have not the direct power of initiation, they have the power of providing funds or refusing them.

14634. Do you think that misunderstanding which is entirely in accordance with our own experience does prevail very largely, do you think that is due to the fact that the proceedings of the Board are really not known, not reported in the Press, and so on, not brought to the attention of the public?—I think perhaps if more publicity was given to our proceedings it would be useful in many ways, because very few members of the public have any idea of the amount of work that the Board have to get through, and they practically get no credit for it at all in the public Press.

14635. We have had these meetings before us, but it seems to me they are very little known or understood by the public?—Yes, that again, sir, our nominated element on the Council of Agriculture is objected to as depriving the Council of its representative character, and I think there is some ground for that. I think at first until the most useful man was known to the public it was just as well that there should be a large nominated element, but I think now the proportion of that element could be reduced.

14636. (Mr. Micks).—Do you see any necessity for keeping on any nominated members?—I do, for several reasons. They are very useful men, who are not members of County Councils, and who therefore could not be elected, and whose services we should lose.

14637. (Chairman).—What would you reduce them by?—They are now one-third; I think if they were one-fourth or one-fifth it would be ample.

14638. (Mr. Micks).—Would you carry on the same plan into the Board?—I certainly think you might reduce the nominated members on the Board in the same proportion. It is natural, I think, when an absolutely new form of administration is started that there will be a difficulty in selecting the right man, but after that new form has been of work for some time it will be very easy to find out who are the most useful members of either Boards or Councils, whether they are nominated or elected.

14639. (Chairman).—The evidence has been pretty general that the two elements have worked very well together. There has been no division or separation or collision between the two elements?—I have been a member of the Board ever since it first sat, and I think I have attended nearly every sitting of that Board, and I have never seen any difference between the elected and the nominated members as such.

14640. (Mr. Brown).—Would not practically the same thing apply to the Council?—Precisely the same; it is only a question as to the genuine representative character of both and I think a smaller proportion of nominated members would affect the purpose required, that is to say, that a very useful man should not be omitted.

14641. (Chairman).—In some counties we have had cases of very large Committees, the Agricultural and Technical Committee consisting of the whole of the members of the County Council, and in some cases of an equal, or very often of a larger, number of out-

side members added?—We have enormous County Committees, but the majority are generally conspicuous by their absence.

14642. Therefore, to some extent it rights itself?—It rights itself; the worst of it is so many of them turn up when there is an election.

14643. (Mr. Gifford).—Are those who attend mainly those who are members of the County Council, or are they members who are not members of the County Council?—I am sorry to say our most constant attendants are not members of the County Council, and I am bound to say the Roman Catholic clergy give me a great deal of assistance, and I would say they are almost the most useful members of our Committee.

14644. (Mr. Micks).—Father Harry is in your county?—He is, but we have a great many other priests just as energetic.

14645. (Chairman).—Are they generally among the added members?—They are always added members; they cannot be members of the County Council.

14646. I should like to ask you generally, you have followed the work of the Department from the first, do you consider that the results of their work have been clearly marked and have resulted in considerable improvement in the agricultural condition of the people?—That is a very difficult question to answer; there can be no question that the quality of stock must have been improved where high class ones have been introduced in place of the very worst description which were only used previously because they were cheap; the improvement of stock is one of the elements of prosperity. The instruction given by the itinerant instructors in poultry-keeping I think has produced a very beneficial effect, certainly it is seen in the improvement in the class of poultry that is kept. Dairy instruction also, has, I think, done a great deal of good. The agricultural instruction has not had much chance because we have had an agricultural instructor only for a short time, and therefore it has not had time to show much result. In domestic economy I think there must have been a great improvement in the homes of the people because so many have attended; the class has been always the most fully attended. In the case of manual instruction I have no doubt that the benefits that have been derived have been very considerable. I could give an instance of a lad I knew myself who was a son of my carpenter, who went through classes there and when he came back he was apprenticed to his father; he was able to draw all sorts of plans, in fact you might almost say he was a qualified draughtsman, and I need hardly say he was able to give his father instruction on several points. I think these are the gain schemes we carry out. It is very easy to see, driving through the country, an improvement in the cottages; that is remarked by every stranger, and I suppose the Farm and Cottage Prize scheme has something to say to it. I can always point out on the roads a cottage that is going to be judged by its appearance, and I can also lay my finger upon cottages that were prizes. The people take the greatest pride in their cottages, especially those that have been built under the Rural District Councils.

14647. (Mr. Brown).—Have you an horticultural instructor?—We have only obtained one for the first time about a month ago.

14648. (Mr. Gifford).—Do you notice instances of greater intelligence on the part of the people in the work of their lives during the course of the last five years?—I notice people take a great interest in the improvement of their land since they purchased it. hitherto all these schemes of agricultural organisation were carried on under the greatest difficulties because if ever a landlord was to join in a movement of this kind there was sure to be somebody to remind the tenant farmers that he had some malign motive, but now that the tenants have purchased their land, I find they are most anxious to improve it and to find out the best way to do so.

14649. So that the Land Purchase scheme and the scheme of Agricultural and Technical Instruction coming together have been able to go hand in hand in making the improvement?—I think one is the necessary complement of the other. Perhaps you would have evidence of the necessity of agricultural co-operation in the Congested Districts and wherever unscientific farms are enlarged; I think it is self-evident to give a man a larger farm without any assistance as to how he can turn it to best advantage, leaving him as an

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isolated unit I think he will probably not improve his position very much, and there is a new field for agricultural organisation among these migrated tenants on new holdings or new colonies which may be formed in the West.

14690. (Mr. Micks).—What has been done in that direction by the Department?—The Department so far have had nothing to say to the organisation on estates in the Congested Districts; the Congested Districts Board have their own organiser, Mr. Lyons, at least they pay the I.A.O.S. for his services, but he is entirely employed in the Congested Districts.

14691. You said the new purchases or the migrants could not be expected to do well if they are left alone; it would be wiser to give them some instruction; what I want to find is whether any schemes have been adopted to that end by the Department?—Not to my knowledge.

14692. (Chairman).—What schemes could be adopted by the Department?—The formation of poultry societies for the combined sale of poultry.

14693. (Mr. Micks).—I mean agricultural instruction?—Of course they can obtain agricultural instruction, I presume, from the County Committees.

14694. (Mr. Brown).—Don't schemes of instruction in agriculture and other matters extend to the Congested Districts?—Yes; but I meant more the organisation of the districts.

14695. (Chairman).—That is not the work of the De-

partment except through you?—That is just the debatable point; it will have to be applied to them somehow.

14696. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—You are not referring to the Congested Districts themselves but to places to which people have been brought from the Congested Districts?—I think Congested Districts is a term which means those that are considered congested according to the Act, but of course there are numerous other districts where there is congestion.

(Mr. Micks).—The migrants are practically within the Congested Districts.

14697. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—If they are, they are covered by the work Mr. Lyons is doing?—No; only covered in the district under his control.

14698. (Mr. Micks).—People whose holdings have been enlarged by the addition of adjoining land in the neighbourhood?—Yes, or migrants who were brought from places where you could not enlarge their holdings and given new holdings; you have new communities.

14699. Have you anyone in your mind at present?—I have not, because I don't know any that have been formed, but they will be in the future; that is the policy of the Land Act.

14700. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—The point you make is that when such communities are formed care must be taken that they are put in a position to organise so that they will become communities and not remain individuals?—Yes.

The Committee adjourned.

FORTY-SECOND PUBLIC SITTING.—THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, 1906.

At 13, Lower Baggotstreet, Dublin.

Present:—

Sir KENELM DUNST, K.C., Q.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

Mr. FRANCIS ORANT OSHLIVIE.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWNE, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Mr. D. H. LANE examined.

14701. (Chairman).—I don't know exactly what your title is?—Inspector of Fisheries. Mr. Green was the Chief Inspector of Fisheries. Mr. Green gave you the principal fishery evidence, but you have asked us for some further evidence on points which cropped up at your country meetings, and I am prepared to give you evidence on those points, and more particularly in regard to inland fisheries.

14702. Was the office of Inspector of Fisheries in existence before the Department?—Prior to the constitution of the Department there were three Inspectors of Fisheries, all equal to one another, and now there are two, one Chief Inspector, Mr. Green, and one Inspector, myself.

14703. You held your office partly under the legislation previous to the Department?—No, sir, I was appointed by the Department.

14704. (Mr. Mick).—The office is a statutory office; you have to exercise certain judicial functions under the old Acts?—Mr. Green has. They could be assigned to me, but they are not. The first point on which you ask us for further information is as to the relations with the Congested Districts Board, and could any steps be taken to prevent overlapping. I should begin by saying that our fishery relations with the Congested Districts Board are of the most cordial possible description. In many respects we hardly feel ourselves to be two different Departments. We pull together very closely, and consult one another on all sorts of details of fishery matters, and we go so far in some cases as to have files in common. There is no friction whatever, and very little overlapping at present. But that state of affairs is attributable to a chance. It is a fortunate matter that Mr. Green virtually controls the fishery operations of both bodies, and also that the personal relations between the officials of the two bodies are of the most friendly character.

14705. As regards the working of that opinion, virtual control, that is hardly quite accurate as regards the Congested Districts Board?—Perhaps I should qualify it by saying that, to the best of my belief, Mr. Green's opinion on fishery matters is generally accepted.

14706. (Chairman).—Mr. Green is a member of the Congested Districts Board, and he is Chief Inspector of Fisheries?—But for these personal matters it seems to us that the system of having two different bodies interested in fisheries, in the same country, gives openings for any amount of friction.

14707. If they did not, as a matter of fact, pull well together?—Quite so.

14708. The system depends strongly on the personal relations between the officials of the two Departments?—Perhaps I could best illustrate the possibility of friction by giving you a concrete case. The Committee are aware of the distribution of the work of the Congested Districts Board. The Congested Districts Board operate in development work, solely on the congested parts of the coast. We operate on the rest of the coast, but are charged with the administration work of the whole of the coast, whether congested or not.

14709. (Mr. Mick).—That is with the judicial by-law?—Yes; we also charge ourselves with the protection of the whole of the coast.

14710. (Chairman).—Have not the Congested Districts Board any power to make by-laws?—None whatever. A case like this might occur. The Congested Districts Board might be adopting some methods of development which would depend for their success on the making of by-laws and regulations which they would not be able to make, and which we, an outside body, would have to make for them.

14711. (Mr. Mick).—Can you give any instance of that?—No; fortunately there have been no cases.

14712. I mean making by-laws for the assistance of the development?—There is one case on the Connemara coast where the Congested Districts Board were encouraging the use of a certain type of net, and, unfortunately at the same time we found it necessary to be prohibiting them.

14713. Was that for salmon?—It was a prime fishery sea net.

14714. And salmon interests were concerned in that?—Yes.

14715. It was likely to be prejudicial to the salmon fishery?—Yes. Then there is another sort of case that might occur. Take the case of an estuary with a shell-fish industry in it. It is impossible to define how much of the estuary it may be bounded partly by a congested district and partly by a non-congested—how much of that estuary is congested, and how much is not, and it is hard to know where the two bodies should draw the line in their development work.

14716. Roughly, it has been drawn by the extent to which the territory is either congested or non-congested. Take a few instances; have you an instance in your mind?—Yes, I have the case of Castlemaine, in the County of Kerry.

14717. There was a natural trade there, the mixed trade inside, and the mackerel outside?—Yes; a long way outside.

14718. The two bodies don't come into conflict there. The fish trade there is an established trade, and no assistance is given by the Congested Districts Board beyond the building of landing places?—As regards the Castlemaine mixed industry we did think assistance was necessary, and that useful work would be done by transshipping mackerel under a scheme proposed by Mr. Hall, and we did find some difficulty in deciding whether it was a matter for the Department or the Congested Districts Board.

14719. How was it settled?—It was settled in the usual friendly spirit. It was left to us to deal with, but we are not able to do much owing to local difficulties.

14720. The Congested Districts Board don't assist shell fisheries in any way?—I believe they do, but I have no official knowledge of their operations.

14721. (Chairman).—We are only asking about your relations with the Congested Districts Board?—There are differences in policy, also, which may crop up. For instance, the Congested Districts Board issue loans for salmon nets, a thing that we don't do, because the salmon net is always liable to seizure for some breach of the regulations, and it would put the person who granted the loan in rather a difficult position also.

14722. (Mr. Mick).—Would other nets be liable to seizure for breach of by-laws?—Yes, but not to the same extent.

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14723. And the secrets are liable to seizure?—Yes, that is the case. Of course they come under a different provision of the law altogether. To sum up, I think I may state our view is that our present satisfactory relations with the Congested Districts Board are dependent on personalities and not on the system. We don't think the success of the system should depend on personalities.

14724. And, therefore, you would recommend that the work should be united in one body?—We have no doubt that should be so.

14725. And the work of the Congested Districts Board should be transferred to the Department?—I think from my knowledge of the Department it could very easily be in worse hands.

14726. (Chairman).—Are you in a position to make a suggestion of the sort, and are you authorized to make a suggestion on the question of policy?—Perhaps I am hardly a high enough official to suggest that.

14727. (Mr. Meade).—Your evidence is on the lines of suggesting that one of these two bodies should cease to exercise these functions?—My suggestion is that one body should exercise the functions.

14728. And not necessarily either?—Not necessarily either.

14729. It might be better to have a body that would discharge the duties of both, and perhaps some duties in addition?—There, sir, I submit you are taking me outside my province. The next point you want information on is the evidence of witnesses from the County Clare.

14730. County Clare being non-congested, of course, you have it more in your own hands?—The west coast of the County Clare is technically a non-congested district, but the conditions that obtain there very nearly approximate to the conditions of the congested districts along the coast line.

14731. What are the points in Clare you refer to specially?—I think the big point that was made in the evidence before you in the country, the important point, was that the Department had neglected any attempt to develop the fisheries of Clare.

14732. (Chairman).—They are here in the summary of the Rev. Mr. Green's evidence. He says the fishery piers on the west coast require the attention of the Department. Application was made for instructors to teach the fishermen to make nets, but nothing came of it?—The Department's operations in Clare have been as follows: one of their first actions after their constitution, early in 1893, was the Vice-President and Mr. Green undertook a thorough survey of the whole West Clare coast; they went into the interior most carefully, met local bodies at the principal places, and inspected possible sites of piers, with the result—I should first say, as you, no doubt, all know, that the coast of Clare is, perhaps, the most difficult one on the west coast on which to do any marine work. It is a rock-bound coast, and absolutely unsheltered from the Atlantic sea. The sea fisheries there are almost entirely carried on by osenra canoes; wooden boats went so as well on that coast. The only conditions under which boats can exist there is to be hauled up out of the reach of the sea, except in, perhaps, Lisvower.

14733. (Mr. Meade).—Except near the river in the Shannon?—I am talking of the west coast.

14734. (Mr. Brown).—What about Killybeg?—They must be hauled up there. From Black Head to Loop Head, to create any harbour where large wooden boats could be used would mean an expenditure of tens of thousands of pounds in Clare. The possibility of sea fishery development, short of spending these large sums, is confined to minor improvements to meet the existing state of affairs.

14735. (Mr. Meade).—Any harbours would be altogether in excess of the possibilities of fishing there; fishing could never be hoped for on such a well-exposed coast as to justify the building of numerous harbours?—I know no present fishery there which would justify it.

14736. Or any possibility even?—I don't like to talk about the possibilities of the sea, but the conclusion that Sir Horace Plunkett and Mr. Green arrived at, they acted on these conclusions, and we offered the County Council of Clare to contribute towards the improvement of a good many minor fishing ports and creeks in Clare. We offered contributions towards the

improvement of Mween Gollan, Ross Gollan, Telling Gollan, Killoe, and Ballaghahine. In all the cases except Ballaghahine, we were stopped from doing anything at all by the fact that the County Council did not see their way to make what the Department considered an adequate contribution towards their work.

14737. I suppose your proposition was pretty much on the same scale as in Waterford where the pier was a success?—In Clare we offered to bear half the cost of the pier, but the County Council said they would try to raise local contributions, if we were prepared to bear four-fifths. In the case of these minor works we were stopped for that reason. In the case of Ballaghahine negotiations were more recent, but we were stopped by the extraordinary, almost ridiculous complexity of the law in regard to marine works and County Councils. The cost of an adequate pier at Ballaghahine was estimated by our engineer at £1,500. Under section 67 of the Grand Jurors Act the County Council could not raise more than £200 towards the erection of a new marine works. I think Mr. Green explained that to you in his evidence. We arranged with the County Council to erect this pier at Ballaghahine, and that they would give us their utmost legal contribution, which was £200, but subsequent to that an arrangement being made a further legal opinion came to the front which debars the County Council from contributing to any work the total cost of which exceeds £480, so we are limited entirely from proceeding with any new work the total cost of which exceeds £480.

14738. So that you are checked from undertaking the execution of any work in connection with County Councils?—Yes, and were we to erect the work entirely at our own cost, we could not give it over to the county for maintenance, and they would not have any power to accept it.

14739. Could the execution of the works have been done under any other legislation?—The Board of Works had power.

14740. Was that question considered, whether the authority that was created purposely for the execution of such works, could not be utilized for this work?—You mean that we should give our funds to the Board of Works; that was considered but we thought it ought to do our own work.

14741. There are now three bodies in Ireland as marine works, the Board of Works, the Department of Agriculture, and the Congested Districts Board; don't you think it would be a more prudent and economical arrangement that the Department, which was specially created for the carrying out of such work should do the work all through?—I am glad you asked me that question, because we hold strong views on that point. We think the erection of all minor fishery marine works should not be severed from the fishery authority, and for this reason, that where you have any fishery work of a minor character, it is a massive presumption to say it must only be undertaken on the advice of the fishery authority.

14742. That question does not necessarily come in: I am not suggesting that the Board of Works should have anything to do with the choice of the site?—The fishery authority, then, are the advising bodies as regards the site? You want a certain amount of advice. A long experience of the Congested Districts Board has found that it is almost impossible to erect these small fishery piers on cast iron lines; you must vary the work as you go on. You must control it at one point to keep within the limits of expenditure, and expand it at others, according to local conditions.

14743. Is not that done in almost every instance by the Board of Works?—I think not.

14744. Don't you know plenty of instances in which works were curtailed, for instance?—Oh, yes, owing to lack of funds.

14745. (Chairman).—Did we not see a striking instance of the operations of the different authorities at Clippagh?—There was a pier there being erected by the Board of Works.

14746. (Mr. Meade).—They all spent money at that?—The Board of Works and the Congested Districts Board, certainly; but has the Department spent any?—No.

14747. You spent on marine works for the period you have been at work, £14,900; the major portion of that in 1905-6; you only spent £8,000 before that; so that, in the year 1905-6, is the first year in which you really began to do much under that head. So you happen to remember what the "engineering expenses" were?—You will find them in the return we

sent in. The total expenditure for the six years on engineering staff was £2,075 11s. (Appendix No. XXV.)

14768 For an expenditure of £15,000, roughly!—Yes.

14769 Having regard to the relative cost, do you still think it might not be prudent to engage a Department that has its own engineering staff to carry out the work?—The way I would answer that is—That the £15,000 does not give you an accurate indication of the amount of work done by the Department's engineering staff, because we were consulted about an infinity of extensions on which we did not make expenditure.

14770 Don't you charge under that head all you do in connection with marine works, all engineering expenses?—No; other engineering expenses are inland engineering expenses.

14770a But the sea fisheries?—Yes.

14771 Under the head Poddick; I don't suppose you have done much building; you charge 1s. 1d. I don't know what that is; probably a telegram. Poddick is a case of contract work.

14772 It seems to me that then prove that you carefully show all expenses under that head. And in Admire there is £1. You say there were other duties done; that this £2,000 does not show the full service by the staff?—Yes.

(Mr. Brown).—I do not know. The £2,000 does not represent the full engineering expenses in connection with the £15,000; the other work is included.

14773 (Mr. O'Connell).—Does it represent expenditure on engineering advice which might have the result not of carrying out engineering works, but preventing the carrying out of engineering work which would be thrown away?—Quite so. But if you want me to explain the point I can give you the names of such works.

14774 (Mr. Micks).—It includes salaries, of course?—Yes.

14775 You are sure of that—it includes salaries of the engineers and clerk of works?—Certainly.

14776 Does it include travelling expenses? I don't know whether any of their expenses would go in under that head—I understood that £2,075 11s. includes travelling expenses.

14777 There is another head for travelling expenses in the Fishery Branch, of £4,513, in the Parliamentary Vote?—That is for Mr. Green's, myself and Mr. Bolt, the permanent staff. The engineering is temporary.

14778 (Mr. O'Connell).—Perhaps you might mention one or two items upon which the engineering staff gave services which did not result, or would not result, to any considerable extent, in swelling the amount actually spent upon works?—We were approached by the local authority with regard to the erection of a harbour at Blackwater, County Wexford. They had his advice on that. Then there is Blind Harbour, Ballinacorney, and Ballinacorney, County Cork. No expenditure has been incurred upon any of these yet.

14779 In each case there was an investigation and report?—Yes. This (produced) is a list of works investigated by Mr. Green or myself or the engineering staff. In the majority of them it was the engineering staff.

14780 (Mr. Micks).—Are these works that have been refused?—That are under consideration.

14781 (Mr. O'Connell).—All I want is works upon which there has been no expenditure as yet undertaken on the actual work, and which, therefore, do not come to swell the £15,000. Are these included in that?—Yes. Ballinacorney is another.

14782 (Mr. Micks).—Could you give a list of services supplied through the Board of Works also?—The Board of Works have a very excellent engineering staff. It was the case, as no doubt you know, that in place and harbours' work an arrangement of the kind existed. The Board of Works erected all round Ireland a number of works on the advice of the Fishery Authority, and, unfortunately, there was a great deal of friction between the two bodies. You will find a full report of that officially in the Allport Commission.

14783 Allegations were made as regards a great many of the piers, for instance, the pier at Derrinbeg Bay. That for a great many years was unused. But you are aware since the fishery began is has been of the greatest use?—Yes.

14784 Was the condemnation you refer to, of that pier and others in Donegal?—I am not making any

condemnation. I only mention that the two Boards did not pull together.

14785 Can you tell us why that was?—The system, I should imagine.

14786 You mean the fact of their being two bodies concerned?—Yes.

14787 (Chairman).—Now you are dealing with the evidence from County Clare. Have you finished that part?—Besides these officers which the Department made to the County Council with regard to marine works in the County Clare, they also offered to provide experimental boats of a higher type than the ones in one or two places, where it seemed just possible that their use might be safe, and we completely failed.

14788 (Mr. Micks).—What were the stations suggested?—In the neighbourhood of Killiney.

14789 Not for large boats surely?—No; open wooden boats. And there was Lismanor also. There we took a great deal of trouble with it, and absolutely failed to get local crews to go into these boats. What was asked was that we should give them a similar type of boat to those supplied by the Congested Districts Board in the South Island of Arisa.

14790 Was any effort at development made at Ballinacorney or Carrigrohilly?—No, none; except our officer planting near the former.

14791 Both of these are places where large boats could be kept?—Large boats were at Carrigrohilly for several years, and failed.

14792 Could you state why they failed?—The question of transit, and also competition at Fenit.

14793 Transit facilities have been extended very much since the railway was brought to Kilrush. How long would it take a fishing boat to go up from Carrigrohilly, or, if you had a large boat, a tender to bring the fish up? Does not the new railway very much improve the possibilities of transit in the same way that the opening of the railway to Fenit improved the fishing of Brandon and other parts of the coast?—The fish were run from Carrigrohilly by steamer to Fenit.

14794 That is a longer run than from Carrigrohilly to Kilrush?—I think the old route was as good as the new one. It is longer, but you cannot get the steamer up to the railway head at Kilrush.

14795 No; only to Cappo; that would involve carting?—A short distance; but there is a very poor train service.

14796 (Chairman).—There is a suggestion in Mr. Kelly's evidence for the provision of instruction in net-making and fish-curing and the erection of curing sheds in West Clare. The County Committee, he states, has not recommended to the Department the inclusion in the county scheme of provision for net-making and fish-curing?—Regarding net-making, we are often asked to encourage net-making in cut-of-the-way districts, but it is perfectly impossible for nets made by hand on a small scale to compete satisfactorily with the factory-made nets. In Ireland we have the largest net factory in the world at Lisburn, and it is quite impossible in small cut-of-the-way places to compete with that.

14797 (Mr. O'Connell).—Would net instruction in net-making be the simplest way to give them facilities in net-making?—The two are fairly closely connected. They are very good net-makers; any good net-maker could make nets.

14798 (Mr. Micks).—A great many of them made their own nets?—Yes.

14799 (Mr. O'Connell).—Then, they don't require instruction in that?—No.

14800 (Mr. Micks).—So far as you know they do mend their nets well in Clare?—Yes.

14801 (Chairman).—It would be open to the County Committee to recommend net instruction, and the surplus could be applied to that?—We have never and a case of that. We have kept the fishery funds separate from the funds for the County Councils. Virtually, the only curing that goes on on the west coast of Clare is curing mackerel for the American trade.

It is carried on nearly entirely by the representatives of large curing firms who are extremely well acquainted with their business.

14802 Therefore, you mean special instruction is not necessary?—We think not.

14803 (Mr. Micks).—Are you going to say anything about the brand, or are you leaving it where Mr. Green left it?—I am prepared to give our views later on. Regarding the coast of Clare, they are very well acquainted with the fishery loan system, and

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arrival of it readily. During the last fifteen years 222 loans have been issued along the coast of Clare.

14724. What would be the average?—About £10.

14725 (Chairman).—On what principle have these loans been made?—There is a loan fund, part of which is administered by the Congested Districts Board and part by the Department, for advancing fishery loans, for the purchase of nets and gear and boats and the erection of curing houses.

14726. How are the conditions fixed?—Fixed by regulations laid down by the Local Lieutenant, principally, and partly by the Statute.

14727. (Mr. Micks).—And very much at the discretion of the Department or the Congested Districts Board?—We have to be satisfied that the security offered is satisfactory.

14728. (Chairman).—What is the nature of the security?—In our case we get personal security as much as possible.

14729. So far as it has gone, has the system worked well?—It works exceedingly well. The amount of our loans has increased; our bad debts are exceedingly small, only about one per cent.

14730. Is there much difficulty in getting security?—In some cases there is, but it is much less than one would imagine. Mr. Green touched on that rather fully.

14731. (Mr. Micks).—Not the same difficulty as they had in the case we had before us yesterday?—Perhaps that was a loan of a different magnitude to ours.

14732. A £5 loan with 42 per cent. interest?—Our interest is only 24 per cent.

14733. Then, there was the question of help that Mr. Kelly raised, but it is not a fishery thing. You naturally would advise on it on going down on fishery work?—The help trade is a most curious one. It is entirely in the hands of a very large syndicate, chiefly in Scotland, who control the nitrate imports, and it appears from information that iodine which they get from the help could be more cheaply produced from the nitrate. But, for some reason which I cannot attempt to explain, they still find it worth their while to keep on buying help within a certain limit of price on the Irish coast; I believe the Congested Districts Board took it up in their early days and got competitors in the buying of help, with the result that this syndicate instantly shut down buying with the most disastrous results, and ever since no interference has taken place with their operations.

They could if they wished get their iodine from the South American nitrate altogether, so that help is only kept up by them as a means of keeping up the high market for their South American products.

14734. (Mr. O'Grady).—That is not a thing you could afford to push?—No.

14735. (Chairman).—The point of that is, there is no room for an independent factory?—The Congested Districts Board tried it, and failed.

14736. (Mr. Micks).—It was thought it would be utterly useless, because the Nitrate Company could flood the market with an unlimited quantity from South America. The help industry, it is believed, only exists on sufferance, but it is in the interest of the Nitrate Company to keep it up?—The only other point that struck me in the Clare evidence was this case of Kinvara pier (Question 6125). That is another case of this extraordinary legal tangle. The Congested Districts Board and the Department and the County Council are all willing to collaborate with one another in the improvement of existing piers at Kinvara and their extension. The cost is estimated altogether at £3,300. The pier was private property. The owners expressed themselves willing to hand over all their rights and title in the pier to the County Council on the condition that £3,300 was spent. So that you have all parties in that case agreed upon the advisability of this expenditure and their willingness to put up the necessary funds.

14737. Is that practically a pier for agricultural produce—the export of barley?—Yes; and, and, and barley. There is also a small amount of herring and oyster fishing.

14738. (Mr. O'Grady).—Where does the land go?—It comes from Cannamara into Clare. All parties being agreed upon the advisability of the pier, the legal difficulty crops up. The work was divided into two sections; the repair of the existing work, and the extension. The County Council could raise any reasonable rate, subject to the usual Local Government Board check, for the maintenance and improvement of existing work, but they cannot raise more than £300

for the new work. The Treasury suggested to me that difficulty that the £2,500 should be divided up in either an ingenious way, by which the county contribution to the extension, which was estimated to cost £1,000, would be only £300, and things were working along these lines, but, unfortunately, a subsequent legal opinion cropped up, by which it was found that the County Council were not legally entitled to spend their £300 on a work that cost more than £450. The Department's contribution was to go towards the proposed extension, and, of course, we have been stopped now by this legal difficulty, with the result that we as the people blamed for the work not going on.

14739. (Chairman).—Now go on to your next point?—There was some fishery evidence given about Antrim. The East coast of Antrim is rather comparable in its physical conditions to the west coast of Clare. There is a very great tide there, and there is no fishing there to any great extent. There is a little on the north coast of Antrim between Fair Head and Portrush, and we have done some things there. We have offered contributions to the repair and reconstruction of the harbour at Portlady, near Portrush, where there is a little fishing industry, but we cannot get a local contribution. At Portlady our Engineer is hard at work drawing up a plan for the renovation of the old harbour. We have contributed to the improvement of the beach at Ballycastle. We have provided several local boats with instructions, under whose guidance they have taken part in fishing away from home, a thing they had not done previously. And we issued quite a large number of fishery loans. In one case we lent a crew a train of herring nets to go off to another fishery. We have made a grant to the Marine Biological Laboratory at Larne. There is a considerable portion of the coast of Antrim protected by the operations of our cruisers from steam hawking.

14740. (Mr. O'Grady).—Is there not steaming done from Irish ports?—Yes. In Dublin there is a great amount of steaming.

14741. (Mr. Micks).—No steam liners?—I know of no steam liners owned in Ireland.

14742. Don't you mention any instruction in Antrim?—Oh, yes; we provided instructions for crews at Port Ballycastle and Portlady.

14743. (Chairman).—With regard to this great point mentioned, we heard something about it from Professor Wilson at Belfast?—Another work we approached in Antrim is at Rathlin, and also the question of extending pier works at Ballycastle; but they are both very difficult questions, and we have not yet got very far.

14744. (Mr. Micks).—Would you turn to your Fishery Expenditure Redemption Fund. Your instructions under fishing cost you in 1902-3, £26 12s. 7d.; in 1903-4, £45 0s. 6d.; in 1904-5, £51 12s. 2d.; in 1905-6, £54 17s. 6d.; and in 1906-7, £56 12s. 2d. Is for the five years £235 4s. 6d. Would that be mainly in Antrim, or where else did you give instruction?—In Antrim.

14745. Did you give any for the Lough Foye herring fishery to go from Lough Foye to Lough Swilly?—We gave no instruction there.

14746. But to go to the herring fishery in Donegal, did you give any assistance?—Yes, we persuaded Portlady and Portlady crews to go to the Donegal fishery.

14747. Does this sum of £235 include that?—It includes the instructors' wages; that is all.

14748. No other allowance, such as "grab money"?—No.

14749. What other place did that £235 effect help to?—We gave instruction down the coast of Waterford at Ballynagall. We had two or three men there at different times, and at Glenties Quay, County Lond., we have given instruction in net herring.

14750. That would come under the head of instruction in fishing?—To the best of my belief it does.

14751. Unless it came under "sandries"?—I don't know what that "sandries" is.

14752. That is partly the hire of the *Grassie*. I suppose?—I have not got the items of that "sandries."

14753. The amount for instruction is very small, having regard to the great stretch of coast you are under your charge. Can you explain how that is?—Because the portion of the coast we are dealing with is not virgin ground. We are dealing with a coast where fisheries have been in existence and have risen

and fallen in spaces of years, and where the knowledge of fishing exists, but where, owing to the want of facilities for transit and otherwise, the fish trade has failed in recent years to be a successful one. The principal reason for this want of success is want of fish. We think the fish are not there. The "boom" on the east coast was in 1873 when the shoals of herrings came in. The last "boom" on the south coast was entirely attributable to the spring mackerel, which, unfortunately, are now falling off.

14824. Have any experiments been made with a view of testing that opinion, that there is an absence of fish on the east coast?—Mr. Holt will tell you that.

14825. As a practical man, has any experiment been made to your knowledge?—I must protest against your divorcing the practical from the scientific side.

14826. But as a practical man giving an opinion, such as I could give, for instance, is it your opinion that there is a dearth of fish along the non-congested portion of the sea-coast of Ireland?—I say fish are not accessible at the present moment to the extent that they were accessible when the east coast fisheries were successful.

14827. Of course there are a great many points along the coast that are not congested? Do you think transit is one of the difficulties?—Oh, there are points on the coast undoubtedly where improved transit would be of great utility.

14828. There are some lines of steamship companies. The Clyde Shipping Company is of a good deal of value along the Cork and Kerry coasts?—It is mostly in the congested districts. I forget whether that service is going on. I think she stopped going—the "Valentia".

14829. That service, so long as it existed, was a very useful service?—It really is a congested matter.

14830. The Congested Districts Board never, so far as my knowledge goes, assisted that line?—The coast line served by the "Valentia" is congested.

14831. Very largely, but it went along the coast of Cork?—I do not know at what non-congested port she could call.

14832. At all events she did call at some?—I cannot remember off-hand the "Valentia" calling at any port regularly, any non-congested port.

14833. I am not concerned about drawing the line in this case as regards the steamer service; it is in and out?—She did serve the west coast a good deal.

14834. There was another line from Limerick?—There was Russell's steamer.

14835. Has that ceased?—I don't think so.

14836. It has not fixed sailings; it is casual? Yes, depending upon the flow trade.

14837. Then you have a steamship service from Galway to Aran and Connemara; that is an assisted service?—It is.

14838. That receives assistance from the Congested Districts Board, and it carries the mails?—Yes.

14839. Then there is another service now from Westport?—There is a direct steamer running to Westport from Liverpool.

14840. Then you have a coast service from Sligo to Belfast, touching at some intermediate ports?—I don't know that it goes on all the year round.

14841. It is the Board of Works assisted service. In Donegal you have a ferry service, started by Mr. Hardman and Mr. Hammond. It started from Derry to Berrisport and went round to Killybegs, and called at Teelin and Falmagh. But, at all events, that service is still going?—I am not aware of the details of that service.

14842. Is the means by which a great deal of the export of herrings takes place from Downing's Bay Lard Leitrim's steamer?—There are so many steamers calling I could not say.

14843. I wanted to convey that they are so few?—There are many steamers calling at Downing's for their fish.

14844. That is specially chartered. These I have just mentioned are the only steamers I am aware of on the west coast? Can you tell me from your knowledge what assistance, indirectly, is derived from such subsidised steamer lines in Scotland?—I don't know that.

14845. You have not looked into that question with a view of seeing how far the Irish fisheries could be developed on the lines of the Scottish, and the Shetlands and Orkney, and the West Highlands and Islands?—I have not. I have never been there on business.

14836. Are you aware the Shetland mail service subsidy is £26,356; that the Orkney amounts to £2,579; and that the service to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland amounts to £20,637, making the total of grants to the steamer services to the Islands and Highlands of Scotland £29,574. You will find these figures in the Estimates, the Post Office Estimates, for the year ending 31st March, 1907, at page 11?—Do these boats carry fish; some of them don't.

14837. Some of them don't, but they carry tourists. That same page gives you the annual subsidy we get in Ireland for steamer services. Of course we have not as many islands; but we have a great many inaccessible, difficult, points on the coast that would be convenience by such a steamer. The total amount paid is £35 to the Galway and Aran steamer.

(Mr. O'Grady).—The postal service to the West of Ireland is done by land.

(Mr. Michs).—It is; but we would be very glad to have a good deal of it done by sea.

(Mr. O'Grady).—Is there any return of the population served?

(Mr. Michs).—Farr Island, 2,580 a year, has a population of 147; for the service between the Shetlands and Foula the population is 2,300, and the annual grant 278; Island of Colonsay, population 353, mail subsidy 2500 a year; Jura, population 560, and mail service grant £900 a year.

(Mr. O'Grady).—My point is that, to be material, the figures ought to include all the populations of all the districts that are taken by the service as a whole.

14838. (Mr. Michs).—Can you tell me the population of the Aran Islands on the West Coast of Galway?—(Witness).—My impression is, about 3,000 odd.

(Mr. Michs).—Well, the subsidy is £35 a year.

(Mr. O'Grady).—The question is whether the Aran Islands get an adequate postal service.

14839. (Mr. Michs).—It goes as good as a great many of the places in the North. It gets three days a week?—(Witness).—Yes, and extra trips when the fish season comes.

14840. The extra trip does not carry mails; that is for commercial purposes?—Yes.

14841. (Chairman).—Is it not a little fallacious in this respect—a great many of these steamers carrying mails in Scotland do not carry fish?

(Mr. Michs).—No; but the Shetlands carry an enormous quantity of fish?—(Witness).—I have seen some of these boats that Mr. Michs speaks of, and I should be very sorry to go to sea in some of them with a cargo of fish on board.

(Witness).—The heavy boats that carry fish are boats like the Glenasmole.

(Mr. Michs).—At all events they are available for traffic purposes.

14842. (Chairman).—I don't think you must assume that. Because they are heavy traffic boats that run for traffic purposes alone and carry passengers and take a much longer time to do it. I don't think these figures show anything?—(Witness).—I think you will find the bulk of the Shetland fish is carried by fish steamers.

14843. (Mr. Michs).—Are you aware they do carry fish from Lerwick for the fresh fish market in Aberdeen?—I was not aware of that.

(Mr. O'Grady).—To an extent that is worth considering?

(Mr. Michs).—Certainly.

(Mr. Brown).—Have you any information what proportion of fish from the Shetland Islands is carried by the mail steamer?

(Mr. Michs).—I have not. I am aware it is only a small proportion, for the cured fish does not go by these steamers.

14844. (Chairman).—At all events, Mr. Lane can throw so light on it in his evidence?—(Witness).—You had some fishery evidence from the County Down. One fishery operations in the County Down have been the improvement of Greenisland Harbour. We also offered a contribution to improvement at Bangor, and to the construction of a landing ship at Portaferry, and some landing facilities at Westport. There are one or two places in the County Down where we would have liked to approach marine works, but are deterred by the legal difficulties referred to. One County Down witness thought the £10,000 allocated to sea fisheries should be divided in equal proportions amongst the maritime counties. I don't think I need comment upon that. The same witness made a statement to the effect that

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the Department had got 393 boats built in Scotland under the fishery loans. The origin of that was a return which was asked for in Parliament and published showing the number of boats got by loans from the Congested Districts Board, and the Department and their predecessors, respectively. According to that return, the Department and their predecessors issued 393 loans for boats, only some half-a-dozen of which were not Irish, and these half-a-dozen were second-hand boats.

14843. (Mr. Miché).—The officers in that respect were the Congested Districts Board, who had no choice in getting the boats from Scotland. I was one of those responsible. As regards the net-making classes at Kinsale, there was a small expenditure. They have a small industry there—it was only classes.

14844. You have a reserve of £5,000, the "Steam Reserve," what is that?—The "Helga," cost £12,000, and she was an oddish ship when we got her, and it seemed to us sound policy when we had an accumulation of the sea-fishery money to set-mark some of it to replace her.

14845. Has interest accumulated, or do you use the interest?—It goes to the credit of the Sea Fisheries Fund.

14846. So it is only £5,000 and does not increase as time goes on?—No.

14847. Do you also insure the steamer?—We do. We did reduce it two years ago. We have her insured for £10,000 now.

14848. And you have £5,000 available for replacement if she were wrecked, for interest?—Yes; £15,000 if a total wreck.

14849. And that is certainly not too much if you were getting a new boat?—I think now we could get a new boat built, a very good one, for £12,000.

14850. With as much speed as the "Helga" has?—I think so. A better boat than the "Helga."

14851. For boat-building at Arklow you made a loan of £500. What was the nature of that?—Arklow is one of the few places in Ireland where we have got a real community of fishermen, pure and simple, and it is an important fishery centre. Times have been bad there owing to the going down of the mackerel fishing and the opportunities for repairs of boats were very bad.

14852. Had they a good yard there?—No; no yard under a cover, and no power machinery, and we gave those loans to a local firm of extremely competent people, who erected themselves a large shed and installed saw-mills and necessary plant for boat-building.

14853. Do they repay by instalments?—Repay by instalments. There is a condition attached to the loans, that they should take so many apprentices a year.

14854. Are those chiefly from the town of Arklow or from other parts of the country?—I think the boys they have at present are from Arklow.

14855. Under the head of Fishery Expenditure, the Sea and Coast Fishery Loan Fund, you invested in Corrala in 1903 £5,000. That was accumulated by unmet money?—That was cash in respect of repayments of loans that came in and was invested in Corrala.

14856. It still remains in the fund. It has not been extended to any other purpose?—We have no power to do so. It is entirely a loan fund.

14857. That trust was not imposed on the portion given to the Congested Districts Board?—No; at the time of the constitution of the Congested Districts Board there were two funds.

14858. You got some of the Reproductive Loan Fund and got £20,000 out of the Sea and Coast Fishery Fund. Then this money still remains in the fund?—It does.

14859. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—How far have you found evidence of hereditary or other aptitude for sea-fishing pursuits exhibited in the population of Ireland?—Perhaps it is indicated by the fact that places where groups of fishermen, pure and simple, exist, are comparatively few—Parslough, Arklow, Kesh, perhaps Ringwood, Dúnghara, Kinsale.

14860. (Mr. Miché).—Dunmore East?—Hardly any fishermen there. And Baltimore. I think there are the ones in the non-congested districts where hereditary instinct towards the sea helps to keep the fishing industry going.

14861. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—In other parts where there has not been a fixed practice of sea-fishing pursuits

do you find men take readily to it or do they have such a hesitation as would form a serious difficulty in the way of the cultivation of the fisheries in such districts?—The coastal inhabitants of the districts, other than those I have mentioned, have nearly all the interests as well as their sea-fishing ones, and, therefore, they are limited by the exigencies of the cultivation of their land in the amount of fishing they could carry on.

14862. How do their affections lie?—One sees that very much on the west coast of Scotland where you have to manufacture fishermen, and you find that in some cases his own taste leads him more to the sea than to the land, and in others it is quite the other way. Assuming the land and the sea were offering temptations, do you think the man would be likely to incline towards the sea or towards the land?—To the land, undoubtedly.

14863. In other words they take to the sea in this case only where the land does not offer them an opportunity of using their labour effectively?—Or in the case where the products of the sea are easily accessible and in obviously paying quantities. In the case of an influx of herring into an estuary they turn into fishermen for the time being, but don't remain fishermen.

14864. There are a great many parts where they retain sufficient experience of boat handling and fishing to be able to take advantage of any unusually good opportunity for fishing?—That is so, so far as moderately-sized boats go.

14865. A community of that sort would not be likely to afford a good recruiting ground for crews of large boats?—I know the Congested Districts Board had great difficulty in getting crews of men who had been trained in open boats to work satisfactorily in the modern large fishing boats.

14866. I don't mean to say they would not be men who would readily learn to work on the larger boats, but their inclinations would, I gather, not be so unduly taken service of the kind that is required in the large boats if they could by any possibility remain on them?—Their stronger instinct is to remain ashore and get to sever themselves from their plots. The question would also be affected by the existence or not of a suitable harbour.

14867. Have any facilities been afforded to the class of the population to adventure larger things in the way of fishing?—Loans are always available.

14868. I am speaking of all of Ireland, except the places you mentioned as being those in which they are continuing to be centres of fishing populations?—The places I mentioned were all non-congested places.

14869. (Mr. Miché).—There are other places in the Congested Districts where the hereditary instinct still exists.

14870. You left out one for the Non-Congested Districts at Cladding?—It is non-congested.

14871. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—I was only asking, with reference to the places which are not essentially fishing populations, how far the population whose interests are mixed would be likely to take to fishing if they were afforded facilities?—I think that if men are their neighbours, owing to an influx of her wages or mackerel, making more money than they at the time were making out of their land they would be tempted to risk their crops for the sake of the fishing.

14872. That is not exactly what I want to get at. It is, how far it is possible to increase the proportion of the population that gives the first impetus to fishing; how far it is possible to develop an increased fishing population in Ireland. I take for granted that the purely fishing places you mentioned are there and unless something very violent were done they would remain fishing populations, and would be there ready to take advantage of every opportunity for fishing that was put in their way; but these after all, I submit, are not commensurate in numbers with the possibilities of fishing in Ireland. My question was as to the possibility of increasing the proportion of the population that could be regarded as, in the first instance, fishing?—To persuade men to adopt a new line of life altogether you would first have to convince them that it was going to be, probably, a pecuniary success, and that would not be possible unless a large influx of easily accessible fish were to take place. I don't see, in the present state of the east coast fisheries, where there is an opportunity for a large increase in the number of men who spend all their time at sea-fishing, unless the improvement in the supply of herring, which is at present taking place, is well maintained.

14875. (Glasgowman).—Take the west coast fisheries in the Congested Districts. Experience shows it can be done there to a large extent.—Oh, undoubtedly; but always in places where there are fish.

14876. They don't go, as the Gravelly people do, to Ireland, and so on?—No; that is the great difficulty in Irish fishery matters. To make a big boat pay you must keep her continuously at work, and except in very few cases where there is an extraordinary rich fishery, and the boat can be supported out of three months' fishing, which is very exceptional—Downing's Bay is a case—you must keep her continuously at work; and to do that you must go from fishery to fishery. There are not enough fisheries in Ireland to keep a boat going or to support a boat properly. The fish must be followed from country to country. The Scotchmen came down to us in April and worked at the different fisheries along the coast. They began at Kinadee or Danmore, and some of them go right away to Skeraway; in the autumn they go to their own east coast fishery and end up in Yarmouth. Travelling of that kind is necessary to support the upkeep of a big modern herring boat.

14877. (Mr. Micks).—Cost £200 to £1,000?—Yes.

14878. (Mr. O'Donnell).—The sort of boat, however, which is really required if you are to make the best of the fishing conditions which prevail around these coasts?—Yes; that sort of boat is used by the Scotchmen along our coast.

14879. If the boat is to be made of the fishing it must be made by people who are looking to fishing as their essential livelihood to the extent of making that their business?—That is so.

14880. Then, in order to make the best of the local fishing, they must do that; I don't speak merely within a mile of the coast, but accessible from the coast with adequate boats?—Yes.

14881. I take it then that the men in the fishing communities that have been detailed are men who would take to that sort of thing as readily as opportunity was offered them?—It is a curious fact that they don't. We have very few cases even of the best fishermen in Ireland going away to Scotland for the fishing there.

14882. Do they avail themselves of all the possibilities of season at fishing around the Irish coast?—

14883. (Mr. Micks).—You know the Arklow men go to Scotland?—Only very few. I think there are only three boats there this year.

14884. As regards that question of aptitude of the Irish sea coast men for fishing, have you made yourself acquainted with the history of fishing development in Donegal for the last twenty years?—I first saw the Donegal coast fifteen years ago.

14885. You know that there is an amazing development, not merely at Downing's Bay, but other places along the coast?—Yes, most striking.

14886. Do you happen to be aware of the fact that the number of applications for boats is a number which was in excess of the power of the Congested Districts Board to accede to; that there is an eagerness for boats to an extent that the Congested Districts Board cannot meet?—I believe there is a great eagerness for boats.

14887. And that is general over Donegal?—I thought the great pressure for boats only related to two points—Downing's Bay and Kinsaleagh.

14888. There is fishing at Buncrana and Farnah, and large boats are owned in the Swilly and at Teelin?—Yes, Teelin; but as I said before, I cannot give you authoritative evidence on the operations of the Congested Districts Board.

14889. But you are aware of the fact that the fishing within the last fifteen years has developed enormously?—Yes.

14890. And the eagerness of the men for boats is in excess of the capacity of the Congested Districts Board?—That is owing to the fortuitous arrival of the herrings.

14891. You must have boats and fish before you can fish?—

14892. (Mr. O'Donnell).—And men must take to it?—Yes, there are very few fishermen there who were not born there before.

14893. (Mr. Micks).—Is it not a fact that none were born there before?—Oh, no; some of them were.

14894. Is it not a fact that some of the successful fishermen of the day were fishermen fifteen years ago; that the system on which the fishery was developed

was that the young men without experience were put into boats rather than the older men?—What I am inclined to say with great reserve is that the majority of the Donegal fishermen were born there fifteen years ago, or their fathers were.

14895. Is it not a fact that the men who were bornmen and fishermen there are still boatmen and fishermen in the smaller boats, following their own methods?—I should say so. There are some landmen in the Downing's Bay boats.

14896. (Chairman).—Now, will you come to the inland fisheries?—Do you want to hear the brand question?

14897. Of course you must remember, with regard to the brand question—I don't know that it is for us to say whether a brand is or is not desirable—but we should be glad to know how the question stands, how far the Department have been giving attention to it?—There is a cry throughout the country for the brand under the Scotch system; and a Government brand would be desirable if it increased the value of the product, if it put the smaller curer in a better position as regards his richer competitor, who has made his name, or if it induced more care in the curing, and induced a better standard. There is, at present, undoubtedly, a good deal of bad curing going on in Ireland. The fish in Ireland that are cured are herring and mackerel alone, herring in Donegal, and mackerel principally on the coasts of Kerry and Cork. Practically all fish cured, both herrings and mackerel, is for export, so that you are dealing with the requirements of the foreign consumer. As regards the Irish herrings, they are of a higher quality than any other herrings in the world. They fetch a higher price, in some cases 50 per cent. higher price, in the Continental markets than any other herrings in the world. Now, the Scotch herring curers have had a Government brand for a great number of years, and, after the experience of that number of years, the curers do not find it worth their while to offer for the Government brand their highest qualities of fish. It would therefore seem, from the Scotch experience of many years, that the brand would not probably be of much utility to an article which is often of a higher quality than the Scotch one.

14898. (Mr. Micks).—What you mean is that the Castle Bay fish are not eligible for branding. They are the highest quality of fish exported from the Scotch coast, and in the same way the Downing's fish is of that nature that it is not eligible for a brand?—They are above the brand.

14899. Are they not fish that could be branded according to the rules of the Fishery Board of Scotland?—I never gathered that.

14900. The highest brand for Scotland is what?—The "Crown fall."

14901. Am I right in saying that the Castle Bay fish are not "full" therefore they are not eligible for the brand?—The mackerel all goes to the American market. There is no mackerel curing in Scotland. Shortly after the Department was constituted we sent out a gentleman who was an official of the Congested Districts Board, Mr. Duthie, to the American market, to look into this question, amongst others, of the marketing of Irish fish in America, and he reported that the American buyers were not disposed to attach any importance to a Government brand on Irish mackerel. We now come to the finances of the question. In Scotland about 2,000,000 herrings of herrings were cured in 1905, and 400,000 were offered for the brand. A charge of fourpence per barrel was made for the brand, and this enabled a profit to be made over and above the cost of the superintendence. Some thirty-five officers are able to superintend the branding system in Scotland. The ports where herring are cured are, in proportion to the amount cured, comparatively few. The trade is concentrated. In Ireland, in the case of mackerel, it is a most extraordinarily dispersed trade. Every little creek along certain of the coasts of Kerry and Cork has its little curing station, where three or four, or sometimes as many as a dozen firms are operating, so that the difficulties of supervision would be considerably greater in Ireland than in the case in Scotland, and correspondingly the cost would be greater. So far as our information goes at present—I say it with some reservation, because I never had an opportunity of going through all these stations one by one, and looking into the matter in minute detail—there seems to be no doubt that if a brand as regards mackerel

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were to be self-supporting in Ireland it would necessitate a charge per barrel very largely in excess of the Scotch charge. I am almost inclined to think it would be a matter of shillings, not of pence. Having pointed out those difficulties to you, I would like to say it is quite possible that if a brand were adopted, irrespective of the money, and were rigidly enforced and kept going for a certain number of years, it is quite possible, and almost probable, that in time it would have some effect on the market, but, at present, we do not think it would. The state of the Department's funds absolutely precludes them from undertaking to brand at their own expense.

14902. (Chairman).—As I gather, the Department's view is that it is a doubtful question at present whether the brand is a real advantage or not, and that, in any case, at present, even if they came to the conclusion that it would be a good thing, the funds would not permit of it?—That is so.

14903. (Mr. Micks).—And if it had to be done by a charge to the curers it would be a very heavy cost per barrel?—I think there is no doubt of that. Incidentally, I may say we heard of a curious case the other day of illustrating the way the Americans look at the brand. A Scotch curer had cured some herrings for the Continental market, and had submitted them for the brand. He subsequently thought he would do better in the American market, and before he sent the fish over he actually clipped the brand off, thinking it would damage him in the American market.

14904. I think none of the large curers care for the brand. They go as well on their own name?—Yes; they have made their name.

14905. So that really the curers who look for the brand are the men who had a difficulty in selling under their own name?—The weight of the cry comes from them.

14906. Do you think it would be possible to have anything on a small experimental scale to test whether branding would as a matter of fact—I understand it is doubted by a good many whether it would—be any use? Do you think it would be possible to have a small experiment in the case of the mackerel?—How could you keep an experiment of the kind within limits.

14907. It would be difficult, but suppose you arrange to brand at a particular station where you had a good stock of fish and agreed to try provisionally to brand there? That might be objected to by small curers at other stations?—All, of course.

14908. It would be difficult to have it on an experimental scale?—It would, but it would be a useful experiment. It would be very inadvisable to brand at one place and not at another.

14909. Apart from funds, you do think it would be interesting to try?—I don't think the experiment would be really a sound one when it was adopted for a considerable number of years, because the point at the outset would be whether we would effect such a revolution in the minds of the American buyers as to make them attach importance to the brand, which they do not at present.

14910. There would have to be a label as well as the brand to explain what the brand was?—In the beginning there would.

14911. (Chairman).—Now, can we go to inland fisheries? We have had a general statement from Mr. Green as to the value of the fisheries?—The main point you want me to touch on is the justification of the Department's expenditure on inland fisheries.

14912. Yes. And the importance of them to the public interest and the possibility of development?—I should begin by saying there are no definite statistics as regards salmon fisheries and inland fisheries. There are no returns accessible of salmon landed. It is not like the case of sea fish, where you can gauge them on the quay. Salmon are got all over the country, and there is also an extreme reluctance among all salmon fishers to give accurate accounts of what their takes are.

14913. (Mr. Micks).—Rodman exaggerates and the other men diminish?—I don't know. First of all as to the value. From the indications available, such as the fish carried over railways and the extent of certain fisheries that we do happen to know and the amount of Irish fish reaching English markets, we estimated, and in this we are corroborated by the Vice-Royal Commission, that the value of the salmon fisheries of Ireland exceeds £300,000 a year. We think in some

years they are equal to the value of all the sea fisheries put together. The number of persons employed in the net-fishing, not counting anglers and gillie and bulfinch, is some 10,000.

14914. Does that include drift net men in the west?—Yes; it is a curious portion of the law, that although salmon are got on the Donegal coast further out than herrings they are described as inland fish. In 1905 there were 611 drift net licenses issued in Ireland. In 1906 there were considerably more—I have not the exact figure. Each of these licenses means the employment of from four to five men.

14915. (Chairman).—Then, catching salmon at sea requires a license?—Yes.

14916. Is the license for the individual man or the boat?—For the engine—the net. As regards fish fishing in the sea for salmon it does not exist anywhere else.

14917. (Mr. Micks).—Would you give us the number of other men employed in inland fishing at the same time?—The total number of people engaged in the inland fisheries was 10,000, including anglers, to be 13,400. There were 3,138 anglers. The difference between those, about 10,000, is the number of men employed in the net fisheries. That is an approximation.

14918. 2,750 for drift nets and then 3,138 anglers, that leaves 7,500 for other net fisheries?—The proportion of nets used in private waters is very, very small. Mr. Green touched on the difference between the Irish law and the Scotch. There exists in Ireland a public right of fishing for salmon which is non-existent in Scotland, and which is exercised to a much larger extent in Ireland than in England, where it also exists. In approaching this question of helping the inland fisheries all our money for inland fisheries comes from the Agricultural Board, and they are always very much influenced by the interest that private proprietors have in the salmon fisheries, and when we make our applications for grants the first question generally asked is—what are the relative proportions of the public and private interests in the fisheries in the district. We estimate the total value to the country of the salmon fisheries at £300,000 a year. All the private fisheries of any importance in Ireland are valued for post-law purposes, so that we get some indication of what their annual value is to their proprietors. The valuation of all the private fisheries in Ireland is £23,000. Of course, in Ireland, and I suppose in other countries, there is a material difference in valuation and value, but I don't think, taking one year with another, on the average, that private proprietors in Ireland derive a net profit of more than £60,000 a year from the fisheries. That is what the proprietors put into his pocket.

14919. (Mr. O'Brien).—£300,000 is not a net profit?—No, sir. It would then seem that the difference between the total value of the inland fisheries and the amount that the proprietor makes as a net profit is the amount that goes into the pockets of the country-at-large, either in the form of wages earned by the workmen of private proprietary fisheries or by the men working under their common law right, in the sea for their own benefit. You have then an industry worth £300,000 a year to the public as apart from the private property.

14920. (Mr. Micks).—Are railway rates included in the gross?—They are not.

14921. £300,000 was the value of the fish when landed to Ireland?—Yes; what we say is that the value of the fish caught in the commercial and public fisheries, plus the net the private proprietors may get for angling rights, is, to the best of our knowledge and belief some £300,000.

14922. You say that £60,000 is the amount which the fishery proprietors probably put in their pockets?—I think so.

14923. How do you reduce the £300,000 to bring it down to £60,000; what amount do you take off for wages, licenses, and freight?—We work from the valuation of the fisheries.

14924. It is not a trade or commercial estimate?—Oh, no; I have been most careful to say that. We have, then, undoubtedly, a very large public industry going on in this country, and it is an existing industry, and we think that the interests of the public in it certainly justify the expenditure of public funds on its development. We think the inland fisheries are more susceptible of development than the sea fisheries.

and you have salmon more under your control than you have any now.

14923. If it gets past the drift nets?—We are working for the drift nets too.

14924. Is that tending to abolish salmon?—It is our business to keep the balance as well as we can.

14925. Have you any power to make by-laws with regard to drift net fishing?—Oh, yes; in certain areas we can prohibit it.

14926. We had very interesting returns from Derry showing the drop each year after the drift nets began. What I was really anxious to know is whether there is power of any way restraining or abolishing drift net fishing?—There is, and it has been exercised in other places to the extent of restraining it by limiting the length of the nets, and to the extent of abolishing it in certain estuaries.

14927. (Chairman).—Have you control over the nets used for catching salmon at sea?—We think so, provided it was always in accordance with the statutory arrangements of the close time and weekly close time.

14928. And I suppose, also, the three-mile limit?—The boats must start within the three-mile limit.

14929. (Mr. Micks).—The fish are caught by the gills in the nets. The small fish and sea trout go through?—Yes; you get an occasional one by accident.

14930. With peal go through?—No; the mesh is eleven inches all round. It is gaged to keep the six or seven pound fish. Some people keep two drift nets, one for the spring fish and the other for the peal. The constitution of Boards of Conservators—I don't know whether that is a matter in which you are directly interested. In Scotland Boards of Conservators are entirely composed of private proprietors. In England there is popular representation of a very great kind. The County Councils have the power of nominating a very large number of members to attend at these Boards. In fact, the County Council representation is predominant over the other members elected by Householders. The whole question of English and Scotch salmon preservation was thrashed out by the Royal Commission in 1903, and their criticism of the work of both the English and Scottish Boards, particularly the English, are certainly worded in a way I should not care to quote—you might think it too strong. They condemn in very sweeping terms that large representation on English Boards making them quite clumsy and unwieldy.

14931. And managed by people who had no special knowledge?—No special knowledge or direct interest.

14932. (Mr. Brown).—In the event of bodies being constituted to take charge of the drainage of rivers would you think they should be in any way connected with the Boards of Conservators or would you have totally independent bodies?—I should think it would be most desirable that all the interests on the rivers should work together. There are a lot of rival interests.

14933. Their interests might conflict. You think it would be better if all these difficulties should be thrashed out there inside than outside in the Law Courts, whereas if you had them around the one Board wherever differences existed might be adjusted?—Speaking as a fishery inspector, I should not be inclined to agree with these catchment basin boards, because I think the fishing interests would get the worst of it.

14934. (Mr. Micks).—Don't you think a fair man could reconcile the millers and the fishermen?—It is not so much the millers. When you get to drainage you get such a tremendous big thing you cannot estimate the extent to which the salmon fisheries might suffer. You would get a Board charged with drainage interests pure and simple.

14935. (Mr. Brown).—I am suggesting a composite Board in which all these interests would be represented. I want to get your view of the question?—It was a question that was approached by several Commissions, and from the salmon point of view they did not regard the creation of such Boards with any great favour.

14936. (Chairman).—It is a case where, to a certain extent, the interests of the two must be some case conflict?—You cannot have the ideal salmon river and also the ideal drainage system.

14937. (Mr. Brown).—If there were two separate bodies constituted, the fishery interest should be represented on the Drainage Board, and vice versa, so

that one body would not be going in ignorance of the requirements of another?—You would get into difficulty about interference with the general functions of the Central Fishery Authority. In Ireland the Central Fishery Authority is given by a complex code of laws the charge of regulating these divergent interests. We have to look after the passage of fish through milldams, and gratings attached thereto.

14938. I am not suggesting the withdrawal of any of these?—Then, where would the difficulty come in?

14939. You may take it as practically certain that some such body will be constituted to look after the drainage. You may look upon that as morally certain, but the question is what would be the modes of work between such a body and the Board of Conservators.

14940. (Mr. Micks).—At present you are the general authority between them both. I mean there is a general authority between the conflicting interests of a river?—In so far as mills are concerned.

14941. (Mr. Brown).—So far as mills are concerned, the only question with which you had to do is to prevent the killing of fish?—To get a free passage for fish.

14942. And have gratings to prevent the small fry getting into the turbines or wheels?—Quite so.

14943. (Mr. Micks).—There has been no complaint whatever about the adjudication of the fishery inspectors between the conflicting bodies?—It is a thing Mr. Green did not tell you about, because it is a personal matter, but I may tell you it is extremely striking the way in which the milling interest generally have approved of his decisions.

14944. (Mr. Brown).—It was from the opposite point of view we heard the complaints; they claimed that the millowners were unduly favoured?—Yes; I heard that charge made against us.

14945. I don't think we had any such complaint from the millowners?—We do our best to keep the balance.

14946. Have you any suggestion to make on that point?—No; you have rather taken me by surprise.

14947. (Mr. Micks).—In whose hands is the regulation of this great sluice at Ballack, which is one of the best salmon rivers in Ireland?—It is in the Drainage Board.

14948. Did any difficulties arise there?—I have not heard of them. I should think they would be adjusted locally. The Erne is a private river.

14949. And that big sluice is only about six miles from the sea, and that is a striking case where the Drainage Board has control of the whole river?—Of course, there is a fish pass provision, and the same applies in the Shannon.

14950. (Chairman).—You spoke just now about the millowners. One witness, Mr. Fawcett, President of the Irish Millers' Association, rather took the other view, and said he thought the powers of the fishery inspectors to exempt the millowners from putting up the salmon ladders were an extensive that there ought to be an appeal from the order of the inspectors; that the refusal of the exemption would probably mean the stoppage of the mill; and that there ought to be an appeal to the Board of Agriculture—whether he means the Department or not, I don't know?—Mr. Green is an official of the Department, so there practically is an appeal. Mr. Webb, who belonged to the same Association, said that was put forward on general grounds, not personal ones, because they are perfectly satisfied with the decisions so far.

14951. You have nothing to say about an appeal?—No, except the fact that there must be finality in these expert decisions. I was going to touch on the question of the representation of County Councils on Boards of Conservators in Ireland. The English Royal Commission reported most unfavourably about the representation of the County Councils on English Boards. In Ireland, under the Local Government Act, there is a section by which Rural District Councils could get representation on the Boards of Conservators on payment of a certain sum with a limitation as regards numbers; they are not to exceed the elected members. That part is a dead letter. It has never been carried. No County Council or District Council has ever contributed the necessary sum. The present Boards of Conservators in Ireland are composed of a number of people elected by the Householders and a certain number of ex-officio, who are mostly magistrates owning land on the banks of the rivers.

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We think it would be very important indeed by some means or other to induce a public interest in the salmon rivers of the country, and we see no reason why there should not be some public representation on the Boards of Conservators, provided it did not sweep the direct representatives of the industry, and we think it would be quite a useful thing if County Councils by some mechanism had the power to appoint a limited number of representatives on the Boards of Conservators to replace the ex-officio, always on condition that some adequate contribution was made by the County Councils towards the funds of the Conservators. All private fisheries are valued for rating purposes, and the Councils get their rates out of the fisheries, and do nothing for them.

14964. (Mr. Mickel).—They spend the money in the same way as they do all rates!—Not directly on fisheries.

14965. (Mr. Brown).—Don't you think they would be entitled as guardians of the public interest to some representation apart from the contribution?—All the public who exercise their rights as license holders, who elect the Boards of Conservators.

14966. (Mr. Mickel).—So, therefore, the public has no representation whatever?—The public are license holders; the members of the public who carry on fishing are license holders.

14967. (Mr. Brown).—I understand you to say those were public interests to be looked after apart from the interests of the license holders?—Well, that may be.

(Mr. Mickel).—That is the groundwork of all your grants, that there are public interests as distinguished from private.

14968. (Mr. Brown).—You told us the interest of the public is represented by something like £240,000 and the private by £20,000?—Yes.

14969. How are the interests of the public represented on the Boards of Conservators?—Every man who takes out a license, whether a member of the public or not, has a vote.

14970. Is there not free fishing in the estuaries?—You have to pay a license for it. All these drift net men, for instance, have representation on their Board of Conservators.

14971. You don't recognize fishing for brown trout?—There is no license for that.

14972. You don't recognize that they have any interest at all?—The Board of Conservators occupy themselves primarily with salmon and sea trout.

14973. And they don't take any notice of the trout?—In some cases they do, but it is mostly left to the local associations.

14974. Who do the ex-officio represent?—We recommend their abolition.

14975. I want to know who they represent?—Riparian owners.

14976. But it is not just riparian owners they are on the Board?—Oh, yes; the necessary qualification for an ex-officio on the Board of Conservators is either that he should own a fishery valued at £200 or over or that he should be a magistrate owning land on the banks of the river and taking out a license.

14977. (Mr. O'Grady).—What is the cost of the license?—It varies from £1 for a salmon rod to £30 for a stake net. The drift and draught nets are both £3 each.

14978. Then, the members of the public who are represented are only those who have for a moderate payment each, in the total amount very much less than the total value of the fisheries—have acquired a right to a share in the value of the fisheries?

(Mr. Mickel).—The public have a right in the fishing, but before they can exercise that right they must pay a license duty.

14979. (Mr. O'Grady).—Still the total income from licenses is but a small part of the total value of the fishing to the public?—The total income from licenses was £10,800 in 1905.

14980. And the total value of the fisheries to the public is £240,000?—At least.

14971. Therefore, the public has an interest in the development of fishery work and the carrying on of fishery work so that it should be as widespread as possible and without damage to the future or even to the present; therefore, the public has an interest apart from the action of the interest which is represented by the license holders; the public has two interests, one represented by the license holders and another represented by the larger public which is interested in the development of fisheries otherwise?—I cannot quite see the material interest of the whole public in development, except that it is included in the general welfare of all sections of the community.

14972. You don't see that that section interested in such as ought to be recognized by representation of County Councils on Boards of Conservators?—What I said was that we think there ought to be some representation.

14973. (Mr. Brown).—The point of my question originally was that the County Councils were entitled to some measure of representation without payment in representing that portion of the public who are not actual license holders?—The principle of payment was accepted in the Local Government Act. The policy of the Department with regard to inland fisheries has been mainly guided by the Report of the Viceroyal Commission of 1901 on Inland Fisheries.

We assist in protection. We do not take the primary responsibility of local authorities more than we can help. We are utilizing the existing mechanism of protection as far as possible. We make grants to Conservators and other local Associations. We have hatcheries, which Mr. Holt will explain. But there is no question that, even after the Department's assistance to the existing funds of Conservators, the amount of money available for protection is absolutely insufficient throughout Ireland except in one district. There is only one district where the funds in our opinion are really sufficient to admit of proper supervision and proper protection of the spawning fish. We think more money could quite usefully be spent by the Department in the direction in which they are at present working. We think that a certain sum should be earmarked out of the Department's funds for inland fisheries. It is not so at present. We have £10,000 earmarked for sea fisheries, but none for inland fisheries.

14974. (Chairman).—What does the Department contribute?—About £2,500 a year. We think it should be a good deal more. The Agricultural Board are most liberal and meet our views very well, but their funds are running short, and to start a general scheme of adequate protection would be very costly without ceasing continually. And continuity is the present state of the Department's general funds could not be ensured without having a definite sum earmarked.

14975. What are the principal kinds of expenditure that are needed?—More water bailiffs—Water bailiffs principally. Estuary protection through the medium of launches. Improvement in fish passes. More improvements in natural spawning beds. But good bailiffs above all.

14976. Have you any account showing the distribution of the £2,500 a year?—We have given you a return.

14977. (Mr. Brown).—Is that over and above any sum previously available for this purpose?—Oh, yes. The sum at present available outside the Department's grants is £14,000 a year. I don't think I have anything more to say except, at the risk of repetition, to impress upon you our strong conviction that in this inland fishery we have an industry lying ready in our hands that is susceptible and worthy of development in the public interest.

14978. (Mr. O'Grady).—That there is £240,000 which might well become £300,000 by the expenditure of a few thousands more in protection. Is that what it comes to?—We think the public interest would be largely increased by adequate development and protection.

Mr. E. W. L. Hour examined.

14979. (Chairman).—You are the Scientific Adviser of the Fishery Board?—Yes, sir.

14980. When were you appointed?—In August, 1901.

14981. And before that?—Immediately before that I was acting as Marine Naturalist to the Royal Dublin Society of getting out some experimental work for them.

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this sort of work in Ireland since 1890. I think that was the first year I was in it, and then again in 1891, and I returned, I think, in 1895.

14882. Now, would you tell us about your duties as Scientific Adviser?—The duties are generally to advise the Department in all questions of fisheries involving a special knowledge of natural history, using the term in its widest sense; to organise, administer, and conduct such investigations and researches as may from time to time appear necessary to provide the Department with information required in the regulation or development of fisheries; to act, when so required, as scientific assessor at Fishery Inquiries; to organise and administer the work of the Department in connection with the development of other fisheries and aquaculture; to organise and administer the work of the Department in relation to the artificial propagation of inland fisheries generally; to prepare Part III. of the Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch. The Scientific Adviser is not an administrative officer, and his administrative acts, like those of any other subordinate, are subject to the approval of the Chief Inspector and Secretary. In practice, however, it has been found convenient that he should directly administer all those matters which come specially within his province, referring to higher authority when questions of expenditure or departmental policy are involved. As will be explained later, he practically fills his functions as he has to take account as much of the economic as of the biological aspect of the matter in hand, and the pursuit of pure science, except as a means to a strictly definite end, is neither part of his duties nor of his competence. The scientific staff, apart from the Scientific Adviser, consists of two assistant naturalists at £150 per annum and two at £125 per annum. These officers are not on the establishment, but are paid out of the funds of the Department, one out of the funds disposable by the Agricultural Board, the others out of the Sea Fisheries Fund. At present two temporary assistants are also paid, at the rate of sixpence per hour, out of the Sea Fisheries Fund. These temporary assistants are employed, respectively, with the preliminary sorting of biological material collected for the purposes of fisheries investigation and with the transcription and collection of such records as require no special technical knowledge. One who happens to be a Scandinavian assists as a good deal in our translations. The senior assistant naturalist, Mr. Charles Green, who is paid out of the funds disposable by the Agricultural Board, acts for immediate purposes as *locum tenens* for the Scientific Adviser when the latter is absent from the office. He assists the Scientific Adviser in the superintendence of the various salmon hatcheries subvented by the Department and sub-edits the reports on scientific investigations. He also converts to standard a number of physical observations and works out the data relating to several branches of biological investigation. In addition, he performs the functions of registrar in regard to a large mass of papers and documents which do not pass through the clerical registry. As Mr. C. Green is a proficient linguist and an excellent draughtsman and designer, the Scientific Adviser has frequent occasion, at the request of the Inspector, to direct him to engage in work which is outside the province of scientific research. Such an arrangement is entirely satisfactory, as it is proper that the scientific staff should be in a position to render assistance of a technical nature to the administrative officers, and it is mentioned here merely for the purpose of illustrating the difficulty of distinguishing between scientific and administrative services. Two assistant naturalists, Mr. G. P. Farren and Mr. B. W. Kemp, are exclusively engaged in conducting the periodic cruises of the *Edge* and in working at the results so obtained. Another assistant naturalist, Mr. W. M. Taitt, is in local charge of the Department's oyster investigations and also renders considerable help in working out the results of the periodic cruises. The Scientific Adviser has no clerical staff, and his instructions in clerical matters are carried out by the staff of the Staff Office. One of the officers of the clerical staff, Mr. A. B. E. Hillis, was appointed with a special view to the assistance of the scientific staff in clerical matters and those of account, and to the discharge of the account work involved by the steam cruises. Although Mr. Hillis's salary is included in the returns furnished to the Committee of the Fisheries, etc., of the scientific staff, he belongs to the clerical staff, and is only occasionally used for the scientific work purely.

14883. You have not a copy of the returns you mentioned just now?—Yes. (Produced.) Shall I say something about Fisheries' investigation prior to the creation of the Department?

14884. If you please?—Between 1880 and 1890, Mr. W. S. Green conducted several deep sea biological expeditions off the Irish coast, and although these, as in the case of any observation of fact properly conducted and recorded, yielded information of practical value, they were not devised with any view to the investigation of fishery problems. In 1890 and 1891 the Royal Dublin Society, having obtained a grant-in-aid from the Government, caused a survey of the fishery grounds off the West Coast to be carried out by Mr. Green, with whom were associated Professor Haddon, Mr. Lane, and the present witness. Funds being limited, the survey was confined to a few months in each year, and, as a considerable area had to be covered, the results, however, provided a basis for the development of the fisheries subsequently instituted by the Congested Districts Board at certain places. Nothing further in the way of fisheries' investigation was done until 1895, when the Royal Dublin Society, again with the assistance of a grant from the Government, established a marine laboratory, under the direction of the present witness, on the West Coast for the purpose of studying the biological conditions relating to the fisheries, especially the mackerel. Various fishery matters were investigated to such an extent as the limited means and equipment of the laboratory permitted until 1900, when the laboratory was taken over by the Department. The special study conducted by the marine laboratory had reference to the conditions affecting the mackerel fishery and was carried out by actual fishery observations on the Claggan grounds. The financial support of the Department made it possible to continue this form of work in a more thorough manner for so long as seemed necessary to secure a reasonable amount of evidence. It had always been apparent that the study could not be pursued with the best chance of success from a purely local point of view, and the possession of a steaming trawler rendered it possible to very widely extend the area of observation. At the same time it became possible, given sufficient time and staff, to give attention to practically every fishery problem which seemed capable of solution by methodic observation. It goes without saying that the perfection of observation was not immediately accomplished, but it is probable that the present system of work goes reasonably near to getting the best value for fishery investigations out of the resources of the Department compatible with a modest demand upon the funds. It will be understood that a considerable amount of the time of the scientific staff is occupied in dealing with questions addressed to the Department about matters of natural history, fish-culture of all sorts, sources of supply of stock, cultural and fishing apparatus, the more so since the Department's publications on these matters have had the honour of attracting attention abroad as well as at home. Work of this sort, in addition to the usual intra-departmental communications, goes on independently of any scheme in progress. The chief marine investigations are a quarterly survey of the trawling grounds off the East Coast, and a hydrographical and biological survey of the greater part of the Irish coast-line. The Trawling Survey places the Department in possession of information constantly required in regulating the fisheries of the East Coast, which is rather fruitful in disputes between rival classes of fishermen. Moreover, this part of the Irish fishery area is, perhaps, more than any other the subject of allegations in the public Press and elsewhere, to which allegations it is convenient to be able to assign their exact value. It is also useful when the authorities are called upon to develop fisheries at this or that place in any part of the coast to know whether there are any fish worth catching in the neighbourhood.

14885. Are you going to tell us something about fish on the East Coast, or the absence of fish?—The absence of fish.

14886. I think Mr. Lane rather referred that to you, whether fish were there?—We have the means of knowing, as far as we get time to collect the necessary information, whether there are or there are not the fish in numbers on particular parts of the coast; and as far as the East Coast is concerned, especially the trawling grounds, we now know them pretty well. I am not in a posi-

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tion to say that the supply of fish is improving; in fact, I think it is rather the contrary. Of course, as to the supply of spring mackerel one gets the total numbers pretty accurately; and from statistics and such observations as we can get we are able to tabulate to some extent the difference in time at which they appear. But unfortunately our exact records do not go back sufficiently far to make a real comparison possible. It does not appear to me, I think there is absolutely no evidence, that mackerel are now any sooner on the South-West Coast than they were before; simply for a number of years one circumstance or another has prevented them being caught at a time when they are worth catching. A mackerel caught in Lent is worth a great deal; a mackerel caught a few days later is much less valuable. What really is important is the period at which the fishing opens; and I personally am of opinion as the result of recent observations that that depends to some extent on nothing more or less than the weather.

14897. (Mr. Hicks).—The temperature of the water, I suppose, indirectly is part of the weather.—It is no use having the water the right temperature and salinity when a boat cannot go to sea.

14898. (Chairman).—The weather has affected the fishery, not the fish.—The fish, I think, will not rise to the surface in very rough weather, and yet cannot get a mackerel until he comes to the top. There is nothing to show that the mackerel is a wide wanderer. The former idea was that it underwent tremendous horizontal migrations. It does no such thing. The kind of observations we make may be illustrated by some of those charts (producing them).

14899. (Mr. Hicks).—Were they captured in deep water in any scientific method?—No; there is no means of catching mackerel, that I know of, in deep water. But of late years they have started a regular winter trawl fishery for mackerel in the Channel, and for the last few years they know perfectly well where to go and look for these fellows with the trawl. I understand one of the places is about forty miles off the Start Head in Devonshire.

14900. (Chairman).—What nets are used off Ireland?—The spring fishery is with drift nets, the harvest fishery with set nets and hauling sets. Of course in the summer there is a good deal of line fishing for mackerel, but that is not very important as a means of supply. In the course of the survey of the east coast, fish-marking is carried on on as large a scale as the material caught permits, with a view to tracing the migrations of these fishes. Similar work is carried on by a fishery authority of the English coast, in communication with the Department. The hydrographical and biological work aims chiefly at the elucidation of causes which actuate the movements of mackerel and herring. Though commenced independently, the Department's investigations are now worked in co-operation with the International Council for Fisheries' Investigations, to which the Scientific Adviser is accredited as the official representative of the Department and of Ireland at the Council meetings. By this system danger of overlapping is avoided, and the Department receives and communicates much information of value to the several interests involved. As an instance, it may be mentioned that the Danish Fishery Authority undertakes the collection of all observations dealing with the cod fisheries, which are of great importance in Ireland, and probably capable of further development. The observations on the subject collected by the Department are at once communicated to the Danish Scientific Staff, who communicate to the Department the results of the whole investigation. In return, the Danish cruiser, which extends its operations in the Atlantic to the westward of this country, supplies the Department with hydrographical and biological data for the south-west region, and so permits of economy of the energies of the *Hedge* in that direction.

14901. (Mr. Hicks).—Is the Danish cruiser a Government ship?—The money was granted by the Danish Government for the specific purpose of this scientific research. Our own hydrographical and biological work consists for the most part in the close observation over a large area (by means of serial readings of temperature and determination of salinity of water and serial collection of microscopic organisms) of the movements of the water other than that involved by the familiar action of tides. It has already been shown that the whole body of water lying over our coasts is subject to very considerable changes by the irruption of water normally be-

longing to other latitudes, and that such changes have been accompanied, in the brief period of observation, by serious fluctuations in the fisheries; and it is reasonable to assert that if the observations can be continued for a period sufficient to eliminate the variability of abnormality of data, it may become possible to forecast by mere examination of water and plankton the probable success or failure of a particular fishery. At present drift-net fisheries are practically gambling, as there is nothing to indicate to the fisherman whether it may or may not be prudent to incur the expense of fitting out a boat for the season. (Explains chart). The flow of warm water called the Gulf Stream on our coasts is of very great importance in the life history and environment of fish, and more especially of their young and the small organisms on which they live. That chart shows the great variability of the annual flood.

14902. (Mr. Oystervic).—At what intervals do you take observations?—Quarterly—at the same period of the quarter. Of course we have observations in between. The *Hedge* takes temperatures four times a day wherever she is; and on special occasions she takes a series of temperatures and salinities from top to bottom at every ten miles along her course.

14903. Occasionally you take observations at some selected points?—She never fails to take them. Of course if it was one individual observation it might be valuable; but when you have a great mass of observations taken at the same time close together there is very little chance of error. Another important branch of investigation pursued by the Department deals with oyster culture, which once returned a large avenue to the owners of Irish beds, while the fortunes of some of the few still productive free oyster fisheries are of the utmost importance to the small farmers who form the drooping community, and may be said in fact to constitute, in some cases, even an insurance against emigration. Since, as the result of careful inquiry in Ireland, England, and France, it was found impossible to obtain information certainly applicable to Irish conditions of oyster-culture, the Department have conducted rather extensive experiments in this matter during the last few years, and are already in a position to answer, with the support of trustworthy data, many of the queries that are constantly addressed to them. The experiments deal in the first place, with artificial propagation, and secondly, with the respective values, for Irish re-laying purposes, of the various qualities of seed oysters on the market. The whole question is of a complex nature, as its solution depends at least as much on the economic conditions of demand and supply as upon biological conditions, and while the investigation is for convenience, classed as "scientific," it is really in the main economic. In the light of the knowledge already obtained by experiment the Scientific Adviser has been instructed to take steps for the improvement of the free oyster fisheries, and as considerable success has attended the initial stages of this work, it is probable that operations may be largely extended in the future. The Department has always contemplated the establishment of a system of oyster culture by the compulsory of small holdings shuting on the farmers, but have hitherto been deterred from taking any practical steps in the matter by a consideration of the condition of the oyster market, which, of late years, has been such as to give no security of reasonable return. It may be mentioned that a serious difficulty is the way of securing the propagation of a depleted natural bed or of establishing culture by small holders is caused by the interpretation placed on the law relating to the granting of licences. In certain cases the Department have been asked to take over public beds with a view to their proper regulation and improvement, or to start new oyster beds or oyster-culture in places where none exists, but as it has been held that the Department cannot grant a licence to themselves, there appears to be no satisfactory way of acquiring the necessary control of the ground and fishery, and without such control it is of no particular use to improve a bed.

14904. (Mr. Hicks).—You could not get a licence yourself?—The law officers tell us that the Department cannot grant a licence to the Department.

14905. But to an official?—I think that was also implied. Mr. Lane tells me that no officer, either directly or indirectly, may be granted a licence.

14906. It would be a position of possible profit?—I do not know what the reason may be. I think the law

efforts told us the Act do not contemplate it. The third difficulty is the improvement of public beds is the mere fact of their being absolutely public. When you increase the stock, you also increase the number of fishermen, and so the local fishermen who are more or less dependent on the bed really do not derive a very much larger individual share of the system when the bed is well stocked than when there are only a few on it. So the element of local popularity in the protection of the bed all the year round, and in the enforcement of the regulations, is apt to be wanting. I don't say it is wanting at all, but no doubt it would be made greater, and the bed ought to be taken more care of if there existed any possibility, or if it were considered advisable to restrict, by some means, the fishing on the public bed to just that number of people who may expect to make a good thing out of it. It is impossible to produce on these beds with a stock of oysters as would admit of unlimited increase in the number of dealers and satisfy all equally.

18987. (Chairman).—Would the public bed be near the quay or the shore?—All are near the shore. There is a very large public bed extending practically from Dublin to the south-east corner of Ireland, but chiefly centred on the coast of Wexford and south of Wicklow. That is the only open sea bed of importance. The chief other public beds are in the narrow waters of the south and west.

18988. Is there any question of ownership on the part of the Crown or granted from the Crown?—In some cases only beds are held by grants from the Crown or by persons who are presumed to have such; but in the case of such a bed as Tralee, though it may seem that at one time there was a private owner, there is no owner now; and anyone who observes the bivalves and the Statute law can go and fish there. What I was saying about restricting the number of fishermen does not seem to apply to Tralee, because the fishermen there from time to time have other means of occupation, and it is a more or less exposed place, and as long as they do what the bivalve tells them the place seems likely to hold out. But in such a place as Glencorbridge, which is very much enclosed, and practically always smooth water, and where the area is very much smaller than Tralee, the danger to the fishing is great. In the first year of the Department's work it was necessary to make a most exact examination of the public oyster beds on the coast of Wicklow and Wexford. In 1888 oysters from these beds fetched nearly £20,000 on the quay at Arklow, and as over 30,000 barrels were landed the shore labour must have returned a very considerable sum in addition. As late as 1893 the oysters produced £13,000, but the industry died away to nothing in the eighties owing to various causes, of which the partial exhaustion of the Irish beds and the competition of supplies nearer the English (England and France) were the chief. In 1900 market (England and France) were the chief. In 1900 it was alleged that Gl. Wicklow and Wexford beds had completely recovered and the Department was asked to finance a scheme for their exploitation. Since it was by no means certain that statements made about the condition of supply were true, or that oysters of the class produced on these beds were marketable at a remunerative price, the Scientific Adviser was instructed to make a survey of the beds and generally to inquire into the whole matter. The survey was carried out in the most thorough manner, and every effort was made by inquiry into the condition of the oyster trade, and by experimental exportation of sample consignments, to test the economic possibilities of a resumption of the industry. As a result it appeared that the alleged recovery of the beds had, at the most, but a partial foundation. In fact, and that the condition of the trade was prohibitive as far as regarded this class of oyster. The matter is mentioned in some detail because it affords an instance in which that part of the work of the Fisheries Authority which is claimed as Scientific is immediately recognizable as really economic. Further, since the decision of the Department in regard to the scheme of exploitation resulted in some temporary local discontent, it perhaps indicates one of the reasons why scientific investigations are not regarded with universal approbation. Simultaneously with the hydrographical and biological investigations previously mentioned the Helge engaged, on all possible opportunities, in exploration of the deep sea grounds on the west and south-west coasts. Conditions of the shell water fisheries generally,

and no doubt, at least in part, correctly, ascribed to the over-fishing have caused the larger class of trawlers and line boats to abandon the home waters and seek a remunerative catch either at great distances from port or at greater depths than those at which they formerly fished. At present there is a valuable commercial fishery off the south-west of Ireland at about 100 fathoms, a depth which would have been considered prohibitive of trawling a few years ago, but there is no reason to suppose that this fishery is unworkable. It is of interest to Ireland, not only because the few steam trawlers now owned in Ireland take part in it, but also because it seems to distract the attention of local steam trawlers owned out of Ireland, from the local grounds, where they formerly contained a good deal of inexperience to drift-net and long-line fisheries. The Helge, therefore, seeks to find trawling grounds in extension of those which the commercial grounds are at present equipped to exploit, and has met with considerable success, though, naturally, not in the capture of fishes as present familiar in the menu. There are, in fact, large areas at soundings of about 200 to 500 fathoms richly stocked with fish of excellent table qualities, which (though they have as yet no vernacular names, and, except in the Helge's records, are hardly known outside the coast), will, inevitably, come to be recognized as of commercial value. At present trawlers may go as far as Morocco to secure a catch of which a part is as unfamiliar in the home market as the deep sea fishes referred to above, while it appears that with a few hundred extra fathoms of trawl-warp they could haul up with good fish of a sort at six or seven hours' steaming from the south-west coast of Ireland, though, as I have said, these fish would not be such as are at present familiar on the fishmonger's stall.

18989. Does deep-sea trawling exist anywhere else on the East Coast of England?—There is no deep water.

18990. (Mr. Mickle).—How far out is the 100-fathom limit?—Off the Fastnet, Cape Clear, it is seventy miles, and when you get to the Blaskets it is about twenty-five miles.

18991. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Between what depths is it that the rapid drop occurs outside the 100-fathom limit?—It depends entirely on the locality.

18992. It is beyond the 100-fathom limit?—Not everywhere, in some places it goes down steep from the 100 fathom, but as a rule it is after the 500 fathoms.

18993. From Galway Bay it is a gradual slope down to 500?—You get a slight rise outside Galway, and then it goes a little more steeply down to 500, and then drops suddenly.

18994. And the depths you have now been speaking of as possible trawling ground would run to between 200 and 500 fathoms?—Already the big steam trawlers fish between 100 and 200 fathoms, and some are already putting on more warp to go down deeper.

18995. (Chairman).—It is a new thing, in a way, this very deep fishing?—It has been on for a few years.

18996a. Have you yet had this strange kind of fish on the market?—Some of them they bring in. There is a fish called the red brown—it is not a bream—that is taken in largely to the London markets. It is a very common fish at 100 or 200 fathoms, and is very good to eat. That map (pointing to it), goes far to explain why the Irish fisheries are much less important for small boat work than the English or Scottish. The yellow area of fifty fathoms is very small as far as Ireland is concerned, and the small boats are limited to fifty fathoms.

18996b. (Mr. Ogilvie).—On the south-east coast that is continued, the fifty fathoms to the Bristol Channel?—Yes; it is more or less regulated by the distance from land and exposure to the south-west weather. The soundings alone and even the abundance of fish do not wholly regulate the fishery. While the Marine investigation, as which the Helge is employed, will no doubt be recognized as directed to strictly practical ends, it may be mentioned that except for the small salaries of the assistant naturalists and for a comparatively trifling expenditure in rate, gear and apparatus they involve no extra expense to the Department. The Helge is primarily used for protection, and it has been found that activity and constant change of station are essential to her success in preventing encroachment on protected areas. In

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consequence she must always be burning coal, and as long as she is on the more marvellous are shy of venturing into prohibited places. A constant system of intelligence and communication makes it possible to at once direct her from scientific to protection work when occasion arises. It is also the case that the parts of the coast where scientific observations are of importance are also those which require most watching.

15007. On the sea fisheries the *Helga's* movements are dominated by the requirements of protection?—Yes.

15008. I suppose the principal advantage of having a scientific department for fisheries under Government control, and therefore available as a central body for that sort of work, is that under these conditions you can investigate the conditions of fisheries over a wide area?—That is so.

15009. That a local body could not do. It is essential that you should for any ultimate economic results or scientific investigations that are likely to have a direct bearing on this—it is essential you should have a means of comparing the conditions on different parts of the home waters?—Yes.

15010. Therefore, any maintenance of scientific investigation would be absolutely dependent upon the facilities available for getting these observations under the circumstances that it might be possible to carry them out in?—The success or failure of the fisheries scientific work depends on the ship entirely. If you have an efficient ship you have some chance of success. If you have not you have none.

15011. I want to know how far the protection duties of the *Helga* limit the availability of the ship for scientific purposes?—The arrangement is that at certain periods, which need not be specified, the *Helga* is assigned to me to carry out my scheme of work. At any time during that period she may be at once directed to protection if the need occurs. If a trawler comes anywhere near the coast we can always communicate with the *Helga*, and she leaves wherever she is doing for me and goes straight away and chases the trawler and then returns; and any time she occupies in hunting a trawler is paid back to me in so many days at the end of the period as may be wanted.

15012. So these casual interruptions for protection work would not make a serious inroad in the possibilities of investigation so far as the staff at your disposal enable you to make investigation?—So far it has not hindered the conducting of the work at all. The *Helga* moves so fast that she is there and back in a day or two.

15013. We had evidence as to scientific investigations made on the north-east coast by a laboratory connected with the College at Belfast, and we gathered from that evidence, and also from the printed papers that were put before us, that you had been deriving considerable benefit from the auxiliary investigations conducted at the fixed station by such a body of scientific workers?—May I say a few words about that. I saw a copy of the evidence, and I think there seemed to be a little misapprehension. There was a grant made to the Ulster Fishery and Biological Association, and this grant was intended to assist it to start work. It was not intended that the grant should be continuous, and this was made clear to the Association. The Association does not appear to have met with the local support which was anticipated, and at the earnest request of the Association the grant was temporarily renewed pending an increase of local support that was represented by the Association to be imminent. The state of the funds available for fishery research finally compelled the Department to name a period beyond which no subsidy at all would be given. It should be mentioned that before this was done considerable reductions were made in the expenditure on the scientific work under my own direct control. In return for the subsidy made, it has been necessary to ask the Association to carry out certain work bearing directly on fishery problems, and the programme has been changed from time to time as experience was had of the Association's capacity. The chief item in the present programme is the examination of samples of herring. We also get valuable assistance from members of the staff of the Queen's College, who are members of the Association. But I understand that this work is done at the Queen's College, and in any case it is, like the

examination of herrings, work which has no necessary connection with a marine laboratory. I am in full agreement with Professor Wilson that the general work of the marine laboratory is bound to be productive of much value, and that marine laboratories are deserving of State support. Having regard, however, to the funds at our disposal, I am convinced we can get the best value for the money spent under the control of the Department, and I may add that the Larns laboratory is not very well situated for obtaining the best results from fishery investigations.

15014. The point on which I would like to have your opinion is, how far systematic examination of fishery conditions depends in the first place upon laboratories and lengthy observations carried on at one or more fixed centres, one represented by your own place and another represented by such a place as a suitable locality on the north-east coast, and how far work carried on by such fixed marine stations is a desirable supplement to the more widely distributed work which is essentially, and by far the largest part of the duty that falls on the scientific branch of the Department's work, and whether it would be desirable apart from the present limitations of funds, to secure such co-operation of people who are themselves necessarily fixed, as is represented by this Association in the north, and might be represented by a similar Association elsewhere—whether it would be desirable to secure their co-operation in a convenient form by such moderate grants as had been given to this Association as auxiliary investigation in the work of which, as I have said, the great and essential part is that carried on through the *Helga* and at your own station. I would like to have your views on that?—I think, provided that the money was forthcoming, and that the places were in themselves suitable, and that they were efficiently equipped in respect to the provision of boats and gear, and of the more necessary provision of trained workers, constantly employed at sea—I should say that the assistance of such subsidiary stations was extremely desirable, and quite worth any money that might be spent on them. But I don't think you would contend that we ought to cripple our head-quarter's work to provide for smaller stations.

15015. Oh, not at all. In fact I would go further than that. The conditions you gave just now are necessary to make the work worth having would be ones considerably more expensive than I had contemplated in putting the question. I take it that £200 or £300 a year would go for a very short way to provide as thoroughly equipped a station as you described?—No. I think the most insignificant sum of station, or rather the station doing the least amount of work likely to be of any use would cost at least £500 a year.

15016. So assuming there was a Department contribution of £200, that would leave £300 to be found locally?—Yes.

15017. And probably the £300 would represent pretty fully the relative value of the economic fishery results to the general work which would be likely to be carried on in an institution, which after all had to maintain local confidence if it was to secure a continued local contribution?—It would be essential that such an institution should devote at least a part of its time to a given fishery scheme, and not spend all its time on pure science if it was to receive a subsidy out of a fisheries fund.

15018. It is quite apart from any question of national subsidy. They are purely scientific investigations. We considered solely just now the responsibility of the State for subsidising investigations, which have a considerable probability of producing economic results?—Yes; but I suspect we, both of us, know of instances in which laboratories have been subsidised ostensibly for fishery work, and have done none. I am not speaking of Larns at all.

15019. If there was any permanent contribution of that sort as distinct from payments for specific and prescribed work carried out by the local laboratory at the request of the central department, it would be absolutely necessary to have a very considerable control over the line that was taken in the local laboratory?—Oh, yes, that would be necessary, and one would have, of course, to satisfy oneself that the control was real and the workers were capable

15020. Unless the amount available for scientific investigations were very considerably in excess of that available at present, you are of opinion that the best value can be obtained by retaining the work strictly in the hands of the central body?—That is my opinion.

15021. (Chairman).—Have you any relations with the English Department of Agriculture and Fisheries?—Not directly official relations. I know the fishery officials of the English Board of Agriculture and Fisheries very well, and we are in constant communication, and all of us are members of this International Council or delegated thereto.

15022. Is that Board pursuing methods similar to yours?—Not at present. It has not the means. The English portion of the International investigations, which was a very large one, was entrusted before the fisheries were taken into the present Board of Agriculture to a Committee consisting of various people who put the carrying out of the actual scientific work into the hands of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. I happen to be a member of the Council of it. I was not in those days. So at present until some new arrangement is made nearly all the money that can be spent on fishery research of a scientific kind is spent by this Association, who carry out the English international programmes. At the same time there is a considerable amount of scientific work done by the Board itself; and their treatment of statistics is carried out as purely scientific lines.

15023. They have no vessel at their disposal?—No.

15024. And do not carry on investigations in the same way as you are doing?—No.

15025. (Mr. Cybille).—And, as a matter of fact, neither does the Marine Biological Association?—Not precisely on the same lines; they have a big ship and a small ship.

15026. Have they equal facilities for carrying out investigations all around the coast?—They have greater facilities; but they stick practically to the North Sea, with quarterly hydrographical work done in the Channel. But they have a very much larger amount of money to spend on that work than we have, and they have nothing else to do.

15027. (Chairman).—Do you know where their funds come from?—The Treasury made a payment of, I think, £42,500, or some very large sum to carry out the British share of the international investigations.

15028. (Mr. Cybille).—And no part of that is transferred to this Board?—No; we are allowed to participate at our own expense.

15029. The Marine Biological Association does not make investigations into Irish waters?—It may occasionally wander to the fringe of Irish waters, but it really does not.

15030. In respect to the sum they receive for carrying out the British share of the international investigation they work in British waters to the practical exclusion of Irish, trusting to your investigations for Irish results?—That is so. The Scottish authorities also have a part of this international work, and look after the northern half of the North Sea, while the English take the southern half of the west side, and Continental nations are supposed to look after the east.

15031. (Mr. Mick).—Some English County Councils spend a good deal of money in scientific research in the Irish Channel, Loughs, &c. for instance?—Yes; they have from time to time spent a good deal; but I don't imagine their regular expenditure can be very much.

15032. I was rather surprised to see their figures?—It is mostly confined to the attempt to hatch sea-fish.

15033. To increase the supply in these waters?—Yes. I may mention that I don't think a sea-fish hatchery is very practicable, and that is the reason it is not included in our programme.

15034. (Chairman).—Now, I think we may go to the inland fisheries?—The scientific work of the Fisheries Branch in regard to inland fisheries is at present limited to the organisation and administration of salmon and trout hatcheries and of salmon-marking experiments. Both are financed out of funds placed at the disposal of the Fisheries Branch by the Agricultural Board out of the surplus of the endowment. Thanks to the co-operation of the various

fisheries and sportsmen, the expense of the salmon-marking work extends but little beyond the cost of the labels and the tools necessary for affixing them to the fish, and a small amount paid in reward when the labels are returned. For hatchery purposes the Agricultural Board has provided an ample fund, and the artificial propagation of salmon and trout is being constantly extended. The scheme under which financial assistance is contributed by the Department comprises in effect the provision by the Department of the plans and cost of establishing a hatchery and of an annual subsidy pro rata to fry turned out, with certain clauses which exact a repayment of cost in the event of neglect or mismanagement. In the case of hatcheries to which the Department has made no contribution, a subsidy is paid pro rata to fry turned out, and in some instances to which the usual scheme of assistance is not applicable, the ordinary terms are varied. In every case contributions by the Department is made subject to the Department's approval of management. The administration of hatcheries, including any sort of work in connection with the stocking of inland fisheries is in the hands of the Scientific Adviser, but the Agricultural Board, in voting the required funds, no doubt recognised that a fish-hatchery is an installation of proved agricultural value and not in the least in the nature of scientific experiment. The annual output of salmon fry is at present about 5,000,000 to 6,000,000, and as new hatcheries are frequently being started may be expected to largely increase in the near future. Previous to the inception of the Department's work in artificial propagation, the output never reached 3,000,000, and was usually much less. I have here a table showing the increased output from year to year.

HATCHERIES EXPENDITURE TO MAY, 1906.

Year.	Capital.	Annual.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1901.	—	23 3 4
1902.	217 10 0	250 13 7
1903.	646 0 0	376 12 3
1904.	48 8 11	273 11 9
1905.	180 14 9	336 5 5
1906.	124 12 4	580 17 5
Totals.	1,230 0 0	1,516 9 0

Construction, salaries, grants, working expenses, etc., are included in above, except capital expenditure at one hatchery in 1906.

Travelling expenses and cost of preparation of plans, etc., are not included.

OUTPUT OF SALMON FRY FROM HATCHERIES IN IRELAND.

1890-1.	605,400
1891-2.	1,032,000
1892-3.	1,264,000
1893-4.	1,332,000
1894-5.	2,324,000
1895-6.	2,770,500
1896-7.	2,851,000
1897-8.	2,148,000
1898-9.	1,117,861
1899-1900.	2,806,900

In the years 1890 to 1900 there was no supervision of hatcheries by the Fisheries Authority, and no subsidies were paid. It is therefore impossible to check the accuracy of the figures given above, but it is known that they were mostly based on an over-estimation of the number of ova yielded by female fish per lb. of gross weight.

In 1900-1 the system of subsidy was commenced and by the following season all the considerable hatcheries were brought under supervision. The figures which follow may therefore be taken as substantially accurate.

1900-1.	2,415,400
1901-2.	3,333,500
1902-3.	5,739,000
1903-4.	4,083,600
1904-5.	4,647,500
1905-6.	6,587,750

I think I may say that the care exercised in the proper treatment and turning out of the young fry has been so greatly improved that the mere increase

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of figures does not at all represent the probable increase in result. One of our hatcheries is at least as large as any in Europe and perhaps the largest that it, the big place at Lismore. That was built on Mr. Oliver's designs. It was designed entirely by him, and is quite different from any pre-existing hatchery, and cost £223 2s. 6d.; and since it has been running, 1892 to 1895, in the winter of these years it has turned out 3,500,000 fry, and the total amount of the annual subsidies has been £416 for the three years.

15035. Paid by the Department?—Yes. Of course very much larger sums have been expended on the upkeep of the thing. The Department subsidy only provides for one-third of the cost. Our subsidy for the maintenance pro rata to output is 1s. 6d. a thousand, up to two millions. After that you may turn out as many as you like but you get no more.

15036. (Mr. Michie).—What public rights are there in connection with the Blackwater for fish?—A certain amount of public fishing at Malloy and elsewhere in the upper waters, and a certain amount of fishing at Troughal.

15037. Is there any public right in the river?—There is free angling up at Malloy and elsewhere.

15038. To what extent would it be?—I should not think it was of great value. But all the evidence we have goes to show that the fry that are turned into the river and go down as smolts do not by any means come back to that river alone. Of course, you have the classical instance at Ballisodare, where there is a fall at the mouth of the river.

(Chairman).—It shows that the fish does not always go back to the river in which it is hatched.

15039. (Mr. Michie).—My point was to find out the justification for spending that large sum of money on a river where the right was almost altogether in private hands?—I am convinced that the effects of the hatchery are so diffused that it does not matter where you put it as regards the private right; and if you can get a place which is exceptionally favourable for it, such as Lismore, I think that is the place where it should go, because it serves practically the whole coast, more or less.

15040. (Chairman).—I suppose you would agree that if the benefit was only felt in the river itself, whether that river belonged to a single proprietor or to many, there would be hardly enough public interest in the matter to justify the expenditure of any large amount of money?—It is for that reason we will not subsidise trout hatcheries unless the fishing is free, because the trout stays at home.

15041. The justification must be that whether or not it benefits the private proprietor by enabling him to let his salmon fishery at a higher rate, it benefits the public in a greater degree by increasing the supply of salmon to that river or estuary where it is available for public fishing?—That is my view of the matter.

15042. It must depend on that; and the real question is whether that is sufficiently established to justify the expenditure of public money?—It seems to me it has been established as far as it is reasonably possible to expect it will be established.

15043. (Mr. Michie).—Are you able to give any general idea, or what is your opinion?—If you let of five million young fish in a river whether most would probably go back to the same river or probably go elsewhere?—I should find it very difficult to express an opinion on that at all, because it seems to me on their first visit to the sea they stay away for a whole year, and one does not come across them very much at sea. You cannot mark a very young fish. We have tried to mark them. An odd one comes back sometimes in their own river, and sometimes somewhere else. But the percentage is very small, and the smolt is a very difficult thing to handle.

15044. Is there a scientific opinion that is more or less accepted at the present time as to the percentage or number of fish in a general way that would come back to their own river. Take the May. There the fish are practically, for some reason or other, nearly all of small size. In the Bree there are a great number of large size. The fish for some reason do not become large after coming up the Moy?—May it not be that they do not come back to the Moy when they become large? That is what is believed of many of our little rivers, the peat rivers in the West.

15045. Is it the opinion that the majority of the small fish come back to the river where they are hatched, or is it that really there is a chance that

they go broadcast into any river they happen to hit on?—I don't think there are the materials for forming a very sound opinion of the fate of the fish hatched in those rivers, whether they come back or not, because they stay away too long. But the big fish that are own mark, and which, as a rule, come back only after a few months of the sea, do, for the most part, come back to their own rivers, so far as the percentage of the captives shown. A certain proportion do not, but what proportion we cannot say.

15046. Do you mark the belts when going down?—Oh, yes; about up to two thousand a year.

15047. Do a considerable proportion of these come back to the same river?—They are more apt to come back to their own rivers than any others, but some turn up in other rivers. I have known one to be caught a short time after it had left a river, 200 miles away. It was marked at Kilrenn, on the Bann. It went around to the North of Ireland, and went into the Banagher.

15048. You could not answer whether this multitude of small fish hatched in a hatchery, after they go to the sea may not come back to another river?—I do not say much about it when recommending gentlemen to put up hatcheries in their own rivers, but I think you distribute them.

15049. (Mr. O'Connell).—And the exceptional point about the Lismore hatchery is that it is an extremely well placed hatchery. The conditions are favourable?—Yes; it has great natural and artificial advantages for hatchery purposes, and is in quite conveniently situated for the distribution of the fry, and it is also under the most careful management, and it runs a risk of neglect.

15050. (Mr. Michie).—Could you say what the physical advantages are?—Do you know the killing beach a little way up from the bridge? The fish are caught there fairly easily, in fact quite easily, and it is quite a short distance to take them to the hatchery, when there was an old water supply taken from the Bann river for filling the canal, and this gave ready-made holding ponds of the most excellent kind. There was very little to be done except lead the water to the hatchery and make the ponds.

15051. Is there any hatchery at Galway?—No.

15052. Are the facilities there particularly good, too?—I should say there were excellent facilities at Galway, or very fair ones.

15053. Fish very easily trapped in large numbers?—I don't know whether it would be so easy to get fish in winter. Heavy floods affect that fishery. We have often considered the question of a hatchery at Galway, but the owner of the fisheries told me he does not consider it necessary. He does not appear of hatcheries. So we have done nothing.

15054. Therefore, you would not have the co-operation of the principal owner?—No; and the only place to do it would be on his ground. It is by no means everywhere you can find a convenient place for catching the spawners. That is the chief difficulty.

15055. (Chairman).—I suppose the view is not largely taken now that hatcheries, because they are supposed to increase the number of fish which are available for the public, should be established very widely in many counties?—I believe it is an annual of that view.

15056. (Mr. Michie).—Do you think the owners of hatcheries on the Foyle and the Bann are influenced by altruistic motives?—I have to doubt a great many fish come back to their own river. There is the question of the trout farm. The Agricultural Board have also provided funds for the experimental conduct of a trout farm on the German system, under which most are grown in confinement for the table like any other domesticated stock. So far, however, it has not been found practicable to imitate this work, which presents considerable difficulties, but the scheme is by no means abandoned. The system of capturing carried on with much success in Holland and Germany has been most carefully examined, but has been found unsuitable in this country, partly because they are never likely to command a reasonable price, and partly because any land that would grow them, if banked and flooded for the purpose, has a much higher value for other purposes. It may have been remarked that the various schemes for the utilization of waste waters which are from time to time hatched at the Department appear to have their origin in the

assumption that fish feed on water, which is not a scientific fact. Scientific investigations in regard to salmon fisheries are unfortunately limited to the salmon-earthing experiments mentioned above, because the Agricultural Board, though prepared to see generally in the matter, have not felt justified in contributing the whole cost of an investigation which would give results of as much value to England and Scotland as to Ireland. The scheme, of which the Island Fisheries Commission expressed strong approval, contemplates the complete control of a salmon river for a period of two years, and the detailed observation of the habits and movements of the fish throughout the river system and as far seawards as it may be possible to trace them. The capital and annual expenditure involved is large, and the Agricultural Board, while prepared to furnish more than half the cost, considered that the balance was properly payable by His Majesty's Treasury, who, so far, have not consented to contribute. The consequent lack of scientific investigation is regrettable. Because salmon, passing a great part of their life in fresh water and in the narrow waters of the sea, are obviously more amenable to human control than purely marine fishes, while (even contributors to sporting papers) practically nothing is known about them except their breeding; with the result that administrative measures designed for the improvement of the salmon fisheries must in great part proceed upon no assured basis of knowledge. It is, in fact, permissible to say that the whole existing code of salmon fishery laws rests largely on postulates, which are certainly not axioms.

15057. (Mr. Gifford).—Was any particular river in Ireland suggested as particularly suitable for such an experiment?—Yes, a good many rivers. But we finally chose the Westwater river, and had all the arrangements made. But then it was found the funds which it was considered to be sufficient were very far from being sufficient. It is a river having a very early run of fish, which is important, and a good late run, and a fine tidalfall and water supply, and is at the same time very compact. It is in a fairly small compass, and you get from head to foot of it in a day, which is convenient. I think that is all I have to say about inland fisheries specially. Taking first the purely economical work which is administered by the Scientific Advisor the present Departmental conditions appear to be entirely satisfactory in regard to the provision of funds as long as the increasing demands upon the financial resources of the Department may continue to permit of a sufficient expenditure on these important subjects. Oyster-culture and inland fish culture are here specially referred to. The former is financed out of the Sea Fisheries Fund, the latter out of moneys voted by the Agricultural Board, and both are so immediately recognizable as economic that there is no reason to suppose that provision for their continuance will ever be held to be of less importance than other projects of an economic character. The investigations claimed as scientific, namely, those which proceed by methodic observation of the conditions affecting the habits of the organisms which form the object of fisheries, are at present in a reasonably satisfactory position, in that, having regard to available funds, the Department has not been disposed to neglect the importance of these observations. It would, of course, be easy to expend and pervert the scheme of research if the financial means were available, while still pursuing only objects of immediately commercial importance. But I think an extension of them need not be dismissed, as it is absolutely clear from the state of our finances that we shall reduce them rather than increase them. In fact, I am constantly making arrangements to try and curtail expenditure here and there, and even continue to sacrifice some efficiency.

15058. (Chairman).—If you want us to help you to get more funds, you had better put your case as high as you reasonably can. You think it would be a great misfortune if your funds were cut short?—The thing that seems to me of the greatest importance arises out of the question of the staff. The weakest point in the organization of the scientific staff is that the scientific assistants are not on the establishment, but are dependent for their salaries on the endowment fund, the demands on which are continually increasing. The services of these officers are indispensable, both in the administration of those economic operations, which are

for purposes of convenience, and from technical considerations delegated to the scientific staff, and in the acquisition of information necessary to a reasoned system of fisheries development and regulation.

15059. They have not got the status of Civil servants, no pension rights or sick leave?—They have no security.

15060. (Mr. Michi).—Your real point is that you have to pay for them out of the endowment instead of out of the Vote?—Yes. These gentlemen have been specially trained for the work, and while their salaries are very small, they have not even the guarantee of security to induce them to remain in the service of the Department. The work allotted to them comprises comparatively little of that original research which to biologists is life or death, and if any of these gentlemen should be induced to transfer their services to some more congenial sphere of employment the work of the Department would be seriously shocked while a new man was mastering his duties.

15061. (Chairman).—You have given us four, two at £150 and two at £150; are they all paid out of the endowment?—It is all endowment; I am the only Civil Servant in the scientific staff. I believe other Kingdoms do, as a matter of fact, attach considerable importance to this matter of research.

15062. (Mr. Michi).—Your remarks enabled the Deep Sea team to come on to those banks on the south-west of Ireland?—No doubt it was the Macquinn and Fingal expedition discovered that there were fish on those banks, and quite recently we were the first that ever fished on the Powsung bank. The experience had of the work of the Fishery Authority under the new circumstances involved by the creation of the Department has shown that the services of these officers, under whatever title they may be designated, will always be necessary in the prosecution of the fishery development, which appears to have been contemplated by Parliament in the Department's Act; and as forming part of the staff essential to the carrying out of the intentions of the Act, it may be argued that their services ought to be provided for in the Vote, instead of lessening the amount assigned by Parliament for the purposes specified. It appears to be understood that the demand, and even the technical assistance required to carry out the business of the annual Vote, and it is difficult to see why the same should not apply to those services which the econometric of our language causes us to distinguish as scientific. The transference of the services of these officers to the Vote, while relieving the Endowment Fund of a charge which it can ill afford to bear, would also relieve the work of a difficulty which I find in appointing the work of the staff under my immediate control. Some of my colleagues are paid out of the Sea Fisheries Fund, another out of the surplus of the Agricultural Endowment, which is available for salmon fisheries. The former are, technically at least, not available for employment in salmon work; the salmon spend most of their time in the sea, and in so far as their commercial importance is concerned, are mostly the product of fisheries conducted in the sea or in estuaries. Our salmon work proceeds most at the same time of the year, and it would be a great convenience and would conduce greatly to efficiency if it could be distributed among the members of the scientific staff without regard to the particular fund out of which each member happens to be paid. If I could see the position of these gentlemen secured by being made permanent I should be very willing to put up with shortcomings in other respects. We certainly have good of technical assistance in statistical work. I mean by statistical work the preparation and abstraction of documents and tables requiring some special technical knowledge, and I believe this could be met by putting the whole of our store account, that concerning the *Helga*, part of our store account, all the things I have to get for scientific work, in the hands of one assistant, while Mr. Oliver has an engineering store account, in which I am largely interested on account of hatcheries, in other hands. If we were provided with another extra boy clerk it would relieve our technical assistant from the store account, and set him free to do the technical statistical work for which he is eminently qualified. I think, sir, these are the only suggestions I should like to make about an increase or alteration of the staff.

Nov. 1, 1904.
Mr. E. W.
L. Stolt.

Nov. 1, 1906.

Mr F W
L. Holt.

15063. (Chairman).—What is your clerical staff?—Under my immediate control there is no clerical staff, any clerical work I want done goes to the regular clerical staff in as far as it does not involve technicalities which the regular staff may not be competent to handle.

15064. Is the time of the more highly-qualified officers of the Department taken up by any extent with clerical work? It is immensely occupied by clerical work, we all of us have to do a great quantity of mere transcription that would be quite as efficiently done by much less highly trained officers, but they are not there to do it.

15065. You cannot get that done by the general staff?—Not very much of it, there is a good deal of it we might get done right well if the staff was not already very much occupied with its own immediate concerns, but a good deal of it involves technicalities to which a second division clerk has not as a rule been used.

15066. (Mr. Michx).—How is it you have not got sufficient clerical assistance in your branch?—It is technical clerical assistance we want.

15067. Is it technical knowledge that would readily be acquired. I understood you to say that you and other expert officers of the Department had to discharge duties of transcription?—So we have, but I would rather refer to Mr. Loom as to any question of the administrative staff. I know myself, and have experienced it often, when I want some simple work done there are not enough hands in the office to do it for me. There is one Norwegian lady, whom we pay at expense on hour, she is constantly engaged in transcriptions; she is not on the staff, but is paid out of the Sea Fisheries £10,000.

15068. (Mr. Ogilvie).—One point is not complete in the case you are making for an alteration in the staff, how far do you regard the duty of investigating the habits of fish as one in which there is an absence of finality, if it were the case that this work may be expected to be completed in a few years it would probably be undesirable to have a considerable established staff to effect it, it would be much more convenient that it should be more or less a temporary staff?—Yes, I had that point in view.

15069. (Mr. Michx).—Your appointment is a permanent one?—Yes, the fact of the matter is, we have to take the different matters of research piecemeal, and if we finish one thoroughly and get to such a stage that no further observations thereon are necessary, then there are left many researches to which

we could turn our hands. We cannot by any means do everything we should desire at once.

15070. I suppose you could not possibly think that the necessity for research would vanish?—I should say not, it has been going on for a great number of years.

15071. And new matters discovered continually?—And new matters discovered continually, and new conditions arising of fishing which had to be investigated, new fish coming into value, changes happening in the supply.

15072. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I want to put the argument from the other side, it might be said we have put the charge of scientific investigation bearing on fish habits, and so on, under the charge of an officer, and we put him in an office which we expect to continue, but the precise line of investigation may be liable to such variation that at one time one set of men, or number of men, might be required, and at another time a different number, or it may be men of different qualifications would be more suitable for the work, and therefore it is desirable that we should not attach to the staff for each duties the permanence that attaches to establish Civil Servants, we have the staff to be provided for out of a fund which gives the Department administering it the greatest possible freedom of action in the selection and retention of the men they require?—But these gentlemen are so thoroughly trained in science that it is incredible that there should be any form of febrile research to which they could not turn their hands better than anyone else, knowledge of one branch of research is by no means a disadvantage in tackling another.

15073. And, however, the lines of investigation may vary from time to time, you regard it as reasonable that the total volume of work to be done in the matter of investigation is likely to diminish, but is far more likely to increase?—Very much more likely to increase, and I may say, that supposing we should require more or less work of a non-biological character, chemical or physical, the state of the market is such that it is not difficult to get a qualified chemist for a temporary purpose at a very moderate figure, and therefore it does not become so necessary that he should be a permanent member of the staff.

15074. And the securing of such a man would not make it unnecessary to retain the services of one who were essentially biological?—By no means, we employ a gentleman, who is a qualified chemist, to do the titrations for us.

The Committee adjourned.

FORTY-THIRD PUBLIC SITTING.—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 1906

At 18, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin.

Present:—

Sir KENNEL DIGHT, B.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Professor CAMPBELL examined.

15075 (Chairman).—You gave us very full evidence on a former occasion. I do not know whether you have had the opportunity of seeing in one form or another the evidence that has been given in the course of my inquiry and whether you have got any point to which you wish to call our attention specially?—Well, Sir Kenneth, I have not had an opportunity of going very fully into the printed notes.

15076. In the first place they are not all in existence—but I have from day to day read the reports that appeared in the Press, extracts from which I have here before me, and I had from these reports come to the conclusion that it would be necessary for me to ask the indulgence of the Committee while I went over in detail the evidence which has been given, since from these newspaper reports it would appear that the Department have really done no good whatsoever. However, during the last two days I have had the opportunity of seeing some of the evidence in detail and I was so struck with the large amount of excellent evidence given in respect of the agricultural schemes by some of the witnesses that I have come to the conclusion that it would be, so far as I am concerned, a waste of time to ask you to go over in detail the evidence of the individual witnesses. It was apparent, I think, from the printed evidence that many of the adverse criticisms passed on the work of the agricultural branch had been rebutted by other witnesses, or in many cases the persons giving the adverse evidence rebutted their own evidence on examination. There are several cases of that kind. I notice, on the notes. My own opinion, then, is that it will suffice to deal in general terms with them.

15077. I think I may take it in this way—if there is any particular portion of the evidence which has struck any member of the Committee as requiring an answer or explanation on your part, I think your attention will be called to it, but I think that otherwise we are quite content you should take your own line, as you indicated?—When I was informed yesterday that you wished me to give evidence, I roughly put together some of the impressions I had formed, and, perhaps, I should go over them in detail. The opinion I formed then is that it will be sufficient to deal with the criticisms in general terms. This, I find, is not easily done, for when one takes the evidence and seeks for some substantial cause of complaint either against the work itself or the manner in which it is being administered, it is difficult to find anything to refuse. Let us take the question of administration first. It appears to me after a careful reading of the evidence that I have seen that much of the adverse criticism was due to a misapprehension of the powers of the Department. The only serious criticism of the Department's administration is that the schemes are cast-iron and that they are forced upon the Committees by the Department's representatives. I explained in my former evidence that the first year's schemes were drawn up after a long period of initial conference with the County Committee, and that in every year since an opportunity has been given to the County Committee of expressing their views on the working of these schemes. I am prepared to show in great detail, if necessary, what many of the witnesses freely admitted, that the Department have again and again changed the details of their schemes in order to meet the wishes of the local authority. As

a matter of fact, if the schemes are carefully studied it will be observed that they are what I previously described, namely, more sketched schemes; most of the clauses are permissive, allowing the County Committee to arrange the details to suit the needs of the locality. An excellent illustration will be the cattle and horse-breeding schemes. If a comparison of the first year's scheme, 1901, be made with 1907, you will find that there is a very great difference indeed, and that these differences have been due to the changes which have been suggested by the County Committee.

15078. Have we a complete set of schemes for each year?—We can easily give you that. They are all in our official documents, all in the Department's Journal.

15079. I think, perhaps, for the purpose of reference it would be well to have them?—They are also in the Annual Reports.

15080. It may be as you have mentioned just now important to contrast the first year's scheme, although that may have been more or less suspended for the later schemes relating to the same subject to show the growth?—I can, of course, go into detailed matters and also submit abstracts from the recommendations of the County Committee. That can be submitted quite easily.

15081. I think that would be useful?—It would give you an idea of the sort of criticism sent us by the County Committee on these schemes.

15082. Of course that is a matter on which there has been a great deal of evidence. Some countries complain that these schemes are forced upon them. Others say that they had no opportunity of discussing them?—I must say absolutely the statement that the Department's officers forced these schemes on the County Committee. It appears to me to have been overlooked by some witnesses that all these schemes are revised annually, many of them by expert committees in accordance with the views expressed by the County Committee, that the schemes are then submitted to the Agricultural Board, who may make such changes in them as they may think necessary, and that the officers of the branch have no power whatever to change these schemes after they have been passed by the Board. At one time it was the custom of members of the County Committee, when the Department's officer attended to meet in the framing of the details of the scheme for the year, to insist upon changes being made not only in details but in principle in these schemes, but, as I explained, the officers of the Department had no power to make any change, and they would have been liable to censure if they had done so. The witnesses seem to forget that the obvious remedy is to bring such matters before the Council of Agriculture, whose functions it is to see that the Department give effect to the wishes of the country. From time to time questions relating to these schemes have been raised in the Council of Agriculture, and I am prepared to show in great detail, if necessary, that the resolutions of the Council have been given effect to. If there is any case where it has not been done, there are very special reasons for it. Perhaps in some cases the Department had no power to carry into effect the resolution. Now (produced) is a document showing how these schemes have been modified. This shows the changes that have been made in the live stock schemes from year to year

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Premier
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and shows the suggestions that have been made by the County Committee. It was prepared originally in case I required it, but I did not go into it at first because I did not anticipate criticism. By your own suggestion it was thought was not to go into any questions of that kind then.

15063. As I understood, that document was prepared for your original evidence?—Yes.

15064. But on the suggestion that it had better be left until the criticisms were made, you did not use it then?—Quite so.

15065. Have you been through that document?—I have not. I would require to refresh my memory. Let me read it. "Non-Pedigree Bulls." Sligo in 1903 wanted non-pedigree bulls; Derry in 1901 asked for non-pedigree bulls; Tipperary in 1902 asked the same, and South Tipperary in 1902; Longford in 1904 and Leitrim and South Tipperary in 1905. Those are the cases in which the County Committee suggested that non-pedigree bulls should get premiums. That has not been adopted for the simple reason that the Advisory Committee of the Department was strongly against it, that a preponderance of the County Committee was against it, and, finally, that the Board of Agriculture would not have it. I am not prepared to state that if a vote had been taken the majority of the Board would not have been in favour of non-pedigree bulls, but the fact is it was put before them and was rejected. The Department, then, are blamed by several witnesses for not having adopted the proposal, but you will see the Department could not even if they wished it; the Board would not allow it, and the majority of the County Committee would not have it.

15066. (Mr. Brown).—Can you recollect whether that question was ever brought up for discussion at the Council of Agriculture formally?—I know the horse question was. I don't think this was ever brought forward, but if there had been a serious demand for half-bred bulls it would have been brought forward, and that, of course, as the place to bring it forward, and if the Council of Agriculture had passed a resolution I do not see that the Department would have been able to refuse it. For example, the majority of the County Committee were against half-bred stallions. The Advisory Committee was strongly against it. The Board was against it. The Department at first had an open mind, but the Council of Agriculture brought it forward, and in accordance with the wishes of the Council of Agriculture the Advisory Committee have given way, and the Department have given way and the Board have given way to meet the wishes of the Council.

15067. (Mr. Brown).—That is a case in which the Council of Agriculture has effected a considerable change?—An entire change.

15068. (Mr. Brown).—And that case was put before us by one of the witnesses as one of the cases in which the Department had failed to carry out the wishes of the Council?—I observed that. Of course, the half-bred horses have not got all the privileges of the thoroughbreds until this year. Last year they had a special scheme of their own. The year before they also had a special scheme of their own, but this year they are included along with the thoroughbreds, and the reason is that the Agricultural Board and the county find that there was so few of them that they would not have had the bad influence on home-breeding that was originally feared.

15069. (Mr. Dryden).—Will you tell us how you manage these half-bred sires. On what principle are they selected?—Notification is given to the county that persons having these animals should send up application to the Department to have them examined and the Department then send inspectors round.

15070. It is on personal inspection?—Yes, at enormous expense.

15071. You would have to do that with half-bred bulls too?—In the case of bulls we would ask them to bring them to contest.

15072. You would want to know something about the pedigree, and what they were like?—We would not be able to get that.

15073. Then you don't know what you are doing?—We would not, but in the case of half-bred horses we only found, after the inspection of several hundreds,

that there were only twenty of them in Ireland fit for registration.

15074. (Mr. Brown).—When you speak of half-bred you mean the nearest approach to the type of the Irish draught-horse?—No, but a great many of the half-bred horses of that twenty approach the type of the Irish hunter. Of the twenty we found about three stallions of the Irish draught type, and we also found a few mares of that type, or at least they have been bought as if they were, but I am prepared to show that they are the progeny of Clydesdale, the very thing the country does not want, and yet this is the animal bought for us to breed from by the highest experts. The breeders of these mares will tell you that they are got by a Clydesdale horse, showing you that this is the Irish draught-horse of which you have heard so much. My own belief is that the original Irish draught-horse is closely akin to the Scotch Galloway. There is no doubt whatever that the advocates of that breed are quite right. If we could get a supply of them it would be an excellent thing, but if we are going to begin with nondescript animals which may be the progeny of a Clydesdale horse, in one or two cases I know they are, we will not arrive at the object which the promoters of this scheme have at heart. We are, however, again in defiance to the wishes of the Council of Agriculture preparing a scheme for registering these draughts. We propose having a special ad hoc board for them. The Advisory Committee have met since I was last before you and drafted a scheme, of which notification will be in the Press almost immediately. Mares have been voted, and as soon as our general scheme of registration is published for this year we are to take up the question and search the country for these Irish draught-horses—many of the members of our Board do not believe in it. The Advisory Committee don't believe in it, but it is being done because the Council of Agriculture would wish.

15075. (Mr. Dryden).—Then this argument shows that the Department does pay attention to any resolution or suggestion from the Council?—I present that to show that it does.

15076. (Mr. Michie).—Have you surrendered your judgment?—When it comes before the Council. But we don't surrender our own judgment merely what our Advisory Committee did. But when it came before the Council we have always, if practically, to surrender our own judgment. We have not done it in the case of the half-bred bulls, for it has now been brought forward at the Council.

15077. (Mr. O'Neill).—Was it asked by more counties?—The majority of the counties are opposed to it, and any expert breeder is strongly opposed to it. Four counties have already signified their wish that half-bred bulls should be admitted. Now I am here as to the "value of premiums." Kildare in the year 1901 suggested that the premiums to bulls should be increased from £12 to £20. Well, the Advisory Committee and the Department and the Board considered £20 excessive, but it was raised from 20 to £25. Tyrone and Meath suggested in 1901 that it should be raised from £12 to £15, which was done. Armagh did the same. Dublin and Kerry asked that it should be raised to £20 for yearlings, and £15 for two-year-olds. Kildare and Leitrim asked that it should be made £20. Fermanagh £15. Long County £15, while Londonderry asked that it should be reduced to £10. In 1902 Meath, Tipperary, Tyrone, Waterford and Wexford recommended the premiums should be given to two-year-olds of £15, and that was acceded to, and from Antrim, Armagh, Dub., Donegal, and Wexford in 1904 asked that three-year-olds should get £15, and it was done. Kildare in 1905 asked that the premiums for shortworts should be £20. It has not been done. In 1905 Kerry asked that the premiums should be reduced to £10. There are two cases in which it has been suggested that the premiums should be reduced, but in the majority of cases you will see that they asked that it should be increased, and it was increased, a few asked that it should be increased to £20. Two asked that it should be reduced to £10. The majority were in favour of some increase, and it was raised from £10 to £15.

15100. (Mr. Dryden).—Do these Committees give their reasons?—The sum is not sufficient to induce a farmer to buy a bull.

15102. I was thinking about the other side, the reduction!—The idea was that they would be able to give more premiums, but they forgot that there were not sufficient bulls to go round. That has been one of our great difficulties, that when a County Committee is preparing this scheme it forgets that thirty-two others are doing the same thing, and that there are not sufficient bulls available to go round, and they must take their share and no more. That is why the Department have refused to allow the County Committees to set aside excessive sums for bulls, simply because if they did so they would be the first in the market, and get possession of all the good bulls, and all the poorer counties would be left out. We have to exercise control over the distribution of these bulls, or else the poorer districts would not get their share. In the County Down you must have been struck with the type of men that came forward there. In the second year they had their fat bull, 50 bulls, and if we had allowed them they would have taken 100, because they were alive to the value of them, and were able to go to market and buy for themselves. It was only by preventing them setting aside too much that we were able to reserve a portion of the bulls for the poorer counties. Briefly then, the changes that have taken place in the value of the premiums are. In 1901 it was £12 for yearlings; in 1902 it was £15 for yearlings and £10 for two-year-olds; in 1903 it was £15 for yearlings and two-year-olds; in 1904 £15 for yearlings and £15 for two-year-olds, and £10 for three-year-olds; in 1905 it was made £15 for all bulls, and in 1906 it was the same up to four-year-olds. All these changes have been made to meet the wishes of the County Committees. As to the age of the bulls King's County, Queen's County, and Wexford in 1901 asked that the three-year-olds should be made eligible. That was not adopted in that year. It was adopted in 1904. Our Advisory Committee was opposed to taking in the older bulls at first; they wanted to get young bulls in.

15101. (Mr. Miché).—The bulls would stay longer in the country?—Yes. And they naturally add to themselves, "The three-year-olds are in the country already, and why spend public money on them." Tyrone in 1902 asked that two-year-olds should be included. That was adopted. In 1902, Antrim, Armagh, Queen's County, and Tipperary N. asked for premiums for two-year-olds. That was agreed to. King's County, in 1903, asked that preference should be given to two and three year-olds. That was adopted in 1904. Kilkenny in 1902 and 1903, asked that bulls of all ages should be eligible. That was adopted in 1905. Kildare, in 1903, asked that three-year-old bulls should be eligible. That was adopted in 1904. Kildare that preference be given to two and three-year-old bulls. That was adopted in 1904. Longford, in 1903 and 1904, thought four-year-olds should be eligible. That was adopted. That two-year-old bulls which held premiums as yearlings should have the preference was asked by Louth and Queen's County in 1903; two-year-olds which have held premiums as yearlings should be eligible for selection. That was done in 1904. Kerry thought four-year-olds should not be selected, and the Committee was allowed to exclude four-year-olds if they thought fit. That is a case where the clauses are made permissive. That is to say, the County Committee may, if they think fit, do so and so. One thing that is certain about the scheme is that there are premiums of £15, but the kind of bull, the age, and the person who is to get him, is all left to the counties themselves. As to the service fees, Kerry in 1902 thought it should be 2s. 6d. for yearlings and 1s. for three-year-olds. That has not been adopted, for the simple reason that if you make it 2s. 6d. the small farmer will go to the local scrub bull. You have evidence that it is desirable these should be excluded. The Advisory Committee and the Department believe that if you put a big fee on these high-class bulls you will only be subsidising the scrub, and that is the reason why we have not given way to the County Committees and made the fee more than 1s.

15101. That proposal, I suppose, was made in the interests of men who had a premium bull only?—Yes.

15102. And against the interests of all people who see 2, 1906. would see it?—That is so.

15103. (Mr. Dryden).—The premium was intended to cover exactly that point. Professor Campbell.

15104. (Mr. Brown).—To make good to the bull owner who loses by only charging 1s. 1—Kilkenny and Cork asked the same. Westmeath, in 1905, thought persons under £10 valuation should have the right to have their cows served at the minimum fee at any period of the year. That has not been adopted, for the simple reason that if the owner of the bull has once got his number served in the summer he ought not to be compelled to have his young bull standing there for service all the year round to his destruction. It was in the interests of the bull we did not let that rule be adopted. "That pedigree stock is to be served free by premium bulls." That was from Antrim, and was not adopted, for the reason that a great number of these premium bulls are not fit for stock purposes, only for crossing. If they did they would only get a second class animal, which the Department's inspectors would have to reject for premiums.

15105. (Mr. Miché).—I suppose the object of that suggestion was to get up bulls in the country that would supply your requirements in the future, but they would not be likely to get such animals?—No. To get over that we have arranged that if a farmer goes in for a small herd of pedigree cows we shall give him if at all possible the use of a high-class bull for a year or two. We have four or five of them at present which have cost £200 or £300, and we say to the farmer, "If you have got a good class of cow we will lend you a good bull for a year or two." In some cases we get farmers in the districts to share a high-class bull in that way. These or four practical farmers who are starting short-hand breeding find it a great advantage to get the loan of such an animal. County Down recommended the very opposite that pedigree cows should be excluded. Kilkenny, in 1903, passed a resolution that the number of cows to be served should be—by yearlings, 20; two-year-olds, 30; other bulls, 40. The yearling premium bull is not to serve more than three cows in one day. That was not adopted; that was left to the owner of the bull. Of course, it is quite obvious that if a man buys a bull he must be protected. We cannot allow the County Committees to say, "Mr. So-and-so has got a bull, and we will send any number of cows we think fit to him," or "he must serve three in a day," or "he must serve six." That would not be fair to the owner of the bull, and accordingly we don't allow the County Committees to pass a regulation of that kind.

15106. There are special circumstances in every case that can only be judged by the owner of the bull?—Quite so. In some cases all the animals are served in the summer, and in other cases throughout the year. Wexford asked that the maximum valuation should be £150 instead of £100 as fixed by Clause 11 of the 1901 scheme. To summarise now what I have said, the number of cows to be served in 1901 was twenty for yearlings, forty for two-year-olds. In 1902 and 1903 it was thirty for yearlings, forty for two-year-olds. In 1904 it was thirty for yearlings, forty for two and three-year-olds. In 1905 it was thirty for yearlings, and forty for two, three, and four-year-olds. This has been arrived at after these regulations have been carefully studied by experts in cattle breeding who form our Advisory Committee. "Loans for the purchase of Bulls." Queen's County and Tipperary in 1902 asked that the loans for the purchase of bulls should be administered by the County Committees. That, the Department did not adopt, for the simple reason, that the Department themselves gave the loans and the County Committees having no money with which to make these loans the Department did not feel that they should give up any part of their capital funds to be administered by County Committees since they were prepared to do it themselves. Tipperary South, in 1903, asked that the Department's vote on the price of bulls purchased by loan should be abolished. Now, the Department at the Ballinacree Show and other Shows, and if a small farmer comes up and wants to give an excessive price for a bull that is bought by loan from the Department, the Department say "No," that bull you are going to give £40 for is not worth more than £30.

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and we refuse to give you a loan for that. If you like, buy him yourself, but the Department's money is not going to be given, for the possibility is that a second class bull like that which has got a premium would fall off in the second year and the Department's Inspector would cast him and the poor man would be left with him on his hands, so that it is in his own interest that we prevent him. Then as to the "Tuberculin Test"—Kerry asked that the purchaser of a provisionally selected bull should have the right to purchase subject to the animal passing the Tuberculin Test. Wexford asked that the Tuberculin Test should be applied to every premium bull. I am not going into the question of the Tuberculin Test, it is a very long subject.

15107. (Chairman).—As I have said to one or two witnesses we cannot profess to act as judges as to what is absolutely the right thing to do in a particular case. What we want to see is if the matter has been taken in hands on right methods, so that a conclusion may be arrived at ultimately.—Two counties asked us to apply the tuberculin test to bulls. It would require a long explanation to show why we did not do so, but I may briefly tell you this, that it is physiologically impossible to use the tuberculin test on bulls except they are kept at home in their stalls. To apply the tuberculin test to animals in the show-yard would be absolutely futile.

15108. (Mr. Dryden).—Yes!—That is why the tuberculin test has not been applied.

15109. (Mr. Micks).—Was it ever suggested that before a bull would be eligible for the purpose of a premium exhibition in a Show it should be certified and produce a certificate that it has been examined for tuberculosis? That has not been suggested. That could be done, but then you open up a question that the bulk of the people would not believe in.

15109a. But that could be done?—In some cases the owner sells the animal, subject to passing the tuberculin test, but at the great sales in Scotland they are not sold, subject to the tuberculin test.

15110. I suppose it is a well-known fact that those herds are tested by the owners?—There is a great deal of gossip with regard to the tuberculin test, as to what is done and what is not done, but the fact remains that some breeders believe in it and allow their animals to be tested. Others do not, and it has not been suggested to us that the breeder should give a certificate of that kind, but it has been suggested that we should apply the test, and that is impracticable. Now, as to "Definition of a farmer." In the 1901 scheme, the term farmer was understood to mean a person who derives his means of living from farming, but the insertion of the word "principal" before "means" has been recommended, and the word "mainly" was inserted to cover that—"Carriage of bulls from Shows." Wexford asked that free carriage of bulls from sales in Ireland should be arranged. That has been done. That is to say, the bull goes back free from the Show if he gets a premium.

15111. Did you ever reply that in the opinion of the Department it would not be any use to test bulls for tuberculosis as the disease is not transmissible?—That view was not taken, but it is put forward in our leaflets. We have leaflets in which we deal with the question of tuberculosis, and that view is put forward. In 1905 Kerry passed a resolution that the Department should give a grant as well as the usual premium to applicants from the Unimproved Districts Board for purchasing bulls, and made arrangements for supplying the poorer parts of the country. Special arrangements have been made, as I shall show presently. I have not dealt with the horses.

15112. (Mr. O'Grady).—You have taken things as they come?—I have simply taken this line.

15113. (Chairman).—As I understand, that paper has not been prepared by yourself, and you have not even gone through it?—It was prepared in the office by the officer in charge of the documents. These can be submitted in the afternoon if you like to see them. The point is, I opened them at random and gave you some suggestions. I have not even dealt with all the recommendations about cattle.

15114. Are the horses dealt with in the same sort of way?—The horses are dealt with in the same way. On one side are the recommendations, and on the other side the observations as to what has been done.

15115. (Mr. Brown).—Professor Campbell has given us in a general way the history of the draught-horse question, but I think it would be well to have in the notes the dates of the resolutions of the Council of Agriculture on the subject and the steps that followed those resolutions. I am not sure whether that appeared in the evidence of Mr. Cogan. In the year April, 1904? I think it must have been earlier than that. At any rate the recommendations sent to the Department came earlier than that. I observed that one witness tried to show we had only just commenced, but this is the third year that we attended to the half-breds, although they have not been included in the general scheme.

15116. You mentioned that some of these animals had Clydesdale breeding. How many of them were bought?—This has been done since you met first.

15117. How many were bought?—A number of animals have been sent to the Department's stations, but I have not been able to see them myself.

15118. Roughly speaking?—I should say four or five.

15119. About how many of those would be distinctly traceable to Clydesdales?—Two or three. I have not seen them, and I am speaking generally, but a lady told me that they were bought from a neighbour of his. I am not very sure they are not a Clydesdale horse belonging to this very gentleman. But it does not follow that these might not be instances which could be found in which it could be proved that for a long time there was no trace of Clydesdale blood.

15120. The Department was not responsible for these purchases?—Oh, yes, our principal buyer got them for us. The Council of Agriculture have again and again urged us to stock these farms with such animals. I have again and again said that is impracticable because of these stations, with a lot of boys and the difficulties we have, we don't want to be mixing up this scheme with our many other educational functions. But as some members of the Council expressed a wish that we should buy a few and keep them on those farms, we have done so.

15121. But their pedigree was not known when you bought them; when you bought Clydesdales as the old Irish draught-horse?—I have not asked our buyer about it.

15122. (Mr. O'Grady).—It was not as the old Irish draught-horse it was bought, but simply as the nearest approach to it?—It is bought as the type that is wanted. I don't want you, please, to understand for a moment that I think all these animals are bred that way. I do think there is such an animal as the old Irish draught-horse, it is almost extinct. I also think that the advocates of these animals are quite right; it would be an excellent thing if we could get them, but I don't very much whether it is possible.

15123. (Mr. Brown).—That is the resolution at the meeting of last May. It was proposed by Mr. Harton and seconded by Mr. Huxton.

[Reads minutes of Council of Agriculture of May, 1907.]

Witness.—In pursuance of that we have bought a few. We have a separate establishment at Chancellery, and of course the intention was if we could get these animals to keep a stud of them there. One of them is at Chancellery, which has been bought recently.

15124. The only way you have to get them, is first to judge them on their form and appearance?—Yes.

15125. There is no possible way of getting with any certainty at the pedigree?—Oh, no.

15126. And those that have been purchased have been the best your expert could procure, and it has turned out as regards one or two that you have since learned that they have Clydesdale blood?—Yes. That is a very important thing, because here you have an admitted authority on horse-breeding who has been buying horses all his life who goes without reference to any pedigree, and selects what people say is the type, and then if I can show him that they have Clydesdale blood it, to a great extent, does away with the view of the gentleman who urged this scheme.

that these animals are to be got, and that these animals have in them some of the blood, they want to guard against introducing. In the evidence I gave on a previous occasion I endeavored to improve the fact that the work of the Agricultural Branch of the Department was developing and growing, and that the constitution powers and procedure of the Department were not yet fully understood. That year by year there is a greater improvement is apparent from the fact that there is less and less friction with the County Committees, and that there is more substantial and lasting work done by them. The evidence that has been given before you appears to me to bear out that statement, and in my opinion, while our work has not advanced to such a stage that it should be made the subject of an enquiry, the work of this Committee will greatly accelerate our rate of progress towards the time when all the Committees will be accomplishing the maximum of work which they can do with the means at their disposal. You remember I prepared diagrams to show the progress that had been made year by year, and in every case you will observe there was a great increase. I do not know whether at that time I gave you a statement as to the amount of money actually spent on the schemes, but I have had a return prepared showing the total expenditure of each county on agricultural schemes during the six years ending 30th September, 1905, and it is interesting as illustrating the point that we have not by any means reached our limit, and that we are gradually increasing in our expenditure and the amount of work we are doing. It is either our rate of progress I should like the Committee to consider than the actual amount that has been done. If we have made so much progress in the last six years what progress will we make in the next six years. In 1901 there was a little over £17,000 spent of the joint fund by the County Committees. That was a very small sum, due largely to the fact that the County Committees didn't quite understand how to set about the work. The farmers were not properly advised, and so on. In 1904-05 it rose to £35,000. In 1905-06 it rose close to £40,000. In 1905-06 it was £53,000. In 1906-07 it was close on £60,000. In 1906-07, the agricultural year that has just closed, and for which we will not have all our accounts in until Christmas, we know that it will be about £64,000. For the current year the estimated expenditure is £85,000, so that you will see that we are going on each year increasing the amount of money spent on these schemes, showing they are appreciated and wanted by the country.

15127. (Mr. Miles).—Have you reached the end of your funds yet?—We have.

15128. You could not continue your progress in the future unless you get more money?—No. I think, perhaps, Sir Ernest Plunket or the Secretary will deal with the finances. I might be prejudiced in favour of Agriculture.

15129. (Mr. O'Leary).—It is considerably a check at any rate!—Another form of criticism appears to me to have been founded on want of knowledge of the actual provisions of the scheme. Some of the witnesses have actually believed that the Department themselves sent out cows under the cross-breeding schemes. If a sire was not at the right breed for a district, or had been too well brought out, the blame was laid on the Department. Witnesses appear not to realise the fact that in the case of the stallions the Department registered those already in the country, and encouraged people in places where stallions were required to get new ones; that in the case of bulls the selection of the breeds of the particular animals to serve under the schemes are matters absolutely in the hands of the local committee. The Department, too, are blamed for cases where the benefits of the schemes have not been uniformly distributed in the country. There is no doubt, if you examine the maps showing the location of bulls and the location of other forms of agricultural improvement, you will see the work is not always well distributed, but sometimes it may be accounted for by the fact that the blands represent mountainous districts.

15130. (Mr. Miles).—The Boy of Allen would be a blank?—Yes, but there are other districts in other counties that have not been attended to, but should any district be systematically neglected it would be

competent for the Department to call the attention of the County Committee to the fact; but in the early years it would have been a somewhat unwarrantable interference by the Department if they had done so. If a section of the countryside are neglected they have their remedy at the next election of County Councils.

15131. Don't you think it would be within the province of the Department to point out the fact that considerable portions of areas were not served, and request the County Committee to consider that question. I do not say to put anything in the scheme to lead them, but merely to request their consideration?—We do that.

15132. Can you show us now some case of that?—Not very many. In one county there was a very poor part, and we urged that it should receive attention.

15133. The north-west?—Yes; and in parts of Tyrone. In Antrim there are one or two places where we have not only urged them to do so, but we have made special provision for the district ourselves, so poor are they.

15134. For ponies in the Glens?—Ponies and bulls. There were two bulls sent to the Glens. The County Committee naturally expect the representatives of the district to give attention to these poorer places, but we are satisfied that in some districts sufficient attention has not been given to this matter, and we have urged them to do so, and have actually made extra provision ourselves. I am referring to the congested districts. We have made extensive provision for supplementing the schemes there.

15135. Can you furnish copies of the representations?—Representations are made by the inspectors when the allocation of the funds takes place.

15136. They were made by way of report to the Department?—No. The Agricultural Inspector attends every County Committee at the beginning of the year, and the County Committee allocate the fund, usually by valuation. The inspectors have again and again pointed out that more money should be given for the poorer districts, and the Secretary of the County Committee gives these more consideration.

15137. Are these verbal representations?—Yes.

15138. Have you any written reports from inspectors commencing for the information of the Department what representations they made, and how they were received?—I am not prepared to say I have, but there are some inspectors in the room, and I am sure they could tell us the result of their representations.

15139. It is a very important question whether the poorer people are adequately provided for?—It is, but I do not admit the liability of the Department in any sense for looking after these poor districts. The County Committee themselves should do it. That is, theoretically, but practically we always are anxious to see that the County Committees do something for these districts. We thought the County Committee were neglecting Rathlin Island, and we made special provision for that island, but I do not admit any responsibility falls upon me to do it.

15140. Do you think not?—I do, I think it is unwarrantable interference with the local authority. If the district has not got its proper share it is the burden duty of the people to complain. The sooner they learn to call the attention of their local representatives to the fact, the sooner it will be remedied.

15141. (Mr. Dryden).—You don't think it is any harm to make a representation to them?—No; we do not think it a harm, and we have done it as a matter of fact; but my personal view is it should be left to the local people to stir up their own representatives.

15142. Theoretically that is right but when the local people do not do it?—The Department is not responsible for local government.

15143. (Mr. O'Leary).—Have your suggestions in the improvement of local government in matters which are of statute the business of local authorities been generally received with welcome when you have been going beyond your functions and entering into functions with which the local authorities themselves are charged?—Have you found that in this particular kind of thing you have reached the limit of your welcome?—I do not think so. I am sure they welcome it, but it is not a

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good thing for the Department's officers to take upon themselves the responsibility which rests upon the local representatives. I do not think the Department's inspector should act as the representative of any district in the county, but should go there to help them in the allocation of the grants, and if the County Committee decide to leave out any particular district or give special treatment to any particular district we should not interfere unreasonably.

15144. (Mr. Brown).—There is no instance in which the County Committee has decided to leave out a district. What happens in practice is that the people of some districts are more difficult to stir up, and to undertake the keeping of premium bulls than other districts—they are not so progressive!—That is so.

15145. I suppose you have known cases where it has been found practically impossible to get them to undertake the work?—At first, until they saw others do it.

15146. Until the way was shown for them?—Quite so. The working up of a district ought to be the duty of the Secretary of the County Committee and not the duty of the inspector.

15147. I have known a case where every possible exertion has been made by members of the Committee without success in the early days. Things have come right afterwards?—Quite so.

15148. (Mr. Dryden).—It is the duty of the State somehow to take an interest in these people?—Yes.

15149. (Mr. Brown).—But if the people living among the people cannot induce them to do it it cannot be done from the outside?—I think I am right in saying that there is now much greater uniformity in the distribution of these bulls than originally. I think that in the first years there were a few go-ahead rural districts in the county that were getting more than their share, but it has righted itself, and you will see every year a better distribution.

15150. The theory upon which we in our county started was to give one bull to each electoral division. There are twenty-one county electoral divisions, and in some of these we have never succeeded up to this in getting any person to undertake the care of a premium bull. There are some divisions in which there are three or four bulls—although every individual effort was made?—That was a case of one part of the county getting a benefit at the expense of the other, but that righted itself in a year or so. Suppose the Department had interfered in a case of that kind you would have a genuine grievance by some of the members of the Committee that the Department were dictating. That is the very thing we try to avoid. It is the very thing a few witnesses accuse us of. As far as possible we like to make the clauses of our scheme permissive.

15151. (Mr. Mick).—Before you sanction a scheme you have a great deal of power?—Yes, a great deal of power that we do not exercise.

15152. You could put in a great deal that you don't do?—Indeed, we could. We leave the local bodies to themselves as far as possible. Our inspectors are instructed not to interfere in these matters.

15153. Would I be right in saying that at first it was not observed by the Department that certain localities were shut out to a certain extent from their share of the benefits of the scheme?—Is there any district in your mind?

15154. Well, the district you mentioned, North Tyrone?—We observed that in the second year, and took a great deal of trouble to get bulls into that district—the very second year—because we observed it was being neglected. Since then the Secretary of the County Committee has himself taken care to see that the district is getting a fair share. I am not prepared to say about the present moment that it is getting all it should get, but Mr. Gordon tells me that they passed a special resolution this year co-terminating a certain sum of money for that poor district.

15155. There are all over Ireland mountainous districts where holdings are small, with poor commons, and it has been ascertained from many witnesses that those districts do not receive in the opinion of the witnesses as much attention as they ought to receive. I dare say that is so, but the Department would only have been censured by some of the County Committees if they interfered with that unfairly.

15156. Complaints as to undue interference are made with reference to the working of the technical scheme. I know!—That is a different case; a school is so different from distributing sires for agricultural purposes, we cannot very well compare the two.

15157. (Mr. Brown).—At all events, these are matters which are entirely left at present to the discretion of the County Committees?—More so than originally, because originally in places—e.g., Leitrim, Cologher, and Stranahan—we actually went ourselves, and stirred up the people, and got the animals for them. The same was done in Rathlin and the Glens of Antrim, but in a year or two we tried to get the County Committees to act for themselves. In Fermanagh, too, we did the same.

15158. And Cavan?—Yes, North-West Cavan. There is another form of criticism based upon misrepresentation of the facts. In some of the cases the witnesses appear to have arrived at their conclusions on hearsay, and apparently have not examined the facts themselves. Statements were made with regard to the number of sires in a particular district which were incorrect. For example, I remember reading the evidence of two witnesses who greatly under-estimated the actual number of sires that were located in the district, perhaps unintentionally—I should not say deliberately—but they did so as a matter of fact.

15159. (Mr. Gillett).—Definitely?—Perhaps they got their information from someone else, who was misinformed; but it was not in accordance with the facts. Then the Department, I see, were blamed for sending hackneys to the West of Ireland, which, of course, is quite contrary to the facts. There are hackneys there, but the Department did not introduce them; and, finally, some of the witnesses still adhere to their opinion that the greater bulk of the agricultural practitioners were Scotchmen or Englishmen.

15160. (Chairman).—We have got the facts as to that?—Yes, but the witnesses were not convinced.

15161. (Mr. Gillett).—Perhaps, they had not the chance of reading the evidence?—Mr. Gordon points out that one witness said there were twenty-five county and seven special premium bulls in Mayo. As a matter of fact, there are sixteen special bulls there. There was a similar case in Cavan. I only mention them as a type of the evidence that was sometimes given that was not according to the facts.

15162. I think we have, or can have, the complete return of such figures as that?—Oh, yes. I have a far deal with general criticisms, except when I was led off into special matters, on the home-breeding and cattle-breeding schemes, and the effect given by the Department to the views of the Council of Agriculture. If we turn to the schemes themselves we find that there is very little adverse criticism or misrepresentation which has not been answered by other witnesses or brought out by cross-examination. It is unnecessary for me to repeat evidence repeatedly rebutted by witnesses. I will just take the scheme themselves, and say a few words with regard to some of the evidence. I have already dealt with the Irish draught-horse scheme, and the attention which the Department has given to that, and also with the fact that it was asserted the Department had only six years taken up the half-bred horse question, whereas that has been done now for three years, and I may say I am very glad it was not taken up earlier, because our staff had ample schemes to occupy it without the additional ones that have now been asked for. In connection with the cattle-breeding scheme, several witnesses objected to the system of selected premium bulls. That question came up again and again. The objections were, however, well answered by some of the witnesses. I think, in the North of Ireland, if the bulls were selected after they are purchased, I feel sure there would be a great deal more criticism of the Department on this score than there is now. In fact, so far as I am aware, a bull until he was rare that the animal would be passed for a premium. An alternative system has been recommended, namely—that the Department should select animals before sale, but not divulge the fact, except to those selected by the County Committees to purchase the bulls. This system was tried in Cork one year in order to satisfy some of the persons who had urged it, but the owners of the animals had no difficulty in getting selected applicants of their acquaintance to go to the sale and ascertain which animals had been passed for premium.

In fact, we might as well have put the tickets up, because if a gentleman had built to sell, he was not going to sell them until he knew whether they were selected or not; and although we would not give the information to himself, he would send one of the selected applicants in to find out which was selected. This system works at Perth and Birmingham. We do not put up tickets there. The difference is that, that the Irish purchasers are complete strangers to the breeders; and, in fact, I do not think many of the Scotch breeders are aware of the system. They may be now. They were not at first. We have a private meeting of the Irish buyers in the hotel the night before, and all their catalogues are marked privately, showing which are premium animals and which are not. That works very well in Perth, where the exhibitors of the animals are quite unknown to the Irish purchasers; but at Ballbridge and Belfast, where everyone knows everyone else, it would be impossible to do so, as we proved by trying the practice in Cork. It was frequently asserted that the system of marking bulls passed for premiums raised the price, and that the premium goes to the breeder. The fact seems to have been overlooked that it is the demand, which has been created by the County Committees themselves, that has raised, to some extent, the price of bulls. Another fact has been entirely overlooked; that within the past five years the average price of bulls has risen enormously, independently of the demand in Ireland. At Perth, five years ago, the average price would be £22. Last year the average price was £70. That is not due to the premium system in Ireland. It is due to the enhanced value now being placed on good shorthorn bulls, particularly for export; so I do not think this putting up of the tickets has increased the price. Tickets are put up over white shorthorn bulls, but they are not in demand, and, therefore, the price is not raised by the ticket. Tickets are put over Galloway bulls at Ballbridge, but the price is not raised, because people do not want them. It is the shorthorn action of the thirty-two counties that has raised the price here, also the fact that the value of shorthorn animals has largely increased throughout the world in the last five years. I myself would be very glad, indeed, if the breeder got some share of the premiums, because it is perfectly obvious that until you get the breeders to go on for producing high-class premium bulls no scheme that the Department could devise, and no money that could be voted, would increase the value of our cattle until we get these bulls. There is still an insufficient supply of bulls. We want about 1,000 every year, and we have never been able to get 900. It will be so until more breeders take up the work. I am glad to say that owing to the enhanced price of shorthorn animals there has been a great increase in the number of people breeding these animals.

15163. (Mr. Brown.)—We had some evidence recently from a breeder, who said he had brought out young bulls to sell here, and had to take them away again, and finally sell them off to the butcher—I think it was quite unnecessary, seeing so many bulls are wanted.

15164. (Mr. Dryden.)—There must have been something peculiar about the bulls; I am afraid the bulls were not very attractive to the purchaser. That occurred in 1901, and the bulls were three-year-old bulls, and there was no premium for them. Year by year farmers have gone home disappointed. If their bulls were average, they would be rejected in these early years. I take great exception to these witnesses, who come forward and blame the inspectors for not exceeding their duty.

15165. (Mr. O'Neil.)—If that did occur, if a man brought out his bulls and they were not sold within the last year or two, and the bulls were not over-age, that could only have happened if there was something the matter with the bulls—Oh, yes; and a prohibitive price was being asked. A few people put very high prices on their animals, and have to bring them home again. Then, too, farmers who bring up old bulls will never get a good sale for them, even with premiums. A farmer wants a young one, because there is a great deal of potentiality about a young animal that there is not about an old one. The young one may increase in value very much.

15166. (Mr. Brown.)—As a matter of fact, it may be taken that there is no year in which you have been able to purchase the full number of bulls required by the County Committees?—Every year we have a large

deficiency. In the season just finished we wanted over 900, and we had 829 altogether. In the earlier years there was a great deficiency.

15167. There was another criticism on that point, which we have heard several times, that the Department required for placing bulls for premiums that the bulls should be in something like actual show-yard condition as against what is really the essential condition for the animal, and that that applies not merely in selecting them for premiums the first time, but what is more important to the farmer in the renewal?—Of course what the farmers want in this country is bulls with some substance, and when a bull of that kind comes before the inspector and is passed, it is a common thing to say that the bull that is selected is fat, but there is a great difference between fat and flesh.

15168. (Mr. Dryden.)—That is my doctrine!—Of course, there are some bulls that come forward that look lean and badly done, but they may have been far better fed than others that look fatter. We want an animal that will produce stock that will make the most of the food it eats. It is a very plausible excuse to say the inspectors selected fat bulls, but I deny that entirely. I have had an opportunity myself, many first-class breeders have had an opportunity, of looking into the selections made by the Department's inspectors, and I deny absolutely that they selected animals because of their condition.

15169. (Mr. Brown.)—Objection has also been made with respect to that question of inspecting premium bulls, that the inspection should be at the farm itself, and that they should not be required to go to a centre?—The Advisory Committee is very strong on the point that we ought not to inspect the bulls at the owner's residence. They say if you make him bring them out to a central place there will be an opportunity of comparing them all, and the public will see in what condition the man is keeping his animal. It is a great detriment to a man neglecting his bull when he knows that he has to bring him out for the people to see. Then it would take a great deal of money from the Department to send their inspectors to 855 farms. You have had some experience of travelling in Ireland, and you know how costly it would be to go to 855 houses.

15170. (Mr. McKel.)—And the time it would take?—Yes; and over and above that, the point made by the Advisory Committee is an excellent one—that these animals should be judged in public.

15171. (Mr. Dryden.)—Is it the case that some of the farmers who serve their animals say that they are unfit for use?—It is not so bad as it was. In the early years some of these animals were badly treated. Now, this year, we sent out one fine thoroughbred sire, the man only had him a month, but he abused him so badly that we had to take him back, and shoot him.

15172. (Mr. McKel.)—Would it be local hay and local oats?—He did not get any at all, I think; but I want to tell you that every year we are getting from our inspectors' reports that these animals are being better and better kept, but they would not have been if the Department's inspectors had passed badly-fed animals. The Department's inspectors say—"You have not cared for this bull, and you will lose your premium."

15173. (Mr. O'Neil.)—As a matter of fact, now it would be very rare to have a case of malnutrition?—It is very rare, but it existed to a great extent at first.

15174. (Mr. Brown.)—Are a number of bulls refused constantly a second or third year's premium on account of condition or age?—Five per cent. were refused this year for all causes. A lot go off because they are old, and of those that remain we expect five per cent. will be rejected. Another criticism with regard to the bull scheme was that the Department's inspectors favoured certain breeders, and it was suggested that the judges who act on behalf of the Show Societies at Dublin, Belfast, Londonderry, and Cork, should be utilised for the purpose of selecting bulls for premiums. I deny utterly the statement that the Department's inspectors are influenced in any way by the breeders. If there is any man in the country who can ignore the buyers and breeders alike, it is the Department's inspector. Mr. Gordon takes charge of that department.

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15175. (Mr. Mick.)—I think the suggestion was that the old system of the Royal Dublin Society should be followed?—As regards that suggestion that judges from Great Britain at the Show should select the bulls for premiums, I want to point out that the inevitable result would be that animals rejected at Dublin by an English judge would be passed next week at Belfast by a Scotch judge, and that while we know our own Inspectors and are certain that they are not influenced by breeders, we would have no guarantee that gentlemen from Great Britain would act likewise. At the Royal Dublin Society, animals might be passed by the judges, but they could not judge them the following year. The reason that we have no complications of that kind is that if our Inspectors have the bulls before them the third week in April at Ball's Bridge, and they go to Belfast the next week and the same bulls appear, the bulls rejected at Dublin will again be rejected at Belfast, or the bulls rejected at Belfast will be rejected again at Londonderry, so there is no chance of a breeder going from place to place in the hope that if a judge rejects his bull at one place, he may pass at another. Moreover, the Department's Inspectors have to see these bulls again and pass them for a second, third, or fourth premium. Are the Department going to give up their responsibility to casual gentlemen from Great Britain where so much money is involved? I am sure you will say they would be wrong to do so, even if it were practicable.

15176. The Department's Inspectors necessarily must examine for the second and third year?—Yes. You could not get the same judges to come over each year, and if these gentlemen passed a low grade bull which next year had to be put off, the County Committee would blame the Department. The Department are not prepared to devolve their responsibility on gentlemen from Great Britain for such important work. There was another suggestion which would appear more reasonable to the Committee, namely, that animals should be passed by representatives of the County.

15177. I think the idea was that the County men and the Inspector should go on in area through the Show yard?—Quite so. Now, our Inspectors have only two areas, and there are thirty-two Counties, and there would be absolute confusion if you had thirty-two judges at work in Ball's Bridge in addition to your own. We have had that difficulty with the County Committee work. One County Committee forgets that thirty-one others are at work also, even just now under the present system there is confusion when the buyers come up. It is only a year or two ago I saw two farmers claiming the same bull and the police had to be brought in to separate them. I do not know what would happen if you had thirty-two judges and thirty-two discussions over each bull.

15178. (Mr. O'Neill.)—Suppose it was only a case of removal of the bull already placed in the County?—There is something to be said for that.

15179. (Mr. Mick.)—You would not have thirty-two reports on one bull. The judges from all the Counties would not all differ from each other?—The Department have carefully thought out how best to work this, and I think you had before you a witness who has testified that it is the best that could be devised.

15180. (Mr. O'Neill.)—About the renewals?—Well, it is not imperative that the existing bulls should be inspected by a local judge. I certainly would object to a native of the County judging it because he would be influenced, or liable to be influenced by his neighbour who might have a bull. I have no doubt the time may come when that work may be devolved upon the County Committee. At present, I feel that the system of the Department doing it is the better one. A great many of the County Committees desire it; they want an independent judge, and then for another reason the Department are sometimes able to do it at much less cost than the local authorities. For example, the cost at the present time comes out of the Imperial Treasury, but if a local man was doing it it would come out of the Department's endowment. We are glad to save our endowment as much as possible.

That is all I wish to say with regard to the live stock schemes. Now, with regard to the Agricultural Instruction scheme, I think the chief criticism is the delay in the supply of instructors to teachers, but I have already explained very fully to the Committee our difficulty in getting a supply of teachers, and we were not at work three months in 1900 until we made provision for them. I anticipate what would be the inevitable consequence of not having trained men here, but with the success of a little patience we will soon be able to supply all that is required. We have trained a large number of men and there are a large number of young men being trained, and this year we were able to fill up a large number of vacancies. There were nine men passed this year out of the Royal College of Science. Two are attached to educational institutions, and Mayo, Leitrim, Galway, Kerry, Longford, King's County, and Londonderry are well supplied with an itinerant instructor in agriculture. There are now only two Counties that have not had instructors in agriculture, but there are a few who are employing their agricultural instructor as giving itinerant lectures, but in giving systematic instruction at school centres. Donegal and Dublin are the only two Counties that have never had an itinerant instructor. Donegal, at one time, refused making an appointment. They advertised in the Press of Great Britain for an instructor, and a number of men applied, and one man was selected as having got the necessary qualifications. We did not recommend him, but we said we would let them have him on trial for a month. They had him on trial and were not satisfied, and we said, "Very well you can part with him." One witness told you that he had put Alpine expressions on a blackboard. The Department put the whole expense of the trial and since then Donegal has not had one. It is the case, no doubt, that one of these young men when they go out do talk over the heads of the farmers a little bit; they must avoid it, but we consider the first two years a part of that man's training. I do not consider him trained when he comes out of the College.

15181. (Chairman.)—You mean two years' school work?—Yes, before I consider that man is fit for his work. And I think you will find that in some of the counties where itinerant instructors have been at work for several years these men have toned down, and you had most excellent evidence of the good work that is being done by them; and perhaps you would not have had that if they had been at work for one year.

15182. (Mr. O'Neill.)—That is a petriole which has applied in the case of elementary school teachers. One witness, speaking of the training of teachers, told us that the scholarship scheme was a failure in that it had not attracted Irishmen for instruction, and consequently the Department had been giving these scholarships to young men from England and Scotland?—That is absolutely untrue. A student must have been resident in Ireland for a number of years.

15183. The witness was resident in Ireland, I think, all his life. Perhaps you mean the students?—The scholarships are confined to Irish students. There were ten given this year. I forget how many originally entered, but there were actually fifty-six Irishmen turned up to compete. So that it is quite untrue to say there is no competition. I have said that the chief criticism of the agricultural instruction scheme was that competent men were not supplied. We admit, of course, and am very sorry that we cannot supply the men, but this want cannot be met all at once. And I am absolutely convinced of the utility of paying for anyone who has not had a first-class training. A highly-trained man may for the first year talk over the heads of the farmers; but he very soon begins to find that the knowledge he gained at the College of Science is to be kept merely as a man for his own guidance, as information on which he has to base the advice he gives, just as a medical man does not describe all he has learned in College to various reasons. But at the same time he advises his patient what to do. So an agricultural instructor may not tell you the reasons which have led him to come to a certain conclusion. But at the same time he needs those if his advice is to be sound, and based on scientific facts. As regards the other work which is chiefly done through the County Committee—namely,

the schemes dealing with poultry-keeping, butter-making, horticulture, bee-keeping, I think the evidence on the whole has been so favourable, and the progress of the work under these schemes is so hopeful that I propose to pass them over without any further evidence.

15184. (Chairman).—I think you are justified in doing that.—Now, with regard to the Department's general policy, with regard to agricultural education, there was a great deal of misunderstanding on the part of some of the witnesses. You will remember that it includes the training of teachers in the Royal College of Science; then as initial period of itinerant instruction, during which the instructors are themselves being trained, and they are gaining the confidence of the farmers, and learning the local conditions. That is followed by a period of winter schools of agriculture, and that in turn has to be followed by residential schools, either in the form of agricultural stations or agricultural schools proper. That is briefly the programme, as outlined in the Vice-President's Memorandum on Agricultural Education, 1901; and although we have departed from that slightly, the main outlines of that scheme have been adhered to. And it will be a few years, of course, before this programme can be fully established. It is the part of the programme in which we are most interested, and which, we believe, eventually will have the most effect. But time is required to make it the success which we hope to see it. Two counties have never yet had itinerant instructors; seven or eight have got them this year for the first time. Some have had instructors one year or two years. A few have had them sufficiently long to warrant them in abandoning that form of instruction, and having a system of agricultural schools, and we are at that stage at present. We have started some agricultural schools—Monaghan and Downpatrick. Monaghan, at any rate, has a permanent agricultural school. It has become residential. That was started as an experiment, as a feeder, so to speak, for the time when we would have to start some of them. That has been now three or four years in existence. It is a winter school, but it is a permanent establishment. In the Vice-President's Memorandum it was contemplated that we would in time have a large number of these schools. The agricultural stations are more or less experiments. We have one in Cork, one in Ulster, and one at Athlone, and I myself always contemplated that we would have another in North Munster, another in South-East Leinster, and at least one in Ulster. I never contemplated going beyond that.

15185. (Mr. Dryden).—You have a regular course of instruction in these places?—Yes; but they serve another purpose as stations. Some of the witnesses appeared to think that these were going to be established in every county. About six in all I would like to recommend. But we do expect that there will be a large increase in the number of winter schools; it might be schools without any land attached to them at all, or schools with only a small amount of land attached to them. They might be residential or non-residential. We have not yet arrived at a period when we can establish a permanent county school.

15186. (Mr. Micks).—Is it altogether winter schools you are speaking about?—Yes, because I think you will never get the farmers of Ireland to send their sons to the summer schools.

15187. While the labour is valuable. What would you do with a winter school?—Theoretical instruction, visiting, of course, the farms in the neighbourhood.

15188. (Mr. O'Leary).—As in Clonmel and Cork?—Those are classes not intended to be permanent unless the County Committee like them so well that they want them to be permanent. The county classes are simply an outcome of itinerant instruction leading up to that scheme. I hope for the time when we will see many schools in Ireland where agriculture technically, if not theoretically, will be taught. With regard to the central schemes that the Department works from the central office, such as poultry-fattening, calf-feeding, investigation of disease in animals, administration of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, registration of dairy cattle, field experiments, barley-growing, early potato growing, tobacco growing, fruit growing, fruit and vegetable drying, forestry, peat, and experiments, cheese making, creameries, surprise butter competi-

tions, and several other schemes. I don't propose to go into them, because there was not much attention paid to them. Chief attention was directed to the county schemes.

15189-90. (Mr. Micks).—When we visited Athlone I observed a large tract of moor that I learned had been in possession of the Department when the farm was purchased by them?—Yes.

15191. And since then I find that this moor land had been sold to an adjoining owner of land. It occurred to me to ask for an explanation, especially as that very large tract of moor land was in a county where reclamation is one of the questions to be considered, why the Department did not retain in their own hands that moor land with the object of giving practical instruction in reclamation to the students?—Well, if that bog had been near the farm I think I would have personally liked to retain it. But as a matter of fact, it is about a mile and a quarter to Athlone, and then it is two miles up to the bog. There is no direct road across without going through a tenant's land. You would have to go to Athlone, and then go round all that distance to it. That is one reason—that it was very far away.

15192. The map would not give me that idea?—Well, there is no road.

15193. Is there not a track for foot passengers?—You would have to take carts and horses.

15194. I had in view the reclamation of, say, a quarter acre a year, that each class could take in hand year after year for a great number of years. There would be enough to serve them there for a century in the way of instruction?—The same was used about a small wood that was sold at the time, that that might have been kept. My answer is first of all that there is no road to it, and it is a very long way around.

15195. But it is quite near your nearest field?—There is no road, and we would have to get a right of way through a tenant's land.

15196. The tenant was your tenant at the time. There would have been no difficulty in arranging with the Estates Commissioners?—I think there would. I think the Estates Commissioners found it hard enough to settle with this tenant without asking for a right of way for us. You cannot carry on agricultural education of that kind unless you have it under the eye of the superintendent.

15197. Was that difficulty considered at the time?—It was. We wanted to retain all the mountain to breed a handy race of sheep on it; but the tenants would not have tolerated the Department keeping that land, and there were also agrarian troubles at the time.

15198. Not an acre of this land has gone to the tenants?—They got the good land, but not the bog.

15199. They got the land that was in their own occupation?—Yes, and a good deal more.

15200. This large bog has been sold, not to the tenant, but to an outsider?—That was left to the Estates Commissioners. What the Department wanted was to get clear of all agrarian troubles. They marked off on the map the areas they wanted for their primary objects—a station for stock in Connought and for breeding stock in Connought.

15201. Is not this an agricultural college for Connought?—No; I think not. They won't be satisfied with that. It is intended to have an agricultural school attached to it. But the primary object of the land is a sub-centre for Connought to enable us to decentralise as much as possible. There are a whole lot of small medium that farmers in the West write to us about that can be much better dealt with there. And we contemplate having offices there to relieve the central office of such operations. That was the first thing. Then there were agrarian troubles, and we were glad to get quit of that. We did intend at first to sell to the tenants ourselves; but afterwards we asked the Estates Commissioners, as they were the body dealing with land, to constitute this an estate, and divide it up among the tenants as they thought fit. It was never so me to some extent to learn that the bog had not gone to the tenants, but to an adjoining owner. We had nothing to do with it. The Estates Commissioners seemed to satisfy the tenants very well. There has been no trouble since.

15202. It is not from that point of view I ask you? There is no doubt it would be useful to have a piece of bog land, and we have such in Ballyhaise, and when we come to have further agricultural schools, and have

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to deal with the reclamation of the turf we must have some bog. I personally was very glad to get the Estates Commissioners to take up that land, and dispose of it.

152303. They were your leaders in that transfer transaction?—Yes; and they did the work very well. It was a great relief to me personally, for I found it impossible to deal with these tenants.

152304. (Mr. Brown).—We had a considerable body of evidence on the question of school gardens!—With regard to school gardens, there is no one more in favour of them than I am. I think one effect will be, if we start school gardens now, that the horticultural plots that have been started by our horticultural instructors will be neglected. Instead of attending to them, and making them the success they anticipated, the horticultural instructor's time will be fully devoted to school gardens; and my own feeling is that if we are going to have school gardens let us have separate men for them, and let us not jeopardize the success of our horticultural plots.

152305. The idea is that the horticultural plots should be attached to the schools?—That is not a school garden. In school gardens each boy has his plot.

152306. It is not necessary it should be done that way. The idea is that your demonstration plots or horticultural plots should be in the vicinity of schools where practical instruction can be given to the children?—Where they can be used for the children as well as the adults?

152307. (Mr. O'Leary).—Not necessarily the same plot for children as for adults—I think you will never make school gardens a success unless you make them educational, and just suited for the children. We train all our men at Glasnevin on that system. We have school gardens there, so that if they have to take up this work they could know how to run these school gardens. But I personally fear that the foundations that have been laid in horticulture might be neglected, and nothing built on them.

152308. (Chairman).—That is, that the horticultural instructors would have too much to do?—Yes.

152309. (Mr. Brown).—Suppose you take a county where the horticultural plots are neglected, the people take no interest in them, but where there is a strong anxiety that they should be brought to the vicinity of a school, and the children should be interested in them?—I was not thinking of the horticultural demonstration plots. But instructors have been to villages, and got the owners of cottages in those villages to plant some trees. In the case of fruit from you want a man to go to those people, and see that the fruit trees are not neglected. A great many people imagine all they have to do is to plant fruit trees. But they must prune them and spray them, and they want instruction for that. And I fear in counties where trees have been planted in cottage gardens they will be neglected if the instructors are taken off to attend to school gardens. There are a large number of schools in a county, and they will all want school gardens.

152310. Not necessarily?—I don't say they will get them, but they will want them.

152311. Supposing in the beginning it was only proposed to have such a limited number as a horticultural instructor could reach consistently with his other duties?—The question is, can he, consistently with his present duties, do it?

152312. Suppose it is substituted for his lectures?—He lectures at night time, and he cannot very well do gardening work at night time, at least, not in the winter.

152313. But his travelling over the county for the lectures takes up a lot of time?—Yes, but he has got to go over the county some way. I am thoroughly in favour of school gardens. I have not lost sight of them. You will see such gardens at Glasnevin, where we train our men, and we are prepared to show you excellent specimens.

152314. (Mr. Micks).—Is not Mr. Brown's question—could not the who for those demonstration plots be supplied in the vicinity of a school?—How many would he have?

152315. (Mr. Brown).—Say ten; there are ten already which it is proposed to abandon; they have not been a success?—If you have ten, won't you have a demand for twenty next winter?

(Mr. Brown).—Certainly not. If the horticultural instructor cannot attend to them consistently with his other duties.

152316. (Mr. Micks).—The desire for twenty is a sign that things are going well; whereas the desire to let the ten go is a sign that the present system is not going well?—I don't want you to take it that I am against this. But I object to the county, having spent money planting trees, abandoning them and going for something new.

152317. Is it not desirable to them far more to say, "You shall have no horticultural instructor at all"?—No; what I say is let us have a separate man for this work. I don't think you would require quite as high-paid a man for a school garden as a horticultural instructor. A school garden might be done by a man who had not the same qualifications or training.

152318. I think the instruction in a school garden ought to be of the best possible description. You also have the teachers of these schools most anxious to co-operate in every possible way?—Yes; they might be trained.

152319. And the horticultural instructor should visit the school once a week, and anything done in the meantime should be done under his direction by the teacher of the school?—In the spring time when he is teaching a lot of children in the classes to plant seeds that they will want to be at his elbow pretty constantly.

152320. (Chairman).—Could not the work be done by the teachers with a general supervision?—I think it would require the time of one man.

152321. (Mr. Dryden).—Would not it depend on the interest and enthusiasm of the teachers?—Certainly, it would.

152322. (Mr. O'Leary).—It could not be taken up unless the teacher of a school was himself not nearly enthusiastic, but to some extent interested in the subject. And with that, perhaps, a less frequent and less continuous attention on the part of the horticultural instructor than you contemplate, might suffice?—It is just one of those points on which we touch the work of the National Commissioners. I am not sure how far this would be better worked in connection with the National Commissioners or with the Technical Instruction Branch.

152323. (Chairman).—If that difficulty could be got over and you could really get a proper supervision of these gardens without unduly interfering with the time of the horticultural instructor, you would be strongly in favour of this scheme?—Very strongly. I would like to see each National School in Ireland with its school garden. If it rests with us I am prepared to do all I can to encourage it.

152324. (Mr. Brown).—The gardens are there and it is part of the scheme in some counties; plots are given to teachers for the best kept gardens?—Yes.

152325. (Mr. O'Leary).—As to the central scheme we have it suggested to us that it would be at least desirable that the Department should have communicated with the local authorities before placing at their headquarters an institution like a tobacco establishment with which they had no connection. The establishment was put up without your saying, "We are going to do it."

(Mr. Micks).—In King's County?

152326. (Mr. O'Leary).—The same thing would apply to some of your central colleges?—All our central administrative schemes would apply equally to the whole country. Whenever we have work that can be uniformly distributed over a county we delegate it much as we can to the County Committee. But tobacco is a crop that costs an immense sum of money and can only be established in a few places, as the Inland Revenue authorities would allow. If we asked the County Committees to select centres, we could not have selected their own county. We could only do it in three places. If we ever got to that stage when tobacco-growing becomes general, by all means let us have tobacco-growing in every county, and an instructor in every county. I know objection was taken to the Department planting fruit plots without consulting the local people. But our object was to get the Irish fruit into the English markets, and for that reason we selected the very first centres we could find, and got a sufficiently large area planted in one

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correspondence, I have to state that the Department has had under consideration the resolution of your Committee to expend \$110 for the equipping of a fax mill, and \$250 for opening limestone quarries. But in the absence of details of the precise manner in which it is proposed to spend these amounts, it is impossible to arrive at any decision. The Department must accordingly repeat the request already made to you that these particulars should be furnished as soon as possible, and in order to assist your Committee they furnish the following particulars to be answered:—Is it proposed to use the proposed mill entirely for the purpose of instruction in scotchling? Is there a fax mill already at Ardara, and if not, how far is the nearest fax mill from that place? What is the nature and estimated cost of the equipment required? To whom will the mill belong? By whom is it to be managed, and how is the cost of working it to be met? If it is intended to use the mill for the scotchling of the fax of the farmers in the neighbourhood, what amount per stone is to be charged for each scotchling? If the mill is to be used for above purpose, will any private interest be affected thereby? With regard to the limestone quarries, what is the nature of the instruction to be provided under this part of the education scheme? On what stones is the sum of £150 set aside to be expended? (1) Both instruction and the scotchling of fax in the district alone. (2) No; there is no mill nearer than Farn, eight miles distant. (3) About £100; £78 to twelve stocks, £30 to repair the present wheel. (4) A co-operative company will be formed if necessary, and the management will be given to one member of it. The cost of working would be met by the money of the shareholders and the price of fax sent into it. (5) The people are prepared to give even more per stone for scotchling in Ardara than in other mills. The price will not be higher than other mills in the district. (6) No."

15945. (Mr. Misk).—Where are the existing mills?—There is one at Killa and one at Ballina.

15946. Is it home-grown fax they are dealing with?—Yes; there is not a considerable quantity there, but it is capable of development. We have sent down buyers and engineers and engineers to inspect how a co-operative mill could be started. But it has fallen through. Now, with regard to the limestone quarries, "What is the nature of the instruction to be provided under this part of the agricultural instruction scheme?" The reply to that—at we not answered at all. "On what stones is the sum of £250 set aside under this head to be expended?" In making a road to approach the site of the quarry. "To whom will the quarries belong, and how is the cost of maintaining them to be met?" To the present tenant of the land on which it is situated. "If the line produced is to be sold, what price is it proposed to charge thereby?" The price as fixed by the owner. "Will any private interest be affected by the sale of lime from this quarry?" It will compete with private quarries some miles distant. "Who is intended to have the management of the quarry?" Answer, "the owner." There is a long correspondence after this. I mention this to show that the scheme was not easily refused. But there are two important principles involved in this. First of all, you see, there was no scheme that has ever been before the Agricultural Board which contemplated giving money for limestone quarries, or for distributing spraying machines. And before the Department could give a satisfactory reply to that, they would have to work all this out in great detail and bring it before the Board.

15947. Is there not something like this in Monaghan?—No. Monaghan is the only other county that brought it forward. The production of limestone and the making of roads to limestone quarries is not a proper use, in my opinion, of money meant for education. It would interfere with private enterprise. The proper thing is a co-operative society. We have sent Mr. Lyburn repeatedly to Monaghan. We have analysed the materials and given them all the advice we can. We are prepared to give them engineers, and organisers. But the Department has never gone in for supplying lime. If they supplied lime, why not supply artificial manure? If you supply artificial manure, why not implements? And if implements,

why not cattle? And if cattle, why not a man's coat?

15948. (Chairman).—Are you aware whether there is any legal difficulty in the way?—I don't know, but there are financial difficulties sufficient. The Board have approved of assisting in the establishment of co-operative fax mills, and have done so in several cases. And I would be only too glad if we could get something of the kind done at Ardara.

15949. (Mr. Misk).—You would hardly do it then if there is an existing one at the other side of the water?—It would be difficult; but I had hoped that the manager of the present mill would see that it would be an advantage to the country to have his rights.

15950. Or he might take your assistance?—Yes; at one time I hoped he would. I have had much correspondence on this subject.

15951. (Chairman).—When was the thing finally settled—give us the dates?—There was a long correspondence, extending from the 30th December, 1902, to June, 1906. With regard to Mayo, there was another complaint about an agricultural instructor. They appointed an agricultural instructor. He was a local man, who had no training. He was asked to attend the Department to be examined. He was examined, and not found to be qualified. The Mayo County Committee wanted the Department to train him, and the Department said "Certainly," but he has got to compete with all others for this scholarship to be trained. It would be totally unfair that the Department should admit to the College of Science a nominee of a County Committee when there are forty or fifty rejected candidates, as there are this year. But this man did not submit himself for examination.

15952. (Mr. O'Brien).—Had the Department suggested any candidate properly qualified for the work in Mayo?—Yes; there was another gentleman sent forward, Mr. Perkins, who, in addition to being qualified in agriculture, was a fluent Irish speaker. But they refused him. I think they refused him because the Department recommended him.

15953. The Department had accepted him as qualified?—Yes. He went down, and addressed his meeting in Irish, but perhaps they did not understand it. He was examined in Irish by one of the members.

15954. (Mr. Brown).—The other candidate had no qualifications except that he was a Mayo man. I daresay he may have been a peasant farmer.

15955. (Mr. O'Brien).—Had he been farming for some time?—I think so; a small farmer. The complaint is that the Department did not train him. But the Department could not pass over another candidate for the scholarship unless he passed. Another committee was Donaghy. Donaghy is very much of a blank, except as regards the live-stock scheme, the farm prices, and show schemes. These are all working, and working satisfactorily enough. The difficulty arose over the appointment of an Assistant Instructor, who was a native of the county. Two girls applied. The Department refused to examine them on the ground that they were natives of the county, but requested them both to submit themselves for examination, with a view to being sanctioned for other counties. Both accepted the invitation. One presented herself, and failed to pass the examination. She was two terms of two months each at the Munster Institute in 1902-3, and she took eleventh place out of twelve in the class at the end of the second term. It was intimated that the Department "failed" this girl to get them out of a difficulty. That is not so. Father-making instructors have to go through a course at the Munster Institute of not two months or four months, but of four five sessions. And they do not consider that a girl is qualified to earn a salary of £100 who has only undergone a course of instruction of two or, at the most, of four months. No one has ever been allowed, to my knowledge, to qualify (ordinarily for many years) as a teacher unless they have been there for several terms. And with regard to the second candidate, after accepting the invitation she acted on the advice of a friend, a member of the Committee, it was stated, and refused to submit herself for examination. This girl was six weeks at the Albert College in the old days. That was a six weeks' course to assist girls who were making bother at home to improve their methods. I am sure the girl was very sensible in not coming forward, because she knew she had not been trained. If the county had sufficient funds, and if the county could be divided into two, as

in the case of Cork, there would have been no objection whatever to a girl from one side of the county working on the other side, and vice versa. That you might allow quite fairly.

18255. (Mr. Micks).—Do you remember the proposal of the local committee?—I do not.

18256. That map shows the four Parliamentary divisions in the County Donegal. The proposal of the local committee was that the instructions should not be employed in the division of which she was a native?—I think Sir Horace Plunkett attended a meeting of the Committee and agreed to that.

18257. They said if that was agreed to they had nothing further to say?—That was agreed to.

18258. Then, the difficulty may be regarded as settled?—I am afraid it is not. The difficulty is that they don't have the money. Very few counties have money for two instructors. But there is no reason whatever why that should not be done. Sir Horace Plunkett himself went down and pointed out to the Committee that the Council of Agriculture was the place to bring this forward; and if the Council of Agriculture considered that this resolution of the Department should be postponed, rescinded it should be. But that was never brought forward by the representatives of Donegal.

18259. (Chairman).—The rule prevailing at the time was that you would not appoint an instructor who was a native of the county?—That is so.

18260. (Mr. Brown).—Can you tell us when that rule was made?—I am not quite sure.

18261. (Mr. Micks).—At the start, I suppose?—No, not at the start. It was because of the difficulties that in practice arose that we made the rule. It was made after we had experience of the other rule, and at the private request of numerous members of Committees who, although they may not have expressed it in public, have privately told us it is a most beneficial rule.

18262. It was an existing rule, and you acted on it?—Yes, and the only counties that have raised any objections are Donegal and Limerick. It does not trouble Limerick much, because they have appointed an instructor lately who is not a native of the county. But in Donegal it still remains a difficulty.

18263. The evidence we got when Monsignor McGlynn gave his evidence was that the only question at issue was would you or would you not recognise that a native of one Parliamentary Division might be eligible for employment in another?—There is a question behind that. Are they going to have two instructors. We never contemplated more than one.

18264. It is a very large county?—That is so. At the outset they usually begin with one. I personally can see no reason why a girl who was born in one part of a county cannot work in another part. We have that in the Counties Cork and Tipperary.

18265. And you might try it in Donegal, which is probably on the same level as regards soil?—In Donegal this year they have made provision for one agricultural instructor, one poultry, one horticultural, and two butter-making instructors.

18266. If you agree to their proposal where there is only one, it would mean that one division would be cut out. But Donegal is large enough to have two if it had funds?—Yes.

18267. (Chairman).—Have you also come to terms with Donegal?—No, because we have been waiting for them to bring the matter forward at the Council of Agriculture. They have not done so.

18268. In this particular case you acted on the rule and the Donegal people resented that, and did not appoint any instructor at all?—That is so.

18269. (Mr. Brown).—You could not in the first instance have approved of either of these appointments because they had not the qualifications?—Only one was examined, but that point did not arise at the outset.

18270. (Chairman).—That was subsequent. You had refused to train. You examined as to whether she was competent to go somewhere else?—Quite so, and the case did not come up at all. If the girl really was qualified it would be a hardship if she could not get employment, and we would have very soon got her employment elsewhere. Other candidates were wanted. Another statement with regard to this is that under the Technical Instruction Scheme this is not the rule that is enforced, and that the National Commissioners do not enforce it. But the teachers under the National Commissioners have no patronage to bestow, as our agricultural and horticultural and

poultry instructors have. They have a great deal of patronage. They go round and select the beneficiaries under a scheme, and, rightly or wrongly, people think they are going to get something. I believe Donegal sent round a snowball resolution. Some counties approved of it, and some took no notice. But all the other counties, whatever they may have said to that resolution, are very glad indeed of this rule.

18271. At all events, they have not asked you to modify it?—No, they welcome it. I don't know whether there is any other county where there is any certain complaint.

18272. (Mr. Micks).—There was a question from Cavan over instructions. Some change of front was pointed out in the newspapers.

18273. (Mr. Brown).—You are not speaking of evidence?

(Mr. Micks).—No.

(Witness).—It was also stated in Donegal that no application for premiums could be obtained for the Congested Districts owing to the high price of animals. Mr. Gordon tells me that they got more applications than they could give premiums for, and passed the names on to the Department with the request that the Department should supply the bulls, and that was done. The statement was made by Monsignor McGlynn (Q. 7185).

18274. (Mr. Brown).—This was a resolution of his Committee which he was there giving?—My reply to that is that they got more applications than they could fulfil, and we gave special premiums to those where they could not supply in the congested portions.

18275. This answer I read is rather a criticism on the practice of marking premium bulls?—It is more than that. It states positively that the premium scheme is not taken up in the Congested Districts. Now, we have no difficulty whatever—I think Mr. Gordon will bear me out in that—we have no difficulty whatever in getting these premiums taken up in the Congested Districts. The county wants a little organisation, but there is a Secretary for that purpose. I say that in addition to the county premiums, eighteen bulls were given in Donegal this year.

18276. I see here the Donegal Committee also claim that the Department should contribute at least £3 for every £1 of rate raised in the county. Isn't it a fact that Donegal and some other counties get a higher proportion than many other counties in Ireland of the endowment?—They do, and in addition they get a very large sum of money which is spent directly by the Department, quite apart from the county schemes.

18277. Can you tell us what proportion Donegal gets?—Three-fifths or 30s. per £, as against five-ninths in other counties.

18278. (Mr. Micks).—I think you have already prepared a financial statement showing the amount of expenditure in Congested Districts for agricultural purposes since the agricultural work was handed over to the Department?—I can certainly give you the figures for this year. I am not prepared to say I can give you the figures from the beginning. They are only three years.

18279. Before going for the afternoon would you kindly say if there is not, as I thought there was, a statement giving such particulars in the Congested Districts that have been handed over to the Department, a statement showing what expenditure has been made by the Department since the work was handed over by the Congested Districts Board?—I will deal with that. I think on the last occasion when I gave evidence you rather demanded to the statement which I made that the staff which I represented were placed in a position totally different to that of any other portion of the service known to me in that while the Council of Agriculture and County Councils and Agricultural Board called for work to be done, the staff was supplied by the Treasury, and while the country told them they were going too slow, the Treasury insisted they were going too fast.

18280. Have they said that?—Most assuredly. Mr. Spring Rice, even earlier, thought so. Well, we were going much slower than then we are now. He came over here and went in to work, I may assume, and said we were going too fast. I can only hope that the experience you have had during the course of this investigation has led the Committee to the same opinion as myself. The Department are responsible for the supervision of the expenditure on all county schemes; and for this work, including agricultural education, agricultural schools, together with a great

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deal of office work; we have only four inspectors, one for each province. As a matter of fact, the work is not properly inspected, and could not be done unless we had double that number.

18332. Is that the way in which you divide your inspectors?—Practically that. Mr. Gallagher, for Connaught, Mr. Wood for Leinster, Dr. Hinchcliff for Ulster, Mr. Gordon takes Munster and all the difficult counties. I submit if the Department could inspect the work a little better they would be able to meet the County Committees oftener to receive their views. And if a County Committee really insisted on an entirely new scheme, the Department would be able, perhaps, if they had more inspectors, to sanction that scheme. But at the present time it takes us all our time to check the work of all these Committees in the schemes which I have described. If they had, in addition to that, to look over the details of special schemes in different counties, I need hardly tell you their task would be impossible. We try, as far as possible, to make our schemes applicable to all the

counties, to make the general plan of the scheme the same, but leaving the County Committee to fill in details. If each county had an entirely different system for improving houses and for cattle and for those other schemes, you can understand we would require a very much bigger staff than we have at present, when we have these schemes fairly uniform.

18333. (Chairman).—Your schemes are of the nature of what are practically model schemes?—That is so. My point is that if a county was to depart from them altogether and have an entirely new set of schemes, if the Department was to sanction that, it would require far more inspectors; and that is a point I want the Committee to bear in mind when it is stated that the Department's schemes are uniform.

18334. (Mr. Michel).—You have six inspectors?—We have seven for the agricultural portion—five for county work and agricultural inspection; one for estates and buildings, Mr. Robertson; one to meet with the general schemes I have been talking about, and one for visiting houses.

On returning after luncheon.

18335. (Mr. Michel).—What I wish to say now is with reference to the work in the Congested Districts. I referred to it when I formerly gave evidence, but I did not go into any details; but as the question has been raised on several occasions as to what the Department is doing, I think it worth while to go fully into it. The matter is very complicated, and I would ask your careful attention to this point. By section 16 of the Act creating the Department, the Department are excluded from spending any of their funds in Congested Districts. At that time the Congested Districts Board were themselves administering a large sum then.

18336. (Mr. Michel).—Was it not small sum?—A large sum, more than £10,000. It is a very much larger sum than the Department has with reference to the rest of the county. I say £10,000; that is an under-estimate I believe, but we may take it at that for the present. The point that I wish you to bear in mind is this, because it has been referred to on several occasions on the Board's Minutes, namely, that the Department's endowment was intended for Non-Congested Districts; and the people of the Non-Congested Districts naturally expect that the money should be reserved for them. Now, at the outset of the work the Department was not with a very serious difficulty, namely, that the congested areas were not co-extensive with either a rural district or a county. The unit of area that was taken in scheduling Congested Districts was an electoral division, but the Department's rate was applicable to the whole county, so that if they raised a rate over a whole county they were precluded from spending it in the Congested Districts. The smallest unit of rating in the county, but by going back to the old electoral Act, 1858 and 1859 the Department were empowered to raise a rate over a rural district, but then the rural district was not co-extensive with the area of a Congested District, so it amounted to this, that we had four classes of rural districts to deal with. The first was a wholly Non-Congested Rural District. Then we had a mainly Congested Rural District; and finally we had a wholly Congested Rural District to deal with. Now, the Department could only raise a rate over a whole rural district. If they raised a rate over a congested area they were precluded from going into it, yet they could exclude the wholly congested and they could include wholly non-congested. But the difficulty was to know what to do with the other two, because if you raised a rate over the whole you could only spend it over park. What we actually did was, we included the mainly Non-Congested District and raised the rate over it as well as the non-congested, and we excluded the wholly congested and the mainly congested. But we were still faced with the difficulty that we were not allowed to spend money over a small portion of the mainly Non-Congested Rural District, and we got over the difficulty by the Congested Districts Board agreeing to contribute per vote with the Department in respect of the congested portion. At the same time the Congested Districts Board were carrying on their schemes, and we had this happening, that there was a little portion non-congested which was excluded, and we had a little portion included where both the Department and the Congested Districts Board were at work. The confusion became serious. The County Committees could not understand what

they were about, and the people were wholly mystified by these proceedings, and it had the effect of doing to the detriment of our work for many years. Then, a Bill was introduced which had the effect of enabling the County Councils to exclude every electoral division that was congested, and to include every electoral division that was non-congested. Just shortly after that the Land Act of 1903 was passed, and in that a clause was inserted repealing Section 16 of the Department's Act, and thereby enabling the Department to expend its money, if need should be, in Congested Districts.

18337. (Chairman).—This one-clause Act did not pass into law?—It did, but the 1903 Act passed so soon afterwards that it never came into operation. Immediately after the passing of the 1903 Act we had the possibility of the Congested Districts Board and the Department working all over the country, and it was recognized by both Departments that it would be better there should be only one Board at work; and accordingly, at a Conference with the Congested Districts Board, it was agreed that that Board should cease its agricultural operations and that the Department should allow its county schemes to operate in the Congested Districts. The matter was dealt with in the Memorandum which is printed in the Minutes, and which, I think, ought to be read, because it is a very important document—page 42, Vol. II. I want to read this, because it not only contains the transfer of agricultural schemes from the Congested Districts Board, but it states the policy of the Irish Government with reference to the Congested Districts Board generally. This was a Memorandum from the Chief Secretary to Sir Horace Plunkett. It is written at my request after Sir Horace Plunkett and myself had had a conference on the subject.

CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT

"CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE, DUBLIN,

"12th October, 1901.

"VICE-PRESIDENT.—It may be for the convenience of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and of the Agricultural Board that I should get upon record the considerations which led to the repeal of Section 16 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899.

"The policy of the Government, and, to the best of my belief, of honourable members representing Irish constituencies was that the time and resources of the Congested Districts Board should, in so far as they may be possible, be concentrated now, and in the near future, on land purchase with special regard to the relief of congestion where it occurs, by migration, by amalgamation of uneconomic holdings, the vesting of pastures in trustees on behalf of purchasers and other devices provided for in the Land Act of 1903.

"In this policy there is nothing new. It was contemplated, and even enjoined by the Land Act of 1891. But the facilities afforded in that measure have proved inadequate. The principal methods of amelioration present to the mind of the Government in 1891 were the amalgamation of holdings and the

management of stock-breeding, fishing and cottage industries. These methods achieved but a partial success, because of the necessity of purchases as a preliminary to the improvement of uneconomic holdings was not then fully recognized.

"The Land Bill of 1902, the Land Conference, and the Land Act of 1903 are the outcome of a conviction that the creation of an occupying proprietary is the first essential condition of agricultural prosperity in Ireland. It was also held that the land problem is more urgent in the Congested Districts than elsewhere, that purchase by the Board has passed beyond the experimental stage and that all the energies and resources of the Board are hereby sufficient to carry out this work on the scale and at the pace required.

"Parliament, therefore, decided in effect that the barriers between the scheduled Congested Districts and the rest of Ireland should not in future prohibit the gradual transfer from the Congested Districts Board to the new Department of each work as the latter might advantageously undertake and finance with the aid of local contributions with a view to the liberation of the time and resources of the Congested Districts Board and their closer concentration on the primary work of purchase and the relief of congestion.

"By using this phrase I am not to be understood as minimizing the importance and necessity of the work carried out by the new Department. Kinseff allies in occupation and execution it has been attended by a success which reflects high credit on all concerned. It is secondary only in order of time and in the sense that it will flourish more largely when superimposed as the primary work of purchase and the relief of congestion. In this appreciation of the aims and achievement of the Department I desire to include the Council of Agriculture which has supported its policy and the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Boards which have provided the necessary funds for its execution.

"For the present I propose that the Agricultural Department should take over the scheduled Congested Districts in respect only of their agricultural schemes. To accompany this transfer by a large diversion of income from the Congested Districts Board would be unnecessary and destructive of the general policy which must be pursued.

"As the primary work of the Congested Districts Board is completed it will be possible and proper to liberate its funds in aid of the secondary work of the Department. In the meantime the Board will be willing to supplement the work of the Department where special cases of widespread poverty call for special assistance. In addition to such special assistance in respect of agricultural schemes the scheduled districts will still enjoy exceptional assistance in respect of industries and fishing quite apart from the greater facilities for purchase and the relief of congestion afforded by the Land Act of 1903. They will, however, surrender in respect of agricultural schemes a part of their right to preferential treatment. It is proper that the Congested Districts Board should, in common with other Departments, effect some economy to push forward the primary work to which I have more than once referred.

"It is also fitting that the Agricultural Department should make, and the Agricultural Board should incur, its contribution to the same object by undertaking labours in a somewhat larger field. I do not, however, suggest that the transfer should be effected without any financial assistance. I propose that the Agricultural Department should take over, free of charge, the stud, stallions, bulls, etc., now owned by the Congested Districts Board, and that the Congested Districts Board should direct to the Department a sum of £2,000 per annum.

"The proposed transfer will not deplete the savings effected by the Agricultural Department or frustrate the policy it has pursued. For, as the primary work of the Congested Districts Board is completed, further funds will be available for pushing on the secondary work of agriculture and technical instruction on a secure foundation.

"GEORGE WYNDHAM."

Now, I say that is an extremely important document, because it was placed in my hands to guide me in administering the Department's work in congested districts. Mr. Wyndham states clearly that the Con-

gested Districts were to surrender in respect of agricultural schemes a part of their right to preferential treatment. Mr. Wyndham went further than that in the Conference and said that they would have to forego some expenditure on bulls and stallions on the ground that they had in the past been so well supplied with these animals that it would not be necessary for them to have so many in the future. The Department took over this work in the manner suggested. They took over the stud of stallions and sold them. It was estimated that there would be a great sum derived from the sale of these animals, but the sale resulted in extremely small prices—I do not think more than £10 a head. These animals apparently were not popular and not the type wanted in Ireland. The bulls were not taken over. They were allowed to remain. The Department took over the stallions and same. The bulls, horses, and rams were allowed to remain and serve out their time, and any charge due by the tenants was collected by the Congested Districts Board and not by the Department as was indicated in this Memorandum. The sum of £2,000, although it is not stated here, was arrived at roughly in this way. The valuation of the congested areas was about half a million. It was estimated that these counties would raise a penny rate and if they raised a penny rate that would be £2,100; and the Department, at that time, were contributing 1d. in respect of the expenditure on these Congested Districts. 1d. would have been £2,600, but then the technical instruction schemes were excluded, and practically it amounted to a sum of £2,000, which was considered sufficient to meet the wants of these districts.

18287. (Mr. Miles).—In conjunction with the rate? —That is how the £2,000 was arrived at. Evidently they had been spending over £10,000—I think, £13,000—so that there would be a very large reduction of the amount that was to be spent in these districts.

18288. (Mr. Gwynn).—That expenditure of £10,000 or £13,000 was in respect purely of agricultural work? —Yes; the technical instruction has never been handed over. Now, the Agricultural Board did not consider that that was a good bargain the Department had made; but it was urged, and I urged personally, that the arrangement that existed, that is where the two bodies were at work, was so destructive of progress that anything was better than the original scheme whereby the two bodies were supplying bulls on different terms and instruction on different systems.

18289. (Mr. Miles).—Perhaps you could say in half-a-dozen words what the difference in instruction was between the two—years was different instruction, and there, I think, resident?—Well, if you could use the word resident.

18290. I mean for the districts?—Yes, that was the distinction. Now it is popularly believed, and I think is evidence that came before you it was assumed, if not stated, that the Congested Districts Board handed over all their agricultural operations, including their funds, to the Department of Agriculture, but you will see from this Memorandum that that was not so. It was only a sum sufficient to enable the County Committee schemes to take effect in those districts. Now, at the outset, the Department expected the County Committee to take up this work that had been done in the non-congested counties, but the people in Congested Districts had been so long accustomed to look to the central authority, that instead of applying to the County Committee they looked to the Department; and it has taken a considerable time to educate these people to look to the County Committee. Of course you are familiar with the slow progress made in the non-congested counties, and I think you will see that the progress made by these congested counties was still less, but that it has greatly increased from year to year. They have set aside more funds and spent more funds, and the question will arise there also very soon as to where more funds are to come from for agricultural development. I may say that the Department have increased their contribution from five-thirds to three-fifths. For every £1 raised by the rates the Department now contribute 20s.

18291. One penny produces £2,000?—Then the additional halfpenny would give £1,150. That would be £3,150 altogether.

*An accurate return of the amounts allocated and expended in the past three years will be found in Appendix No. XII.

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15292. (Mr. Ogilvie).—As against £2,600?—Now, take the premium bulls. That is under the county scheme. In 1900 they had only 36 in the seven counties; in 1902, 57; in 1903, 99; in 1904, 143 (that was the year the Department took over the work); in 1905, 184, and in 1906, 157. That is under the county scheme.

15293. (Mr. Brown).—Is that 143 not the existing number when the Department took it over, but at the end of the first year's work?—That was not the number that was placed there by the Congested Districts Board. They still remained there. But outside those altogether. There were all County Committee bulls.

15294. (Chairman).—There were ninety-nine the year before. Would those ninety-nine be Congested Districts bulls that were left remaining in the district?—Oh, no; those Congested Districts bulls remain there.

15295. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The ninety-nine were in the part of the counties that was not congested?—Yes.

15296. And I presume something between forty and fifty were added in respect of the congested area?—Yes.

15297. (Chairman).—Leaving the surviving bulls of the Congested Districts Board outside?—Yes; they were still there. Then, with regard to boars, the figures were 34, 31, 44, 51, 52, and 112 this year. Then the acquisition of more, 397, 406, 453, 564, 793, and 849. Then, as to re-distributing stations, there were none in 1901, 3 in 1902, 38, 77, 107, and 123. Trucks went up in the same way. The people of the Congested Districts looked to the central Department rather than to the County Committee, and it took some years before they could educate them to look to the local authorities for assistance. The Department were somewhat disappointed at the slow progress made by the County Committee in the first year, but they did not attempt to interfere to any serious extent by supplying additional bulls or boars. But in the second year it became obvious that it would be necessary for the Department to supplement the schemes of the County Committee, and every year since it has become more and more apparent that supplementary schemes were absolutely necessary. Every year when the estimates for the live stock and other schemes have been brought before the Agricultural Board, they have been asked to give an extra contribution in respect of the Congested Districts over and above the additional 30c. to the pound. They have been asked for extra funds in order that the Department might be able to supplement those schemes. What happens now is this. The County Committee, so far as possible, spend their scheme all over the county, and in very poor districts the Department supplement it directly by sending down horses, asses, bulls, and boars, and providing pigsties, and so on. And I now propose to show you the special schemes that were given for 1904 and onwards. In 1904 there were only eight special premium bulls allocated by the Department, that is, over and above the county premiums. In 1905 there were thirty-three, and in 1906 there were seventy-four. Of boars, there were ten in 1905 and twenty-three in 1906. Of rams, in 1905 there were fifteen, and this year there are ninety-four. Of stallions, some three were in 1904, twenty-seven; we put a lot of some in the districts because they are not part of the county scheme; thirty in 1905, and forty-one of these rams in 1906. In 1904 we allocated nineteen special stallions in special districts for special services; in 1905, twenty-one, and in 1906, twenty-one. That will give you a brief account of the work in the Congested Districts. When it was seen that the County Committee's scheme were not sufficient, the Department supplemented them.

15298. (Mr. Brown).—Were those special bulls, boars, &c., out of a fund other than the £3,150 that was contributed through the County Committee?—Yes, those are from funds specially contributed by the Agricultural Board to help in the poorer districts. It is over and above the money earmarked for the county schemes, and paid for directly by the Department. Financially it works out in this way:—In the present year the Department have sanctioned an estimated expenditure of £17,039 in the congested counties. That is the sum that is earmarked for the seven counties, and approved of by the Department.

15299. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The counties as a whole?—That is to say, the Department have informed the County Committee that they only spend that on those schemes, and they will contribute to that £10,000.

15300. That is for the whole seven counties?—Yes, including congested and non-congested districts. Of that £10,000 the proportion applicable to Congested Districts is £3,100. Originally, you remember, it was to be £2,100. Well, now it actually is up to £3,100, that is £1,000 more than was given by the Congested Districts Board. Of course it is to be borne in mind that that is the amount which the Department propose to pay. It does not follow that they will expend all that money, as experience of the last two years show that they did not, and that was the reason why the Department had to come in and supplement these schemes.

15301. (Mr. M'Isaac).—Can you tell us how much was spent?—That, then, is £1,000 more than the Congested Districts Board are giving the Department. The value of the special schemes to which I have referred, the supplementary schemes, amounts to £3,043.

15302. Would you give the details?—This is an estimate. Employment of three overmen or instructors, salaries and expenses £200 each—four, is a matter of fact, there are four—£800. They are at Stranadar, Westport, Clifden, and Tralee. These are not under the County Committee, but directly under the Department. Then there are demonstration plots, and the roads and mangers for that cost £70. Then there are seventy-four special premiums to bulls. That is over and above their share of the County Committee, and it is placed there to fill up blanks—£2975. There are twenty-five boars, special premiums, £109. There are ninety-four rams, £330. Cost of stallions asses, £334. That is the cost of maintenance. They cost a good deal originally.

15303. About £100 a piece?—Very nearly. The keep of stallions during the winter and the cost of greens for them is estimated at £1,000. That is £3,500. There are four overmen. A mistake was made in the original list. This is in addition to the three schemes for girls' schools, Lough Gillyn, Westport, and Glenties.

15304. Are Glenties and Westport kept up by Congested Districts?—Oh, yes; they are day schools.

15305. Westport is not congested, and I am not sure that Glenties is either?—Just round Glenties is.

15306. They are both near a good deal of non-congested. Would you think they were a population of both congested and non-congested?—They do.

15307. You could not put them down as congested?—I think I would, because it is as the people of the neighbourhood are getting the advantage and the neighbourhood is congested. They walk a very short distance to the school.

15308. Westport is not congested, but Glenties itself, I think, as far as any vaccination goes, is congested?—Yes.

15309. There is a great deal of non-congested land around it?—Well, I say that is in addition to the expenditure on those schools.

15310. How much do you put down for these schools?—The capital expenditure is a heavy item. I would not like to say how much Lough Gillyn cost. It cost at least £1,000, and over £350 a year to run it.

15311. Would that be the most expensive?—I think the Westport one will soon be as expensive, because they find it necessary to make it a residential school. It includes dairying and poultry-keeping.

15312. There is only a very small bit of land attached to it?—Very small; just enough for a few cows for milking; but they have cows; they have a larger number of cows than their land would maintain. The cows are sent out to graze. In addition to that, I may say that the Agricultural Board sold £20,000 for seed potatoes two years ago. Of course that sum was not altogether in respect of Congested Districts, but it was mainly spent in Congested Districts.

15313. Was it a free grant?—It was, out-and-out.

15314. You would not put that to the credit of the Congested Districts?—A very large portion of it, a portion of it.

15315. Notwithstanding the provision in the Act forbidding the Congested Districts Board to engage in such expenditure?—Certainly. It was treated as

agricultural development. Otherwise the Department could not have given it.

15315. You did not give me the cost of the three schools.—There is £300 for Lough Glynn. The others I could not give, because Westport is going to increase very rapidly.

15317. I mean for past expenditure.—Management, £40; salaries of teachers, £110; grant for medical pupils, £225; meals for day pupils, £35; rental and equipment, £30; total, £440.

15318. What is Clonsilla?—£300, estimated. It was only opened this year. It is intended, if that type of school will serve the rural population, to have a considerable number more of them; and it is the scheme that has attracted the Westport one that has encouraged us to start the one at Clonsilla, and I may say also the one at Clifden; and, as I anticipate, they will be started at several other centres. It will be seen then that the Agricultural Board have been very generous towards these Congested Districts. Of the available funds in Ireland, one-half are now in the Congested Districts, and of the loans, one-fourth are; and in addition to the £10,000 provided for the county schemes there is a sum of £2,545 for special premiums for special schemes.

I refer to the fact that before the scheme in the 1903 Act repeated this 18th Section in the Department's Act, there was a considerable amount of overlapping. There is still a danger of overlapping in this way. The Congested Districts Board continued their system of Parish Committees. We find they have increased the sum from £3,000, I think, this year, to £12,000. Take Donagel. Under the Department's scheme there is a sum of £600 this year marked for prizes for cottages and small farms. Well, under the parish scheme of the Congested Districts Board there is a very large sum earmarked for almost the same purpose, and it seems to me that while it was necessary that there should be no overlapping in the placing of bolls and giving agricultural instruction, it is equally important that for prizes for cottages there should not be public funds available from two sources. I cannot tell you the figures for the Parish Committees for Donagel, but I know that it is a very large sum, and the Department's figure in that county is £600. I can give you the amounts for the other counties.

15319. When did the Donagel County Committee first put in those prizes?—Three years ago. Several of the counties were late in taking it up, and Donagel has not been long at work. Leitrim has £265 for the same scheme, Mayo £240, Roscommon £277, and Galway £310.

15320. When was any sum under that heading first put into any scheme by a county?—Three years ago.

15321. That was under a county scheme?—Yes.

15322. It would have been open to the Department to say that they thought that that was not a prudent way of spending money inasmuch as large sums were already spent under that head by the Congested Districts Board?—Certainly, the Department might have said so; but the County Committee is the statutory body through which they work, and the Department encourage those prizes, and there is a considerable portion of Donagel non-congested.

15323. That sum was intended for the non-congested parts?—The £260 was intended for the congested and non-congested uniformly.

15324. It was first intended for the non-congested?—It has been voted three years, and I am not prepared to say Donagel adopted the scheme at all prior to the arrangement with the Congested Districts Board, for Donagel came in rather late with a scheme as compared with some other counties.

15325. The overlapping there is somewhat unfortunate?—It is unfortunate; and it was very unfortunate with all the other schemes, and when the Congested Districts Board withdrew that overlapping ceased, and it was not contemplated that there would be any much overlapping, because there was originally only a very small sum set aside for prizes.

15326. They have never claimed it as one of their agricultural schemes?—I cannot say.

15327. Was any effort made to prevent that overlapping when the first scheme was submitted by the County Committee to the Department for approval?—The County Committee put in £600, while the Congested Districts Board was spending a larger sum than that.

15328. Was any steps taken at all to try and prevent that overlapping?—No.

15329. Short of inducing the Congested Districts Board to hand over their contribution to the County Committee can you think of any other way in which it would be possible to prevent overlapping?—No.

15330. Was it suggested that the County Committee should administer the whole?—It has not been suggested, but I suggest it now.

15331. You think it would be a good thing for the Congested Districts Board to pay their contributions to the Committee?—I think so. In fact, it was originally understood that all funds of that kind should be so administered.

15332. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It would have been within your power to point out to the County Committee that this object was being served for a large part of their area by the Congested Districts Board, and to say that in respect of that they might consider the diminishing of the £600, and restrict the awarding of prizes to the area not dealt with by the Congested Districts Board's scheme of prizes?—Yes, but you see the congested districts are contributing their own rate, and expect to get that rate back plus the Department's contribution. A large scheme of that kind is adopted as a whole.

15333. (Mr. Micks).—Would you be in favour of a proposal that the Congested Districts Board should be enabled by legislation to receive, if the County Committee and the Department were willing to hand it over, a sum raised for this purpose and administer it over the whole county by means of Parish Committees?—I would not be in favour of taking out of the hands of the County Committee the funds placed at their disposal by the County Council. The County Council entrusts this money to the County Committee, and that is the body that in my opinion should administer it.

15334. (Mr. Ogilvie).—In fact you would rather go the other way, that if there is to be any handing over of money it should be by the Congested Districts Board to the County Council?—Yes; that is what was recommended originally. Now, with regard to that question I do not think I have anything further to say. My object was to show that the Agricultural Board had voted the necessary funds, and a much larger sum would be necessary if there is to be any extension of this work in the congested districts. I do not think the Agricultural Board could be asked to withdraw from the non-congested areas a much larger sum and devote it to the congested districts. Certainly one representative has protested against the withdrawal of the funds from the non-congested to the congested districts, and if the Department were to ask the Agricultural Board for a much larger sum they certainly would object, as they have a right to do, seeing that the funds were originally earmarked for the non-congested areas.

15335. I take it your special expenditure in respect of congested areas is for the present year £7,500, made up of £3,545 for special schemes in congested districts; £3,109, the proportion of cost of the county schemes which applies to congested districts; and £2,950 in respect of the three special schools for girls, making in all £7,500 which thus represents the present or estimated draft upon the Department's funds, as against a receipt of £2,000?—That is right, the £2,000 being the sum which they originally thought would be sufficient.

15336. And you do not think that £7,500 could be diminished without distinct detriment to the work of development in these districts, development along the lines on which it is your duty to go?—My opinion is that a much larger sum is required really for those districts, and this sum could not be withdrawn or diminished.

15337. And you do not see that it can be increased without inflicting so serious a loss upon the non-congested districts of all Ireland as would lead to serious and justifiable complaint?—Quite so; the time is coming when the £7,000 will be required for the non-congested districts, and a sufficient sum voted to carry on the work in the congested districts.

15338. (Chairman).—What do you consider will be the proposed expenditure on congested districts?—It depends upon how thickly you are going to cover the ground with sites and with instructors in the various branches of agriculture. If you allocate them thickly you will require a large sum. If you only do what

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they are doing in non-congested areas the present sum will be sufficient.

15339. Do you think that the success of instruction in the congested districts during the last three years has been sufficient to justify you in expecting a considerable progressive increase in that respect?—It is only in this year that most of those counties have an itinerant instructor. Donegal has not got one, but Leitrim, Galway, Mayo and Kerry have each an agricultural instructor; so that scheme has not been in force long.

15340. (Mr. Gifford).—We had some evidence from Mr. Moore yesterday as to the size of unit upon which it was possible or desirable to conduct horticultural work. Have you in your mind any extension of horticultural instruction of a general character, as distinct from the ordinary county work in connection with those areas?—No; I do not think the prospects of fruit culture in the congested areas are sufficient to warrant the Department in spending large sums of money on a scheme such as Mr. Moore described.

15341. But on horticulture, apart from fruit culture?—On horticulture as far as the cultivation of vegetables is concerned, certainly.

15342. Would you contemplate the teaching of the cultivation of vegetables in addition to the ordinary County Committee work?—If the County Committee would do it I would leave it to them; but if they did not do it the Department would require to have special schemes for those districts.

15343. But you have not had sufficient experience of those districts to know what is the best way of doing it, and consequently think the County Committee will take it up efficiently?—We have given them an opportunity of stepping in, and if they do not do it to a small extent I am quite prepared with the scheme, but there are no funds to carry it out.

15344. (Mr. Aiche).—Is there a return of expenditure on congested districts by year?—A difficulty arises from the fact that, suppose you send an instructor to a county partially congested it is exceedingly difficult to separate his time between the congested and the non-congested.

15345. I thought an effort had been made, and that it was reduced to money?—We can give you the actual sum for the county. We know the valuation of the respective parts, and do it by means of proportion.

15346. You do not take it according to the number of holdings?—No.

15347. Or according to the population?—No.

15348. Would it not show a very great difference whether you took it by valuation or population—as the population of West Donegal very much greater than in the east?—Yes. The County Committee allocate all their sums according to valuation.

15349. So the man who has a big holding gets the most?—The man who has got a big holding is excluded by the rules of the scheme.

15350. But the part of the county where the big holdings are gets the most?—Yes, that is so.

15351. (Mr. Brown).—Are you sure of that?—If they are not too large. Whenever the holdings come above a certain size they are excluded.

15352. (Mr. Aiche).—Yes, but the division is according to the valuation and not according to the population?—That is right.

15353. Does that apply all over Ireland?—I think I am right in saying that every County Committee in allocating its programme, etc., to rural districts takes the valuation of the rural districts, and says, "This district contributes so much, and we will return so much to it again, but we will not allow big farmers to participate."

15354. (Mr. Brown).—The valuation does not compare so unfavorably as it might seem at first sight. In the congested districts the land is not so highly valued, but the valuation of houses makes a great difference, and the valuation of a certain area of congested land may be very much about the valuation of the area of non-congested land.

15355. (Mr. Mich).—Have you any idea of the valuation of East Donegal or compared with West Donegal. I suppose you are aware that the valuation of Letterkenny and Strabane and East Sligo is relatively very high, and that there is very valuable land there, while in the west it is practically none, except in a few spots, Duncannon, Glenties, and

the west part of Stranorlar which is poor and mountain very largely?—Yes, that is right.

15356. So that the valuation of the eastern part would be very much more than the valuation of the western. Yes, but then it contributes a great deal more in rate.

15357. And that is the test that has been adopted to give in proportion to the amount of money raised in rates?—Quite so.

15358. It has not been recognized, has it, as a sound principle, to spend in proportion to the backwardness and want of education and want of advancement of the people?—No, because that would mean Strabane No. 2 having to pay rates to help people in the west, and they object to that.

15359. I suppose if they were asked to do it they would object?—They have not been asked.

15360. The principle applies all over Ireland. The Bellinacorney Union in East Mayo is wealthy, and in the west the valuation is very low, and they pay very little?—But the wealthy portion pay a great deal more if they get more.

15361. A penny in the pound in Bellinacorney only produces £20, so it gets very little, although it requires more?—That is the reason we are spending so much in the poorer districts, £3,545 for special schemes, bulls and others, that is all in the poorer districts.

15362. Where are the schemes in operation in the poorest parts of Ireland?—In the congested districts.

15363. There are four centers for looking after the better off and the poor?—No; they are confined to the congested districts.

15364. Are they strictly confined to the congested districts?—Absolutely.

15365. Where are their headquarters?—Children is the headquarters of one. The other is at Westport.

15366. In Westport there is a good deal of non-congested land?—Oh, no; he lives there and goes northward to Belmullet.

15367. Would he be prohibited from giving instruction on the land between Westport and Newport?—I would not say he is prohibited, but he is not attracted to do it.

15368. As far as you know of no instruction is given?—He might have a friend there. A farmer might ask him for assistance, but he should not go there.

15369. A great many of the people there are very poor, though it is not congested. He would be prohibited from giving instruction to these poor people?—Yes.

15370. So he is only to operate on the green land (referring to map), because it is scheduled, and not because it is poor?—Because it is scheduled, and the money is voted for the congested districts. It is carried on through the Congested Districts Board by him.

15371. The demonstration plots are all in congested districts?—Yes.

15372. Bulls, and rams, and boars, all in congested districts?—Yes, they should be.

15373. And stallion asses?—Yes, the forty-one so.

15374. The keep of stallions that would be for service in the congested districts?—Absolutely.

15375. Was that your own opinion that you proposed, that a sum of £2,000 at the time of the transfer was thought to be sufficient?—It seemed the grant which the Department at that time was making to the County Committees.

15376. Just before this particular matter came up you mentioned casually that a sum of £2,000 was thought to be sufficient?—It was calculated to be sufficient. It was calculated that that was the amount we should require.

15377. Not by the Department or the Congested Districts Board?—By the Congested Districts Board.

15378. I think by neither?—Who fixed the £2,000?

15379. Was it fixed by Mr. Wyndham, as in his mind a contribution that could be spared from the funds of the Congested Districts Board, and as a sufficient amount?—No, because he expected we should get extra assistance, and get money by and by.

15380. That £2,000 was not fixed as a sufficient amount?—It was fixed, because that was about the amount that would be required to make our scheme applicable. It was figured in a very rough way that we were to have the equivalent of 1½d.—£2,600, and

instruction schemes there would be something knocked off.

15385. And he said, "roughly let us say £2,000"; but we pressed for more accuracy!—And very properly.

15386. It was merely the word "sufficient" in your evidence that struck me. Was it not only put forward as just what the Congested Districts Board could afford?—It was put forward to enable the Department's county schemes to take effect in the congested districts.

15387. Surely it was not put forward as a sufficient sum for the purpose of developing the congested districts?—No, because Mr. Wyndham pointed out that by and by we were to get more money for the purpose. Sir Horace Plunkett pointed out at the time that the amount was insufficient.

15388. (Chairman).—We had better have the exact words:—"For the present I propose that the Agricultural Department should take over the scheduled congested districts in respect only of their agricultural schemes. To accompany this transfer by a large diversion of income from the Congested Districts Board would be unnecessary and destructive of the general policy which must be pursued."—The primary object was that the money was to go to land purchase and relieve the congestion.

15389. (Mr. Mickel).—He goes on to say, "The proposed annual grant of £2,000 will, however, be insufficient to meet the extra expenditure involved." Then Sir Horace Plunkett said that the Department estimated that a sum of at least £2,000 would be necessary for the present year in addition to the £2,000 a year transferred from the Congested Districts Board. After further discussion the Board agreed to the Vice-President's proposal.

15390. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The £2,000 was as it were an addition to the Department's endowment in order that the endowment might operate equally over the whole area so far as the agricultural schemes were concerned, that is, that it was intended only to

enable you to put the congested districts on an equal footing, but on no better footing than the rest of the districts of Ireland?—That is so.

15391. And, therefore, the £7,685 which I have got down now as your estimated expenditure for the current year in making special provisions in the congested districts is not £7,685 as compared with £2,000. The £2,000 is used up for their share in the ordinary schemes, and this is absolutely in addition to the £2,000. You have, therefore, no receipt to show for the £7,685?—That is so. It actually requires £3,000 now.

15392. Therefore, the endowment is out of pocket £8,700 roughly a year now because of this transference of the schemes?—Not quite that. £2,000 less.

15393. (Mr. Mickel).—How much is spent out of rates on the congested districts at present for agriculture, and how much out of the endowment?—It can give you seven counties. The total sum earmarked and approved for the current year in the seven counties is £17,000. This is made up of £6,336 from the rates, and £10,663 from the Department, that is, for the congested and non-congested portions of those seven counties.

15394. We have £7,685. What sum makes up the £10,662?—It is from the Department's endowment in respect of the county schemes and special schemes.

15395. I am afraid we have not got all the figures yet. What is the total amount spent on the congested districts of the seven counties?—£17,000 may be spent if they can do so. In addition to that the Department give £3,563 for agricultural schemes, and £10,000 in respect of diseases. £21,563 is the sum that may be spent this year. Of that the Department will surely spend £4,000.

15396. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The £10,662 includes £1,100 more than the £2,000?—There are a great many expenses that I have not included. I do not profess that the figures are quite accurate.* My object was to make it clear that very much more money is wanted for the congested districts.

Mr. JAMES S. GORDON, B.A., Chief Agricultural Inspector, examined.

15397. (Chairman).—You were here this morning and a question was put with regard to communications with the County Committees which were not in writing, but made verbally?—You referred to the poorer districts and a sufficient number of premium animals not being placed in them.

15398. (Mr. Mickel).—And generally as to improvement operations under the agricultural portion of the Act?—I personally know that I have, and the other inspectors also have, drawn the attention of the members of the Committee to these districts and to a large number of animals being placed there. I myself, personally, have in a considerable number of counties, and I also have on behalf of the Department, made representations in connection with areas that the Department would purchase those animals and bring them down to some centre in the county if the County Committee would select applicants who would be prepared to take these animals, purchase and keep them under the scheme. In Farnsworth there were six animals purchased and sent down by the Department for the poorer districts, and in Antrim there were three or four on a couple of counties. In Tyrone the same scheme has been carried out, and in the poorer districts of Donegal, Tipperary, Kerry, and Westford, I may say the inspectors simply drew the attention of the County Committees to this, and said the Department were most anxious that these districts should be treated even better than the more wealthy ones.

15399. In how many counties can you remember having made representations to members of County Committees?—I have mentioned already seven counties, but I must say the County Committees themselves have been most anxious to do all they could for these poorer districts. The difficulty the members have is to get applicants, and the Department made that offer to induce applicants to come forward. The majority of the area placed in these districts for the

last four or five years have been placed there by the Department.

15400. Were there any other counties that you made representations to as to the poorer portions?—Just at present I do not remember.

15401. Would it be your practice to do so if occasion arose?—Officially we have never got directions from the Department to do so, but the friendly feeling between the inspectors and the County Committees would prompt the inspectors to make suggestions of the sort.

15402. When you find that your representation has not been acted upon for one reason or another, what course do you adopt?—We go on suggesting and state that if they would select candidates for the animals the Department would purchase them, and in almost every instance the County Committee has taken special pains to select applicants.

15403. You see the great importance that the poorer and more backward people should be dealt with and not omitted from the operation of the Act?—Yes.

15404. Did you ever make any report to the Department as regards the administration of the Act by the County Committees in that respect? Did you ever bring before the Department this inequality, if it might be called so, of the administration?—I mean by a formal report?—Well, I brought it before Professor Campbell on more occasions than one, and the result was that the Department did specially treat those very districts.

15405. What districts do you refer to?—In Antrim I am referring to Rathlin Island, Ballycastle and Cushendall; in Tyrone to the districts between Strabane and Cookstown, Plumbridge and Gortin.

15406. And that special assistance was given by means of bulls?—Providing sires, bulls and boars; and, under the poultry scheme, special egg stations;

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Inspector
Campbell

Mr. James S.
Gordon, B.A.

* An accurate review of the amounts allocated and expended in the past three years will be found in Appendix No. XIX.

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and in the case of Fermanagh there was a district between Enniskillen and Belleek towards Leitrim.

15408. Could you have a schedule prepared showing the expenditure on extra assistance that was given in poor districts?—There was no extra assistance given directly out of the Department's grant. It was given in procuring these sires and selling them at a reduced price.

15409. It came to money?—You could hardly call it money.

15410. How did it work exactly?—In the case of sires, the Department purchased and brought each applicant's to the nearest railway station.

15411. At a loss?—Yes.

15412. What I wanted was to get the loss in money put into a schedule—say for Ballycastle. Whatever it was, was it not in consideration of the backwardness of the people or the poverty of the people?—That loss would be to a large extent a question of railway carriage and the feed that the animal consumed for the week or two that he was kept at the Department's central station.

15413. You did not put forward any claim for the railway rate or the support of an animal between the time of the purchase and sending it out?—No.

15414. Was that the only assistance you gave?—That was the only assistance we gave directly, that is to the districts I have mentioned.

15415. But in any other districts did you give assistance in any other form—to poor districts outside the congested districts?—No.

15416. That would amount to very little in money?—It would be a comparatively small sum in money.

15417. (Mr. Brown).—But that would be precisely the assistance which those localities required?—We wanted to stimulate them and take advantage of the scheme.

15418. The only reason why they would not be on a level with other localities perhaps was that they did not contain men with sufficient capital or large enough holdings to undertake the purchase of such a team for themselves, and the Department facilitated them by purchasing them for them, and extending to them the same advantages as other parts of the county where there were people of more enterprise, or, perhaps more capital?—It is really to start them in that district, to encourage them to take advantage of those animals; and once there were animals put in that district we had very little difficulty afterwards in getting men to apply.

15419. (Mr. Nickle).—But the sires you put down in the first instance remained the property of the Department?—No; they were the property of the individual.

15420. They were purchased like the others, the only difference being that you paid the heavy expense from the time of purchase to the time of delivery to the man?—Yes.

15421. (Mr. Brown).—And I suppose in those men you gave them loans?—They deposited one-third, and paid the other two-thirds off in two instalments.

(Professor Campbell).—The point is this. The County Committee had spent their money to pay for the premiums. The farmers wanted working oxen, and our assistance was to work them up and by the bulls for them. We could not induce the farmer to go to Belfast or Dublin, and we said, "All right, we will buy them for you." We have spent a considerable amount of money in poor districts in premiums to bring in stallions quite apart from the County Committee.

The Committee adjourned.

FORTY-FOURTH PUBLIC SITTING, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1906.

At 12, Lower Bagginistreet, Dublin.

Present:—

Sir KENNETH DUFFY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

The Hon. JOHN DRYDEN.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OUELVE.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Mr. LAURENCE MALONE, Brookstown, Naas, examined.

15417. (Chairman).—You are a member of the County Committee of Agriculture of Kildare?—Yes.

15418. And also of the County Council?—Yes.

15419. You have come here to give us your experience as to the working of the Department?—My evidence will be quite short; but I think we have got on fairly well with the Department, and the instructors have certainly done a great deal of good.

15420. You have your full complement of instructors?—Yes.

15421. Agricultural and horticultural?—Yes.

15422. Have you anything to say about any of the schemes?—I think it is a pity that we could not give more in prizes for small farms and cottages. I think that has done a wonderful sight of good in the country. Often people that won't go in for the prizes etc with others who have gone in for them.

15423. Do you occupy much land?—215 Irish acres. I think, too, that we should be allowed to give more to the show.

15424. Prizes and shows, too?—Yes. We have two shows and four horticultural shows, and £250 is all we can give, and we think it rather little.

15425. About the demonstration plots?—We have done a good deal in that, but it would be better if we had a farm, though the farm would be too expensive. It is very hard to get people to go to the demonstration plots; but in some parts certainly the artificial manure has done a great deal of good in the neighbourhood. People have taken it up a good deal.

15426. (Mr. Brown).—There was an experiment tried last year of having meetings on the demonstration plots?—They were very badly attended.

15427. All of them?—Some of them were good, but taking them on the average they were badly attended. I think we could get the people to go to them, but it is very slow work, anything of this kind.

15428. (Chairman).—It is some time before people come to know them?—Yes. Then there is another thing I wish to remark, that we got bundles of leaflets on the warble fly and the great loss it was, but we have never got anything from the Department that was any use to keep away the fly, except to recommend you to try to and so. Some years ago, before this commenced, I treated six cows that we were milking with McDevilla's Dip, and did them every week. Of course, they were quieter and kept better, but next year three of those cows had warbles in them and three had not.

15429. (Mr. Brown).—Did you ever happen to see the snare recommended by the Department itself?—I did not, because I have heard people say it is no better than the other.

(Chairman).—That is what the Department recommended.

15430. (Mr. Brown).—They recommended a special one, not the one Mr. Malone tried. Witness.—Mr. O'Connor says it is no better than the rest, and he is a pretty good authority.

15431. It is a difficult question, the condition of the warble fly, and unless that was done pretty universally I suppose it could hardly be expected to be complete. Do you think that there should be any compulsory powers, something like the sheep-dipping order, in case a really satisfactory remedy is found?—

Yes; if there is a really satisfactory remedy I think it would be well.

15432. But you would certainly wait till there was a well-tried remedy?—Certainly.

15433. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say about the live stock schemes?—I think the live stock schemes do well. I think myself, you know, that we do not get as much value for the technical as we do for the live stock, but I would go in more for the live stock than the other.

15434. Do you mean the technical instruction side?—Yes. I say we do not get as good value as we do out of the other.

15435. (Mr. Brown).—Do you think the domestic economy teaching is not good?—Yes, but if you give a technical education to young people they have no place to get employment in except to go away.

15436. That would not apply to manual instruction?—Certainly not. I think it is a service to young fellows.

15437. Calculated to make them useful in their own homes?—Yes.

15438. And they are not more likely to emigrate because they can employ their time usefully at home?—Yes.

15439. There is no particular form of technical instruction given except domestic economy, manual instruction, and elementary drawing?—I think drawing is very little use in country places.

15440. What do you say about the horse scheme?—I think that is working fairly well. We are giving nominations to manure. I think it is working fairly well. Of course, if you had more money to give it.

15441. Have you discovered the Irish draught-horse in your county?—I have not, but I wish I could. I remember when I began there was a couple of Irish draught-horses in our neighbourhood, and they were very valuable. There is not one that I can see now, an Irish draught-horse.

15442. (Mr. Dwyer).—Do you know how they were produced?—From an ordinary good sort of mare bred by a draught-horse.

15443. Where did they come from?—From that part of the country where I live, Naas.

15444. How were they produced?—I could not tell you that. There was a couple of families about there that had these sires, and when the families died the horses died out.

15445. (Mr. Brown).—Was there not one in the neighbourhood of Broomington?—There was, but it is not as good as Clarke's or Broad's.

15446. (Chairman).—Do you remember when there was any considerable number of them?—Not what you would say was an Irish draught-horse. There were good, clean horses, no through-breds at all, but still you could hunt one or drive him.

15447. (Mr. Dwyer).—They were active and strong?—Yes, and thick.

15448. (Chairman).—Any particular colour?—Brown and black.

15449. Not as thick as a Clydesdale?—Not at all; different altogether, very light.

15450. Anything resembling the Clydesdale?—No, not at all; good veins and good clean head.

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 Mr. Lawrence
 Malone.

15451. (Mr. Micks).—Very much the appearance of a strong hunter?—Exactly. I saw some of them hunted often.

15452. (Mr. Dryden).—Do you think by any process you could reproduce this horse at all?—I don't know. I think it is a very hard thing.

15453. You are aware that the Department is making an effort in that direction?—I am well aware of it.

15454. And that they have already purchased some animals to that end?—I think they may, but it will take a little time. By giving prizes at shows for young draught colts and two-year-olds and yearlings, you may get them that way.

15455. If the Department have the right idea before them it may be possible to work out?—Yes, but it will take some time.

15456. I have seen the class of animal in Canada, a clean-limbed horse, rather heavy body, with a good deal of activity. You could put him into a cart?—Yes or ride him.

15457. (Mr. Brown).—Have you anything to say about the agricultural classes—are they a good idea?—

They are, I think. I know some young fellows who attended these classes, and I think it served them, young farmer's sons.

15458. Do you think the preliminary examination has a deterrent effect?—I do not think so. I think if they cannot pass that preliminary examination they are not fit to go in for the class at all.

15459. Have you any idea about having school gardens?—I think that would be one of the best things at all if you could have them, if you could get young children into them.

15460. (Chairman).—You would have them taught and all about the gardens explained to them?—We have a horticultural instructor, and he could go there.

15461. (Mr. Dryden).—That would be only one school. If you had a great many schools he could not possibly attend them?—You would want to begin in a way that he could.

15462. (Chairman).—Still you think that very important?—I do. I think it is very important. If you got the young people to take an interest in that it would be a great thing.

MR. JAMES HARPER EXAMINED.

Mr. James
 Harper.

15463. (Chairman).—You are the expert adviser to the Department in all matters relating to the marketing of fruit?—Yes.

15464. Well, give me some account of the system you pursue?—I understand from Mr. Moore that he was mentioning to you the way in which we pack our fruit in Ireland. The Department in 1901 introduced new packages with the view of improving the general character of Irish packing of fruit. Our idea was to get the fruit thoroughly well graded. To begin with, to select the very best, such as would be fit to go on a show table, and pack those in special packages; and then to take fruit which would not be quite so good as that suited for those packages, and pack them in what we call standard packages. (Wherever producers a box with fruit, and continue). These apples here are those that will keep—Cor's Orange Pippins. These are what I bought in Dublin market. They are packed according to the Department's method. The Americans would pack that type of apple in a thirty-six or forty pound box, with paper round it. We pack these in special flat cases. They are fit to go on a show table. They cost 1s. 6d. a dozen packed like that, and the market is not over supplied with them.

15465. (Mr. Dryden).—I apprehend that the Americans ship them in that way because of the difference in freight?—We pack those boxes and tie them together, making the size of one box. The Americans and Canadians have to pack their fruit compactly for shipping. We have not the same necessity. All we have to consider is the question of weight. These are sent to the market in packages of six, there were some Blenheim oranges sold to-day that fetched a shilling a dozen, and a larger size 1s. 6d. a dozen. We quite admit that this is not food for the million at the price, but then there is a very good demand, and the supply comes from the highest growers, and we want to encourage the production of the very best. This (produced) is another type of box. These are for cooking, Bramley Seedlings. They will keep good till February or March. This box holds two dozen packed as they come from the tree, no bruises on them, and they are stored away till the market demands them. In other words, we do not put these on the market as we would do, packed in the old-fashioned way, when there is a glut. We keep a supply of high-class fruit packed, which we can send them on to the market as it is required. This wool, which is made in Ireland, is tasteless and odourless.

15466. You cover that box with it?—Well, there is a piece of coloured paper put on them, and then wood-wool on the top of it. These apples in the old days of as good as that would fetch 12s. to 15s. a barrel, and this type of apple fetched yesterday in the Dublin market 2s. each. I do not wish to lead you to believe that there is an unlimited demand for them, but the supply is small, because people do not grow sufficient of the very highest quality.

15467. (Chairman).—Where were these grown?—In the Co. Armagh.

15468. (Mr. Micks).—On walls and standards?—On a fruit tree with a single stalk. We do not recommend the growing of cordons, because it takes a high cultivation to produce fruit on a cordon; but at the same time there is leading up to a better apple, so get a better price, which is, of course, the object of all education. Some of you visited the show probably, and saw there was a lot of fruit given a place in Kilkenny. The fruit was sent to the market, and sold subsequently, and twenty-eight dozen fetched 22s. 6d. I maintain that is an incentive to the production of high class fruit, and is a very good by a grower in Fallow or anywhere else. If these apples were put into American packages they would only fetch 6d. or 8d. a dozen. If you get a high-class article that is unbranded it sells well, but these apples packed in the American fashion have bruises on them, and do not fetch a high price. My duty carries me to get markets for these, and I submit a fruit-packing pamphlet issued by the Department (produced). The biggest buyer in London says these apples are worth a shilling a dozen at the present time, and they will keep till February or March. The Cox's Orange Pippin is the highest-class fruit grown in the British Isles. These are Allington Pippins, which are ripe. The work I have to do is to endeavour to find markets for all kinds of fruit throughout the place, and be wiser also who applies to the Department for assistance.

15469. (Chairman).—Your functions are advisory?—I go round and show them how to pack and send them to find markets, although I do not sell or buying. These plots, generally speaking, throughout the country, that have been started by the Department contain about 100 acres, and our idea is to get these people to pack their fruit properly, grade it, and sell it to the best advantage.

15470. Have you anything to say to the plan that are suitable for fruit?—No; Mr. Moore does that. I take the thing up after the fruit is grown and try to get them good markets. There is a very big demand for high-class fruit in England, and there is also a very big demand for high-class fruit in Ireland, and the price for high qualities in Dublin is as high as in any part of the world. After that very best fruit comes the next thing, the standard packing. The (produced) is a sample of the standard package. We want all these people to use the same type of package so as to let people know exactly what they are buying in other words, to promote confidence between the buyer and the seller.

15471. These apples you do not separate?—They are hardly good enough to go on a show table.

15472. These other apples are packed with a view to their being shown?—Yes. These apples were sold in the public market yesterday in Dublin, and I bought them. There were several packages of them in sale. I only wanted one. That box of apples fetched 2s.

15473. How many are there?—It is not a question of quantity. It is the package. That is the standard package we try to get introduced, and which may be described as a basket. There should be seventy-two

in it, the *Misc de Messager*. The same apple was packed a fortnight before and sent to market in an American barrel, and fetched at the rate of 13s. 6d. I do not think there is all that difference, but this particular apple, if packed properly and graded properly, the public will believe more in it and pay more for it. In other words, they object to the small apples at the bottom, though people say that when a box is shaken the small ones go to the bottom. Then we deal with this second's fruit. We advise packing separately these seconds, and in a plentiful year we do not advise these being sold for use fresh at all, but advise their being canned. Then comes the size below that. The badly shaped ones, although they may be perfectly sound, we advise being made into cider. The Irish canned apples are considered to be of a very high quality, and even this year they are paying very decent prices for apples, and have got all their output sold.

15076. Prices are high in Ireland?—Yes, because we have a poorer crop than England.

15077A. (Mr. Brown).—Where is the coming done?—Portadown, Richhill, and Belfast. We have an enormous importation of American and Canadian canned apples. Till it was tried by the Department it was believed apples could not be successfully canned in Ireland. We now can all the smaller apples. The smallest apples are turned into cider. There have been three places started for the manufacture of cider. In each place the demand far exceeds the supply. In a few years there will be 1,000 tons of Irish apples used for cider alone.

15078. (Mr. Mich).—How much is used now?—About 350 tons per annum, the trade is fast increasing. The object we have in view is to show the people that if they would properly grade their fruit we would get them a market. For what is not exactly first-class and cannot be sold fresh I think we can get them a better price for this purpose here than is given in America.

15079. (Mr. Dryden).—They don't get much for them there either. They call them cullis?—They get 22 to 23 a ton. We get from 53 to 57 a ton. With regard to fruit generally there is no doubt there is an almost unlimited demand. First of all, in the case of gooseberries, the Irish demand is practically supplied by the home supply, and some are exported; where they are exported they are considered to be of very good quality, because of their acidity, which gives them the flavor.

15077. (Chairman).—Is there much of an export trade in gooseberries?—It is not a fruit that must be eaten straight off the tree?—No; the great bulk of gooseberries used are used before they are ripe. There is a quantity used for pulping purposes.

15078. (Mr. Mich).—For mixing with fruit for other jam?—Yes.

15079. Taking out the seeds, of course?—No; they are simply pulped for future use. With regard to strawberries, I estimate three hundreds of tons of early strawberries that come into Ireland from Jersey, Cornwall, Southampton, Kent, and Cheshire, and probably 100 tons for jam purposes from England, every one of which could be produced in Ireland. With regard to raspberries it is estimated that 150 tons of English and Scotch raspberries came into Ireland this year, all of which could be supplied here. With regard to red currants the demand is decreasing, so we do not advise their being grown. With regard to plums, 150 to 200 tons of English and foreign plums came into Ireland this year.

15080. Was there a failure of the crop here?—Practically. With regard to damsons, we can export a great quantity of them, but we did not get anything like our own supply this year and we had to import a lot. With regard to pears, very little is grown in Ireland, but a great many more could be grown, especially in the South, and, therefore, attention will be devoted to getting high-class pears grown in the South against walls. There is a good demand for them in this country. With regard to apples, the importation of apples in 1905 from America and Canada was probably 85,500, and we exported £11,500, so there is a balance against us, which we believe, as we are going on, we can overcome. With regard to marketing generally the produce of those places, the people are taking them up when they see there is a market for goods at better prices, and our object is to work back from the

demand to the producer and fulfil the market conditions. No. 2, 1905.

15081. Would your experience enable you to say whether there has been any increase in the growth of fruit of late years?—Very much. In Portadown, which has been a fruit centre for twenty years, taking the average of good seasons, we produce 10,000 tons of all kinds of fruit per annum, and people are planting in all directions.

15082. Has there been an increase of late years?—Undoubtedly, because the Irish apple, the better it is known, the better it is found to be, for cooking particularly.

15083. Have you anything to say about the time the Irish apple comes on the market. I think Professor Campbell told us something about that, that there was an object in getting the Irish apple on to the market?—We get early apples, the Irish Peach, and the Beauty of Bath, and similar sorts, which fetch better prices in England. Apples like these fetch 2s. 6d. per dozen.

15084. The Irish Peach is an apple?—Yes. Just now the apples are at their cheapest. We get a lot of American and Canadian imports in here.

15085A. And the apple that would keep till February or March are those to encourage for that season?—I have had experience of fruit-growing in England and other places, and there is nothing that under certain conditions I would sooner go into than fruit-growing on a large scale, for three reasons, first of all the price, secondly the great increase in the demand in England, and thirdly, that we are beginning to export. You will see a large quantity of apples down at the market ready for exportation to a foreign country, and the demand there is practically unlimited. So I think there is a good hope for the future of the Irish apple trade.

15085. You have told us just now that your duties are mainly advisory. Had you anything to do with the fruit industry carried on by the Department for some time at Drogheda?—I had.

15086. Please let us know the facts about that. As a matter of fact that came to an end?—That came to an end, and the plant at the different places was sold and distributed to firms who started as successors.

15087. How long did the Department carry that on?—From 1903 to the end of 1904. I cannot give the exact dates.

15087A. Was it an existing business taken over?—Oh, dear, no; absolutely new in Ireland.

15088. What was the object of it?—To show that we could can fruit in Ireland, bottle it, and make cider.

15089. It was in the nature of an experiment to show that that could be done on commercial principles and by private action?—Yes; and, besides that, to train the hands necessary, provided the industry succeeded.

15090. Would you rather have kept on the business a little longer?—As long as other firms were prepared to take it up I do not see the necessity.

15091. (Chairman).—You say it was carried on for two years, and that there was then a good deal of opposition to it?—I was informed that there were representations made to the Department, but I cannot speak of that of my own knowledge. I had nothing to do with the policy, although I have heard of it. It is only a hearsay.

15092. As a matter of fact, it was discontinued?—It was discontinued and everything sold, and all the plant is at present in use by private firms who are carrying on a similar venture in Ireland.

15093. Perhaps you could tell us where the machinery went to?—Some went to Messrs. Chapman, chinery went to—Some went to Messrs. Chapman, Limited, Portadown and Drogheda; some to Mr. F. Limited, Portadown and Drogheda; some to Mr. Green, Portadown; some to the Ulster Lin Company, Belfast; some to Mr. George Spence, for post-belling and sorting, some to Mr. Power, at Dungannon. But I believe a statement is being prepared at your request showing where the different things went.

15094. Did any of it remain?—No.

15095. So that as regards that neighbourhood the venture came to an end?—No; because in the same neighbourhood it is now being carried on by private enterprise, by Messrs. Chapman, of Portadown, and Lamb, of Drogheda.

15096. Did they buy some of your machinery?—Yes; the Chapman's set it up in Portadown. Lamb

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Mr. James
Harper

did not buy any of the machinery, but started at Bishill.

15497. But about the Borne Valley?—That is carried on by Messrs. Chapman.

15498. They bought some of your machinery?—

Yes, and left it in the same place.

15499. Your duties carry you all over Ireland?—

Yes, except to the West, where there is very little fruit grown.

15500. But where there is fruit grown in marketable quantities?—Yes. I am pleased to say that in every district in Ireland where the fruit plots have been started there is a very large demand for good fruit. There is an increasing demand for good fruit than there was before they were started. Limerick, Wexford, and Waterford are all taking very much more high-class fruit.

15501. Have you anything to do with the transit of the fruit?—Nothing at all. I have nothing to do with seeing how it goes to the market, but I keep in touch with the persons who buy, and when there are complaints I put myself into communication with the persons till the complaint is made right.

15502. How do you go to work, supposing a new industry started—supposing a private person or a company wanted to start fruit-growing or preserving?—They would apply to the Department for expert assistance.

15503. And you would be sent down?—I would first of all see whether there would be room for that enterprise. You might have too many enterprises started before you had the material. In starting the cider-making, for instance, at Portadown, it was admitted there would be a good outlet for cider there. I go down and attend the place as often as necessary until it is in good running order, and I have as little to do as possible with them after that. I only go to see them when they are in any difficulty.

Mr. David PIERCE, M.R.C.V.S., examined.

Mr. David
Pierce,
M.R.C.V.S.

15504. (Chairman).—You are superintendent travelling inspector of the Veterinary Branch of the Department?—Yes.

15505. You can tell us something as to the transit of live stock and your duties in connection with that?—Prior to the formation of the Department of Agriculture, the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council, which has since been merged into the Department of Agriculture, had two inspectors known as Travelling Inspectors, who superintended throughout the country the arrangements appertaining to live stock transit. I was employed under that Department in connection with transit of live stock work. I have been in the service upwards of twenty years. Since the Department of Agriculture came into existence the number of inspectors has been augmented, and there are now four inspectors whose primary duty is attending at fairs and places where live stock are examined and discharged from railways. The Department have powers with regard to the question of transit from the Diseases of Animals Act, and they have made Orders thereunder embodying certain provisions with regard to the construction of trucks, cleansing and disinfection, and matters of that kind, which are similar to those in existence in Great Britain. Indeed, I may say, that in those Orders the two Departments, the English Department and the Irish Department, co-ordinate. Those Orders to some extent, or rather special provisions of those Orders, were brought about by two Departmental Committees in which the Irish Department as well as the English Department were concerned.

15511. When were those Committees at work?—One was in the year 1894. That had relation to the transit of animals by water. Then a more recent Committee has had reference to the transit of animals by land; and it was from the recommendations put forward by this Committee that certain provisions of the Department's Orders originated. With regard to some of those recommendations, the Department were advised in the absence of legislation that they should try what could be done by persuasion, so to speak, with railway companies, and on the whole they have been successful. Personally I am aware that the Irish railway companies in carrying out the suggestions of the Department with regard to loading banks, cattle-pens, guiding arrangements on loading banks, so as to allow cattle to go into the cattle-trucks without over-leaking,

15504. Is there anything carried on by the Department like Portadown or the Borne Valley Company?—Nothing of the sort. These private firms are carrying on the industries successfully themselves.

15505. (Mr. Groves).—Is there any local market for cider—is it all exported?—No; there is some exported. There is a bigger demand in Ireland than the supply.

15506. There was no demand before it started?—Well, there was, 65,000 a year. The industry was spoken of in the "Travels of Arthur Young" in 1776. He spoke highly of the brew of the South. It has only been recently resuscitated since the Department came on, though it had been lingering on in the Blackwater Valley, and they were turning out exceedingly good cider.

15507. (Mr. Nichol).—At that time it was a good fruit country?—Yes. I notice all the orchards are going down. Now they are beginning to plant again, and produce more fruit quite suitable for cider.

15508. (Chairman).—Are there apples grown expressly for cider?—Yes, there are, in England and America, and a great quantity is made from casks from the eating and cooking fruit. We are endeavouring to get the people to grow that class of fruit, because the first grade are so valuable. Special kinds are still being grown in some of the old orchards in the South, but these we are turning into better cider. We are working at Ardara, in County Tipperary, where cider was made under great disadvantages with old presses and mills. Now we have a new plant down there, and proceed from place to place. We start in a centre and get four or five farmers to come and assist in making each other's cider, and we are trying to make a higher class of cider, some of which they can sell instead of distilling it all.

have spent many thousands of pounds, and they still continue to effect improvements. I do not, of course, say that the railway companies are perfect, nor yet that they have carried out every suggestion the Department have made, but they have on the whole met the Department fairly.

15512. We have had a good deal of evidence as to the class of people who were employed driving the cattle about and the rough treatment which the cattle get?—I heard a witness here make some remarks on that subject, and also to the effect that the Department had practically done nothing to improve live stock transit. I can only say that is a misrepresentation of the facts. Of course it is very difficult for a railway company to exclude certain people from their premises. The system is this:—A number of men known as drovers hang about a fair for the purpose of driving cattle from the fair to the railway. It is difficult for a railway company to say—"You are not a proper person to drive cattle, and you must keep off the premises." The witness referred to a person which no doubt some years ago was fairly prevalent, that was with regard to certain drovers being vagrant; but the drovers would only do so for the purpose of securing remuneration from the cattle owners themselves.

15513. Still the wagons belong to the railway company, and they might prevent all the drovers occupying one of them?—They could of course prevent it, but what I mean to say is this, that those men who seized wagons must have done so for the purpose of getting payment from certain men who subsequently might occupy these wagons, but the practice is not by any means general.

15514. The suggestion is that proper supervision and means are not taken by the railway companies to prevent that kind of thing?—Well, not only do the railway companies give directions to their servants, and to a large extent, no doubt, their servants obey those orders, but the Constabulary attend at every railway station of any importance where cattle are to be loaded to prevent cruelty, and they have from time to time instituted prosecutions against drovers. I have myself gone forward as a witness against drovers, and I have seen them fined, and in the absence of fine I have seen them imprisoned; so the matter is not allowed to run riot, as was suggested. Again, with

regard to treatment of animals at ports, much is done by the Department's staff to prevent ill-treatment. The Veterinary Inspectors not only examine animals with regard to diseases, but they also have very important duties as to any animal they may see unfit for shipment. They do not prohibit shipment of animals they may see unfit, because it was thought desirable that shippers should possess responsibilities themselves, but the Department's inspectors are instructed to advise any person in charge of live stock respecting any animal they consider unfit for shipment; and by these means a great many animals have been held back, and some not subsequently shipped. As the result of the Department's action in connection with the English Department, certain improvements have been made in steamships.

At present there are sixty-seven cattle-carrying steamers that carry animals from Ireland to Great Britain which possess these new improvements provided for in the Order of the Department. There are still a number of old ships, but they are fast disappearing. I may say with regard to the actual shipment of live stock that in addition to the veterinary surgeons whose duties are primarily with regard to the inspection of animals, there are officials known as ship inspectors whose duty it is to see that the animals are not abused, that they are properly penned on board the ship, and that the Department's regulations, as far as the fittings of the ship are concerned, are complied with. It is not fair to compare the Irish cross-Channel trade with the trans-Atlantic trade. First of all you have much bigger steamers on the Atlantic trade, and less subject, of course, to the influence of the sea. Then, again, the journeys are so comparatively short from Ireland to England that the cattle do not get what they do on the trans-Atlantic trade, an opportunity of settling down. The shortest journey from Ireland to Great Britain is via Stranraer. That is about two hours. The longest usual voyage possibly is about thirty-six hours, from Liverpool to Glasgow. I have seen animals very comfortable on some of these boats from Liverpool to Glasgow, lying down and feeding.

15515. (Mr. Dryden).—They are not in stalls?—There are no stalls on the Irish vessels. The Department's order provides that in all new steamers that have come out after a certain date in 1895, the size of their pens is not to exceed ten feet by nine.

15516. And they are to hold how many?—That altogether depends on the size of the animals, and this point forms a difficulty in dealing with such a matter. A large beast may take up the space of three small ones.

15517. Well, I suppose there are not many heavy beasts sent over? A great number of fat cattle. I do not agree with the witness who stated that the Irish trade consisted of a secondary class of cattle. Some may be, but we send over splendid cattle from Monagh, Westmeath, and other counties.

15518. That witness stated that they were chained secondary because of the abuse they received?—With all respect to the witness, I think you will find men who have a better knowledge of such abuses, and will disagree with him.

15519. (Mr. Micks).—We all know how they whack the animals?—Yes, but by raising your hat you cannot get them on the steamer. I do not suggest that they should be whacked, but you must use some little force.

15520. (Mr. Dryden).—A switch used on the animal's legs would prevent injury to the back?—I suppose it would. I must say that beating of cattle is greatly minimised from what was in former years. In fact it could not be otherwise having regard to the precautions. The use of a whip on the legs of the animals might be the better way, and is now sometimes adopted. Then, again, another plan is to use a good with a very short spine on the top, which does not enter the skin very much, but at the same time the animals feel it.

15521. (Mr. Brown).—You mean like what they use in the South of France?—Yes. In fact a great number of the Irish drovers do use the good. That was one of the recommendations of the Departmental Committee, but it was thought there was no legislation to enforce it, and besides the stick carrying the good might be used instead.

15522. You should treat it as cruelty to animals?—Should the Department's inspectors or the police notice anything that would be regarded as unnecessary whacking, they know how to deal with it, and have dealt with such cases.

15523. There have been cases of that kind?—Yes, Nov. 3, 1906

and offenders have gone to gaol for it. Mr. David
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15524. Is it the result of your observation that this evil has greatly diminished?—Certainly.

15525. Both for land transit and sea transit?—

Quite so.

15526. (Chairman).—Has there been any improvement in the fittings of the railway carriages or of ships for cattle?—Well, since the year 1895, with regard to cattle ships, the smaller size of pens that I mentioned, ten feet by nine feet, has come into effect, but in addition there have been other improvements, as regards foot-holds to prevent slipping, ventilation, and various matters of that kind. These have been stringently required so far as these new vessels are concerned, as have also some new provisions in respect to older vessels and railway trucks.

15527. (Mr. Micks).—Are there single stalls in ocean steamers?—There are divisions between each two cattle, I think.

15528. Have you seen the regulations for ocean transport of cattle?—I have. I have seen animals which were comfortable even on a wreck. I remember being on board a steamer called the Dominica, that came from Canada, and was wrecked in Bonny Bay, notwithstanding the wreck, the cattle were very comfortable on board. There were cattle, horses, and sheep on the vessel, but unfortunately a great many sheep were drowned.

15529. Have you inspected at Liverpool or some of these ports of debarkation?—I have.

15530. (Mr. Dryden).—Have you any power, as an inspector, as to the crowding in these pens?—Yes, the Order distinctly provides that neither in a pen nor any other part of the ship is overcrowding to occur.

15531. You are the judge of that?—In some cases the shipping companies have been prosecuted, and the judgments run with the magistrates in such instances.

15532. (Chairman).—Who have the power to prosecute?—The Department possess power to prosecute for the offence of overcrowding.

15533. (Mr. Micks).—Have you ever prosecuted?—Yes. The Order provides against "overcrowding so as to cause unnecessary suffering."

15534. Is it considered desirable that animals should not be able to lie down?—That stands this way. Supposing you have half-a-dozen animals in a pen, if one gets down, not only may he be trodden on, but he endangers the others by falling over him.

15535. (Chairman).—What condition of things would justify you in prosecuting for overcrowding?—Too much crowding.

15536. (Mr. Micks).—I was asking you, as a test of that, whether it was desirable that animals should not be able to lie down?—As a matter of fact they do not lie down, as a rule, on most voyages.

15537. They have not room to lie down?—They have room in a sense to lie down, but if you have a number of animals in a pen and if one lies down the inference is that others will fall over it in a rough sea.

15538. So that you would not consider that animals being put in a pen so close that one of them could not lie down would be crowding?—I could not really conclude under the circumstances mentioned, that they were suffering.

15539. But if their ribs were spaced?—Then I would say that was overcrowding.

15540. But not till then?—Not till then, or until there was otherwise too much crowding. If an animal gets down its head it may be so pressed or crushed that it cannot rise it.

15541. Is there any plan for keeping the head up?—Fat cattle are tied with their heads up in the pens.

15542. (Mr. Dryden).—Well, thirty-six hours standing that way is rather cruel.

15543. (Mr. Micks).—You would not have fat cattle going that route?—Sometimes, but their heads need not be tied too high up. I have seen on the Clyde boats animals lie down, and lie down very comfortably, bedded down in fact.

15544. Are animals taken by a tender up to the Valencia?—She does not run now, but they used to be brought round from port to port by that vessel.

15545. That is not done now. Is that a great loss to the country?—I do not think so, so far as animals are concerned.

15546. In another respect is it a loss to the country?—It might be.

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15547. For places remote from railway communication?—At one time that used to run into Valentia. There is a railway running there now. The road used to run to Kenmare; and there is now a railway there also.

15548. But at the end of the point?—Yes; some of the smaller ports have not railway communication. 15549. And that district would be affected by having to carry it twenty or thirty miles.

Rev. P. J. Downing, C.M., examined.

Rev. P. J.
Downing,
C.M.

15550. (Chairman).—I believe you represent the Irish Technical Instruction Association and also the Cork County Borough Committee of Technical Education?—Yes.

15551. I think we had, some time ago, a statement from the Cork County Borough?—I brought the statement of the Standing Council, and if it is all the same I would just follow that because it was on the lines of that that I prepared my evidence. It may be just as well to state whom I represent. The Technical Instruction Association is composed of the Technical Education Committees of Ireland. In fact I think the Technical Education Committees of Ireland number about sixty, and we represent fifty-seven or fifty-eight of them. I may say that we represent the opinion of the men who are working the technical education of the country. The figures are, there are sixty-four Technical Committees, and of these we represent fifty-five, of course including all the big ones, the county boroughs, the urban districts, County Joint Committees, and County Committees. Since your Committee wished to us that you wished our evidence the Standing Committee sent forward to all the Committees of the Association asking them to get us in concert with their opinion about the different matters that they thought should be put before the Committee. When the replies came back we met again and we found there was comparative unanimity about a number of points. Other points were not of particular importance, and then we drew up this Minute of Evidence, and to get it looked again we sent it back again to the Committee, and in nearly all instances the Committee approved of the Minutes of Evidence. In some cases they enlarged on them. So you can take that as practically the authoritative declaration of the Committees through the country. With regard to the first item, that is, that the Committee strongly disapproved of any amendment of the Act which would bring the Department under the direct control of a Castle Board, we were told by an independent authority, an official who did not wish to have his name disclosed, that there was a question of having a Board, such as the Advisory Boards that manage the country—for example, in education, the Intermediate and National Boards, who were to take charge of technical education. I suppose you are aware by this time that we are not overpleased with either the National or the Intermediate Board, and hence we should be very sorry to see technical education brought under another Board similar to those. The result was the Committee all through the country strongly disapproved of any such thing as putting our technical education into the hands of an Education Board.

15552. Do you mean any existing Education Board?—Any Board similar in character to those which exist.

15553. Would you object to an Education Board which would deal with the whole thing?—Certainly not. We would like immensely to have the whole thing unified, but we would object to any Board nominated by the Castle authorities as the National Board and the Intermediate Board are now nominated. There is no use in dwelling on the disadvantages of those Boards.

15554. I think we have in very thoroughly?—At various points. The next was the constitution of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. According to the Act they are popularly constituted because, according to the Act, there must be always a majority of the members elected by the various bodies through the country, but personally I find fault with the scheme that is made. Naturally, with regard to the Technical Board you look for example for large manufacturers who know the exigencies of modern manufacture, or you look for educationalists or the head of a very successful firm, or something of that kind, but if you look down the list you will see that if you adopt this method it would eliminate a number of members of the Board. Even as chosen by the pro-

ple at present the Board itself has a great many disabilities in its way. However the main point that the Standing Council found fault with was that the members had no initiative power. Of course you are aware of the wording of the Act, and by the Act it is clear that if the Department wished they could refuse to allow them to initiate anything, and I think that the present feeling through the country, at least the section of the country that is dissatisfied with the Department, was founded on the fact that whatever initiative they attempted was disregarded. We, in Cork, had one of our members, Sir Edward Bagnall, elected on the Board, and he refused to attend a couple of times. We called him to order for it and his only explanation was that there was no use in his attending, as the business was cut and dried; there was no use in his attending to hear a thing read for him to say amen to.

15555. Have any members of the Technical Education Board attempted to exercise the power of initiative?—I was just going to take that up. It strikes me that if they had the initiative and their suggestions were respected you would not meet with such dissatisfaction in the country. I just take the last Report of the Department to give you some little idea of the country's mind as to how the thing seems to work. For instance, Mr. L. J. Nolan, page 62, suggested that the Vice-President's address should be printed and copies sent to members of the Council a few days before the meeting. He was told that would be considered. To ordinary minds that seems a commonplace thing to propose, that such an important Council, gathered at such expense from the country, should have the thing in their minds a few days before the meeting so that they might get the opinion of their Committee on it.

15556. (Mr. Brown).—That is the Council of Agriculture?—The Board or Council; they all come to the same thing. It gives you a clue like to the wording of the thing. Mr. Toal desired to call attention to the appointment of Mr. Porter, one of the Department's inspectors. Well, the Vice-President said that out of order. Surely you would imagine if there was anything in order it would be to see that the officials were appointed properly.

15557. Perhaps you are not aware that the gentleman referred to was a transferred official, transferred at an existing salary?—I know that, but it did not follow because he did his duty very well in another section he would do it in this section.

15558. There was no question about his duty. It was about the appointment?—Behind the thing was his capability for the office, and it did not follow that because he fulfilled his duties well in another branch of the civil service he should do well in this. It was not on the ground of his appointment or salary but what he had to do. This was ruled out of order.

15559. (Mr. Miles).—And the Vice-President made a statement at the same time about Mr. Porter?—He said he was transferred.

15560. (Mr. Brown).—I think he made another statement?—He said, "Mr. Porter was transferred to the Department at his present salary under the Act by which the Department was created. Mr. Porter has proved to be an efficient and faithful public servant." That was no answer. A man might be an efficient veterinary surgeon but he would not be a good better inspector.

15561. What was Mr. Toal's statement?—Mr. Toal desired to call attention to the appointment of Mr. Porter, one of the Department's inspectors?—He was not allowed to discuss it.

15562. Perhaps you are not aware that he did in cases it; that is a new condensed report?—The Vice-President ruled it out of order. He was gagged at once.

(Mr. Miles).—We had Mr. Toal himself on the subject.

(Mr. Brown).—His appointment was questioned and his salary was questioned.

(Mr. Micks).—And his fitness also; but Sir Horace Plunkett did bear witness to his capacity and his efficiency.

15563. (Mr. Brown).—But that really was not questioned?—There was no question as to his being an efficient and faithful public servant.

15564. (Mr. Micks).—And he had experience of over fifteen years doing similar work?—That is not true. Mr. Nolan said dissatisfaction had been caused at the recent appointment of Lord Eberia as inspector. The Vice-President pointed out there was as much public opinion expressed in favour of the appointment as against it. Lord Eberia's qualifications were excellent, otherwise he would not have been appointed. This is the standing out policy that has caused so much dissatisfaction in the country. One man was told that the man was transferred and that he was good and efficient, and the other man that his qualifications were excellent. That is the whole point in dispute. They wanted to have a chat about it and it was snuffed out. There was another point at the same meeting which came on at the instance of Mr. William Field, M.P. He is one of the ablest authorities on the cattle trade. He proposed a resolution about cattle, and I presume he knew what he was speaking about. The answer to his resolution was typical. In fact that is the answer that has been given over and over again to similar resolutions. The Vice-President said that legislation would be required to give effect to the resolution.

15565. What was his resolution?—As experience has shown that so long as inferior and ill-bred defective descended or closely in-bred animals are allowed to propagate their breeds in Ireland it is difficult to obtain any improvement in live stock, we therefore recommend that a measure be taken to register every stallion, bull, boar, and ram in Ireland, and no animal be permitted to serve except those registered. The answer is that legislation would be required to give effect to that resolution.

15566. (Mr. Dwyer).—Is not that correct?—Yes, but it gets you no "forwarder."

15567. (Mr. Micks).—Would you like them to say that the Department would promote legislation?—Promote.

15568. (Chairman).—Would you have a limit to the questions which the Agricultural Council may discuss, whether they have any power to carry them out or not; would you have no limit at all, and no rules as to what was relevant and what was not?—Certainly I would, but anyone that knows that if the Department could order that every Irish pig should have a cross on its back going over to England it could arrange to have a register.

15569. (Mr. Dwyer).—It is a very important subject and would require a great deal of thought before a decision is come to, and when the Vice-President says it requires legislation I don't see any other answer he could give?—You know it has been over and over again stated that the Department is always ready to adopt any reasonable suggestion. Now, of course this must be a reasonable suggestion, otherwise it would not be put forward by a man of such prominence in the cattle world as Mr. Field.

(Mr. Dwyer).—I would not assent to that proposition.

15570. (Mr. Brown).—What because of the resolution?—I daresay if you read the reports in five years' time to come you would see the same resolution brought up again.

15571. I was asking you about the document before you?—The document says they would discuss the question with the Advisory Committee on live stock. There was no further result.

15572. Was the resolution carried by the Council?—It was passed.

15573. Then the Council were informed that in order to give effect to the resolution future legislation was necessary?—Yes.

15574. And that the Department would control the body that they generally controlled on those questions?—You have read the Journals of the Department?

15575. I have been present at these discussions, and I have read the Journals?—Does it not strike you that there is a great deal of that kind of thing done?

(Chairman).—I fail to understand the objection. Here is a matter brought forward over which the Department have no power whatsoever, no power under the existing Act. They have no power to deal with the matter at all, and the Vice-President said so.

15576. (Mr. O'Brien).—He goes further than that. He says the matter will be considered by the Department and the Advisory Committee, a consideration which may or may not eventuate in the promotion of legislation on the subject, but that of course could not appear at the first mention of the matter?—Of course you are, sir, on the record it is typical of the way things are done.

15577. (Chairman).—Is it not the right way?—No; I think that where you have a big Government Department like this, viz. the Agricultural Board, decide unanimously in favour of a thing the answer to the Board should be they will see that legislation will be brought in to carry out the suggestion.

15578. They have no power to do that?—They have no power to try to initiate a Bill on a subject of this kind or to make arrangements for themselves.

15579. (Mr. Micks).—They would have power according to your view to make representations to the Government if the Advisory Committee considered such a step necessary?—Exactly; there is no promise there.

15580. Except the promise that they would communicate with the Advisory Committee; that is a step further?—It is a slight step.

15581. (Mr. Brown).—What is the date of the meeting?—The 16th of May, 1906. Take the system under which we worked in Ireland with regard to results fees. The South Kensington was adopted and it was just with a very little modification landed on us here in Ireland, and we then laboured under the disabilities of the system for five years, and it is only this little time past that a change has been made; but every time the Committee approached the Department the answer was the same—that legislation would be required, and that things were in hands.

15582. (Mr. O'Brien).—They have had no legislation; surely that could not have been their reply?—The law would have to be changed.

15583. They could not have said that because they have not had it changed and they have brought on the new programme; that did not require legislation?—It had to be arranged between the Treasury and the South Kensington authorities.

15584. What was that reply you say the Department gave?—Well, I suppose the law. We had to follow the results system.

15585. I am afraid there must be an error in that; could you give me a reference to that reply?—Mr. Taylor, would you give me a copy of the Limerick Congress Report.

(Mr. Taylor).—It was not received by me.

15586. (Mr. O'Brien).—There must be an error because no legislation or alteration of the law was required to make a change in that respect, so the reply the Department must have given could not possibly have been that?—It may be a more technically, but to give us the present results programme under which we are working this year we had to get a Treasury Minute, and that had to be sanctioned by the proper official authority. I presume that was the legislation they meant.

15587. They would never have called that legislation?—They might not have, in a technical sense, but in the broader sense it was on all fours with this, that there was a certain change to be made in official regulations and we were five years waiting for the thing that was promised.

15588. Had the Department agreed from the beginning that the changes you suggested were the most desirable changes?—Oh, yes; we have it in Mr. Fletcher's own words last year at the Congress that they were endeavouring to do the thing the members said. It took some years to bring the thing to a head.

15589. Perhaps they may have been asking specially good terms and it may have taken some time to secure those?—I will give them the benefit of the doubt. The programme they have secured does give specially good terms, much more liberal than those given in any other part of the country. It is a very good programme.

15590. And if the Department have taken some years to get it through, one could pretty well understand that the excellence of the terms may have had something to do with the delay in getting them through?—I am delighted with that explanation. It near struck me before.

15591. And the sad justified reverts?—It is not one that would strike us at first sight, having regard to the way things have been done. The radical mistake was in adopting that programme in the be-

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ginning. It should not have been adopted as it was. There should have been changes made in the beginning. We were unable to get results in Ireland under which results were given in England.

15592. At the same time the delay in getting the fruits which is making other people's mouths water severely has not been to the detriment of Ireland?—It has not, I admit, but I would just produce this as an illustration on which the public founded the idea that the Board has not exactly got initiative power. The second thing on the Minutes of the Council was about the urban and rural districts as distinguished from the county boroughs. The more important centres of technical education are those completely at the mercy of the permanent officials of the Department who can be subject neither to criticism nor to appeal. That is, as the Act is worded, all schemes from rural and urban districts are to be submitted to the Board, whereas with regard to the county boroughs they are apparently under the direct control of the Board. It was the headmaster of Dublin himself who pointed out that that was so. I presume he felt himself aggrieved by that wording of the Act.

15593. Do you think the county boroughs, as a whole, would welcome such a change as would make their schemes subject to the approval of the Board?—I think so. That is what they seem to feel—that it would be well to have an appeal to the Board.

15594. (Mr. Miles).—That there should be the same relations between the Board and the county boroughs as exist between the Board and the other Technical Education Committees?—Yes. Apparently there would be the idea that they should be put on the same level; I mean that suppose they had to make an appeal that they would have an appeal from the actual officials of the Department to the Technical Board or the Technical Council would have a voice in their treatment. The next item was the allocation of £55,000 for the purpose of technical instruction. Of course with regard to that I think the Committee have already had a good deal of evidence, that the sum of £55,000 seems to be completely inadequate, but as representing the Cork Council I want to point out what we consider a most serious fault in the Act, namely that the sum allocated to the boroughs is liable to change and especially liable to deductions. In Cork we were told by the Department in a letter we received that our funds for technical purposes would be £2,730.

15595. That is when it began?—Yes, but when they began to arrange the matter they held over a sum of £200 in view of the Census. On the previous Census we are entitled to that by the Census, but when the later Census came out it was found that the population of Belfast had risen nearly 100,000 in the decade, while that of Cork remained stationary. The population of Cork in 1891 was 75,079, and in 1901 it was 75,122. That of Belfast in 1891 was 228,090, and in 1901 it was 340,545. Therefore, in Cork we only got £2,400, and the increase to Belfast was swelled by the £200 deducted from our income. At the next re-adjustment if the same mechanical process is to hold very probably Cork will lose another share, because in Belfast the birth rate is 21·8 against a death rate of 20·4, while in Cork the birth rate is 22·1 against a death rate of 15·8; so you see the Belfast men are preparing for another grant at the end of the next decade. That is a very serious thing for us to consider. If we are docketed another £200 we shall have to close some of our schools. I think the Committee ought to take that into their very serious consideration. It would be disastrous to Cork if this process were to go on. The suggestion is that when there is a working limit reached in the income, as for example let us take Cork at present; nobody can object to any of our schools, and if we show that we really work our system well and that our money is well expended it seems a pitiful thing that simply because there are more children born in Belfast in the decade we are to contribute £200 every decade to Belfast.

15596. They would want more money if they have more children?—Let them be provided for from another source. We want all the money we have. That is the point the Cork Borough Council would wish the Committee to give particular attention to, to save them from this process of docketing that would paralyse them. There should be an allocation in the Act. There should be some word put in there.

15597. (Chairman).—Some other test than the mere test of population?—Yes. The second proof of the

funds being totally inadequate is shown by the declaration of the Department over and over again that they have no funds to meet new demands. For example, only the other day when the Department held a conference with the Standing Council this statement was repeated. Mr. Fletcher hailed as there by declaring that the funds were all spent, they wanted more funds. Where this comes out particularly is in this way. The way the Department could relieve the industries of Ireland to a very large degree would be by paying for the training of apprentices in the different industries, and there are any number of industries, and if the help was given to them they would be able to get on their legs, and several might be started if the men who are prepared to capitalise industry had an offer from the Department to pay for the training of apprentices. According to the statement the Department has no funds to meet things like that, and it has a very deterring effect on any capitalist who would be likely to invest money. In Cork we have had a number of industries, and if help could have been given to them they probably could have been put on their legs, or if decaying they could have been put into a flourishing condition. That is another reason why the Department should get a larger grant under the heading.

15598. (Mr. O'Donoghue).—Have the Department expressed any views as to whether such an object could come under this heading?—Certainly, I think they have freely expressed their views that they could train apprentices for industries if they got more money. It is there actually in their new programme.

15599. That is out of a Parliamentary grant which is elastic?—Would I be allowed to appeal to Mr. Fletcher: am I not right in stating if you had more funds you would be prepared to help towards the training of apprentices in industries or incomes?

(Mr. Fletcher).—The funds are already provided in the paper you hold in your hand for the training of apprentices in classes which may be held either in the technical school or in the works. Of course, I need not say we are very much in sympathy with this, and we should not have made strong representations to the Treasury to provide funds for it.

(The Witness).—You are in sympathy with what I say?

(Mr. Fletcher).—Absolutely in sympathy. That is one of the reasons we are anxious to get that fund increased.

15600. (Mr. O'Donoghue).—The aid to which attention has just been drawn in this programme is aid entirely out with the fund to which you have drawn attention. This aid comes out of the annual grant from Parliament, and, therefore, is as expensible as the work. If the work increases the aid increases, and this is entirely independent of the draft upon the fund or whatever sum may come to Cork out of its £55,000—I was just about to call attention to that. There is a difference. You know, there should be an earning of grants. That is under the general heading of grants. But what I contend is that the Department should have a sum of money to set apprentices already in the factory, before they are the stage of earning grants. They should pay towards the training of apprentices. There might be things done that would require an outlay, and we think the £55,000 should be increased to meet demands of this kind.

15601. Your demand is of an entirely different character from that provided for in the programme. The programme makes provision for the instruction of apprentices, even for the technical instruction of apprentices, and the demand to which you now refer is something which would be without the area of instruction proper?—It would. I would be inclined to have a more elastic concession. There are a great many restrictions under that. First of all, you must have the works already established. The man who is over the thing must be properly recognized, and his qualifications must be seen into afterwards. They must attend a certain number of hours in order to be entitled to a grant, and several other things. I think that I am right in saying that the people in the country would consider that a grant that would not be so strictly bound down as that would be very acceptable.

15602. No doubt?—You are dealing with a country vastly different from England, a country where education has been practically paralysed for a long time, and where in fact even at present it is not up to the

efficient standard, and if we look out for hard and fast lines in dealing with the people you will find that in a great many places you will be blocked, whereas if there was more licence given and it was left to the discretion of the Department where they found an industry that would not be actually great earning, but by a little judicious help for a year or two might be great earning or on its legs and would not require further help—that is the kind of thing.

15003. (Chairman).—That is not a strictly educational object. The primary object of that is to put on industry on the legs by financial aid—it would be educational inasmuch as it would be paying for the training of apprentices.

15004. The primary object is the establishment of the industry—I should not say that. That would be actually subsidising an industry, but I think training apprentices is different from subsidising an industry. There may be industries that would come within the last and first lines of the programme and could not earn grants, and if there was a sum of money at the disposal of the Department to help industries like that it would be welcome.

15005. (Mr. Gwynn).—Don't you think that as this is the first year of the working of the new programme, which is admittedly very liberal, it is a little premature to say it won't be applicable to the very large proportion, indeed, of industrial enterprises—I feel that, but God knows when we will have another Commission, and it is as well to get all the shots we can while the present Commission is sitting.

15006. (Mr. Micks).—Don't you think it is a little premature to speak of the liberality of the grant until we see what we are getting?—That is precisely Mr. Gwynn's statement, that we should wait.

15007. Do you think it is too soon to speak of the liberality of the grant being admitted until we see what is produced?—I agree with you, but with regard to the contingency of its not being so large as we would like I am putting in a claim for a little since that we would be sure of.

15008. You observe the last paragraph in the scheme—"Practical work must be so arranged as to be illustrative of the principles taught, and should not be directed to developing dexterity in trade processes." That very thing would block it. Take a girl knitting stockings, unless she had a knitting machine—

15009. If a girl had a knitting machine and sufficient practice to make her familiar with the principles I don't think she would be very long knitting stockings. Somebody would be getting grants for her instruction during that period?—Yes, but you cannot combine the two things, a factory that is trying to make its way in the world and a place where, on principle, dexterity is not aimed at.

15010. That paragraph is in accordance with the restrictions of the Act?—Precisely.

15011. Do you think the restrictions in the Act ought to be taken away?—Certainly, I think so. I think from my experience of Continental technical schools there is no such hoarding of technical education on the Continent. I have visited every big technical school in Europe, and have seen them all work in the schools, and it would take very close observation to see where the difference comes in between teaching a trade and teaching the principles of the trade.

15012. (Mr. Brown).—You are speaking of technical schools. Have you any instances of cases where industries themselves are paid for instructing their operatives?—You mean in the factories?

15013. (Mr. Micks).—Kilbenny or Galway?—You are speaking of the Continent. At the present moment I cannot recall any place. I take your question as meaning whether the Government pays for the training of apprentices in the factory as distinct from the technical school. I cannot recall any case to my mind.

(Mr. Brown).—You were making a comparison between Continental methods and the methods here, as I thought, in favour of your argument that the Government should pay for instruction of the operatives in factories and industrial concerns, and I wanted to know if there was any precedent for that.

15014. (Mr. Micks).—May I recall to your memory the Report of the Beeson Committee, in which instances are given in Wurtemberg and elsewhere where the Government does manage works?—I know instances of the kind myself.

15015. Would not that be a step further?—Of course

I know there are very many works on the Continent where the Government manufacture things, for instance, the *Siemens* works.

15016. You mean where they have started industries to bring in earnings to the people?—Precisely. You must get a great many cases of the kind.

15017. (Mr. Gwynn).—You are familiar with the Wurtemberg case?—Yes.

15018. What is the nature of the manufacture?—I could not recall exactly. I think one of them is a tobacco factory, but I will tell you the case of the *Siemens* establishment, which is more to the point.

That is a big establishment controlled by the Government, and the apprentices are all trained at the expense of the Government, and there is also the case of the Gobelins tapestry works.

15019. They are trained at the expense of the Government just as the apprentices of any other commercial factory here are trained at the expense of the business, the Government treating that as a business concern?—Yes. It would not be a success unless the Government did it.

15020. As a matter of fact, the Government do run it, and run it without a loss?—Yes, but they had to start it and initiate it, and keep it up before they got to that stage. I suppose you are aware of the fact that the £25,000 as an income for technical education tends to become less adequate because in a technical establishment the expenses are growing, and if you had that a certain income in the year is sufficient for the first year the natural development of the place will show you that next year that income will not be sufficient. I give you an illustration of that with regard to our place in Cork. Suppose you have a chemistry class. The first year you have an elementary class for two years. The second year you have an intermediate class for two years. The third year you have an advanced class for two years. Those three classes must get two hours each during the week. That takes up the whole time of the Professor and the whole money at our disposal, and therefore next year if you want to develop in organic chemistry we have to have a new set of classes running, and if we had sufficient income the first year to pay for the chemistry the next year we must have an increase, and the objection is that this increase should come from the grants. My own experience is that grants are very uncertain. We find that the attendance drops something like fifty per cent. in the year in Cork. In fact, it drops more in some classes. Suppose you were depending on grants for paying your Professor, where will you be if the attendance falls 50 per cent. during a year. Consequently, I say that the sum of money should be very nearly what is required for the staffing of the place, and, as you see by the natural development of the place, you are bound to require more money, consequently the Standing Council say the money should increase in keeping with the growth of technical education. There is another point I should like to call attention to, and that is that we are entitled here to much more money than we are getting for technical education. The claim for Ireland for more funds is founded on the fact that for ten years or thereabouts our share of the whiskey money was spent, not on technical education or in preparation for it, but on National and Intermediate education, and I think if the Committee will bear with me I will show them that that is a very important point, for the simple reason that if the money that had been spent in England on technical education were spent in Ireland in preparing the ground for technical education we would not complain; but what was the fact. The National education system during all that time was, if anything, moving people away from the preparation for technical education. Mathematics were only taught to a mere handful of pupils out of the 700,000 that attended National schools. As for intermediate education, that was a regular machine for turning the whole talent of Ireland into literary channels. I saw a Professor myself in the beginning before the Intermediate education came in. I was in a college where we had a well-equipped laboratory, and went through our chemical and philosophical courses with the greatest success. The first year of the Intermediate we took the medals in physical science and chemistry. Four or five years had not passed under the Intermediate when, by the process of marking up the literary subjects and marking down physical subjects, that laboratory was turned into a curiosity shop. There was no further use for

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it; and this process was going on all over the country. So the money that was going for technical education in England was going in Ireland to stifle the chances of Ireland becoming technically educated. That should be a strong point. That would mean that we would be entitled to very nearly a million of money that we have not got. If you calculate the amount of money spent on technical education in England in the time it runs up to nearly a million.

15621. No chance of getting it back from the secondary schools?—No chance whatever. It is like the inferno. Out of it there is no redemption.

15622. Of course, obviously in running an educational institution, if you were to establish the institution upon a certain scale there is an irreducible minimum. If you have got certain fixed charges and a fixed staff to provide for it is quite a fair principle to regard the further extension of the expenditure as proportionate to the work that is done?—Yes.

15623. And the system that is adopted at present in Ireland is that there should be a definite sum to begin with, and then that the subsidy from public funds should take the form of grants in respect of attendance, these grants being calculated at rates which, taking into consideration the drop in attendance to which you allude, should produce for the institutions carrying on the work an adequate return in the shape of public money to maintain such conditions as you have properly called attention to as being necessary?—Yes.

15624. It all turns on the efficiency of the rate of grants to satisfy these conditions?—In due in a certain sense I know, but still you don't take away the previous character of the thing.

15625. Oh, yes, you do!—Suppose you find the classes require at least two masters. Suppose you engage the two masters at the beginning of the year and your attendance dropped 50 per cent. your grants will scarcely compensate you for engaging the second master.

15626. That is a matter of calculation. There is experience to point to in it. I think you are aware of the experience in institutions where the grants are sufficiently steady and reliable to give the managers of the institution confidence in carrying them on?—Yes.

15627. Those institutions are not in units, but in thousands where they are carried on in that way, and to show that is not a satisfactory way you would have to show that the grants were not on an adequate scale?—Would not the question also come in about the population; you are dealing with large centres in England?

15628. No; I am speaking of towns where the population varies from 100 or 200 to hundreds of thousands. It is a question of scale. The question is the scale of grants adequate to meet the conditions in each style of place?—I figured it out myself with regard to our own schools.

15629. On the new grants?—On the new grants. Of course we have an attendance I suppose of about 600. I figured that out, and found we would be somewhat in the lurch if dependent on the grants. Here is a class. Clearly we want to double the teaching power. I figured myself as doubling the teaching power and found I would be left in the lurch at the end of the year if I did so.

15630. I venture to hope that you will find in experience that if you work the staff with any reasonable measure of economy you will find it otherwise upon the scheme of grants you have got here?—I hope so, but I have got my fears. I worked it out and found it would not compensate us for yielding to the seduction of the grants. If we brought in the Professor the attendance would drop, and we would drop also.

15631. The scale of grants available for the school is very greatly in excess of that which is found to give the results I have indicated in other places?—I have always understood that the grants in England and Scotland were much higher than the grants we are getting.

15632. Oh, no; they are very much the other way!—I think we are agreed about that on our Committee that we shall be breaking on treacherous ground if we accept the grants as security for the demands of our Professors. Of course this is all tentative, but still, as I said before, I want to get in a word now in the hope that it will bring about some good

results. There is another point I was about to dwell upon, and that is with regard to the allocation of the Customs and Excise duties grant. I believe one-fifth has to be divided between Ireland and Scotland. Scotland gets eleven-twentieths of the total and we only get nine-twentieths.

15633. (Mr. Michel).—That is according to the population?—Even according to the population that would not be fair, because the population in both countries unhappily is now about the same. We have gone down and Scotland has gone up. According to the contribution of the particular part of the room affected we are about the same also, so that coming to either tax—population or contribution—we should get the same as the Scotch. We could not but get eleven-twentieths. We should get half each. Of course you are aware of the fact that no money so far as I can learn from experience, makes contributions to technical education on hand and lat. lines. In 1874 Prussia was spending 25,000 a year on technical education. In 1880 she was spending 4210,000. Saxony was spending 412,000 a year in 1874, and in 1890 was spending 2,350,000. The main point in the programme is the absence of provision for building. It would be wasting your time to go into the details of that, but you have been in the Report of the Technical Congress at Lancaster a statement of the disabilities under which the country is labouring for the want of building funds, and Mr. Fowler was good enough when the thing was put before him to state that in fact the Report was not even as bad as things were. (Page 47). There is there a list of the disabilities under which the different places labour. Of course you have been through the survey and have seen some places in country districts where they are trying to carry on technical education. Quite recently we got a resolution from the Trade Committee. It emphasises the thing, because the Inspector actually comes out on it. He says: "The classes conducted during the previous year, and satisfactory progress was made; but, as in previous years the inadequacy of the buildings detract from the efficiency of instruction. The condition and position of the school militate against its full efficiency, and technical instruction will not be placed on a satisfactory footing until a suitable building has been procured." That is the most recent declaration of the subject. I think you will notice Mr. Fowler said they had not actually stated things as badly as they were. That clearly points out, I think, the there should be some provision for building purposes. I don't mean, of course, to say that there should be an expensive school run up in every part of Ireland, but there should be at least some provision made. I think you saw our place in Cork. Our power is scattered. We are teaching in the school house, in portion of the Model school, and in other premises at Union-quay. We have three schools going on in three different places, and now there is a School of Commerce going to be started by the Chamber of Commerce, and that will be a fourth building in which technical education will be carried on. The very first day we showed the late Inspector, Mr. Blair, the buildings we had taken at Union-quay he said so they were only fit to be pulled down, yet we had to carry on there for the last three or four years. It would be prepared in Cork to strike another party in the pound rate to meet the interest on 415,000 if we could get a grant that would pay the interest on another 215,000, and enable us to put up a building that would house at least a portion of our technical education. It may be said, why not get back the same as the managers of the National school? To do that we should require a large sum of money which we cannot for the present raise, so that unless we get some assistance in the way of money that will help us to pay the annual interest and sinking fund we must remain as we are. That is a great drawback, because we have to turn away pupils from the classes, and if we had sufficient space we could probably have a double set of classes running during the year, but at present we have to turn away pupils. The latest application we had was for a general class, a most important class, and the only place we can house it is in the kitchen of these old premises at Union-quay, which are of themselves very costly. A building grant seems to be an imperative necessity

for schools. The country is extending its work, and the ramshackle places in which we started are becoming positively unhealthy. At the last meeting in Waterford it was stated that if there could be a sum allocated of £250,000 a year, which sum would go to pay interest and sinking fund, that would be sufficient to put up proper schools through the country—£250,000 a year to help the different committees to pay off interest and sinking fund on their buildings.

15634. (Mr. O'Brien).—We have had before us a paper which you were good enough to supply with reference to that. The general facts are already known to us, but I should like if you would tell us in a general way how the £250,000 was arrived at?—Well, we sent a circular to all the Committees through the country to say we were about waiting on the Chief Secretary with reference to this question of building grants, and we would be anxious to have some definite figures. They sent us back a list of the places where they required buildings. Some buildings were of a very simple character for teaching small colony and domestic economy. Other buildings in larger centres were of a more elaborate character, working up to our own in Cork, which would cost £30,000. Our Committee went into the details of it, and we calculated that to put these buildings through Ireland would take a capital sum, the interest and sinking fund on which would amount to about £250,000 a year.

15635. That includes not merely the buildings necessary for the towns, but also the buildings necessary for rural areas?—Precisely. In some of the country districts they are building the cookery classes in the jail, and over publichouses, and in market houses, and all those things must affect the character of the technical training, because the buildings are of such a makeshift character.

15636. Does the Department allow you to hold technical schools for which they pay, over publichouses?—I think there are some instances in which it is over publichouses that they hold the technical schools (Limerick Congress Report, p. 48).

15637. Schools in organic chemistry perhaps?—Precisely. Another point I wanted to bring out was this, that with regard to the £250,000 it also covered repaying the debt contracted by a place like Belfast or Kerry. It would not be fair to have them omitted. We calculated, I think, that £250,000 a year would be ample to supply this want of a building fund.

15638. Now, without in any sense wishing to depreciate the necessity for buildings, I should like to put it to you whether you don't see considerable advantages in local authorities not committing themselves to the new buildings for very specialised classes which may or may not in the end prove to be of use in meeting a real continuing demand? because what you have just said about the printer's class suggested to me that while there is a great deal of printing done in Cork, you might very well, even in the unsatisfactory places that you refer to, try how far that printing trade is going to supply a continuing number of students?—Yes.

15639. And the proportion of the men will be dealt with, and whether it is worth while considering that as a department for which you will make special provision that cannot be used for anything else?—I am that objection from the very beginning, that it would be a very rash thing to run up buildings without considering all contingencies, but that does not affect the case where you have the actual want at present.

15640. I merely want to put it to you whether you would recognise the desirability of testing any such case as that?—Of course I say I think we came to the conclusion that inasmuch as the fund would be under the control of the Department we would not be allowed to build recklessly. I suppose the Department would step in then and would not approve of any reckless schemes, and hence I think it unnecessary, all such buildings would be safeguarded against. Don't you think so? the whole thing would be under the control of the Department.

15641. What I am putting to you refers to from this point of view. It is no particular hardship that a class like a printers' class should start work in a place which, after all, is good enough for the preliminary stages of the work?—I would not go the whole way with you there. I will tell you why. That printers' class should have been started years ago. In fact when we opened our classes in Cork there was a long list of classes which we recognised as

necessary, and if we had had a proper place and proper funds we should have started that immediately. The fact of the matter is we had to select the most necessary and then work by degrees to the ones we considered less necessary. We have established classes in mechanical engineering and electrical engineering, because we regard these as underlying everything else, but there were any number of classes we saw were very badly wanted; and now there is a motor-car industry springing up, and, as some technical schools have already done, we would be very anxious indeed to train chauffeurs. In like manner the furniture trade in Cork is a very considerable one, and we would be very anxious to have a school where furniture-making would be taught, but we are swamped for want of buildings. We did not start a printers' class, though we recognised the want of a printers' class years ago; we were not in a position to do anything for it until the other day.

15642. My point is that you should not postpone the printing class, which you now see your way to carry on, you would not postpone it because that is the best you could do for it. Your Committee as a matter of fact I understand have now established the printers' class in that kitchen, or are about to establish it, notwithstanding that you cannot offer them any better accommodation?—Precisely.

15643. You preferred to start it even though you could not give them a workshop up to the standard of the best printing shop?—Yes. We are sorry to have to do that, and should not do it if we had proper funds.

15644. You are doing no worse than has been done in very many of the most important printing centres. For instance, the printing class in Edinburgh, a town, I suppose, second only to London in the amount of printing done, was for many years carried on in a cellar, and that has only been improved during the last four or five years; so that yours is not a unique disability?—I know, but you will admit that it is not a right thing to do. We are taking the chance of the Commission to put an end to all these iniquitous proceedings.

15645. (Mr. Brown).—Is it your idea that a sum not exceeding £20,000 should be paid each year, or £20,000 granted absolutely, and if not used in one year should accumulate; suppose there were £20,000 granted to-morrow, it would not be used?—Certainly not.

15646. Is it your idea that it should accumulate?—The idea of the Committee was that there should be £20,000 a year allocated in readiness to pay as interest and sinking fund on the buildings. That would be all a question of accountancy. If the first year there were only £10,000 drawn that would go towards lessening the number of years the thing would run. We would need at least £20,000 a year if all our technical institutions were properly housed.

15647. (Chairman).—Do you mean for a limited or for an indefinite period?—As interest and sinking fund until the debt was paid off.

15648. (Mr. Dryden).—You would borrow money and erect buildings, and £20,000 would go to pay off the charges in a certain number of years?—Certainly.

15649. (Mr. Micks).—Do you know the cost of the Belfast Technical Schools?—About £80,000.

15650. And their annual payment?—It is very big.

15651. Do you think £20,000 would be sufficient for all Ireland?—I think it would.

15652. (Mr. Dryden).—It would be all used, because if not applied as interest it would be applied as principal?—Yes, eventually it would be all wanted. If there was not £10,000 wanted for two or three years that would set down the length of time that we should be paying it.

15653. (Mr. Micks).—Those places which have erected schools would take advantage of it?—We have included them. They should not be left under the debt. With reference to the development of industries, this is a very sore point with a number of people. The whole reason why they threw themselves in to the technical movement and taxed themselves was that eventually industries might spring up, and the opinion of the Council was that the revival of industries was not going on at the rate that was expected, and of course all who consider the matter know that you cannot start an industry in twenty-four hours, but some of them were of opinion that there were industries which might be started now

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and put on their legs, but afterwards they were not started, and the Council say that if the Department had not the funds to help the industries the Commission should recommend that they should get them, and if the Department had not the power, in like manner the Act should be changed giving them power. If you notice in the front page of Kelly's introduction to the Act, it spoke about agriculture and industries, and a great many people were puzzled to know how industries came in, because the Department over and over again states that it cannot subsidise industries.

15554. The word "industries" was in the title of the first Bill of 1891—Precisely. You have got evidence on that point already. The next point is whether an important one. The Act should be amended so as to devote a considerable sum to the direct development of industries. With regard to that there are two theories about. One has been put before you by Mr. Atkins already; and that is that there should be a capital of 4 per cent. guaranteed for a certain number of years to people who were starting industries. That is one line of action. The other line of action would be that the Government or Department would actually start the industry. That theory perhaps might be worth the consideration of the Commission. One answer we always get from the Department is that this is shocking to the economic sense, that the Government should directly subsidise an industry. I think really when dealing with a Government that crushed industries without any remorse to the economic sense, it might also stretch its economic conscience a little and help to build them up again. I would not dwell on that incident in our history when industries were deliberately crushed out, but there might be a little stretching of the economic sense to build them up again by way of restitution. Another cardinal principle is that Ireland must be taken as she is, and you have to deal with some very important factors. Let us take England and Scotland. The factories there have given the people a practical technical education, and the people there are familiar with all those things that we are trying to hammer into our people's minds, and the success of these things in England has made capitalists ready and willing to put their money into new ventures. The average education of the people has been conducted on steady lines, and the people are less keen on those subjects than our people here. Take our people here. Up to the present they have been under disabilities of the most extraordinary character. Even the farmer could scarcely call his time or his life his own. That is passing away. There have been windmills. Sodder's back is as keen in the minds of the people in certain parts of the country as the day it destroyed the country. To ask people like that to start industries is beating the air. In the Bank of Ireland in Galway alone you have something like £200,000 lying idle at something like 1½ or 1 per cent. interest. You may wear the leather off half-a-dozen pairs of boots going through Galway to ask the people to put a little money into an industry. They were disheartened. They have not that sense that you have running through the people of England about the advantage of these things.

15555. They have not the knowledge that would enable them to know the value of the advantages?—Exactly. They have not that commercial and economic knowledge. I maintain that the Department must step in here, and teach the people themselves. My opinion would be, and the Council allude to it here, that the Department should be assisted by a council of business experts, and that those business men who have made businesses themselves and know what business means, should hear applications from certain localities as to starting industries. Let us pause for a moment. I will take a case in point. I approached the Department by letter with regard to an industry in the South of Ireland. That is the tanning of upper leathers for boots. It was carried on satisfactorily in works which employed at one time 300 hands, and actually competed with foreign industries. In fact I will tell you a rather amusing story. Some persons with that foolish notion that everything foreign is best, told the maker of this kid leather that he could never compete with foreign leather. He was a very keen man, and he got a stamp made, and on it were the words "Jenny & Paris," and he put the leather so stamped on the market, and people were tumbling over each other to get the French stuff, and they would not look at

the very leather that was made side by side with this stuff.

15556. That man did not want much technical instruction?—No. If the needle had descended on him as it would have been all right. There was an industry that beat the foreign merchant. The man who owned the factory had little or no capital and he could not buy the skins and have them tanned and ready for the order. As soon as he got the order he had to go off and borrow money on the order and buy skins and tan them. No business establishment could stand that. Suppose that man or his manager went up before a Committee of experts and showed them the orders he had, and that he had the technical skill which beat the technical skill of the foreigner, and said to the Department, "Here is an industry capable of employing 300 hands; all we want is capital"; I maintain that the Department would come in and advance the capital, and as soon as the capital was paying 5 per cent. have an arrangement by which the thing could be turned into a limited liability company, get back the money and let that money go to another place to develop another industry. In Cork we had the upper leather industry, the kid leather industry, and the glove industry, and these three fulfilled all the conditions that would satisfy the most rigid economy. In the first place they were unique. There was no-one else making upper leather. There was no private enterprise to interfere with. In the second place the people had the technical skill and the thing was flourishing, and in the third place it was giving a considerable amount of employment. The Department would not assist that on the same general principle that they cannot subsidise industries generally. Now, I think the opinion through the country would be we are due a very big sum of money. We are due at least a million spent in England on technical education while there was not one penny being spent in Ireland except in National and Intermediate schools. If that million alone were set aside and the interest on it used as a fund for subsidising industries my private opinion is that in two years time you would have a great many industries started, and flourishing over the country, and in this way you would teach the people. Let us suppose one of these industries started paying 5 per cent. As soon as the people all round would see here is an industry paying 5 per cent. I am sure they would put their money in it, and by degree the commercial sense would awake and they would go a step further and perhaps remark on something else and until that is done you will not have much in the way of capital available.

15557. That is about £30,000 a year?—That is all, but that should be judiciously spent, and as soon as the industry which was being looked up, and was put on a sound basis, that money could be withdrawn and put into something else. It could be used as developing capital.

15558. (Chairman).—How do you meet the objection arising on the ground of competition of State-aided industries with other industries not State-aided?

—That particular industry I mention did not compete.

15559. Would you apply your principle only to industries in places where there was no competition?—I would start there.

15560. Would you carry it further to the case of industries where there might be competition in Ireland?—I should see no difficulty also in doing that in a moderate way because I know it is done in other countries.

15561. But I am dealing with the development of Ireland and England. I only wanted to know how you would meet it; would you start an industry in Cork if there was a similar industry carried on in Limerick?—I should be chary of doing that. I should be in the hands of the council of business experts. There are industries of which you might safely have one in each county and each one of them would flourish.

15562. Do you really think you might have one in each county, assuming there were other industries?—Yes the same character in the country?—No. You could have one of each character in each county. At present we calculate if the people in Ireland supported their own woollen manufacture that there could be a first class woollen mill employing 300 hands in every county in Ireland.

15563. Would you have a woollen mill in that case entirely a State-aided industry?—No; because they are getting on well enough without it; but I would have the whole thing done judiciously. Take the kid industry, and the upper leather industry.

15664. It is the word "judiciously" that rather strikes my mind. It seems extremely difficult to arrive at any decision about it—I should rely on the Council of Experts.

15665. The question is whether you can really carry on State-aided industries in competition with other industries either in Ireland or in England; you would have a great outcry in England where there are no State-aided industries!—Well, of course you are aware of the fact if you touch on one point—look at all the material that is turned out of industrial schools at present and other places like that. Those are all State-aided industries. They are turning out stuff and competing in the market with ordinary capitalists, and they are worse than what I contemplate. If you are turning out of reformatories a lot of furniture made in their shops, that is the very worst form of State-aided industry, whereas there is any amount of furniture made outside that compete with it. I take the case of the industry that stands alone.

15666. A great deal depends on the scale on which it is done—I said judiciously, but at present there is a hard and fast line. You get up against a stone wall if you say "why not aid this industry?"

15667. If it is done on the scale which you contemplate it seems to me that a very formidable difficulty on that ground is to be encountered which may be fatal.—Yes.

15668 (Mr. Brown).—You referred to other countries in which aid was given in the manner which you suggest here?—Yes. I lived for a good while in Australia. It was there I came in contact with technical education. A very common thing in Australia is to show how to build up industries. They have cold stores, and in those cold stores they bring supplies from the country and keep them there, and the salesmaster and butcher on them for the people. There might be four or five cold stores in the neighbourhood, but the Government saw there was a want. The people wanted to have a place where their little consignments could be gathered together for them and sold in the market and brokerage charged on them, and the proceeds sent back.

15669. That seems to be a different sort of thing from what you contemplate. That store would be available for any member of the public that chose to use it. It was not to subsidize the industry of any particular person!—No, but it is in direct competition with private enterprise. It is the worst form of direct competition.

15670. It is not analogous to what you are speaking of—if the principle of government interference with private industry was to hold the Government would never put up these.

15671. That would be a different thing from subsidizing any private firm for carrying out cold storage!—It would only be less iniquitous from the economic standpoint.

15672. It is a different thing!—Is not it a degree worse?

15673. I was only asking for some country in which the same thing or a similar thing was done to what you suggest!—I give you that as an instance.

15674. That is a different thing!—What do you say, then, to subsidizing a line of shipping?

15675 (Mr. Miché).—By means of similar subsidies?—Or other subsidies; where the Government subsidizes one firm as against another.

15676 (Chairman).—That is generally in payment for certain services!—You can look at it in any light you like. It seems to be a Government study of one firm against another firm.

15677 (Mr. Brown).—As a general rule in the Government contracts you are speaking of I assume they accept tenders and usually it goes to the lowest tender; the Government obtains services rendered and takes tenders for the supply of those and accept the one that seems most advantageous!—That is the English way of doing it. The particular line that I had before my mind was the German line that deals with Australia. They are able to carry passengers at a lower rate than any other line, because the deficiency is made up by the Government.

15678 (Mr. O'Connell).—As against German firms or other nations?—Precisely.

15679. There are no other German firms in that trade?—Yes, there are several running to Australia besides that one, and they subsidize this and you will

get a passage at a much lower figure than any other line, because the deficiency is made up by the Government. What about the fruit trade in Belgium? The fruit trade with London was half run by the Government giving free transit all over Belgium to the port of shipping.

15680. That is not taking any particular firm for the purpose of either giving it a life or starting it. Those advantages are given to all who chose to go in for fruit growing. That is not of the same character as what you are speaking of!—It is not directly on all fours.

15681 (Chairman).—In that case the Government subsidizes agriculture in Ireland!—Not in the sense of paying for the produce along the line.

15682. In other ways it gives certain peculiar advantages!—It would be on all fours if the Government paid the freight of eggs on the railways in order to cultivate the trade in Ireland.

15683 (Mr. Brown).—In that case the advantage would be common to all egg dealers. It would not be taking up a few egg dealers and paying them a premium when, perhaps, they were carrying on a losing trade while other egg dealers got no advantage!—Suppose there were capitalists who could do without that service of the railways, you would not then cut by giving a free passage to everybody else.

Now about Bradford, there is a man there who collects eggs and pays £20,000 a year. Suppose the Department took up collecting stations down there, that man might fairly complain if the Department collected those free.

There were fruit growers who were able to land their fruit in London and make a good profit, but the Belgian Government was not satisfied with that. They thought they could develop an enormous fruit trade and consequently they carried all fruit free to Antwerp.

15684. They carried free the fruit of the man who had been shipping before!—Yes; they deprived him of the monopoly. I may be obtuse in my view, but it seems to me that the Government interference was the same.

15685. It is not the same as providing capital for a business to develop industries!—It seems to me only a slight difference. It is an attempt more or less.

15686. You said there were other countries that did the same thing. I really only ask this question for the purpose of ascertaining what the countries were, because it would be very useful to compare the results of such a system in any country where it is adopted, but up to this you have not given any instance!—I take them as examples of breaking through the cast-iron principles of the Government.

15687. If your suggestion was that as regards certain classes of produce free rates should be given to enable you to start them, that would be a different class of assistance from what you have been suggesting; do you know any instance of precisely the same thing?—There were the principal ones before my mind.

15688 (Mr. Miché).—I presume you have read the report of the Bacon Committee?—Yes, I have read it pretty closely.

15689. I might recall some of it to your recollection (words pages 55, 56 and 60). Are those the lines on which you make your recommendations?—Precisely. I took it for granted that the Commission had all that information.

15690. As regards the restriction which the Chairman was asking you about just now, whether you could point out any line in which those industries could be started in Ireland without unfairly competing with or injuring others, how would this do: do you think so aid should be given to any industry on starting that would compete substantially with any industry in Ireland; would that subsidize the matter sufficiently?—I think it would. For instance, the specific instances I quoted were unique.

15691. Take the case of an ordinary industry; would it be sufficient in your opinion if the Department that was developing an industry was to satisfy itself that the new industry would not compete with any existing industry in Ireland?—Precisely.

15692. You don't think you would be bound to consider the question of Irish competition with Great Britain?—I think not.

15693. The statement I think was made that there were no State-aided industries in England?—Of course I am not familiar.

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15694. As a matter of ordinary common history are you not aware that nearly all the industries in England were founded by State aid?—I was only speaking of the present time. Of course that is a matter of history.

15695. Is it not a fact that those industries got on their feet and became successful industries owing to the bounties and the care that was taken in starting them?—Precisely.

15696. Is it not true that on the other hand there were industries over here which were directly put on and indirectly encouraged by action from Great Britain?—That is a matter of history. Even France admits that.

15697. For that reason do you think it unnecessary to consider whether an industry that might be started here would compete directly with an industry in Great Britain?—I think so. I think it is a matter of justice to attempt to depart from the strict lines of economy in dealing with Ireland at present. These lines were departed from in cranking our industries and they should be departed from in attempting to build them up.

15698. (Mr. O'Grady).—You said the woollen industry was doing very well without any help?—Yes; that is an industry that I don't think, if you ask the candid advice of a woollen merchant, he would say it ought to be increased for the present so far as the number of mills is concerned. We, however, went into a minute calculation and found that, assuming the home demand for Irish material continues and that Irish ladies and gentlemen insisted on wearing Irish-made material, then there could be a first-class woollen mill started and supported in every county in Ireland by supplying Irish wools alone. There are not many first-class woollen mills in Ireland at present. There cannot be more than seven or eight mills employing 300 hands. Of course, there are smaller mills, but of mills like Mahony's of Blarney, or Morrough's of Douglas, there are not more than seven or eight, but if the people stood to their own goods there could be one first-class mill in every county in Ireland, busily supplying the wants of Ireland alone. I should not like to encourage the multiplication of these, because the orders of the people for their own material might not go on as rapidly as the mills would increase, and it would be a pity by over-production to do harm to the industry, but there are occasions other industries that an intelligent board of business experts could see to put on their legs in Ireland.

15699. (Mr. Meade).—Most of the articles in use are manufactured outside Ireland?—Yes.

15700. You think it would not be unfair that we should at all events try to develop our industries to a point that would enable us as far as possible to supply our own wants?—Precisely.

15701. (Mr. Brown).—I agree entirely with that view that we all ought to be wearing Irish manufactures as far as possible, but do you think that if a mill like that at Blarney was confined to the County Cork for its market it could run full time?—That was not suggested. We calculated that if the people of Cork all wore Irish materials it would take four mills like Mahony's to keep them supplied.

15702. Had you any account of Mahony's production at the time?—We had an account of Mahony's production. We had the dealers' opinion about the average amount of clothes used in Cork city and county alone to the effect that it would support four mills employing 300 hands each. That is only giving an average of one suit of clothes to each man in the county. Now, about a Bureau of Industries. That has been brought up before the Department by at least three congresses at which there were representatives from all the technical education committees. That is a thing that there should be either powers or funds given to the Department to do. Technical training at the present day brings the people to a point when they would require some information as to the markets of the country. If you take a case in point; we have at present in Cork two classes. We have wood-carving, and the young fellows there get praise in open competition with the rest of Ireland. We also started enamelling classes. They come to the end of their courses and come up against a dead wall, for their skill is little or no use. If there was a Bureau of Industries established in Ireland the Irish merchants could go in there and inquire whether there

was much in the enamelling business, or a man who had a trade would inquire and find out where there was an opening for his skill; but, at present, it is almost throwing away money to train them, because they go away with their skill in their heads and there is no return for it. I don't know whether you have seen some of these Bureaus of Industry or industrial exhibits. I might call your attention to one in Vienna. They gave over an Imperial palace to the housing of this industrial museum.

15703. (Mr. Meade).—Do you suggest that we should give over the Castle here for such a purpose?—I would leave that to the powers that be.

15704. (Mr. O'Grady).—You would be content with a section of the Dublin Museum?—I suppose so. You go into the industrial museum, and no matter what you are interested in, boots, candles, or cutlery, those you see, in the museum, furnished by the different counsels through the world samples of goods with particulars of what they are sold for in the different places, and then at once you can calculate whether there is a chance of your getting a share of the market or not. I remember seeing a box of Blarney and Palmer's biscuits, and every biscuit maker in Vienna knew what those biscuits were being sold for in Constantinople, or any other place. I think this is a point that the Department is lacking in. These people will go to the Department and ask for information about certain business details and find they can't get the information, or won't get it in a very useful character. These scores to be a feeling in the country that even on a small scale a Bureau of Industry would be acceptable. It might be only started with wood-carving and enamelling. Let there be an exhibit of wood-carving, and a history of the markets where it could be sold, with the names of big firms who would purchase samples. Let the thing grow as industries grow. Now they are going to make fancy enamelled articles in Cork, and there could be an exhibit of such, and the names of firms who would buy them.

15705. We all admit the usefulness of that, but I take it you are not representing that as a matter which the Department have committed to their charge and have failed to look after, but as a duty which you think ought to be added to the Department and which they ought to be empowered to look after?—Yes, and if they have no funds they should be given funds.

15706. They are not authorized under the Act—I don't know whether they would not be authorized. It comes under the general heading: development of the country and agricultural and technical education.

15707. It could not come under agriculture, and the expansion technical instruction is the other one that governs these powers?—Would it not be any kind of instruction? Commercial education is a section of technical instruction and would not that be technical education?

15708. I am afraid it would not be so held. The definition is pretty clear in its indication. At any rate, you recommend, and your Association recommends, that this power should be added?—Yes, it has been three times proposed by the congresses to have this Bureau established. Before the Bureau for Lace was established the lace was only sold at the rate of about £2,000 a year. Since the Bureau was established it has been sold at the rate of £20,000 a year. From the mere establishment of a Bureau, where the lace was brought together and the market was brought in contact with the consumers, it sprang up to £20,000.

(Mr. O'Grady).—That is self-supporting now.

(Mr. Meade).—For more than self-supporting. It is earning a large profit, which is applied philanthropically.

(Mr. Brown).—That was rather an example of what private enterprise in that direction has done.

15709. (Mr. Meade).—It was a philanthropic enterprise. There was a large sum of money advanced by Lady Aberdeen?—Yes; it was not purely enterprise. It was enterprise plus philanthropy. The next year the Standing Council called attention to was the method of administering the Act. They have suggested that there should be four paid Commissioners for the technical side and another four for the agricultural side. The suggestion of one Committee was that its election should take place by ballot. I think that a very advisable way. That is unfortunately the point that our people are not very keen on at present. They are not aware the technical education is not

absent from everything else, and it does not follow because a man has been in jail several times for his country that he is able to direct technical education, or that the eggs he turns out from his poultry yard will be a bit more appreciated in the markets of the world simply because he has been in jail, and consequently the Committee think it just as well that those should be voting by ballot. Some people object to the Department spending £48,000 a year on salaries. I don't think there is any objection to the Department spending any amount on salaries. I would not mind the Department spending £300,000 a year on salaries, but the thing is that those sums should be spent on getting expert advice, the best obtainable. But unfortunately, you know, there are evidences here and there that that is not forthcoming. I am not finding fault in a sarcastic or critical sense with the Department. I believe in the work of the Department. I was a pioneer before myself, and it was commonly said I haphazard the Department in Ireland. The Irish people are prepared to humble themselves at the feet of teachers, but they do want the teachers to be thoroughly expert.

15710. Is not this rather as regards work that is not confined to the Department at present, namely, the development of industries. You would not hold the Department or its officials responsible for not developing industries if they have not the power?—Of course not.

15711. Have they the power?—The feeling is that there is expert advice of a certain kind that is not forthcoming.

15712. For developing industries?—No, the actual working of the Department at the present time. Some time ago a man down in the County Cork wanted to develop a copper mine, and came to me and showed me specimens of the ore. I thought it looked very well. "Well," said I, "send this up to the Department." A very natural function of the College of Science would be to analyse that ore and send back an account. It was a considerable time before he got a return.

15713. But he did get it?—Yes.

15714. We examined the officer whose duty it is to analyse these things, and he says the applications are so numerous, and he has no assistance, so that he is two years behind his work?—Well, the people would not grudge more money spent in that direction. I happened to mention that out in Australia a man might send the soil of his land to be analysed. I said I supposed the Department would analyse the soil of the land, and tell the farmer what manure was suitable, and I think a man who heard me sent up a small sackful of clay to the Department a couple of years ago. I believe it is there still. He never got it back. There are some instances of the kind that make people look up on edge. I recommended a butter manufacturer to send up to the Department about a butter blending machine. There was an enormous correspondence about it. The result of the whole thing was that it was put on to the man who made the butter blending machine for amusement. It was not a regular machine that could be used in a butter factory. There are some instances of what the Council dwell on when they said that there should be the best expert advice obtainable, and if it was necessary to increase the funds of the Department to get such advice they ought to be increased. Naturally the people commented on these things. Now, on the agricultural side, I am sure you have heard a great deal from different witnesses about winter dairying. The country has been clamouring about it. The people of the country are so that if there was really expert advice from men who knew their business there would be no delay in bringing that in and fostering it in every way.

15715. (Mr. Brown).—The Department has been advising winter dairying?—I remember in Australia I was speaking to the head of the Agricultural Department there on one occasion, and he was telling me they were sending itinerant lecturers around for bee-keeping. I said I thought if he gave a few hints and bore to a man in a certain locality, and let the instructor live near his place, and showed the man how to deal with the bees, he would do far more to spread bee-keeping. He took the hint, and it did far more in the way of spreading bee-keeping than sent before. If the Department on some of their farms started winter dairying, and let the people see the result of it, or if they took a man and said, "You start winter dairying, and let us see your accounts periodically, and if there is a loss

we will guarantee the loss," it would be far more effective. Of course the itinerant instructors you have heard all about, but the Council wish to state their opinion that there is a great deal of money misapplied on it.

15716. (Chairman).—You are conveying certain expressions of opinion that other people have made: do you agree in them yourself?—I will back what I say about winter dairying. I believe until there are a few model specimens put up before the people they won't take it up.

15717. (Mr. O'Connell).—As to itinerant instruction, do you mean more than that in many parts of Ireland itinerant instruction has now played its part and some other instruction must take its place?—It never played its part in the sense of getting people to adopt what was given out by the instructors. A number of people would come in to the lectures on marinating fields or poultry-dipping, but very few people would adopt the methods.

15718. The opposite method has been adopted by the Department in putting an instructor down in the place and letting him go among the people?—The last man is about the co-ordination of primary and technical education. That, of course, is a very important point. You have also got evidence on that. This is only to emphasize the previous evidence. That the Council consider the most essential point. The only thing is that there is a consultative committee already in existence, and the question is whether it could be backed up a bit or called upon to show something more practical than has hitherto come from them. For up to the present the question of co-ordinating the scientific part of secondary education with technical education—that is the only thing done. But the wider field of trying to shape the course in the primary schools so that these children would be material for technical schools has not been gone into. In fact the worst has happened, that the thing was initiated and seemed to fall through some way. Of course, as you are aware of the comparative numbers, it is a still more important point to co-ordinate the case of the 300,000 children with a view to the future of technical training than with a view to the four or five per cent. who go through the secondary schools.

15719. Would you care to express an opinion as to the value of the work the Department has done in the share it has been permitted to take in the way of developing science and manual training in technical schools?—Well, of course, I should. I am an old professor myself, and worked in all those branches. It is hard to put it briefly. I feel that the work that is being done in the secondary schools at present is not leading up to the results we would anticipate and expect. I fear there is too much attention being paid to little minutiae, such as measurements. I have gone to some of the schools and examined them. The very things that this is supposed to cultivate, observation and accuracy are entirely neglected. If you show a youngster a stone of wire and ask him if that piece of wire was thrown into water could he find the specific gravity or length he sets to work at once, but the end was lost sight of, and if you hold up an unknown object and asked him to describe it he was completely at sea, though he has been for two years training for observation and accuracy.

15720. (Mr. Nichol).—It did not lead to guide the instructor?—No. It got them into a mechanical groove of measurements, etc. I spoke to one young fellow. I was trying to get information in different directions. "Well," said I, "you have a grand laboratory in your school?" "A grand one, sir." "How often do you go there?" "So many times a week." "And what do you do in it?" "We do be soldering and breaking glass." There is that feeling through the country that the work given to the classes is more in the nature of commandments than anything else. Originality and research and the using of their own powers are not being developed along the lines that they ought to be.

15721. (Mr. O'Connell).—In fact, as I gather from the description that you give, the teachers are not quite qualified to use scientific methods in educating the people. Your description indicates rather a fault on the part of teachers than on the part of the Department?—Of course, as an old educational authority, you know that as the inspector is so the teacher is. Whatever the inspector is looking for the teacher will supply it.

15722. In time?—He may take some time in working up to the inspector, but he will do it. If you send

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an inspector into a class with a mania for little tidily-wink measuring, the whole trend of education will go towards that, for they want to please the inspector. It does not produce brightness in development.

15723. Have you seen some of the inspectors at work?—Yes.

15724. Have you seen any special methods in their inspection that would tend to produce that type of work?—That is what I observed, going in for these little minutiae and losing sight of the true object.

15725. Was Physics one of your departments?—Physics and Chemistry; I taught on both sides of the world and under the Southern Cross. It is a very important feature in the whole thing. It is a big expenditure of money, and, contrasting it with the German methods, I thought the Germans taught it better. We are no heavier secondary schools helping technical education now than we were five years ago, except that they know the physical principles and so on, but as for anything like research, or being able to apply the principles to industry or trade, I don't think that is being developed.

15726. You don't look for research much at that stage?—We look for the initial stages of it. You develop keenness in a boy's mind at an early stage and try to lead him on from the known to the unknown.

15727. (Mr. Brown).—How many secondary schools

did you visit?—Eighteen to twenty. Another source of information to me was watching the notebooks, and particularly from speaking to the professors. This is the sum total of what I got from the three sources, looking at the work and the notebooks and hearing the professors' opinions.

15728. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I suppose your evidence does not apply to all the courses you have seen?—I would not throw them all into the one mould.

15729. The schools I visited in Cork and Waterford were signally wanting in the defects to which you draw attention. They were rather conspicuous in the other aspect of the work?—You did not see that as I did; hold out some unknown object to the class that had been two years training in observation and let them to describe it.

15730. I did not do that, but I saw the teacher hold up objects they had not seen before, and I also examined the notebooks and examined the students at work in the laboratory?—Was it at the Christian Brothers' Schools you examined?

15731. Yes, I did examine those?—Well, they are very good teachers. If any man would go on in proper lines it should be they. I did not tell you that I visited any of the Christian Brothers' Schools, except to see the laboratories. Of course I visited other schools.

The Committee adjourned.

FORTY-FIFTH PUBLIC SITTING.—MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH, 1906.

At 31, Abingdon-street, Westminster, London.

Present:—

Sir KENKIN DUNSTON, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE, C.B.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Mr. HENRY DORAN examined.

18732. (Chairman).—You are Chief Land Inspector of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

18733. I think you are here to-day in consequence of a letter addressed by us to the Congested Districts Board requesting them to send one or two representatives to give evidence?—Yes, I have been nominated by the Board to give evidence chiefly on agricultural development in the congested districts, and my observations will be altogether confined to the congested districts, whether they refer to the Department or the Congested Districts Board work.

18734. Perhaps you can tell us first your own connection with it?—I was appointed Inspector in March, 1882.

18735. From the very commencement?—Yes. I have an intimate acquaintance with the agricultural conditions and resources of the congested districts. As the evidence I propose giving is in connection with agricultural matters, I think it necessary to state the qualifications upon which I claim to be in a position to give expert evidence relating to the agricultural development of the Congested Districts. In 1872 I entered the Albert Institution, Glasnevin, as a resident pupil. Six months later I obtained, by examination, a scholarship there. In 1874 I was appointed by the National Education Board "Assistant to the Superintendent of Agricultural Education in Ireland,"—the late Professor Baldwin, and held that office up to 1877, when I resigned, to take up the special study of surveying and civil engineering, and some years later I was admitted Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, Ireland. During the last year of my office I was Lecturer in Agriculture at Glasnevin, and had general control of the establishment in Professor Baldwin's absence on inspection tours throughout the country. I had also special charge of the experimental ground; and all the experiments on manures, seeds, &c., were carried out under my personal supervision. From 1877 to the end of 1879 I was mainly engaged at land surveying and civil engineering work, and after the failure of the potato crop in 1879 I was employed as estate surveyor by the late Colonel King Harman to make surveys and prepare plans for land improvement works on his Roscommon and Sligo estates, with the object of giving employment to the tenants and developing the estate. For the proposed works loans, over £25,000, were sanctioned by the Board of Works, and I was then employed to have the works carried out. About a third of this sum had been expended before the passing of the Land Act of 1881, when it was decided to abandon the Estate Development Schemes. I continued as surveyor on the estate up to the end of 1884. From the passing of the Land Act of 1881 I was mainly engaged preparing surveys and valuations of holdings for the Land Court on the King Harman and many other estates in Connemara; and also at drainage works, and in the erection of labourers' cottages, plans and erection of houses in towns, and similar simple engineering work. About 1885 I obtained the Royal Dublin Society's gold medal for the best drained twenty-five acres of land in Connemara—the plans of drainage, report, and details of the cost to be taken into account in awarding the prize. In 1889 I commenced farming in Roscommon, and in 1888 I took

land in Mayo, and have been farming in Mayo up to the present time, paying substantial rents amounting to £400 a year rent for a great part of the time, and up to £600 a year for portions of the time. I farmed all this land for myself, and I never farmed land for anybody else, or with any other person's money, and I therefore claim to be a practical farmer, and one who, having had a long training in the theory of agriculture, had opportunities of testing my theories in practice, carried out with my own funds at my own risk. Within the last five years I have disposed of the farms I held, except the one on which my residence is, as I was unable to attend to them. In December 1884 I took up the position of surveyor and valuer on the Dillon estate in the County Mayo, to which I was not obliged to devote all my time, and I did a great deal of valuation work for the Land Courts, and in settlement of rents out of court, up to March, 1890, when I was appointed a Sub-Commissioner under the Land Acts. On the reduction of the Land Commission staff in October, 1891, I was not re-appointed, and in the following March I was appointed inspector by the Congested Districts Board. I have been living for twenty-seven years in Connemara, and farming land there on my own account for twenty-six years. I agree to trouble you with this long personal account of my theoretical training and experience of practical agriculture, which I should not think of reciting before you only that I feel it is necessary to do so in order to establish grounds upon which my opinion on the development of the agricultural resources of the Congested Districts is entitled to some weight. I propose to deal with the subject of agriculture under the following heads: 1. Cattle; 2. Acres; 3. Swine; 4. Sheep; 5. Horses; 6. Poultry; 7. general remarks and suggestions with reference to improvement of live stock in the Congested Districts; 8. agricultural development generally. I propose in each case to give a very short account of what has been done so far, by the Congested Districts Board, and since they ceased to deal with these matters, by the Department, in the Congested Districts. I shall give my unreserved opinion on the results of those operations, and in each case to offer suggestions based on my own experience and personal knowledge of the districts. I feel it almost unnecessary to request that any observations I may make, as I say, in an absolutely unreserved manner, will not be taken to be an attack on the Department of Agriculture or on my own Board. I would say much less than I intend to say only that I am hoping the observations I shall make may lead to some good in the interests of the Congested Districts. Now, dealing with cattle. The introduction of Aberdeen-Angus bulls into the better parts of the Congested Districts, and of Oldways into the poorer parts have largely increased the value of the cattle in the comparatively small area in which they have been placed. The introduction of pedigree short-horns into the Congested Districts has done more harm than good, except in a few places, where they were placed near non-congested areas, and where the young stock could be sent to graze on good land in the neighbourhood. Some of the Aberdeen-Angus and

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Dimes.

Galloways placed in the Congested Districts proved unsuitable, mainly, in my opinion, because they were taken from herds that were brought to a high state of perfection by forced feeding and extra care.

18736. You are speaking of the Aberdeen-Angus now?—And Galloways. I say the offspring of highly-bred pedigree cattle will not thrive, and many of them will not live on the poor, badly-farmed holdings in the Congested Districts, and it is quite an unsound scheme to place more but pedigree sires in these districts, at any rate before the system of husbandry are so improved that the stock can be fed much better than at present, and it will be a long time, if ever, before that standard of cultivation can be reached which will make these districts fit to support high-class pedigree cattle. I have long been of opinion that bulls, cows or other live stock suitable for the improvement of the live stock of any Congested District should be produced from stock possessing hardy constitutions, and reared in a natural manner, without any exceptional care or hand-feeding. Pedigree stock or prize strains of poultry cannot be obtained in any number except from persons who force them by feeding, &c., in preparation for a fancy market and high prices. Pedigree animals are unsuitable for the reasons stated, and even if they were suitable, a sufficient number of these could not be procured to improve the entire stock of the Congested Districts for a great many years. If the breeders increased their output the money could not be found to buy them. A dash of pedigree blood is very good when it is introduced through the best stamp of animals to be found in each district. Take for illustration of my suggestion a district comprised within boundaries drawn from Swinford through Tabbernessy, Ballaghaderreen, Tubb, Roscommon, Castlereagh, Ballynaguan to Swinford. Within this district practically all the cattle raised are horsey, coloured cattle, resembling the shorthorn, and commonly called Roscommon cattle. Some of the land within this area is very poor, and some good. The pedigree shorthorn bull is not suitable for the poor parts. He is suitable for the better parts. Send him only to the better parts, and select in the neighbourhood of where each pedigree bull is located, a number of the most suitable cows and heifers—low, thick-set, thickly set animals—arrange with the owners of the selected cows not to castrate the promising bull calves of good colour and shape, and to exhibit them for inspection at a year old, or younger, when the best of them would be purchased at say from £10 to £25, which will be a remunerative price for a yearling, well fed, but not overfed, and reared under natural conditions.

18737. (Mr. Mickel).—Do you mean purchased by the Department or the Congested Districts Board, or do you mean purchased in the open market?—I mean purchased by persons who require to keep them. What was in my mind was that the Department through local committees and persons directly interested, should help in organising schemes for procuring and selling suitable sires.

18738. To act as brokers in a way?—That is a good way of putting it. The inspectors would inspect these animals they considered suitable for stock purposes and register them as suitable, and any persons desirous of obtaining one of these animals would inspect several before making a purchase. What would likely happen: people would go to the fairs in the districts where these animals would be offered for sale.

18739. You would have it an organised affair?—I think organisation in these matters is really more necessary than instruction. We are not so ignorant as many people think, but we are individually very helpless in the absence of organisation. I said they could be purchased at from £10 to £25, which would be a remunerative price for a yearling, well fed but not overfed, and reared under natural conditions. When making this suggestion I am not forgetful of the theories of breeding which I learned that a pedigree animal has greater power than any other to transmit to its offspring its special characteristics, such as perfection of shape, and propensity to early maturity, &c., &c., under favourable conditions. It however, also transmits with equal certainty, its deficiency of constitution and inability to thrive, or perhaps survive, under unfavourable conditions. Hence the words of pedigree, the axiom of propagation that "like begets like" must not be overlooked, and practical farmers in the Congested Districts will agree

with me that the bull of good shape and constitution got by a pedigree shorthorn, crossed with specially-selected cows of the most thrifty and suitable stamp in the district indicated, will beget much more serviceable and profitable stock for the poorer parts of the district described than pedigree bulls crossed with the cows of these districts. Under my scheme a large number of suitable young bulls could be obtained in course of a few years at reasonable prices by all persons who now keep bulls within the district, and a law should be passed that no person should be allowed to keep a bull for public service within such a district, except one approved of by the Department of Agriculture. By this means good, serviceable bulls could be spread over the whole of the Congested Districts in the course of a few years, instead of having a few very high-class bulls, and thousands of very bad ones, as at present. I would deal in the same way with all other districts sending, say, only a pedigree Aberdeen-Angus or Galloway to the best part of the district considered suitable for them, and crossing them with selected native types, and in some cases locating in the same district as the bulls some pedigree cows to be treated under ordinary conditions, and send their offspring to the better parts of the district. No doubt the offspring of the best-bred polled animal will often have horns, and won't be always all black, but that won't reduce the value, as compared with the offspring of the pedigree animal, as this drawback will be more than counterbalanced by robustness of constitution. A great loss has been incurred from the unsuitableness of pedigree bulls. A great many of them are not safe getters, and pay men with a cow or two suffer serious loss when their cows, after taking the bull two or three times, do not prove in calf.

18740. (Chairman).—Is that peculiar to pedigree bulls, or is it the case with other bulls?—It applies, I think, to all animals highly fed that do not get sufficient exercise. It is well known that poorly-fed ones do not come bulling as often as if they were well, but not overfed, or are on good pasture. Consequently the chances of getting a calf from a bull that is uncertain are less in the poorer districts. In these poor districts the bulls that were in use before these better class bulls were introduced, were, as a rule, infertile. A great many of the bulls introduced are not fruitful; I don't mean to say they don't breed any stock, but they are uncertain. Cattle have often to be sent to them two or three times.

18741. (Mr. Mickel).—We had evidence that there were a great many mares. Have you any experience of that?—That is what I speak of. I don't now merely say two or three times and then proving in calf, but also actual mares. It follows when an animal is uncertain you have a considerable number of mares. That applies to all high-class stock. I have experience in my own district of animals being brought several times to bulls and not proving in calf.

18742. (Chairman).—Before you leave that question of cattle, were there views of yours brought before the Congested Districts Board before the testimony?—Yes, in reports of my own. But I had no responsibility in connection with the agricultural work, and, again, the Board's work was to a large extent experimental.

18743. Your evidence is rather indicating what you consider the best course to be adopted in the future than referring to anything that has occurred in the past?—I have not come here as a corrupt critic, but in the hope that the evidence I give may lead to some good.

18744. I quite understand. You wish the matter discussed on all sides and the best result come to, and you are contributing your quota to that result?—I cannot be unmoved without casting reflection on the work both of my own Board and of the Department. I have made my observations regardless of these, and I believe it strengthens my position to assure you that the Board are aware of these lines of mine.

18745. Your views have not yet been given as much effect to as you would wish to see?—They have not. They have tried other plans and they failed. The Department is going on identically the same line, and will also fail. It would seem that to make that statement is optimistic, and for that reason I felt I was obliged to trouble you with the rather long personal history I gave you.

15746. You have not had an opportunity of seeing Professor Campbell's evidence given with regard to the Congested Districts Board?

(Mr. O'Grady).—The Congested Districts work! (Mr. O'Grady).—Yes, work, of which he spoke very highly, and also as to the work since the outbreak during the last two years. I have seen some of his signs, and I don't agree with them. I don't agree with many of his deductions as far as I have read them in the newspapers. The same principles I have laid down for the improvement of cattle in the Congested Districts apply with equal force to the improvement of donkeys. Spanish Jacks are quite unsuitable for the Congested Districts. They offspring are too big and leggy, and not hardy, and are more expensive to feed than a pony or jennet. Those Spanish Jacks, which are very expensive, costing over £100 each according to the newspaper reports, have done more harm than good in the Congested Districts, and the hundreds of pounds of public money spent on them have been wasted. Their use should be confined to the non-congested districts.

15748. (Mr. Michel).—You don't mean technically non-congested, you mean districts which have better land?—Yes.

15749. There are large parts of Ireland where there is poor land, but not congested, where you would say they are unsuitable there also?—Yes. The Congested Districts really include the poorest parts of Ireland, but there are outside them many very poor districts also, any of my observations would apply to any poor area on which there are small landholders. The improvement of areas in the Congested Districts will be best brought about by distributing fat-tailed, strong, hardy Jacks, purchased in non-congested districts. It is just on the same principle as the cattle. To bring better breeds of high-class stock, first into the non-congested areas and spread the improved breeds in that way indirectly.

15750. That is to say, size suitable to Limerick and Tipperary would not be suitable in the poorer districts?—They could not.

15751. (Chairman).—Was anything of this sort done by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, the Congested Districts Board did exactly what the Department is doing. That is why I appear in opposition to both. I think they are both wrong. I make specific suggestions, knowing that if I am wrong the country will disagree with me, and my recommendation will be disproved. A great deal of good in the improvement of swine has been done by the Board, and is being done by the Department. It is a comparatively easy matter, and the scheme in operation should be extended to a modified form over all the Congested Districts. The Department sell, as the Board did previously, pedigree boars to persons who keep them for service, and as the number of persons who keep herds of pedigree pigs is small, the number of boars available is small, and the price high. I would suggest that a pedigree sow should be sold on reasonable terms to the person who buys a boar, and to a person, or persons, in the neighbourhood of where the boar is located, with the object of breeding pure stock from them, and that advertisements be circulated in the locality informing persons who desire to purchase pure-bred boars or sows for breeding purposes, of the names of the persons who have the pedigree sows, and from whom a pure-bred animal may be purchased at such a price as the parties may arrange themselves. This scheme would place the use of pure-bred pigs within the reach of all the people in a Congested District in the course of a few years, and as pigs are very carefully looked after by small farmers, the objections to pedigree stock for Congested Districts do not apply in the way they do to cattle, sheep or horses. A good deal of improvement has been effected by the introduction of good rams in the mountainous areas of the Congested Districts, but in some cases where the rams were too highly bred and fed, or brought from good land, a considerable number of them died, and the offspring of many were too delicate, or as the country people call them "too soft." I suggest that in the districts where rams were placed a number of ewes of the best class obtainable in the neighbourhood should be selected for crossing with the imported ram, and the ram lambs from such a cross would be suitable for service, and could be obtained at a price within the reach of any sheep owner. In this way great good would be effected quickly, whereas general improvement under

the present system will be very slow. Now I come to horses. As regards the improvement of horses in Congested Districts, I would say that hardy steeple, with strength and good action, should be sold for, say, £20, to landholders in the Congested Districts who would be prepared to keep them for stud purposes for at least four years, and when the service season of each year had passed, to work them in the ordinary way.

15752. Do you mean that they should be acquired by the Department and sold for £20?—Either that they should be acquired by the Department, or what I would prefer, that the Department should be in such close touch with the farmers that they would have no difficulty in getting a man in remote districts know where a suitable horse could be got, and help him as to the price and in purchasing the animal. The Department should be able to locate a suitable horse, and when one of their officers goes, say, to a man at Belmullet who applies for a stallion, he could say, "I know a horse that would suit you."

15753. That leads up to general considerations. Perhaps we had better wait till the end of your evidence before we go on with it?—I was saying that I thought a horse most suitable for the Congested Districts would be one with strength and good action, that could be sold for about £20 to a landholder in the Congested Districts, who would be prepared to keep it for stud purposes for at least four years.

15754. (Mr. Michel).—£20? That would be selling at a great loss?—Not necessarily. You don't want very high-class animals for these places. I could say a suitable horse could be got for £20. I think it is a great mistake to be putting high-class animals into the Congested Districts.

15755. £20 seems a low price?—Compared with the prices that have been paid it looks low. I say £20.

15756. That would be a loss of £10 a horse?—£10 or £15 a horse. The man who buys them should keep them for service for four years, and when the service season for each year had passed should work them in the ordinary way. Any one not able to earn his grub and be fit and well while he does the work of the farm in the Congested Districts, whether working on the land or drawing scarred or turf with panniers on his back, is not suitable for these districts.

15757. That would be in the non-service season?—Yes; an animal that you must bestow special care upon the feeding and treatment of is not suitable.

15758. He will want extra good feeding though?—An animal of the kind will want a good feed wherever he is, especially during the service season.

15759. (Mr. O'Grady).—Do you suggest any limit as to the fee for service?—The owner of such a sire should get a liberal annual premium, say £20 a year, in consideration of the horse serving a specified number of mares at a small fee of, say, five shillings. On the terms mentioned, a large number of horses could be distributed throughout the Congested Districts for the capital and annual outlay now incurred for the service of a few animals. High-class horses of any breed are not suitable for these poor districts. Hardiness of constitution, strength in small bulk, good action and fair shape, are the essential qualities required, and in the order I have stated them; that is to say, I put hardiness of constitution first. No matter what he is like, if he is not hardy he is no use for these districts. Now I come to the question of poultry. With regard to the improvement of poultry some good has followed the introduction of new breeds of poultry from egg-distributing centres. In many districts the fowl are greatly improved, and the introduction of new blood is beneficial. But no apparent development of the poultry industry has been effected in the Congested Districts by organisation or improved marketing facilities, or otherwise, to secure better prices for the eggs or fowls. This is essentially necessary if the revenue derivable from the poultry industry is to be appreciably increased in the Congested Districts. I attach a great deal of importance to this for the amount of money which the people obtain from the keeping of poultry is very large indeed. It could easily be doubled. I say, that as the result of the operations carried out there is an improvement in the class of fowl, but there has been no system of organisation applied to these districts in an

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effective or successful manner, because it was not followed up sufficiently, and in my opinion the net result of the operations, so far, is that the people who keep thirty or forty hens are not able to realise more from the produce than before the new breeds were introduced.

18759. They are just able to obtain what they had before. Their market is not depreciated in any way?

—No.
18760. So that they have kept pace with other people, but have not gone ahead?—I would not say they have kept pace with other people. In no sense do my remarks apply to better districts where they have been organised, and where there has been a great increase in the value of the produce. My point is, and it applies to all matters that I am drawing attention to, that the methods which are necessary in order to effect an improvement in the better circumstanced districts are altogether inefficient and inadequate in the poorer districts, and that unless the poorer districts get special and differential treatment in all these matters they will continue to be unimproved by the general county schemes of the Department.

18761. In matters of organisation especially?—And help.

18762. (Mr. Micks).—Would you not say that they get more eggs though they do not get a higher price? Would you say the produce is improved?—The improvement is apparent to anyone who visits these districts, in many of which the fowls were almost decimated by avian disease some years ago. The introduction of fresh broods, the instruction given by some of the poultry instructors going round educating the people as to the necessity of removing the fowls away from the neighbourhood of the house where they were always kept previously has resulted in a custom growing up by which, during the summer time, the small farmers in Mayo put up a temporary fowl-house in some remote part of the farm and transfer the fowl to new ground in the summer. The effect has been to mitigate, and in some cases, I think, completely to eradicate these diseases. The fowls are being kept under improved conditions, and I attribute that to the instructions, and that is one of the heads under which most good has been done. If the people had been left to themselves unaided and had received no instruction of the kind it would have taken them a much longer time to find out these things, and they would have suffered a great deal more than they have done. With the help that they received from the instruction, getting new broods of fowl, they have now a healthier stock of fowls than when the disease was prevalent, but knowing the districts some years ago as I did, I say that every small landholder kept about thirty hens, and sold the eggs in local shops, and now going through the same districts you find no change. Things are not so bad as they would have been if these new broods had not been brought in, but there is no apparent increase of revenue from the industry.

18763. (Chairman).—It is a question of marketing. You are going to deal with that afterwards?—Yes. Reviewing the statements I have just made with reference to live stock, I submit that the deductions are—that some good has been done in parts of the Congested Districts, but, taking the entire of congested areas, comparatively little benefit has resulted from the live stock schemes of the Congested Districts Board or Department of Agriculture having regard to the large amount of public money expended upon them, the main reasons for this unsatisfactory result being the unsuitability of the schemes put into operation, and the very small proportion of the scheduled area to which they were applied. There are about 85,000 agricultural holdings in the Congested Districts. It may be assumed there are about 200,000 cows and heifers on these holdings put to bulls each year, and, allowing an average of sixty cows for each bull, about 3,300 would be required for service. During twelve years ending 31st March, 1904, the Congested Districts Board placed 1,026 bulls in the Congested Districts, or an average of 85 bulls per year. Assuming that each bull was in service for three years, which is above the average, the largest number of their bulls at service during any of the preceding nine years was 255, and, allowing eighty cows to each bull, the total service per year would be 20,400 cows, out of the total estimated number of 200,000 cows—that is after twelve years' work.

18764. (Mr. Micks).—That is one-tenth in number?—Yes.

18765. Would you not think that some of the animals, having been got by the bulls of the Congested Districts Board or the Department are of a better class?—Some of them would be, but they are taken too much at random. Under my scheme the good bull would be put to selected cows and then, after a calf had been born, only those which had good colour and shape would be kept for breeding purposes and selected by an authority such as the Department, so that we would have a very much superior class of half-bred animals in that way than under the random system at present.

18766. But, as a matter of fact, are there many who keep bull calves for service in the Congested Districts?—No. An odd one would, perhaps, as much by accident as anything else, keep a bull calf and let him run, to be kept for service. But, under the scheme that I am outlining, you would have selection from the beginning and prohibition by law of the use for public purposes of an inferior animal. That is a prohibition that would not inflict any hardship on anyone if due notice were given. If an individual desired to keep an animal of any shape or class for his own use I would not interfere with him, but I would say he ought not to be kept for public use. Since the Department took over agricultural work in the Congested Districts from the 31st March, 1905, to the 31st July, 1906, according to a return furnished to me by the Department, they have placed in the Congested Districts seventy bulls, and in addition forty-five bulls have been placed in the Congested Districts through the County Committee schemes, making a total of 115 bulls in two years, or an average of fifty-seven bulls per year out of the 3,300 at service, so that the immediate result of the Board handling over their agricultural work to the Department is, that instead of sending out an average of eighty-five bulls per year in the Congested Districts, they are only sending fifty-seven. I believe that it is their intention to send a considerable number more this year, but I am dealing with facts and figures as they are up to the present. These figures prove that under the present scheme many years would pass before the cattle of the entire Congested Districts would be substantially improved, even though they used the most suitable class of bull. The returns which are furnished to me by the Department also show that—

18767. (Chairman).—Where did you get those figures from?—From the Department of Agriculture. I have their own list, dated 7th July, 1906, and to me by Mr. Gill. I was going to give the number outside the Congested Districts though in counties containing Congested Districts.

18768. The figures I have here are different from those that you have given me?—I have taken the trouble to show on this map where every animal on this list is located.

18769. We shall just clear it up. "List of bulls located by the Department in Congested Districts." That is special treatment for the Congested Districts?

(Professor Campbell).—Yes.

18770. (Chairman).—There are seventy-six located by the Department, and in the list of bulls located by County Committees in agricultural Congested Districts, or in the vicinity of county districts in connection with the Department's live stock scheme of 1905, there are eighty-two?—That would be 1906-7.

18771. Yes?—That is for the year now commenced. That has not been done at all yet. They have not brought one of those animals yet. Am I not correct, Professor Campbell?

(Professor Campbell).—I am not quite sure what animals you are referring to. The bulls located by the Department in 1906 were seventy-four. I am not sure whether I gave you figures for the next year.

(Mr. O'Leary).—No, you did not. You gave the number actually located in 1906 as seventy-four.

(Professor Campbell).—Yes.

18772. (Mr. O'Leary).—This paper also gives a list of bulls located by County Committees in Congested Districts, or in the vicinity of Congested Districts, in connection with the Department's live stock scheme. That has already been done, has it not?

(Professor Campbell).—Yes.

15773 (Mr. Giffels).—That makes for this particular year seventy-four plus eighty-two—I think, including both, it is eighty-two.

15774. (Chairman).—No. I do not think so. Let us get these figures right!—The only thing I can do is to give the numbers as furnished to me by Mr. Gill.

15775. We had better clear it up now. The list you gave put in shows two classes of bulls which have actually been located—ones, those which are supplied by the Department supplementing the bulls under the joint scheme, and the other the bulls under the joint scheme. In the one case there are seventy-six, and in the other eighty-four. The two together making, I think, the figure which I have in my note from Professor Campbell, 1897—If you take it from me the way I gave it—

15776. No, I take it from you—from the paper you have put in—I am giving you a summary of that paper.

15777. It is a mere addition sum of the two added together!—If you take my figures I think I am quite right. I say that during two years, according to those returns given to me by Mr. Gill, there were placed in the Congested Districts of Ireland 115 bulls in the two years. In addition these returns show that outside the Congested Districts the Department has placed forty-three more bulls. That is to say, six were put in districts outside the scheduled districts of counties containing Congested Districts by the Department, and thirty-seven were placed there by the County Committees. In other words, taking the counties which contain Congested Districts 158 bulls have been put out in two years, of which 115 were within the scheduled areas.

15778. That is not quite accurate. Let me read:—"List of bulls located by the Department in Congested Districts," and then, "List of bulls located by County Committees of Agriculture in Congested Districts or in the vicinity of Congested Districts in conjunction with the Department's live stock scheme." It is not in the whole county. Surely that is an important point!—Pardon my repeating that I am directing my evidence solely to the Congested Districts, and I am not passing any criticism on any work of the Department outside of them.

15779. I know you are not criticising. All I want to get at is what that paper actually states, namely, that these bulls are in the Congested Districts or vicinity. By that I would infer that bulls although not actually located in the district would be available for use in the Congested Districts!—In some cases, possibly.

15780. I should say that was the meaning of the return, but you cut down the number from 180 to about half that.

15781. (Mr. Miché).—You were comparing the number of bulls stationed by the Department, or under the administration of the Department, in the Congested Districts, and you were comparing that with the number of bulls placed by the Congested Districts Board in the same area, and your evidence is that an average of 25 a year was placed by the Congested Districts Board and 57 by the Department. It is a fact that officers were placed outside, but in the vicinity?—Yes, I gave the number, and that came to 180, so that even if you take those into account it only gives you an average in two years of—

15782. (Chairman).—Where do you get two years?—From the time the Department of Agriculture took over the Congested Districts Board, which was the 1st of April, 1904.

15783. That return is for the season of 1905!—It shows what they did from the time they began their work until 7th July, 1905.

15784. (Chairman).—I cannot see that on the paper.

15785. (Mr. Giffels).—You mean that it includes the preceding year before that return and also the year preceding that again?—It includes every animal placed by the Department in the Congested Districts from 1st April, 1904, to 7th July, 1905.

15786. (Chairman).—That may be, but I am not quite sure.

15787. (Professor Campbell).—If I may make a suggestion. Since I gave evidence before you I have been asked to give evidence before the Royal Commission on Conspicuous, and Sir Horace Plunkett is, at the present moment, giving evidence on this matter. He has all the figures and diagrams with him, and I have prepared a list of all the names of persons whom if I may be allowed afterwards, I will give in evidence.

15788. (Chairman).—We must clear it up. There can be no difference of fact, and, therefore, it is dis-

criminate that it should be cleared up!—This is not my list at all.

15789. No, but you are basing your evidence on it!—I will hand it in as the list supplied to me by the Secretary of the Department.

15790. (Mr. Miché).—Did you look into stations outside the Congested Districts at all?—Yes; every bull in this list is located as shown on the map.

15791. You have 115 all shown on that map. Are the difference between 115 and 158 shown on the map so that we can see where these other bulls are?—Yes, you can see their approximate distance from the Congested Districts, and you will be able to see whether it is a reasonable thing for the Department to suggest that they may all be taken as for the use of the Congested Districts.

15792. (Chairman).—All the Department say is that they are in the vicinity of the Congested Districts!—Yes. Of course, it is a vague expression.

15793. (Mr. Miché).—The inference is that they are for the use of the Congested Districts.

(Chairman).—I should draw that inference myself.

(Witness).—Would you allow me to make that statement shortly again, as it is so involved with the interruptions? The statement I made was this.—That since the Department took over the agricultural work in the Congested Districts from the 1st March, 1904, to the 7th July, 1905, according to a return furnished me by the Department, they have placed in the Congested Districts 70 bulls, and, in addition, 48 bulls have been placed in the Congested Districts through the County Committee schemes, making a total of 118 bulls in two years, or an average of 59 bulls per year out of the 3,300 estimated to be at service. In addition to these animals, there have been placed by the Department in non-congested areas of counties containing Congested Districts six bulls by the Department and thirty-seven bulls by the County Committees, making forty-three additional bulls.

15794. (Chairman).—Are these last figures also taken from this return?—Yes. I am referring only to the returns, sir. Making a total of 162 bulls placed in the counties containing Congested Districts according to that list.

15795. All I pointed out before was that there is not a word about placing them in the counties containing Congested Districts. The expression is, "In the vicinity of Congested Districts"!—Yes, it does not follow that there are not other bulls placed in these counties. I think that was quite clear from my statement, but it cannot be fairly said that 162 bulls have been placed for the benefit of the Congested Districts. That is really my point, because some of them are so far away that they cannot be utilised by the Congested Districts.

15796. (Mr. Giffels).—The majority of them appear to be sufficiently close to the Congested Districts to be available and to be partly used by them.

15797. (Mr. Miché).—As a matter of habit, how far do the people bring their cows as a rule?—I would say they would not consider three miles too far, but in those densely populated places the bull could not serve all the cattle within a radius of three miles.

15798. If you were explaining that list of forty-three in the vicinity would you take a three mile limit as one of your tests?—I was not going into it in that critical way.

15799. (Mr. Giffels).—Have you made any inquiry as to the nominations, the selection of cows for nominations for service. It would be a matter of importance if we know how far nominations were given by preference to those Congested Districts, or whether they were likely to be excluded by those who happened to be nearer?—I do not know of any place where it is considered necessary to get nominations by the owners of cattle within congested areas. The real point is that according to the larger number only 158 cattle were put out within the period extending over two years, very much less than the Congested Districts Board were putting out within the Congested Districts. Forty-three additional bulls were stationed close to congested districts but not within them.

15800. (Chairman).—They took over in addition to the cattle they put out the bulls that remained at the time of the transfer?—Not the bulls, sir.

15801. (Mr. Miché).—If I might put it to you this way, the average of the Congested Districts Board is 55 a year exclusive of past bulls put out?—Yes, 1,026 bulls were put out in twelve years.

15802. So that the numbers being in the place is contained in your average?—I assumed that each bull

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would remain for service for three years. That is how I get at eighty five.

15799 (Chairman).—At the time of the transfer there were a certain number of bulls under the Congested Districts Board, which, under the terms of the transfer, were handed over, if I recollect aright—I do not think so.

(Chairman).—I think that is mentioned in Mr. Wynne's Memorandum.

15800. (Mr. Michs).—They were the property of the people, not the property of the Board.

(Chairman).—Still they were there.

(Witness).—Those that had been placed there the previous two or three years were at service.

15801. (Mr. O'Leary).—I should like to put it to you that on the figures I have indicated it is scarcely an accurate method of comparison to take the average for two years in the case of the Department where those two years included the first year. The figures I have show that in the year 1924 eight bulls were placed in the Congested Districts; in 1925, 33 bulls; and in 1926, 76 bulls. These are not all the bulls placed there by the Department, but special supplemental bulls in addition to the ordinary county supply of bulls. From 1926 to 1926 the numbers (33 and 76) were doubled, and one may, therefore, assume that on passing on to another year there would be at least some increase. In any case it would not be accurate to take the mean of the supply for two years and say that is the average, for in that case the average is a deceptive term. In a case like that if you take 33 and 76 the average is 55, but in the later year the actual number was 74. For comparative purposes it is quite accurate.

15802. It may be accurate but it is misleading. The initial years are always deceptive in the matter of average. I understood you to say that you took nine years out of a total of twelve years' operations—I gave you the average that in a total of twelve years the Board had placed in the Congested Districts 1,026 bulls. If you desire to know the number they put out each year I can supply it at once.

15803. I understood you to say that they had been at work twelve years, and that the largest number in any one year of nine years was 355. First of all, 1,026 bulls were put out during the period of twelve years. Dividing 12 into 1,026 gives you 85. As regards the number at service, I arrive at it in a different way. I stated that the largest number of bulls that were at service during nine of those twelve years was 126. I arrive at it in this way:—If an average of 25 per year be put out and each bull remains at service for three years three times 25 would be the maximum number at any one time in service. Supposing 25 put out in the first year and 25 in the next, you would have 170 in the second year.

15804. What were the numbers put out in the last few years?—During last year there were at service 72 Shorthorns, 25 Aberdeen Angus, 35 Galloways, two Red-pole Cattle, and three Kerry, and 56 heans.

15805. Taking the average period of service of a bull to be three years, the number at service—126—in the last year of the operations of the Congested Districts Board would correspond to an annual supply of sixty-two. Yes, but I told you that years was above the actual average, and that I was taking it in the widest sense.

15806. What we have is that the actual number of bulls at service in the Congested Districts in the last year of the Congested Districts Board's operations was 126. Taking your estimated service at three years per bull, that gives a continuous supply of 62 bulls in order to maintain which the service of the Congested Districts Board was supplying. As a matter of fact, we find that in 1926 the Department placed 74 bulls directly in addition to the number which had been placed through the County Committees in the ordinary method of operation, so that we have this, that in the second year of the Department's operations their direct supplementary supply of bulls to the Congested Districts was actually greater than the entire supply had been in the later years of the Congested Districts Board—I think it is only one-third of the figures you state, three times 62 would be 186.

15807. You state that 126 was the number available for service in that year, and, taking the basis that you give us for these calculations, to maintain 126 available for service would require an annual supply of 62. And we find that in addition to the ordinary supply through County Committees the Depart-

ment of Agriculture in 1926, the second year of its operations, placed 74 bulls in the area. They did nothing at all the year before, if you miss a year or two it upsets the whole thing.

15808. The year before they placed forty-two supplementary to the normal work—I do not think it is a matter worth pursuing. I merely quote the Secretary of the Department's figures. Let him prove them.

15809. (Chairman).—I am afraid you are leaving it yourself—I am not afraid of any statement I make. I am not withdrawing from it at all. I said that the figures are not true, but are those which I have been supplied with by Mr. Gill.

15810. (Mr. O'Leary).—We don't question the figures but what I question is the deduction that there had been a great diminution in the supply of bulls to the Congested Districts area in consequence of the transfer from the Congested Districts Board to the Department. That is not in accordance with fact—No, withdrawing my figures!

15811. I have just explained to you how the figures indicate the reverse?—You take one year and I take two. That makes all the difference in the world. I say they have only put out 57 bulls a year within the congested districts.

15812. (Chairman).—We shall have the exact figures, and it is hardly worth pursuing that!—The Congested Districts' problem cannot wait for dilatory treatment of this kind. Something more rapid and practical is required, and the necessary funds should be provided. If only pedigree sires are kept in a particular locality for several years in succession the cattle of each succeeding generation will be more delicate than the preceding ones. I submit returns showing the number of live stock placed in the Congested Districts by the Congested Districts Board, the Department of Agriculture, and the County Committees. I have already indicated that any such scheme for the improvement of live stock in poor districts should be supplemented by a scheme for improved methods of husbandry, so as to provide more feeding for the better bred stock. This brings us to the general question of agricultural development. The two principal means by which the condition of land-holders in the inland Congested Districts can be substantially improved are, first, by migration, and, second, by agricultural development. Referring to the state of the Congested Districts, I believe that such more good can be effected by agricultural development than by migration. In a report which I submitted to the Board on the 30th April, 1922, I made the following statements which apply with equal force to the general condition of the Congested Districts today. Without assuming a high standard of skill or requiring any additional labour beyond that now available the value of the gross produce derived from these small farms could be doubled. This result would be accomplished if the people would work the land as a husbandlike manager, keep it free from weeds, give it adequate manuring, and good seeds, grow a variety of crops, including soilage crops for feeding their cattle largely in homes in the summer, to supplement the inferior food obtained from their poor pastures; grow root crops for feeding their cattle in winter; drain, reclaim, or otherwise improve the bad land on the holdings; exercise care in selection of breeding stock, keeping only those animals for breeding purposes that are well shaped, sound, and best adapted to the holding; pay special attention to the production of poultry and eggs, and, in fact, to make the most of everything their land can produce. One of the most frequent primary causes of their poverty is want of sufficient manure to grow crops and keep their land in a productive state. Good tillage farming is impossible without adequate manuring. Bad land cannot be permanently improved without good cultivation and manuring. The small farmer has rarely time to grow any crop except one bush acre of potatoes, the usual extent of oats, a plot of cabbage and occasionally a small plot of turnips. The cow or two he keeps are allowed to live as best they can in summer on the poor pasture of worn out land, and in winter they are hardly kept alive on the bad fare they get, consisting of straw and inferior hay, without roots. His cattle are seldom thrifty or profitable, and those he sells are disposed of at low prices. It requires a powerful stimulus to induce the people to change their custom or to do anything for themselves in a different manner to that in which they always saw it done. But if a method is found to be applied to them which will create a general desire to work to improve their pos-

tion, give them hope in their own efforts, and engender such a spirit of emulation as will cause them to vie with each other in the improvement of their land and their homes, general poverty will disappear from many of these districts. It will not be sufficient to enumerate their faults and failings and point out the remedy. All defects in their agricultural methods do not arise from ignorance. Thousands of agriculturists work year after year with the farmers in England, and yet they do not, and with resources now at their command, could not imitate the English system of culture on their own holdings. As to the methods likely to induce poor landholders to adopt better systems of agriculture, I suggest that a number of intelligent economical small farmers or trained agriculturists to be called district agriculturists be placed in charge of a district covering an area which it would be found, after some experience, he could exercise close supervision over in connection with the general agricultural developments of the district.

15813. (Mr. Micks).—Where would you get these small farmers?—From the locality.

15814. They would be local men?—Yes. Who understood all the habits and the customs of the people and with some training would be far more suitable than persons brought from a strange locality or from places where the conditions were different. My suggestions were summarised as follows:—(1.) To promote better systems of agriculture through the agency of district agriculturists, to teach the farmers to cultivate their holdings in the best manner, and to assist in securing through local organisations and other means improved facilities for the marketing of their surplus produce and for the supply of good seeds and manures. Improved means of transport by rail or otherwise is essential to agricultural development in remote districts. If you improved the methods of husbandry in remote districts thirty or forty miles from the nearest station, without improving the means of transporting the surplus agricultural produce that would result from the better cultivation of the land, you cannot hope to get remunerative prices. Secondly, I would say improve their live stock by the use of suitable sires, and exercise care in the selection of their breeding animals.

15815. (Chairman).—I suppose where there has been increased transport the improvement has been very marked; take Glenisles, for instance?—I don't say it is very marked anywhere, but there is a general improvement over these districts. If you compare Glenisles in Donegal with Bangor-Erris in Mayo the facilities for transport are very much greater in one than in the other. At Belmullet, if the people have a few acres some of potatoes or anything else to sell, which has to be carted thirty to forty miles to the nearest railway station, the expenses leave no profit.

15816. I know myself what transport means in that district—My second suggestion was to improve live stock. At present these poor, needy people, if they want to put a few pounds together, take of their holding the well-made, best proportioned bullock, instead of retaining that animal for stock purposes, and selling the one, even for a low price, which is not so shapely. The loss which they suffer through adopting this course is very great, but many of the people are in such a needy condition that they often find the less shapely animal very difficult to cash, and they are frequently forced to sell the better made animal. So that it is easier to thrive in these matters than it is to put the theory into practice. My third suggestion is, make the production of eggs and poultry a special industry. (4.) To teach the people to grow vegetables suitable for their dietary, and what is very important, how to cook them properly. (5.) To accomplish any large measure of success in the agricultural development of some of the Conquested Districts main and arterial drainage schemes must be undertaken either by the Board or through assistance from the Board or some other State department. (6.) To facilitate the planting of trees for shelter on waste corners and in the neighbourhood of houses on other suitable places from the farm. (7.) To make the teaching of agriculture a compulsory subject in rural National Schools, and in connection with this it would be advisable, where practicable, to have attached to each school in the country districts a school farm or school garden, or both.

15817. You attach great importance to that?—Yes, I think we must begin with the children. Nov. 18, 1894.

15818. (Mr. Ogilvie).—A school farm to every National school?—As many as you can. It would seem impracticable to have it for every one. Mr. Henry Byrne.

15819. What else?—I would not like just at present to define the area, because it is a matter which should be left to the Department carrying it out, but I would say a farm of about 25 suitable acres, because if you have much more than that it might occupy too much of the schoolmaster's time.

15820. (Chairman).—Will the schoolmaster have the management of it?—He would under my suggestion.

15821. Would it be in connection with whatever Department or Board had the management?—I am not suggesting to take away any of the powers of the Department to whom they are now entrusted.

15822. I only meant that whatever public body had the matter in hand, it should be in connection with that body?—Yes.

15823. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The National Board has the schoolmaster in hand at the present moment?—It has. My suggestion is to make the teaching of agriculture a compulsory subject in rural National schools, and for this purpose have attached to each school in country districts a school farm and garden. (8.) My eighth suggestion is to have attached to each school a technical class room (or utilize the existing schools within specified hours for the purpose), in which the young people of the neighbourhood would get instruction in technical matters as relation to agriculture and in domestic economy, the management of poultry rearing, and also in any cottage industry or other industrial work that might be considered remunerative or useful. (9.) Including and, if necessary, compelling the people to keep their houses and surroundings in a sanitary condition. (10.) To assist the landholder by organisation and otherwise to procure lime at a reasonable price where required for the land. All the agricultural schemes of the Conquested Districts Board were carried out under the Agricultural Department of the Lord Commission up to the passing of the Act of 1890, when that Department was abolished. The schemes then in operation were continued up to the 1st April, 1904, under the direct control of the Board, from which date the Department of Agriculture took over all the agricultural work of the Board and became responsible for the agricultural development of the conquested districts. Except the improvement in live stock, already referred to, I see no satisfactory results from the agricultural development schemes put into operation.

15824. (Mr. Micks).—By either the Board or the Department?—By either body. I attribute the failure to bring about any apparent improvement in the agricultural conditions of the conquested districts to the employment of itinerant instructors, who were placed in charge of such large districts that it was not possible for them to give the attention and assistance to any particular locality which was necessary in order to induce the poor landholders to follow their advice and instructions. The men employed appeared to be highly trained agriculturists.

15825. (Chairman).—You are speaking now of the methods of the Board, as well as of the Department?—Yes, and its relation to the Department. I cannot separate the two.

15826. You cover both, and you are not suggesting that any particular alteration was made by the Department?—The fault, I find, is that the Department has followed the same. As I have said, the men employed appeared to be well-informed agriculturists, but they had such large areas under their charge that they were engaged the greater part of their time travelling over their districts. It is a mistake to assume that the poor landholders of the conquested districts who live from hand to mouth will adopt any new methods on the advice of a lecturer, or of an itinerant instructor that he comes in contact with occasionally. The crops that can be grown in these districts are few in number, viz., potatoes, oats, rye, millage, mangels, madder, and, in some places, turnips. The average landholder knows how to grow these crops. He does not want advice on new methods so much as on the improvement of existing methods. What he wants more than anything else is assistance by organisation and other means to procure suitable

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manure at a reasonable price, and good seeds at a reasonable price; also organisation, and in the initial stages, financial assistance to market her surplus produce in the most advantageous manner, and proof by example, rather than by lectures or discussion, that if he manages his land and his live stock in accordance with the advice of the instructor he will make more money. The great bulk of the people are so poor that it would not be prudent for them to try experiments, and they have no inclination to do so, particularly on the advice of a person who is a stranger to them, and of whose practical knowledge they have no evidence. The present landholders will not be convinced by arguments based on a knowledge of agricultural chemistry, vegetable and animal physiology, or any of the sciences applicable to agriculture. To secure co-operation through these sources you must begin with the young generation in the schools, and this ought to be done.

15827. There is one question I wish to ask with regard to the marketing of produce. Did the Congested Districts Board—I rather gather that they did—have much relation with the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—They had some, and they employed the Agricultural Organisation Society to organise agricultural societies and banks.

15828. Mainly with regard to the establishment of banks?—Yes, but also with reference to the establishment of agricultural societies, and I think it is to be regretted that more was not done in that way. The great mistake made, I think, was that the Agricultural Organisation Society attempted a great deal too much. If it had confined its operations and concentrated them on certain districts it would have made its work a great success, and would have done a great deal of good, especially to those poor districts.

15829. Has the I.A.O.S. operated much in the congested districts?—They tried and were apparently going to be very successful, but they attempted too much and very little appreciable benefit resulted.

15830. (Mr. Micks).—You think that is a matter for regret?—I think it is, because nothing much can be done for these poor districts without organisation. It will be much more difficult to organise them now after these comparative failures than it would have been at the beginning if they had worked on sound lines, and if they only undertook to do what they could do thoroughly, instead of fancying that all they had to do was to preach the gospel of co-operation and that the people would be so impressed that they would accept the principles and put them into operation.

15831. (Chairman).—I suppose certain difficulties such as the competition of traders, would be encountered in other parts which were not encountered in the congested districts?—The difficulties in the way of establishing any constructive scheme on a sound and permanent basis is much greater in the poor, resourceless congested districts than in a normal part of the country, and the statements I desire to make to you are directed more to emphasise this and to prove to you that these poor districts require special treatment—more money and attention.

15832. (Mr. Micks).—You speak about failure. Have you any distinct occasion in your mind as in County Mayo where societies were started and where

they ceased to exist absolutely?—Yes; some societies for marketing of eggs and establishing banks failed, and many others have a lingering existence without any vitality in them. They are doing little good.

15833. What was the object? Were any of them successful?—No. The object was for providing manure and seeds, agriculture and banks, and for other purposes.

15834. And do they not exist?—A few of them do, but they are not successful. I know that a number are practically non-existent. Many of them started originally with the object of providing only seeds and manure, and then they came to deal with lin, sugar, flour and eggs, they met with the opposition of traders. The number of traders who deal in manure and seeds is small, and the necessity for obtaining good manure is so obvious and such a serious matter that it would go quite easily for the Organisation Society to get the country people to support a scheme for providing manure and seeds at a cheap rate and of good quality.

15835. Are these credit associations not thriving as far as you know?—A few of them are doing very well in a small way. The main good they are doing, in my opinion, is in educating the few people who take an interest in the business to manage their own affairs. But their results in these poor districts are so unappreciable that I have to call them a failure.

15836. But the societies are still alive with a number of members?—Some of them are alive, but hardly that.

From my knowledge of the people in the congested districts I am bound to say I have no faith whatever in the movement Agricultural Instructors as an effective agent for promoting agricultural development.

15837. You think the instructors are kept moving about so much that it makes their work of no avail?—That is so. What is necessary is to appoint practical men as resident district agriculturalists, as suggested in the position of my Report of 1897, which I read to you. Each man should act as a general organiser for the district as well as instructor. Such an instructor should be placed in centres where the estates, striped and re-arranged by the Board, could be developed under his supervision. The Board's work of striping and re-arranging as estates can only be regarded as the initial step in agricultural development, and should be followed up by the special attention of the district agriculturalist.

15838. You mean there should be close co-operation between the Department of Agriculture on the one hand and the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board on the other?—Yes. The landholders who purchase are usually ready to make special efforts to improve their conditions, and if taken in hand, can be got to adopt new schemes and make an effort that they would not make, perhaps, at another time, to lay the grounds for general development.

15839. Such a step, you think, would be justifiable in the interests of the taxpayer who guarantees the transaction?—Yes, and when these bodies act independently and without co-ordination their schemes for the general development of the country are less effective than they would be if they were in close touch.

On returning after luncheon.

15839a. (Witness).—As already stated, the Department of Agriculture is responsible since the 1st of April, 1904, for the agricultural development of the congested districts, and I am obliged to say the scheme they have in operation through the County Councils and the procedure regulating the administration of them are unsuitable and altogether inadequate, having regard to the special needs of the Congested Districts and the exceptional difficulties in the way of agricultural development in these very poor, and to a large extent remote, districts, as compared with the better parts of such country containing congested districts. With the exception of some live stock located by the Department itself, as per list already handed in, all the agricultural schemes are administered by an agricultural

committee appointed for each county. The schemes apply to the entire county, and are not subject to any variation to suit the special requirements of any particular part of the country.

15840. (Chairman).—Is that so: is that quite so?—Yes, in the counties containing the congested districts.

15841. Do you mean there is no special treatment whatever for the congested districts?—None, except in the way of placing special bulls directly by the Department instead of placing them through the Committees. The counties containing congested districts vary greatly in character, and it is obvious that the conditions of a scheme which would suit a good district and afford sufficient aid to make it a success there

would be altogether inadequate to secure success in a poorer, less resourceful, and more remote part of the same county.

18642. I see that in the estimate for 1905-07 for special schemes in congested districts there is an estimate of £5,700?—Yes, that is for the year commencing 1st October last. I am talking of what has been done.

18643. You cannot draw such a line. You say they are doing nothing. I point out there is a sum of £2,390 for special schemes in congested districts?—Yes, but that is no proof that they are going to put them all into operation. I can show you that in the County Mayo they have provided money for specific schemes for three years and did not expend it. Each rural district has representation on the Agricultural Committee of each county, but the monthly meetings are held at inconvenient places in the more central and better parts of the county, with the result that the remote districts which really require the most aid to develop agricultural resources have no effective representation, as the members of the Committee for those districts do not attend the meetings. To illustrate what I mean I refer to the County Mayo, and hand in printed copies of the agricultural schemes for that county (produced) and schedules showing the amounts provided for each scheme for the years 1904, 1905, and 1906, (a) from the rates, (b) from the Department, and also the amounts actually expended on each scheme during 1904 and 1905 (a) from the rates and (b) from the Department. I am not to be taken as suggesting that the formulated schemes for the current year will not be worked, but that they may not all be.

18644. They have been two years at work. They took over from the Congested Districts Board what, according to your showing, was a very faulty system. They have been at work on this for two years. We have had detailed before us certain alterations which they have made, which I think you say is not quite on the right lines. Of course, you may criticise the Department as much as you like, but still you must bear that in mind that they have only been two years at work?—That will be on record. I don't like to describe my observations as criticisms, but rather as statements of facts and figures. For 1903-04 they provided for the County Mayo £385 for different instruction in agriculture. For the year 1904-05 again they provided the same amount. They did not spend a penny in either of those years.

18645. Why not?—I cannot say.

18646. I want to know what the point of it is. You know perfectly well that there is a great difficulty in getting these men in some cases?—The point of my statement is that it does not necessarily follow that because the Department of Agriculture put in a scheme to you now making provision for the coming year, they are going to carry out what they propose, and I illustrate that by showing what happened in Mayo.

18647. Do you suggest that the Department of Agriculture put down an expenditure for the current year which they don't intend to make?—No, but I name a county in which that has occurred for two years.

18648. Unless you suggest that I don't quite see the point of it. Of course, under a scheme you may put down so much for an agricultural instructor, but the County Committee for one reason or another may not appoint an agricultural instructor, and of course that money is not spent; it goes over to other years?—It has not, as a matter of fact.

18649. Unless you mean to say that these figures are not to be relied upon as showing the bona fide intention to spend what they put down. I don't see what it is?—Nothing would be further from my mind than to suggest that any person connected with the Department would deliberately provide for an expenditure that they did not intend to make.

18650. Well, I mean a reasonable intention. They put down an expenditure sufficient to meet the year; for one reason or another portion of that may not be expended. I want to know what inference you draw from that, because, hardly stated, it looks like a suggestion that you cannot rely on these figures?—That

you cannot rely on them as conclusive evidence of what will be done during the current year.

18651. That I cannot follow. I should have thought you could rely on it as an indication of what would happen unless something unforeseen occurs?—They are better judges of that than I, but I submit that I am entitled, in the interests of the congested districts, to base my statement on what has happened for the last two and a half years.

18652. The two years when, for the first time, they had the management of the districts?—To give it to you in figures, take the County Mayo from the beginning, the Department up to the present time have—

18653. You mean from 1904?—No, since 1900. I desire to give them credit for every penny I can.

18654. I thought you were only going to deal with the congested districts?—The committee containing congested districts. I am taking the County Mayo for example, and I say that according to the published returns for all the schemes started under the Department of Agriculture for the County Mayo, including those for the year ending October 1st, 1906, the sum of £9,303 has been provided, of which from the rates there was to be contributed £3,548 and by the Department £5,754. But what did they actually do in that time. They only spent £3,390, little more than half the money, of which the rates contributed £2,183 and the Department £3,194. Now what I put to the Committee is this, that while in every case and every instance I give the Department, and everyone connected with it, credit for bona fide intention, I ask you to allow me to say that whatever the cause is it is reasonable to assume that it does not follow, because a certain sum of money is provided for one year's operations that that is going to be expended.

18655. We have abundant evidence of that, that all the money is not expended. You need not labour that point. Money has been provided, which was not expended for one reason or another. The question is, what inference do you draw from that?—The inference I draw is that the congested districts are in urgent need of effective development, and that they should not be subjected to this dilatory treatment.

18656. Does it not really all come to this. May I just read what you accepted as summing up your evidence, and what you would probably tell us is what you wish to say. It struck me very much as putting your point, if I may say so, as well as it could be put, and, if so, it does not seem to me that these details go much further. This is what Sir Antony MacDonnell put to you at the Congested Districts Commission (Q. 3400): "In this what you mean: in your opinion the congested districts require more expert treatment, more differential treatment, more detailed treatment, more sympathetic treatment, and more expenditure than any system of administration under the Agricultural Department's methods and County Council Commissions could supply?" Your answer to that is, "I accept that summary in toto"?—Yes, and I repeat that now, and would like to add, that from the Department and County Committee schemes at present in operation the Congested Districts are not getting the treatment referred to in that summary.

18657. That is quite what I expected you would say. Then it comes to this, does it not, that in your view you want an altogether different method of treating the congested districts from anything that could be supplied by the present regime of Agricultural Department administering an endowment under the control of the Agricultural Board and administering an endowment through and in co-operation with the County Committee; it won't fit it at all?—That is not my view. My view is that it can be made to fit, but that the present procedure of having one uniform scheme for the county is not suitable for the poor districts of a county.

18658. Then you don't accept Sir Antony MacDonnell's statement?—I say that the Department can make provision for special treatment; they should get the necessary money and powers to do it.

18659. Yes, that is a large exception. What Sir Antony MacDonnell put was this, they required all these matters which he had mentioned, winding up with more expenditure, than any system of administration under the Agricultural Department's methods

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and County Council Committees could supply it—He was referring to the law in its present condition.

18960. Then, what you want is an alteration of the law?—Yes; so far as may be necessary to give effect to my suggestions as announced by Sir Arlsey.

18961. Is not that the point—I am trying to make a case for that, that the Department should be fully and properly equipped to apply special treatment to these districts in an effective manner.

18962. I quite accept that. May I carry the point further, that in order to carry out what you say here in the view in which you agree, in order to carry out that view you want it all administered direct by a central authority and not through the County Committees?—No, I don't say that. I am finding as I talk with the general schemes of the Department and County Committees except that they are insufficient to meet the requirements of the very poor districts.

18963. Please don't imagine that I think you are finding fault. Do you desire to see an alteration of the law and methods of procedure by which the Department, or whatever stands in the place of the Department, shall be supplied with a very much larger amount of funds which they can distribute according to what you consider the best methods without being subject to the control of the County Committees or Board of Agriculture?—No; I prefer to have such schemes administered by local Committees acting under the control of the County Committees and the Department.

18964. The County Committees as at present constituted?—Even as at present constituted rather than by a Department which has no representative element on it. I believe the constitution of the County Committees will improve as years go on.

18965. (Mr. Miles).—With reference to the answer you made to the other Committee, is it your opinion that under the existing system even more might have been done?—Yes; I was coming to what I considered to be a very important matter. There is a very strong objection to the present administration of these County Committees' schemes, and I stated that although each of the rural districts within a county has a very full representation in members, that owing to the arrangement under which they are obliged to meet in one central place, the representatives from the remote districts rarely attend.

18966. (Chairman).—That was pointed upon us when we were in Mayo a good deal?—You will observe from the summary I based in that for the period shown therein the sum of £9,263 was provided for agricultural schemes in the County Mayo, but only £8,379 expended, of which the rates contributed £2,081 and the Department £6,297, for the years 1904-05, 1905-06 a year was provided for livestock instruction in agriculture, but there was no expenditure, as there was no instructor. An agricultural instructor was appointed in September, 1906, and he has been engaged since then delivering lectures in agriculture. It may be said the instructor is under the control of the Agricultural Committee, who should know what is best for the congested districts of the county. I have looked into the constitution of the Agricultural Committee and the attendance at their meetings. There are eight rural districts in the county and sixty-four members on the Agricultural Committee, as follows:—Belmullet, 5; Ballina, 7; Kesh, 8; Castlebar, 8; Swinford, 15; Claremorris, 8; Ballinacree, 8; Westport, 8. There are monthly meetings of the Committee, at which the sixty-four members are entitled to attend. In 1904-05 the places where the meetings were held were alternately Castlebar and Claremorris. In 1906 it was decided that the meetings should be held in rotation in Castlebar, Claremorris, and Ballina. Some of the Belmullet members would have to drive over forty miles to the nearest place of meeting at Ballina, and have a further train journey of twenty or thirty miles to attend at Castlebar or Claremorris. I find that from January, 1904, to 23rd October, 1906, thirty-four meetings were held, and there was not a single member from the Belmullet rural district attended any of these meetings but one. That was a meeting held on 21st January, 1905, when five members attended. I submit a return showing the attendance of each meeting of the Rural District Councils. The average attendance at each meeting was twelve, six clergymen and six laymen out of a membership of sixty-four. The reason I have given into these details will be apparent later on, and I en-

deavour to show that one uniform scheme for an entire county is not suitable for a county like this, containing congested districts. I submit that if the congested districts are to be developed they need special and differential treatment and more generous aid than the better parts of the county, and one set of aid and dry schemes for any county containing congested districts cannot be satisfactory, but if treated upon the members of each Rural District Council or Agricultural Committee should be allowed to meet in a central place within their own district for the purpose of administering the general county scheme in operation in that district, and they should also have the administration of special schemes applicable only to the poor and congested districts. It may be necessary that one or two meetings in the year of the entire County Committee should be held at one place, say in the County Council office. It is necessary that the congested districts schemes should get special aid in addition to that available from the general scheme for the county. We have had too much talk about agricultural development and too little action in Mayo. High-class scientific farming is unsuitable for the county. A number of scientific Scotch farmers with considerable capital settled in Mayo within the last sixty or seventy years, but they failed and have disappeared, leaving behind them evidences of large outlay in the form of well laid out fields, good fences, and large farm steadings, now unused and rapidly falling into decay. The most effective way to set about the development of the agricultural resources of the congested districts is, in my opinion, as already explained, by placing a resident agriculturalist at convenient centres and putting a district under his charge that he can efficiently superintend.

18967. Have you thoughts on how many of these districts there should be?—Yes, I would place a district under his charge, for the agricultural development of which in every way he would entirely devote himself, with the aid of the local committee, acting under the control of the Department of Agriculture and County Council. He should organise the farmers of his district to make the best arrangements possible for procuring seeds and manures at a minimum cost. For instance, if each year the agriculturalist got the landholders to buy two cart of seed potatoes and two cart of seed oats he, with his Agricultural Committee or Society, could arrange for the purchase in the most suitable districts of the seeds required, and they could arrange for the distribution and for payment. The produce of these small quantities of Irish seed purchased each year would be sufficient to seed the succeeding year more than the entire area of the crop now annually grown by the small farmer. So that under that arrangement the advantage of change of seed that you have so much about would be secured. Each year he would buy a small quantity of fresh seed which would be more than ample to seed the crop in the succeeding year, and there being a constant demand created from other districts it would help the farming on those districts, and when a failure of the potato, partial or serious occurred, there would be no longer that necessity for scouring the country for thousands of tons of seed potatoes, all to be got within a few weeks and at high prices. The manure required for the district should be supplied through the same organisation; the agriculturalist should, if possible be on a farm in his district where there would be kept suitable breeding stock—fowl, a bull, boar, and sows, and if required a few high-class cows and sows from which to breed suitable bulls and boars for the locality around. He should keep on the farm a stock of farm trees, horned cattle, and fruit trees. He should have as farman or assistant a young man who had passed through his theoretical course, and has to acquire practical experience under him to qualify for the office of instructor. A theoretical agriculturalist who has not had practical experience is, in my opinion, a dangerous adviser to send among the poor landholders of the congested districts. If money cannot be found to place a number of these district agriculturalists or find farms for them, I suggest that one highly qualified man with scientific and practical knowledge be placed in charge of each county, and that in each parish the most enterprising and successful farmer, or a son of his, be selected to manage his farm as an example holding, and to act as district agriculturalist, report on his farm the stock animals required for the immediate neighbourhood, and organising the business of

the district as suggested above under the direction of the county instructor. To make my suggestion more clear, I say if there was one well-qualified man acting as county instructor that there is not a parish in which he could not find a suitable man to act as his agent or assistant for disseminating as much agricultural knowledge as the people want, and, which is more important, to assist them practically in the very simple matters of getting good seeds and improving their stock. They don't want to have that high technical knowledge that some people seem to think, and the man that I would consider most suitable in a district would be a man who under present conditions would be holding fairly well and is more tidy and more thrifty about his place than any of his neighbours. I repeat that there is not a parish in which you won't find such a man, who through his own natural good qualities shows himself to be superior to his neighbours. He would be a very much safer medium to convey the sort of aid and instruction his neighbours require than a person who has no connection with the district. That is my conviction, and in saying that I don't mean to convey that I deprecate the advantage of scientific training and theoretical knowledge.

15858. (Mr. Micks).—When you speak of employing him in his own neighbourhood you would not mean his own immediate neighbourhood?—Yes, living on his own farm.

15859. Would he have sufficient influence with the people in his own neighbourhood?—Yes; the man I speak of has influence there already because of his success or, perhaps, of the good qualities which led to it.

15860. You think there would not be a little local jealousy and want of appreciation for the man in his own neighbourhood?—No, I think that is greatly exaggerated. This seems to me to be a position similar to that of supervisor of Parish Committees. During the past few years the Board have devoted something between £10,000 and £12,000 a year to the work of the Parish Committees. In nearly every case the supervisor is a local man; he only gets small pay, and we were told at first, "If you don't bring in a stranger you will have all kinds of jobbery; everything will go wrong." When we find jobbery tried we very soon put an end to it, and once the people know their work will be closely examined and that the grants will be withdrawn, if not administered in accordance with the rules in a perfectly open and above-board manner, the result is that irregularities rarely occur and the Committees do their work in a satisfactory manner. Most of the supervisors who have been controlling the work of these Parish Committees for a few years have developed firmness of character and are smart, intelligent, reliable fellows whom their neighbours highly respect.

15861. (Chairman).—Who are the supervisors?—They are men appointed by the Board to supervise the Parish Committee's work. The Committee nominate candidates for the position and the Board select the man they consider the most suitable. When two or more candidates are put forward we sometimes submit them to examination, and the best man gets it, and he knows that if he does not discharge his duties efficiently other young men are ready to replace him, and he does his best to give satisfaction.

15862. (Mr. Gillepie).—In what way is that money spent?—Mainly in connection with the better housing of the people; I shall give you a pamphlet which gives particulars of the scheme.

15863. This is not a case of anything for agricultural work?—It is; for a large portion of the outlay is made to poor landholders; we give them free grants to put up houses for cattle. A number of these poor people keep cattle in their dwellings; we say they must put the cattle out; they cannot put the cattle out until they have out-buildings for them, and we give them a grant which shall not exceed £3 for putting up out-buildings on a site of which we approve, and on plans we have adopted, and another condition is that they must convert the space in the house previously occupied by the cattle into a second sleeping room; this scheme is operating through the entire Conquest District, and by friend and foe it is considered to be a scheme that is working admirably.

15874. What portion of the £15,000 would that particular activity account for?—We make out that for that £10,000 we get £40,000 to £50,000 worth of work done in the year.

15875. It would be in other ways than this?—These are the only heads it can be distributed under, for the section of out-buildings, the improvements to dwellings, the reclamation of land, drainage, making of accommodation roads, but three-fourths of it goes into the improvement of dwellings and erection of out-buildings. In some parishes, where we consider the house accommodation is very defective, we withdraw the other buildings under which they can apply the money and oblige them to apply it to the improvement of the dwellings. You asked me how many of these districts agriculturalists would be required. I was often asked that before, and when I had to say it was a large number I was told "Money cannot be hoarded and we must depend on the thousand instructor who is going all over the county." If money cannot be hoarded to start an example holding in each parish, begun in a small way—commence with one or two in each rural district under the direction of the county instructor; even with the present resources, two in each rural district would not involve a large expenditure. If these success others should be gradually established so as to have one in each parish eventually.

15876. (Chairman).—How many would that be?—That would be about 900, but what I want to emphasize is this, that if you have only one in each district, the agriculturalist should not be placed in charge of a larger area than he can effectively supervise. If the work in these districts be successful the people in other places will hear about it and it will be possible to extend the work to adjacent districts with every prospect of success.

15877. (Mr. Gillepie).—Are you giving us an estimate of the expenses of establishing one in each rural district?—I was not thinking of going into that, because my suggestions are general.

15878. But as you are here, what do you think each unit would cost?—If you allow me I will hand in an estimate.

15879. Is it £10 or £100?—I would say each centre could not be done under £100 annual expenditure.

15880. (Mr. Micks).—You could hardly expect to do it as low as that?—I would restrict the area of operation; that would be £100 a year in addition to the capital expenditure.

15881. (Chairman).—I think it would be very useful if you would give us an estimate?—That would be rather intruding upon the Department's work.

15882. It is strictly relevant to our inquiry because we are asked what improvement in the methods of the Department there ought to be; you say there ought to be this improvement; if we recommend this improvement authorities will certainly want to know what it will cost?—If you want to get a statement from me what this will cost for May I would gladly send it in. I say there should be a school farm and school garden, or what I would prefer, a small holding attached to every school or to the teacher's residence if sufficiently near the school, and the teacher should get the same sort of education and training that the agricultural instructors are now getting, and if he did not manage the farm satisfactorily he should be discontinued as teacher; this would necessitate some form of co-operation between the Board of education, the managers of schools, the Department of agriculture, and the county authorities, and it would require the active and earnest co-operation of all those to procure efficient educational methods in the rural districts, especially to very backward ones. The Department should get powers to acquire compulsorily any area of land up to the rateable value of £10, adjacent to, or in the neighbourhood of, the school or teacher's residence for the purpose of a school farm or garden. I mention that high limit so that the Department would, under exceptional circumstances, be able to take up an economic holding if they thought it desirable. My idea is that the farm should be a small one of about up to 65 value.

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15893. (Mr. Ogilvie).—This is a school farm quite distinct from the district centre?—Yes.

15894. (Chairman).—I did not understand that you proposed to acquire any land with respect to the district scheme?—I do; I propose that the district agriculturist should live on the farm provided by the Department, and in case they could not find money for that I make the suggestion that if you cannot get the farm, then employ a local farmer or his son, who lives on the farm. You will find that a local man, after six or eight months' training under the county instructor, would be a suitable man. Any of the present teachers of schools, who are not too old, should be obliged to take up a science course similar to that now required for the agricultural instructors. Reading books could be made much more interesting than those now in use in the National schools by treating of subjects dealing with rural life, plants, animals, elementary chemistry, hygiene, &c., and all the children over a certain age should be required to do some work, say, for half an hour, on stated days, on the school farm.

15895. At what age?—They would be able to pick weeds after seven or eight, and it would be a very good thing for them to learn; I would say after ten if I had to name an age. The work should be suited to the age of the child, and if the instruction was carried out in the way it is in my mind it should never be irksome. I would have no faith in the teaching unless the children found it quite a cheerful occupation; a teacher would be a poor one if he could not interest the children for twenty minutes or half an hour on the farm.

15896. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Do you think twenty minutes would be a really practical time to start boys on a job and take them off?—I would say half an hour if it is to be three times a week.

15897. (Chairman).—Take this school farm; how would your farm be worked; would you require any additional labour, you could not expect the schoolmaster to do it altogether?—The schoolmaster would have to employ labour to attend to the cropped portions of the land and it ought to be managed as an example holding for the district.

15898. That would have to be probably not less than fifteen acres?—I was going by the rateable value; I would say £4 or £5 a year holding, the number of acres would depend on the rateable value; the country schoolmaster is at present idle after half-past three o'clock, and he does nothing on Saturdays.

15899. You think he could do it with a little help?—Yes; I don't see that it is difficult for anybody to learn, especially a schoolmaster raised on a farm, to learn to manage a few acres of land in a fairly satisfactory manner. On this farm there would be fruit trees; suitable fowl and a cow or two. It should be run as an example holding by the teacher for his own profit; I would hope he could pay a rent that would pay interest on a reasonable cost price of the farm.

15900. (Mr. Micks).—You would give him the profit; it would not go in reduction of expenditure?—No; he might get assistance in the shape of seeds and manures; there ought to be no difficulty in his running it at a profit. Each class might get a small plot to keep as a garden, sowing, and cultivating in it the most useful kinds of vegetables so as to educate the children of the schools in the kind of vegetable and flowers their fathers ought to grow at home. Whatever the occupation of these children might be afterwards the instruction will be useful to them, and those who remain on the land would more readily take advantage of the technical training brought within their reach in later years. When you have a generation of children trained in that way the lectures of the instructor in later years would have good effect, but at present few of the farmers can follow the lectures. Whether it be the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners who are charged with the re-arrangement and enlargement of holdings in the Congested Districts, to secure satisfactory results it is absolutely necessary that systematic agricultural development should follow the re-arrangement of estates and as the money required to give the necessary instruction, or aid in benefiting these poor districts, has to come through some Department from a Government source, I submit the Department of Agriculture should be supplied with special funds to supplement the

general county contribution in the poorer districts, and three should be separate schemes for the parts of the county which differ in character and resources.

15901. (Chairman).—Have you formed any general estimate of the amount of money that would be required to carry out that?—I have just said I did not go into these figures.

15902. Your experience is probably double that of anyone else's?—In the Congested Districts it is considerable.

15903. I should like to know something?—I understand you to request me to hand in a general statement.

15904. If you will add to that some sort of estimated expenditure?—Illustrating what my scheme would involve? If you would give me a fortnight as I have a lot of other work on hand. There is a horticultural instructor in Mayo, who, besides looking after the planting of fruit trees and forest trees, has under his charge eleven garden plots in which bush trees and apple trees are planted, and a large amount of vegetable ground. These were started last spring, but in the absence of a profitable means of marketing the fruit and vegetables, or instruction in the raising of the vegetables grown, this scheme will not be a success. I do not believe profitable fruit-growing is possible in West Mayo; the climate is too wet; late frosts and gales of wind are too frequent, and the difficulty of marketing is very great. There are throughout Mayo, many enclosed gardens, and in everyone of them you see fruit trees covered with moss, and you hear complaints of late frosts, too much wind, and want of sun, &c., and when there is an occasional good crop the expense of marketing it leaves no profit. These remarks do not apply to Donegal, Kerry, and other parts of the Congested Districts, where fruit can be grown successfully.

15905. (Mr. Micks).—At Tubbercurry there were a great many orchards?—Not a great many.

15906. There are some orchards, and there would be a great many in that county?—There are a few scattered about. In the neighbourhood of Tubbercurry there is an odd garden and places where the soil is very good, but the holdings in occupation of the poor people are usually poor land and not suitable for growing fruit.

15907. You think there is too much bog and wet land about Tubbercurry.

15908. If they could have a small area, there are so many holdings; if they could have a small area under fruit, the holdings are so numerous, that a fruit trade would be possible so far as the production?—Yes, if the climate was suitable; I am giving my reasons; I don't pretend to be an expert in fruit growing. You find one of these enclosed gardens at almost every bog house.

15909. There is not much ventilation for the trees?—That may be one reason, but you will find the trees are covered and covered with moss; it is impossible to keep them free from it, and from my experience of the frequency of late frosts and the damages, I don't believe fruit can be profitably grown there, but in parts of Donegal and Cork I believe the climate would suit fruit trees.

15910. (Chairman).—In the west of Mayo fuchsia and other trees grow?—Yes; but it does not follow that the climate which suits fuchsia will also suit fruit.

15911. But it is very mild?—A mild, relaxing, damp county, about three times as wet as the County Dublin.

15912. And the soil is not exactly suited for fruit?—A great deal of it is mossy, and it is very much exposed, and you don't find anyone having a fruit garden in the remote western districts that can manage it with profit.

15913. There is almost less fruit in that part than any place I have ever seen?—Not much.

15914. (Mr. Micks).—The idea that I have taken generally from your statement is that you disapprove of identical treatment for the well-off portions of the country and those that are very poor?—Yes.

15915. And that a scheme that does not take conditions in it to make a complete success in some

parts of the country would not be a success in the poorer districts. Do you know anything of the Act of 1893 or the amending Act, notions that would make it impossible to have different schemes in the same county under the Department and County Committees?—I don't know anything that would prevent it; there may be some difficulty in working it.

15906. But nothing impossible as regards the state of the law?—Nothing impossible as far as I know. The suggestion I made would be something like this, that there seems to be reasons why there ought to be a general uniform scheme for an entire county inasmuch as the contribution in support of the schemes is made by a uniform rate; I say if that must continue—I see no objection to allow it to continue—but the poorer districts should get in addition to that special grants in aid of suitable schemes.

15907. Do you mean a different scheme?—It would mean a supplementary scheme for the poor districts, and I suggest that that supplementary scheme, if you divide the county into rural districts or such other areas as might be most convenient, work its own scheme for itself and let all the rural districts work the general county scheme, and if it happens to be mainly or entirely in the congested districts let that rural district work the special scheme. These smaller areas will, I believe, do work very much better for themselves when you allow them to be responsible and have freedom in the management of the scheme.

15908. Subject to judicious supervision?—Yes; any scheme is devised which requires the members of the Committee to come such long distances as from Belmullet to Castlubar to deliberate each month what they are to do about a particular work for the district. Why not allocate the Belmullet district to the Belmullet representatives.

15909. A kind of delegation?—Devolve on the local representatives the administration of their own funds, and let them have their share of the county funds.

15910. (Mr. O'Leary).—Apart from the details and methods of applying funds in the Congested Districts we have the fact that through the Department's scheme the Congested Districts are having, just now, an expenditure which is estimated at £3,160, estimated merely as a proportion of the actual expenditure in the past years as against £2,000 which the Department receives from the Congested Districts Board in respect of that, but in addition to that the Department is now spending, in supplementary schemes, specially for the Congested Districts, whether they are well-served schemes or not, a sum of £5,700; taking it as a general policy I presume that is the sort of thing you mean, but you say it does not go far enough?—I am not able to make any reply to that question for this reason, our secretary applied to the Department of Agriculture some months ago for the actual details of the expenditure and he has not got them. Sir Eneas Mackenzie made a general statement at one of the Board meetings at which I was present that the amount of money which the Department was contributing from its own funds was far in excess of what it could afford to contribute unless the Congested Districts Board gave them a much larger subsidy than £2,000 a year, and the Secretary was instructed to ask the Department to furnish particulars of what they actually spent in each of the Congested District counties, but he did not get the return.

15911. You are not in a position to say whether it is properly spent or not; but do I rightly understand what you advise in saying that the Congested Districts ought to share—they are now sharing in whatever part of the general county schemes are suitable or may be made suitable for themselves—and that in addition, there ought to be some of money spent upon special methods and supplementing the operations of the ordinary schemes in those areas?—Precisely that these areas being so poor, and so resourceless, comparatively speaking, that a scheme that would be quite sufficient to benefit the normal parts of the county would be insufficient in the poor parts. On the question of money I would like to make my view quite clear. I am not raising a question as to whether the Department has contributed as much money as it ought, or the Board has contributed as much money as it ought to these schemes, but what I want to put before you is that no matter where the money comes from, it

must be found if the poor districts are to be developed, and it does not matter whether the money comes from the funds of the Congested Districts Board or the Department of Agriculture, or from any other source. I say whatever Department or body is charged with the development of the poorer districts must be provided with funds to give special aid to development schemes in the poor districts.

15912. I quite understand that. Assuming that, and without any question of who ought to pay, what I want to get at is whether the existing position falls very far short of what ought to be given. Take it from me that the existing position is; I put it in round numbers, they have spent nearly £11,000 in the Congested Districts, of which about £3,000 comes from the Congested Districts Board, nearly £2,000 from rates, and nearly £7,000 from special contributions, payable from the Department's endowment schemes; these you have spent nearly £11,000 in these districts for work done under the Department, which includes these supplementary schemes; I understand your proposals would amount to a drain on public resources of a sum very much in excess of that £11,000?—Oh, very much, and I base that opinion on this; I am assuming that the Department of Agriculture are doing practically all they can with the money at their disposal, and it is very trifling compared with the needs of these poor districts. The Board have spent something like £140,000 on agricultural schemes, and yet these, comparatively speaking, little improvement effected.

15913. In what time?—Up to the time they handed over their work to the Department.

15914. At the time they handed it over, about how much were they spending on agricultural schemes? (Mr. Micks).—From £9,000 to £11,000 a year.

15915. (Mr. O'Leary).—How did they come to give only £2,000 over?—It was not they did it, the Government, in Mr. Wyndham's Memorandum, deliberately relieved them; it said in effect, "You cannot continue to spend as much money as you have been spending on agricultural schemes; your work is now to be mainly in connection with the purchase and development of estates," and this £2,000 a year was given to the Department by the Congested Districts Board as a contribution towards meeting the extra expenditure these districts required. The Board were not asked to contribute more.

15916. (Chairman).—Asked by whom?—By the Government, as represented by Mr. Wyndham.

15916a. Mr. Wyndham's Memorandum proceeded on the basis that as the preliminary basic work of the Congested Districts Board was completed it would be possible and proper to liberate its funds in aid of the secondary work of the Department. £2,000 was to be given to the Department and the other £8,000 to the purchase scheme on the ground rightly or wrongly that the preliminary work of the Congested Districts Board was completed. Mr. Mitchell says, in his evidence at Q. 1264, before the C. D. B. Commission, "Mr. Wyndham drove as hard a bargain as he could with the Department"—I cannot speak as to that, but I would say that that letter or memorandum conveys quite clear what was the intention.

15917. (Mr. Micks).—"As the preliminary work of the Congested Districts Board is completed"—That is as it becomes completed.

15918. "It will be possible and proper to liberate its funds for the secondary work of the Department"—We will not reach that stage for a long time.

15919. (Chairman).—I think it entirely refers to the amount they are going to hand over. "In the meantime the Board will be willing to supplement the work of the Department where special cases of widespread poverty calls for special assistance." The Department rather took that as a promise that this £2,000 would be supplemented, because I find in their resolution of the 19th July, 1906, the Board stated that they "consider it urgently necessary that their financial position as regards the agricultural work taken over from the Congested Districts Board should be dealt with. As they pointed out at the time of that arrangement, the sum of £2,000 voted by the Congested Districts Board is quite inadequate, and the Department, with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, have been supplementing that sum from the moneys assigned

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to them by Parliament for the parts of Ireland other than the congested districts on the understanding that this endowment upon their Endowment Fund should be recouped at the earliest possible date, either in the manner referred to in the Chief Secretary's Memorandum of the 12th October, 1903, namely, from the funds of the Congested Districts Board, or otherwise. Since that date the deficit has not been made good, and the Department and the Agricultural Board, in their anxiety to assist the Congested Districts in respect of the work taken over, have annually supplemented the inadequate sum provided; and in January, 1903, voted £20,000 to those districts for seed potatoes in connection with the failure of the potato crop that season. Now that the demands on the Endowment Fund for schemes in the non-congested parts of the country exceed the total annual sum available, it will be neither practicable nor legitimate for the Board to dispose of the funds intended by Parliament for those parts of the country in order to apply them to districts for which they were not intended. In these circumstances the Board find it necessary to request the Government to give effect to the undertaking of Mr. Wyndham and supplement their Endowment fund with a special provision for work in the Congested Districts; otherwise the work in those districts must seriously suffer." There is a Minute of the Congested Districts Board given in evidence here. "On consideration of the resolution adopted by the Department of Agriculture at their meeting on the 16th October the Board are altogether unable to agree in the interpretation placed on their President's Minute of the 12th October. They are clear on the point that there was, at the time, no intention on the Board's part to increase the contribution of £2,000 then made to the Department apart from the question of interpretation or intention. The Board find their finances all too insufficient for their own meetings and prescribed requirements."

15920. That indicates how the thing stands!—It does, but I don't think it weakens the case I am making, viz.:—that the money must be found for the poor districts if they are to be developed.

15921. (Mr. McKel.)—As regards the expenditure that Mr. Ogilvie just now referred to, you don't know any details of that lump sum?—The only thing I know of is that the Board were very much surprised at having a suggestion that they were expected to contribute towards the cost of seed potatoes supplied through the Department in poor districts.

15922. Look at these figures!—What have estates of landings at Athlone to do with the Congested Districts; it is fifteen miles away.

15923. (Mr. Ogilvie.)—For housing of stock used in the Congested Districts!—They are charging £1,000 for housing 115 animals.

15924. That is the capital expenditure which I did not include. I was only taking the current expenditure!—But even on the figures here all they have put on the Congested Districts is 163 bulls in respect of that expenditure.

(Mr. Ogilvie.)—No, no; please don't misrepresent anything; it is the annual expenditure.

15925. (Mr. McKel.)—Or the estimated expenditure?—I think these figures altogether out of proportion; there is £1,050 down for maintenance of stations; I would like to know how much per foot that is for all the foals produced in the Congested Districts.

15926. (Chairman to Professor Campbell.)—Is this return correct; do you adhere to it?—(Professor Campbell.)—Yes.

15927. (Mr. Ogilvie.)—I think I have got a fairly clear conception of your idea as to how the schoolmasters might co-operate in this business; the schoolmaster to have such a supplementary training in agricultural work as would make him qualified to carry on a farm if he were not already so qualified?—(Mr. Dewar.)—A small farm.

15928. In working that he should, for a good deal of the cropping, employ outside labour and pay for it; do what work he saved to do and was physically fit to do in the afternoons and Saturdays; utilize the services of the pupils for the people's benefit half an hour at a time on three days a week, getting each to appropriate employment, and seeing that no one was put to work that was not suitable for his strength or years or intelligence; that by this means he was to work the farm so as to make it a really substantial element in the instruction given in his school; I think that is about the position?—Yes.

15929. As a practical question would he take them all out to the field at one time, the same half hour, or send them out in squads?—Unless the students at the school were large, I think for the ordinary mid school he might take all at one time.

15930. There would be perhaps fifty in the school. Not so many boys I think; he would not bring the very young children.

15931. He would have to send the young children home?—No; that might be made their playtime; I did not go into these details.

15932. From the school point of view the details count for a good deal, because there is only one man to run the school. What I wanted to get at is how far you have thought the matter out, whether it was a physical impossibility?—I would not think so; it would be the last half hour before going home if the playtime was not so utilized.

15933. Do you think the boys would accept that as an adequate play-hour?—If not let it be a half hour before closing school; I think if the instruction could be given in the manner I am endeavouring to indicate it would be interesting to the children to learn about the growth of plants and to have been dealing with such matters. If those who were the best judges, and had experience of the management of schools, thought it would be dangerous to the health of the children, or in any way objectionable to deprive them of their half hour recreation, then I would say let it be the last half hour of the day.

15934. That is to say it would be the time when other children who were not partaking of agricultural work were not in school?—You mean if the instruction takes place in the technical classroom?

15935. No; I am thinking of the work in the field—in all those schools where there is anything like a large attendance there is an assistant teacher who could deal with the junior classes when the others were out.

15936. There would be an assistant teacher with only forty boys?—There would be when there was sixty; there would be always a monitor.

15937. If there were sixty, and a monitor left with the balance, the schoolmaster is to take out all the working in the field, which might be anything from twenty to thirty?—It might be up to forty.

15938. And start them all working together?—In the field might not be large enough for that; the way I would answer the question is, when I knew the total number of children I had to deal with, and when I knew the farm, and learned the amount of time necessary to give them, I would fix all the details.

15939. You are putting a proposal before us which has not been before us yet at all, and it is very important we should get a clear conception of what the proposal is, and the only person who can give us that as you?—I would not say that.

15940. I am perfectly aware of all the schemes for running a school farm which might be my proposal in my scheme, but you are putting before us a proposal, and I want to get the benefit of your practical experience?—I have no practical experience at that.

15941. No; but of farm work; but I want to see what you fancy is the position of a schoolmaster taking out boys from eight to fourteen and starting them for half an hour at work in a field, each appropriate to his age, and giving him instruction in the principles of agriculture and bringing them back to school again?—Suppose we fix the number at twenty?

15942. I think that is a very likely number?—Suppose there are twenty in the school I would take in of those every alternate day, during that half hour; what objection can you make to that?

15943. If there is nobody left with the other lot?—I get over that by fixing the last half hour of the day for their instruction.

15944. An addition to the school total?—If it is necessary to do that if they won't have it at playtime or during the school hours; let it be an additional half hour.

15945. It is an additional period of school-time?—If it becomes necessary.

15946. Half an hour a day three times a week for each pupil?—Or you might reduce the number to two days a week, if considered sufficient.

15947. The work that those children would be doing on the farm, I suppose there would be an adequate supply of work all the year round suitable for the demand?—No; there are times in the year when there

would be no work to do. During these periods the teacher would take them over the farm and explain the nature and feeding value of the grasses in his hay; take them into his cattle-houses one day and show and explain to them how he is feeding and treating his cattle; and on other days, pigs, fowl, etc.

15948. Supposing there are forty-six weeks in the school year, twenty-six of those would be weeks that he would be probably taking them for actual work on the farm?—Assuming that.

15949. If we had to reduce it to twice half an hour a week that would be twenty-six hours a year in the field that each pupil would get?—Instruction on the farm.

15950. Do you think the advantage of the farm upon which the pupils are to be set to work or over which they are to be taken, and which should be farmed by the schoolmaster would counterbalance the expense it would involve?—I don't think the expense would be great, as the schoolmaster would gladly pay a rent for the use of a farm from which he would get milk, vegetables, etc., for his family.

15951. Is it quite possible that managers could make arrangements for the master taking boys out to walk over any farm, and taking ten boys to weed turnips?—Yes; they sometimes lose crops in the country in consequence of not weeding properly; it would have a good effect not alone in connection with the treatment of the crop, but the instructor would set the boys' minds on a train of thought in connection with rural matters.

15952. We have already had a large amount of evidence, and if it were required to convince us we are perfectly satisfied with the propriety of having school gardens on which such instruction should be given, but what is the advantage of fixing up every National school with a small farm as against a school garden?—There is practically no difference between us if you approve the school garden; the farm is only an extension of the school garden plan.

15953. A school farm involves a good deal of responsibility and risk, besides being costly?—There would be no great risk or responsibility in the case of a school farm. Large numbers of schoolmasters have farms of their own to supply their family with milk and vegetables. Where it would be necessary to take a farm, I consider that a mutually satisfactory arrangement could be made without much expense.

15954. (Chairman).—You are not frightened by the cost?—I explained to you that if I found the cost for doing it thoroughly and generally was more than could be provided for, I would put the scheme into operation only to an extent that with the means at

my disposal could be thoroughly and well done, and I would not squander a given sum of money over a large area without the means to do the work.

15955. The whole point of your evidence is that these poor districts require special treatment?—That is what I want to impress on you.

15956. Then, that special treatment, of course, is more or less costly?—Yes.

15957. Can you in fairness to the non-congregated—the richer and better-off districts—can you in fairness to the non-congregated parts of the country charge them with rates for the benefit of these special schemes for the special treatment of Congested Districts?—No, I never made any such proposal.

15958. I don't say you did, but the consequence of that is that the extra expense, whatever it may be, must come out of—?—A special grant.

15959. And must come out of Imperial funds?—That is where it ought to come from.

15960. And, therefore, whatever additional expenses, assuming your scheme to be carried out as I stated, it comes direct in one form or another from Imperial funds?—Yes.

15961. And you are going to give us some estimate of what your view would be of it?—If you really desire it.

15962. I think it is a very important point?—But I thought I made it quite clear that my intention only was to make general suggestions.

15963. And leave us to work them out?—To indicate the general plan of the scheme, and then the amount which would be spent upon it; if the scheme is sound as all it is equally sound for one plot as well as for the whole.

15964. I do want you to realise your own responsibility, you come here to advocate, and you have done it with great ability, a particular mode of treatment of these particular districts, but you have left us absolutely in the dark as to the cost of that particular mode of treatment, we can only see that it would be very large, but if you put this forward with a view of our acting upon it, as, of course, you do, I do want to have that part of your evidence a little bit supplemented?—I have already said that I was quite prepared to do that if you wished.

15965. But you rather seemed to think that that was our business not yours?—I rather dropped that expression for the reason that I felt you were suggesting it was all nonsense, and I thought I would not waste time on it.

(Chairman).—Oh, no, I did not suggest it was nonsense, but we want to see what is the cost, and if it is practicable or not.

Viscount HERRIN examined.

15966. (Chairman).—You are an Inspector appointed by the Department; will you describe your own functions exactly?—Shall I go back to when I was originally appointed. On July 1st, 1901, I was appointed Assistant Inspector of the Department of Agriculture, and later in the year received instructions to report upon the facilities afforded by the railway companies and carrying companies in Great Britain, especially the facilities afforded for Irish produce. On this and subsequent occasions at every port of shipment in Ireland and also in ports where produce was landed in Great Britain we inspected the methods of handling and reported on a large number of railway stations inspected in the interior, i.e., the centres of distribution of Irish produce. On these occasions a large number of leading merchants in the trade were interviewed, and opinions were obtained as to the position of Irish produce on the markets, and especially on their respective markets. In 1901 and the four subsequent years inquiries were instituted of a similar nature, but much more extended, and my colleagues on the same staff worked with me in the matter. In the course of these inquiries a large number of merchants were interviewed, many suggestions for improvement in both quality and in relation to the transport of the produce were received and transmitted to the Department for its action. In this connection I should like to state to the Committee that the inquiries as to complaints from merchants received by the Inspectors has been a very diminishing quantity, and the general opinion of the traders in the markets to-day is that

the efforts of the Department have effected considerable improvement. While carrying out these duties, it was brought home to me personally that Irish produce was suffering on the markets of Great Britain from the want of a representative similar to those of the Colonies and our competitors from abroad, and without entering into any details as to my convictions, I leave it to the Committee to say how far I was justified in thinking so. To show the justification in the minds of traders, I may say that a deputation in November, 1905, waited upon the Department and asked the Vice-President to appoint an officer to reside in Great Britain to safeguard the interests of Irish agricultural produce in a similar manner to the Commissioners from abroad, and subsequently the Vice-President asked me to take up the appointment. In connection with that I should like to give the Committee extracts from the memorandum of duties attached to the office.—First, that the Inspector's primary duty will be the detection of frauds in connection with the sale of Irish butter, eggs, bacon, and other articles of agricultural produce in Great Britain, that being the primary duty, the others are practically subsidiary, so I need not go into them. I had some difficulty in taking up my duties at once owing to illness and the difficulty of finding a central locality, but I proceeded to take up a residence in Great Britain, through I was working before that going backwards and forwards to Dublin.

15967. When did you take up this new duty?—The appointment dates from 1st January of this year.

Nov. 19, 1896. 15062. That differed from the work you were doing before?—It was of a very much more extended nature, a new appointment.

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15063. Your former duties were?—In relation to transit; this was a new office entirely.

15070. Had you any staff?—During the short time in which I have been engaged at the work I have come to the conclusion that I shall require assistance, and on that account I asked the Department in September to give me an assistant, and he is now at work.

15071. Up to that time had you no assistant at all?—No. And I have not asked the Department at the moment for further assistance on the ground that I prefer to be able to prom a very clear case that such assistance is necessary. There is one point in connection with this work which might strike any person not thoroughly up in the Irish trade, that is that the Irish producer has a very considerable advantage over his competitors from abroad in that he is within a day's post of his market, even from the West of Ireland, and he also can get there within the same time himself personally.

15072. (Mr. Micks).—That is somewhat diminished by telegraphic facilities?—It is.

15073. Has it any practicable value owing to the increase of telegraphic facilities?—I think it is, for the purpose of travelling.

15074. For post, I mean?—Perhaps not. Generally this would certainly appear to be the case before the revival, so to speak, of the dairying industry, which is a comparatively recent growth, and the producers as a rule are small men or have small concerns, and I don't think there are many of them who could afford in themselves to come over to the markets where their produce is being sold to deal up arguments which arise in matters connected with the trade; there are many of those which have come under my own cognizance in which the Department's Inspector can intervene without either doing the business of the producer or salesman any injury. I have frequently in the course of my duties in connection with transit heard complaints that producers shipped butter or any article weekly for some weeks to a salesman and it was fairly uniform in the quality and realised a fairly uniform price—

15075. Where were they shipped from?—From Ireland, and after a short period of three or four weeks of this consistent sending; a bad consignment would turn up, and arguments would immediately arise between the producer and the salesman, with the result that frequently the salesman said he would have no further use for this producer, and the producer in consequence had to look for a fresh market. This argument arises very frequently in the case of weights, that is, short weights have arrived at the merchant's stores in Great Britain which have been no fault of the producer, it has generally occurred from some heading in transit or from the butter or other articles being placed too near the engine-room or board ship, it does occur from carelessness in some instances, and in other instances it may be due to defective weighing machines. I have had many instances under my notice and have been able to verify for myself that the weights were short.

15076. (Chairman).—You have been able to represent that the trader was right?—If that has been necessary.

15077. (Mr. Micks).—You would see the article in time to satisfy yourself?—I have generally on those occasions probably seen the article weighed, and then said, "Well that is not good enough," and when the next consignment came I would be there to see it weighed to satisfy myself that there was no tampering with the produce to the merchant's store or before it arrived.

15078. You have had cases of the sort?—In London, Manchester, and the North of England. I am residing close to Manchester, which is so central that I come up to London and do a day's work in London in the day and get back again.

15079. (Chairman).—You must exercise your own judgment whether it is worth while?—Yes, and in cases like that it would not be expected that the producer would agree to come over and enter into a squabble in a merchant's cellar, because he would not care to go to the expense of time lost in leaving his business and the expense of the travelling money.

15080. (Mr. Micks).—This part of your duty is as a sort of intermediary between the vendor in Ireland and the purchaser in England?—Not unless it is a case where fraud might be suspected.

15081. You mean fraud in the way of light weight?—If it was a case of suspected fraud on the part of the consignor.

15082. You would not take action there in the interest of the vendor in Ireland?—On both sides.

15083. (Chairman).—Supposing you came to the conclusion that the fraud was in Ireland?—Then, I would report it to the Department.

15084. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I rather gather that this case of short weight would in most instances be from some change that had taken place between the departure of the producer from the vendor and its arrival?—Yes, I don't attribute it to any fault of the producer, I don't think it is deliberately done.

15085. (Chairman).—Could you give us any idea of the amount of that sort of business?—At certain seasons of the year I get very general complaints from merchants who show me consignments of butter and have them weighed. In the few instances I have been able to report to the Department, I suppose there were twenty reports in the last winter, but in many of these the consignments have kept so deliberately ignorant as to the source of production, and for this reason the salesmen in the market are in very keen competition with one another, and unless they are absolutely confident that the information they give to an impartial official cannot leak out, and won't leak out, they will be very wary about giving the source of production. One thing is, there is the law of life and slaughter and the man wants to keep clear of anything of the kind. Traders on this side have an idea in their heads that if a creamery, butter producer, or egg shipper, is reported upon as not carrying out his trade in a satisfactory manner, and that report is given in officially to go back to the Department, the Department holds a whip over his head to make him do it right. That is rather a prevalent idea which, of course, I do everything I can to get rid of, because the whole object for which I work is to improve the methods of the producer. Irish creamery butter is now standing fairly high in the markets in every centre of distribution. Another class of butter which is produced in Ireland is known as factory butter. Creamery butter is understood to mean a butter made from cream which has been centrifugally separated and not blended with any other butter, when the process of manufacture is once completed the butter is not again re-worked with any other butter. Factory is understood by the trade to mean the result of blending together two butters. And creamery butter will still higher prices than factory, but many first-class factory butters are a better and more palatable article than very badly made or held over creamery butter. It is quite safe to say that the quantity of butter sold as creamery in the British markets largely exceeds the production of creamery butter, and the quantity produced as factory correspondingly exceeds the sale. This misrepresentation is very damaging to the Irish butter trade, it tends to lower the price of creamery butter, whereas if each class was sold on its merits the high-grade factory butter would receive a much higher in my opinion than the low-grade creamery butter. There is no doubt that the sale of factory butter as creamery butter prevents the latter from rising in price and prevents the good classes of factory from taking their deservedly high place on the market.

15086. Is there any law which touches that?—The only law in the Merchandise Marks Act, under that the Department have undertaken some proceedings, but the difficulty is one of definition, there is no definition.

15087. Would that come within the Merchandise Marks Act?—I personally have been making endeavours to secure purchases for the purpose either of taking action either by arbitration, or by putting the facts before the Department to see whether a prosecution lies; but the Merchandise Marks Act in Great Britain is in the hands of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Department has no power to take proceedings in England, and, I believe, not in Ireland now.

15088. Not if the offence was committed in Ireland?—Not as a Department, but I think that is one of the suggestions of the new Butter Bill. In most of the cases in purchasing these butters representation has been made verbally that the butter was creamery, but when offered in writing a strong link in the chain of evidence is wanting as in the invoice all the words are "butter" or "pure butter." There are several firms that are selling factory butter as creamery.

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his evidence would be very much discounted. I think that until there is some form of legislation which requires every foreign egg to be individually stamped we will never get to the end of this fraud.

16007. Does that go on on a large scale?—On a very large scale; I knew of one particular place, this year, in May they had their stores piled to the roof with new Irish eggs and good old straw, which is rather characteristic, unfortunately, of some of the Irish packing. I kept my eyes on them and the result was they got rid of them, but all the eggs coming into their place were foreign, and every egg sold from their place was sold as Irish, and the process was going on.

16008. (Mr. Micks).—You could not get a satisfactory legal proof of that?—Could not get sufficient information to even accuse them of it.

16009. (Mr. Gyle).—Would not the law take it as adequate proof when people had sold 100 boxes of Irish eggs at an interval during which they could not show that they had a single egg from Ireland coming into the place?—I am afraid not; they might have had a collar in which they had them stored for a considerable time.

16010. (Chairman).—You could throw the burden of proof on them?—But the whole burden of proof lies on the prosecution.

16011. (Mr. Micks).—Have you been able to get any convictions in this country at all?—I had one last week; that was in relation to eggs.

16012. Was it the only case you had?—It was the only actual case we had in court, and there again it was a case of that nature which is about the only class of case I can see prospect of taking into court. We prosecuted a firm which branded the ends of their egg-boxes containing eggs which came from Russia, with the words "Pat Murphy, Castle Murphy" and in the centre there was the figure of a dancing Irishman, and in the corner in small letters there was "foreign produce." The Stipendiary declined two summonses on the ground that there was no indication of the country of origin, but I relied on two other points in the Act, and only got a conviction because he was using the fictitious name of a person who was not bona fide carrying on business in connection with such goods. If he had a Pat Murphy I think he could have escaped.

16013. (Mr. Gyle).—Have you any reason to believe that your working these things as far home as you can get them has tended to diminish the fraud?—Certainly.

16014. (Chairman).—Do they know you or suspect you?—Sometimes where I suspect a man of doing something which I am not certain I can ever bring to a head I have deliberately gone into his place and talked to him several days running so that he can see I have him under observation.

16015. You have no legal rights?—None whatever. I merely enter to get into conversation with him. To my knowledge there is a greater fraud which is in existence with regard to eggs, and that is that there are hundreds of small shops in Lancashire alone selling eggs in bowls labelled Irish Eggs at prices at which they cannot be anything but foreign. Very poor Irish eggs five or six weeks old can now be bought at 12s. for 120 or 11 for 1s. That is the wholesale price in Liverpool, and what are labelled and purport to be Irish eggs are today being sold at 12 and up to 16 for a shilling. The frauds in relation to this are very extensive, but I don't see any method of dealing with them unless there was legislation requiring every foreign egg to be stamped.

16016. (Mr. Micks).—And that you would recommend?—Every egg imported into the country should be individually stamped.

16017. Do you think such a measure ought to be taken?—Certainly; there are other marks similarly to "Pat Murphy" which are under observation. In relation to this particular case I should like again to say how difficult it is to get information of any real value from members of the trade. They are particularly conservative to one another, and in that case I asked two or three members of the trade who knew of the "Pat Murphy" brand whether they would come forward and give evidence. None of them cared to, and the result was I had to telegraph to the Department to send over a colleague so that he could corroborate my evidence.

16018. (Chairman).—Your work to some extent overlaps the work of the English Board of Agriculture?—I don't think so.

16019. Supposing these facts came to the knowledge of one of their inspectors?—This case was put to the Board of Agriculture, but their method in this case would be this, that the "Pat Murphy" was a technical offence owing to the words "foreign produce," and the Board had no particular interest as to whether the eggs were indirectly supposed to be Irish. They were not supposed to be English. They were foreign, and on that account they would not undertake a prosecution against the firm, but would live of all ways to them to state that they considered they were infringing the Merchandise Marks Act, and if they did not cease after that letter then they would prosecute. It is not a question of making them come to me to be heard so much as getting publicity to show that somebody was taking action with regard to cases like this, to prevent other offenders doing the same thing. The Board of Agriculture were ready to take this matter up if the Department pressed it.

16020. Surely if there was a procurable case of infringement of the Merchandise Marks Act?—They would take it up at once.

16021. (Mr. Micks).—To that extent they would be overlapping?—No, sir; honestly I would require the evidence, and hand that evidence to the Department for submission to the Board of Agriculture. The step I would actually take would be to see Mr. Hargrave Brown, of the Board of Agriculture, so that they would not be overlapping, but rather co-operating.

16022. They would have the power; you would be only a witness?—They have no incentive to discover fraud.

16023. Surely the incentive to protect the British consumer from eating Danish eggs when he sees Irish?—They have no inspection for this. They will act on the complaint of a private individual.

16024. (Chairman).—You are doing the work of a policeman, so to speak?—Exactly. There are a great many other matters of fraud. I am informed from several sources that during the past season there has been an increased price returned for Irish butter in spite of a very much increased production and an increased import from competing countries, and I am told by some that this is partly attributable to the fact that there has been somebody who has been appointed in the form of a policeman and he might be knocking around any time.

16025. You mean that the thing has been looked after, and that has had the effect of raising the price?—Yes; people are aware there is somebody.

16026. Have you heard that on good authority?—I have; from members of the trade. Another form of fraud is selling Irish butter as Danish. I should like to make a suggestion to the Committee to consider in their recommendations to Parliament, at the present moment there is an definition as to what is creamery and what is factory butter. It is all according to the custom of the trade, which means individual opinion. I should strongly suggest that the Committee would ask that the Department should be granted power to make regulations which shall define the various matters made in Ireland.

16027. That would require an amendment of the Merchandise Marks Act?—Or an amendment of my Better Bill.

16028. Is your time pretty fully occupied?—It is very fully. I have to be travelling so much I generally have two nights in the train a week.

16029. Where have you to go?—I go to Scotland and I come to London generally about once every ten days, and, of course, I go to Birmingham and Manchester and all the large centres.

16030. Have you fairly satisfactory sources of information?—Yes, but they are very difficult to get.

16031. Do you get assistance from the local authorities?—No; I don't go near the local authority. If anything was wanted from the local authority I should go to the Board of Agriculture and ask them first.

16032. You get a good deal of help from the Board of Agriculture?—A good deal of help.

16033. Does the trade give you much help?—It very great, and I can quite understand that. There are some men who are only too ready to help me and give me every support.

16034. Do you receive many communications from individuals?—Yes, a great many, but the trade is the only source from which we can get the information.

16035. On the whole, you do get a good deal of information?—A good deal of information. Of course, not as much as I expect we will get when the work is better known. I have only been six months conscientiously at it, and one has to get one's self into the confidence of men.

16036. Have you many cases on hand at the present moment?—I don't know how many of them can come to fruition, but there are between twenty and

thirty alone, and all small trades like the retail grocer. There is enough to keep one man at work for another twelvemonth. This (producing file) is a list of the cases. Dec. 19, 1906.
Viscount
Barrin.

16037. What you have said related to eggs; about other articles, bacon and poultry, Irish geese and Irish turkeys?—Yes; geese and turkeys come under the head of poultry.

16038. Do your duties extend to all Irish produce?—Yes. If a case is mentioned to me which would be in the nature of a fraud on anything Irish I also see about that.

The Committee adjourned.

FORTY-SIXTH PUBLIC SITTING.—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 1906.

At 31, Abingdon-street, Westminster, London.

Present:—

Sir KENELM DIGBY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGILVIE, C.B.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MURK.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Nov. 20, 1906.

Mrs.
Thompson,
M.A.

Mrs. MARY THOMPSON, M.A., examined.

16039. (Chairman).—You are the representative of the Headmistresses of Irish Secondary Schools?—Yes.
16040. What is the association?—The association is the Association of Headmistresses associated with the headmistresses. This is the exact title (presiding ladies), and the list of schools I represent is on the back, there are thirty-nine of them.

16041. What is your exact connection with it?—I am their representative on the Advisory Committee of the Department. Perhaps I had better give you my own standing so that you may know whether my views are of weight. I am an M.A. of the Royal University, and an ex-student in physics and chemistry, and was for some time lecturer in chemistry at the Royal Holloway College. I am experimental science lecturer in Alexandra College.

16042. Where is that?—It is the principal ladies' College in Dublin, and I am science mistress in Alexandra School. Our reason for wishing to send a representative at all was that we saw the report of an adverse criticism on the work of the Department, and we were anxious our views should be represented as they were not adverse.

16043. What evidence are you referring to?—The evidence given by Father Dowling, reported in the Irish papers. As regards the nature of the work done by pupils in the secondary schools, looked at from the standpoint of its value as an educational factor, the consensus of opinion is that the work done by pupils is distinctly educative, and develops the reasoning and initiative powers. Where the science teachers bear in mind that experimental science has been introduced into secondary schools as an educative factor, composition, handwriting, and other things of like nature get their proper share of attention. Training in neatness and manual dexterity is also given. We find that the system of work by which the students have to write reports of their own work is of great value as training in composition, and, naturally, in spelling and that sort of thing, as well.

16044. Is it the reports of their own work you are speaking of?—Yes, there are note books for the purpose. We consider that, quite apart from the value of the actual knowledge acquired, the training given has already begun to develop the reasoning powers of the pupils. One headmistress said to me lately, "I find the pupils who take science much harder to satisfy than the others. They want more proofs of any given statement, and they have learned to look for them." Any training which prevents pupils taking things for granted must be of some value, because I find that the great fault is that they will take things for granted. But we find it is beginning to make a great difference in that sort of thing. We notice that there is a great improvement in the initiative power, and also in manual dexterity. I have found on several occasions in my own experience that pupils have suggested to me modifications in methods of setting up apparatus which I have found of great advantage afterwards. Looking at their work from the standpoint of actual value this training to science is showing very good results. Many of my pupils proceed to University work afterwards, and I am able to speak with confidence from actual experience of the excellent results of the courses organised by the Department, as I

teach classes for matriculation and First Arts, and I was also, until two years ago, for a good many years assistant examiner at the Royal University in experimental physics. Even two years ago, when last I acted as assistant examiner, and when the courses had only been working three years, I was surprised at the difference in the style of answering questions, and it was quite easy to see that in many cases the work had been made up by actually doing the experiments described. My experience had been that students when they had to do science work, unless they were people who would take science as a special course afterwards, simply made it up from memory and forgot it as soon as possible afterwards. It is a case of learning a thing because you feel you must learn it for an examination. That is a very wrong system of education, and I think it did the pupils harm before the advent of the Department brought laboratories.

16045. (Mr. Ogilvie).—What examination do you refer to?—The matriculation and the First Arts is the Royal University.

16046. A certain proportion of the pupils in the First Arts examination would appear at that examination essentially upon the basis of the work done in school, as distinct from the work done elsewhere?—I think one may say that as regards the First Arts, because in that examination they were not required at the University to show certificates, nor were they required to pass oral, and consequently they were not called up to take. Any teacher who has worked in Ireland before the advent of the Department brought laboratories, and the possibility of being allowed to teach science actually values on reach, knows the value of the work done by the Department. It was very hopeless work before that, unless for the honour people. In a great many cases science was taken in intermediate examinations for the purpose of making up a certain number of subjects, and the work was done almost entirely from books in most cases. There were certainly not more than one or two school laboratories in Ireland before. I do not know the exact number, but there were very few. I myself have gone over examination papers in which the candidates gave verbatim page out of a well-known manual of practical work—a very excellent work for the purpose for which it was written—i.e., to be used in the laboratory. But what advantage, except the doubtful one in this case, of memory training, could be gained by learning by heart directions for performing an experiment the pupil had never seen? It was the way in which science was taught, which served to show how tremendously handicapped we were. We had no money, and the difficulty was to persuade heads that we required apparatus. We could persuade them that we required apparatus, but not that the students did.

16047. (Chairman).—Learning by heart is the common enemy, not only in science, is it not?—Yes, but I think it is much worse in science, because you learn something by heart you do not in the past understand. Another point about the training for is that it is of great value as a preparation for technical instruction afterwards. In fact I think it is exactly what is wanted before a student enters a technical school. I can speak with experience, be-

cases for some years I assisted Sir Charles Cameron in analysing drags, alkaloids, and that sort of thing. With regard to the system of inspection we consider that it is, on the whole, satisfactory, and almost all our difficulties in that quarter are due to the fact that the staff is undermanned. We would like to see the number of inspectors doubled, if possible. We consider the men we have had extremely good, and we'll stand for the work, but there are not enough of them.

16042. Would there be any difficulty in working together the system of inspection, which is, I understand, the method of the Department, and the system of written examination, which is the method of the Intermediate Board. How do they work?—They work fairly well, but most of the difficulties we have arise from the hard and fast syllabus which does not, perhaps, suit each school. I have not any directions to speak about the dual control, but we all recognise that almost any difficulty we have arises from that.

16043. (Mr. Meale).—What exactly is the dual control you mean?—Our work is under the control of the Department, but for the honours examination, the student has to take a paper, which, up to the present, has been set by a man appointed by the Intermediate Board, and one of the Department inspectors. I am speaking entirely of secondary school work. Both sides have their own regulations, and we find several difficulties occurring. In the intermediate a subject may be started at almost any grade. For instance, a student who has not previously taken a certain thing may take it next year. In the case of science you must begin from the beginning and go through the ordered course. You cannot work it up in a given time. Thus we have the difficulty, perhaps, of a student of seventeen being obliged to work in a class with children of fourteen, because that student has elected to take up science, and has come from a small school without a laboratory, which the Intermediate Board has permitted not to take up science.

16044. Are you aware of any arrangements being made so that the Intermediate Board would have inspectors of their own?—Yes, I remember the Intermediate Board having inspectors of their own for a time. It did not work very well, because the science men inspected about half the schools, and did not inspect nine or a number of large schools, but wrote a report on the condition of all the schools. We were very angry, and I took the trouble to imagine from the different heads what schools were inspected.

16045. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Pupils allowed to enter a higher class in literary subjects may be required, because of want of preparation, to go into a lower class of science. The matter has to do with regulation, not with the matter of inspection?—Not with the matter of inspection at all. It is merely a matter of regulation.

16046. As a matter of fact the regulation is almost a necessity unless you can make some special arrangement, because I do not suppose you will suggest that these old pupils who have done no science should be put into the highest class in science?—It is an absolute necessity. You cannot get over it.

16047. The difficulty is not one of comparison of regulations between the two Boards, but because of the difficulty that the conditions necessary for science instruction do not obtain in all your Intermediate schools. I think that is it?—Yes; if there was not a condition that some schools are crossed science, and some schools have to take it, the thing would be all right.

16048. This difficulty to which you point is not one arising from any want of arrangement between the two Boards?—I do not think so. I do not see how it can be avoided as long as certain schools do not take science. As regards our official relations with the Department the headmistresses express their satisfaction with the smoothness of working. They recognise the courteous consideration and reasonableness shown at all times by the officials. The Advisory Committee, we consider, is a most excellent institution, and we greatly appreciate the opportunity for discussion so given and the considerate way in which our suggestions are received and adopted where possible. It has been quite a new thing with us in Ireland to be consulted at all as regards inspection.

16049. (Chairman).—How is this Committee composed?—It is composed of the heads of schools and re-

presentatives of the various teaching associations such as the Headmasters' Association. They are summoned at least once a year, and are selected as heads of the different teaching associations—the Headmasters' Association and my association, representatives of Convent schools and various large schools.

16050. (Mr. Ogilvie).—They are selected by the associations and not by the Department?—Yes; they are selected by the associations to meet the Department, and they are given considerable notice and asked to bring forward points which they either object to or points on which they wish the views of the Department. Having collected the various views of the people whom they represent they meet the officials of the Department and talk over matters.

16051. (Mr. Meale).—The Department asked these associations to nominate representatives to sit on this Advisory Committee, and each association nominated one.

16052. Are the members appointed by the Department?—Not actually.

16053. Perhaps you are not quite sure of that?—I am perfectly sure.

(Mr. G. Fletcher).—Some are nominated by the Department and others by the Associations.

16054. (Chairman).—It comes to this, that there are nine representative members appointed by the different associations, and three others are nominated by the Department.

16055. (Mr. Ogilvie).—These three being—? (Chairman).—Mr. Hasle, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Moore. These are heads of schools also.

16056. (Mr. Ogilvie).—So that the whole Committee is made up of heads of schools, three-fourths of them being elected by the Associations and the other fourth being selected from individual schools by the Department?—Yes.

16057. (Chairman).—The four witnesses who are to give evidence before us to-day are representative members, not nominated members?—Yes.

16058. (Mr. Ogilvie).—We have it suggested to us that in some at least of these schools—and rather by implication an important proportion of them—the teaching has not been characterised by that accuracy of observation and honesty of record that one generally regards as an essential part of the training in science teaching. I would like to have your views on that point?—So far as my experience goes with regard to the schools I have had to do with and the schools in which I have seen the teaching I think the work has been very fairly and honestly done. I think everything is done to make the pupils do the experiments which they are given and honestly record the results. I do not think I have seen anything nor have I heard—so far as the chances I represent are concerned—of any case in which there has been dishonest work. I think the desire has been to make the pupil experiment for himself, and to record what he has found. Is that exactly what you mean?

16059. That is what I mean. The suggestion was that however excellent the aim of the teacher might be, perhaps carefully written out notes represented something other than carefully made experiments, and accuracy in the note book did not represent accuracy in observation, and that that was due to either slight supervision by inspectors or actually an indication that the inspectors were willing to accept such things. In fact, it was put to us that the work of the pupil was of that character, though it was not necessarily the fault of the teachers, who took their cue from the inspectors. Have you heard of any inspectors whose work would give any colour to such observations as these?—Never. The inspectors, so far as I have seen them, have been most painstaking and most careful to see that the work was the student's own. My experience has been that the inspectors would much prefer the notebook which was not, perhaps, absolutely neat. In fact, I do not think they like small, neat books, because they prefer that the student should do the work straight into the notebook and anything like doing work previously written on scraps of paper, and then making a fair copy on to the notebook is very much objected to. I have found that all through in the case of any inspectors with whom I have had to do.

16060. In the matter of laboratory training, as you properly observed, not only was the knowledge that was acquired very real and very effective and very

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satisfactory, but that the methods by which that knowledge was acquired and the methods of teaching were such as to have excellent effect upon the pupil generally. I should be glad if you would tell me how far you feel that the science teaching carried out on the methods that are encouraged by the Department and their inspectors is really an effective part of the moral training of the pupils in regard to honest accuracy of observation and honesty of record, and generally making quite sure of a thing before they say it—I think it has had an extremely good effect on the student, because a great deal of book work gives one the feeling that there must be a certain correct result. When they find they are obliged to record their result, whether the result be absolutely as they have written it or not, they realise for one thing that they must be absolutely honest, and that you must be able to take their word for what they have done.

16065. Be that speaking of your experience with girls you would say that the teaching of science is of advantage, not merely from the point of view of general knowledge, but also with a view to their future afterwards, whether scientific or domestic, and also as to their general mental training?—As to general mental training we think it is extremely good, because girls are extremely prone to take things for granted.

16067. Have you had anything whatever in the instructions of the Department or in the directions of their inspectors that would hamper you in using science instruction for the best possible purposes as a part of the school training?—I do not think so at all.

16068. (Mr. Miché).—You found great improvement in the results of the education in Ireland a few years after the new system was started?—I have as regards science.

16069. Were there laboratories in most of the secondary schools in England at the time you were Lecturer in Holloway College?—That I could not say. There were laboratories where we got our County Council scholars from. The laboratory in Holloway College was a good one.

16070. Are you aware of the deficiency in Ireland in this respect was because no funds were supplied or because no funds were supplied until much later than they were supplied in England?—I presume that was the reason.

16071. (Mr. O'Grady).—Do you know as a matter of fact that the laboratories of which you had acquaintance in England were supplied by public money?—I do not know. I could not speak of that at all.

16072. (Mr. Miché).—It is your impression at all events?—I had nothing to go upon at all. It is some time ago now, and I could not say. I know we got County Council scholars who worked in laboratories, but what laboratories I could not tell. I have seen different laboratories in High Schools, and I don't think they were supplied by public money.

16073. (Mr. O'Grady).—And they were schools corresponding with the schools you are now speaking of?—Yes.

16074. (Mr. Miché).—These would be for secondary schools or better class people?—In secondary schools I saw several laboratories at the time.

16075. I am thinking more of the poorer people's institutions, where they could not afford to provide laboratories?—I cannot say anything at all about England as regards that. We are all like that in Ireland. It does not matter what class we are, we have not got any money.

Rev. William
Anderson.

REV. WILLIAM ANDERSON EXAMINED.

16076. (Chairman).—You represent on the Committee the Teachers' Guild: what is your connection with the Mountjoy School, Dublin?—I have been headmaster for the past ten years. I was the first headmaster, and previous to my appointment, I had been teaching for three and a half years as assistant master at the High School, Dublin. I have taken degrees at both the Irish Universities. I took my degree in mathematics in the Royal University, and in mathematics and experimental physics in Trinity College, Dublin.

16077. Would you just follow your own course as to what you wish to say?—I could speak to you by way of comparing the condition of science teaching in Ireland before the Department came into existence and afterwards. I was taught some subjects under the old Science and Art Department. I refer to more than twenty years ago, and in no subject that I was taught were there any instruments in the school except in the subjects of magnetism and electricity. In connection with that subject a considerable number of experiments were performed, but they were all performed by the teacher. There was only one set of instruments in the school. I don't know that instruments had been required or suggested in connection with other subjects. I got a first class in the elementary stages and advanced stages of some subjects without seeing any instruments. Subsequently, as assistant master in the High School I taught the same science subjects, and had sets of instruments, some of which the boys never used, in fact they scarcely saw them. It was only necessary to have one set of instruments for a subject, and when any particular subject was being dealt with the instruments were produced. The teaching was all done from a textbook. The instruments were produced, but there was no further use made of them.

16078. You are speaking of the old state of things: tell us as to the present condition?—Under the present condition of things a list of apparatus is suggested, and a certain number of sets of instruments must be available for a class.

16079. You have been head master during the whole of the time of the Department?—Yes, and some years previously. Mountjoy School was opened in 1895. Previous to the existence of the Department we taught the usual subjects—Mathematics, English, Classics,

French, Modern Languages, and other subjects. There was little or no science taught in the earlier years, it was taken up about 1901, and since that time the Governors have built a new science laboratory, costing £1,500 or £1,600. We work through the first and second years' courses as suggested by the Department—the preliminary course leading to a special course—and of the special courses for the third and fourth year we have selected mechanics and chemistry. Boys who pass through that course and work through the special course in mechanics require no further teaching in mathematical physics for the Pass degree in Dublin University; the only additional subject required being a little optics. In statics, dynamics and hydrostatics we cover the whole syllabus for the Pass degree. The standard in the subject of mechanics, as required under the Intermediate Board up to 1895 or 1894, was as nearly as possible a year behind the present standard. There is quite a year's work required now in advance of what was required before, so the standard in that subject is much higher than it was in the old days. The third year's syllabus is as nearly as possible the same as the earlier standard. As regards the course prescribed by the Department, they seem very suitable for boys of the ages suggested. We experience the difficulty referred to by Mrs. Thompson. In the case of boys of fifteen or seventeen joining an intermediate school without previous training in science, it is difficult to get those boys classified and to make arrangements allowing them to take the first year's science course instead of the course that the majority of the boys of their class are capable of taking. That difficulty was partly referred to by Mrs. Thompson. It arises in part from the regulations of the Intermediate Board, but not entirely so. Some boys remain at the National schools up to fifteen or sixteen, and they may then join intermediate schools without any previous training in science. In some National schools a little science is done, and that is recognised by the Department. If a boy has worked through a course of science in the National school the Department are prepared to recognise that as a qualification, and so allow the boy coming in that way to proceed to a higher course than that provided for the first or second year, as the case may be.

16080. Is there any large number of National schools where there is a science course?—I don't think there is.

16082. I suppose they leave too early?—About five or six years ago the National Board suggested a course in science to be done in their schools, but they were confronted with a great number of difficulties, and found it extremely hard to carry it out. The teachers were not qualified to teach science. There was no apparatus forthcoming, and the scheme was not universally adopted. I think it is now an optional matter, and that few schools take it up. For this current session some boys joined my school from National schools. One boy in particular had worked through a science course with his father, who is a National school teacher, and apparently a very good man, and the Department recognised his work as sufficient qualification to allow him to proceed to a third year's course, which suited our arrangements very well.

16083. He was fit for it?—Yes; in other subjects he was quite fit for a high class, and the Department also recognised him as fit in this also.

16084. (Mr. O'Leary).—Before you pass from the question of boys coming from the National schools—do you not find a difficulty in other departments than science with such boys?—That is quite true. We have some difficulty to work up such boys in languages to qualify as Intermediate students. A boy must take one language, and it presents the same difficulty, but not quite to the same extent. An old boy, who has made considerable progress in a language, may have separate attention from a junior teacher while his class is taking the ordinary lesson from their proper teacher, and after a few months his progress may enable him to join in the ordinary lesson of his class in this new subject also.

16084. (Chairman).—Meanwhile he is doing the other work of the school?—Yes; the difficulty is not so great in connection with languages as with science.

16085. (Mr. O'Leary).—The difficulty is not so great because you can get a special pupil in a language to go through two years' work in one, so as at the end of his first year to carry him into another class?—Yes.

16086. But you cannot do two years' science in one; the boy could not get along with science without experiments, because you have to carry on laboratory work in an even way?—Yes, and it would be impossible unless in very special circumstances to carry a pupil through a two years' course in one. I have done that in connection with mechanics, with one pupil, but he devoted a considerable portion of his time to the subject.

16087. It is the ordinary difficulty of transferring from an elementary school to a secondary school at an advanced age, exaggerated in the case of science?—I mention these cases as a supplement to Mrs. Thompson's statement. Mrs. Thompson also mentioned the Advisory Committee. It is greatly appreciated, being the first attempt at any form of Democratic Educational Government. The representatives of the schools had not been consulted by the educational authorities in the country before the existence of this Advisory Committee. The Intermediate Board received memorials from the scholastic associations, and, of course, the statements forwarded in that way were considered, but no attempt had been made to bring the representatives of the schools in direct contact with the authorities before the Advisory Committee was established. It has been found very helpful.

16088. (Chairman).—When was the Advisory Committee started?

(Mr. Fletcher).—I think the year in which I came.

(Witness).—I remember it back as far as 1903. I am not sure how long before that it was in existence.

16089. (Chairman).—When does it meet?—It meets once a year.

(Mr. Fletcher).—At least once a year; it began the first year of the work.

16090. In practice?—It meets more than once a year. We ask for suggestions from the representatives before the meeting of the Committee. These things are printed and circulated, and we know the various points requiring to be discussed.

16091. Do you think once a year often enough for the purpose?—Of course, once a year we are able to make suggestions concerning the course, and usually a year's experience is a right one.

16092. (Mr. O'Leary).—You take your own Association, it would consider at its meetings any points that were likely to be worthy of presenting before the Department?—Any point that occurs to any member of the Guild would be mentioned at some of the meetings which are frequently held during the year.

16093. At the end of the year you, as representing the Guild on this Committee, would be sufficiently informed to speak as to the general sense of the Guild's feeling in the matter?—Yes, and, of course, being a member of the Schoolmasters' Association, I know the feeling in the matter there also.

16094. (Chairman).—What is the next point you wish to lay before us?—As to the question of the supervision of the inspectors and the work done by the inspectors in the schools. I have been very much struck with the degree of personal knowledge the inspectors have been able to acquire of the individual pupils during a year's work. At almost every visit of the inspector I inquire his opinion on the progress of the work, and from time to time he is able to tell me very accurately what each boy is doing and what he thinks of the work as a whole. This information I have found to be tolerably accurate—marvellously accurate—for the amount of time he has been able to give to it. When an inspector comes he passes round the whole of the classes. He takes the note-book of each individual pupil, looks through it, and discusses with the boy the experiment he is doing, and takes notes of the pupils individually. The inspection, as far as I have seen, is carefully and thoroughly done. The inspector's suggestions by way of improving existing conditions have always been very much to the point and very helpful.

16095. (Mr. O'Leary).—Bearing in mind Mrs. Thompson's suggestion that there should be more inspectors, I should like to have your view as to how far the experience of teachers and headmasters in schools doing science work in Ireland has progressed in the direction of making their opinion one as to the relative qualifications of pupils of such value that the Department's inspectors might ascribe a higher value to that, and might, therefore, not find it necessary to visit a school and the laboratory so frequently or for so long periods?—That is with a view to diminishing the number of visits from the inspectors?

16096. Perhaps I might develop what I want to put to you; I am anxious to have your opinion. The point is this, that the inspectors of the Department at present do more than inspect the work of the school or science classes in a general way. The inspector is not satisfied merely to find the work of the science classes is going on smoothly and that the instruction of the pupils is being carried on well, but inquires into the progress made by the individual pupils so fully that by the end of the session he finds himself able to give an opinion on their individual merits and attainments. He has to form such an opinion at the end of the session or at the end of two or three sessions, with the view of awarding certificates, but it is not necessary that that opinion should be equally formed from his own absolute knowledge of the pupils' work. If, for instance, in a school in which you have got an excellent science master and an honest headmaster the records of the school work in the laboratory are put before the inspector at the end of the session the recommendation of the teacher might go a long way towards satisfying the inspector as to the quality of the work of individual pupils. If he were in any doubt about it, he would have to go in for individual testing of the pupils, but if he found that a few test cases gave quite satisfactory results he might be able to dispense with a detailed inspection if that were possible; but that would be possible only if teachers and headmasters alike had had sufficient experience of the work to justify their being entrusted with this. If that were possible the visits of the inspector need not be more numerous than they are at present.—That is quite so, but, of course, we have had only four or five years' experience. We are in the transition period. The work has not sufficiently crystallised for that stage to be reached at the present time, except in a very few cases.

16097. That is the point on which I wanted to have your opinion?—Well, I don't think the standard of the work has sufficiently crystallised.

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16108. Do you think it desirable that an inspector should make much more individual tests of the pupils' work and do that more independently of the teachers' views on the subject?—It is possible, but I think an inspector at the present time, as far as my experience goes, always consults his own view, and has not relied very much upon the judgment of the teacher in the record of work done and progress obtained by the pupil. He has made it his business to test every pupil. A final inspection is held by the inspectors in each school, at which each pupil who is a candidate for an Intermediate Examination has to satisfy the inspector in a practical examination.

16109. I know the practice. Unless the progress was general to the extent to which I have indicated, it would not be possible for the inspector, or proper for the inspector to be satisfied with a less complete examination in one school than in another. Therefore, he cannot differentiate between the schools?—I believe there is a good standard of work in the school, but, speaking generally, I would be sorry to see any interference with the present system of inspection.

16110. (Chairman).—Does the inspector also act as examiner at the practical examination?—The "final inspection" is conducted by the inspectors of the Department only. It is held at the end of the year, with the view of awarding passes. The candidates for honours are further examined by a paper of questions.

16111. Who sets that?—It is set by two examiners. One, I understand, is an outside examiner appointed by the Intermediate Education Board, and one an inspector under the Department. I am not quite clear who appoints the outside man.

(Mr. Fletcher).—The Department have appointed both hitherto.

16112. (Chairman).—There is one examiner who is not an inspector.

(Mr. Fletcher).—Yes.

(Witness).—Another important matter in connection with the work of inspection may be mentioned. The measurements and observations necessary to an experiment are recorded by the pupil, in his notebook, during the progress of the experiment, and therefore the "cooking" of results is practically obviated. There is, of course, the danger that a pupil may have an intelligent anticipation of a result. This system, by making each record irrevocable, urges the student to greater care and precision, and so enhances the value of the training derived from the work. The knowledge acquired from the science course, particularly from the special courses, is useful in various departments of life, and particularly valuable to students in arts, medicine, and engineering. The Department appears to have this end in view, and, while it has propounded these special courses, it invites the schools to suggest other courses which may be more suitable to their special conditions. That is a course different to what has been already prescribed. The Reports published by the Intermediate Education Board set forth the number of pupils—boys and girls—who present themselves for examination in the science subjects under the Board. The figures may be of interest to you. I have looked through the Annual Reports from 1898 to 1905, with the exception of 1902, which I could not find at the time. In 1898 the total number of pupils (boys) presented in the subject of Natural Philosophy was 470 and in Chemistry 270, or a total in that year of 740. In 1899 the figures were for Natural Philosophy 476, Chemistry 197, and the total 673. In 1900 there were 460 in Natural Philosophy, 359 in Chemistry—a total of 729. In 1901 in Natural Philosophy the number was 625, and in Chemistry 342, a total of 967. In 1903, the first year for which I have any record of the work done by the Department, the total number of

pupils presented for the first year's course was 2,421, and for the second year's course 2,175, a total of 4,596. In 1904 there were 2,626 in the first year's course, 1,937 in the second, and 721 for the special course, a total of 5,284 taking science subjects. In 1905 there were 3,047 presented for the first year's course, 2,309 for the second year's course, and 1,161 for the special course, a total of 6,517. These are the figures to be seen. The number of pupils has increased sevenfold since the Department came into contact with the Intermediate schools. In 1898 the number of girls taking Natural Philosophy was 15, Chemistry 5, Botany 110. In 1899 the figures were Natural Philosophy 10, Chemistry 9, Botany 92. In 1900 the figures were Natural Philosophy 12, Chemistry 14, and Botany 77, and in 1901 they were Natural Philosophy 29, Chemistry 11, Botany 95. Since the Department came into existence the numbers have increased between ten and twentyfold. In 1903, 1904 and 1905 the numbers, taking the first year course were 811, 1,177 and 1,157 respectively. In the second year's course the figures for those years were 603, 556 and 383, and the totals for the same years were 1,374, 2,150 and 2,637.

16113. (Mr. Mills).—Although there is a great increase, the great falling off in population tends to increase more than it appears?—There is a striking increase, but I don't estimate the effect of the fluctuation of the population. I have not looked into that. While there is a marked increase in the number of students presenting the subject of science, precisely the same number was presented for the examination generally, in the years at the beginning and end of the period I have mentioned.

16114. There has been a drop of a million in the population in twenty years?—Yes.

16115. (Mr. Ogden).—Do you agree generally with the answers which Mrs. Thompson gave to my questions as to the general tendency of the direction of the Department and the supervision of inspectors in the matter of science work?—Yes, I think so.

16116. Is there any point on which you dissent?—No, I do not think so.

16117. You have no personal knowledge of any case in which the inspectors of the Department are understood by schoolmasters to have given consideration to other than satisfactory, honest and detailed good work?—No; very much otherwise; criticism generally dealt with the exacting requirements of the inspection.

16118. Exacting requirements?—Well, that raises another point. Is it in the direction of what might be described as "niggling" details concerning, say, weighings which had no relation whatever to the scientific training afforded and which involved an amount of detailed work and detailed calculation which was not justified by the educational value of the experiment?—Speaking generally the suggestions of the inspectors deal with methods of work, and with the value of the experiment generally, and the object the pupil should have before his mind in starting the experiment and the conclusion he should be encouraged to derive from it.

16119. Have you seen anything to lead you to believe that there is too much stress being laid on details of work in refinement of operations which are unnecessary for the standard of experiment which is proper for the boys in school?—I don't think so. I have in my mind the case of an inspector discussing the small weights, and saying it would be an excellent thing if weights below a centigram were covered by the boy. I think the inspector was more concerned with a fair degree of approximation and that one should not be wasted in coming at measurements and weighings that were not of much importance.

Mr. Thompson, M.A., recalled.

Mrs.
Thompson,
M.A.

16120. (Chairman).—There is one point you wish to put before us about domestic economy?—Yes, it was a point concerning the length of the syllabus. The point will be discussed by the Advisory Committee. A teacher—an English teacher—made the criticism, that

it was impossible to work through the course in the time specified.

16121. Is there another point you wish to bring before us?—Yes; Mr. Anderson has touched upon the inspectors. It is a point we are rather keen about.

In every case where the Inspector sees it is necessary to refuse to allow a candidate to proceed to honours we are anxious the Inspector should consult the teacher. It is practicable, I believe. Mr. Anderson has found it so, and several of my head mistresses have found it so, although it has not been done in my case. I am anxious that it always should be done, because occasionally a student loses his head at the preliminary inspection, although he is a good student, and therefore an injustice might be done to a promising pupil. It is a thing that does not occur very often, but it does occasionally occur.

16112. (Mr. Gifford).—Has that been represented to and brought up before the Advisory Committee?—I don't know that it has. One reason why we have not laid stress on the matter is that the Departments are so ready to meet us in every case, and we did not feel it necessary to make very much of the point.

16113. (Mr. Misk).—Must every candidate for honours get permission to compete for honours from the inspectors before that candidate can go up?—Yes. We send to candidates for honours, but unless the Inspector has recommended a student he is only allowed his pass, or he may fail, but may not take honours at all.

16114. (Mr. Gifford).—The practical examination is a qualifying examination, and honours are awarded in the written examination, and only those who have shown themselves to be qualified at the practical examination are admitted?—That is a very fair thing in general, because it ensures that they have done the necessary practical work.

16115. (Mr. Misk).—What injury would be done by allowing each honour candidate to go up according to his own judgment and not recommended by the Inspector?—I do not think we would have any objection to his going up in the ordinary course.

16116. Do you approve of it as being necessary that a pupil should get recommended for honours before going up for them?—I think it may be necessary to meet a case like this. You might have a pupil who had done the maximum of practical work, and perhaps not done it at all well, but who seemed likely to answer very well at a written examination, having been coached for it.

16117. Are there no practical experiments in the examination for honours?—No, it is a written paper.

16118. In the pass examination is there a practical examination?—That is merely the final inspection.

16119. That is not a regular examination, but is the result of the inspection in different schools?—Exactly.

16120. That is not an examination properly so called?—We call it the final inspection, and if the work has been satisfactory during the year the pupil is practically certain to be passed. If the pupil has done an honest year's work he is usually allowed to pass, but the Inspector may refuse to allow him to proceed to honours.

16121. Does that seem right to you?—What harm would be done by allowing pupils to go up for honours if they thought they were likely to get them?—They set rather more difficult experiments at the final inspection. A pupil who goes up for honours is supposed to be better than an ordinary pass pupil, and to have done a little more work.

16122. That is not the point. Do you see any reason why pupils generally should not be allowed, if they choose, to go up for honours?—There is no reason if you can be certain that the student is good at practical work.

16123. In a university don't students go in for honours without any restrictions if they think they can get them. As the result of the examination they should not be that done here?—I don't know, except to save a great deal of trouble to somebody in correcting papers. Otherwise there is no harm.

16124. (Mr. Gifford).—Is it not the case that the examination for honours is in two parts—a practical and a paper examination. The practical examination is taken before the Inspector, and by the Inspector. The paper examination is taken subsequently to the

practical examination and no candidate is allowed to go forward to the paper examination until he has shown at the Inspector's test that he is at least up to the best standard—up to the standard required for honours in the matter of practical knowledge?—That is the great point about it. He gets a more difficult set of experiments as a general rule. He must show more shiftness and more power to do the work than an ordinary pass student. I think in that way it is necessary.

16125. (Mr. Misk).—Is the final examination actually a part of the honours examination?—It is.

16126. Do they get marks at the final inspection as if it were a portion of the honours examination?—We cannot say anything about the marks. That is a hidden secret.

16127. Are marks given towards the results of the honours examination?—No, I don't think there are any marks given.

16128. Is it an examination to ascertain whether pupils should go in for honours?—Yes.

16129. They have to pass a more searching practical examination so that they should be recommended for honours?—Yes.

16130. Apart from anything that takes place at the final inspection would it not be better, instead of having different inspectors with different ways at different schools, that all pupils should go up and submit to some uniform test?—Yes.

16131. Why not a practical examination at the final inspection?—If that could be arranged we would be delighted.

16132. Why should it not be?—Well, that would meet it, but there would be great difficulty in arranging that.

16133. Would it be not more satisfactory to have a complete honours examination as in Universities where the pupils' knowledge—practical and theoretical—could be tested?—Yes, if it were possible, but I think it would be very difficult, and the present system seems to work very well.

16134. You don't disapprove of having students selected who would wish to go up for honours?—Not unless their teacher thinks they ought to go up.

16135. If the teacher were consulted and if the teacher's advice were taken?—It is done in some cases if that were done no injustice would be inflicted. The student might be in a fearful funk and the teacher would know it.

16136. (Chairman).—This injustice does not happen very often? Under existing conditions it may be a security against a "crash"?—Yes; it answers extremely well.

(Mr. Anderson).—That question was discussed before the Vice-Regal Commission on the Intermediate Board. The difficulty was a practical one. It is difficult to arrange for one examination for all the candidates at the same time. Some 5,500 take science, and to have a practical examination conducted for all these—or for any half of them—would be difficult to arrange.

16137. (Chairman to Mr. Anderson).—Do so many as that also present themselves for honours?—Not quite so many, but they are scattered all over the country.

16138. (Mr. Misk).—What percentage get honours?—I do not know.

16139. It is a considerable number?—It is a fair proportion.

16140. Might it be half?—I would say considerable proportion, but if 2,000 or 3,500 pupils are to be examined there is a practical difficulty.

16141. (Chairman).—The final scientific inspection is merely a qualifying examination for honours?—Yes. In the Universities the number of candidates is small. When I was at Trinity there was a practical examination and a paper examination going on at the same time. The number of candidates was limited to ten or twelve each year, and they can be disposed of at the same time, but here there is a large number of candidates scattered throughout the country.

16142. (Mr. Gifford to Mrs. Thompson).—Are you familiar with the practice in Scotland in conducting these examinations?—No.

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Rev. Brother
Hensbury.

16143. (Chairman).—You are a member of this Advisory Committee, and represent the Christian Brothers on the Committee—I am a member of the Executive of the Order of Christian Brothers in Ireland. Our schools are practically spread over the whole country.

16144. In your address Marino, Clontarf—Yes.

16145. What are the points you wish to place before us?—The secondary schools of the Christian Brothers to the number of sixty-one are connected with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The Department's courses are framed to enable boys to commence the study of Science and Drawing at the age of twelve, and to continue these studies, at least that of Science, for four years. The studies of the first and second years are known as the preliminary courses. This course aims not so much at the acquiring a knowledge of any special branch of science as at the development of what is styled the "scientific method," by placing the boy in a well-equipped laboratory in which, under the direction of a qualified teacher, he is set to solve numerous practical problems and to record, in a concise and graphic form, the various stages by which he was enabled to arrive at results. Two years thus spent are supposed to have prepared the boy to commence one or other of the special courses for which the Department's syllabus provides. These courses are Chemistry, Physics, Mechanical Science, Botany, Physiology, and Hygiene, Geology, Drawing, and for girls, Domestic Economy. One or more of these branches is studied in the third and fourth years. The heuristic method must be followed, the boy experimenting, observing the relation between cause and effect, deducing definitions, and recording systematically the various stages in his operations. I have seen the boys thus engaged in schools in all parts of Ireland, and I was much impressed by the keen interest which they displayed in their work and the intelligence which they showed in answer to my questions. The system is educational to a high degree, and is well calculated to develop, not only the "scientific method" but to awaken a love for Science, and to induce a continuance of its study when the boy shall have left the secondary school. While I am fully alive to the educational worth of the Department's programme, I am of opinion that it admits of improvement, and I believe that improvement is necessary in the interest of the much larger body of boys who leave school before completing the four years' course than of those who are able to remain to the end. Our Irish schools are not singular in this respect. In the great city of New York the rolls of the High schools which correspond with our secondary schools, registered last year 5,170, 2,581, 1,336, and 561 boys in the first, second, third, and fourth years' courses respectively, thus showing that only about one in every nine boys who begin the High school course persevere to the end. The City of London High schools will show a very similar condition of things. It is then no wonder that Irish boys are unable to complete the full course of the Department, when in the great and prosperous cities of America and Great Britain the High schools fail to hold their boys. Educational authorities too often share their course of studies with a view to their conception of what is theoretically true than of what is practically possible. The Department's Science courses for secondary schools, admirable as they are for the few who can complete them, do not sufficiently ensure that the much larger body of boys who cannot may have as wide a knowledge of Science as they might reasonably be expected to possess. I would suggest that the preliminary course should be shortened and finished in a year, and thus the special courses could be begun a year earlier. A system of well designed object lessons in Science in the primary schools could be framed to lead up to the Department's preliminary course. The study of Magnetism and Electricity should be commenced at an early stage. The present system will not admit these subjects before the fourth year, so that most boys leave the schools in ignorance of the means by which our electric lights are supplied, our trains and other electric conveyances are set and kept in motion, or of how the electric current serves us in endless ways. In the study of Chemistry an option should be given of Agricultural Chemistry. The Department insists, unduly, on the "heuristic method"; undoubtedly a very educational method if time were not so valuable. I would

like to see a judicious mixture of methods. It is indeed educational for the boy to work out and record each stage of his experiment, but surely it is no uneducational for a teacher, with his superior knowledge and manipulative skill, to experiment under the attentive gaze of his pupils, and to require them to record accurately the result of their observation of his work. If there were more of this our boys would have a wider knowledge of Science at the end of each school term than they now generally possess.

16146-T. (Mr. O'Leary).—On that point does the Department insist upon an absolute adherence to the heuristic method?—Not absolute, but it insists on it very much.

16147. Does it enslave the performance of experiments and description and deduction from it by the teacher?—It discourages such.

16148. It does not forbid it but discourages it, and wishes the boy to do everything?—Yes. The boy, after working an experiment in the way I have described, might observe the teacher doing another experiment. He would lead the boys along, question them, and then say, after the experiment is completed, "Now go and record all that you have seen." The boys would in that way get through more rapidly than if twenty of them were experimenting at a time, and so a wider course would be covered.

16149. That is discouraged in what way?—If you read the Department's syllabus and directions, you will find that they insist very much on the heuristic method, and don't suggest any such course as I describe. I know from the inspectors, it is the wish of the Department that most of the work should be done by the boys. In the remarks which I have made I must not be taken as being unappreciative of the wonderful impetus given to the study of Science in secondary schools by the advent of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. Previous to 1900 the Intermediate education system was unduly literary, though it by no means despised the reproaches which many and industrial cities freely showered upon it. The Intermediate Education Act—

16150. (Chairman).—What was the date of that Act?—1878. That Act put new life into the schools of Ireland, and aroused a public interest in education that was sadly needed. Owing to the action of the Department every secondary school in Ireland is now provided with a Science Laboratory, and most boys must study Science and learn Drawing as an essential part of their course. Secondary schools of the Christian Brothers are, in addition, equipped with a workshop in which manual instruction is given to the boys of the secondary schools, and often to those of the primary classes as well. The Intermediate system is no longer too bookish or literary, and the needs of the Irish school-boy are, on the whole, now well catered for by means of the Intermediate and Department's systems. I would now wish to refer to a few points in reference to our schools, which occur in the evidence of Mr. Fletcher, as reported in the Freeman's Journal of June 4th. Mr. Fletcher is reported to have said:—"These schools were originally primary in character and intended for the poor. They had extended the scope of their operations, and a large number of these schools might be fairly termed as secondary schools of a lower type. He meant that a great many boys attending them did not join the professional classes, they being educated for an occupation in life that was not necessarily professional in character." In reply to Mr. Michs, Mr. Fletcher further added:—"Secondary schools I call them because they are not primary in character, and through looking corresponding to the secondary schools in England they are secondary schools of a somewhat lower class, not that the education is of a lower class." Now, I desire to state that the schools of the Christian Brothers are of a dual nature—they are both primary and secondary, and from the foundation of the Order, in the first years of the last century, this has been their character. The boys in the advanced classes were always instructed in those subjects that belonged to the secondary school. Moreover, while poor boys at all times largely predominated, as they predominate to-day, still a fair percentage of better class boys ever attended our schools, and you will find that the names predominate in Ireland number in their ranks no inconsiderable number of our ex-pupils, many of whom had been poor boys in our schools, and many the children of parents more well to do. I must also

either dissent from the view which Mr. Fletcher's words seem to convey, that a school which sends most of its pupils to pursue not necessarily professional should be classed as a secondary school of a lower type.

I have deemed it necessary to make these remarks lest a meaning might be read into Mr. Fletcher's words which I am strongly of opinion, he did not intend to convey. I know Mr. Fletcher to be highly appreciative of the work that is being done in our schools, and, in my frequent intercourse with him, I have never failed to find him courteous, courteous, and helpful to a degree. I should like to say a few words about the conditions that are necessary for the admission of boys to honors. At present the inspector comes for the final inspection, and he submits the candidates whom the teacher intends to send forward for honors to a special preceptor to send forward for honors to a special preceptor. If the boy satisfies the inspector he is then considered qualified to go forward for the honors examination, which is a written examination, and no marks are given as the result of the practical test. The boys are judged by the results of the written paper. At the last meeting of the Committee I brought this question forward, and I expressed the view that this practical test should not be required of the boys. The inspector has been to the school two or three times during the year, has seen the boys at work, questioned them as they worked, and examined the notebooks, and on the whole he has a fair idea of their powers. As Mr. Anderson remarked, the mere fact that the teacher considers a boy a fit candidate for honors, ought to be a sufficient guarantee that he is a fit candidate, seeing that the inspector has observed the boy working during the year. He is subjected to a written test, and the test is of such a nature that a boy who has not done practical work will not succeed in it. He would not be able to hold his own with the student whose work has been practical throughout the year. Inspectors throughout the country take different views, but there is great danger of injustice being done to boys by declaring them unfit to go forward for honors.

16152. You would abolish the final inspection altogether?—Yes. I am strongly in favour of that.

16153. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I take it you contemplate putting the teacher into a different position from that which he at present occupies. At present he says, "This boy wishes to go up for honors. I do not object to his trying to pass the practical examination as a preliminary to it," but if the teacher is to be called upon to say "I consider this boy is qualified in the matter of practical work to go forward to the written examination in honors," it is to be assumed that in certain cases he would abstain from putting forward a boy who, at present, he puts forward seeing he has no responsibility?—I do think so.

16154. You don't think he puts forward a boy just now because the candidates say—"I want to go up for this examination." The teacher replies perhaps, "I really don't think you are fit for it," but the boy says, "I would like to try." In such a case as that if the teacher has no further responsibility he does not mind saying to him, "I don't see any harm in your going up."—The boy would be "scotched" on the written paper, and the teacher would not like that.

16155. If the boy's disqualification was one of fitness for the practical work then it does not follow that the written paper would "scotch" him?—The boy is qualified in the practical work, for he has been working for at least one hundred hours in the laboratory, and the inspector has seen him at work during the year.

16156. That is my other point. Do you propose to make it rest with the inspector to say that they have been satisfied with what they have seen in the course of the year of this boy's work?—The mere fact that a boy has been in the laboratory for a year and complied with the regulations of that laboratory under a qualified teacher should be quite sufficient. That is my view. A teacher will not send a boy forward unless he considers he is fit

16157. That is what I have put to you. You are asking the teacher to say that?—Those may be occasionally cases when a teacher would say, "Go on and take your chance." That would happen occasionally but not generally.

16158. Do you think the time has now come when the teacher may be fairly asked to say whether or not he considers a boy a proper candidate to go forward. I think you said you did not propose to put the teacher in that position. If you do, that answers my question?—I would be quite satisfied with that. The teacher has a certain reputation and if he sent forward a boy who failed that would not be to his credit. A teacher would not send candidates forward in droves.

16159. That meets my point. If a boy is to have honors in Science that ought to be held to imply an adequate knowledge of the practical as well as the theoretical work, which is not most easily decided by a written paper?—The Department so frame their examination papers in Science that no boy has a chance of taking honors unless he has a knowledge of practical work.

16160. Then the Department, if that is so, has a much more skilful Examining Board than I have ever had to deal with?—The Board claim that at any rate. That was discussed at our last meeting.

16161. They claim that they can frame papers which would prevent a man from passing who had not done practical work?—The papers read to us at our last meeting were so framed.

16162. Then a man who can so frame papers is well worth keeping hold of. Your evidence seemed to imply that the present method of performing the experiments was unsatisfactory to say nothing of the waste of materials?—I consider a good deal of the unsatisfactory work is due to the teacher trusting too much in the boys. As a carpenter not only observes his apprentice working, but also obliges them to observe him, so should the teacher act with his boys. Gradually they would acquire more manipulative skill. When the boys are left to work themselves it would surprise you to see at the end of one and a half hours how small an amount of work was done.

16163. I am not surprised because I have seen it. I have been surprised the other way in some laboratories?—Yes, of course you have experience of it.

16164. In Ireland do you think there is much bad work?—I think good work predominates largely. You must bear in mind that you cannot expect as much from boys commencing as from the boys in the second, third or fourth years. People expect far too much in the first year from boys.

16165. And you do believe that the average work done in these laboratories is really good work?—Yes.

16166. And the lines on which the work is conducted do conduce to the good mental training of the pupils?—There is no doubt whatever about that.

16167. (Mr. Michie).—From the point of view of the desirability of satisfying the boys to a certain extent and enabling them to find their proper level as regards their knowledge and appreciation of knowledge, do you think it would be desirable, or could be arranged, that the decision whether a boy should go up for honors should rest with himself or his parents?—Most of the parents don't know anything about these things.

16168. But they have an interest?—Yes.

16169. But if a boy showed less interest to go up?—I think it would be unwise to prevent such a boy going in for the examination.

16170. If there was a paper examination first for honors and then a practical examination for those who gave a satisfactory account of themselves at the paper examination, would that system do?—I don't know that it would, but I don't see what harm is done by allowing boys to go up. Even if they get placed it will have given them some idea of their powers.

16171. You don't think it would be desirable to have a higher grade examination for honors perhaps for those who had passed the paper examination satisfactorily, would that be practicable?—I don't think so.

The Very Rev. Dr. GERRARD EXAMINED.

16172. (Chairman).—Do you represent the Catholic headmasters?—I do not represent them, but I am a member of the Committee of Headmasters.

16173. You are the Head of Blackrock College, Dublin?—Yes. I must begin by disclaiming for my remarks any representative capacity whatever. I speak

only for myself, and in my private capacity only. The Very Rev. Dr. Gerrard, whatever evidence I give on matters of importance should be attached to that of one who for more than twenty years has had experience of teaching in the secondary schools of the country. Whatever I say will only have to do with the secondary schools

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and with secondary schools of the type with which I am acquainted in so far as they come in contact with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Education. It is sometimes supposed, or taken for granted, that there was very little teaching of Science in our secondary schools before the advent of the Department, or that what there was of it was very bad; in fact that whatever Science was taught was taught essentially. One reason alleged in proof of this was the small extent to which the South Kensington Science and Art schemes were taken up in our schools. It must be remembered, however, that the Intermediate programmes included a very complete Science course of Physics and Chemistry, that the course was taken up by a very large number of students, and that though they did not themselves individually perform all the experiments connected with the course, they were, at all events, made to understand them by seeing them performed by their Professors, who, as a general rule, were excellent scientists; and that those students who manifested a decided taste for scientific pursuits were afforded every opportunity of working out, under the direction of their Professor, the experiments which entered into their course. It was not, however, recognised or admitted that a course of scientific instruction should form an essential portion of a secondary education. Classics and Modern Languages with Mathematics sometimes of an advanced character formed the main portion of a curriculum which was mainly intended either to be a preparation for a profession or a Civil Service position or to give the students of independent means what is usually understood to be the best preparation for a liberal education. When, however, in 1901, the Department took over the administration of the South Kensington Grant, and entered into an agreement with the Intermediate Board in virtue of which two years of Science became obligatory for practically every Intermediate student, and those two years were to be carried out under the direction and according to the methods laid down by the experts of the Department, a great change came over the teaching of Science in our secondary schools. The scientific studies on the plan approved by the Department were to have individual experiment for the basis, and every student was expected to work out for himself every experiment, note the results, classify them, and draw his own deductions. The Professor was to be his guide only in so much as he suggested to him the methods he was to pursue, saw that he acquired manual dexterity, that he carefully noted the processes of his experiments and corrected the deductions at which he arrived. This involved very great expense to the schools. New laboratories had to be fitted in every Intermediate school; and sets of instruments had to be provided. The Department came to our aid by paying one-third of the cost of fittings, and one-half the cost of the apparatus, but even with this aid the expense that had to be undergone to meet the expenditure of the situation were very heavy. At present I believe that nowhere in the world will you find schools better fitted up for the teaching of what I may call secondary science than our Irish secondary schools. And these laboratories were all fitted up in the space of a year or two. I believe the fact is unique in the history of education. But the material difficulty, though very great, was very insignificant compared with the difficulty of satisfying all the other requirements of the Department. An army of teachers had to be provided, and these teachers were to be trained to the methods required by the Department. To supply this want the short summer courses for teachers were instituted. It may seem very curious that a course of three weeks would be considered sufficient to produce a teacher fully qualified to conduct a class through a year's work. It must, however, be remembered that these courses were instituted to initiate teachers into a certain method of teaching what they already, for the most part, knew thoroughly, and that they had moreover the whole year to perfect themselves in the system. Many of them had already taught Science for many years, and some regarded the new methods of teaching as an ephemeral fad. The result, at any rate, has been that for the past five years a course of scientific teaching has been given in their schools, which, for completeness, as far as it goes, and for the extent to which it goes, is, I am convinced, quite up to, and I believe, far surpasses anything to be found in secondary schools elsewhere. And I believe that no money spent for educational purposes is better earned than

the very paltry sum which the Department is able to dole out to secondary schools in return for the splendid work which, under very great difficulties, is accomplished in the laboratories in these schools. There is one thing, indeed, which is keenly felt in the schools with which I am acquainted, and that is, that the right which the Department arrogates to itself to inspect the scientific teaching to control our time tables and to exact that no departure from the time table shall take place without due notice being given to the Department is by no means adequately purchased by a capitation grant which does not half cover the expense the schools have been put to in the legal attempt they have made to carry out the reform of scientific teaching on the lines laid down in the Department's rules. For this I am well aware that it is not the Department but the Treasury which is to blame. I do not very well know what the Treasury is, but it is certainly something which seems to find special delight in preventing Irish resources, Irish money from being spent in the furtherance of Irish interests. There is one thing which deserves special mention to show the foresight of those into whose hands the organization of the scheme was committed. They knew they were imposing on the heads of schools, obligations which they would find very difficult to carry out, so they determined to consult with a representative body of the heads of schools in order to do away with as many difficulties as possible. The officials of the Department call together annually the Consultative Committee, which is composed of the representatives of the different educational bodies who have charge of these schools and discuss with them in friendly conference the merits and demerits of the programme. Much benefit has undoubtedly been derived from these meetings, and the free interchange of ideas has been of very great advantage, not only to the Department but to the heads of schools who learn to respect the different views they may severally have on many points connected with Science and its teaching. The greatest objection secondary schools have to the present system is that by it they are placed under the direction of the two Boards whose objects do not coincide. The same system is then made to serve as a preparation for University students, those destined for technical schools and those destined for commercial life. Besides, it appears to me, that there is no section of the Department's officers entirely devoted to the work of secondary schools. The inspectors have to deal with all sorts of schools through the country where science and technical instruction is given. Much more efficient work would have been done, I think, if the direction of science in secondary schools were confided by an official whose whole attention would be devoted to the work of secondary scientific teaching, and who would be something like a third Assistant Commissioner of the Intermediate Board. I am quite sure that if this plan were adopted there would be much less clashing of interests, rules, &c., between the Intermediate Board and the Department than would seem to exist under the present conditions. Another grave objection to this system as it exists at present is that two years' science have been made obligatory on all students who present themselves for the Intermediate examinations unless they take up Greek. It is hard to know on which principle the obligation is based. Undoubtedly the science course has been found of very great educational value in developing the powers of reasoning, observation, and invention, and in training the student to accuracy, neatness, and perseverance, and it is the greatest possible advantage to train students from their earliest days to read the Book of Nature and to what their desire for a more complete acquaintance with her secrets. I do not think, however, that the desperate manipulation of apparatus or the working of an experiment can be held to be an essential portion of a liberal education, and I am very strongly of opinion that it will be quite as well to leave the head-master of a school and to his assistants the duty of selecting those students who should follow the science course in the manner prescribed by the Department. This regulation has been found to increase very much indeed the difficulty of making, in our large colleges, a time-table that will suit the requirements of the Board and the Department. It is often the case that students who are taken together for the rest of their subjects have to be divided into four or five different classes at different hours for the science courses, owing to the regulations of the Department. The fact that drawing has been made an essential part of this two year

course has also done much to increase the difficulty of making it fit in with the rest of the curriculum of our large schools, nor have we yet been convinced that this provision is a good or useful one. At least the two subjects should be treated as two and not as at present combined into one. Then again, we find that the programme has been overloaded, that it is impossible to work through the course in the manner laid down by the Department rules, and that consequently there is a great temptation to tell the student how the experiments should be conducted, and to dictate to him the method of procedure and the result of some experiments that would take up too much time if thoroughly worked out by the student himself. I may add that this difficulty is sometimes further increased by the curriculum nature of some of the questions set by inspectors at the final examinations. With all these drawbacks, and others of minor importance, it must be acknowledged that scientific teaching, on which to a very large extent the prosperity of the country will depend, has made wonderful strides in the country, and that considerably good work has been done, that the enthusiasm of many students for scientific study has been aroused, and that full value, and much more than full value, has been given for the money expended by the Department in developing scientific teaching in our Irish secondary schools.

16174. (Mr. Ogilvie).—On the matters on which you have criticised the programme, I suppose you have taken the opportunity to bring them up for discussion at the Advisory Committee?—Yes.

16175. And have you found that the criticism that the programme was overloaded and too great for the time available was a common experience?—I have, to a certain extent, and to a very large extent indeed. The Department met the objections made by the heads of schools on that point, and the programme was compressed and very much cut down, but even still it is my experience, and of those who teach science in the schools I represent, that the work cannot be done thoroughly. Of course, the Department do not insist that a full course should be gone through, and they say that the maximum amount is that which is supposed to be done by a school which gives six hours science a week. Even then we find that it is not easy to get through the work on the method which the Department wishes to be followed.

16176. Do you concur in Brother Hennessy's evidence that the Department definitely discouraged any such instruction as by class demonstration of experiments in contrast with the heuristic method applied absolutely—that is to say, requiring the pupils to perform every experiment in the course?—To my mind, the Department have discouraged that. Of course there are lessons in which the more difficult experiments can be performed by the Professor, but I think, as a general rule, they are not insisted unless all experiments are performed by the students themselves.

16177. Have the number of experiments by the pupils been cut down in recent years?—Yes. The programme has been shortened.

16178. Do you think that the programme of experiments which the pupils are expected, individually, to perform is still too lengthy?—Yes, to be well done in the time, and on that account some of the work which is supposed to be done experimentally is very often done by other means.

16179. I gather that you do not think that is a real hardship. There is still an adequate amount of individual experiment?—Oh, yes, there is.

Rev. BROTHEN HENNESSY recalled.

16180. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I should like to take the opportunity of your being here to ask you with reference to the special type of school which your Order conducts in Belfast. It is quite different from the ordinary relation of higher science teaching to the other schools. I refer to the Trevelyan School there. I find in the school that the supply of pupils was from the elementary schools conducted in Belfast by your Order, and that, therefore, there was due co-ordination between preliminary instruction of the pupils and the instruction they receive in this higher school. Will you tell us anything of your experience as to how far it is found desirable in the ordinary National school to provide such a supplementary

16180. (Mr. Micks).—You spoke of the right the Department arrogated to itself in the control of the school?—The control of the time-tables. Of course each school has to send to the Department its timetable as far as its science hours are concerned, and nearly every change with regard to the time that is to be employed. For instance, no experimental class of less than eighty minutes will be taken into account. We find that that regulation weighs very heavily upon us, and that there are a great number of experiments that could be performed in less than eighty minutes, and I think that more latitude should be allowed. In my school there is the greatest difficulty of making the science time-table fit in with the other classes.

16181. That is the way in which you feel this control most?—Yes, we feel great difficulty sometimes where our liberty is greatly curtailed by the Department. For instance, if we have to select a day for extra recreation, it perhaps happens that the usual half-holiday is wet, and it would be considered advantageous for the school to get that half-holiday the following day, and employ the wet day in the classroom. We cannot do that. The Inspectors might turn up and find the class vacant. I believe it would be considered a serious crime if it were found out that a school had adopted that method.

16182. How did you get the idea that the Treasury had anything to do with the practice?—From the Department.

16183. Not from the Department themselves?—The objection has always been made when we put in a claim for an increase of grant that the Treasury would not give more.

16184. As regards the change of time-table?—Oh, no. I only refer to the Treasury with regard to the inadequacy of money.

16185. The matters of the time-table and the half-holiday arrangement are in the discretion of the Department. If they wished they could make other arrangements?—I dare say they could and I am quite sure they could. I do not put it down to any outside body. We enjoyed so much liberty in that respect up to the time the Department came into operation that we really feel it a serious grievance.

16186. Have you made any enquiries as to the manner in which similar schools are conducted on this side of the water?—I do not know much about that; I have had no time to inquire into the matter.

16187. You do not know whether there is any such hard and fast control in England?—I am not aware. I dare say there is.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—I think you will find there is.

(Mr. Micks).—I should be rather surprised if you don't find there is not.

(Mr. Ogilvie).—You may take it from me there is.

16188. (Mr. Micks).—You may take it from me that there is not. (To Witness): You said at the beginning that you were giving evidence in a personal capacity. I am in this Advisory Committee that you represent the Catholic Head-masters at the Advisory Committee?—Yes, but I have no mandate from them at present.

16189. Who invited you to give evidence here?—I was told that you were anxious to have evidence from heads of the schools, and I received an invitation from the Department to come.

16190. Was that the way in which the other witnesses came?—I have no idea.

course, and for how many years after the National school you have found it possible to retain the pupils in that school for higher technical work in continuation of National school education?—That school has been only three years in operation, and we have not yet had much opportunity of seeing how it is going to work out. When we started it the idea was that it was to be supplied more largely from the National schools than from our own elementary schools in the city, but in actual practice it turned out that we had to supply most of the boys in the first two years anyhow from our own schools. This last year such has not been so much the case, because the school has had a certain success, inasmuch as the boys who

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finished the third year's course were all provided for in the various weeks, and when this came to be known it naturally had an effect on the parents, and many of them, who before looked with suspicion on the school, and did not care to experiment with it, sent their children on for the qualifying examination for admission. But in the first year we did not get the best boys by any means; I preferred to remain at their own schools and to go on for the intermediate examination, and we did not even get the best boys from the National schools. That condition of things is now changed, and we have a more satisfactory class coming to us.

16198. How far do you find it possible to secure them for the three years required for the course?—We found it very difficult, but we succeeded in retaining a large class, twenty-one boys, last year, and these have been nearly all at the end of the course provided for in different weeks.

16199. Would you not say that it would be worth while having them for one year?—It would not be worth while having them.

16200. They had better remain at elementary schools?—I would not say that, because in the elementary schools they might have no class for these boys. I think one year's training would not do as much as you wish, although it is much better than remaining in the elementary schools.

16201. It would not be the same training as would be required for the first year of boys who were going on for the three years' course?—I touched on that in my evidence. It would not. If they have to leave school early there should be some modification of the course for them.

16202. You are able to carry twenty boys through a three years' course?—Twenty-one, speaking from memory.

16203. I suppose, now that the school has established itself, you may expect in future considerably more than that?—There is no accommodation in the school for a larger number of boys. It is taxed to its fullest capacity now, and I do not see that there is any room to extend it in its present location.

16204. You have got here a case where there is a direct relation between elementary schools carrying on boys to the end of an ordinary course, and a specialised school which aims at taking those pupils previously trained in elementary schools, whose parents can keep them for three years at school. I want to get how far your experience gives a guide as to the proportion of elementary children in manufacturing towns who might be expected to take advantage of the curriculum?—I imagine it would be very large. I think there should be a large percentage, but we have practically only one real manufacturing town, and that is Belfast. There are other towns, but they are not manufacturing towns in the strict sense of the word. I must say, as regards these Trade Schools, I am not so very strongly in favour of them. I think that Trade Schools such as we have, and such as the Municipal authorities in Belfast have erected, are extremely desirable in Belfast, because there is a great field for the boys, but in the ordinary intermediate school, in which manual instruction forms part of the course, as well as science, I think all, or nearly all, that is done in a specialised Trade School is done for the boy in such a school, plus a more liberal training.

16205. You think that a specialised Trade School, while it fills a satisfactory place in the educational programme in certain towns which have good trade, like Belfast, is not a type of school that is likely to prove widely acceptable?—Certainly not under the present condition of trade and manufactures in Ireland. In twenty or thirty years to come, when

we hope to have a prosperous Ireland, they might be desirable, but at present they are not necessary. In the intermediate schools manual instruction forms part of the course and supplies what is supposed to be supplied by the Trade School.

16206. Manual instruction with science and drawing?—Yes.

16207. (Mr. Micks).—Do you think that instead of giving instruction in these Trade Schools it would be wiser to give instruction in the actual factories that are now being started in the country, paying for a foreman to teach them?—I think so. If a boy leaves school at fourteen or fifteen, and he gets science and drawing and manual instruction in his school if he then goes to a trade or branch of manufacturing, and I think he should be obliged to attend technical classes in the evening, and by attending these technical classes and getting theoretic training, and a certain amount of practical training, he should be fitted very well for his business.

16208. Do you think that instruction might be provided most effectively by means of trained men in actual factories?—I think so, most decidedly. I think there is too strong a tendency to make schools prepare all boys for the factory or workshop. I don't think they can do it. I think they have quite enough to do to give the boy the instruction that will enable him to avail himself of the opportunities that will arise when he gets to work. I think multiplying the types of school is injurious.

16209. (Mr. O'Connell).—Have you any case where schools in Ireland profess to train a boy for manual work?—Of course these Trade Schools that are being established, to some extent, profess to do that.

16210. Do they?—They give a great deal of time to manual labour; they do not, of course, teach trade.

16211. I understood that they were definitely put forward as preparatory for trade instruction, and that it was not trade instruction at all?—I do not think it is wise to multiply these schools.

16212. (Chairman).—I understood they contemplate boys having received a certain amount of manual instruction and going to town and being employed in a factory, and that then the boy should employ his time in the evening receiving practical instruction. Is that what you mean?—Yes.

16213. You contemplate that the technical instruction in so far as it is theoretical should be given in some form of schools?—Oh, certainly.

16214. But Mr. Micks' question was rather directed to this, that there should be recognised teaching under the Department by means of a foreman in the factory itself?—I think that would be an admirable thing.

16215. (Mr. Micks).—You, I suppose, are giving evidence in your personal capacity?—Very much in my personal capacity, because we had no meeting of our Committee.

16216. You appear as an individual?—As an individual.

16217. Were you also asked by the Department to come?—I was asked.

16218. (Mr. O'Connell).—You are a member of the Advisory Committee in virtue of your being sent there by your own body?—Yes.

16219. And, therefore, we may take it that you are one who, knowing educational matters thoroughly, have been entrusted by your body with the duty of representing them at your Advisory Committee?—We have an Education Committee, of which I am a member. This Committee deals with the educational work of our Order. I am on the Committee Committee of the Department. I was not nominated by the Department. I was nominated by our Superior.

Mr. THOMAS POOLEY examined.

Mr. Thomas
 Pooley.

16220. (Chairman).—I am not quite sure what your position now is under the Department?—I am an Inspector of the Department of Agriculture.

16221. You were formerly connected with the Congested Districts Board?—I was sent to the Congested Districts Board by the Department of Agriculture, and previously by the Land Commission. I was a Land Commission official before I was transferred. I was Assistant Commissioner on the Land Commission,

and I had the superintendence of the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission at the time of the formation of the Department of Agriculture. When the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission was transferred to the Department of Agriculture with its staff, I went over with them.

16222. You were transferred under the operation of the Act of Parliament?—Yes, and for some years while I was at the Land Commission, I had the

superintendence and carrying out of the agricultural schemes of the Congested Districts Board, and it was considered advisable that I should continue to do that after the formation of the Board of Agriculture. I continued to do it until the Department of Agriculture took over the whole two years ago. I continued to do it down to that time, keeping in touch more or less with the Department. I was also doing work for the Department as well.

16217. Between the time that the Department came on the scene and the time they took over the agricultural work of the Congested Districts Board, you were still lent by the Department and acting for the Board precisely as you did when you were on the Land Commission?—Yes.

16218. I think you are here at the request of the Congested Districts Board?—I believe so.

16219. And with the consent of the Department?—Yes.

16220. I think what we asked for was an account of the scheme, and the mode of operation under the Congested Districts Board?—The first scheme I refer to was the one connected with horses. The evidence that I shall give generally refers to the twelve years from 1892 to 1903, inclusive. The scheme was nearly all in operation during the whole of that time. During those twelve years the Board placed seventy-two stallions in all in different places in the Congested Districts for service. There was an average of about twenty-six stallions per annum standing. The usual custom was for the Board to keep the stallions at its stud farm, near Dublin, and to send them out with groom in charge for the season. During the later years, the Board made special arrangements with some people to maintain the stallions, and to receive a certain payment from the Board for doing so, which varied in proportion to the trouble and expense they had with the stallions. The service fees which were received for the stallions were small. They went very far short in paying the total expense of the schemes. Sometimes they were as low as two shillings and sixpence, and they went from that to three guineas, but, as a rule, for the small occupier in the Congested Districts, a farmer or occupier, whose remuneration should not exceed £25, the fee was usually fixed at five shillings to ten shillings for the stallion. When the work was transferred to the Department of Agriculture. In addition to that particular scheme, during the last three or four years the Board had been endeavouring to breed stallions specially suitable for reproducing Connemara ponies, and with that idea they selected a number of mares in Connemara, and crossed them with Arab stallions. But that had not been carried on long enough to produce any important results. In addition to the stallions the Board had a number of jackasses. They had about twenty-seven per annum located in the country during the later years, and these were very much appreciated. The Board began by paying people with whom the stallions were located, about £1 per month for maintaining them. Gradually as they became appreciated, that sum was reduced until it was brought down to a very much smaller sum. I forget exactly what it was, but something very small. We were gradually trying to get the people to take the stallions for nothing. The people were allowed to work them. We allowed them to do what they liked with them, provided that in doing so they did not interfere unreasonably with the use of the animal. Thus, for the improvement of cattle the Board issued bulls. They were usually sold out on a deferred system of payment, the bulls being sold at a reduced fee, which, roughly speaking, would represent about two-thirds of the cost of the animals, sometimes one-half of the cost. At first the people were bound to keep the bulls for service for two years; afterwards we extended that to three years. During the twelve years to which I referred 1,026 bulls were issued. During the later years the issue was at the rate of about 110 per annum, varying more or less.

16221. I have before me your evidence before the Congested Districts Commission, and I see you say that the average cost of these bulls to the Board was £21?—Yes, roughly speaking, £7 per annum it worked out. The Board paid all expenses of issue, and all veterinary expenses. The Board frequently had to take back bulls which did not turn out as

well as was expected. In fact if we thought people to whom bulls were supplied had done their best, the Board was very lenient with them.

16222. That may be taken as the average loss to the Board?—Yes, £21 per bull. During the last few years the Board endeavoured to introduce a system of subsidising bulls somewhat in the way that the Department of Agriculture does at present.

16223. That is to say, three years before 1904?—I think it extended over four or five years possibly, but it came into use very slowly. It was a little difficult to get people to adopt it. A subsidy of about £8 per year was given for shortborns or Aberdon-Angus, and the maximum subsidy for Galloways was £4. We found that to work fairly well, and it has been greatly developed.

16224. The total loss on 1,026 bulls was £21,679?—Yes. A special scheme was put into operation for the Oulderson peninsula in Kerry for the purpose of improving the Kerry breed in that particular district. In 1903-4 the Board supplied about fifty Kerry and Dexter bulls. They were located free of charge in that vicinity for the special purpose of improving the Kerry breed, and the Board had an Advisory Committee consisting of three of the leading Kerry breeders, the late Mr. James Reilly, Mr. Barker of St. Anne's, and the late Mr. James Robertson, of Hogg and Robertson, of Dublin. They advised the Board and superintended the selection of the bulls. They had to be passed by this Committee who advised as to the location of the bulls. That scheme was kept in operation for three years. The bulls were supplied absolutely free of charge. The Board paid the people for maintaining the bulls in summer, and either maintained them themselves or paid for them in winter. After that time the Board said, "You have had an opportunity of judging whether this is good for you. We will withdraw this scheme, and sell the bulls to you," but they would not take them. They did not seem to think they would do them good, and from that time to the transfer, very few bulls were issued in Kerry, and those few were only issued on Lord Lansdowne's estate, because he undertook to pay half the cost for the tenants, and we had to use a great deal of persuasion to get them to take them even on those terms. One other experiment the Board made in the cattle way, was taking springers from Kerry to West Galway for the purpose of crossing them with Galloways, we brought up about fifty, and during those two years they were purchased at cost price, and sold at cost price, together with the freight expense. We thought the thing was going to work well, but afterwards the people did not appreciate it, and we dropped it. They seemed to think they could buy more suitable animals at the ordinary price. These were not pure-bred Korrins, but springers of the Kerry type, and purchased at Kerry fairs, we thought they would make a good cross with the Galloway bulls, and rather bring in a milking type into Connemara, which they seemed to want.

16225. Was there any particular reason why that did not succeed?—They thought they could buy suitable huns and springers at lower prices locally.

16226. (Mr. Micks).—You wanted them to pay the whole cost, including carriage?—We never gave any abatement.

16227. (Chairman).—You intended to lose nothing?—If we had lost it would not have been any loss.

16228. (Mr. Micks).—If you could have sold them at the same price as the before at the fairs?—Yes. They would probably have taken them. In fact, I am not very clear that it was very desirable. That is all about cattle. As regards sheep, some were supplied by the Board on somewhat similar terms to cattle—that is, reduced prices, the people being bound to keep them for two seasons. The usual net price for a shewling was about £1, sometimes £1 10s., and some lambs were sold at £1 to thirty shillings, and some lambs were bound to keep them for service for two seasons. About 700 ewes in all were put out on those terms. The Board could have put out a great many more. There was always a considerable demand, but in the very districts with which we were dealing sheep was very prevalent, and the Board thought it desirable to encourage to do what they could in reducing the amount of sheep wool rather than in putting runs out. We did that for some

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years, refusing to supply rams to the districts in which the people did not dip their sheep. That had a good effect. We commenced sheep dipping in 1904; that year we dipped about 300 sheep, and we had very great difficulty indeed in getting the people to bring as these 300 sheep. This dipping was carried out by the Board's agricultural inspectors, of whom we had about eight or ten stationed in the Congested Districts. We first began with a permanent dipping station, something of the style one sees very often in Scotland on the hills, but it was found that that was not suitable, and we went in for portable apparatus, which was much more suitable to the conditions of Congested Districts.

16229. Had you to excavate for this portable machine?—Yes, to sink for the wheels, but there was little trouble in that. In the year 1905 we dipped 70,000 sheep in thirty-three portable apparatus.

16230. (Chairman).—Entirely at the cost of the Board?—We did not do it free. The system was that our instructors made arrangements with suitable men to take over the portable dipping apparatus, which was supplied by the Board. The Board also supplied the dip, and we charged a penny for dipping sheep. We paid the dipping contractors a halfpenny.

A penny really covered our expenses, and we lost a halfpenny. When the transfer took place these machines were sold to the people of the district, and there are a great many of them at work now.

16231. (Mr. Micks).—It was only intended as a demonstration?—Yes. We wanted to bring in the thing, and it has had remarkable good results in Donegal.

16232. (Chairman).—I remember seeing a good deal of it in Donegal six years ago!—In Kerry we failed altogether; it did not take on. The next scheme dealt with pigs. The Board supplied during twelve years, 351 large York boars on reduced terms on somewhat similar lines as those on which rams were supplied. The Board also supplied sixty-one sows. The total expenditure was £1,831 and the receipts £929, leaving a net expenditure of £902, and that is the loss which we incurred owing to selling the boars at reduced rates.

16233. (Mr. Micks).—Had you ever distributed any sows?—Only sixty-one. We could do much more good with the same amount of money distributing boars than sows. The Board took up poultry in 1902 by distributing cockerels, but we very soon discovered that that was not an economical way of improving the poultry, and instead we established small flocks of poultry of pure breed, which were located with

suitable people in the districts in which we desired to improve the breeds, and these people were bound to give out the eggs to small concerns who applied for them. At first the Board paid one penny for each egg given out; after some years that was reduced to one halfpenny, and eventually nothing was paid, but instead a small bonus was given varying from 20s to £2, or £2 10s. That was really the best principle, because the other way always tended more or less to fraud, which it was very difficult to keep in check.

16234. (Chairman).—Did the poultry then put out remain the property of the Board?—Strictly speaking they were the property of the Board, and at the expiration of the period for which they were loaned they were supposed to be handed up, but we very rarely took them all up. What we did was to charge the poultry farmer to rear a certain number for us which we used for other districts.

16235. One of the conditions was that they should give the eggs to anyone who applied for them?—Anyone resident in the Congested Districts. We did not mind who got them, provided that they were used for setting.

16236. I only asked how it worked. These might be more applicants than eggs?—Then they could not get them.

16237. Did that work effectively?—It worked out all right, but I do not think we did any real good. I am sorry to say I think that this scheme did not do good. Going back to these districts three years after we had withdrawn the poultry there was very little trace to be seen. There was one particular place where we did do good, that was in County Donegal. The Board went to considerable expense there to encourage the breed of poultry for feeding, and set up a station for crumbing poultry, to which they brought over a man from Sussex. It is going on still.

16238. The Board brought over a man from Sussex?—Yes, and it is taken over since by a local man.

16239. (Mr. Micks).—Where does he find his market?—He sends over to Scotland and the North of England.

16240. (Chairman).—Where is this?—At Malbeg, close to Carrigart, on Lord Leitrim's property. To give an idea of what was going on in poultry under the Board I may say that in 1897 we had sixty-five poultry farms, and these issued about 65,000 eggs. In 1898 eighty-three farms, when we issued about 90,000 eggs; in 1900, 130,000 eggs issued as well as we could tell from the records that were kept.

On running after hockers.

16241. (Chairman).—You were about going to a new head?—I had got to bee-keeping. The total expenditure for the twelve years under the scheme for the improvement of bee-keeping was £3,705, and the receipts £3,021, leaving a net expenditure of £1,685. The Board had an expert who was permanently employed to give instruction in bee-keeping, under him there were twenty-seven local instructors in different districts, each connected with a local association of bee-keepers. To assist them further the Board used to give loans to enable the members of such associations to purchase bee apparatus, and the Board also established a depot to assist bee-keepers to dispose of their honey. The Board took the honey over from these bee-keepers, graded it, packed it and sold it, that depot almost covered its expenses, sometimes there was a slight profit and sometimes a loss, but it may be said, on the whole, it just covered expenses. The Board also made many attempts to combat foul brood, a disease of bees, without very great success.

16242. (Mr. Micks).—The Board felt they would need compulsory powers?—Yes, it was the want of compulsory powers to deal with the matter, the same difficulty applies still, it was not the fault of the Board in any way or its expert. In connection with Agricultural Shows the Board gave grants averaging about £50 per annum to various Agricultural Shows, the total amount given per annum in recent years was from £300 to £350. For agricultural instruction the Board had a number of agricultural instructors, usually about eight or ten stationed at suitable places in the Congested Districts.

16243. (Chairman).—In all the counties?—Not in all the counties, we had them in Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Cork and Kerry.

16244. Quite generally, what were their duties, would they carry on their work in much the same way as the itinerant instructors under the Department?—Somewhat the same, but they had, as a rule, a pretty large sphere of operations, each man had a district, roughly speaking, of about eight or ten parishes, that was his special instructor's district, in that he put in operation and controlled the working of example holdings, example plots and experimental plots, and then he had an extended district, which was his line stock inspection district.

16245. Were the different functions separated at all?—We had a specialist as a horticultural instructor about three years only.

16246. He would not come into the eight or ten parishes?—No.

16247. Was there a distinct butter instructor?—The Board did give a grant towards a butter instructor, he was an itinerant instructor in the County Leitrim, working near Lough Allen. And I would not like to say that there might not have been some others, but they did not come under me, that was under Mr. Walker, as domestic economy, and there was one in Donegal, I remember as well.

16248. (Mr. Micks).—What you might call dairy-maid's instruction?—Yes, it was more that that, there was house to house instruction.

16243. It was to fit girls to be dairymaids—I think the idea was to encourage them to make butter at home. These instructors had a great deal to do with the rearing of live stock, bulls, horses, pigs, &c., everything of that kind, to repeat them in fact the visiting of all the schemes with respect to which I have given evidence, and did what they could to encourage the people to adopt better methods of farming. In addition to that the Board supplied considerable quantities of seed oats, seed potatoes, and at times artificial manures, these were sold through these instructors. When we first began operations in some of the poorer districts, the people were not in the habit of using manures, seeds, and implements, the moment the demand became sufficient it led the local shopkeepers to take up the work, we retired and left it to them.

16250. (Chairman).—There were no special qualifications required for agricultural instructors either by examination or otherwise, you took the men you considered best?—They were not men who had passed through a course of scientific agriculture, they were simply men we believed to be good agriculturists, they were the class of men, roughly speaking who would have made good land stewards or farm bailiffs.

16251. You took them entirely from what you could find out about their personal qualifications, you did not require them to pass any particular standard?—No.

16252. (Mr. Micks).—You chose them on reading their testimonials and making inquiries?—The Board advertised, and after reading their replies I interviewed the most suitable men, and then their names were submitted to the Board.

16253. (Chairman).—You did not require testimonials, but they did submit testimonials?—Yes, we were inundated.

16254. (Mr. Micks).—And a good many of them were Scotch?—Yes, some were Scotch and some Irish, I don't think we had any Englishmen. Part of their work every year was giving instructions in spraying, they also superintended all the sheep dipping operations to which I have already referred. In every year the Board gave instruction in potato spraying, and endeavored to introduce its adoption in other ways, by supplying machines and material at a reduced cost. The total expenditure under this head for the twelve years I make out to be £4,900.

16255. Can you tell me when that was first done in Ireland as far as you can remember?—In 1892.

16256. For the 1893 crop?—Yes.

16257. Was that the first time, as far as you are aware, it was ever tried in Ireland?—As far as I know, just about the same time the National Board under Professor Carrol, were doing something in that way.

16258. That would be on their farm?—I think so, in that year it did not pass beyond the experimental stage.

16259. In suggesting that to the Land Commission were you going on any reports from England or France?—I don't remember where the information first came to me from.

16260. My impression is that it was from France?—It may have been.

16261. You got the machines from France?—We got the machines from France. My recollection is that most of the information I got about it then was from Scotland, that they had been trying it.

16262. (Chairman).—Did it take long in being recognized as being useful?—Oh, yes, they very rapidly recognized it as useful, I don't think there is any possible doubt on people's minds that it is a good thing.

16263. Is there any difficulty in getting them to do it?—A good deal.

16264. The cost is one thing?—Sometimes it is cost, but if it has been a good year and that year there was not very much disease, and people who did not spray got nearly as good crops as the people who did there is a great tendency the following year not to spray.

16265. Nowwithstanding all this experience of ten years?—Yes, and that applies all over the country.

16266. (Mr. Micks).—How much does it cost to spray a statute acre?—I used to have all those figures in my head.

16267. It is a material sum, I suppose, would it be as much as the manure?—Yes, doing it by hand, as they would have to do in the Congested Districts,

not using a horse machine, it would be seven or eight shillings per statute acre for one spraying, then, of course, as a rule, in the Congested Districts you would have almost invariably to spray twice, and in places like the coast of Kerry and Cork and up by Sligo they ought to spray three times, because the disease takes effect earlier there. Mr. Gordon gives it to me as eight shillings and three pence, of course it will vary according to the amount you put out, and the amount of blight you have to spray.

16268. (Chairman).—And the machine?—I am not counting the cost of the machine.

(Mr. Gordon).—That is the material.

16269. (Mr. Micks).—A great many don't use machines, they only use the broom?—Yes, a great number do it with whips and brooms.

16270. (Chairman).—I saw somewhere a statement that, although they had machines, they would not use them?—I made that statement, there are numbers of machines lying probably idle at this moment, every year there have been numbers of machines not used, because the people using them don't carry out the necessary repairs, which are in themselves very trivial, their disposition is rather to throw the machine to one side if anything goes wrong.

16271. At all events there is a certain amount of indifference?—Yes, it is a curious thing. About four years before the work was transferred the Board appointed a special instructor in horticulture and pointed a special instructor in horticulture and the market gardening, the idea was to encourage the cultivation of early potatoes, and so forth, and also to encourage the cultivation of fruit trees. This man was appointed in 1901, he gave instruction all over the Congested Districts, and the Board sold fruit trees at cost price, this man gave instruction as to the planting and treatment, and so on, we sold 5,480 apple trees, 536 pear, plum, and cherry, and 3,000 odd currants and gooseberries, all these were sold at cost price through the local instructor, and a good deal of farming machinery was sold, the total amount for the twelve years amounting to about £2,000, the object being to induce the people to make use of such implements as we thought it would be to their advantage to use.

16272. Is that £2,000 the actual price realized?—That is the price paid by the people for the machines, these were sold at cost price, except, as sometimes occurred, we purchased machines which did not prove satisfactory. In addition each of the instructors had a stock in which were kept machines which were lent on hire, and which to the owners of example plots were let gratuitously. They cost £500 more.

16273. (Mr. Micks).—What was the hiring rate?—One shilling a day for the cheaper machines, and two shillings and sixpence a day for the thrashing machines and larger ones, for spraying machines, rollers and ploughs we charge one shilling. Forestry.—The Board took over the work, and I think they took the land, they took the forestry operations at Knockboy in the West of Ireland, which was being carried out by the Land Commission prior to the formation of the Board, that, I think it might be called, experimental work, was continued by the Board for several years at a very considerable expense until experience seemed to indicate that the results were so unsatisfactory, it would be better to drop it, and then the work ceased.

16274. (Chairman).—Could you give us the reasons why it turned out unsatisfactory—expensive situation, or what?—It was a very exposed situation, we had more than one expert there, Dr. Schlich was one, and Dr. Stammer, of the Department of Agriculture here, was another, they each furnished Reports to the Board, and I think the general consensus of opinion was that it was partly due to the unfavourable nature of the soil, but more largely due to the very exposed position, and to the extent to which the trees suffered from the anti-laden winds from the sea.

16275. Where is Knockboy?—On the west coast of Ireland, opposite the Arran Isles.

16276. (Mr. Micks).—The Congested Districts Board did not select Knockboy, but it was taken on by them, the Government having selected it merely for the purpose of solid work?—That, I understand, was the real object, one of the reasons why such an unfavourable position was selected.

16277. Are you aware, as a matter of fact, that the Board were aware that it was not a hopeful thing when they took it over?—Quite so, I understood it

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was always regarded as very doubtful, and possibly untrue, but the Board did not like to drop it until that was proved.

16278. (The Government got a present of the land in order that there might be relief works at that particular place?—Yes, and it was rather difficult to know what form of relief works could be applied there.

16279. (Chairman).—Was there any other place where forestry was established?—The Board took up a scheme to encourage small occupiers in the Congested Districts to plant shelter belts about their houses, that had been in operation for a few years. My own impression is that it is extremely unlikely that many of those will survive many years, because the people are not likely to maintain the fences about them.

16280. (Mr. Micks).—Do you know that some of those shelter belts are thriving and doing very well in the Kiltinagh district?—No, I have not been there for so many years.

16281. Shelter belts were planted there by the Board?—Yes, and we made it a rule, which was very strictly enforced, the trees were given gratuitously, but it was a rule that the plot must be fenced in properly to the satisfaction of the Board's local representative, that is the Inspector, before the trees were given, and we did our best to have a permanent fence put up, and I am glad to hear that it has resulted very well.

16282. (Mr. O'Grady).—The experiment at Knockboy was not exactly an experiment in forestry, it was the planting of an area without any special experimental object?—I took it afterwards as being an experiment, because nearly everybody that I have heard of, or come across in the district, or knowing the district, prophesied that it would be a failure, and I think that the idea of the Government in taking it up originally before the Congested Districts Board took it over—

16283. (Mr. Micks).—Before the Congested Districts Board was formed?—Was to see whether, if suitable trees were planted under suitable conditions, the land properly prepared, and planting properly carried out, it would not succeed, and I know as a fact that the Government was advised then by people who professed to have the necessary knowledge, that they would succeed, in fact I was down with one of the experts myself before we took over the land, this man advised what trees should be planted, and Dr. Schlich, who was over the land with me afterwards, looked upon it very much in the light of an experiment, and that it would be a pity to stop the work prematurely until they had decided as to whether certain methods of treatment that they had adopted might not succeed.

16284. It was also experimental to this extent that you tried every conceivable variety of hardy trees to see what would do best?—And different methods of planting.

16285. And where there was natural shelter, a hollow between two hills, they did get some little success?—There were a few trees that we used to take everybody to look at it.

16286. Is that for a cork-overt?—Yes.

16287. (Mr. O'Grady).—It was an experiment under conditions which the result has shown, have been from the beginning so adverse as to make it certain to be unsuccessful?—I will qualify that slightly, I don't think the results until about the fourth year were sufficiently clear.

16288. I don't say that, I say the results now show the conditions of that particular section of the country and that particular hillside made it quite impossible to get success, but it is not an experiment that has any important bearing upon the possibilities of forestry even within twenty miles of it?—Not the slightest.

16289. (Chairman).—The history of it shows that?—Oh, yes.

16290. (Mr. Micks).—The question of winter dairying is recognized as being a very important form of agricultural industry in Ireland at present?—Yes.

16291. You personally a very long time ago, if you look at that (Report produced), made a report in which you mentioned the subject of winter dairying—what was the date of that report?—30th April, 1891, that was when I was at the Land Commission.

16292. That was before even the Congested Districts Board was started?—Yes.

16293. Kindly read the sentence I have marked there?—"The factory system alone will enable farmers to commence winter dairying, as it is only on that system that farmers can profitably dispose of the small supplies of milk that would be produced in winter, on first changing their system from one of summer dairying only, to one of continuous dairying throughout both winter and summer. This has already been proved in the South of Ireland where, in consequence of some factories having been established, and paying a high price for winter milk, farmers are to some extent arranging to supply milk in winter."

16294. You point out in that report that the success of the Danish butter trade is due to winter dairying?—Yes.

16295. (Mr. O'Grady).—Are you still of the opinion represented in that sentence?—I think I should say that what I meant by the factory system there is the creamery system, it would be wrong to use the term factory now, in the only one in which the ordinary small farmer in Ireland, I think, could successfully carry out winter dairying.

16296. (Mr. Micks).—Do you still think winter dairying is advantageous?—Yes.

16297. (Mr. O'Grady).—We had a distinction drawn yesterday between factory and creamery butter?—When I wrote that the word factory was not used as distinguished from creamery.

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16298. (Chairman).—We have already had some evidence from you at a previous stage. Have you read Mr. Moenan's criticism of the forestry statistics?—Yes. The first point which Mr. Moenan asked was the question of classification. He took our division of the conifers, larch, fir, spruce, and pine, and he asked what is a pine, and said—"Here is a column for several pages devoted to a tree which does not exist." That remark puzzles me, because it is quite clear there is a pine; there are several kinds of pine—the American pine, the Corsican pine, and the Waymouth pine.

16299. (Mr. Micks).—What would you call the Scotch fir?—The Scotch fir technically is a Scotch pine, but there are many classes of pines, and there are thousands of these other pines being planted every year in Ireland, and the fourth column in the statistics refers, I should say, very largely to these different kinds of pine.

16300. (Chairman).—Pine other than those specially mentioned?—Yes.

16301. (Mr. Micks).—There might be confusion between fir and pine, inasmuch as Scotch fir would be

put down as fir, whereas it ought to be put down as pine?—Yes. I think all through Ireland, and, as far as I know, through Scotland and England, one usually speaks of Scotch fir, whereas I suppose botanically one means Scotch pine. I think one's common sense would tell one that the second column there embraces to a very large extent what we call Scotch fir.

16302. (Chairman).—At all events, that is your explanation; pine is the generic name for the kind of pine you mention which don't fall under Scotch fir, spruce, or larch. Fir itself might be criticised to a certain extent, because that is a generic term?—There is a clear distinction between a fir and a pine.

16303. (Mr. Micks).—What is the Douglas?—I think usually classified as fir.

16304. (Chairman).—Is there not some recognized mode of classification—are there not traditions in England, for instance, of the same kind?—No, not distinguishing in any way; they have statistics which show the area of woodland or coppice, but they don't distinguish the various classes of trees.

16305. To some extent it is arbitrary; you may make what distinction you like as long as you explain what you mean. Is this a new classification?—No.

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15306. You only came into office in January, 1905; is then the classification you found?—Yes, it was the classification which the Department found when it took over the work.

15307. (Mr. Micks).—You took that form over from the Registrar-General?—Yes. The forestry statistics as to acres go back to 1881, and the statistics of planting and felling to 1880.

15308. It was not as Mr. Moeran conjectured a mistake on the part of the Police Constables, if there was any mistake, it was the mistake of the Department which first drew up the form; you issue the forms to the Police in the same way as they are printed in your volume of statistics.—I wish to make it perfectly plain that I don't think there is blame to be attached to either.

15309. And none of the collectors of information?—No, I think the classification could undoubtedly be improved, but I think there is a perfectly clear distinction between a fir and a pine, if you are going to make distinctions in the family of the conifers.

15310. (Mr. Ogilvie).—There is no difficulty in understanding what it means?—I think a man's common-sense could tell him what is in this.

15311. I think it should be confined to Scotch fir—the classification of that could be improved; I would like to see Scotch fir or Scotch pine, as it strictly is, and then another column of all other firs; I should be quite inclined to take the view that it might be improved.

15312. You say it was the old form which you took over and you have not yet considered that question fully as to better classification?—We have not considered it.

15313. I have no doubt you will consider with due respect Mr. Moeran's criticism?—Certainly, but I would like to add one other remark; in making changes in statistics here, as elsewhere, one always wants to have the advice of men working practically at the subject; I don't want to make any change in our statistics until the men who are responsible for the forestry work in connection with the Department have full opportunity of talking the whole thing over.

15314. And especially when you have to collect them through the medium you have to employ; it would never do to have too elaborate a classification?—Precisely.

15315. (Mr. Micks).—Who is your representative for forestry?—Mr. Forbes, he was recently appointed. That I think deals with Question 18074. I may point out that there are not fifteen pages of tables; there are twelve. Then the next point raised was this question of Westmorland; these remarks refer to the statistics for 1904, and not to the statistics for 1905, he draws attention to the case of Westmorland, and says the results show, according to our returns, 460 trees per acre planted. It is quite a possible thing to have this small number of trees planted, and it may be due to what Mr. Moeran suggests in Question 18076, or it may be simply due to the fact that older trees were being planted; it would work out less than ten feet between the trees.

15316. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The point is are you satisfied that there is no serious error either in the instructions for procuring the statistics or in the observations upon which the statistics are based?—I am satisfied that there is no serious error; I am satisfied also that there could be improvements in classification, and as regards the collecting of them I think that forestry statistics are extremely difficult to get accurate returns of. But I think there is nothing in the statistics which seriously leads one to believe, and any inquiry which we have made does not seriously lead one to believe, that there is any very grave error in the way in which the statistics are being collected.

15317. (Chairman).—I don't think you need trouble yourself about the Westmorland criticism; one wants to know a great deal about the circumstances before we can deal with that?—Then, we come to Wicklow, and the large number of trees planted per acre; there may or may not be a mistake about this, but one thing I would like to explain straight away, there is a column here for Observations in Form F.

15318. That is what is given to the police to fill up?—Yes, and one might add such an entry as follows: 1,500 trees planted but no entry put against them for area, and in the Observations column you

will find the remark "Trees planted for filling up places or thickening woods," you can have thousands of trees planted under such circumstances without any area being returned. Then, in totalling up the different items in the county if you were to work out the system per acre you get a very large number of trees returned as planted per acre, which is misleading.

15319. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You mean instead of the area planted it ought to read "additional area planted"?—Yes; it refers to the planting operations each year so it is an additional area planted.

15320. But a good many of the trees reported as planted may not have been planted in the additional area planted?—Yes.

15321. (Chairman).—The criticism is that the returns show an enormously larger number of trees planted per acre than is possible; fifty-six acres are planted at the rate of 9,228 trees per acre, nearly double the amount that should be planted in an acre?—Yes.

15322. (Mr. Ogilvie).—That indicates that there is a note wanting to that table?—This question of area planted is not the divisor necessarily the total number of trees.

15323. (Chairman).—It is not the divisor. Comparing the trees to thicken the woods with those planted for the purpose of planting new ground, there would be more trees on an acre of ground than are planted for thickening a wood; his complaint is that you show too many trees planted per acre?

15324. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The area in the woods thickened is not included in the area planted at all?—No; I merely instance that as one of the circumstances which are how to look into.

15325. (Chairman).—You mean the area planted only means fresh ground planted?—Yes.

15326. If that is the explanation of it, it would be well to avoid miscomprehension by an explanatory note?—Yes.

15327. Do you know that that is the explanation of it, or is it only a conjecture?—Unfortunately we cannot go back to the particulars of the 1904 Returns; we tried to trace it up; there may be an error or may not be, but that is only one example of what may happen. The number of trees planted per acre in some cases is extremely high. Mr. Moeran himself, at Question 18077, stated three that if you plant 5,000 trees to the acre you could still cut 2,000 poles and those are profitable to sell to the farmers; at that very point Mr. Moeran was considering plantations of 5,000 trees to the acre.

15328. And in the other passage he only refers to 3,000 per acre?—Yes. What I wish to point out is that there are a great many circumstances which have to be taken into consideration before one can determine that the thing is right or wrong.

15329. (Mr. Micks).—Of course the value of statistics is to show to the person who takes them up what the real state of things is?—Yes. I maintain further, in connection with that point, Mr. Moeran says, "The whole thing is full of that from beginning to end," that is to say, thus such a thing as this at Wicklow is typical. It is not typical. If one takes up the 1904 Returns and goes through them once one will find that it is an entirely exceptional case, which Mr. Moeran has taken up.

15330. (Chairman).—I think it is a general criticism; I don't think it is on the point of specifying the number of trees planted per acre; it is a criticism difficult for you to meet?—One would like to point out that if one analyses the number of trees planted per acre in all the counties of Leinster it comes on an average of 3,294; in Munster it is 2,673; in Ulster, 1,383, and in Connaught, 732. I don't think the point can be proved that the statistics are full of this; I think there are rather exceptional cases which have been taken out.

15331. I think, as regards the work of the Statistical Branch in this respect generally, there is a great deal of improvement that might be introduced there gradually?—Yes; we have introduced it gradually.

15332. You have a perfect means of getting your figures together, but in the presentation of the statistics, like the statistics of a great many other departments, there is much room for improvement?—I don't know any statistics in which there is not great room for improvement, but I maintain that our statistics are very much better than many people seem to think they are, and I am prepared to prove it.

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The next point to which he refers is the question of selling in King's County—the total area cleared three acres, and the total number of trees felled, 3,115.

15333. Those statistics cover the year of the great storm?—I don't think so; I think the saw-mills he refers to—it is almost impossible to get at the facts now—but the saw-mills were doubtless largely employed with the remainder from the great storm.

15334. That I know of my own knowledge; in one case I knew a big wood in the King's County where the saw-mill was entirely occupied with the timber blown down?—Then, as regards the question of propping, the main use of timber in Ireland, and the disposal of it, that of course is a question which our naturally looks to the statistics for a very rough indication, and we know, from good independent evidence, that a lot of the timber is used for propping; we happen to know, from the export returns, that a considerable amount of rough timber goes across the water as export for pit-propping.

15335. (Mr. Micks).—You think Mr. Moran is wrong in that?—We know there is timber exported.

15336. He mentions the price at Cardiff?—His price may be right or wrong, but I know pit-props are going out from Ireland.

15337. From what port?—Dublin; I think also from Wicklow, but we don't show Wicklow.

15338. (Chairman).—What he says is that trees for pit-props are 16s. 6d. a ton, delivered in Cardiff?—I know there is pit-propping wood being sent out from Ireland.

15339. I don't think there is any dispute between you there because he says in Ireland trees for pit-props are 10s. 6d. a ton, delivered in Cardiff?—I don't think there are any other points that remain in his evidence, only I should like to say, in addition, just one or two things about the value of these statistics.

15340. (Mr. Micks).—In a recent issue of a paper called *The Beekeeper* they impugn your statistics too?—Perhaps I might just finish this first.

15341. (Chairman).—Mr. Moran sums it up by saying "The Department which could publish these statistics cannot have a serious opinion of the value of forestry or a skilled person to supervise them"?—I don't agree with the inference.

15342. (Mr. Micks).—You have recently got a skilled person?—Yes.

15343. You had one before?—Temporarily employed there was.

15344. Mr. Moran was one of them?—I believe he was, but I can say this that since the beginning of 1903 no criticism has come in from Mr. Moran to the Department about the statistics; I am always glad of criticisms and suggestions. If one goes criticisms one can go into the question and mend it. What I maintain the statistics do is that they give us roughly an approximate idea of the area under woods which is of value. In the second place they give us a record, though incomplete, of the different kinds of trees which are being planted, and, in a sense, of the proportion in which those trees are planted. I have submitted the point to an expert forester as to whether he considered the proportions would roughly agree with his own view on the subject, and he said that he considered proportionately that that was what he would have expected to be the proportion of larch, fir, spruce, and other trees.

15345. (Chairman).—Somebody who was acquainted with forestry in Ireland?—Yes.

15346. (Mr. Micks).—Is that your own expert?—Yes; that is his opinion. I also think that the falling operations, even though they may not be complete, give us some idea of the changes which are taking place in the forests.

15347. (Chairman).—Take the case of felling; how would you get your figures about that, from the Police?—Yes, but the Police themselves go to the foresters or the estate agents and ask them if they can give them any particulars regarding the trees felled and planted, and where they went to, and, if they can tell them what they are used for.

15348. (Mr. Micks).—I suppose they give them a little extract from their own form and ask them to fill it up?—Yes; they get from the foresters as much information as possible.

15349. (Chairman).—Has there ever been any other machinery suggested instead of the Police?—In

collecting forestry figures—no. The only other way is seems to me in which the work could be done would be by directly applying to the estate agents all over the country.

15350. That is becoming far more difficult because the estate agents are a vanishing quantity?—Yes.

15351. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—How about the schoolmasters? would it not be very educative for them?—I have often thought, going through the country, if we could get the schoolmasters they could give us excellent information.

15352. And do themselves some good professionally in the process?—I think it is an extremely interesting matter, but the Police are a very good instrument for collecting this information. There is also this to be taken into account that the administrative machinery now throughout the country is of great assistance in the statistical work—the County Inspectors, the agricultural instructors, the horticultural instructors.

15353. Do they assist the Police?—What we have done in this, we have asked them to recommend us in different parts of their district who would be able to give us particular information about their own small part where they live and we compare that information with the other information which we get; in other words we can get a system of checking which is absolutely essential in any system of good statistics.

I think, however, that forestry is an exceedingly difficult matter. In the first place the actions of bees are often loose, also notions as to such distinctions as fir and pine are loose. We are anxious to do every thing we can to improve them. You wished me to read this extract from *The Beekeeper*: "We can say something about the statistics of bee-keeping. The following are the Returns of beehives in the County Dublin for the last four years:—1902, 372; 1903, 244; 1904, 232; 1905, 128. During all these years we have been personally acquainted with over 200 bee-keepers in the country, some of whom had, or have, anything up to forty hives, the average probably being three or four. We have every year drawn the attention of the officials to this. I would like to say, with regard to the bee statistics, that they are also an extremely difficult thing to get. I think I know who wrote this."

15354. It is not a Census you are taking?—No.

15355. (Chairman).—Are you prepared to say anything with regard to that?—I am prepared to say this, that last year in the instructions to the Constabulary there is a special note put in with regard to bee statistics asking them to ascertain whether there is a Bee-keeper's Association in the district to get into touch with the secretary if there is such an Association, and try to enlist as much local support as possible in order to get as complete information regarding the district as is possible. Now anybody who has tried to ascertain bee statistics knows it is an extremely difficult thing to get. Few countries do collect bee statistics; there are no bee statistics for England, and I have been told again and again by bee-keepers in Ireland that while our statistics are imperfect, at the same time, they are glad to get them, such as they are.

15356. The suggestion there is that there is a much larger number, and I may say on the question of reliability.—

15357. (Mr. Micks).—That they know more bee-keepers than the number of hives given. Does he know in the year 1905 of this number?—I may say we had a scheme put before us by a person interested in bee-keeping who wished to make an investigation of the County Dublin, but the cost which this person wanted in order to make that investigation was absolutely too much; he was asking for £200 to make the investigation in the County Dublin.

15358. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—With other particulars?—He would also find out the amount of honey and other things, but I am convinced that we are on the right track of working in saying to get into touch with all the Beekeepers' Associations and trying to get information from them.

15359. (Chairman).—Does the Department attach value to these bee statistics—you think the difficulty of getting them accurately is great?—Yes.

15360. (Mr. Micks).—They ought not to be so difficult as forestry statistics, any considerable known in his own district how many beehives there are and how many keep them?—The person who wished to investigate this very problem in the County Dublin

said that he had found bee-hives in places where he never expected to find them. It was stated in the 1905 Report in connection with the statistics of Beekeeping:—"It should be stated from the nature of the case there is great difficulty in procuring returns which approach completeness. The co-operation of Beekeepers' Associations with the Department is therefore of importance."

16261. Since you were last here you have published a very interesting volume on the imports and exports of Ireland?—Yes.

16262. Could you explain just briefly how these statistics were collected?—The statistics are collected mainly from the Harbour authorities of the Irish ports. We first got into communication with all the Harbour Boards, told them what we wanted to do, and asked them if they would co-operate with us. They entered into negotiations with us, asking us what we could afford as regards the cost of compiling. In those cases where we arranged we supplied them with forms on which to make their entries, in other cases the Harbour authorities were unable to give us any information, and we applied to the Shipping Companies trading to the port.

16263. Some declined, perhaps?—Yes.

16264. No harbour authority would, I suppose, be unable, that all would have a record of the tonnage of the ships coming in?—Several of the harbours are unable to give any information regarding the trade of the port.

16265. But they could give you the initial thing the number of vessels?—But that was practically very little help.

16266. Would it not set you on the track of the shipping agents?—We know who the shipping agents were, and we had a complete list of those engaged in the business.

16267. How did you get that?—Very largely from inquiry at the ports and shipping lists and advertisements, and when we wrote to the harbours they told us usually such and such firms traded with the port and did not give them information.

16268. The harbour dues would be on the ship?—Yes, there was some system of compensating.

16269. So that they could not tell you what was in the ship?—Exactly.

16270. Then you had to go to the shipping agents?—Yes.

16271. And they would be only able to give you very limited information, too?—When you get down to the shipping company you get the manifest.

16272. Do they store manifests for any time?—In many companies they store them for years.

16273. At all events you can get past years?—You can get it for a year past.

16274. To what extent would a manifest give you information?—The manifest gives all we want to find out, what were the class of goods and the quantity.

16275. And the rough value?—It does not give any information about the value.

16276. As regards a ship coming into Sligo, will it tell you everything that was on board that ship in the way of cargo, and what kind of commodities the cargo was composed of?—Its manifest should but the manifest itself is often an imperfect document.

16277. Owing to the late shipments?—Yes, the shipping comes late on, it is not usually that things are not entered, but exact entries of the weight are not given, and on that account we have to ask the shipping companies to supplement as far as possible the information which they themselves know is defective, which increases greatly the difficulty of the work.

16278. Had you to go beyond the shipping agents?—When once you got the manifest that gave you all the information you wanted except the value, save that the information was often very imperfect.

16279. The description of the cargo would be something very loose, would it be "woollen goods," whereas it might be manufactured clothes?—Yes, the entries on the manifest are made for rate purposes, that is the dominating factor, and consequently the differentiation is very imperfect.

16280. And perhaps inaccurate if they wanted to get at a lower rate?—Certainly.

16281. How do you fill up the question of value?—On page 15 I said something on the way in which we went to work.

16282. Would you get any information from the Customs where the articles are not liable to duty?—What I was referring to there was the statement of trade issued by the Customs.

16283. At what intervals?—There is a monthly statement of trade.

16284. You don't mean, in some large ports the daily statements?—No, I refer to the monthly statement of trade or the annual statement of trade, in these you find a very considerable amount of differentiation, and you also find the value and the weight entered, but great care has to be taken in dealing with these figures for the simple reason that one kind of goods may be imported generally into the United Kingdom and a special class may be imported into Ireland.

16285. What would be an instance of that?—One instance sometimes that there is more tea of a high quality imported into Ireland than there is into England.

16286. You could not test that, the duty is the same for good tea as for bad tea?—Yes, we don't enter the duty. I remember a case of yarn being brought into Ireland, and we found we could not use the Customs's figures, because we knew the yarn that came into Ireland were of a different character to those imported into England and Scotland.

16287. Are you speaking about the investigation in reference to the yarn brought into Donegal, where shoddy power-loom yarn was introduced for conversion into the home-made Donegal?—No, we know the ports where yarn is coming into Ireland, it may be returned to us simply as yarn, and we find out what kind of yarn that was, by further inquiry at the port. Then we would ask whether it was similar to the yarn being employed in other places, and they might tell you it was very fine or high-priced yarn, give you the values which would show you that the general values for the United Kingdom was not a safe one to take in that case. One did not blindly follow the general values.

16288. There were some ports that refused to give you information?—Yes.

16289. Don't you think that was a very short-sighted and foolish thing to do?—I certainly think so.

16290. To what do you attribute such reticence to give information?—They refused to give us any information at all.

16291. What do you think would be their motive for refusing?—I can only think disclosure of trade.

16292. Might it not be an unwillingness to give very small returns and run down their port in the general estimation?—Yes, that is what I mean by disclosure of trade. They did not wish their trade to be known.

16293. Did not wish it to be known the port did such a small trade?—Or possibly did a big one; if there is a big trade into a port they think it may draw the attention of another port or of a competing company in another port, and that the trade might be diverted to the other port.

16294. (Mr. O'Sullivan).—You don't give the names of the ports except in the case of Belfast, Cork, and Dublin, did you offer to regard the information as confidential?—Yes.

16295. (Mr. Mills).—You do in the notes to a great many places mention that this particular article is almost altogether received in a certain port?—Yes, but we are extremely careful in the cases we instance.

16296. What you mean about confidence was that you would not dream of disclosing the returns as regards any shipping firm or company?—Yes.

16297. You would not consider yourself bound by any confidence as regards the general trade of the port?—It would depend on the size of the port; in some cases it is almost impossible to keep the two apart.

16298. Because there are so few traders in some ports?—Yes.

16299. Turning to your figures on page 94 I noticed what struck me as odd, that in the article of sponges there are both imports and exports; at No. 71 you have a total of 37,322 lbs. of sponges received in Ireland, and at page 95 you have 13,382 lbs. of sponges exported; it struck me as strange?—We include, as stated in the text, re-exports and re-imports; it may happen in this way, there may be a consignment of stuff sent over, which are sent back as not wanted,

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16400. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Or it may be a wholesale dealer in Ireland who supplies retail dealers in Great Britain?—Yes.

16401. (Mr. McKee).—Would you say these sponges did arrive direct from abroad?—I cannot say without looking it up.

16402. That would be possible?—It would be possible, but I should say it is more than likely they came via Great Britain.

16403. And they go back again, that is the odd thing?—Yes.

16404. There is another article struck me, tea, page 22: then we imported £3,079,000, that is over thirty million lbs. of tea, and we exported 223,456 lbs.—It

would include all quantities returned. Possibly also there is the certain amount of business carried on from Ireland across to the other side; there may be a certain amount of distribution of business done through Belfast.

16405. There are a number of people, perhaps, who do buy their tea in Ireland?—Yes. That is a feature that is going on constantly, re-exporting and re-importing.

16406. In a future return would there be any possibility of having another column for imports, exports, and re-exports?—I should say not with the present machinery; the only way we could do so would be if the importers and exporters themselves would supply the information.

The Committee adjourned

FORTY-SEVENTH PUBLIC SITTING—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, 1906.

At 35, Great George street, Westminster, London.

Present:—

Sir KENNEL DIGBY, K.C., Q.C. (Chairman).

Mr. FRANCIS GRANT OGBLIVIE, C.B.

Mr. WILLIAM LAWSON MICKS.

Mr. STEPHEN J. BROWN, J.P.

Mr. JOHN J. TAYLOR, C.B., Secretary.

Professor J. B. CAMPBELL further examined.

16409. (Chairman).—I believe you wish to call attention to one or two matters that were raised in Mr. Duran's evidence the other day?—It was rather that I wished to hand in amended figures in connection with the work of the Congested Districts. On the last occasion I was called upon rather suddenly to make a statement with regard to the work of the Congested Districts. At the moment we were busily engaged collecting data for the Royal Commission on Congestion, and the figures I gave were made up on the spot. I wish to hand in new figures which are quite accurate and up-to-date. (Appendix XIX.) I do not wish to go into these figures again, but I might be allowed to show by diagrams the extent to which these schemes have been taken advantage of. That would be the quickest way, and perhaps it would be clearer. Well, now, first of all, I wish to remind you that the Department has, so to speak, allowed the County Committees full play in the Congested Districts. In the first year or two they did not supplement these schemes to any great extent, though they found it was necessary to supplement them to some extent, because they wished to give the County Committees a free hand. It has now become apparent that for a time at least it will be necessary to supplement these schemes until the poorer parts come to understand the procedure.

16408. You agree in the view that to that extent the Congested Districts do require at present a certain amount of special treatment?—I must say we find that when our local inspector explains to the people the schemes, they soon see the advantage of them. This (handing in a diagram) I have prepared from the figures. The figures I showed before related to the whole of Ireland. These now deal only with the seven Congested Counties. I omit the County of Cork and the County of Glaze, the former because the non-congested portion of the country is so large that it rather obscures the picture. The black in the diagram represents the amount of money that has been spent by the County Committees, and the red the amount spent by the Department in supplementary schemes. I want to call attention especially to this, because it has been intimated that the County Committees are not the proper bodies to deal with the work. I feel quite sure that given a little time you will find the County Committees will very soon absorb all the work, although there may be difficulties in the outlying districts, as in the case of Belmullet. I want to state that the Department have been urging the County Committees to form local Committees for working these schemes, and that the Council of Agriculture have urged the Committees to do so by resolution.

16406. Have you a reference to the resolution?—I have not.

16410. (Mr. Brown).—It was in November of last year or the May preceding. I remember it perfectly well. I think it was in May?—Belmullet was taken as an illustration, but it has its special Committee, formed at the instigation of the County Committee, and, no doubt, as the result of that resolution.

16411. (Chairman).—For dealing with Belmullet?—Yes. Of course, if the other outlying districts in the Congested Districts had Committees, there is no doubt they would be able to do a great deal more with the scheme that now exists. It is the wish of the Department that these Committees should be formed. It is

obviously necessary to get local Committees to see that people in the district are taking advantage of the schemes, as you cannot expect members of the County Committee to attend to the local details. As it has been urged that County Committees are not competent to do the work, I submit this diagram to prove conclusively that, given a little time, these Committees will be able to absorb all the work, although I must say that for a time at least, it will be quite necessary to have supplementary schemes for the Congested Districts. (Appendix No. XIX.)

16412. Just explain the diagram, so that it will be intelligible in the notes?—The diagram shows that in the first year, 1900, County Committees only spent £3,826. In 1905-6 the amount had increased to £12,704, and the estimate for the current year is £17,030. Assuming that the same rate of progress will be maintained as has been maintained in the past, I expect that in a year or two the Committees will spend every penny that can be spared for their work.

16413. The £17,030 was spent last year on what?—On the schemes in the seven Congested Counties. Of course the supplementary schemes only began in 1904-5 and, at the outset, as you will observe, very few animals were placed out. Eight bulls were placed out in the first year. The black in the diagram relating to these matters indicates the amount of money, as I said before, actually spent by the County Committees, the red the amount spent on the supplementary schemes of the Department.

16414. (Mr. Brown).—These supplementary schemes are wholly in the congested area?—I will come to that. There was a question as to whether some of this money was not spent outside the scheduled district. I will deal with this briefly. Take the bull scheme. That (handing in diagram) shows the progress that has been made by the seven Congested Counties.

16415. (Chairman).—Since the transfer?—Oh, no, the transfer began in 1904. The black in the diagram illustrates the number of bulls placed out by the County Committees, the red represents the number bought by the Department and placed independently of the County Committees, and the blue represents the number of bulls placed by the Committee in congested districts. The County Committee's operations extend to non-congested and Congested Districts and the diagram shows the extent. The blue and the red together represent what the Congested Districts have as all.

16416. (Mr. Ogbelivie).—The blue represents the bulls actually in Congested Districts?—Placed there by the Committee. The question is raised whether bulls on the border should or should not be included. You will find that there is quite a number placed in the electoral divisions adjoining the Congested District, but these are, so far as we are concerned, just as poor as the adjoining scheduled electoral divisions, and, as a matter of fact, our inspector has instructions that he need not be too particular to be within the border, because since Mr. Wyndham's Minute of 1903, the barriers have been broken down so far as we are concerned. Our only concern is to see that a fair proportion of these animals are reserved for the very poor districts.

16417. (Chairman).—But still you have regard to the scheduled district, technically called congested? You do not place these red bulls, as I will call them,

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in poor districts in other counties where there are no congested areas.—We have placed a few in the Glens of Antrim and Rathlin Island, but we have concentrated our work on the poorer parts of the West. I wish it to be clearly understood that the red bulls are placed independently of the County Committees.

15412. I think we understand that.—While some of them may be on the border, they are, so far as our inspector knows, in Congested Districts. I may say that I took the trouble to compare my own map, which was prepared some time ago, with the map we examined the other day. You will find that of the bulls that are said to be outside, most of them, in fact nearly all, are placed in the adjoining electoral division, and it just altogether depends on whether you put your dot at the far side of the electoral division or not, whether it looks to be outside or not. So far as poverty is concerned, our inspector cannot distinguish between the electoral divisions, painted blue, and the others.

15413. Your inspectors are not to have regard to the actual scheduled district, but to the character of the people?—So far as we are concerned the borders have been broken down, but the animals are nearly all in the scheduled areas. If there are any outside the adjoining electoral divisions, they are equally available for the congested and non-congested district. Now I would just briefly run through the schemes.

15420. (Mr. Micks).—Are you quite sure about that last statement of yours? Do you mean in all cases, or the majority?—So far as I know and can see from the map.

15421. I see one at Loughgryn in Leitrim?—I would require to look at the map. I have here a list of the names and addresses of every person, and I have only it, with the electoral divisions, to go by. If I had known the question would arise I would have asked Mr. Gallagher, whose duty it is to place the animals in the Congested Districts, to attend. He informs me that they are in the Congested Districts. He is not instructed to make any distinction. The fact is he has often a difficulty, perhaps, in getting a bull taken, and if he gets one taken a mile or two on the other side of the border, he considers it is in the congested area. It may not be a Congested District technically, but practically it is. I think I am right in saying that there are a few exceptions where animals have been placed so that they have not been available to people in scheduled Congested Districts. In the Leitrim case you mentioned I will look into the matter.

15422. (Mr. Micks).—It is hard to judge on the map?—Yes.

15423. (Mr. O'Byrne).—The point we want to put is, we wish to be assured that in placing your bulls your inspectors consider that the bull should be directly available for the specially poor classes of people for whose assistance the Congested Districts arrangements are intended?—Most decidedly.

15424. And that where bulls are outside the actual area they are still not merely available for cows within that area, but are also available for cows belonging to people who are of corresponding station?—Exactly.

15425. And of corresponding necessity?—Yes. There are cases where the animal is technically outside the border because of the difficulty of locating it inside. I showed you the premiums for bulls, and incidentally I might call attention to the fact that we really find no difficulty whatever in getting people to take up these bulls. You will see the great increase that is going on. It is an argument against the statement that the animals are not suitable. I maintain that the animals are suitable, and that the local committee should have time to develop their schemes.

15426. (Chairman).—It is an argument against proceeding on the average on two years.

The Witness (holding a diagram).—This deals with the bear scheme. At first this was not a great success. We found it was necessary to offer better inducements. Now, however, it is going satisfactorily. You will see the falling off in the early years was equally marked in the rest of Ireland as well as in the Congested Districts.

15427. (Mr. Neave).—There was great difficulty at that period in getting bears?—Yes. At that time there was no competition for the animals. The present the Department scheme was created the whole

country took it up, and the competition became very severe. Co-shred counties like Down and Waterford came in and took up these animals, and only now we erected our own buildings at Athlone, in which we can keep a number of the animals, and keep time for the poorer people, have they been able to get a share. Subsidies to mares show a large increase. In the turkey stations there is also an increase, and the number of egg stations shows an increase.

15428. (Mr. O'Byrne).—With reference to the egg stations, have you any evidence or information as to how far there is any real improvement following upon the establishment of these?—The best evidence I have got is from one or two egg merchants and dealers in the West of Ireland. I have seen letters from them stating that there has been a great improvement, and they speak of the work in very favourable terms.

15429. In what respect?—In the general condition in which the eggs are sent in, and in the quality of the eggs. I am not sure that the letters mentioned anything about the quantity.

15430. Does that improvement have any influence on the price which is secured?—Well, I am not able to answer that question. It is very difficult indeed to get at that, because prices go up and down. One year the price may be a little dearer at one season than at another. I myself feel sure you must have experience before you can deal with that. Given experience, I think the machinery of the Department is quite sufficient to enable us to ensure that if persons do produce better eggs, they will get a better price. With experience you can do it.

15431. Do you mean that the machinery of the Department should aim at securing co-operation or organisation?—The Department has two aims. We have first of all to try to improve local produce. That, I maintain, we have done. It is not now something new was done for organisation. Personally I would like to see it done through the agency of the Organisation Society, and in time, I believe, that if the funds given to the Organisation Society were sufficient, we should be able to get the organisations that is necessary to secure better prices for the eggs. One noticeable improvement in the fields of the creation, as was stated the other day, is the reduction in disease. In the first years of the Department a number of complaints that came in of outbreaks of other similar forms of disease, and of tuberculosis, was enormous. Now that has considerably diminished, and it is due to the fact that in most parts of the country there has been an infusion of fresh blood into the constitution of the birds, which has very much improved them. I do not know whether you have seen the new statistics of the Department, but considering the fact that over two million worth of eggs were exported and something like 3,000,000 lbs. of butter, and considering the enormous importance of the poultry industry to Ireland, I think that, while admitting that, at first sight, the expenditure on the improvement of poultry is somewhat considerable, it is not so very great when one takes into account the great importance of the industry to the country. The statistics are for 1904; there are none available for 1905. I only draw attention to the fact that the industry is so enormously important that the expenditure on its improvement is, although some people think it excessive, amply justified, and there is room for a very considerable improvement yet. That is evident from the fact that we have 18,000,000 fowl in the country and 18 fowl produce forty shillings a little more than two shillings each. There is nothing whatever to prevent that figure being doubled.

15432. (Mr. Neave).—That does not include export; it is only eggs?—It is only eggs; it does not include fowl exported. With regard to the same that have been located, here is a diagram showing the operations of the Department. We have added to it some particulars by the Congested Districts Board because there is a very great demand for them, notwithstanding the fact that it is stated they are not suitable. We find there is a great demand, and our inspector, Mr. Gallagher, is continually asking us if we cannot get more, because the people want them. We are trying to breed them at home. I think you saw in a statement I sent in that we had got a number of mares. We are breeding them, but we do not feel the people in the West will take a half-bred Jack, and in this country from a Spanish Jack and an Irish mare. The people do not want them, they much prefer

the Spanish Jacks. That is our experience. I believe it is quite possible to breed in Ireland a large number of these animals, that would do a great deal of good. As I have said we have bought a number of Irish mares, and this year, I think, we shall be able to send out the first produce of our own breeding. With regard to rams, there was very little done at first. None were sold the first year. The second year a few were sold. Great difficulties have been encountered in regard to sheep wash, but now that the County Councils are taking up the matter of compulsory dipping, we are going ahead. This (handing in a diagram) shows the number of rams actually cut at service this season.

16433. (Mr. Micks).—What is the number?—Ninety-four.

16434. (Mr. Ogilvie).—In the matter of sheep dipping, do you find the County Councils are taking active measures?—They are. Twenty-five County Councils have adopted regulations that come into force between June and August. There are four—Leitrim, Sligo, Monaghan, and Clare—with whom the Department are still in negotiation regarding their sheep-wash operations, but the others have taken the matter in hand. As to the stallions located, they are represented in the diagram which I hand in. We have not purchased many, only one or two. We have not gone to any great expenditure on this scheme; it is the one scheme that is somewhat unsatisfactory. I have found it impossible to procure, at any rate, really to satisfy people with regard to stallions. What they want is a big animal, that would produce a big foal to be sold in autumn. That is a disadvantage of the genus of the West. The Department have laid it down that we may now give pretty much any stallion the people want except very heavy bones and bad backs. That is our principle. When the matter was brought before us as to the expenditure of the money on stallions it was decided that we might allow local people to select their own animals, so that in future it might be possible by so obtaining the opinion of the local committees to serve them better in the matter of stallions than we have been able to do in the past.

16435. (Chairman).—You are speaking generally of the congested districts?—Entirely of the congested districts. I do not refer to the stallions of the general horse-breeding scheme, but to special animals, for the most part taken over from the Congested Districts Board. We took over several, but we sold some that were sound and others that were not wanted. This year we sold two or three.

16436. (Mr. Brown).—Were your stallions of pure blood?—Yes. To get a cheap animal for £20 or £30 would be utterly out of the question. Farmers in the West for the last fifteen years have been accustomed to having the finest class of stallion of the type brought to them, and I can assure you you would find it quite impossible to get them to take anything else but the very best that can be got.

16437. (Mr. Ogilvie).—What would you like to pay for the stallions you desire?—About £100. We bought one last year for £80.

16438. (Mr. Brown).—Was that a half-bred?—Yes. Norwegian ponies were brought over by the Congested Board, and one would have thought they would suit, but the people would not have them at all. Having shown you by these diagrams the extent of the work, I just wish again to say that at once a great deal more money is required in order that these Congested Districts may be brought up to the level of other parts of the country. The Department can only deal with the funds at their disposal. I think that I may just be allowed to refer once more to Mr. Wyndham's minute and point out that it distinctly stated that the Congested Districts would have to forgo a large measure of their rights to preferential treatment. Of course they have had to do so, because the money that was handed over was too small to enable them to do otherwise.

16439. (Mr. Micks).—It is admitted they got preferential treatment?—It is admitted that formerly they got £11,000, and that we have now only £2,000, except what we take from non-congested counties.

16440. (Chairman).—Except under the scheme of the Act intended for non-congested districts?—Yes. You cannot expect to do, for £2,000 what you did for £11,000. More money is required. The estimate for the current year is—special schemes, £3,700; County Committees, £3,100; contributions from rates,

£1,800; total, £10,700. Out of that £2,000 comes from the Congested Districts Board.

16441. The amount of estimate to come out of the Joint Fund would be £2,700 for the current year?—Yes. For 1905-6 the expenditure was £2,125, and the total, £3,125. I take these figures from the actual expenditure.

16442. (Mr. Micks).—Have you any reason to believe you will spend less than you have estimated for the current year?—Each year we have been going up, as I have shown you.

16443. (Mr. Micks).—What has been your practice in previous years as regards comparing expenditure with estimates?—In what way?

16444. How much money have you estimated for County Committee and how much have you spent?—Our practice has been to take all the schemes and ask the County Committees what they propose to adopt. They have adopted the schemes which they saw their way to put into operation.

16445. There is a material difference between estimate and actual expenditure?—At first there was a very great difference.

16446. (Chairman).—It will be better to let us have figures on these points?—We can easily do that.

16447. (Mr. Micks) (consulting a return).—There is a difference in 1903 of nearly £4,000 between estimated and actual expenditure.

16448. (Mr. Ogilvie).—That is a total for several years, including the early years?—I do not at the moment know how much was estimated in 1901. I am not quite sure.

16449. (Mr. Micks) (consulting the documents from which he quoted).—I do not understand this return. I do not think it is our return. I do not remember the figures.

16450. I think it was handed in by Mr. Doonan?—I will give you the exact allocation for the current year, and for last year.

16451. Give us the amount estimated, and the amount spent?—Very well. In the early years, I may say, we did not have enough clerks to keep accurate figures.

16452. I mean from 1904-5 as regards the seven counties?—Yes.

16453. Can you appertain the expenditure of congested and non-congested districts?—I am not sure I can. You see it is extremely difficult.

16454. You are giving these figures and you must have the details?—We have the totals.

16455. You cannot have the totals till you have the items?—Oh, yes, we can. You cannot divide the salary of a poultry instructor into items.

16456. Do you appertain according to valuation?—Yes, that is the only way you can do it. The point we are now considering is that last year £12,000 was spent. This year it is estimated £17,000 may be spent, at least it has been mentioned. The question is, will that suit you? My answer is, I do not expect it will. Douglas does not have an itinerant instructor, for which £250 is set aside, but the expenditure for this year will be very much nearer £17,000 than last year, because Kerry, Galway, Mayo, and Leitrim have itinerant instructors this year. I can also state that last year while £12,000 was spent the estimate was very nearly the same as this year. I believe this year the £17,000 will be very nearly all spent.

16457. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Just one moment. As you will not be present when we get the figures, will you tell us whether the estimate is an amount which you set aside for the operation of the County schemes, or the amount which they themselves set down and which you are bound to hold in readiness to meet their liabilities?—The estimate is the estimate made by the County Committee themselves. They sit down once a year and say, "We want so much for poultry, so much for bulls, etc., and they send that up to the Department. They say to us, "This is our estimate for the year. This is the amount we want to try and spend." If there is anything seriously wrong the Department may write and object, and say they cannot allow the Committee to set aside such a large sum. That has often been the case. But when we have arrived at a settlement we have been approved for the year, and that we will give the Committee thirty shillings for every pound they spend. £17,000 was the amount that was mentioned last year in that way. Whether the sum is expended or not depends on the action of

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the County Committees. All the thirty-two Counties also being at work, there is a great demand for animals and the supply is limited. Every year the Committees get nearer to maximum expenditure and we are now faced with the question of curtailing expenditure.

16457. (Mr. Micks).—Donegal has estimated for an itinerant inspector?—It has every year. Galway and Kerry did the same. It was pointed out they did not spend this money. The number of inspectors has been somewhat limited. It might be said it would be much better if the Department concentrated all its efforts on one or two special areas, in which case you, gentlemen, might come down and see what a great improvement had taken place in these areas. But the answer to that suggestion is obvious. If there was no raising question the Department might do it and it might be a very good thing to do. But the country is uniformly rich and the money has to be distributed uniformly. You cannot therefore see results as obviously, but they are there.

16458. What is the principle of distribution?—Valuation, but in regard to that it must be borne in mind that the unit is the rural district.

16459. (Mr. Brown).—Might I interrupt a moment. That principle is not laid down by the Department, but selected by the County Committees?—Yes. It is really very simple. Suppose the county is divided into four rural districts, and that there are sixty bulls available for distribution. The allocation is made to correspond with the valuation of the rural districts. The Committee might concentrate them all into one corner, or they might distribute them all over the rural districts. The basis of division is the census of live stock, and the valuation. So far as live stock schemes are concerned, division is based on the number of live stock and valuation.

16460. (Mr. Micks).—Have you any figures to show the distribution of expenditure according to rural districts in Mayo?—No. The Department themselves have taken no cognizance of division by rural districts. That is left to the County Committees. We have nothing on our books to show it.

16461. Would you not think it wise to have a return of the amount spent on each rural district?—Yes, most would it be wise to see that the County Committees are doing their duty?

16462. I mean, would not it be wise to satisfy yourself what is the expenditure on any given rural district. In Belmullet you have a unit of the poorest possible kind?—It is a very poor place.

16463. The valuation there is so low that a penny in the pound only means £45 a year. You have a very poor unit. In Ballinrobe you have a comparatively rich unit. Would it not be wise and prudent administration to ascertain how much in the distribution by the County Committee goes to the very poor unit of Belmullet which has a very poor population, and how much goes to the relatively wealthy unit which has not so many poor people in it?—My answer is if the County Council and the County Committee are satisfied it would be unworkable for the Department to interfere.

16464. Looking at the question of interference that is right enough, but as a question of being in a position to know how far special aid ought to go would it not be necessary to know the relative expenditure?—We have not that on our books. The whole question is gone into by the County Committee when they are making the allocations.

16465. Could you or Mr. Gordon tell me, as a matter of fact, anything of the ratio of expenditure in Mayo as between Belmullet and Ballinrobe?—Mr. Gallagher could tell you. It is he who has charge of that particular county. Mr. Gordon cannot give it.

16466. Can you give even a general idea on the subject?—Well, in Belmullet from the very fact that they have appointed a special local Committee to deal with it we may rest satisfied that they will see they are getting a fair share. I cannot say they are getting more than their fair share.

16467. (Mr. Brown).—I think they share according to valuation?—The County Committee see to that, but if Ballinrobe or any other district is of a higher valuation of course the representative of that district will say, "This money has been raised by this rural district, and it must come back to it. Belmullet

may be poor, but our people have contributed this, and they are entitled to it.

16468. (Mr. Micks).—Might not the electoral division who know how much the rural districts receive say, with equal justice, that the distribution should be in accordance with the valuation of the electoral division?—Inside the rural district.

16469. Yes?—Well, the local representative is on the distribution inside the rural district. At least it is their duty to do so.

16470. You know the work of the county?—We have one inspector, Mr. Gallagher, for that work, and he is not idle.

16471. I do not see how one man could cover the work for the province of Connaught?—He does not as a matter of fact. We do the best we can. If I was to ask him to take the further duty of seeing not only that the inspectors are doing their duty, but also seeing that the representatives of the County are doing their duty, I do not—

16472. It seems to me unnecessary to put it in that way on the inspector?—I wish to say this, that it is the duty of the local representatives to see that the money is properly divided amongst themselves.

16473. And is it not the duty of the Department to see, as general administrators, that the partners in the transaction are behaving correctly?—Yes, but we have no evidence before us that they have not done so. Belmullet has not written up to say that Ballinrobe is getting more than its share.

16474. But a very poor district can raise so little?—Yes; we must make up by supplementary schemes.

16475. (Chairman).—It would seem, of course, that a good deal more ought to be done for a place like to raise a little money itself?—With the general principle I agree, and that is the whole object of the supplementary schemes. I only hope we may get more money in order to do it effectively.

16476. (Mr. Brown).—This distribution of money you have been referring to relates chiefly to live stock schemes, not to agricultural instruction, and that sort of thing?—There again different districts and in their schemes, and we cannot well interfere.

16477. But that is not done in any sense according to valuation?—Oh, no. It mostly applies to bulls and horses.

16478. What you have been saying applies to bulls, horses, and so forth?—Yes.

16479. (Chairman).—That is the inspector, independent of any returns, can form his own judgment as to whether a bull or a horse and so forth is required in a particular district, according to the needs of the district?—Yes.

16480. (Mr. Brown).—And not according to the amount of money that is going into it?—Quite so. Mr. Gallagher knows the district very well. He knows every bit of it, and has to go through it and inspect the work of all the instructors and allocate the animals. I do not know that there is any other point on which I need dwell. I have only one other question on which I am bound to say a few words. That has reference to the management of the Dairy School at Cork and the Munster Institution. In my evidence, when I came before you, I dwell at some length on the manner by which the School is employed for the training of teachers, and on the fact that the Department had greatly enlarged it, and that it was, in my opinion, now proving of great service to us mainly in connection with the training of teachers for dairying and poultry-keeping, for the various counties in Ireland.

16481. (Chairman).—All over Ireland?—Yes. Now, with regard to the statements made before you I just wish to call attention to the scheme of the Boly known as the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute. I think you have copies before you. I want to make it quite clear that there are two institutions mentioned in this scheme, and you will find them referred to at the bottom of page 3 under the heading of "Preliminary." It says, "The Government shall mean the Governing Body of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute." A great many people naturally think that that institute is the Munster Agricultural and Dairy School which you will see mentioned in the very next paragraph. It is so extremely distinct institution. If you look at page 2, at the top, you will see "Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute." That is a Corporate Body

which was formed under this scheme and that body may carry on a very large number of operations which are detailed in Section 14. They may maintain one or more agricultural and dairy schools in the Province of Munster. They may purchase or rent pasture or tillage land for the purposes of the schools; and in providing a sufficient teaching staff in the various branches of agricultural education; provide the necessary staff for the working of the School; for the training of the pupils; carry out experiments; establish an agricultural laboratory, library, and museum; appoint and pay travelling instructors; provide prizes, scholarships, and bursaries for students or pupils; promote the welfare and efficiency of cotton and agricultural labourers; provide or aid in providing further instruction and training of teachers of National schools; and to defray the other expenses incurred in carrying out the purposes of the scheme.

15482. They apparently have very complete powers in establishing a place or places for agricultural instruction both for males and females?—Yes. Provided it is shown that any expenditure by the Government upon the present School—that is the School known as the Munster Agricultural and Dairy School—shall be made in accordance with agreements for the time being between the Government and the Commissioners of National Education. Well, now, I have made it clear there are two separate and distinct institutions—the corporate body which is provided for in this scheme may aid in the management of the existing school and that they did until a few years ago. If you will read Section 13. It is a very important one. "The Governors—that is the corporate body—not the Governors of the existing School, but the Governors of the fund created by this scheme. "The Governors may, by agreement with the Commissioners of National Education, undertake or aid in the management of the present School under such conditions, rules, and regulations, upon such terms, and in such manner as the said Commissioners and the Governors may from time to time agree upon. Unless and until the said Commissioners and the Governors shall otherwise agree, the present School shall be maintained and managed under the same conditions, rules, and regulations, upon the same terms, and in the same manner as if this scheme had not passed. With the concurrence of the said Commissioners, and subject to the terms of any agreement between the said Commissioners and the Governors, the Governors may exercise, with respect to the present School, the same powers, which are hereby conferred upon them, with respect to the future schools, but without such concurrence the powers aforesaid shall not extend to the present School." I want to make it quite clear to the minds of the Committee that there are two institutions. The names are rather confusing, and have in fact misled a great number of people who imagine that the present Governing Body are Governors of the existing School. They are Governors of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute, but the present School is known as the Munster Agricultural and Dairy School. The names are very similar.

15483. Do you understand that the existing School is not the same or no part of the institution with which this scheme deals. You have acted on that view?—Certainly.

15484. I should like to get the practice. We will discuss the legal question afterwards?—The present School is the School which was used for all Ireland before the Department was created. It was resorted to by pupils all over Ireland, and we have changed it now into a training school—at least we have enlarged it, and equipped it in order that it may serve as a training school. It still remains as before. The Governors of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute have, in my view, a right to aid in its management, and of course the Department are very willing that they should do so. They have invited their co-operation in an advisory capacity, but as you are aware, they refused that. They have resigned.

15485. Whatever legal effect the resignation has we cannot now discuss?—Yes. They are still Governors of the Munster Institute, but they have ceased to aid in the management of this particular School although the Department are ready at any time they choose to accept their assistance and advice in its management.

15486. (Mr. Brown).—Was any agreement ever come to between the Governors and the Commissioners before the transfer to the Department. Was there ever any agreement between the Governors and the Commissioners of National Education?—Oh, yes, but I cannot lay my hands on it. I have seen it. I think you could get it from the Commissioners of National Education. Their duties were clearly defined. They could collect money and spend that money in prizes and in part payment of teachers. They could inspect the School and make recommendations to the Commissioners, and I think there was even a provision that there had to be a book in which they wrote their observations.

15487. I only wanted to know, as a matter of fact, whether such an agreement existed?—It was clearly laid down in, I think, about half a dozen regulations.

15488. It was not referred to in the evidence we received or in the correspondence that took place between the Department and the Governors?—No.

15489. It seems to me to be a very important document?—It is, but the Department never wanted to act up to the spirit of these regulations.

15490. There being a dispute as to the powers, one would have thought that document was very important?—That document can be had, I think.

15491. (Chairman).—Was there any reference made to it?—It is in the hands of the Commissioners of National Education. I dare say a copy could be got from them. It is a point that nothing has been made of for the simple reason that the Department did not want to act upon the strict letter of those regulations. As a matter of fact, the Commissioners did invite this body to aid in its management, and before the Department was created they were exercising a great deal more power in respect of the school than is laid down by these regulations. By the passing of the 1890 Act there was created an absolutely new set of conditions. Agricultural education was then at a very low ebb, and the Department was created specially to deal with it, but the funds were no longer given to the Department to do with them as they pleased. The fund formerly used for maintaining this school was put under the Agricultural Board so you see that in itself created a new situation. The Department have to make arrangements affecting the School with County Committees. Complications arose when the County Committees began to take an interest in the school and began to vote money giving scholarships to girls to attend the school. This is an extremely important point. It shows the difficulties that arose. I say that the County Committees began to take an interest in the school and to vote money for scholarships for girls. There was a great rush of applicants, and the Department had to deal with these County Committees in turn. The County Committees wanted to use the farm, and did use it as an agricultural station. Farmers brought bulls of Perth and sent them to and kept them for a time at the Institute farm. Then they began to want to buy beans bred there, and we sold them at reduced prices. I mention these facts to show you that the management of this school and farm by an outside body became then impossible. Mr. Gordon very often would have to say whether or not the County Committee could send the girls to the school, whether they could get horses or bullocks from the farm. On the arrangement contemplated by the Government, Mr. Gordon would have first to come to the Department, and the Department would have to ask the Governor to allow the County Committee to do so. It would be impossible for the Department to delegate their powers in the management of this school to a local Committee. It was obviously the duty of the Department to take that responsibility upon themselves to find the money and to be able to give the County Committee the use of the school or farm.

15492. I see your point, but it does not touch the legal difficulty. I do not propose to discuss that?—I have no difficulty with regard to the legal difficulties of the present school. It is laid down very clearly that it is to be managed as if the governors' scheme did not exist. I am talking now of the old school, and not of the future schools at all. I am talking of the existing school.

15493. I think we shall have to discuss this to some extent with Sir Horace Plunkett when he comes to be examined?—What I want to make clear is that the old administration would have been impossible under the circumstances I have mentioned. It was quite possible when there were no local authorities interested in the school and farm.

Nov. 21, 1906.

Professor J.
E. Campbell.

- Nov. 21, 1906.
Professor J. R. Campbell.
16494. What I want to get from you is the actual facts—the way in which you are managing and dealing with the present school?—Yes.
16495. (Mr. O'Grady).—The way you are dealing with the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute?—The best way to distinguish the schools is to talk of the Munster Institute—that is the corporate body—and to talk about the other place as the Model Farm.
16496. (Chairman).—The words in the Act are "Munster Institution." Is there any definition of Munster Institution?—Yes. The Munster Institution is the Corporate Body.
16497. Is it defined in the Act itself?—Yes. It is defined in the Act.
16498. In the 30th Section?—Yes.
16499. The Munster Institution is the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute?—Yes.
16500. What we are dealing with is the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute?—No. I am dealing with the Munster Agricultural and Dairy School—a totally different institution. The one is an institution in the City of Cork, and the other is—
16501. Are you dealing with that institution, whatever you may call it, to which the £10,000 is applied?—I am dealing with the existing school.
16502. Was the £10,000 applied to the existing school?—Yes, in extending it.
16503. (Mr. Mick).—And it was to that place it was to be applied?—Of course. Sir Francis Plunkett, who was connected with the passing of the Act, will be able to tell you what was the intention of Parliament. We have no longer the assistance of the Governors of the other institution, but, as I have already told you, we are ready at any time to have their assistance and co-operation.
16504. (Chairman).—As a matter of fact, it is being carried on as if it was an institution entirely regulated in the ordinary way by the County Council and the County Committees and the Department?—Quite so.
16505. (Mr. O'Grady).—What is being carried on in that way—name the place?—The Munster Agricultural and Dairy School, commonly known as the Model Farm.
16506. The Munster Agricultural and Dairy School is at present being carried on under the circumstances you have just described?—Yes. By the Department.
16507. That is the Munster Agricultural and Dairy School as defined in the scheme?—Yes.
16508. An organisation which existed before 1885?—Yes.
16509. That is before the date of this scheme?—Yes.
16510. What do you understand is meant by the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute? Where is it?—That is a Corporate Body, with certain powers given to it by this scheme. It has a capital sum of about £2,500. It may do a large number of things set forth in Clause 14. The County Committee of Cork delegate to it the administration of their farm prize scheme. It applies its own little income in giving prizes for cottages and farms, and the Department and the County Committee contribute to the funds to enable it to carry on that work extensively.
16511. (Chairman).—Where is it?—It has office at Cork.
16512. (Mr. O'Grady).—£10,000 have been spent for the purpose of purchasing and stocking additional land, and providing suitable buildings and places in connection therewith for the Munster Institution. Is it in connection with this Corporate body?—Up to the present the Department have spent nearly that sum upon the existing school, and we believe that it is being spent in the manner in which it was contemplated by the Act. Of course, there is no doubt about the use to which the money has been put. The only question is the legal point.
16513. (Chairman).—My own difficulty is entirely on the legal question?—My reply is that if the School is doing the work for which the money was intended those legal difficulties ought not to stand in the way. I do not think I have anything further to add unless the Committee bring up any points I have left untouched.
16514. (Mr. Mick).—I was asking before about the Athlone farm. Why was the large tract of moorland at the back of the farm not retained for the purposes of instruction and recreation?—I have dealt with that before. It is on the notes.
16515. As regards winter dairying. Did you tell us what was being done under that head?—Well, of course, we do all we can to encourage it through our instructions. It is their business to advance winter dairying as far as they can. We have also had discussions on this subject both at the Council and Board, and quite recently a scheme has been started in County Cork.
16516. At Roshestown?—I am not quite sure. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross, who is a member of the Cork Committee, as well as a member of the Board, has undertaken to try the scheme in that county.
16517. Is that in the South of Cork?—All over Cork. They have set aside £800 to try and encourage winter dairying.
16518. Is that a prize scheme?—It is mainly. To get the very substantial prize farmers have to show that they have among other things taken up winter dairying.
16519. It applies to both divisions of Cork?—It does.
16520. There was another scheme at Glenside, in Kilkenny?—I think that scheme never was formally before us. There were some negotiations, but that was all.
16521. With the exception of those two places, Roshestown and Glenside, has the matter been considered in any way?—We have considered it very often with the question of increased tillage. These two questions we have debated again and again, and it is extremely difficult to know how to proceed. Among other things suggested is that surprise butter competitions should be held in winter so as to encourage the production of butter, and that we are to do. If we do not have them all in winter, we will have a number of them in winter. Then we are having a conference of creamery managers. We are to get them together in order to see if they can bid us in any way, in their own districts to act as agents for the encouragement of winter dairying. This is a very old idea, before the Department, and before the Congested Districts Board started, but nothing so far has been done. It is extremely difficult to devise a system—to apply the funds directly—unless you accept the principle of a bonus at once.
16522. Authoritative opinions have been given that any hope of our competing successfully with Denmark in the butter trade turns on the question of whether winter dairying can be introduced in the country. It is therefore of most vital importance?—Yes, and it is a question, which the Department have considered again and again.
16523. So far they have not been able to take any action at all, on a large scale?—Other than trying the work through agricultural instructors, and in the case of County Cork by actually trying a definite scheme. I myself have had in my mind a plan of getting a few creameries already at work to keep their accounts very carefully and to show by these accounts, if they can, that winter dairying is profitable. Farmers will not produce milk in winter unless it is profitable. If we could get farmers who are really making a success of it to publish accounts, and so encourage others to take it up, that might be helpful, but when you have done all those things and tried to persuade them by literature, by lectures, and so on, there is no doubt the only other step you can take is by giving a direct bonus.
16524. In what way do you think it would be possible to give a bonus, or have you not thought it out?—I really have a difficulty in the matter. The giving of a bonus to any industry is not an arrangement the Department generally approve of, and I do not know that the Agricultural Board would like the principle. Although I have discussed it with them individually, it has never been brought before them in a concrete form. We always hoped that some other means would be devised of getting winter dairying encouraged without resorting to the giving of a bonus.
16525. Anything in the form of a guarantee might be a bonus?—It would. You must have tillage to winter feeding.
16526. Is that part of the scheme?—Yes. You must have tillage in order to produce winter food.
16527. There is a question as to a horse sold by Mr. F. Rogers, of Bistoath, for £200. It was alleged it had been purchased by the Department for £250, and sold for £400. Is that accurate?—I have no doubt it is. We purchase a great number of horses, and these horses are bought for poor men. Mr. Pat Rogers is a good judge of a horse. He is

a horse-dealer himself, and he moreover came and had the pick of the stable. Of course he is able to pay, and we did get a substantial sum upon the horse. I was able to take it off the price of horses sold to the poorer people, and I think the transaction was perfectly justifiable.

16538. (Chairman).—You got what you could. Yes. It is not often the Department make money on horses.

16539. You were dealing with a gentleman of very great experience?—Yes. But you may take it from me that we do not make profit on horses. We lose. As a matter of fact this gentleman ought not to be supplied with horses at the Department stables. The horses are bought for people who are not accustomed to travel to find these animals.

16540. (Mr. Miles).—What functions have been assigned to the Beiswilt Committee under the County Committee?—Their function is merely to see that the schemes are put into operation in the district, and that the money allocated to them by the County Committee is fully availed of.

16541. How far can the local Committee act under the County Committee. Do you recognise them at all directly. You go to the County Committee?—Yes, we deal with the County Committee, and it allocates the funds in its own way, but the Beiswilt Committee can see that that money is well spent there, and also that they get their share of instruction—egg-stations, and so on.

16542. Are there any cash payments by the Beiswilt Committee, or is it simply and advisory committee?—It is simply a local committee to see that the scheme put into operation is fully availed of. The Department are very anxious to see these Committees everywhere—local or parish Committees, interesting themselves and seeing that as much as possible of the advantages of the work come to their own parish. Until you got that it will not be successful even if we had extra inspectors. I remember many years ago when I was an instructor in agriculture—we started by mapping out the county in this particular way. We got nearly everybody in the district on the Committee, and the result was that we

had every farmer in the county attending. I am perhaps exaggerating a little when I say everybody in the district, but our system worked very well, and I am quite sure there is no better way to do it than by having local Committees and nominating as many as possible to act on them.

16543. Have you observed any tendency on the part of the local Committees to get sums of money placed at their disposal?—No.

16544. Would a small sum be voted to a certain definite object, and the expenditure entrusted to the local committee?—Demeal is the exception to the rule. Excepting it, there has been no such demand.

16545. They have asked, but the request was not acceded to?—They have asked to allow some of the money spent by the County Committee on farm prices to be administered through the Parish Committee. That is the exception. I cannot recall another instance.

16546. I was thinking of Committees such as there are in County Kildare and King's County?—But these are parish committees to all intents and purposes. Of course the whole parish committee must not be reserved for congested districts. Every county has its parish committee. It may not be constituted in quite the same way.

16547. I did not gather that they were parish committees. I thought they were small local centre committees?—It is the same thing.

16548. You mentioned when you were speaking of those bulls that the harness were broken down as regards the work of the inspectors. The inspectors, you say, quite agree that you found it difficult when going across the ground to distinguish the technically congested from the adjoining poor districts?—Yes.

16549. That is your own opinion from observation?—I have been through the district with Mr. Gallagher myself. We did not carry a map to learn whether it was a scheduled district or not. There are lots of districts in the West of Ireland that are quite as poor, and perhaps poorer, than those that are scheduled.

Mr. GEORGE FLETCHER, F.R.S., Assistant Secretary in respect of Technical Instruction, examined.

16550. (Chairman).—You have certain points you desire to call attention to in the evidence given since you were here before?—Yes. I propose rather to deal with the arguments advanced than with individual criticism, and I think it would be better to deal with it roughly under five heads. On carefully reading through such evidence as has already been printed I find a number of witnesses directed their attention to what is often spoken of as interference. I shall deal with such instances as are mentioned. Then our relation with other Departments may fairly be regarded as the second head. Then there is the question of injustice, to which so many witnesses have referred, and, lastly, there is the financial point, and the question of staffing.

16551. Are you to deal with buildings?—I offered a good deal of evidence before on that, but I shall deal with it on the question of finance.

16552. We would like to hear what you have to say on the question of the very general demand for improved qualifications?—I shall deal with that.

16553. (Mr. Gilchrist).—Anything in supplement of your previous observations?—Yes. I have carefully read the evidence with a view to getting any particular points of criticism, and next to look for suggestions that might be applied to the improvement of administration so far as my own work is concerned. As to the criticism, I must say I have very little complaint to make. Indeed, what strikes me, and I cannot help but express the feeling, is that there has been a great deal of kindness and generous treatment in regard to points on which in these early days there was strong feeling between local Committees and the Department. I have not found many suggestions which would help one to adopt a different policy or different means, and

I think the reason for this is that I hardly remember a point brought up in evidence which has not already, and, in some cases very often, been before the Department and discussed and redressed. They are for the most part very old points, and some of them deal with the first and second years of the Department's work. I have endeavored to make myself quite familiar with these points which, owing to lapse of time—four or five years—almost slip from one's memory. I shall deal with them in as detailed a manner as you desire. I may be allowed to mention there is sometimes a tendency to hold the Department responsible for many things quite outside their ken, and quite outside their power. I ventured when I first gave my evidence before the Committee, to say in regard to the question of interference with the action of local authorities—it is almost unnecessary to say it—that it is not done from sheer wantonness. It is only done from a sense of public duty. The real point is to what extent is it wise or undesirable. I have carefully studied the cases advanced in order to find out in what respect we may have really gone beyond what was called for in the circumstances, and so far as I can see in the cases advanced the Department took the best course in the interests of the locality. Cases have arisen of "interference" where feeling ran very high at the time, where ultimately localities were quite convinced that the Department had acted in their best interests. Those cases have not, of course, come up. Cases have come up which may be regarded as still pending. I have taken those because they are cases involving an admirable basis for discussion as to whether the Department did or did not go beyond what was required under the circumstances. I shall deal, therefore with the more important ones—those which appear to me to be more important and more grave,

Nov 22, 1906.
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Produce J.
R. Campbell.

Mr. George
Fletcher,
F.R.S.

Nov. 21, 1896.
Mr. George
Fletcher,
J.P.C.

leaving it to the Committee to examine me on any other cases they desire. One or two small matters first. I observe a witness in the North had a complaint to make against the Department in connection with the urban technical scheme, because the Department refused to approve of the inclusion of a crochet class in the scheme. You may call to mind that the Department allowed a class to be held so long as the teacher's remuneration was paid for out of the fees of the students, but would not allow any of the money going to the scheme to be devoted to such a class.

16544. (Mr. Micks).—Where was that?—I think it was Portadown. The number of the question is 3912. The matter may be dealt with in a few words. The facts are very much as stated. The Department have been always anxious, except under exceptional circumstances, to suppress the establishment of lace and crochet classes in connection with Urban Technical Schools, simply on the ground that we believe it would be injurious to the lace industry. If there is one thing more than another injurious to the Irish lace industry, it is the existence of dilatory classes where girls would go for one or two nights a week and get a very imperfect knowledge. It was stated by this witness that this was supplementary to their income. They were engaged in shirt-making and received a good wage, and might have got more by this supplementary means. It is the view of the Department that it is very undesirable to allow these classes to be defrayed out of public funds mainly on account of the injury such classes do to the genuine Irish lace industry.

16545. That is the lace industry followed for a livelihood by the poorer people?—Yes. Most people who have studied the subject consider that a course of training of from two to three years, involving quite hard work during that period, is not too long for one to become quite expert in lace-making. To give a couple of evenings a week to it in an urban centre is not desirable. There is a case where we have not interfered, but the circumstances are exceptional. I mention it because we have a class in connection with the Cork Municipal School. It has existed for many years, and is a paying concern. It is rather for the encouragement of the higher branches of lace-making.

16546. (Chairman).—Is your objection to teaching it in this sort of way—merely as a supplementary matter—not because it will enable them to have something to sell which will assist their wages, but because it will lower the standard of the article?—Yes. It lowers the standard of the article.

16547. And injures the industry?—Yes. It overproduces. There is a very large amount of inferior work produced. It is hardly a suitable urban industry.

16548. (Mr. O'Brien).—The Cork school is one in which the girls work the greater part of the day?—Yes. It is closely connected with the art teaching, and the school is now serving as a means for disseminating designs, and so on.

16549. It is quite different from the Portadown proposal?—Quite.

16550. (Mr. Micks).—Is it in the Institute in Cork the Department support?—Yes. It was existing before. It is an old-established school, continued under the existing scheme. They are selling lace and making probably over £500 a year.

(Mr. O'Brien).—That is so.

16551. (Mr. Micks).—There are a number of places where you have lace schools, and I intended to raise this very question, but you anticipated me, and gave the answer as to whether the Department did consider the danger of assisting lace schools in some parts of the country and the pulling down of the price of lace by over-production?—That has been considered.

16552. There are some places I found it difficult to understand why such schools were started, bearing in mind the principle you refer to. For instance, in the town of Bray, near Dublin, you have a lace school there. You have one in Blackrock?—They had one there.

16553. Is there something of the kind there?—There is none aided by the Department, not even to the extent of paying the teacher.

16554. You give it no help whatever?—No help whatever.

16555. I see from one of the appendices in your annual report—?—As a subject of instruction in the

technical school, do you mean. It is quite possible we did assist a lace class in Blackrock, but we have always been consistent in the principle of not allowing lace or crochet classes in connection with urban technical schools. We certainly allowed it in Bray, but there were exceptional reasons. Bray is an urban centre, but it was very strongly urged on the Department by Father Calahan that there was excellent means of disposing of the lace. The class had been existing previously at a convent. The question was whether one should allow a class which had attained some measure of success to continue.

16556. Would it not be a question of whether the Department should assist a lace class in a place like Bray?—It was again the difficult question as to how far one should interfere with the urban districts in the scheme.

16557. You did so in Portadown?—Yes, but that was for a perfectly new thing. In the case of Bray it was a case in which you would inhibit the existing one.

16558. The question was whether the Urban Committee should be allowed to give aid?—No, we would not aid it. My argument is that existing classes raise a different question. The argument is that you are interfering with something that is a success—something that is a going concern.

16559. Was it a strongly going concern or only a languishing concern?—I don't say it was a strongly going concern. I say it was going. I remember my early meeting with the Bray Committee in which all this was discussed very fully, and I think the position seemed to be that we were to allow it.

16560. Did you give assistance in the town of Dandel?—It was in the early days that we gave direct assistance.

16561. It also appears in the Schedule?—I think that I am right in saying there is none now.

16562. In Deaghda?—Not directly. It works under the scheme.

16563. I inferred from what I read that they were receiving assistance. The impression that I took away was that in certain urban districts in Ireland assistance was being given by the Department to the lace industry. I made up my mind to ask the question whether the Department considered how far it was wise to assist in the industry and in which a number of poor people were making their livelihood where the demand is limited?—Where under a joint scheme they should establish a class that might be near an urban centre, I don't think we would interfere, but where it ceases up on a specific scheme intended for an urban area we object to it on that principle.

16564. There are certain districts well known in Ireland, Clonsilla, Carrickmacross, Troughal, and other parts of once-congested districts, and the lace industry has been established in some of them for a great length of time, and in others within the last ten or fifteen years. Do you think it desirable as the demand is limited that lace and crochet, and such industries should be encouraged outside the places that have already time market in their hands?—Everything depends upon the question of whether the demand is limited. One is so constantly told that the demand is not limited, and it has been asserted again and again that there is a much greater demand almost for all qualities, unfortunately, and in these circumstances where people assure you that they have orders booked already for hundreds of pounds' worth of lace if they could only supply it, it is very hard to resist the claim to allow them to start a class.

16565. But the question is whether you would assist them to start outside the places where already this is an important source of revenue for the poor?—Well, I would. I think it is quite impossible to resist a claim made so consistently. Of course if that principle had been adopted there would not have been as increase in the number of lace classes. The only question is where are they going to draw the lace and say it has got to stop here. We have come to the point of very strongly deprecating any increase in the number of classes.

16566. Have you come to the point of refusing to assist any fresh cases?—No, and I see no great tendency to increase. I can point to some classes that have been established under the Department's regime which have grown into successful and paying classes.

16507. I don't question that in the least—I mention that to show that it is rather a delicate question to determine when one has got enough. I ought to say there is what I might describe as a natural check in our method, the capitation system, because it is proportionate to the success of the work. Notwithstanding the obvious defects of that system it is useful because it requires an effort to be made by the locality in the first place.

16508. (Mr. Ophir.)—In the case of Louth you have a joint scheme?—Yes.

16509. So that although the actual scheme might, by arrangement, have been held in an urban centre, it is possible that they may be for the benefit of the rural pupils?—Yes. It is an argument that is very often used, and one difficult to meet.

16510. (Mr. Michel.)—Of course I was also speaking of special assistance by the Department as well as expenditure under local schemes?—There are only three or four places on which the Department are now giving direct aid to schemes. In the first year there was something like eighty or more.

16511. That is what was in my mind?—You will find lots in the Reports each year. I have a reference to the last Report, on page 326 of which you will find the list. There are very few local schemes to which direct aid is given.

16512. (Mr. Ophir.)—That is from 1904 to March, 1905?—Yes. The causes of the reduction are two. One is the growth of the county schemes and the second is the fact that we are poverty-stricken, that we have not money to grant special aid. A good deal has been said, as you will remember, in regard to Committees having no power of initiative. Well, certainly, we, there is any amount of opportunity of initiative, and we don't desire to take anything away from any locality which it can do very well for itself. I think you would, perhaps like to have from me a very brief statement of our method of operation in dealing with the training of schemes for County and Urban Committees. It is true that in the early years of the Department the schemes were largely drawn up by officers of the Department and that was practically always at the request of the local authorities. I remember a large number of meetings which I attended, discussing any number of proposals of one kind or another. The Committee said, "Will you please draw up a scheme and submit it to us and we will approve of it." Sometimes they were willing to approve it in advance. My answer always was that I would. There was never any attempt to force a scheme on a Committee. Our present plan is this: When the time arrives that a new scheme should be formulated for urban centres for the coming year it has been our practice to send down to them a form on which they would submit their scheme. In regard to County Committees it has been customary for the Committee to meet and sometimes request the Department to send an inspector to confer with them in regard to the scheme. This has been submitted to the Department and then approved or made matter for correspondence. It is a method which works exceedingly well. The main lines have been laid down, and, of course, it would be exceedingly difficult to entirely revolutionise the scheme, because Committees have entered into certain responsibilities. On the whole, I believe these schemes are very well designed for the districts they have to serve. There are certain general principles running through the whole of these schemes, but you will find sufficient evidence in this volume of schemes to show that they are very closely adapted to the special needs of the various districts.

16513. At what months of the year do you expect to receive from the Committee their suggestions of the proposed schemes?—We are glad to have them early; the earlier the better. There is no date laid down. The reason we like to have them early is this—I suppose from a strictly legal point of view the Committee may not begin working on 1st August, unless it has got a scheme. The scheme terminates on 31st July. Therefore, if there is any debatable matter in it it is well that we should enter into the controversy in good time. As a matter of fact, these County Committees begin to discuss these particulars in June, or earlier, and we have most of the schemes accepted by the Committees and approved by the Board of Technical Instruction before the 1st August.

16514. (Chairman.)—Is there any particular time when you issue these forms?—Yes, I think about March, and the Committee begins to consider them about that time. The schemes may be revised at the end of each year.

16515. (Mr. Ophir.)—I see this scheme was ready to be passed in February?—Yes, we have something like thirty-two county authorities and twenty-eight urban authorities. I don't know whether you would like to consider the question of qualification of teachers. There is a considerable amount of variation in regard to the election of teachers, particularly in regard to such subjects as lace and crochet. Of course, it extends to other subjects as well, and it would be well if the source of variation could be removed. There is one principle which we have always acted upon, and that is to seek to make teaching as effective as possible. Our whole educational system in Ireland turns upon the teachers. It is entirely a matter of the quality of the teachers. There was one specific point raised, I only remember one, and that was in question 16477. It was the case of a lace instructor in the County of Monaghan, and it looked as though there had been some miscarriage of justice, because she had previously been at work in County Galway, and it was proposed to appoint her as a county teacher in Monaghan. As a matter of fact, the Department were not able to approve of her qualifications, and it was argued that they had accepted her for County Galway. But it was for a entirely different kind of work. That was for lace and crochet, and the work in Monaghan was fine Orlon. I wish it were possible to adopt some means of judging of the qualifications of teachers in industrial subjects other than the present one, but we cannot find a better method. I believe it is a perfectly just one. The proposed teacher submitted specimens of her work, and she is subsequently asked to do some of that work in presence of a small Committee of two or three, and if that is satisfactory she is approved. If not, she is rejected. I need hardly say that a very large number of applicants are wholly unqualified. Locally, their work might have been thought good, but when judged from a wider standpoint the work may be found to be very defective, and seeing that the teacher is to set the standard for a large number the matter is most serious.

16516. I suppose as you take the responsibility for testing the teacher before authorising assistance, the Committee will not hesitate to put forward for examination the teacher whom they might, if they had full responsibility, hesitate to appoint?—That is so. They are very glad to throw the onus upon the Department, which, I might say frankly, quite accepts it.

16517. (Mr. Michel.)—Is it not a part of your regulations that the teacher should be qualified?—It is.

16518. Then you would not say that the local body throws the responsibility on the Department?—No. I did not mean to convey that. I meant that they are very glad not to have the onus in a good many cases.

16519. Is that not a surprise?—No. It is stronger than that.

16520. Have you any instances to give?—Hardly instances that I could produce in evidence, but I know that it is a very infectious thing in a local committee to judge this matter. Moreover, the members of the Committee have not the knowledge.

16521. (Mr. Ophir.)—My point was rather that, as the Department's regulations provide for the Department's testing the qualifications of the teachers, it has not been necessary for the Committee to make the careful inquiry into the qualifications of the teacher that they might have to do, if they alone were to be responsible for the work—I understand the question, and that is the case.

16522. (Chairman.)—(Replies Question 16521.)—That does not represent the facts. It is a mistake to say that.

16523. (Mr. Michel.)—I would like to ask you with regard to the practice in England. With reference to the sanctioning of the staff by the central authority. Can you tell me what the practice is here?—I think I can, unless there have been recent changes. I was inspector in a good many English counties under the Department of Science and Art and the Board of Education for about seven years. The custom was to require certain qualifications.

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16584. Are you speaking of Principals, or of the ordinary teacher?—I am speaking of evening schools. The qualifications were laid down.

16585. For technical instruction and day technical classes?—They were the same. It was not a qualification to teach that was conferred by the examination. It was a qualification to obtain payment by results. It is a different thing.

16586. I am speaking merely of the appointment of the teacher. Who appoints the teacher in England?—There are a very large number of different appointing bodies.

16587. What I mean is, is it the local authority, without the approval of the central authority?—So far as my knowledge goes. When I was appointed as the head of a technical school, it was necessary to show that I had the Departmental qualifications for the subjects I was going to teach.

On returning after luncheon,

16590a. (Mr. Fletcher).—I am still dealing with the question of interference, and I want to refer in as little detail as possible to the evidence that you heard at Limerick from Father Murphy, because I think it is exceedingly important. I think one statement was made. (Reads question 16528). That, I ought to say, is quite antithetical to the Department's treatment of technical education outside secondary schools. We realised then, and realise clearly now, that technical education must be brought very close indeed to the needs of those who will avail themselves more particularly of technical schools and classes, and examination of any one of the schemes I think will show in how very close a manner technical education has been brought to bear on affairs of ordinary and industrial life. I cannot understand the statement. It is quite contrary to practice. I think if you refer to the next paragraph you will find some possible explanation. (Reads paragraph). That is exactly what the Department give, as I think the Committee are aware. The first work of the Department was to draft a scheme for secondary schools in subjects such as experimental science, drawing, etc., because they had a clear duty in regard to these schools. They provided a grant for the purpose. The funds for secondary schools are wisely derived from the annual Parliamentary vote.

16591. (Mr. Michel).—Some of it comes out of the £55,000?—No. It began with an exceedingly small sum, it is up to about £20,000 per annum, and has increased, and will go on increasing.

16592. (Mr. O'Connell).—It has been represented before by something under £5,000?—A very small sum. It would probably be correct to say that it was less than £1,000, but we have increased that twenty-fold. Immediately, as I have said, we set to work to draft a scheme for making the annual Parliamentary vote in respect of Science and Art more closely adapted to the needs of Ireland. In the meantime technical instruction went on and was defrayed out of the endowment, which, of course, is still available for the purpose, but we sought to get additional funds. Ireland had never been able to avail itself of the Science and Art grant, because as we all recognised, the regulations were not adapted to the needs of Ireland. I mention that to show why I am quite unable to understand that paragraph.

16593. I take Father Murphy to mean that it was only this present year, 1904, that you did put forward to the country a scheme different from that which had obtained in the South Kensington administration in 1900. That I take it was what he meant?—It is correct to say that this year is the first that this scheme has come into operation. It is not right to say that this is the first year the scheme was formulated. This scheme had been under consideration for over two years.

16594. Yes, but you agree it was at once desirable to modify arrangements to secure grants in aid of evening class work as compared with what was in existence in 1900?—Emphatically.

16595. And you have been working continuously since then towards the scheme which you now have secured, and which you believe to be the scheme directly suited to the requirements of Ireland?—Certainly.

16588. (Mr. O'Connell).—And the amount of money paid by the central authority depended on the efficiency of the work of the teacher as tested by actual practice?—Yes.

16589. The Committee had to take the responsibility of paying the teacher without knowing whether they would receive any grant at all, or at least, quite in the dark as to the amount of the grant. It is a mere speculation?—It is more or less a speculation. When I commenced teaching it was a pure speculation on my part.

16590. That was not yesterday, and the speculation does not exist now?—It does not exist now, except on the part of the local authority, but on the part of a teacher it was very often the case that he established a claim and ran it just on the chance of what grant might be payable. It was not a good method.

16596. I understand Father Murphy's position to be that good as that no doubt was, it was very long in coming, and that the duty of the Department was to have modified, even tentatively, the view of South Kensington?—Yes, if that be the contention, I am in hearty agreement. It would have been desirable that we should have given it to the country before. But, as a matter of fact, I don't think we could have made much use of it, because the technical schemes were hardly launched, and it was the only means through which they could extend themselves of the science and art grant. It would be a very serious criticism, and one very damaging to us if it were the fact, that in dealing with technical education we were restricted by what I might call academic considerations. We have sought to adapt our scheme to the state of things as we found them.

16597. (Mr. Stewar).—Am I right in saying that, although the South Kensington programme was the only one under which grants could have been secured in these years, you did not restrict your classes to the subjects of the South Kensington programme?—Quite otherwise. While we could have earned more under the science and art grant it would have been at the cost of education. We, therefore, allowed our schemes to be drafted on the most generous line in regard to subjects that were not paid for out of the science and art grant, but were paid for out of the endowment. I want to place on record here that we are in entire agreement with the view that technical education must be genuinely technical. It ought to rest, of course, on a strictly scientific foundation, but we have always felt that the twenty-six subjects of the Science and Art Directory were hardly things that we could impose upon the urban districts of Ireland.

16598. (Mr. O'Connell).—Matter of technical instruction outside these subjects were positively matter that your endowment was intended to cover?—Certainly, and was immediately made available for. Now, there is a most important recommendation, that we should establish a system of Training Scholarships for teachers of the ordinary staple trades, and, of course, that is an excellent suggestion. It is a thing indeed that we have been doing for years. If I am asked whether we have done it on a sufficiently extensive scale, my answer is "No," because it is a question of restriction of funds. I give particulars in my first evidence as to the number of Scholarships for teachers of commercial subjects, and also for such subjects as house decoration, woollen weaving, rug weaving, and so on. The number of the Scholarships is not as great as one could desire. It is only a question of funds, and we are hoping that we may establish in Dublin a course for ironmen and metalmen—a course corresponding to the Meisterkurse in the Continent, in which you bring up for short courses of instruction masters and foremen of various industries. This is certainly a desirable development of the work, and we feel that if we could establish such courses it would serve a very useful purpose. It would be better as a matter of fact than sending individuals away to England, which is a year and of Scholarships of that kind under £50 a year and a very little value. People won't accept them. I think it would be of great value if we could establish courses of the kind I mention, and of the ability of which I have no doubt whatever.

15598. Have you considered the sending of young men to England or elsewhere to occupy a year in working in some industrial institution or factory connected with their trade, so that they may widen their experience in that way, while also taking the advantage of evening or partial instruction which is available?—We have scholarships provided under the new programme—

15600. These openings in a factory might be sufficient to a man who was going to accept a smaller wage. You say that the funds do not permit. My point is that in extending these scholarships in another direction you might be able to make the same funds cover a larger number in a manner which would in itself be very likely to give a good return. I think so. We are in search of a solution of the question, and we think that would be one possible one. If we could establish a series of special courses extending over three months for various trades, that would be another solution.

15602. In Dublin, where you have a course, it implies that trades concerned are sufficiently largely followed to provide you with a field for producing young men in a sufficient number. The other method would apply where you had to deal with a trade carried on only in one or two places?—That is so. There are certainly a number of industries which could not be dealt with in this way—woollen weaving, for example. It would be useless. It would not be of great value to bring people up to a place for special instruction unless it were adequately equipped. In such a case I think it would be more preferable to send them to Yorkshire, Lancashire, Leeds, and that kind of place we have done. I quite agree with what was said later in regard to the choice of these scholarships. The witness says—"I should not agree to the method of competitive examination." Question 1563. I only refer to it as the implication is here that we choose them on competition.

15602. (Mr. Micks).—But I think you agreed on it—I only want to make clear that we did not adopt that method. And now I come to the larger question. There is a statement made as to the Department's inspection in regard to Limerick. Question 1542. The statement is made there that inspectors of the Department had been striving to force on the local Committee their own views with regard to the policy of our work. A good deal of evidence was tendered on that question. Witness mentioned my own name, but I think I am quite correct when I say that the suggestion was that the inspector brought unwarranted influence to bear on the Principal of the Technical School. In some sort of way he educated the Principal, and brought influence to bear on him in a direction a little contrary to that which the Committee would desire that their Principal should do.

15603. (Mr. O'Grady).—I don't think that is the point of view on which complaint was implied. I think it was rather that the Department, having through its inspector ascertained a certain method of procedure or organization in Limerick which was not what was considered to be the most satisfactory, should have communicated that conclusion, not to the inspector and the Principal of the institution under the Committee, but have stated it directly as from the Department to the Committee. I think the complaint referred to the procedure—that the Committee should hear of the views of the Department first of all through the Principal instead of directly?—No, pardon me. I must adhere to my original statement of it. There are two views. The first is the one I have stated, that the inspector brought an undesirable influence to bear on the Principal, and the second was that he gave decisions which should have come from the Department. These two views are clearly expressed.

15604. The second was the one which made most impression on my mind?—Perhaps the first made some impression on my mind, for on several occasions Father Murphy came up to the Department and complained to me personally about inspectors, and asked me to ask the inspector not to talk.

15605. (Chairman).—It is very difficult to deal with that sort of question in the abstract. What one person would consider as illegitimate interference, another might consider as a piece of friendly advice. But since the question has been raised it is right that one should state the policy clearly, and let me say, it would be quite a wrong thing for an

inspector to use undue influence with the Headmaster, certainly if he knew that that influence was contrary to the policy of the Committee. But at the same time, as I believe the Department desires to see an inspector a helpful, instructive officer, aware of some respects, a person in my own position, responsible for inspectors, must not tell the inspectors that they must not talk. Half of their work consists in talking and advising local Committees. If it were not that the inspector fulfils that function in Ireland, I would not wish for inspectors. It is true that he has another duty to fulfill, that of being the eyes and ears of his Department, and looking after the expenditure of public funds. That, I take it, is the main duty of the inspector in this country. But in Ireland especially, he has a second function, and that is to be a friend and counsellor and to help to organize the schemes. In doing it tact and certain other qualities are needed. I am intensely jealous in the matter, because this is the first time that criticism of this kind has been urged against inspectors, and it involves the popularity of the system of working by inspectors.

15606. (Chairman).—There may be cases in which the inspector may say too much or too little one way or the other, but if the general outline of the duties of inspectors is laid down with sufficient clearness and good sense, I do not think you need go into the question?—I think it would be impossible to go into the question unless you had the inspector before you.

15607. (Mr. Micks).—Do you agree that it would be wrong of the inspector to declare to the local authority what the Department would do?—I should not regard that as wrong if it were a matter provided for by the regulations.

15608. If he took upon himself to say what the Department would or would not approve of in a certain matter?—I must give a very careful reply to that, because it is very important. In certain circumstances it would be quite right. For example, it is laid down in the regulations that in certain circumstances certain things may be done. A proposal is made to him, and he says—"No; the Department would not approve of that." If it were a case of policy rather than of the regulations, he would be going outside his functions.

15609. He would say that the regulations provide for that, and that it cannot be done?—That is so, but in this case the inspector is charged with carrying out not only the Headmaster, but the members of the Committee also.

15610. The idea left on my mind was a suggestion that the inspector was working in an underground way with the Principal and certain members of the Committee to change a policy which had hitherto prevailed in the Committee?—Yes, you are quite right in that view.

15611. (Mr. Bewse).—That is the charge that was made?—Yes, that was the charge that was made. We did not get any facts at all; we were merely told that such things were done.

15612. (Mr. O'Grady).—We are less concerned with the charge than with the question of how far that method of working in the relation of the inspector to the members of the Committee, is one which the Department recognizes. I think that the witness should confine himself to that, apart from what might happen in this particular case?—I say at once that the inspector has no power to state the policy of the Department or what they might do in certain events. He has to interpret the regulations and to endeavour to bring the scheme into harmonious working with those regulations.

15613. (Mr. Micks).—Do you think he would be acting wisely or that the Department could approve of, knowing the prevailing opinion, we will say, of the majority of the Committee, he went to work upon the Headmaster to take the opposite view and also to endeavour to get certain members of the Committee to take that view, without bringing the matter openly before the Committee?—No, I said that that would be a wrong course, but at the same time I should not like to tell any inspector that he should not use his influence to bring about a good state of things—that is perfectly allowable. The second point, as I think, bears on this in a very important degree, and that is that the Department in some sort of way communicated its decisions through the inspectors rather than directly. That is not the case, and if it were I think it would be a very serious matter.

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15613. (Mr. Brown).—Those matters were going on for a great many years apparently, that were referred to by the witness?—Upon my word, sir, I do not know what the matters are.

15614. I am equally ignorant, because there were no particulars given at all beyond the general statement, but I wish to know whether during that considerable period there was any complaint made to the Department on these specific matters?—None.

15615. (Mr. Micks).—You state that it was made verbally, that a deaconess did call on you?—Verbally.

15616. Did Father Murphy call?—He did.

(Mr. Brown).—My point is that the Committee as a whole made no complaint?

15617. (Mr. Micks).—He was Chairman of the Committee?—Yes, and he called on me on several occasions, and he referred to this particular matter, otherwise I should not feel inclined to mention it. He mentioned it when he came up, and spoke of it very bitterly. I remember the case clearly; and there was a private correspondence between myself and the witness on the matter. I believe that the chief thing to which objection was raised was a visit of inspection by the Department's inspectors of lace-making and home industries, Miss Anderson, who reported on a class there, and this report did not meet with approval. Personally I thought then, and I still think that the inspectors was acting quite within his duty. I ought to say in regard to the second point, that reports of inspectors are always communicated by letter.

15618. (Chairman).—By the Department?—Yes.

15619. To the Committee concerned?—Yes. There are no official communications between the Inspector and the Committee. The Inspector in every case reports to the Department, and the report is made the subject of special communication. I am aware of no irregularity in such matters, in dealing with the Committee. We are so far from wishing in any way to supplant the Committee of the local authority that we are anxious to make their responsibility as wide as possible.

15620. Have you had many complaints of the same nature communicated to you from other people?—No; I do not wish it to be understood that there were. There were complaints about inspectors, but there were none of this nature. I think, sir, without endeavouring to connect that portion of the evidence with what follows, there is a very natural connection, because the witness refers to a want of confidence that arose out of a meeting called some years ago which was known locally as the Secret Conclave. This was referred to specifically in Question 15647. It is of matter about which there was a very considerable amount of feeling at the time, and it was this:—It is stated that in the course of the year 1904 the Department summoned a meeting of principals of technical schools to Dublin without the knowledge of their Committees, and that the principal of Limerick Technical School, who went to the meeting, informed his Committee not only that the business done at the meeting was confidential, but that he was bound to secrecy with regard to it, and the witness says he does not think that that type of action tends to improve the relations either between the Committee and the Department or between the Committee and the Principal. The meeting referred to was a meeting called in the time of my predecessor, Mr. Blair. It had reference to the proposed new programme for evening schools.

15621. (Mr. Micks).—It had reference to the programme?—Yes. I believe the intention of my predecessor, Mr. Blair, for I was present at the meeting, was to seek and find out from secretaries of the local authorities the effect that the proposal would have upon their income. He wanted to find out how the rate of payment would work out in the circumstances of their localities, and he concluded, as anyone would conclude, that the best source of information as to how this would work would be the Secretary of the local authority.

15622. And the principal?—And the principals. Those were, therefore, asked to come up to Dublin. If any notion of secrecy existed I can only say that to summon the Secretary and Principal of every local authority in Ireland would not be the way to secure it. But I believe that the circular convening the meeting was marked "confidential," and for the very obvious reason that it dealt with proposals which might have the substance of a proposal to the Treasury. The whole intention of that was merely to find out what

would be the total effect of certain proposals, to enable my predecessor to make up his mind on certain points. It was necessary that it should be regarded as confidential, obviously.

15623. (Chairman).—That is your explanation of that?—Yes.

15624. (Mr. Micks).—Was that explained to the Limerick people?—The Limerick people never read the question.

15625. It was not raised?—It was cross raised at the Dublin Technical Congress, and it was very much in the papers at that time.

15626. And was that explanation not considered satisfactory?—Well, we never got a chance of giving it, for the Department was not represented at the Congress. That, I believe, is a perfectly truthful explanation of what took place on the occasion referred to.

15627. (Chairman).—Mr. Taylor tells me that explanation was given in Parliament in reply to a question?—Well, it was never brought up again. It was stated that the Department took the extraordinary course in 1905 of saying that they would not entertain local Committees paying the expenses of their representatives to the Technical Congress unless the agenda of the Congress was first submitted to the Department and received their approval. There is no connection between criticism of this action and the action the Department took in regard to the Technical Congress. The Department had previously approved of the payment of expenses of delegates to Technical Congresses. Immediately before the Congress in Limerick, however, when resolutions came up from local authorities requesting sanction to pay the expenses of delegates the Department asked to see a copy of the agenda of the Congress. They did not assume that they should approve of it, but they merely asked to see it. I must leave it to the Committee whether it is a right thing to do for the agenda of a Congress the expenses of the delegates to which are to be defrayed out of public funds, and a large sum of money was spent for this purpose. The Department were entirely in favour of Congresses of this kind, and assisted within their means, but they thought that they should see the agenda, especially in view of what took place at the previous Congress in Dublin; and the Congress in Dublin, I must say, was characterised by some of the wildest and most unfounded statements that could possibly be made, and so far from helping forward the work of technical instruction that Congress spent a number of false impressions. Now, asking me if I wish to put in a letter here which was sent on by the Secretary of the Department to Committees asking members to the Congress, endeavouring to rectify to members that had been done owing to unfounded statements made at the Congress.

15628. Is this not raised on the evidence before us?—It is raised in question 15648. I am asking to show that the request of the Department to see the agenda does not bear the interpretation put upon it.

15629. What you state is that the body which sanctioned the expenses of the delegates to the Congress wanted to know what they were going to discuss. That is a self-evident proposition. I do not think you need labour that—I will not proceed with that any further. There is yet another point, which is, perhaps, more important. It is a financial point, with regard to our dealings with Limerick, and it is referred to in Questions 15642, 15647, and 15672. It has reference to the funds of the City of Limerick and my own I brought into it, and I think that was because I tried the Committee on two occasions. When the scheme for the City of Limerick was proposed at the beginning of last year it was observed that they proposed to spend a sum of money largely in excess of their income, but we were prepared to approve of the scheme, and the Department did approve of it, because the Committee had an accumulated fund, that is to say that they would be quite solvent. Towards the end of the year, however, very strong representations were made to the Department to stop good this deficiency on the ground that the Department had approved of a scheme which could not be met out of annual income. On consideration of the matter the Department decided that they would for that year make up the difference between the expenditure and the income. Early in the present session the Committee suggested a scheme for the current year involving an expenditure in excess of income for the second time, but the Department said "No, you must cut this down; we cannot split up

grove of an expenditure in excess of income." I went down and met the Committee on regard to this, and pointed out to them that we made a mistake last year in approving of it, and we were not going to do it again. And it is important to bear in mind in considering all that has occurred about this that Limerick has an accumulated fund. The whole point is now, whether we shall increase their funds. Our point is that the increase asked for is not for a new development. Up to the present time, or rather up to a very recent time, there had been no proposal for providing a suitable building for Limerick, and I pointed out when I was there that any scheme which provided for the erection of a new technical school would be regarded as constituting a fair ground for a claim on the £7,000 which was given in form of the Equivalent Grant. I have dealt with that so briefly that I do not know whether I have dealt with it lucidly, but must leave it to the Committee to ask any question they wish upon it.

16630. (Mr. Brown).—My recollection of the complaint made in that connection is that the Limerick Technical Committee took credit in their statement of funds for what they called their share of the Equivalent Grant and included that in their calculation, and what they complained of was that the Department struck that out. I think that was the form of the complaint!—If I may be allowed to confirm Mr. Brown's recollection, I would say that that was correct.

16631. They say—"Mr. Fletcher himself admitted that we had a moral right to £288." That was what they call their share of the Equivalent Grant—I am somewhat astounded there. I do not admit a moral claim, but what I do say is that if they submit a scheme providing for any extension of their work, such as the erection of a new building, that that would constitute a fair claim for consideration.

16632. I suppose your answer to that is that the Department do not admit that that was an item on which they could calculate as part of their income!—Oh, yes.

16633. It had, in point of fact, been withdrawn by the Treasury, and could not be claimed!—Yes.

16634. Then, was that sum of £280 part of the £7,000 that was granted by Parliament?—It was part of the sum of £2,500 which had been withdrawn.

16635. And what was your answer to that?—My answer is that only those who can show a new development are entitled to anything out of the grant. There were a number of places receiving payments on this ground.

16636. (Mr. Micks).—Was Limerick one of these?—Yes, it was.

16637. And that was what Father Murphy, I suppose, wished to convey, that owing to their having got it before, they had some sort of a claim to a continuance of it?—Yes, but it was quite otherwise.

16638. I am representing his view correctly, but your view was otherwise?—My view in the matter, the view of the Department—let me put it that way—has always been that places previously in receipt of it were not necessarily entitled to it now.

16639. The question was whether they had or could make a fair claim in addition to and over and above what could be made by any place that had not got it!

—That is the whole point—whether they could make an additional claim. We considered that the steps that were taken in Cork gave a special claim, because they proposed a new development.

16640. But the main fact that they had been early in the field and had been receiving payments under the old grant—that would not, in your opinion, give them an additional claim upon consideration for continued payment out of the £7,000?—No; I am bound to say it would not. And Galway is in the same position; it had been receiving it, and the City of Dublin also.

16641. Yes, all those places?—Yes, and let me explain my reason. It is that large additional sums have been since added to their funds out of the Department's endowment.

16642. Only in the same way that other places have got them?—That is so.

16643. Nothing special?—No.

16644. They were only getting their share like any other place?—That is so.

16645. Would you not think they would still have an extra claim?—No.

16646. Don't you, really?—No.

16647. (Chairman).—I think we have that matter pretty clear on the notes?—If that is so, I refer to it

no further. I was not present when the evidence was given with regard to the City of Dublin. What I have to say on that is exceedingly brief. I must leave it to you to put from me what you require. I think that the complaint made was that we were holding up money due to the City of Dublin, and that is undoubtedly the fact; but no hardship follows, for the money is immediately available, so it is regulated, together with the interest on it.

16648. The money and the interest?—The money and the interest.

16649. (Mr. Micks).—When you say "available," what do you mean?—I mean for a scheme which we can approve of.

16650. But has any of it been drawn?—Yes.

16651. To what extent has it been drawn?—I think about two years ago—between two and three years ago—a sum of about £5,000 for equipment of secondary schools, and last year a sum of about £3,000—I am speaking in round figures—for the working of their scheme in Kevin-street; and that payment arose in this way. A deputation from the Committee came to see me in regard to the state of their funds. They assured me that they had not sufficient money, to which my reply was that that could not constitute a difficulty as we had a large sum which was allocated for the working of the City of Dublin scheme. Well, the point was then argued that they wanted certain equipment and they wanted to understand why they could not get the money from the Department for it. I said, "For the simple reason that you have not submitted a scheme to the Department, such as has been submitted by every other County Borough, providing for that expenditure. We are always ready if we approve, to assist, and if you will send a scheme in tomorrow it will be laid before the Department, and, if it is on the lines that you have laid down, I venture to say that they will approve of it." A scheme was submitted, was approved of immediately, and they received the money under it. It is simply a matter of procedure.

16652. So that there is no deadlock so far as that money is concerned?—No.

16653. But there is a deadlock as regards the greater part of the money?—Yes.

16654. Tell us briefly how that arose?—From the very beginning the Department had taken the view that for an extended scheme in the City of Dublin that involved the building of one or two additional schools they ought to have an expert director, a person of educational experience.

16655. Was a scheme ever submitted?—Yes.

16656. Did this arise on the submission of this scheme?—It arose on the submission of the scheme.

16657. And it provided for a staff that in your opinion was not qualified?—It did not provide for a staff at all. That was the time when the question came on as to what should be done. At that time I met the Committee and this matter was discussed. I afterwards, for the information of the Committee, made a very careful study of the question.

16658. You were then an inspector?—I was, senior inspector. I made a very careful study of the industrial conditions of the City of Dublin, and also made a special journey to London to study the principal mono-technics. I wrote a report, a somewhat long report, which I have already handed in as evidence to this Committee. That was laid before the Committee in printed form, and it provided for the establishment of a couple of mono-technics.

16659. Will you let me have a copy of it?—Certainly, if one can be found. I have handed in a copy, and I should be very glad if that might be looked at; it recommended the establishment of two schools of mono-technic type, one for the building trades (because the building trades are a most important group of trades in Dublin), and also a Book-binding trades school. I attended the meeting of the Committee and explained this fully, and I am bound to say they received it with very great indulgence, but at a subsequent meeting they went back on it, and the scheme was never accepted. Nevertheless the Department did not take the view that that was the only workable or desirable scheme, and they are quite prepared to accept another, laying down only the condition that for so large an establishment they should have a fully qualified principal of adequate experience. Now, that has been the cause of the deadlock, the only one that I know of.

Nov. 22, 1906.

Mr. George Fletcher,
Chairman.

Nov. 21, 1898.

Mr. George
Fletcher,
F.R.S.

15660. It is really a question of the Principal?—It is not a question of personality at all, but a question of qualification.

15661. The qualifications of the Principal?—Yes.

15662. What were the qualifications that the Department wished to have?—That I am not prepared to say. The Committee's answer was that they already had a Principal.

15663. Had he such qualifications as would be accepted by the Board of Education in England?—He had not.

15664. He had not a University degree?—I think not, I think I would venture to say that I am sure he had not.

15665. Was your discussion with the Dublin Committee on the basis that he had not a University degree?—Oh, no; it never became a question of personality.

15666. Were you under the impression that the man, who was there had not a University degree?—I do not know that that question ever arose, but what was obvious was that he was taking no part in the teaching and was not qualified to take part in it.

15667. A part in the teaching?—And therefore not qualified to direct the larger scheme. That deadlock to which I have referred was removed later.

15668. Principals do not always teach?—No.

15669. In England?—Oh, they do not; but they ought to be able to.

15670. Therefore, a school might be under the management of a Principal, and provided he had other teaching, the question of his doing so would not arise as there would be no question of grants to pupils in his case if he had a proper staff of teachers?—I think I was asked whether a school in England might not have a Principal not qualified to teach, without the question being raised.

15671. Yes?—I think so.

15672. Was it intended in Dublin that he should teach or that he should not teach?—My idea is that a Principal should teach.

15673. But what was the intention of the Committee?—I am not aware if the Committee had ever considered the point. I can state our own views, but I cannot state the views of the Committee.

15674. But as far as you are aware they did not say anything about appointing him as teacher but simply as Principal?—I think they might have said that, but it would not, in the view of the Department, alter the situation in the slightest. If a Principal is a Principal he must direct the educational work.

15675. (Mr. Brown).—Your point is that he must not necessarily teach but he must be competent to teach either a particular subject or some of the subjects?—Certainly; he must be an educational person.

15676. (Mr. O'Connell).—He must be competent to exercise an active oversight of the educational work conducted in the institution?—Yes.

15677. And the character of the principal part of the educational work would necessarily have an effect in determining the nature of the qualification and experience which would be looked for in selecting a Principal?—Yes.

15678. Then, I take it that the Department found that there was not in the scheme as put forward by the Committee sufficient provision with respect to teaching experience to justify the Department in giving it favourable consideration?—Yes; I think that is right too, but I think we have put very clearly the question of more.

15679. Was that the question at issue?—The question at issue is the appointment of a qualified Director.

15680. (Mr. Micks).—In England are the qualifications of a Director left to the local body if he does not act as a teacher?—Of a technical school?—I believe so.

15681. Yes?—But here there was a proposal for a large extension of the work and the Department merely asked that one of the conditions should be the appointment of a Principal to direct that work; a Principal qualified to conduct that extension.

15682. (Mr. O'Connell).—Does the difficulty still exist?—No, not in that form; the difficulty is disposed of. A new technical school is very badly needed in Dublin, and I may state that we have got something like £50,000 waiting to be spent in Dublin.

15683. (Chairman).—Where does this £50,000 come from—is it an accumulation?—Yes, it is from the Department's endowment.

15684. Arising out of this dispend?—No. There has been great trouble in getting a site.

15685. It has been accumulating for a number of years?—During the last six years.

15686. It is stated here as £47,000?—Yes.

15687. (Mr. Brown).—Then the site question has not been settled even yet?—I think it is finally settled, but it is only just recently. We were exceedingly anxious to facilitate the matter, because we believe that delay is prejudicial. For that purpose we said we would meet them half way, that we would waive the question with regard to the appointment and postpone that question if they would appoint an expert for a limited number of years, which would justify us in allowing them to go on. That is the position at present. There is absolutely no deadlock at the present moment.

15688. (Mr. Micks).—But the funds are locked up?—No, they are not locked up in any sense.

15689. I mean they are in your hands; they are not at the disposal of the Committee?—That is so; but the moment £50,000 is required for building, that moment it goes automatically.

15690. Is it not a most unfortunate thing that all this time the money assigned for the capital city of Ireland has not been productive, or very little of it?—It is one of the most grievous things I know.

(Chairman).—It all turns on this question.

15691. (Mr. Micks).—The question of the Principal?—No, sir; that would have been remedied by the force of public opinion long before, but it is due to quite a number of circumstances. The difficulty of securing a site may be put down as one of the chief ones.

15692. The question of the Principal was really the outstanding cause?—I do not think so.

15693. (Mr. Brown).—Could the building have gone on even pending the settlement of the question of the Director?—It is going on now.

15694. If a site had been selected, and if, at that time, they had submitted the scheme of the new school to the Department, would it not at all depend on the question of a qualified person to direct the educational work?—Undoubtedly, that is my view of the answer that would be given had such a proposal been made.

15695. I suppose you attach special importance to the Committee having an idea of the qualifications required?—Yes; and it was that that led us to accept this proposal to appoint a temporary expert. In a large scheme like this, where they would have £20,000 and more to expend, for there is the Science and Art Grant also to be considered, we felt that it would be necessary for their interests as well as for ours that they should appoint a qualified Director.

15696. What do you say in reference to Science and Art?—I mean that in addition to the £20,000 that they have to expend there would be also the Science and Art Grant they would have in respect of teaching.

15697. Of course?—I wish to say that I should be very much surprised if the income did not work out up towards £15,000 a year. It is a very large educational scheme, and we are so much in need of technical education in Ireland that everybody regrets that the thing has not gone on more rapidly.

15698. Would this be a proper time to ask you about the Science and Art School in Dublin?—(Witness).—What do you mean by the Science and Art School in Dublin?

15699. I mean the Metropolitan School of Art?—Well, if you will, it comes on a little better, later. I am not going to refer in detail to the question of the history of the Mayo scheme, but I think you will remember that a witness before the Department very much in regard to the earlier scheme down there.

15700. (Chairman).—We heard a good deal about that from Professor Campbell?—I do not know whether that refers to the technical scheme. I know the County Mayo scheme it was one of the first schemes I went to, and the difficulty I found was that the Mayo County Council or County Committee had asked each of the rural districts to frame a scheme of technical instruction for itself, and the

strong feeling in the country was that each rural district should receive back the amount of money belonging to it, and have a scheme of its own. There was strong opposition to this in certain quarters. The Chairman of the Committee was strongly opposed to it, and the Department perceived it would be quite impossible to carry on such a scheme. I remember going down and arguing it out with the County Committee, and drawing up for them, at their request, a scheme which they adopted. That is the story in brief. The scheme has been working since then. It is true that it did not work well at first, but that was no fault of the scheme.

16701. (Mr. Brown).—There were other causes for that?—It was very badly worked. The County Galway is the second case. You have had evidence in reference to that from Mr. Glynn and two other witnesses. I will not deal with details, but there were two main points raised. The first was in respect of the breaking up of the scheme that they had—the district scheme as they called it—and replacing it by the Capitalisation Grant which, it was argued, worked very unfavourably on the county, and the second important point was that of Gort, and the treatment of the runs at Curk; and I think there was a third point, that of undue interference. Now, in regard to the first point, it is true that although they worked under the district scheme for a year or two we felt it was a very undesirable scheme, and we strongly urged them to adopt the Capitalisation scheme that had been at work in other counties. The argument used was that so much could not be made under the Capitalisation Scheme, but I will ask you to look at the scheme itself. The clauses in other counties make a very satisfactory income under this scheme. It is a scheme in which the grant is proportioned to the amount of work done. The second point had reference to the industry at Gort. I did not like, although this matter had been discussed very frequently between the County Committee and the Department, and between the County and the Department, to offer any evidence respecting it when I was first called, and I do not propose to say much about it now, except that the Department always had sympathy for the work that was being done there, and we certainly thought the work might be improved. I think the complaint now is that the Department in some sort of way destroyed the industry. That was not so. Grants had been given but the industry got into financial difficulties, as Mr. Glynn pointed out. I remember that application was made to the Department to make good the deficit which was estimated at the time to be between £200 and £400. The Department sent an accountant down to look into accounts, and I have his report before me. I also visited the County and met the Committee under the Chairmanship of the Bishop, Dr. McCormack, and I was asked whether the Department might not pay the trading losses. I said that I regarded extremely that it was quite impossible—that an expenditure of public money for the repaying of losses of that character was impossible; but that as soon as that had been made up the Department would be very glad to consider how best they could assist the industrial development. I have here the accountant's report on the industry. I do not propose to hand it in, but if you desire to see it I shall place it before you.

16702. (Mr. Micks).—Was it insolvent at the time?—Yes. I believe the debts, or a large portion of them, were afterwards paid by the runs themselves.

16703. (Chairman).—We had the evidence of Mr. Glynn about this?—Yes; it was connected, as you may remember, with the provision of a technical school in Gort.

16704. (Mr. Brown).—He merely referred to it?—Yes. I think it was Mr. Glynn. Now, I do not know whether you wish me to go more fully into that.

16705. (Mr. Micks).—Did they put it to you so loudly as that—to pay the trading losses?—Yes.

16706. Quite as distinctly as that?—Yes.

16707. (Mr. Brown).—I think they endeavoured to put some responsibility on the Department for the trading losses. I think they alleged that they did not get as much assistance from the Department as they had got from South Kensington previously?—They did. Mr. Brown's recollection of the matter is quite right. I have it quite fresh in my mind,

having read the evidence. How far that is the case you can judge perhaps if you look at the figures.

(Mr. Micks).—You can send them in.

16708. (Chairman).—The complaint of Mr. Glynn, as far as I recollect, was that they paid the original outstanding debt on a solemn sort of understanding that something would be done to revive the industry if they did it?—Yes.

16709. (Mr. Brown).—That would be another point, but before that he contended that the Department were in some way responsible for the collapse by not having given it sufficient help and contrasted unfavourably the assistance given by the Department with the assistance previously given by South Kensington. I think the Capitalisation Grant was regarded as worthless—I may say that the question of the success or non-success of the industry was determined long before then.

16710. (Mr. Brown reads the evidence of Mr. Glynn bearing on the question).—(Witness).—There has always been, of course, a scheme there of which they could avail.

16711. (Chairman).—It really comes to this if these facts be correct, that it is a question whether it is one of your proper functions to bolster up an industry—I remember that I pointed out not only that the Department could not pay those debts but also that it would be unable to give assistance till they were removed.

16712. (Mr. Micks).—Has then when they were removed they seem to have the same complaint?—No since they were removed, except that instead of allowing the payment of a number of salaries there apart from the amount of work done, the Department were of opinion that they should work on a capitalisation scheme in which the amount of money earned bears some proportion to the number of students.

16713. (Chairman).—It really comes to this, that you are asked to give financial support there for the purpose of saving an industry from insolvency after they have paid off their debts?—Yes. A large sum of money has been paid altogether in grants there, and yet the industry did not succeed. The industry was in existence when the Department began its work, and it had been going on for some years.

16714. (Mr. Brown).—Mr. Glynn admitted that he did obtain practically the same thing from the Department that he had been getting from South Kensington till the capitalisation system was introduced, and then, of course, it rested with themselves?—Gort was one of the places which enjoyed for some time the Equivalent Grant. As a matter of fact it may have been that there was no difference in the amounts paid.

16715. (Chairman).—Do you not think you have dealt with that sufficiently?—I will leave that. With regard to the statement made then, and by a further witness, Mr. Daly, with regard to the hopelessness of the capitalisation system in the requirement of the number of working hours, I must say that I cannot think an industry is a very serious thing if during a space of twelve months the workers do not attend for at least 240 hours. That is a requirement which can obviously be complied with either in twenty-four weeks of ten hours per week or in some other way. We do not lay down the amount of time per week, but it cannot be regarded as a serious industry unless that condition is complied with. I have very nearly finished this portion of my evidence. There is one thing still, on the question of interference, that I may refer to. A witness, Mr. Kennedy, criticised the Department very severely in regard to this question.

16716. (Mr. Micks).—Was that at Killbenny?—No; it was evidence given at the sittings, I believe, in regard to Meath.

16717. (Chairman).—Give us the reference to some question?—It was at Questions 4218 and 4219. He sought to show that the Department sought to have discovered earlier that urban districts could not work under a County Committee. For a time we acted on the assumption that they could, but presently the Local Government auditors raised the question, and it was at that time that we formed Joint Committees under Section 14 (3) of the Act. There was no sort of inconsistency, such as is referred to, in regard to our inspectors acting with the Committees

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Mr. George
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while this question was pending. I have here the circular that was issued, and it distinctly lays down that the old Committee should continue to administer the scheme till the Joint Committee could be appointed. That was the only thing possible. Now, there is a matter-of-fact question in evidence taken in Cork, at Question 4769. The witness was Mr. Crooke, who raised a point with regard to the Cork School of Art. He remarks—"The Cork School of Art—I speak under the correction of Mr. Fletcher—costs about £5,000 a year to maintain, if not more. Mr. Fletcher—I cannot say off-hand." Well, I could not say off-hand, but instead of £5,000 a year it is far less than £2,000. I have got the figure here. It is less than £1,000. I could not give the figure then. Then, again, at the same place, Cork, you will remember that a point was raised by Mr. Macdonald in regard to our treatment of the County of Cork. In fact the point made was that in some way we had kept from them a sum of money equal to a third of a year's grant. I merely raise the question to know whether the Committee would wish for any explanation.

16722. What is your reference?—4886.

(Mr. Brown reads evidence).

16719. (Mr. O'Leary).—Have the County Council asked a question as to that three months?—Oh, yes; and they got a very full explanation.

16720. (Mr. Brown).—But he says they got no satisfaction from the Department?—They did not get the money.

16721. But they got that explanation?—Yes. The Department's grant is, of course, given in respect to the season's work. It would be difficult for me to determine the relative importance attached to points raised. Mr. Glasgow raised a question with respect to the building of a technical school at Corktown where we had refused to allow them.

16722. (Chairman).—Exercise your own judgment as to whether it is worth while, because there are a great many points raised which we do not think are of importance. There is nothing weighing on my mind about it.—Time would not allow me to deal with all the small points.

16723. Just take any that you think really of importance?—Here, sir, as it stands, it seems that the Department were keeping back useful work. I remember the case perfectly well. A proposal was made to build a School in Corktown, and it would have been a very unworthy building. The view taken by the Department was that it would be better to put up a better building.

16724. We cannot sit in judgment on whether the action taken was right or wrong in a case of the kind. What we have to be satisfied of is that it is a matter to which the Department gave reasonable consideration. Exercise your own judgment in regard to its importance?—The suggestion was that we proceeded in a wrong way and that the result was not the result that they desired, and the question is whether the decision was a justifiable one. I can only say, as far as my view goes, that the same decision would be given to-day.

16725. (Mr. O'Leary).—In a great many cases you must address yourself to the general principles which you have already put before us, and any document suffices for our information. It is only where the subject is a matter of personal concern and that you have not put before us any such principles or methods of working, that it is necessary for you to add anything that you think requisite?—Yes, I recognise that, and if you will submit to me any supplemental questions I will deal with them.

16726. The Secretary has already sent you notes of some cases?—Of specific cases.

16727. On general points?—Yes; I have got them from the Secretary. Those are isolated points, hardly referable to any principle, and that is why I selected them. The case mentioned by Canon O'Donnell in his evidence is one on which you would probably desire to have definite information. He complained of the Department taking over the Killarney School of Domestic Economy and not consulting the County Committee. He imagined the funds for maintaining it must be taken from the county funds.

16728. (Chairman).—Refer us to the circumstances?—I should like to make quite clear the circumstances under which the Department took over that school. In the first place not one penny of its funds come out of the county funds. That school, which has existed for many years, was known as the Castlemead School of Housewifery, and it was threatened that it would be closed. Some Scholarships were being held there under the Congested Districts Board. It was really a school for the training of domestic servants. It was serving a very useful purpose, and one thing that would happen from the closing of the school would be that the ten Congested Districts Board scholars would be turned out. Under those circumstances the matter was brought before the Department, and they referred it to the Board of Technical Instruction, and it was decided to take it over for, as all events, twelve months. That is quite a recent event, and the twelve months are not yet out. We have had it less than six months. And this question was referred to here—why the Department did not consult the County Kerry Committee. Well, that has not been done. The County Kerry funds were not in any degree committed. Moreover, it was not essentially a Kerry scheme. It is not a Kerry school. Suppose the question had been referred to the County Kerry, and they had said, "No; we think you should not take this over," what would have been the action of the Department then? I think, on wider grounds, the Department would have been obliged to go on and take the course they have taken.

16729. (Mr. Micks).—There were no county funds involved in it?—None. It was not necessary to consult them.

16730. (Mr. Brown).—And no decrease of the money coming to the county from the Department?—No; there was no intention of that kind.

16731. I think the suggestion was that there would be more coming to them in future but for this expenditure. They first thought that it was taken out of the county funds, and they held to that?—Well, they might.

16732. (Chairman).—That is as far as you need really go with that matter?—Now, among other smaller points there were complaints of the Department not making use of existing schools there, having regard to the fact that in the County Kerry there are ten girls' schools and four boys' schools which are not aided by the Department—that is National schools. Evidence was offered about the grant to Cahirciveen Convent. The Department have, for some time past, declined to sanction an equipment grant of £50 to that Convent—it was one of those matters so frequently made the subject of Parliamentary questions in the past—as large sums under the Capitalisation Scheme are paid to that Convent. I believe during last session they received £70, and I think, this year a larger amount. That is all I have to say on that point.

16733. That finishes that head?—I think I may say that finishes that head. A question arose in regard to Canon and Mr. Micks asked about it.

16734. (Mr. Micks).—About instructors in Convent?—Yes. This is a case in which the County Cavan Committee employed an additional teacher that they were to pay for out of accumulated funds.

16735. Were there two teachers involved in it?—There were—yes. That is a very simple point. The Cavan County Committee thought that they would have a sufficient sum of money accumulated to provide more teachers than they are really able to provide this year, and they wrote to the Department. There is a letter here from the Department dated 10th October, 1896, stating that the good work which had been done in the county rendered it advisable that the funds of the Committee should be increased; but that under the strict terms of allocation of the Department's funds for the whole country in regard to technical instruction the county was entitled to an annual grant of £384 only. This grant the Department had sought somewhat to supplement, and they had been enabled to place a sum of £600 at the disposal of the Committee annually, but they regretted that it was not possible for them further to increase the income of the Committee from the funds which they administer.

16736. What are the accumulated funds?—The Committee and the Inspector in discussing the work concluded that at the end of the year they would have more than actually turned out to be the case.

16737. And the Inspector took a wrong view of the finance also?—No; the question of finance does not rest with him.

16738. But he was misled?—Yes.

16739. Was the Committee altogether wrong?—Well, he and the Secretary together, on discussing the expenditure concluded that they would have a certain amount at the end of the year.

16740. Was the scheme drawn up in view of that?—In view of that.

16741. And then, as the matter stands now, the funds were not available, and you could not give them more funds to remedy their position. How far had they actually gone with this scheme?—They have not gone on at all.

16742. Have they not engaged, and, as a matter of fact, appointed and employed two instructors?—I believe I am right in saying that the instructors were there already, and it was a case of getting rid of them.

And that was a little awkward, of course?

16743. (Mr. Brown).—And at what point was the mistake discovered—was it before the scheme was finally sanctioned, or was it after the scheme was sanctioned?—I think the scheme was sanctioned on the basis that they would have accumulated funds.

16744. But there was a considerable interval between the sanction and the time of putting it into operation?—I can give you the particulars.

16745. (Mr. Micks).—Of course the County Committee were put in an awkward position, having already engaged two instructors?—The instructors were already there.

16746. And the Committee were in an awkward position in having to disburse with them?—I don't think so.

16747. (Mr. Brown).—It was a question of re-engagement?—Yes.

16748. (Chairman).—Had they to be dispensed with?—I do not know what has happened.

16749. (Mr. Micks).—They had to disburse with one?—Their estimated expenditure was £250, and the actual expenditure £3,120.

16750. And there was no way of removing that difficulty?—Not unless we made a supplementary grant.

16751. And under the circumstances you did not think you would be justified?—We would feel that we would be justified if we had the money.

16752. But you had not the money?—We had not.

16753. Then, really the want of money is the reason why you did not assist them?—Yes, that was so; we recognised that they had been doing very good work in Cavan.

16754. And that they got into an awkward position through no fault of their own?—Yes; I think I will accept that.

16755. And that you would have taken them out of the difficulty if you had got the money?—Oh, yes, certainly.

16756. There was another case that I last night mentioned to you—the case of Miss Lynch. She got some conditional Scholarship at some examination in Cork?—At the Irish Training School of Domestic Economy.

16757. Afterwards there. But she first got some provisional Scholarship as the result of passing some examination?—Yes.

16758. Perhaps you would say briefly what the facts were?—I will explain to the Committee fully what happened. Miss Lynch obtained an open Scholarship for a course of training at the Irish Training School of Domestic Economy.

16759. Of the value of £30?—No; there is no money value.

16760. But the estimated value?—No; it is merely a free tuition. Miss Lynch was appointed under the conditions governing all students, and these conditions are, that first of all, there is an examination, more or less competitive in character and of a literary type. The programme of the school, however, lays down under Clause 4 that admission will be in the first place provisional.

16761. This was a Scholarship in domestic economy?

—Yes, to train to teach domestic economy. Our Irish Training School of Domestic Economy at Kildare-street is devoted wholly to the training of teachers, and this lady was therefore to become a teacher. I was referring to the school programme which lays down that admission will, in the first place, be provisional. The students provisionally admitted have to give twenty trial lessons in cookery, and if the results of those twenty lessons are unsatisfactory the students may be advised, and, if necessary, required, to discontinue their attendance. Fifty-seven candidates competed at the examination, nineteen of them qualified for admission to the school. Those nineteen were admitted. At the end of this period of probation that I have referred to, five of them were found deficient in this kind of practical work, and the five were required to leave, and one of these was Miss Lynch.

16762. And another was Miss Moriarty?—Miss Moriarty, she was another.

16763. That is the only other name I have?—I suppose the others had no friends to protect. What happened in this case is that everybody seems to have protested against the result. I have here a packet of the case, and it quotes letters from the highest to the lowest, from friends who have written protesting, and asking for re-consideration. Moreover, the lady has had a couple of interviews with the Vice-President of the Department, and he gave her quite clearly to understand that there was no miscarriage of justice, and there was no re-consideration possible, because the question was most carefully considered before the decision was given. Under such circumstances a re-consideration would mean reviving the deliberate opinion of three officers of the school.

16764. The decision to which you refer was that of three teachers of the school jointly?—Yes, jointly.

16765. And were they unanimous?—Yes; and I remember well that before the Department issued the results I took the precaution of sending for the Secretary and head teacher to discuss the question, as it was a very serious matter to require a student to leave the school, but on their strong and unanimous recommendation there was nothing else to be done.

16766. (Chairman).—And really, under the terms of these regulations you had no choice?—No choice. It would have been a distinctly improper act to have gone against that decision.

16767. (Mr. Collier).—It would have been an injustice to the ladies remaining?—It would; and the Department were unable to do anything in the circumstances. It was quite impossible to revise this decision.

16768. (Mr. Micks).—I understand that the reason why she failed was on account of deficiency in her practical work?—I will read it again.

16769. I mean the reason?—There were twenty trial lessons in cookery, and they are practical lessons.

16770. It was her practical work?—It was in those twenty practical lessons.

16771. She had all the theoretical qualifications?—She had passed your examiner?—No; I am not prepared to say that, because that examination is a literary one.

16772. And this was in domestic economy?—Yes.

16773. She did get a senior grade certificate from the Intermediate Board for passing in Latin, English, German, and in domestic economy?—That was purely theoretical.

16774. And a pass with honours in French, Commercial French, Commercial German, and Italian?—Yes. That finishes that head of evidence, sir.

The Committee adjourned.

FORTY-EIGHTH PUBLIC SITTING.—THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 1906.

At 35, Great George Street, Westminster.

Present:—

Sir KENELM DUGBY, K.C., Q.C.B. (Chairman),

Mr. F. G. OGILVIE, C.B.

Mr. W. L. MICKS.

Mr. S. J. BROWN.

Mr. J. J. TAYLOR, C.B. (Secretary).

Mr. GEORGE FLETCHER, F.R.S., Assistant Secretary in respect of Technical Instruction, further examined.

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16774a. I propose to deal to-day with our relations with other Departments, and I shall ask you to allow me to say something in regard to the work of the Department in connection with the teaching of experimental science, drawing, &c., in secondary schools—a point on which you have already had some evidence. I explained when I was first called the reasons that urged the Department to establish the teaching of experimental science in secondary schools. I say the establishment, because there had been no teaching of experimental science in the secondary schools of Ireland before. There had been teaching of natural philosophy, under the rules of the Intermediate Board, but I think I am right in saying practically every educationalist condemned that system as unreal and undesirable. Everybody, so far as I know, advocated the introduction of a better system. There had, as I said, been brilliant examples of practical teaching in some secondary schools, but, in general, it was thought that the teaching of natural philosophy on the lines that had previously existed was barren of permanent results. The Department therefore initiated the system that is now followed in the secondary schools. The question of this new system arose on Tuesday in evidence given by representatives from secondary schools. Will you allow me to say in one word what that system is? In introducing that new system it is only right to say the Department has had the most cordial co-operation of the teachers in Ireland. The idea was to introduce a system which should be more practical in character, more educational, and in which the teachers should be the work performed by the student himself. In other words, it was thought that very much of the information that was given respecting scientific principles was a mere recitation. It was soon forgotten; and one of the guiding principles in the new system introduced is that the student should not be told anything that he may fairly be supposed to find out for himself.

16775. (Chairman).—That is what has been described as the "heuristic" method?—If I may say so, I very much dislike the use of the word. There is no need for the introduction of it, and a very great deal of discredit attaches to it. The discredit which attaches to it does not attach to the system as followed in Ireland, but one has again and again to discriminate between the work and the discredit attached to the name. The system is experimental, following roughly the inductive method which has been followed by good teachers from time immemorial.

16776. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It does not exclude the teacher's doing an experiment himself?—Quite otherwise. We have endeavored strenuously to make that clear, but we seek rather to inculcate the method of science than the imparting of a certain amount of information which lasts only until the examination is over. All those who have been engaged in educational work hold that when a student does a thing for himself he is much more likely to remember and to assimilate it, and it is much more educational in character than the mere memorizing of information prepared for the next part, in order to pass a written examination. We have broken in upon that, and I believe we have broken in upon it successfully. But as to the point whether a teacher

may demonstrate, there seems to be a good deal of misunderstanding.

16777. There is no hard and fast line?—There is no hard and fast line at all. So far from that, let me read you what is laid down in our Preliminary Notes:—"A course of instruction in science which neglects the enormous educative importance of a training in the scientific method loses the larger portion of its educational value. The mere acquisition of the facts of science—assuming it possible to convey them without practical work—must be regarded as quite secondary in value to the mental training and discipline involved by following out a few simple lines of investigation involving the essence of the observing and reasoning faculties. The method, which has been called the 'Research' or 'Heuristic' method, involves the exercise of the highest powers of a teacher. It is less a method than a guiding principle. It requires that he should be less for his pupil than was common where a knowledge of facts was the sole aim, but the little required must be intensely purposeful. In fact, the teacher should avoid telling his pupils anything which they may fairly be expected to find out for themselves, and one of his highest functions is that of bringing home clearly to them the nature of the problem to be solved and the method by which it may be investigated. In certain cases it may be found desirable to establish a fact by the method of verification. The full curriculum of instruction laid down in the following syllabuses consists of a two years' preliminary course followed by a two years' special course. The preliminary course deals with fundamental principles, and in addition to providing exercises in observational work, principally weighing and measuring, afford ample opportunity for the study of experimental methods. While the same method should inspire the work of the third and fourth year courses, and while the course should be strictly experimental, more attention may be paid to theory and the student may now be referred to the observation of others."

16778. (Chairman).—I suppose in Latin and Greek the "orth" and dictionary are the respective methods.

16779. (Mr. Ogilvie).—The point that remains is the criticism that was applied to your programme of work is whether or not the minimum of actual individual experimental work by the pupils that you require is not more than can be properly performed in the time available for the work, that is to say, whether it would not be desirable to increase the freedom allowed to the teachers for demonstration of experiment so as to diminish the number of experiments carried out in the laboratory?—That is one point.

16780. That is the only point that remains to be touched?—There is absolutely no rule in the matter. We encourage the teacher to demonstrate in certain experiments. These are better taught by a demonstration on the lecture table. Let us take one instance which will serve very well—the composition of water by synthesis. In that case I think the least to be derived would be derived least soundly by a student if he performed the experiment than from a demonstration to the whole class. But in saying that, I do not wish to imply that that is the general principle in regard to the work. The first and second

parent's course, and indeed the full course of instruction, is best carried out where the student performs the experiments. It is not desired that the student should determine every physical constant, but that, having found out by a number of selected examples, the method employed, he may then intelligently repeat the teaching and learn from the work of others. As to the question of the length of the syllabus—

16782. (Mr. Oylivie).—The number of experiments you desire to have performed?—That is a question which has been very often under discussion, between Inspectors of the Department, and between the Department and the representative body of teachers. Although very many proposals have been made for reducing the syllabus, I do not remember any proposition made for extending it. At the last meeting of the Consultative Committee of Headmasters this matter was discussed, and a number of propositions were made for the reduction of our syllabus. I explained the matter at very considerable length, and the Committee decided it was an undesirable thing to make any change. The syllabus as it stands is not in my opinion too long. You must remember, however, that it is a syllabus not necessarily drafted for a student of so many hours per week in experimental science. Some schools give more time and some less. It is necessary to have a syllabus which will fit both cases, both with regard to practical and theoretical examinations. The questions are always set to meet the case of schools not able to follow the full syllabus. There is no greater evil than that a teacher should be driven on to advanced portions of the syllabus without having made the earlier portions clear.

16782. So that in the case of schools not able to give more than three hours a week to practical instruction, you are prepared to accept a smaller programme of actual work done by the pupils, so long as that programme was continuous and had been kept going and brought up to the standard required for the general advancement of the pupils by demonstration and other methods of instruction?—It is our usual practice to do so, as you will see when I tell you the final inspections are spread over two or three months. The Inspector may go to a school which is two months behind another. It is the custom, indeed, of inspectors to ask "what have you covered," and to examine upon the work that has been covered. In other words, it is a very generous system by which credit is given for work done. If a short syllabus has been followed then it is expected that the work will be done very thoroughly. As a matter of fact, let me say we do not bind ourselves to that syllabus. I do not know any case of a school not taking it, but they have the right to submit alternative courses. The reason why the syllabus has been generally adopted is that for a written examination you can clearly have only one syllabus. It is owing to the Intermediate Examinations that the syllabus is adopted generally.

16783. One really wanted to be informed of your view on the subject, because it was in effect the only criterion of a system which has obviously done very much good. One wanted to be assured that it was quite open to the schools to adopt it as fully as possible in the circumstances in which they were placed. I take it the representatives of the Headmasters have been consulted on the matter?—They are in full agreement with the policy and programme of the Department for secondary schools. I have the minutes of the meeting which shows they agreed that no alteration was desirable. I am exceedingly anxious that that should be made clear, because it is very important. In regard to the advanced courses we agreed that at least one-third of the time must be devoted to theory. Now, the question will arise as to whether we adhere to our principle in practice.

16784. I think Mr. Fletcher may assume that in the absence of any putting any questions on other matters, we are quite satisfied?—I will not deal with the general question. I will refer to one specified point. The last witness in Dublin, Father Dowling, was asked by Mr. Oylivie a question as to his approval of the work in secondary schools. He replied that he considered it too "fussy." He attributed that to the inspectors. I believe the phrase was used, "Like inspector, like teacher." In reply to a further question, the witness stated he had seen the inspectors at work. I was very much surprised to hear that. I am in a position to state that Father

Dowling has never been present during the inspection of a secondary school by the Department's Inspectors.

16785. (Mr. Micks).—You ascertained that from the inspectors?—I sent a memorandum to ask of what inspection Father Dowling had been present. The statement was clearly that the inspectors set the pace for the teacher, and that any difficulty was traceable to indifferent inspection. The foundation for that statement was that he had seen the inspectors at work.

16786. (Mr. Oylivie).—That is so. I gather you have had an opportunity of talking with Father Dowling on the matter?—I spoke to Father Dowling when the Committee rose. I remarked to him—"I am not aware you have been present at an inspection of schools." He said—"Yes, I will tell you where. I was present at Roshardham, Convent, and saw two inspectors there." He said they were taking summer courses. My answer was that inspectors did not take summer courses. He replied that they belonged to the same category.

16787. The fact is, he evidently was confusing two things that have no relation to one another. It was a summer course of instruction for teachers in a secondary school?—Yes, it was a secondary school, but not a secondary class.

16788. It was in a secondary school, but the pupils were not secondary school pupils, but students in a course of instruction for teachers?—Yes. Only one further point, raised by Brother Hennessey. It is very important. It is in reference to a statement I made regarding the work of certain secondary schools, was Answer 2356. I said the work in those schools was of a lower type. I meant that a great many of the boys going to these schools did not join the professional classes. They are being educated for occupations not necessarily professional in their character, and it is very desirable that the education given should fit them for the kind of work they have to perform in life. You may without reproach roughly divide secondary schools into two types. I would draw a line between the higher secondary schools in Ireland, such as Clonsilla, Wood College and Blackrock College, and schools which take pupils in a good many cases without fees and give them an education which, in my opinion, is little more adapted to their needs in life than, in their case, could be obtained in the higher colleges. That was all I meant to convey. I know too much of the Christian Brothers' schools to suggest that their work was inferior. It is true there are individual Christian Brothers' schools, the Christian Brothers' College at Cork, for example, which do give higher secondary education, but the classification is quite fair. It was made without reproach. If there were no such schools we should be in an exceedingly difficult position in Ireland. It would mean that there were no schools of a secondary type which would provide education for the great mass of the people.

16789. You put it that these secondary schools to which you referred are schools that are performing a function of the utmost importance, and I gather you believe they are performing it satisfactorily?—Yes. They are schools of the very highest importance, being, as I believe, a most valuable work. What I want to convey is that the instruction given in these schools is, perhaps, less classical in type than that in the Dominican Seminary and other intermediate schools for the very sufficient reason that they are attended largely by those who will afterwards follow an industrial, rather than a professional career, and for whom during the period they are likely to remain at school a more literary type of secondary education is not required.

16790. (Chairman).—These four witnesses who were called the other day were suggested by yourself to be called as witnesses, as I suppose, being representatives of various classes?—I think if I were to tell you what happened it would be better. After Father Dowling had given evidence, as it was the only evidence given by any witness during the inquiry on secondary schools, I was very anxious that his statements should not be allowed to pass, and I wrote to the Secretary of the Department suggesting that some evidence might be given or asked for on behalf of secondary schools.

16791. I think you suggested the names of these witnesses?—Yes, I did, as they are well known and representative teachers, and were not nominated by the Department, on the Committee of Headmasters.

16792. (Mr. Oylivie).—Teachers who have been selected by their brother-teachers, each in his own

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Society, to represent them for the specific purpose of communicating with the Department and advising the Department upon matters concerning secondary schools?—Yes. You have an Assistant Superintendent of the Christian Brothers' Order.

18793. (Chairman).—I only want to get on the notes for they came.

18793A. (Mr. Nichol).—There are Headmasters' Associations?—There are. They are represented on this Committee.

18794. Have you communicated with a Headmasters' Association?—We have been in communication with the body that represents all the Associations.

18795. It did not occur to you to go beyond that?—It would not occur to us, because that is the only body representing secondary schools with which the Department has communication.

18796. You do not have any communication with any Headmasters' Association?—There is a Catholic Headmasters' Association which sends us their resolutions.

18797. You did not communicate with that body?—We did not communicate with any body. There is one other point in regard to our relations with the National Education Board. We have come in for a very considerable amount of criticism because we have not undertaken the duty which it was assumed was laid upon us in regard to the teaching of domestic economy in primary schools.

18798. (Chairman).—I think we have dealt with that pretty fully?—It is a very important point.

18799. (Mr. Brown).—The only point that remains to be cleared up in this. It was said in a circular from the National Board Commissioners that the Department were about to make arrangements to give instruction in cookery in National schools, that that was not carried out, and that, as a consequence of the statement, arrangements the National Board were themselves making had fallen through?—That is the general idea. Dr. Sturges said, "We have handed over this work to the Department." I must say quite frankly the work has not been done. There has been a considerable amount of discussion between representatives from the National Board and the Department in regard to this work. Let me say quite clearly we have got the machinery for doing it in the upper standards of the National schools, but there are two reasons why we cannot do it. The first is that we are prohibited under the definition of technical instruction from spending any money in primary schools. We would be at liberty to expend money under the annual Parliamentary Vote for that purpose, but no money has been voted for it. In our discussions with the National Board we expressed our willingness, if we could get the funds, to take up the teaching of domestic economy in the upper standards of the National schools, stilling our itinerant teachers. As soon as the funds are provided we can do it. But we have neither power nor money to undertake it at present. Now we allow these upper standards to come after school hours to the classes of our itinerant teachers. It is most important and desirable that the teaching of domestic economy should be undertaken on a larger scale in the upper standards of primary schools. We have all the machinery and teachers to carry it on if we had the funds.

18800. (Mr. Gifford).—Do you agree that it is desirable as long as the present distinction between the different grades of technical schools continues, that it would be of some importance to have any funds found, found in such a way as to make it clear that they were for elementary education?—I should be glad if that was made clear. Our fund for technical education is strictly limited. The whole of our endowment for technical instruction might easily be used in making good defects in the primary system. If that were desirable—and I think that is the view of the Department—then, I think, funds should be found for it. I do not know whether I make myself quite clear.

18801. Have you suggested to the National Board the desirability of finding the funds and spending them through you as being the most economical way of securing the result?—I do not know whether we actually suggested that they should get the money from the Treasury for this purpose, but one thing is clear. If the funds are found, we are quite willing to undertake the work. We are, on the technical side, without funds. We cannot carry out the full programme of work for the present year because we have not sufficient funds. A good deal of evidence was

given in regard to our preparatory year for evening schools and whether that might not be undertaken by the National Board. Have you any question to ask me about that?

18802. It was not exactly that. It was whether the arrangements for the assistance of elementary education in so far as it required to be completed in evening classes under the National Board, were such as to afford a good chance for the organization of these continuation classes on such a scale and on such lines as would prepare the field properly for the work of technical instruction afterwards?—I should be very glad to see that done.

18803. You do not believe that it exists now?—It does not exist. It was that which led to these preparatory classes. If we could delegate the work we should be glad to do so. It is on account of the urgent need for it, and the impossibility of working a good scheme for evening technical schools without it, that caused us to include it in the programme.

18804. Are you prepared to summarise from the point of view of technical education the present difficulties, or would you rather not?—I could not give you as complete a picture as I should desire had I more time. I think the main difficulty is the regulation in regard to the number of meetings per week.

18805. So many evenings are required?—Yes, the limit of time, the limit of hours of instruction.

18806. Do you consider the rate of grant is sufficient with other funds available?—The complaint is often made that the grant is quite insufficient, and I believe that is the case.

18807. You offer no opinion as to whether it ought to be expected of itself to meet the cost of teaching?—I do not think it does meet the cost of teaching.

18808. And do you offer any opinion as to whether it ought to be sufficient to meet the cost of teaching? In the circumstances under which the schools have to be conducted, is the grant towards the cost of teaching a grant which might reasonably be expected to meet the cost of it?—That is a very big question. Our course, when a school comes to us and says, "The teaching of this will cost us so much"—

18809. I am talking now of the completion of elementary education, which is not on all four?—That is so large and so varied a question that I would like to be excused from entering upon it.

18810. I do not press it?—There are two further questions. There is the question of the Honours Examination in Experimental Science, which comes on the other day, and seemed to me to be surrounded by some confusion. As a matter of fact, let me point out, any boy may compete for the Honours Examination. We lay down no restriction. The Honours Examination is in two parts, the practical examination and the theoretical examination. The student must pass in both. Hitherto any student going in for the practical examination went in for the subsequent theoretical examination as well. But teachers said to us, "Why waste our time and the time of the student going in for the theoretical examination when you know that he has not passed the practical?" We said we realized this inconvenience, and that if they wished we would tell them in advance whether the student had passed the qualifying practical examination. That is the course now adopted.

18811. (Mr. Nichol).—Are the boys marked in any way for practical work?—They are marked as qualifying. The question has often been discussed whether a mark should be attached, and there are many things to commend it. The difficulty is when you have different inspectors. It would be exceedingly difficult to secure in different parts of the country that equality of treatment in the examination necessary to secure confidence in it. I should be delighted if one could attach marks to the practical work. It would do very much to stimulate excellence in practical work.

18812. The difficulty is very great?—I am afraid it is insurmountable. We have discussed it often with the boards, and we have come to that conclusion. We do not wish to regard the practical examination as a preliminary to going in for the other. It is only to meet the convenience of teachers that we tell them it is no use working in such and such a student, because he has not passed.

18813. That did not seem to be understood by Mr. Thompson?—I think she understood it, really. It was rather the futility of examination.

18814. Was it not her own voluntary assertion?

18815. (Chairman).—I think it was rather the way

of putting it—Mrs. Thompson is a member of the Advisory Committee, and it has often been discussed at their meetings.

16216. From a teacher's point of view the objection comes rather forcibly to me that you do not distinguish between the quality of the work?—As between student and student?

16217. Yes. The boy who passes a moderate or even a poor practical examination is on the same level with the boy who passes a very good examination.

(The Witness).—I should like to say a word about the Ouzagh matter. It was said we were getting too many laboratories.

16218. (Mr. O'Leary).—There are four?—Yes. It was thought they might combine; that it was a waste of money, that if we had co-ordination it would avoid the situation. There is perfect co-ordination. If it were possible to arrange one joint laboratory it could be done immediately. There is nothing to prevent it. But how can one? One school is a girls' school, one is a Christian Brothers' school. Excessive difficulty at-

tends the mixing of pupils under these conditions. Nov. 22, 1906.
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16219. I recognise that the point was if circumstances made it necessary to have this duplication, which necessitated expenditure on a very large scale in proportion to the ground that had to be covered?—It is undoubtedly the fact that the teaching of experimental science is expensive.

16220. If you take the number of hours each laboratory will be occupied, the number of laboratories appears to be excessive in regard to the population. I learned afterwards the explanation was practically what you have just said?—That was all I wanted to say.

16221. There was a question of a fifth laboratory for evening work?—No, they were contemplating a laboratory at the Technical School. That would not be a Science Laboratory in the ordinary sense, but one of a more mechanical type.

Mr. T. P. GILL examined.

16222-3. (Chairman).—I believe you have arranged with Sir Horace Plunkett. To what do you desire to call our attention?—Finance is the principal thing, and if you require it any rebutting evidence on behalf of the Museum or the Veterinary College. You have before you the printed Memorandum showing the position of the Endowment Fund, from the Minutes of the Agricultural Board of December, 1905. (Appendix No.—) In Table IV. you will find the annual income of the Endowment Fund. The sources of income are there set forth. There is from Local Taxation (Ireland) Account, £70,000; Church Temporalities Fund, £70,000; Parliamentary Grant equivalent for salaries of judgeships abolished, £12,000; and Parliamentary Grant formerly paid to the National Education Board in connection with the Albert Agricultural College and the Munster Institute, £6,000. That makes a total of £158,000, and that was our original Endowment Fund. In 1902 an Act was passed making a re-arrangement as to the Royal Dublin Society. It was simply this, that the sum that had been payable to them for the purposes of horse and cattle breeding—£5,000 per annum—was transferred to our account. Then, there is a contribution of £2,000 which the Congested Districts Board have made in respect of agricultural schemes transferred to the Department.

16224. What security is there for that?—It might be withdrawn at any moment.

16225. (Mr. Miles).—If the amount were withdrawn what would happen, would you stop the work?—If we got money from another source we would not. It would be a matter for arrangement. The next item is £7,000 from the Ireland Development Grant in lieu of what is commonly called the Equivalent Grant. That sum is intended to be expended on new developments and not on existing schemes of technical instruction. The bearing of that qualification you will see in a moment, when I come to deal with the Technical Instruction Fund. Then, there is Interest on Securities and Money Deposited, £20,000. That is a diminishing item, and ought not to appear as part of income. It would be better placed in the Capital Account. The total, with interest, makes £186,000.

16226. The interest will vanish as soon as your savings vanish?—Yes. Out of it, moreover, has to come the interest on the money for technical instruction belonging to the County Borough of Dublin, about £1,450 a year.

16227. (Chairman).—Your savings in the earlier years were very much larger and are constantly diminishing in amount?—That is so. I may mention moreover of that item of interest, that the interest we have derived from our securities since we began to invest our capital funds has amounted up to the present to £267,600. The capital sums that we have received under the Act appear as we received them in the General Statement of Income and Expenditure, Part I. These are "sums not required for the purpose of carrying into effect the Local Government Act of 1898," £189,015. That sum was received in instalments.

16228. How do you get it?—In this way. £166,886 on 11th June, 1900; £15,000 on 17th February, 1902;

and £3,129 on 12th March, 1903—in all £189,015. Mr. T. P. GILL.
Savings accumulated in respect of Irish Judgeships abolished were £19,990. That makes a total of £204,005. In 1904 there was passed over to our account the portion of the Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund which was assigned to our Department. That was made up of Grants, Preliminary Notes and Cash, £25,000. The total capital sums were, therefore, £230,025. With that capital sum and the savings on our first year's endowments we made certain accumulations and investments. You will see those given in Part I. of that Memorandum. It is summarised there at the top of the page.

16229. These are what you hold now?—Yes. They make a total, including deposits in the Bank of Ireland, of £295,336.

16230. (Mr. Brown).—Was that their market value at that date?—That was their cash value on the 10th July, 1906.

16231. That does not represent sums invested?—The sums invested and their face value are given.

16232. Is there any depreciation?—We bought some Exchange Bonds at 98½. We bought them at a good price. That rather makes up for depreciation. The total on our investments does not show any diminution. We make about 3 per cent. on our investments.

16233. Do you mean if interest be added to the present value that it would equal the sums originally invested, or does it exceed them?—What I mean is that we make on our investments an average of three per cent. We would have had a good deal more but for certain depreciations. I will give particulars of that.

16234. That is quite sufficient?—Well, now, you will see under heading number II.: Liabilities in respect of fixed charges under the Agricultural and Technical Act of 1899 and of funds allocated for the purpose of technical instruction. These are fixed liabilities on the Endowment Fund. If you glance through them you will see what they are. They include about £51,000 in respect of technical instruction in County Boroughs.

16235. (Chairman).—Remember in dealing with this, your evidence will be read by people who have not the advantage of the tabular statement before them?—It might be put in at the beginning of my evidence.

16236. It will be put in in some form, no doubt. Will you just run through the figures?—The accumulated balances on 1st April, 1906, in respect of the fixed charges under the Act of 1899 so far as was required out of the sum of £295,330, were as follows: (1.) Building and Equipment of Royal Veterinary College (the balance of £20,000 granted by the Agricultural Board), £1,077.

16237. That is, £15,000 under the Act and £5,000 voted by the Agricultural Board?—Precisely. That balance is £1,077. The next item is Building and Equipment of Munster Institute (balance of the £10,000), £4,016.

16238. That is the balance of the £10,000 mentioned in the Act?—Yes. The next item is Technical Instruction in County Boroughs—Belfast, a balance to credit of £1,061.

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16839. (Mr. Micks).—Is that fixed?—That will be paid off.

16840. That is merely ordinary liability, because the paragraph is headed fixed charges?—The amount payable to Belfast for the year 1905-6 out of the £25,000 allocated to County Boroughs was £11,061, a fixed charge, and of this sum £1,061 had not been paid over on 1st April, 1906. Then there is Cork, £411; Dublin—owing to their scheme not yet having been formulated—£67,648; Limerick (balance to credit), £708; Londonderry (balance to credit), £1,864; Waterford (balance to credit), £149—making a total of £51,242. The next item is: technical instruction in Urban and Rural Districts (inclusive of the grants made by the Agricultural Board for manual instruction and domestic economy in rural districts), £24,335.

16841. That is in respect of the balance of their share of the £55,000?—Yes, £24,335. Then, there are the amounts received from the Inland Development Grant for technical instruction, £10,500, that is £2,500 received in 1904-5, and £7,000 in 1905-6.

16842. Does that come there. What is the £2,500?—The amount from the Grant received in 1904-5.

16843. And you still have £2,500 in addition to your £7,000 annually?—

16844. (Chairman).—These are charges you have to meet out of the £255,230?—The reason only £2,500 came in 1904-5 from the Grant is that in that year an equal sum was provided from the Vote and was known as the old Equivalent Grant. After that year the whole £7,000 came from the Grant.

16845. (Mr. Micks).—The £2,500 is money received out of the Vote, but not yet spent?—The £2,500 from the Vote has been spent; but the £3,500 and the £7,000 from the Grant have not been spent yet.

16846. (Chairman).—I do not quite understand. This £10,500 is put down as liability; that is to say it is the amount you will have to find out of the £255,230?—Yes.

16847. It is debited against that amount?—It has to be expended, and, therefore, it is debited.

16848. (Mr. Brown).—It is not earmarked for any particular purpose?—£7,000 was earmarked by an arrangement with the Government at the time. It was granted for new developments or new schemes of technical instruction.

16849. (Mr. Micks).—Have you that in evidence before?—Yes. You had it from Mr. Fletcher.

(Chairman).—I think Mr. Fletcher has hardly come to that.

(Mr. Fletcher).—I gave it in examination.

16850. (Mr. Micks).—Was there any document handed in showing what the definite terms were?

(Mr. Fletcher).—No.

16851. (Mr. Micks).—Could that document be handed in?

(Witness).—It appears in the form of a letter from Mr. Wynneham addressed to the Bishop of Waterford.

16852. (Mr. Micks).—It is in the Technical Magazine, I am sure?—I expect it is. I am sure you had it from Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford.

16853. (Chairman).—I am still puzzled about this £25,500. How does it come into this account?—This £25,500 comes into the liabilities in respect of fixed charges and funds allocated for purposes of technical instruction.

16854. To what purpose is this £20,500 to be applied. What is the liability in respect of?—In respect of new schemes of technical instruction under the arrangement made when the money was added.

16855. Is it compensation for the old equivalent grant?—In part, yes.

16856. (Mr. Brown).—Is it to be expended under capital expenditure?—No; under annual expenditure. It stands in the same category in the account as the balance to Dublin, Belfast, &c.

16857. They are for special purposes?—But this has specially to go for technical instruction under the new schemes of technical instruction.

16858. (Mr. Micks).—At the discretion of the Department. In the other cases it is not at the discretion of the Department, but goes to county boroughs according to valuation?—Yes; for schemes approved by the Department. It is earmarked for that purpose.

16859. (Chairman).—It is a sum you are bound to have ready in order to apply as need arises?—Yes. The next item is Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund, transferred from the Board of Works, £20,650.

16860. (Mr. Micks).—That £3,500 which is included

in the £10,500 ought to be under Part I. added to the £255,230?—It is included under that head.

16861. (Chairman).—As a matter of fact, when you get the £7,000 you invest it. You buy Councils or something else with it. It is there; and the £2,500 being an accumulation is also there, and when you want to find any portion of this £10,500 to support new technical schemes you sell out so many Councils?—Quite so. The next item is sea fisheries, £10,000 per annum; accumulated balances in six years, pledged for marine works, dredging, &c., and summer reserve fund, £10,740. Now the total of these charges is £198,540, and you will see an explanation in the next paragraph. Deducting the sum of £128,540 from the total accumulated balance of £206,230, already explained, it will be seen that the savings available for the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries is £277,600.

16862. (Chairman).—That is the sum which you have free at present?—Yes.

16863. (Mr. Brown).—Now you are to give us liabilities on the balance, £277,600 being the amount of the savings available for purposes of agriculture and other rural industries?—Yes. I take the totals. The first total there is £2,500 from the Albert Agricultural College. I need not go through each item.

16864. (Chairman).—Why do you put "buildings and equipment of Minister Institute (balance of £10,000) £4,046" under number II. head and "Albert Agricultural College" under number III. head. I suppose that the £10,000 is statutory liability. It is earmarked in the Act?—Yes. That is the reason we put it there.

16865. I think you had better enumerate the items for the purposes of the note?—Albert Agricultural College, £3,500; agricultural schools in the country (buildings and equipment), £5,500; Athlone Agricultural Station (building a suitable College, stock and equipment, lynes, stables and water supply), £20,000.

16866. (Mr. Micks).—Have we any evidence as to the policy of building such a costly structure?—I am not sure if you had it from Professor Campbell.

16867. (Chairman).—I think you dealt with it first, Mr. Campbell.

(Mr. Campbell).—When the matter was first put before the Agricultural Board it was decided to earmark that sum pending the time when these buildings might be erected, but though plans have been drawn we have not proceeded further up to the present. It is only a covering estimate.

16868. (Mr. Micks).—It is a lump sum put aside to meet this. The estimate is not yet prepared?—We have discussed it with the Agricultural Board.

16869. (Chairman).—I think we had better get the rest of the figures down?—Avondale (planting, repairs, provisionally sanctioned), £3,000; Ballyhaise (purchase price, equipment and alterations), £23,000.

16870. (Mr. Micks).—Ballyhaise has not been paid?—No. Certain legal formalities as to clearing the title have not yet been completed by the owners.

The next items are, Clonsilla (equipment), allowing outgoings, residence for mariner, fencing), £5,000; Cork Fruit Market, £200; Dublin International Exhibition, £2,000.

16871. (Mr. Brown).—I thought that question had not been decided?—It was decided at a Board meeting immediately following the last meeting of the Council of Agriculture, and a grant for the small rural industries was given.

16872. I suppose that would not be a convenient time to go into expenditure in the past on exhibitions?—No, I think Sir Horace Plunkett will be ready to deal with that subject. The next items are: Fruit-growing (planting of new content), £2,000; for insurance of live stock, £200; inland fisheries, grants to Conservators, £500; Kildare forestry scheme, £500; Killesnohra School of Rural Domestic Economy, £1,000; loans for fencing in County Donegal, £1,000; Munster-Connacht Exhibition, £1,700; marine works, building of piers, £5,000; Muster houses—that has not been gone on with—£500.

16873. (Chairman).—What was it?—It is a sort of annex which we are considering in connection with the development of the Museum, but for the time being it has been suspended.

16874. In connection with an exhibition?—No. With the Museum; a sort of bureau of industrial information. We have the elements of it going

on at present through Mr. Lyburn's work and other sections of the Department, and we are considering the advisability of bringing them all together as a commercial annex to the Museum. The other items are: post fuel and litter-making machinery, £1,000; representative for Irish agricultural interests in Great Britain, £3,000.

16874. These are some which have been voted by the Board. Is the post fuel and litter-making machinery working?—Yes. We have that machinery.

16875. (Mr. Micks).—What branch of the Department looks after it?—It was looked after altogether by the agricultural branch up to quite recently, and it is still practically looked after by them, but Mr. Lyburn now assists, and can give you information as to that.

(Mr. Micks).—I do not think he mentioned anything of it.

16876. (Chairman).—Mr. Campbell did. What is the next item?—Representative for Irish agricultural interests in Great Britain, £3,000.

16877. Organizer?—Yes.

16878. (Mr. Micks).—That would be for the whole expense?—Yes.

16879. And disbursements for the Department?—Yes. Next item, organization of agricultural societies, banks, etc., to 28th February, 1907, £3,700.

16880. These are in the nature of estimates I suppose?—Yes. Covering votes.

16881. (Mr. Micks).—Votes of credit?—Yes.

16882. Take the £2,000 for a representative of Irish agricultural interests in Great Britain. That is, to some extent, uncertain, because you have no idea of what the actual expenditure will be?—It is an estimate.

16883. On the other hand, the organization of agricultural societies, banks, etc., to 28th February, 1907, would be based, to some extent, on previous years?—That is the sum actually given. Next item are, Royal College of Science (chemical laboratory, temporary buildings), £1,400; salmon hatcheries, capital unexpended out of £4,000 voted, £2,600, balance of subsidy of £1,800 per annum for ten years, £18,000—a total of £19,300.

16884. (Mr. Brown).—What is the explanation of the subsidy?—A grant for inland fisheries.

16885. For ten years?—We set aside that sum of £18,000 for ten years.

16886. Ten years to come?—No. From the original date.

(Mr. Brown).—Ten years would have been £18,000.

16887. (Chairman).—I do not quite understand that sum of £16,700?—That means unspent money of a total sum of £18,000 which was voted for this purpose. It was a scheme for taking and preserving a salmon river, which was at one time contemplated by the Board, and a further scheme for granting subsidies to hatcheries calculated on the output of salmon fry. That is all in this total sum. The scheme for the taking of the salmon river has not yet been carried out, and that leaves this large sum still unexpended.

16888. (Mr. Brown).—I do not understand. The Board voted a sum of £4,000 and you have expended £1,400. The only charge upon your funds at present is for the two years that have gone by. You cannot deal with the £1,800 per annum that would accrue in the next eight years?—When they build a hatchery, or intend to build a hatchery, on getting a subsidy like this you have to enter into an arrangement covering ten years.

16889. But the future income of the Department would be available to meet that. It is not now an existing charge?—Yes. Set aside.

16890. (Mr. Micks).—In consideration of building hatcheries you undertake to give so much money for two years?—Yes, and in order to be in a position to do that must have this amount set aside.

16891. (Mr. Brown).—But the actual expenditure will only begin as each hatchery is built?—Yes, but you have to set aside this sum.

16892. (Mr. Micks).—You are charging all this against income?—Yes.

16893. Although, as a matter of fact, some of it may in future come out of capital?—Yes. You will see more clearly when you look at the summary.

16894. (Chairman).—Take for instance the item "Representative for Irish agricultural interests in Great Britain." £3,000 I suppose is the estimate of what his expenses would be for the current year. I

do not see why, in the same column, you should put estimates of the annual expenditure and also capital liabilities, which may take a good number of years to run off?—That £2,000 for the representative in Great Britain is not an annual sum. It is a sum allotted to cover the expenses of the scheme as long as it can.

16894. (Mr. Micks).—Voted by the Board. They may vote or not vote it again if they choose?—Yes.

16895. (Chairman).—That is the answer to my criticism. These are not intended as annual sums but as an enumeration of the capital sums, whether they are to last for one year or twenty years, which have actually been voted by the Board?—Precisely. The last items are—stock animals: purchase of bulls, stallions, donkeys, £2,000; trout farms, £3,000; Ulster Dairy School, redemption of Land Commission annuity £2,250; Ulster estate scheme, £400; village halls (loan scheme), £5,000. All the items of that list I have now run through make, as you will see in the statement, a total of £139,000.

16896. (Chairman).—That is against the balance of £272,600?—Yes. That leaves a balance of savings unallocated of £133,700.

16897. The result of this account, I take it, is to show that the £272,600 of savings available for purposes of agricultural and rural industries on 1st July, 1906, is a gradual vanishing quantity?—Yes.

16898. (Mr. Micks).—Only £133,700 is the vanishing quantity.

16899. (Chairman).—Yes. The best proof that the available savings is a vanishing quantity is the fact that the £272,600 have vanished to £133,700. That apparently are the savings you have at present in hand to supplement your annual income?—Yes.

16900. (Mr. Micks).—Is that unallocated still, or have you other projects?—Do you mean the £133,700? I am coming to that point.

16901. (Chairman).—Look at Table V. now. Table V. represents the annual charges against the annual income of the Endowment Fund. These grants, sanctioned with the concurrence of the Board of Technical Instruction, include the £135,000?—No. We are dealing with income now.

16902. (Mr. Micks).—The £150,000?—Yes. It is given as £150,000, but, as I explained, deducting the £10,000 for interest which would more probably appear in the capital account, it is £140,000. Now, under head V.—estimated annual expenditure of the endowment fund. I begin with grants sanctioned with the concurrence of the Board of Technical Instruction. The first item is technical instruction schemes in county boroughs, £30,000; elsewhere than county boroughs, and making inquiries and collecting information under Section 15, £29,000.

16903. The sum of £59,000 is included under head II. in the £47,848?—Yes, the £47,000 represents some years accumulation.

16904. The accumulations would be there as well?—Yes, but in a different account—capital account. This is income.

16905. Have you not put income into capital account too?—Only accumulations and savings.

16906. In Part II. you have a sum of £51,342 for the county boroughs. That appears there as accumulation?—Yes.

16907. Then, under Part V., you have £26,000 for the county boroughs again. When does that £26,000 begin to accrue due?—At the beginning of the financial year.

16908. The 1st April, 1906?—Yes.

16909. Is there any income for the year beginning 1st April, 1906, included in £51,342 on page 61?—No.

16910. (Mr. O'Connell).—That would be the balance due up to the end of the financial year.

16911. (Mr. Micks).—The balance unspent on the 31st March this year is included in the £51,342, and only then?—Yes. Then, to proceed with the items under Part V., there is, Contribution from Ireland Development Grant, £7,000—making a total of £33,000 for technical instruction. I will have a word to say about that £7,000 when dealing specially with the technical instruction fund. Now come grants sanctioned with the concurrence of the Agricultural Board. Albert Agricultural College, expenses of maintenance, staff, etc., £1,200; Munster Institute, staff, etc., £3,000; Athlone Agricultural Station, staff, etc., £1,500.

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Mr. T. F. GILL.

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Mr. T. P. GILL.

16092. This is your estimate for the current year?—Yes. Ballyhaunis, expenses of maintenance, staff, etc., \$4,000; Clonsilla, expenses of maintenance, staff, etc., \$2,000; Ulster Dairy School, expenses of maintenance, staff, etc., \$1,000; agricultural schools and classes, \$5,000; Royal College of Science, Scholarships and supplementary teachers, \$1,700; mineral instruction, \$8,000; pioneer lectures, judging under scheme for prizes for cottages and farms, etc., \$2,000; agricultural organisation, \$3,750; forestry, including Avondale Forestry Station, \$2,000; improvement of live stock: expenditure incurred direct by the Department for the purchase and carriage of animals, premiums, cost of inspection, maintenance of stud farm, etc., \$12,000; special assistance to agricultural and other shows, \$200.

16093. (Mr. Bruce).—That is otherwise than through the County Committees?—Yes. Votes to County Committees: Live stock schemes, \$15,000; other agricultural schemes, \$20,400; shows, \$5,000. General administration: salaries of secretaries of County Committees and expenses of administering county schemes, \$5,500; improvement of crosmories, \$4,000. Loans for bulks, stailhous, agricultural credit societies, etc. (advances), nil. Special investigations: Flax, barley, potato and tobacco growing, call-feeding, cheese-making, pest, poultry, horticulture, etc., \$6,000; rural and other industries, \$4,000; marine works, \$3,000; sea and inland fisheries, hatcheries, grants to Boards of Conservators, etc., \$2,500.

16094. That does not include any of the sum estimated on the other side?—It would include whatever actually comes up for payment. The other is capital account.

16095. (Mr. Michel).—And the same items are not, of course, charged against current income?—Oh, no. Travelling of members of Special Committees, \$200. Miscellaneous expenses: Food and Drugs Act, Railway Rates inquiries, transit of produce, circulating school exhibits, law charges, stamps on bonds, Departmental Journal, etc., \$7,500.

16096. On page 84 there is a sum for marine works, building of piers \$6,000, and then under this annual expenditure there is the item marine works, \$3,000?—That \$3,000 is the sum pledged to the building of marine works—already hypotheated and sanctioned. Under the heading annual expenditure would come what actually arose for payment within the year.

16097. Would it not be the other way?—Anything in addition to the \$3,000 would come up as grant.

16098. That is for works contemplated, but not yet begun?—For works additional to those voted.

16099. It is not in any sense a repetition. The works that are included in the \$3,000 against savings are in a more advanced state presumably than those referred to in the vote for \$2,000?—Generally speaking, that is so.

16100. These are works coming on?—Yes. The next item is—

16101. Grant to the Board of Technical Instruction for manual instruction and domestic economy in rural districts?—\$7,500.

16102. What is that out of?—Out of the income of the Agricultural Board. Out of the Endowment Fund.

16103. For undertaking agricultural instruction?—Manual instruction and domestic economy in rural districts. These items make a total of \$105,000, and, added to the \$62,000 from technical instruction funds, make a total of \$167,000.

16104. That means you are exhausting your income from?—You will see that in a moment. The next items are—

16105. Grants for purposes specified under the Act, for which the concurrence of the Boards is not required?—Sea fisheries (\$10,000 per annum), \$10,000; superannuation of officers transferred from the National Education Office, \$500; travelling and subsistence of members of the Council and Boards, \$500. That makes a total of \$11,000, which, when added to the \$167,000 brought forward, makes the total estimated annual expenditure \$208,000.

16106. (Chairman).—With regard to that item: "Travelling and subsistence of members of the Council and Boards," is that expense incurred when they come to attend meetings?—Yes.

16107. (Mr. Michel).—That seems a very moderate amount. You do not exceed that sum?—That is all it comes to.

16087. (Chairman).—I suppose we may take it these figures are based on your practical experience of previous years?—Yes. The item like that just referred to we have had year after year. If you deduct the \$100,000 annual income from the Endowment Fund, from the \$208,000 estimated annual expenditure you will see that we have allocated a sum of \$108,000 in excess of the annual income. In those printed figures the \$10,000 interest is included. The paragraph at the foot explains. This estimated expenditure exceeds the estimated income by \$10,000, but deducting from the income the \$10,000 interest at present derived from the securities, it means really an excess expenditure of \$18,000. That must come at present from our accumulated balance of savings, namely, the \$128,750. You can see that after a certain, and not very distant period of time, unless our funds are supplemented that that balance must disappear.

16088. (Mr. Michel).—At the present rate of \$20,000 increased expenditure, presumably?—Yes. Probably it will increase still more later on. That \$128,000 we have relied upon as a means for providing equipment and material for the establishment of our system of agricultural education with its regular development. For that reason, as well as for other, I hope we shall not be obliged to draw on this sum to meet our annual expenditure.

16089. Where do you show the sum of \$10,000 interest on the accumulated savings invested?—It is not shown in this Statement, but I will give you the annual figures in order to have it on the record.

Would it not be a proper item to introduce in one of those tables? Is not the accumulated capital \$70,000 more than you say?

16090. (Mr. Bruce).—I do not understand that. At present they give the total amount of investments?—It is included in the \$285,250.

16091. It is re-invested?—Yes.

16092. (Chairman).—That is the total of the investments you have got?—Yes.

16093. You invested the interest as it came in?—Yes, we accumulated it. We are not getting accumulations now, unfortunately.

16094. (Mr. Michel).—You are getting a good deal of interest now, \$10,000 a year?—At the present time it amounts to \$10,000 a year.

16095. (Chairman).—Have you finished your second note?—I will go back to that. I want to say a word about the Technical Instruction Fund. The total annual sum originally voted by the Act for technical instruction was \$25,000 per annum. The sum of \$7,500 from the Ireland Development Grant is added to that in this amount, making altogether \$32,500, but that \$7,500 is not available under the arrangement for the development of the already existing schemes of technical instruction. It must go to new developments of some kind.

16096. That is in on the terms of Mr. Wyndham's letter. Had we not better get that letter on the note? I have a reference to it here at page 204, volume two, of the Board of Technical Instruction minutes. "Under the arrangement made by the Treasury, this grant, amounting to \$3,500 per annum, had now ceased, but a sum of \$7,500 had been provided in the estimates out of the Ireland Development Grant, and that sum was now available for new developments in technical instruction schemes." That is an extract from the statement by the Vice-President?—Yes. It is in Mr. Wyndham's letter.

16097. I think we ought to have that letter. Do you know where it appears?

16098. (Mr. Michel).—I know it is in the Technical Magazine?—We can get a copy.

16099. (Chairman).—Send a copy to the Secretary and we can print it in the Appendix?—Yes. (Appendix No. LIV.) My point is that that \$7,500 is not available for the work of the existing or normal schemes of technical instruction. It must be for new work.

16100. (Mr. Bruce).—Does that mean new developments in a particular district or developments that are new altogether, because there is a very material difference?—Now altogether.

16101. (Chairman).—How long has the contribution of this \$7,500 been going on—what is the date of Mr. Wyndham's letter?—It has been going on for two years. We have only had paid in \$20,500. That, as I have explained, appears in the statement.

16102. (Mr. Michel).—Do you keep a separate account of the expenditure out of the \$7,000?—Yes.

Now, the sums thus available for the existing schemes of technical instruction are the £25,000 originally provided, and the £7,500 voted from the funds of the Agricultural Board for technical instruction in rural districts. That would be £32,500 altogether. The liabilities against the schemes of technical instruction for the current year amount to £72,000 odd. That shows a large discrepancy between these two sums, but for some years the savings that have been accumulating on technical instruction schemes through certain districts not having schemes, and through non-expenditure in the earlier years, have been applied to supplement the annual endowment for technical instruction.

19543. (Chairman).—That is to say, if County or district A does not utilise the amount provided, the money is carried to the general account?—If a district has a scheme going on, the money is accumulated for that district, but if a district has no scheme at all, the amount goes into the savings on technical instruction, and we have applied such savings to assist certain developments in places which have had schemes and where there was very great necessity for assistance. What I wish to point out is that these savings are now at an end, and that next year, unless we curtail our schemes of technical instruction we shall have a deficit of about £5,000 to meet. We shall either have to cut down schemes of technical instruction which are already suffering from lack of funds, or be provided with means to meet the deficit of £5,000.

19544. (Mr. Micks).—And there is no source available?—I will come back to that again when dealing with new developments. That will be the clearest way to answer you.

19545. (Mr. Brown).—I do not think we have any statement of the £25,000 separately?—It is all included in the tabulated statement.

19546. Is there any way of showing what accumulations there are?

(Mr. Micks).—Part II. (c.) (1), you have accumulations in county boroughs, £51,542.

(Mr. Brown).—I know that.

(Mr. Micks).—Then under (c.) (2) you have got urban and rural districts, £28,588.

19547. (Mr. Brown).—Does that represent the unexpended balances in the urban and rural districts?—Yes. I have explained the situation as regards the Endowment Fund. I propose now to deal with the Parliamentary Vote of the Department.

19548. (Chairman).—You said you were going back to that last paragraph at the end of the statement—I will do that now. That item of £70,000 out of the Irish Church Temporalities Fund has only been provided under the Act for a period of fifteen years from 1st July, 1900. After that period of fifteen years there will be provided, or may be provided, such annual sum as the Treasury consider can be paid without impairing the security for any liabilities existing on the 1st April, 1900, upon that fund. We are thus liable to see that amount depleted after the fifteen years.

19549. (Mr. Micks).—Or very much increased. That is quite possible, is it not?—I never heard it was a likely thing. We are only guaranteed the contribution of £70,000 for fifteen years.

19550. But then the Treasury is to give you such sum as can be spared without impairing the security?—Remember the Land Act of 1903 is subsequent to the Act creating the Endowment Fund.

19551. (Chairman).—That increases the danger of depletion greatly. There is uncertainty at all events?—Yes, there is uncertainty, and unless the sum is provided from another source it is probable there will be depletion, having regard to the Land Act.

19552. What you mean by depletion is reduced in amount?—Yes.

19553. I do not know whether you think of its vanishing altogether?—It is mere speculation.

19554. At all events you say there is a case for protecting you?—Decidedly.

19555. These are important words in the Act. The words are—"Such annual sum as in the opinion of the Treasury can be paid without impairing the security for any liabilities existing at the commencement of the Act."—The Church Temporalities Fund has steadily diminished, and it may not be free to meet the liabilities.

19556. (Mr. Brown).—Have grants been made out of the capital of the Irish Church Fund for other purposes since the passing of your Act?—Out of the capital of the fund? I am not sure of that.

19557. Or is it that the existing liabilities are becoming to some extent reduced—as it is that your fund is becoming less?—It has been used under the Land Act for the redemption of title rent charges.

19558. (Mr. Micks).—I have had experience of that fund. It would be hopeless for us to try to get at any clear statement of it here.

19559. (Chairman).—There is no absolute undertaking to pay it in any event. It is to be paid out of income, and if there is no income or a diminished income the grant suffers?—Yes. The point is that it is an insecure position. We are only ordinary legacies.

19560. (Mr. Micks).—Indeed, if you see in that position I congratulate you?—Well, I was using a form of speech incorrectly descriptive. I mean we are amongst a lot of others in that fund, and there may be further claims put on it still.

19561. (Chairman).—The language of real property is more appropriate, it is a contingent remainder—I was about to mention further that the sum of £70,000 and the sum of £78,000 (Local Taxation (Ireland) Account), and also the sum of £5,000 that came to us under that Act of 1902 from the Royal Dublin Society are included in the Guarantee Fund for the purpose of the Land Act of 1903, and, though I hope it is a remote contingency indeed, if there were any serious default in the payment of instalments under that Land Act, those sums would be liable to be seized. I was about to explain our Parliamentary Vote. Let me recall the fact I mentioned at the beginning, that the sum of £18,000, including the Endowment Fund, appears in the vote. I have a copy of estimates here. It is mentioned under sub-head E.

19562. (Mr. Micks).—That is the grant which you expect to get an increase from under the new scheme?—No, that is the salaries of the judgeships which are abolished.

19563. Is it under H you expect the big increase?—I will prepare a document compiled from the figures now before me which give the items of our Parliamentary Vote since the Department was established till the close of the present financial year. When the Department was instituted in 1900 certain powers and duties defined under section 2 of the Act that were previously performed by other public bodies were transferred to it.

19564. It is curious that the expenditure of the two funds is now £180,000?—It is a coincidence. With the transfer of these powers and duties the provision made on the other vote was transferred to our vote, and our vote for the first year, 1900-1, was £228,548, an increase of £27,576 as the vote transferred from the other Departments. Of this increase, £9,178 was due to the increase of the grant in and of the Congested Districts Board from £15,825 to £25,000.

19565. That was no use to you?—No. This sum of £25,000 per annum for the Congested Districts Board appears in our estimates, but we simply hand it over.

19566. You are simply a paymaster.

19567. (Chairman).—That has been the practice.

19568. (Mr. Micks).—To save the House of Commons the trouble of an additional vote?—Yes. The balance, £14,401, was the amount provided to carry out the new functions of the Department in connection with agriculture and industries, and technical instruction. In 1902-3 our vote was £240,806. That is an apparent increase of £12,061 on the vote of the previous year, but a grant for schools of science and art amounting to £10,900 was transferred in that year from the vote of the Board of Education in England. It appears under the sub-head H. In 1902-3 the vote was £188,945. The increase of £17,439 was due to a provision for additions to the staff of the central office and to the reorganisation and extension of the work of the College of Science, as well as to an increase of £7,100 in the provision for the grant for Schools of Science and Art. In 1903-4 the vote was £181,469. The increase of £23,254 was due to the extension of the work of the Department generally, and to the additional sum of £14,500 for grants for Schools of Science and Art, making a total provision of £23,500 for that purpose in the year. I will refer presently

May 22, 1946. to these annual Science and Art Grants, which form an important feature of the administration of the Technical Instruction Board. In 1904-5 the vote was £290,406. The sum provided in that year under the grant in aid for diseases of animals was £16,800, an increase of £5,000 on the provision of the previous year, and the Science and Art Classes Grant was increased by £1,400. Of course the work was largely extended, and grants appeared in the vote for this purpose. In 1905-6 the vote was £291,602, and included a provision of £2,348 in respect of the Geological Survey of Ireland, which was transferred on 1st April, 1906, from the Board of Education in England. I will put in a full summary covering the vote for these seven years. In the current year, 1906-7, the estimates of which are before you, the vote is £290,146. The sum of £400 was the cost of printing the agricultural leaflets which was transferred from the Stationery Office Vote to the Vote of the Department. The sum of £23,200 was for the Diseases of Animals Acts, and £27,450 for the Schools of Science and Art. The grant for the equipment of these schools, in so far as it has been borne on the votes, amounted in the last five years to £15,000 in all; it has now ceased to be provided on the vote. The equipment of these schools, which was also aided from the Endowment Fund, has practically finished.

1906. (Mr. Brown).—I think it was for current expenses?—No, that was year by year as we were establishing the science instruction in the schools. Grants for equipment were available, but now all the schools in Ireland are provided with this equipment. There is a grant that I made reference to in reading that summary, but which I did not explain before. This is the grant in respect of the Diseases of Animals Act. The Department administers for the purposes of this Act a sum derivable from two sources. One is called the General Cattle Diseases Fund.

1907. (Mr. Meade).—I think we have had all this before from Mr. Cantello?—I will just mention then that the General Cattle Diseases Fund which is levied from the local authorities by the Local Government Board about every two years has amounted for some years past to between £7,000 and £8,000 per year, or about £15,000 for two years, and the Parliamentary Vote which is made in respect of the same Act under the name of the Cattle Plague-Pneumonia Account, amounted to £17,000 in 1905-6. The total is about £24,000 administered under these two heads.

1907. (Mr. Brown).—For animals?—That was in that year. It is a variable amount.

1907. Is the average £24,000?—No, I would not like to say that it is an average.

1907. Are you giving us the figures for one year?—Yes, for 1906-6.

1907. In what proportion are the funds administered contributed to by the Cattle Diseases and the Parliamentary Vote?—The Plague-pneumonia account is a fund that was established first in 1890 for the purpose of meeting expenses under the Diseases of Animals Act. There were three or four amendments to that Act, but at the present time the total sum cannot exceed £50,000 in any one year and is provided for the three Kingdoms under that account. That sum is allocated each year between Great Britain and Ireland on the basis of allocation most recently settled, has been on the average expenditure for three years. The general cattle diseases fund comes from the local authorities of the country, and its object is to enable a payment to be made to a particular county where disease has been prevalent, in relief of the rates levied on that particular county for the purpose of the Act, so that when a county is suffering heavily from cattle disease, the contribution from the country as a whole goes to relieve the pressure which it suffers.

1907. As I understand it, this contribution to the pneumonia fund goes to feed the general Cattle Diseases Fund, or is it administered separately?—It is administered separately, and is applicable to some fever.

1907. Is the General Cattle Diseases Fund one out of which half the salaries of the inspectors are paid?—Yes. That fund is replenished entirely by assessments on the local authorities.

1907. I thought you had recouped half the expenditure?—The expenditure is defrayed in the first instance by the local authorities.

1907. The payment of that i.e. in the second is the General Cattle Diseases Fund is provided from time to time, but is not half the salary of the veterinary inspector paid out of that fund and the other half paid directly out of the rates of the county which employs them?—The county gets a refund of half from this fund. That is all I have to say about the vote. I simply want to add that the total vote appearing on the estimate, being £190,000, should have defrayed from it the £25,000 which is paid over to the General Districts Board, and the £18,000 which is accounted for in the endowment fund, and which I mentioned once or twice. Thus, the total vote available for the Department in the current year is £147,000.

1907. (Chairman).—The £18,000 is a constant amount under the statute?—Yes.

On returning after luncheon.

1907. (Mr. Brown).—I now propose dealing with increases needed in the funds of the Department for the purpose of further developments. Let me say in dealing with this part of my statement, that such estimates as I mention must be understood as by no means determinate in amount. What we have to take into account is the rate of progress that the work of the Department has made during the past six years, and the probabilities that manifest themselves of that rate being continued. Taking that consideration into account, the estimates that I will mention are amounts that have been arrived at as necessary to continue the work at that rate of progress.

1908. (Mr. Meade).—At an increased rate or the present?—At the developing rate.

1908. (Chairman).—Is not any per centum item to be taken into account? Supposing the more successful the Department is in encouraging people to help themselves and to improve their own condition, the less external assistance may be needed as time progresses?—Well, after a certain point that is true, but I am considering a period of about five years ahead.

1908. (Mr. Meade).—Is there anything put into the estimates that will cover possible industrial development?—Not for development on lines different from those that we have been following.

1908. (Chairman).—You are assuming that you are going on as you are now under the same conditions and the same statutory regulations?—We regard industrial development on further lines as opening a very much larger question—larger than the scope of this or, perhaps, any single Department. I

will take first the agricultural branch. As I have already pointed out, our expenditure in this branch now exceeds our income, and our reserve is being encroached upon. The staff for the existing work in the branch is at present inadequate. The branch is working under an excessive and unusual degree of pressure.

1908. That is an argument for an increase in the vote?—I am considering it under both heads at the one time. That applies both to the expert staff and the clerical staff. The extensions of the work in the agricultural branch that we have considered are under the following heads:—extension of county schemes, supplementary schemes for poorer parts of the country. I refrain from using the word congested as being somewhat misleading, central schemes in respect of agricultural education, and I may add, though I am not going to give a figure for it, forestry, for which we hope to see special provision made in some manner. The increase that we estimate to be required in the endowment funds for the regular agricultural schemes is £50,000 per annum, assuming that the surplus will be all reserved for the establishing and equipping of the system of agricultural education.

1908. You mean for agricultural and kindred industries, £50,000?—Yes; but if it is decided to have special schemes for the poorer parts of the country, including the parts scheduled as congested and such other parts in the rest of the country as are in the same economic condition, a further sum of £50,000 would be required for this purpose. That would be an annual sum.

16986. (Mr. O'Leary).—Then the £50,000 you mention is for central schemes?—For the general schemes of the agricultural branch administered through the County Committee.

16987. (Mr. Brown).—These supplementary ones would be administered as centrally?—Yes, practically centrally. We would have to ask our County Committee for the £50,000, and do not contemplate any further aid from rates for the schemes of the Department. Now, the total amount that we have been expending for this regular work of the agricultural branch, including the £7,500 that is given to technical instruction schemes in rural districts, amounts to roughly between £138,000 and £140,000.

16988. (Chairman).—That is to say, the present expenditure under those heads is £138,000?—Yes. That £138,000 includes part of the £50,000 additional that I have mentioned, because we are now exceeding our existing annual income and drawing upon our capital. The additional annual expenditure over and above those schemes described in the list already given would amount to close on £22,000. Additional to the £138,000, about £22,000 more would be for the regular expenditure in the development of the ordinary work of the agricultural branch. The principal items of that sum are:—Agricultural Stations, North Munster, Ulster, and South-east Leinster, at £5,000 each would amount to £15,000. That would be an annual sum. Ten girls' schools of rural domestic economy of the type of Loughlynan, at £250 each, would mean £5,000.

16989. Are these in contemplation now?—These we are looking forward to, but no steps have yet been taken. They are in the future actively, but we have had many schemes under consideration actually estimated and considered and waiting only funds.

16990. What sort of schools do you intend to have in North Munster and the others?—Of the same type as at Clonsilla and Ballyhane. There is, further, our agricultural colony classes—winter schools of agriculture of which we now have examples in ten counties. We contemplate having these classes in sixteen more counties. We look upon this as one of the most successful and indispensable features of our scheme of agricultural education. In sixteen counties, at £250 each, these classes would cost a total of £4,000. Another item under that total of £21,000 is the Central Live Stock Scheme, a special scheme for Irish draught acres, which we were committed to by the Council of Agriculture, and which we hope will meet the anticipated needs. That scheme is to cost £1,000. Improvement of Cramackia, £1,000. The administration of the Fertiliser and Food Stuffs Act, which has now taken a new form under legislation passed this year, we estimate will cost us about £500 more. The total comes near £22,000. Now, I have stated that for the special schemes for the poorer districts of the country, including the scheduled congested districts; we estimate the sum of £30,000 will be needed.

16991. (Mr. O'Leary).—This £32,000 is included in the £50,000 that you mentioned?—Yes.

16992. (Mr. Brown).—The £50,000 in addition to the £22,000 includes something approaching £28,000 which is included in the £138,000?—Yes, that is it.

16993. (Mr. O'Leary).—You are spending £28,000 more than your present income justifies for expenditure upon these general schemes?—Exactly.

16994. (Chairman).—These matters that you mention now are matters which the Department consider of great importance to undertake as soon as they can see their way in point of funds, and after the balance of the £22,000 and the £50,000 has increased, which you may reasonably expect will be wanted in five years?—The £50,000 is not in addition to the £138,000. It is in addition to our present annual income for the Agricultural Board, which amounts to about £127,000. With regard to forestry, other than what is needed in the form of providing education for foresters and technical advice for those who require it with regard to planting, and so forth, forestry is a great national scheme of development for which we don't mention any sum. That is a very large question, and we are anxious to see it dealt with. I don't like pressing for another enquiry in Ireland at the present time—but we really should like to see a Commission or Committee appointed to go into the whole position as regards forestry, and to make a recommendation as to the methods of acquiring the land necessary for the purpose, the kind of soil of the scheme, the manner of carrying it out and

so on. It is not for us to go deliberately into a large scheme, of which our present funds would not permit.

16995. (Mr. O'Leary).—You don't think your experience and knowledge have been sufficiently worked out to justify your asking a large amount of public funds at present? The question is too complicated by the question of land and other considerations. It is not however such as to prevent you going into it and inquiring as a Department into the conditions of forestry work and the possibilities of that, so far as such an inquiry is within your own resources?—No; as a matter of fact we have an Advisory Committee on Forestry, and so far as the technical aspects of the question are concerned, we are quite in a position to deal with the subject from that point of view.

16996. It would be quite within your power, and indeed within your duty, to go on with inquiries so as to put forward to those responsible, a statement of the matter from a purely forestry point of view?—Precisely. We have made inquiries, and are in possession of a large body of information. We have had the country surveyed from that point of view. The increase that I have already mentioned for the Agricultural Branch was an increase for the endowment; but an increase will be necessary in the vote of the Department, for the payment of an additional staff both for existing work and for the new developments.

16997. (Chairman).—You are speaking of the agricultural side?—Of the agricultural side; and that increase in the vote comes to £2,305.

16998. How do you justify that?—I will give you the items. For existing work we need two inspectors, two second division clerks, and one abstracter; for further work one inspector for school work and one inspector for the West of Ireland, and two second division clerks. The estimated cost for all, including travelling, amounts to £2,305.

16999. On the general question, then, what do you say as to the existing work?—I think we have had this already, but we may as well have it in this connection—do you say that your staff is overworked?—I do not think that there is a branch of the Department that is not, through being undermanned, to some extent overworked, and in some cases severely. At the present moment Mr. Fletcher is without one of his principal inspectors, who is utterly broken down from overwork. For the last three months he has been away. We saw him the other day, and he appeared to be in a very nervous state indeed, purely and simply from overwork. This state of things is true with only a difference of degree—a degree determined rather by the physical and mental strength of the individual than by the amount of pressure—in regard to a proportion of the staff in every branch. Of course that was perhaps inevitable in the early years of a vast and complicated undertaking like this, which involves entirely new work starting up all over the country, when new local authorities are brought into existence, and an immense amount of new effort is concentrated within a short period. Such a task calls for a high degree of organisation in order to cope with it, and very great efforts on the part of all concerned.

17000. What were the ordinary hours?—Well, the normal hours used to be till within the past year from 10 to 5. During the last year we considered the matter with the staff, and arranged to have them begin at 9 and go off at 4 instead.

17001. (Mr. Wick).—The same hours?—The same number of hours.

17002. Same hours?—Yes.

17003. That only affects the minor staff?—That is an arrangement that could only be made use of by the minor staff. All the others have no limit to their hours—sometimes kept there till 12 o'clock at night. And the staff has suffered severely, especially the leading officers, from their inability to get regular vacations and holidays; their efficiency has been getting impaired from that cause. And then, if I may mention it, nearly every year some new outside influence came in across our work that gave additional worry and trouble to the staff.

17004. (Chairman).—That is very commonly the case?—I will now proceed to the Technical Instruction Branch. I explained this morning in dealing with the endowment for technical instruction that there would be next year a deficit of £4,000 in round numbers to be met. For that deficit either an additional grant to our Endowment Fund will have to be made, or it will be necessary to curtail the scheme of technical instruction in the country by that sum. I put it down as the first item for which provision will have to be made.

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17008. Do you mean at the first item on that side of the first item, altogether?—As the first item under the head of technical instruction. That, you understand, is to meet the expenditure that is now going on, on schemes of technical instruction; but for development of the work, especially for schemes of various kinds, carried out centrally, we estimate a sum of about £4,000. That would be in all about £18,000 for our endowment for technical instruction. The question of buildings for technical schools has been, I think, more than once mentioned before the Committee, and on behalf of the Department I think it has been explained that that is one of the most urgent needs of our technical instruction schemes. Well, we estimate that in order to enable the technical instruction schemes throughout the country to be properly provided for in respect of buildings for their schools, a capital sum of £100,000 for all the country, except the cities of Dublin and Belfast, would be required. A smaller sum might meet some of the most pressing needs, but for the whole need this amount is necessary.

17009. (Mr. Meale).—That is a rough, lump sum estimate?—A rough, lump sum estimate based on a careful consideration of the needs.

17010. The lot of the estimates for each place?—Of the estimates for each place.

17011. Do you think that would be sufficient?—Well, that is what our Technical Instruction Branch have worked out, and it does not mean an exaggerated amount at all.

17012. (Chairman).—On what principle is that worked out—is it on the principle of utilizing as far as possible any present available buildings or having an entirely new set?—In some cases having an entirely new building. The trouble at present is that the work is housed under very difficult conditions. For example, in an important town that I was in the other day in the North of Ireland, their scheme of technical instruction is carried on in four different houses.

17013. We have seen a good many specimens of the houses in which they are carried on?—That means inefficiency and increased expenditure on the local people.

17014. When you have the buildings it seems a somewhat extravagant thing to create new buildings which may be used only in the evenings?—Well, these buildings are used often now greatly in the day-time, and when in connection with a central school they would have a day technical side or a trade preparatory or apprenticeship school for which all, or most of these buildings, will be used in the day-time, and their staff utilized in the day-time as well. If the cities of Dublin and Belfast are included, £150,000 more would be required for them. In that sum of £100,000 that I have mentioned, I contemplate this, that places which have already burdened their rates in order to put up a building should not be at a disadvantage compared with places which have not yet built, and that the relief given should be in their case retrospective.

17015. Except that in the places where they have not yet built you will have some vote in the character of the building put up, but that is not so with regard to buildings already put up?—We have had that vote in such places as have got up buildings. They have always submitted their plans to us.

17016. What did it cost in Belfast?—Over £100,000.

17017. I think they told me £140,000?—They are paying out of their annual endowment for technical instruction between £4,000 and £5,000 a year in respect of that building, and the same principle applies to every place that has built a school. They take a portion of the grant to pay off the amount advanced.

17018. (Mr. Meale).—That is two-thirds of their rate—the instalment repayment is two-thirds of the whole rate. They raise £5,000, say, and the repayment is £4,000?—Yes. Of course they get £11,000 a year from us.

17019. (Mr. Bruce).—Besides the Science and Art Grant?—Yes; besides the Science and Art Grant. That money might be provided in the form of an annual sum to cover a sinking fund. If you take £250,000, including Dublin and Belfast, as the total amount, the annual sum, calculated at 4 per cent, for repayment over forty years, would be £10,000 to begin with, diminishing as capital is paid off. And, now, for the development of work done under the Technical Instruction Branch in Congested Districts.

17020. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—Have you finished with the buildings?—Yes. I have passed them that.

17021. I should just like to ask you have you compared those figures obtained in your office with the figures of which a summary was put before us by the Association of Technical Committees which had been prepared by the Association in regard to their liabilities?

17022. (Mr. Meale).—It is an independent estimate—I say that for the extension of technical instruction work in Congested Districts a further annual sum of £5,000 will be necessary; but if the Congested Districts Board decide to assist in the extension of that work that sum could come from their funds, part of which they now apply to similar work in Congested Districts.

17023. This would be in the event of the Congested Districts Board handing over to the Department the work of technical instruction in Congested Districts?—Yes.

17024. Which they have not taken over at present?—Yes. We are doing a certain amount of technical instruction in the Congested Districts at the present time.

17025. At the present time; but this £5,000 would be required for the further development of that work which you took over, which is the early work of the Congested Districts Board?—It should be done by arrangement with the Congested Districts Board.

17026. But is this on the basis of the present work of the Congested Districts Board?—To that extent if they desired, as in the case of the agricultural schemes, they would cease their expenditure and add this to our endowment. That would be on the same footing as the £2,000 given for the agricultural schemes. Now, these increases would all have reference to the endowment fund, but the work of the Technical Instruction Branch derives support from voted moneys also under the general heading of Science and Art grants. The two principal items under which these grants come from voted moneys are day secondary schools and our recently revised programme for evening schools. The total Science and Art grants under all heads in Ireland now amount to £27,400. We are anticipating in the Department that the grant for our evening programme which is available for technical schools will act as a useful supplement to our endowment for evening technical schools. Our technical instruction funds are now employed in the evening technical schools in paying for a good deal of instruction that could be met out of these grants, so it will be a relief to those grants. It is impossible to make an estimate as to the extent to which that increase would go, because it is a cognition, and that is a matter which experience must determine.

17027. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—You are not giving us a figure for the increase required in the voted moneys for grants?—For your present purpose it is immaterial I take it, because that goes on automatically.

17028. You are not suggesting that it is necessary to change in any way the basis or rate of grant, and therefore you simply get from the Parliamentary vote whatever at the present rate you find the country entitled to?—Yes, from year to year. I am only mentioning under the vote then what will be required for strengthening the staff of the Branch. For that purpose in the Technical Instruction Branch a total of £2,075 is required, that is for the purpose of one additional district inspector for Belfast and the North of Ireland, one junior inspector, and two domestic economy inspectors, and for additional clerks. The increase of the clerical staff which I have indicated are, four staff clerks, two second division clerks, one assistant clerk, and one lady typist. Now, I pass to the Fisheries. At the present time there is practically a sum of £20,000 hypothecated in connection with fishery, including piers and harbours, for which we have no provision except what can be made from our annual £10,000. That annual £10,000, administered through Mr. Green's branch, is segregated up to the hilt, and we cannot draw on it for the works contemplated under the £20,000—that is for works that have been surveyed and for which preparations have been made.

17029. You have a small engineering staff and you would be bound to have that if you arrange any works at all?—Yes.

17037. I understand. No matter whether surveys are done or not you would be bound to have your engineering staff. You are able to utilize them in making surveys for the work that you undertake. You would be bound to have your whole engineering staff as it is—Oh, yes.

17038. Has it been considered by the Department whether it would not be advantageous to hand over the carrying out of the works to the Board of Works? Yes.

17039. That was considered?—Yes; that was a matter that was considered, and the Department are of opinion for various reasons that the work of building fishery piers could be more satisfactorily and cheaply done on the whole by the Department directly than through another Department.

17040. (Mr. Michel).—I have had a good deal of experience as regards the carrying out of such works, and I do not see exactly your reasons for supposing that they could be done better by the Department than by an engineering department?—Being fishery work, it is best done by the fishery authority. Returning to the £20,000 for very much needed fishery piers—that £20,000 I call a capital sum, because it should be separately provided. After that the expenditure for fishery piers would proceed from an annual grant for a number of years, which I think should be added to the present £10,000.

17041. A great deal of the £10,000 is absorbed by the expense of keeping up the steamer?—By the dredger.

17042. And the steamer?—And the steamer.

17043. More than £5,000 would be?—Yes; and the remainder has to be employed on all our other work.

17044. Scientific work?—Oyster beds and the other fishery work.

17045. Quite so!—Now, we estimate that on sea fisheries, apart from piers, another £5,000 ought to be provided, and for inland fisheries a further £5,000. At present there is no sum earmarked for inland fisheries. The Agricultural Board has given annually a sum of about £2,500, but the Fishery Branch is unable to make recommendations for a great many works that would be considered very necessary, owing to their knowledge that there is no more money available, and they consider that another £5,000 in addition to that £2,500 ought to be provided. The inland fisheries are enjoyed in Ireland on public rights in the main, differently from those of England and Scotland, and they are really of more value than the sea fisheries as they stand at present. Now, for the purpose of fishery piers, as I have just indicated, if the works of the country are to be met in this respect our Fishery Branch consider, and the Department agree with them, that an endowment of £10,000 ought to be provided for a certain number of years.

17046. Is that altogether for fresh water?—I am speaking of piers now—fishery piers and boat-slips, and all that.

17047. Yes!—This is one of the most valuable modes of developing these coast districts—the provision of adequate landing places for fishermen; and there are very numerous places in which such accommodation is required.

17048. Was that £10,000 just a rough estimate?—It is based on Mr. Green's calculation of works that he sees before him in piping up and down.

17049. For some few years?—Some few years.

17050. Do you know whether in making that estimate he separated the actual cost of constructional and engineering expenses?—No; I think he included all.

17051. The engineering expenses?—The engineering expenses.

17052. If you look into your past expenditure you will see engineering expenses bear a very high ratio to the amount of works executed?—Well, the reason is this: the construction of minor marine works like fishing piers is a specialized form of work.

17053. Would you have such work for small boats landing or for decked boats?—For both.

17054. If you have boat-slips for open boats you have the smallest kind of marine works?—Yes.

17055. And if you have structures that must afford shelter and landing places for deck-boats, that goes into a higher grade?—But I speak of the whole of these as minor marine works in comparison with a big harbour scheme.

17056. But you would have no such scheme of course?—Not as a mere fishery work.

17057. But in any scheme that you would have there would be two classes of work?—So far as construction goes.

17058. You might have clearing of rocks and that sort of thing?—For decked boats.

17059. And piers for only open boats?—Yes.

17060. What reason influenced the Department in thinking that these works could not be done as satisfactorily, and at less cost to the Department by handing them over to the Board of Works who have an engineering staff?—You are aware, of course, of the recommendations of the Allport Commission.

17061. It is a long time ago, but I have read it. Please recall to my mind the paragraph you are thinking of?—The Allport Commission considered the method then existing. That was in 1886.

17062. That was before either the Congested Districts Board or the Department was constituted?—Yes; but the Fishery Inspectors existed as a Department then, and they are practically the Department to-day. The Commission considered the system by which the erection of these fishery piers was carried out by, practically, three authorities—the Board of Works, the Inspectors of Fisheries, and the County Authority.

17063. The Grand Jury as it was then?—Yes; the county authority. And they condemned that system.

17064. The site was chosen by the Fishery Inspectors; the execution of the work was done by the Board of Works—they had to build wherever they were told—and the county authority had to maintain them. That was the position then?—Yes.

17065. That is not at all the suggestion that I make now for your consideration?—I know, but still it involves as between the bodies a divided responsibility. Where a fishery pier is concerned it is the fishery authority that ought to select.

17066. They ought to select roughly the locality?—Yes.

17067. But would you say they ought to select the site—is not that an engineering matter?—But the Fishery Department has got an engineer—an engineer constantly employed on this work.

17068. Why should not they be guided by the engineer that is already paid by the Government, in a Department specially created for this work?—Well, no; the experience of the Congested Districts Board is against that.

17069. It is because of my experience of the Congested Districts Board that I suggest that both the Congested Districts Board and the Department might have marine works done at less cost if they employed the Board of Works—it is because of that experience?—I see; but it is now to me that that was the result of the experience of the Congested Districts Board.

17070. I do not say it is, but I put it from my own personal point of view?—I was under the impression that they found that it could be done more cheaply, and that there was more elasticity under a system which required that the work of fishery piers should be carried out by their own engineer who was always doing that work and nothing else, and went down and settled with the local people the site and the nature of the accommodation the place required.

17071. I am putting these questions from my own experience?—My impression is that that has been represented to us officially as the experience of the Board, and that fact has had great weight with us in bringing us to this view.

17072. (Mr. Gifford).—Does your own view coincide with it?—It does decidedly. Now, under the vote for the Fisheries Branch a sum of £1,100 is needed for the purpose of the staff. That sum includes the salaries and expenses now paid to all of the scientific staff, except Mr. Holt himself.

17073. (Chairman).—You say that £1,100 is needed?—It is needed.

17074. You are paying that out of the endowment?—We are paying £500 of that out of the endowment, and that is included in the £1,100.

17075. How is that—have you brought the matter before the Treasury?—Oh, we have; several times.

17076. In the last few years?—We began in reference to that, and to some of our clerical appointments, a system which I referred to in my original

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evidence, by which salaries that ought to be borne by the votes are placed on the endowment. We are not pleased with that system, and we fell back on it under protest, but we did so sooner than let the work suffer.

17067. (Mr. Micks).—Under what section of your original Act did you look to the Treasury to pay such expenses as those of the scientific staff of your Fisheries Department?—The vote passed for all the central staff of the Department, for the inspectors and for the expert staff and for agricultural and technical instruction, and for all the purposes of the Act. The section is section 6, sub-section 3.

17068. Kindly read that sub-section?—"All expenses incurred by the Department in the exercise of their powers or the performance of their duties under this part of this Act other than expenses incurred in relation to the Albert Institution and the Museum Institution, shall, save so far as they are otherwise provided for under any Act, be paid out of money sanctioned by Parliament."

(Mr. Brown).—A limitation comes in there?

17069. (Mr. Micks).—That gives the Treasury the absolute discretion?—Yes.

17070. (Mr. Oylivich).—In all those cases where you are mentioning the salaries of the staff, would you say whether the amounts named take account of the minimum or mean salary, as in the case of salaries which are generally on a rising scale?—The minimum. An additional inspector we consider necessary for the Fisheries Branch.

17071. (Chairman).—There is no legislation required there?—No. The Treasury have considered this matter. We have put the case before the Treasury, and have not succeeded up to the present. Well, we consider an additional inspector necessary for the fisheries work. The time of the two inspectors is now so completely taken up by the great pressure of work at the centre that they have little or no opportunity for making inspections. They have to do, besides, the work of judicial officers in cases that the fishery authority has to deal with. Before the constitution of the Department there were three Fishery Inspectors who had to do less than one half the amount of work now done by the present two. The result is that they are quite unable to keep that close touch with local affairs throughout the country that is absolutely necessary for the practical direction of such work; and were it not for the knowledge gained in former days, and the great experience and knowledge of Mr. Green, they really would be incapable of coping with the circumstances which are continually arising, and of properly meeting the rapid changes that are taking place in fishery matters throughout the country. The total I have put down for the increase of the staff that would be necessary, and for the transfer of the scientific officers to the vote would be £1,100. Now, in the Veterinary Branch no increase of the endowment is called for, but an increase of the vote amounting to £1,100 is needed, which would provide two additional transit inspectors, who are estimated to be necessary. This amount to include their travelling expenses.

17072. What would be their functions?—The transit inspectors of the Veterinary Branch are now engaged in the functions connected with the Diseases of Animals Act, and in addition to these ordinary functions we have added entirely new duties in connection with railway rules and with the transit of agricultural and other produce.

17073. Would that be under the Veterinary Branch?—We bring it under the transit staff of the Veterinary Branch for the reason that that transit staff exists, and it was natural and economical to add the work to the functions of those men, who are constantly travelling about the country.

17074. Is that the case at present?—That is the case at present. You had Mr. Prestice before you, who is the Superintending Inspector of the staff. In the Statistics Branch the work is practically entirely paid out of voted money, and we want an increase of £1,680 for further development of the work, and for an addition to the staff to meet this development an increase of £1,565—a total of £3,235.

17075. That is partly country enumerators and partly office staff?—Yes.

17076. Anything else?—I will mention it to you. The development of the work involves special service reports, produce returns, price returns, agricultural statistics.

17077. Imports and exports?—Yes. The increase of the staff would involve two inspectors of statistics. This contemplates a development for about five years.

17078. Have you looked to the Treasury for any assistance here, or is it a matter of the future?—We have asked for assistance, and we have got some, but not all. But this is looking for about five years ahead.

17079. It will not begin to be wanted for five years?—It will begin to be wanted during those five years.

17080. Any time?—We could begin on this work at once if we had the funds.

17081. Has any application been made as regards this additional work to the Treasury?—Not as regards this.

17082. And has it been decided by the Department to look for that from the Treasury?—Certainly. That is from the Parliamentary vote.

17083. (Mr. Brown).—Is it partly vote and partly not?—It is all from the vote.

17084. (Mr. Micks).—Take the enumerators for instance. Those enumerators used to discharge the same duties for the Registrar-General?—Yes.

17085. And they were necessarily paid out of the vote, because the Registrar-General had no official endowment?—Yes.

17086. And, therefore, when this work was handed over to you the vote continued to pay all these enumerators, and now you propose to increase the enumerators very much, and to ask for remuneration for them. Is not that so?—Yes.

17087. In the same way you want additional staff officers?—Yes. Now, in the Secretariat the staff is at present fairly adequate, except for the fact that the chief staff officer has been temporarily withdrawn for work in connection with one of the Commissioners, the Royal Commission for Trinity College, but for the future work of the staff an additional second-division clerk would be necessary, to start with at £70 a year. For the Registry an additional clerk at the same rate would be necessary; and in the Accounts Branch a cashier, at a salary of £190, with £20 risk money added.

17088. The usual thing?—Yes.

17089. Have you a Cashier's Department?—We have an accountant, and he is heavily handicapped for lack of a cashier; and then it would be necessary to have one second-division clerk at £70. That would be £290. Now, as to the Royal College of Science the development there would principally require two assistant lecturers, a typist, and an attendant. I should not use the expression "development," but to meet the present demands of the College of Science these additions are necessary. About 2,500 in round numbers would be required for that. Now, for the Museum we contemplate having an additional sum of £1,000, if we are to proceed. We could develop the industrial side of the museum in ways that I have more than once indicated, having a commercial Museum and a bureau of information attached to it. For the development of the Metropolitan School of Art we set down another £1,000. All of our institutions have been one after the other taken up and re-organized by the Department—the College of Science, the National Library, the Museum, and partly the School of Art. The Headmaster in the School of Art did in the midst of a scheme of re-organization that we had under consideration, and that suspended work for the time being.

17090. (Mr. Micks).—What was the date of his death?—He died a considerable time.

17091. About how long?—August 1905. In the meantime a Committee of Inquiry into the position of the Royal Hibernian Academy, which was also asked to take note of the possible relations between that Academy and the School of Art was appointed, and we were working at a certain stage when the Committee arose.

17092. You were one of the members of the Committee?—No, I was not. Sir George Holmes of the Board of Works, Lord Windsor, Lord Westmoreland, Mr. J. P. Boland, M.P., and Mr. Justice Madden, were members. We were unofficially informed that the Committee was making important recommendations with regard to our School of Art, and we were asked not to proceed with

the development of the School pending the receipt of their report. Month after month we were expecting and we asked for that report, but from one cause or another, amongst them the fact of Lord Windsor's getting ill, I believe, the report has been delayed, and I am given to understand that it will be ready within the next week, and it will then be possible to consider the recommendations and for the organisation of the school to be proceeded with.

17093. The appointment was not delayed owing to any reorganisation of the whole arrangements?—Well, it was delayed on that account. The question of the nature of the duties of a head master of such a school was one of those considered by this Committee and reported upon, and this was represented to us.

17094. You were not waiting till another official advised under the 65 Rule?—No; there was no such official in the school. Mr. Brennan was the last official of the school to retire under that rule. Now, I think that completes my statement of the finances of the Department.

17095. (Chairman).—Now, we are going on to the next matter. Is that what you have prepared as the general part of your evidence?—Yes; I have explained generally our financial position.

17096. But there are one or two fresh questions that I would ask before you go, and these are one or two matters that you wish to speak about. There was some evidence given by the Trustees of the Museum?—Well, if the Committee thought it necessary.

17097. I only desire that you should have an opportunity of saying anything you wish to say about it. You have seen that evidence?—I have heard a report made to me by one of our officers, who was present, and I gathered from that that a great deal of evidence that I should like to rebut was actually not in the course of the examination.

17098. (Mr. Ogilvie).—I think there was one thing that did not appear. That was as to what view you took as to the relations between the Board of Visitors of the Museum and the plans of the new College of Science?—The Board of Works are the Board that have to deal with the plans of the new College of Science. It only concerned the Museum in the fact that it was adjacent to their premises. Personally, I should have liked very much, and I see no objection whatsoever to the Visitors being allowed to see the plans, but the Board of Works had their own reasons.

17099. (Chairman).—It certainly seems a pity that they did not allow them, but we do not know what the Board of Works proceeded on. I mean you had nothing to do with it?—We were only in the position of being allowed to see the plans and make observations about the plans ourselves by the Board of Works. They are responsible for the building.*

17100. (Mr. Ogilvie).—And you are not consulting those Museum Visitors on the plans?—No.

17101. From the Museum point of view?—No.

17102. The other point was as to their not having at a sufficiently early stage before them the Director's Report, to make any observations on their own part as to the operations of the Museum for the past year?—Yes; I see here one of the points raised was that the presentation of the reports of the Board of Visitors had been delayed mainly owing to the late date of the publication of the Department's report in the appendix to which the Visitors' Report appeared, and that sufficient references to the Visitors' suggestions were not contained in the body of the Department's report. Was that the point?

17103. No; it was that before they made their report of their observations, it was desirable, and indeed necessary for them to have before them the report of the Director, and that the report of the Director was not as a matter of fact laid before them till very late?—I may tell you the Director attends all their meetings. He is in constant consultation with them, and they are probably in possession of his views about any reforms which he might think it desirable to recommend, in advance of the Department.

17104. So that as a matter of fact, though the report of the Director may not be placed in their hand

immediately at the close of the year, they have the Director himself there to give them every information—presumably for the Museum?—Yes.

17105. (Mr. Micka).—And it may be possible that the Director himself very strongly disapproved of the arrangements of the place?—Oh, yes; that is a possibility.

17106. And that he may be perhaps glad of the report of this other body to carry out his views?—I should not like to make any suggestion of that sort. I am sure they suffer from no lack of information. But I think my better plan is that if the Committee wish to ask me any questions I will be prepared to answer them.

17107. (Chairman).—What about the Royal Veterinary College?—That is another matter. You wish to pass from the Museum?

17108. (Mr. Micka).—Did you propose any increase of the fund for the Library?—No; we recently reorganised the staff of the Library. We did that by forming a small Departmental Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Trustees of the Library, Professor Dowden, Sir Robert Holmes, the Treasury Representative, and myself, and we agreed upon recommendations based upon the suggestions of the Board of Trustees; and practically all of those recommendations were accepted to by the Treasury and have been carried out.

17109. And it is thought that the arrangements are adequate now?—I am sure they are, so far as the staff are concerned. Whether the question of an increased grant for the purchase of books by the Board should be considered is another matter.

17110. Yes?—I am sure they could do with an increased grant.

17111. But have they a sufficient staff to do the cataloguing?—Oh, yes; I think they have. Practically a full scheme of reorganisation was carried out effect.

17112. (Mr. Ogilvie).—There is one point to which I should like to draw your attention. Mr. Litton Falkner brought before us a matter relating to the original letter by which the Museum Board of Visitors was constituted and affecting the administration, and that they had not been consulted in the way that he said this letter contemplated their being consulted?—Well, I have a printed document before me consisting of a series of correspondence with the Science and Art Department, in the days before our Department existed, as to the functions of the Board of Visitors of the Dublin Museum and Royal Botanic Gardens, and precisely the same points were raised by the Board of Visitors then, and they were dealt with by the Department that then had control in the same way that we have been obliged to deal with them. The Visitors complained that they were not adequately consulted and the Department replied that the Department was solely and directly responsible for this work, and added, "Their lordships will gladly avail themselves of the assistance of the Visitors, and will, from time to time, as the occasion arises, ask them to advise on points affecting the administration of the Museum, but it appears to their lordships that if this advice were to be extended to matters of administration independently and without reference to their lordships' confusion and difficulty would arise as to the direct responsibility of the Department." That correspondence went on for a long time with the Science and Art Department, and ultimately Mr. Ashmole informed the Visitors that they might rest assured that any ideas put forward by them in their Annual Reports would receive consideration; and he added, "We are glad to see that such Reports have been received and considered by our predecessors." Now, precisely the same relation exists between us and the Board of Visitors of the Museum, although the Department is now on the spot and not across the Channel. We have always given—and I think this fact rather came out in the course of your previous examination—careful and conscientious consideration to anything that the Visitors of the Museum put forward.

17113. Have you carried out any of the changes which they suggested?—Any of them that were practicable. Some of them referred to matters that the Board

*Note by witness dated 2nd February, 1907:—"I find that my memory slipped me as to this point. The Department, on due consideration, did come to the conclusion that no useful purpose would be served by the submission of the plans of the College to the Visitors of the Museum; this was also the opinion of the Board of Works. We had—as the Department responsible for the Museum as well as the College—satisfied ourselves that everything possible had been done by the Architects, Sir Aston Webb, and the Board of Works—the Department responsible for the buildings for both institutions, to safeguard any point in which the Museum might conceivably be concerned."

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of Works could deal with, and we have always put the thing before the Board of Works when they were concerned. It is not always possible for the Department itself to carry out things that are suggested. Other authorities have sometimes to be consulted, and I may say that we have put forward any recommendation of the Virtutes that seemed to us to be practical—and that refers to a considerable number of them.

17114. The recommendations that rested within your own power and which were found to be advisable you have put into operation?—Always.

17115. And there have been such?—There have been some.

17116. There was a point about the Royal Veterinary College, as to the proceeds of support which had been given to the Veterinary College Governors by the Vice President and yourself?—Yes. Well, that matter stands in this way. In addition to the £15,000 provided in the Act the Department gave the Veterinary College a sum of £5,000 for building. They requested at a later stage, a further sum of money, and we went into the whole question of the scope of their building, and the scope of their College, with them, in more than one interview.

17117. It was left open in our minds whether the fact of their not having replied to your letter had any bearing whatever on your action in the matter?—It had this important bearing. We, as I was saying, went into the whole matter of the scope of their buildings with them, and we got them to bring their scheme within what we considered a practicable figure, and then we expressed to them our great friendliness to the College and our desire to assist it.

17118. (Mr. Micks).—They acknowledged that very warmly?—We brought the matter before the Agricultural Board, and there, I may say, the idea of giving further assistance to the College was favourably received; but the Board pointed out, on information which we placed before them, having obtained it from our inquiries, that as the College intended to train a considerable number of veterinary surgeons every year, a number in excess of the requirements of Ireland or of the Department, and as that number included a supply of veterinary surgeons for the Army Veterinary Department, the whole of the cost of building and equipping that College ought not to be thrown on the already heavily burdened endowment fund of the Department, and the Board considered that the Governors of the College should endeavour to obtain support from such authorities as the War Office and from other sources besides the endowment fund of the Department.

17119. That was the Irish Development Grant?—We suggested that they should go to the War Office.

17120. And the Irish Development Grant?—Well, we mentioned that, or anything rather than our endowment. If I may put it so, we wished to defend our endowment as much as possible, and said, "Before coming and seeking to get the whole amount from our fund you must try to get it elsewhere." Now, up to this moment Sir Christopher Nixon and the Governors of the College have not put us in possession of the fact that they have made any attempt whatever to obtain money elsewhere. That is the whole position. The Board said they would not consider the matter again till then.

17121. Would the Development Grant, having regard to the claims on it, be a possible source for them to look to?—I would consider it to be a more natural source, being intended originally to be applied to educational purposes, for the Veterinary College to obtain aid from, than it is for some of the other claims that have been made on it. I do not say it would be any more natural source than our endowment, but the endowment fund of the Department, as I think I have shown to-day, is very heavily burdened.

17122. (Chairman).—Would it be just to say that an expectation was held out that they should have assistance to the extent of £200 or £400 a year?—That was in their ideas. All that was put before the Board, and we certainly said to Sir Christopher Nixon, and it was perfectly true, that we would consider the whole matter favourably, and make a recommendation to the meeting, but at the same time, before the Board sat we said to Sir Christopher Nixon that he would have to try some of the other sources.

17123. (Mr. Micks).—He seemed to think that the fact of your promise of your good offices was equivalent to a grant of £400 a year.

(Chairman reads from evidence of Sir Christopher Nixon).

17124. (Mr. Ogilvie).—As a matter of fact you hold that the question is still open and that they have not yet had your last word in the matter?—That is true. Let me be clear about this point. Sir Kenealy Digby referred to the negotiations about the programme of the College. A sum is mentioned there of £400, and it is also vaguely mentioned as £300, and even £200. That was an estimate of what the College might get if it gave a free clinic and took in subscriptions. I do not think £400 was ever mentioned. I think that was an outside figure. I think £200 was the sum that we considered might fairly be expected to accrue from that source.

17125. (Mr. Micks).—I have a note here of the discussion between Mr. Gill, Professor Cunningham, and Sir Christopher Nixon. (Reads).—Well, I think that £400 is the largest they mention.

17126. (Chairman reads further evidence).—Witness.—I am only questioning the amount, and assuming that it was £300, the undertaking that was made or was given, then has been carried out in effect. We have decided to give £200 a year to the College. We give it for the purpose of scientific research, which is one of the purposes of the College, and the grant covers that amount.

17127. (Mr. Micks).—Before you leave that, the letter that was written by the Department to Sir Christopher Nixon recently does not make any mention of the fact that the Board sanctioned payment of £200 a year for scientific research?—It was intended to be communicated to them when we had heard the success of their efforts to obtain aid from other funds and when we would be in a position to announce the aid, generally, that we would give.

17128. But there was a grant made and sanctioned by the Board of Agriculture of £200 a year which has not yet been paid to the College?—No; that is past and passed of the whole recommendation, as you will see if you look at the Minutes.

17129. I have looked into the Minutes very carefully and I have seen that the Board passed a recommendation for a new £200 a year to the College, and that the fact of that amount having been sanctioned by the Board was not notified to Sir Christopher Nixon?—It was not considered necessary to do so until we heard from them as to their application elsewhere.

17130. Is that sum of £200 a year now at their disposal for scientific research under the sanction of the Board of Agriculture?—Yes.

17131. Quite recently. That was in April, 1906?—Yes; that is a contingent grant. We expected long before this to have had some answer from them.

17132. Did you say it was a contingent grant?—It was part and parcel of the whole scheme that they put before the Board for aid to the College. If you look at our Minutes you will see that that is so. The Board dealt with the scheme as a whole and did not necessarily grant the £200.

17133. I think you will find that the £200 is separate altogether from everything else they applied for—the £400 and £20,000?—No. The case stands as I have explained it. As I have said, it was not intended to be put to Sir Christopher Nixon in that letter. I think, if I may say so, a good deal of this difficulty has arisen necessarily from the fact that Sir Christopher Nixon is an exceedingly busy man. The Veterinary College is not altogether his sole pre-occupation, and perhaps he has not been able to do all that he would have done otherwise.

17134. Have you the Minutes there before you?—I have not. We did not, you know, communicate the Minute to the Governors. That is not our custom. Here is an extract from the letter:—"The Department and the Agricultural Board are of opinion that the College authorities should endeavour to obtain a part of its requirements from other sources, of which the Ireland Development Grant is suggested as one." And then follows a suggestion about applying to the War Office. The date is 26th April, 1906.

17135. What page is the Minute?—

17136. (Mr. Brown).—It is page 250. (Witness).—The matter is not closed at present. It is pending the answer of the Governor.

17137. (Mr. Micks).—That has not been communicated to them yet?—Because we have been expecting to get into closer communication.

17138. But you will be able to give it to them. That is not contingent on anything?

17139. (Chairman).—There is just one matter I wish to mention to you. We shall hear from Sir Horace Plunkett something about the Minister Institute, but in the evidence given before us your name was mentioned.—I do not know whether you wish to say anything—I do not want to go into it. The only thing I care to say about that is this: You have heard our policy for agricultural education fully described.

17140. Yes; but this is almost more a personal matter than a question of general policy. I think it was rather that there was some complaint of a letter or speech of yours.—Oh, I should like to mention the circumstances.

17141. I thought that perhaps you would like to say something about it?—About the actual circumstances that occurred. The Governors were in the habit of having an annual prize distribution and those functions were going on under the Departmental regime and were carried on by the Governors. One day, at the period when such a prize distribution was to come off, two days before the close of the session, we received information at the Department that no preparations whatsoever had been made for this annual prize distribution, and we were put in a very unpleasant dilemma. Now, the Governors gave us no notification of their intention to cease those functions as part of their policy in resigning.

17142. I do not want to say anything at all to widen the breach that has arisen between you and the Governors.—I only say that it came as the culmination of a good deal of trial to the patience of some of us in the matter, and possibly I said things in the heat of the moment that I certainly would prefer not to have said. I have great respect for the Governors.

17143. And I suppose you would gladly welcome some way in which the matter could be arranged?—Oh, I should.

17144. And that they should assist and co-operate in carrying on the work?—Yes; but then I should like to say that the difficulty that has arisen has been due to insistence upon certain legal rights or supposed rights. Well, I am not a lawyer and I cannot say whether we have adhered to the legal position correctly or not. I believe we have; but assuming that that exists as a difficulty I regard it as a comparatively small point, a difficulty which ought not to be allowed to stand in the way of the whole development of our scheme of agricultural education. If it requires to be remedied I think the way to remedy it is to have that provision removed from the Act by an amending Act rather than endeavour to re-adjust or disorganise our educational policy in order to meet a somewhat minute legal difficulty. I am very much obliged to you, Sir Kenneth, for giving me the opportunity of making this personal reference to the Governors.

17145. I think you have said all that you need say. I do not know whether you would care to put in this letter on another matter. (Letter handed to witness).—This is from Kynoch. I am sorry I did not have this at the time I was speaking of the Fishery Branch. I should like very much to put it in. Shall I read it?

17146. Yes, and the covering letter?—It is from the Managing Director of Kynoch:—

"KYNOC, LIMITED,

"LOOM WORKS, WITTON, BIRMINGHAM,

Nov. 25, 1906.

Mr. T. P. GILL.

"3rd July, 1906.

"The Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Fisheries Branch, Dublin.

"SIR,—We understand that a Commission is sitting in Dublin on the working of the Irish Department for Agriculture. We do not know whether the work done at Arklow by your Department has been brought before the Commission. If it has not we should be glad if you would pass the enclosed remarks on to them.

"We have the honour to be, sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"For Kynoch, Limited,

"A. COCKING, Director."

"KYNOC, LIMITED,

"LOOM WORKS, WITTON, BIRMINGHAM,

"3rd July, 1906.

"Kynoch, Limited, have a branch factory working at Arklow employing about 350 work people. The fishing industry together with Kynoch's industry, the brick works and the rock quarries, constitute the sole source of employment at Arklow, and when all of these are dependent upon the condition of the harbour it follows that the prosperity of the town is seriously affected when the harbour is silted up to a point which makes it unusable. Kynoch, Limited, during the past eleven years have seen the town and industries almost brought to ruin by the gradual silting up of the harbour, and two years ago matters had become so bad as to threaten the town with starvation. The Harbour Commissioners were quite powerless to improve matters, and no Government Department would acknowledge responsibility or assist in improving the harbour. The Department for Agriculture, recognising the gravity of the situation, took the matter up in a business-like way. They caused a new dredge to be built and put it to work on the bar at the harbour with the result that the entrance to the harbour has now been completely cleared, and the harbour has been put into a thorough working condition, which has restored a satisfactory financial position to the harbour even after allowing for the cost of dredging. The industries of the town, including the fishing, have been able to continue, and are probably in a more prosperous condition now than they have ever been in. Had it not been for the prompt and thorough action of the Department for Agriculture the harbour must have been bankrupt, and the town would have been practically ruined. Kynoch, Limited, recognise the enormous benefit which Arklow has derived from the assistance of the Department in this matter, and wish to add their thanks to those which are given by the whole town.

"For Kynoch, Limited,

"A. COCKING, Director."

The Committee adjourned.

FORTY-NINTH PUBLIC SITTING.—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 1906.

At 35, Great George's Street, Westminster.

Present:—

Sir KENNEL DIGBY, K.C., G.C.B. (Chairman).

Mr. F. G. OGILVIE, C.B.

Mr. W. L. MECKS.

Mr. S. J. BROWN.

Mr. J. J. TAYLOR, C.B. (Secretary).

Dec 23, 1906.

Mr. George
Fletcher,
F.R.S.

Mr. GEORGE FLETCHER, F.R.S., further examined.

17147. (Chairman).—You had not concluded your evidence when you were here yesterday?—I think, sir, I had very nearly come to an end. There are only two heads left, and one of them—the question of finance has been largely covered by the Secretary. There are only a few matters that I wish to supplement. I think the next head I had to deal with was the question of industries, about which I have very little to say. At some time or other a full statement has been asked for as to the aid given in the form of direct grants from the Department and capitation grants under county schemes; that (Appendix No.) is the Statement. There are two heads there, one deals with grants given directly from the Department to various industries, totalling up to some £6,000 aid, and, the second, capitation grants given through local committees, totalling up to £4,861. That is evidence of the aid given in many other ways, through Scholarships, and also through the various county trustees of industrial subjects. These are the grants given in those two distinct forms, capitation grants and direct aid, and it is a full statement up to the end of the year 1904-05. I don't know that I need say anything more about that; I thought it would be convenient to the Committee to have the full statement.

17148. Most convenient, I am exceedingly glad to have it.

17149. Do you wish to direct our attention to any particular matter in the statement?—I think not, sir, I am quite ready to answer any questions, but I don't know that any arise.

17150. (Mr. Meeks).—Did you make any rough estimate that would enable you to say so much a year for giving general assistance not included in this?—It is very difficult to draw the line between aid, and aid, to an industry, and purely educational aid.

17151. (Chairman).—What do you regard as present as the limitations imposed by the Act upon your assistance to industries, do you follow me?—Quite. I will tell you in a word. First of all, then, so far as industries which may be fairly described as rural are concerned—and you are aware the definition of rural industries is not very clear—we have full power, that is to say the assistance given may be outside the domain of instruction. Where, however, we are dealing with industries that are not rural, aid may only be given in respect of technical instruction as defined by Section 30.

17152. That is a sufficient answer for my purpose, the limitation of the aid given for technical instruction as defined by Section 30 is the limit applicable to all industries that are not rural industries?—The definition in Section 30 controls the aid given in respect of industries that are not rural, and to such industries aid given may be only in respect of instruction.

17153. Without going into the legal question, what industries, in practice, do you consider to come within the definition of rural industries?—The mere fact of an industry being carried on in the country, such as mining or quarrying and so on, sufficient to bring it within the category of rural industries and within the practice of the Department?—The law rules that it is not.

17154. May I put it generally in this way, are you advised that the meaning of the word "rural" in

that section is *ejusdem generis* with "agriculture" which is mentioned in the same section?—No, sir, might, I think, interpret it as including woolen weaving in Kilkenny.

17155. Why?—Because you have taken the employment of those engaged in rural areas, and it may, therefore, be regarded as in a sense auxiliary to agriculture.

17156. If identically the same industry was carried on within the Borough of Kilkenny as is carried on three or four miles off, and if there was no employment of any one living in the country would you regard it as an urban industry?—Yes.

17157. In the practice of the Department it does not depend upon the character of the industry, but on the character of the locality in which it is carried on, and the character of the people employed in it?—That is so, that is the view we act on.

17158. Therefore, it does not turn, in the view of the Department, on the nature of the industry, but upon those circumstances which I have mentioned, the character of the place where it is carried on, and whether or not the people who are employed there live in the country or the town?—It does to some extent turn upon the nature of the town and of the industry, but where you have an industry which may be situated within the borders of an urban area, but the beneficiaries, so to say, are rural dwellers, that entirely alters the situation, it is virtually an industry auxiliary to agriculture.

17159. Mr. Gill told us in his evidence when first called that he was in favour, I think steps were taken to that end, of promoting an alteration in the Act by striking out the word "rural"?—Yes.

17160. As far as you know, do you consider that to be still the view of the Department, or not?—I believe so, I believe I am right in saying so.

17161. (Mr. Meeks).—According to the opinion you have received is the Kilkenny Woollen Mill a rural industry?—We have received no opinion, we have not been advised.

17162. But I mean according to the general opinion you have received, do you consider the Kilkenny Mill a rural industry?—We have not received any legal opinion.

17163. Do you regard it as a rural or an industry not rural?—We regard it as a rural, otherwise we should not be justified in giving it the aid we are (Vote, 17165).

17164. (Chairman).—I was careful in putting the question to inquire what was your practice, not what the legal view is.

17165. (Mr. Meeks).—Is it because that is a place where wool grown by the farmers is made into cloth?—In part, and in part because it concerns the rural dwellers.

17166. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Then your aid in that particular case is given to an institution which you regard as coming within the definition of rural industries, and it is not a case of aid in the way of technical instruction?—I beg your pardon, I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, I made a statement a moment ago that I would like to recall, I said we would not be justified in giving aid in the case of Kilkenny if it were not a rural industry. I ought to say that the aid we are giving we should claim is within the

definition of Section 30, and, therefore, might be given anywhere. (Witness adds to his answer to question 17162).—"In the case of Killybeg, however, the aid given is in respect of technical instruction, and, therefore, it is immaterial whether the industry be regarded as an urban or a rural industry." That is all I have to say generally on the question of industries. You will allow me, sir, under the heading of "Relations with other Departments" to say something in regard to our relations with the Congested Districts Board. The question of the work of the Department in the Congested Districts is being dealt with elsewhere, but it was brought before this Committee by Canon O'Mahon, of Kerry, who complained about overlapping, and I would like (in a few words to state our position in this matter. I believe that the circumstances under which the Department came to work in congested areas is well known. When the Department first commenced its work we were precluded by the Act (Sect. 16) from spending any of the Department's funds in congested areas; that restriction was removed by Section 85 of the Irish Land Act of 1903, which repealed the whole section. Then we were at liberty to spend the Department's endowment in congested areas equally with non-congested areas, but, whereas our funds had been previously wholly allocated for non-congested areas, with this additional duty thrown upon us, the burden had to be spread out more thinly, it had to cover a largely increased area. At the same time the County Councils were exceedingly anxious to extend their schemes over the congested areas, and feeling ran very high at the time, particularly in Kerry, because they were very anxious to extend their County schemes over the congested areas. They did so, and a very considerable amount of work has been done in that way. Looking through the returns I find we have already held, in congested areas alone, seventy-five of these itinerant courses in domestic economy, and thirty-five courses of manual instruction. As a matter of fact, the rough cost of all that work has been about £3,100, it is a little difficult to estimate closely, because we have no barriers, we work over the whole area without restriction. That amount, has been taken to some extent at all costs, from non-congested funds. It will be in the recollection of the Committee that the Congested Districts Board made a grant equal to about £3,000 for one year only, that went very largely, however, for agriculture and live stock schemes in congested areas, leaving a sum of less than £800 to come to technical instruction. A sum of about £1,800 came from rates, the remainder than has had to come out of money which had previously been allocated to non-congested areas. I think, sir, it is hardly a fair position that we are placed in, that of having duties in connection with congested areas without funds for the carrying of them out. So far as agricultural schemes are concerned the Congested Districts Board decided to hand over £2,000 per annum to the Department, but so far as technical instruction is concerned, no such aid has been given, and that will be felt very acutely in future years, for this is the position: we have powers, and, clearly, duties in connection with technical instruction in the congested areas, and we have no funds for the purpose.

17166. (Mr. Micks).—Part of the local rates are applicable.—Part are applicable, but they cannot be expected to cover it.

17167. Was that the reason why you felt bound to start domestic economy in the districts where the Congested Districts Board also carry on similar classes?—Not that we are bound in respect of a contribution from the rates, but, ethically, we are bound to do the best we can.

17168. (Chairman).—Your position is somewhat different. As I understand the prohibition to spend any part of the Endowment applied equally to the technical instruction as well as to agricultural.—Quite so.

17169. And there is also a restriction, of course, as to the £55,000—you cannot go beyond that anyhow?—No.

17170. But it prevented your applying any part of the £55,000 to the Congested Districts?—It did so on the passing of this Act of 1903.

17171. Then, coming to the Act of 1903, which repealed that provision, you have now the power to apply the endowment to the Congested Districts, but you have no addition to the endowment, and practically you are limited in funds in that way?—Yes, we have been placed in a very irrevocable position—additional duties without additional funds, because, although we recognize the very great need for developing rural education in congested areas so far as it can possibly be extended, we are really in a position of having to restrict it.

17172. Do either of these lists which you handed in show a distinction between scheduled and non-scheduled areas?—No, but they do not include manual instruction or domestic economy.

17173. (Mr. Micks).—Is your only expenditure in the Congested District on the technical side, instruction given in domestic classes, and a couple of lace classes?—Three or four classes. I have prepared a map which shows the classes which have been held in the congested areas under the Department. The green patches represent courses in domestic economy, the red ones, courses in manual instruction, and the yellow also some industrial classes in Donegal and elsewhere.

17174. (Chairman).—Then, up to the coming in force of the Act of 1903 what was the position?—There was very little work indeed done in the congested areas, and that could only be done in respect of rates.

17175. Have we anything to show since 1903 the amounts which have been expended out of the endowment?—Roughly, £1,100. What is really of serious importance is that we are unable to develop the schemes in these districts, and that leads to a feeling of dissatisfaction. I am bound to say that the present system under which two central authorities operate in the same area, doing the same kind of work, is very inconvenient. Everything either body can do to prevent friction and avoid overlapping has been done. In my own relations with the officers of the Congested Districts Board I have always received the greatest kindness and consideration, and I believe there has been a sincere effort on the part of both Boards to prevent overlapping. But overlapping undoubtedly does exist.

17176. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—I thought from what I saw in some places that there was a very distinct difference in the kind of work of the two bodies. I gathered that your work was restricted to giving instruction in the operations of lace-making, or whatever it might be, and that when sufficient instruction had been given the duties of your representatives ceased, whereas in the case of the work done by the Congested Districts Board their instructors continued to operate, and acted, perhaps, in a small extent in instructing new pupils, but to a greater extent as agents regarding the distribution of the production?—That is so. I do not know, however, that there is so great a difference as at first appears. When I was first examined I understood from Mr. Micks that in the case of the Congested Districts Board the Board made itself wholly responsible for the expense of the classes.

(Mr. Micks).—No.

(Witness).—Of course we do not do that. There is no great difference now, because in some of our schools the teachers are allowed by the County Committees to do something in the way of collecting the work and marketing it.

17177. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—I believe in the case of the other instructors they continue to act practically as managers of that aspect of the work, in the areas?—(Mr. Micks).—They act as brokers.

17178. (Mr. O'Driscoll).—Yes, putting out the work to suitable parties, and seeing it come in and put together, a very necessary function, but a function I gather quite in extension of anything you would consider proper to continue when the work had passed through the instruction stage?—We do not do that. As to whether something of the sort ought to be done in congested areas is another question.

17179. We are not to take you as saying that if all the work in congested areas were handed over you would consider that sort of work as unnecessary?—Please do not take me as saying that, we have never had the chance of doing it.

17180. Do you consider it to be curtail your present powers to spend money in payment of a person to act as a broker for home industries as carried on

Nov. 23, 1904.

Mr. George
Fisher,
Q.C.

Nov. 23, 1906.
Mr. George
Fletcher,
F.R.S.

in the Congested Districts area. It would not be a proper expenditure of your money?—I think it is desired within our powers in the case of a rural industry.

17181. Then, if you were put in possession of sufficient funds you would be prepared to undertake the duties?—Yes.

17182. (Mr. Meeks).—As a matter of fact you do something in that direction now?—Yes, we do, but it is a very delicate and difficult matter, and has not been done nearly to the same extent as under the Congested Districts Board, but still I regard it as quite a necessary corollary of organising a lace class that you should find an outlet for the products.

17183. You would continue the methods of the Congested Districts Board?—I think so. As a matter of fact, we have all the machinery for doing it. I was perfectly astonished when I came to discriminate between the work in the congested and non-congested areas to find how much work had been done in the way of courses by the automatic expansion of the schemes. The expansion had taken place almost unconsciously, and could go on to a very much larger extent if we had the funds.

17184. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Are you, as a matter of fact, doing just that sort of work in these very poor areas which are not technically congested?—We are, and I should like to say here there are many areas outside those scheduled which need special treatment quite as much as those inside. Under the conditions under which the districts are scheduled a very large number of Congested Districts are left out because of the one-fifth rule. I suppose that must have been for administrative convenience, but because our scheme operates through local authorities, and very generally, we can deal with these poor districts quite conveniently.

17185. Do these poor districts, as a matter of fact, receive without discrimination treatment at the hands of local authorities operating under you?—I believe they do. From time to time on the County Committee one has urged the special claim of these districts because they were poor and because something more ought to be done for them. I do not for a moment say that all has been done that should be done. But the limit is a financial limit, the difficulty a financial difficulty. In some cases, although, as I said, we have been underwriting not to overlap, we have teachers of the Congested Districts Board and teachers of the Department operating in the same centre and in the same building. There is an instance at Cahirciveen and another at Kilmoghilly. It is done, however, with the knowledge of both Departments. In Letterin we got an application from the County Committee to lend the Department's domestic economy equipment for use by a teacher paid by the Congested Districts Board. Of course, we were very glad to do it, though it involves a solution. As a matter of fact, many of the teachers of the Board were trained by the Department. I do not mention that as a difficulty, but I hope it will be perceived that the present state of things calls for some amendment.

17186. (Mr. Meeks).—Which body first opened its classes at these places?—I think the classes of the Board were in existence.

17187. Then, the overlapping would come from the Department?—There was consultation between the Board and the Department in both cases, as to the advisability of the course adopted. What was done was done with our eyes open.

17188. Was there a conference between the officials of the Department as to whether a second school should be opened in Cahirciveen and Kilmoghilly?—There was.

17189. And the Congested Districts Board officials approved of the opening of a second school?—Yes, I think I can say that quite definitely.

17190. Then, you can not call that objectionable overlapping?—Yes, I can, and I think we can say that although we agreed that the thing might be done, the method of having two classes under two authorities imposed by two sets of inspectors is not a good one.

17191. (Chairman).—I gather that you say it worked well in practice, but was objectionable in principle?—The relations have been quite harmonious. I believe the Congested Districts Board have withdrawn their teacher from Cahirciveen. There was one point not, I think, mentioned by the Secretary when he was dealing yesterday with finance. If we are to take over the teaching of domestic economy in the higher stand-

ards of the National schools we must, of course, have funds.

17192. (Mr. Ogilvie).—Had any arrangement been made as to how these funds were to be obtained, or had any agreement been come to between you and the Board when the circular on the subject was issued?—No.

17193. You mean to say that circular saying the work had been handed over to the Department was issued without knowledge of the Department?—Without the knowledge, and it caused the very greatest surprise, because although we were quite willing to undertake it if we got the funds, we had no funds, and until we have we are not prepared to take it over.

17194. And there had been no understanding between the two Departments that such a statement should be made?—No. In this connection I would refer you to the discussion which took place at the Consultative Committee on Education. The Consultative Committee and ultimately both the National Board of Education and the Department were of opinion that the National Board might take the domestic economy classes in the lower standards of National Schools, but that the upper standards would be better worked by the Department. But I am right in saying there was no understanding that the work was to be definitely handed to the Department.

17195. There could be no such understanding without an arrangement as to funds?—It must be contingent upon that, and nothing had been done in the way of providing funds.

17196. (Mr. Brown).—From what source was it expected at the time that funds would be provided?—There is only one source—the Treasury. I cannot tell you, if funds should come, whether they would come through the Vote for the National Board or for the Department.

17197. (Mr. Ogilvie).—It was at the time a charge upon elementary education?—Undoubtedly.

17198. And whether the funds for such projected work by your Department came directly from Parliament or through the National Board it would necessarily be at the cost of funds for elementary education?—That should be clearly understood if any arrangement is come to. An agreement must be contingent on the funds being provided.

17199. It is a very important shortage?—

17200. There is only one other point with regard to finance, which has been very fully dealt with. The Secretary said yesterday we should have a shortage of £6,000 this year, indeed, before the end of the year we would be £8,000 in debt. In other words, the allocations for the current year will involve more than the income. At the beginning of this year, that is, 31st August, 1906, we had a balance of £4,570 available. As a matter of fact our central expenditure amounts to a very considerable sum for which we have only £4,000, the annual vote of the Technical Instruction Board for central purposes. The summer courses that we conducted last year cost £3,700. Besides that there are a number of other sources of expenditure. I only mention this fact to show that we are absolutely without funds, and that when the criticism is urged that the Department will not make a grant, the answer is that the Department has depleted practically the whole of its endowment money to the various local authorities. The question of funds is, in my branch, an exceedingly serious one.

17201. I hope with reference to your statement that you have allocated this year £2,000 more than your income, you will be able to meet that from the balance carried forward from former years. You have not allocated more than you have funds to meet?—When I say allocated, I mean we have projected the work.

17202. (Mr. Meeks).—You have expended yourself to claims for £2,000, but in the light of your past experience you do not anticipate they will all be made?—It is not a question of claims. It is a question of projects to be carried out.

17203. It is the difference between estimated and actual expenditure?—Yes, but not in respect of claims. I am not taking account of them. There is a large number of other things. We may have to restrict the summer courses. We anticipate they will cost £3,700. If we have not sufficient money we shall have to reduce these numbers.

17204. (Mr. Ogilvie).—You have not entered into obligations as excess?—Oh, no, the Secretary and the Clerk in charge of accounts will prevent that happening. I only mean that in this year, and at once, we must curtail our operations in a serious way unless

something can be done. Hitherto we have been working on our savings, but they are now exhausted. We shall have to close down a good many useful critical works.

17204. Shall you be able with the help of the savings on certain items, which will, of themselves, become impossible to be carried out, to carry out items you have put down which come later in time?—I think, as a matter of fact, we shall be able to carry through the present year, but I must state definitely we shall have either to cut down the work or get money from some source. One item is £1,400 for a course for the Training of Manual Instructors. It is an expensive course, but the money is well expended. The cost includes the maintenance of the teachers while in training. If we have not money we cannot hold another such course.

17225. Concern of that kind are not personal?—No. In regard to the staffing, I have a list of the staff of inspectors. The Secretary offered evidence as to the staff. I would only like to say this—it is due to my own branch—I say it in conclusion. It has been said somewhere that salaries are excessive. There was even a reference to "soft jobs." In regard to salaries I must remind the Committee that the scale of salary for any inspectors is lower than that in England, although the duties and responsibilities are certainly not less important. I am not in any way complaining, but we are grievously undermanned. There is something almost wretched and cruel in the suggestion that we have got more staff than is necessary. As a matter of fact, I know that in my own branch we are grievously overworked, and it is a serious menace both to health and to efficiency. The complaint has been made on several occasions during the inquiry that the schools did not get sufficient inspection. A witness from Pembroke said so. It is very true. The inspection, as we endeavour to carry it out, is a useful thing. It is educational in character. I should like that schools should be inspected more frequently, but as things stand it is not possible.

17226. Your staff is too small?—Yes. I should say in fairness to my Inspectors that they do not regard official hours at all. They work as much as it is possible for men to work.

Right Hon. Sir HORACE PLUNKET, K.C.V.O., examined.

17228a. For the convenience of the Committee, Mr. Gill, Mr. Fletcher, Professor Caspelli, and myself have divided the subjects among us. The first matter I would bring up is the question of the Sligo Sawmills Industry. I might take with that the question which was raised by Mr. Micks before the Congested Districts Board relating to Portadown and Drogheda Fruit Industry. With regard to the latter, I have dealt with it in evidence before the Congested Districts Commission. The evidence has not yet been published, and so I am ready to answer any questions the Committee would wish to ask about it. With regard to the Sligo Sawmills industry I am not quite certain what it is I am expected to answer. All I am myself concerned to show is that the Department has no responsibility whatsoever for what has been described variously as the "Sligo Mystery" and the "Sligo Scandal" in newspaper articles. I wish to clear up the mystery and to close up the scandal so far as the Department is concerned. So far as I personally am concerned it is a matter between myself and those with whom I have been associated in the undertaking.

17221. (Chairman).—My colleague and I think this a convenient opportunity to put on record certain communications which we have received from Father Hynes* respecting the evidence he gave at Sligo, from Canon Ardill and Mr. John J. McDonald, solicitor:—

Mr. Taylor read the following:—

"1. On the day after I gave the foregoing evidence, I was informed on reliable authority that Sir Horace Plunkett did not represent the Department in the Bourke-Cockran Investment, and the Department as such, was not responsible in the matter. In justice to the Department I felt bound to communicate the information to the principal journals in which my evidence appeared. 2. That the people of Sligo had good grounds for believing that the Department was largely responsible for the investment and management of Bourke-Cockran's £10,000, has been shown

17207. (Chairman).—I suppose that complaint of inefficiency of inspectors is one which is exceedingly common in all branches of the Civil Service. I am sure I can speak from my own experience with regard to factory inspection. I mean, if you compared the amount of factory inspection which was wanted, with the amount of factory inspection which could possibly be done, the results are quite as startling—I have no doubt that is so. I must say I have not commonly heard complaint raised against minimum inspection.

17208. I don't want to minimise your claim, but merely to point out that you are not peculiar at all in making claims of that sort?—We are not peculiar, but we are somewhat exceptional; merely on the ground that we have undertaken very rapidly developing educational work which is very popular and which has promise of great good. It is rather a hindrance that we cannot send this man to this district to organise and that man to the other, to put matters straight.

17209. (Mr. Officé).—You are peculiar in the respect that the complaint has come from the people who are inspected, that the people who are being inspected desire more inspection. They consider that the services of the inspectors are important to them, just as they are important to the Department in checking the expenditure of public money?—I have ample evidence to show that schools and Committees generally regard the inspector as a friend and adviser. They complain bitterly in some places that they do not see as much of them as they would desire and they do not see as much of them as we would desire.

17210. (Chairman).—Your inspectors do not belong to the class which Sir William Harcourt once described as a new species to be known as Inspector Devisors?—Without lessening the efficiency of the inspectors we use him as a comparative agent. It is a novel view of the inspector, and the position is a difficult one. I have seen many instances in which it is most difficult to carry out the double function. But the old ideal of the inspector would have been fatal in Ireland. It has been entirely broken down. The inspectors are not simply destructive critics, they are doing their best to make the education given as good as possible.

from the prospectus issued by the Sligo Saw Mills Company, by the Rev. Canon Ardill, Sligo.

(Signed), J. HYNES.

"15th September, 1905.

"St. Mary's, Sligo."

"Sligo, 17th July, 1906.

"Sir.—At the sitting of your Committee in Sligo on the 11th inst., the Rev. J. J. Hynes gave evidence alleging that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland was responsible in certain ways for the expenditure of the £10,000 which the Hon. W. Bourke-Cockran gave for the benefit of industry in Sligo.

"You appear to have refused to consider this evidence on the ground that it was not supported by documents.

"I have to request that you will now permit me to supplement the evidence I have already given by affirming the substantial accuracy of the Rev. J. J. Hynes's statements as reported in the Press of the 12th inst., subject to the omission of Sir Horace Plunkett's name and the insertion, instead, of the words, 'the Trustees,' so that the statement, 'Sir Horace Plunkett and the officials of the Department' would read in every instance, 'the Trustees and the officials of the Department.'

"In support of this I enclose herewith a certified copy of the prospectus of the Sligo Saw Mills and Joinery Company, Limited, as published in the Sligo Independent newspaper on the 1st August, 1905. I direct your attention to the following particulars:

(1.) The Trustees of Mr. Bourke-Cockran's £10,000 are given as the Most Reverend Dr. Lyster, the Right Hon. Horace Plunkett, and the Most Rev. Dr. Clancy (the last-named Bishop is a member of the Board of Technical Instruction for Ireland, and resides in Sligo). (2.) The public are invited to contribute £5,000 to the Company's Share Capital, in addition

* Note appended by Father Hynes to the series of evidence given by him at Sligo on the 11th July, 1905.

Nov 22, 1904.

Mr. George
Fletcher,
F.R.S.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Plunkett,
K.C.V.O.

Nov. 25, 1906.
Right Hon.
Mr Horace
Pinske, &c.

to the amount already subscribed. (3.) As an inducement to the public then to contribute, the following statement, amongst others, is made. "This Company has been formed under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland with a view to establishing a profitable industry in the town of Sligo, and that give employment to a number of people. The idea was originated by the action of the Hon. W. Bourke-Cochran, a native of County Sligo, now resident in America, in placing a sum of ten thousand pounds at the disposal of the Department for the above object." I assume that this statement is true. I direct your attention to the words which are underlined. It is important to know by whom the three Trustees were appointed. If by the donor, then (since Bishop Lyster has no official connection with the Department) the gift was placed 'at the disposal of the Department,' only in a limited sense. If they were appointed by the Department, a record of the action will, doubtless, be found amongst the minutes. The same would apply to other actions of the Department with reference to the Company, since it was under the Department's auspices.

"If you will be so good as to inform me at your earliest convenience, whether you are willing to accept this statement from me as evidence, or not, I shall feel much obliged."

"I may remind you of a few of the more important statements made by the Rev. J. J. Hyacinth—

"(a.) Mr. Bourke-Cochran 'did not mind very much what industry was started, provided it gave employment.'"

"(b.) Sir Horace thought it would be a good thing to start a church and school furniture industry in Sligo, and he bought Gallagher and Debert's Mills in the town, and paid £4,000 for them."

"(c.) The mills were bought before the Company was formed."

"(d.) The form of industry was selected before the Company was formed."

"(e.) The legal expenses swallowed up £1,000."

"(f.) The Company found that the plant was valuable, and they had to pay £3,000 for more plant."

"(g.) The Company found that they could not do the furniture business, and they then entered into competition with a slating and sawmills firm already in existence."

"(h.) The mode in which the £10,000 was dealt with by the Department turned out to be unpredictable—the whole thing turned out to be a fiasco."

"Important questions to consider are:—

"1st. Who induced the Department to choose 'church and school furniture' as an industry for Sligo?"

"2nd. Who advised the Department to pay between £3,000 and £4,000 for the premises, and why did the vendors require to sell?"

"3rd. Has the Department spent on other projects large sums of its own money on advice received from the same source?"

"4th. To what extent, if any, did the Company engage in furniture manufacture, or did it at once start in opposition to the Sligo Wood and Iron Company in the sale of slates, cement, iron, timber, &c.?"

"5th. How was the total capital, £11,500, disposed of?"

"I have read the Rev. J. J. Hyacinth's letter in yesterday's *Irish Freezer*, correcting his evidence and stating that he had been informed by a reliable authority, that 'the Department as such was in no way responsible in the matter.' I submit that he has now been misinformed, and that his evidence is substantially correct."

"I beg that you will hold, or recommend, a sworn enquiry into all the circumstances of the Bourke-Cochran gift."

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"(Signed), JOHN ROBERT ARBIA, LL.D.
Sir Kenneth Dugby, G.O.B."

"P.S.—I am sending a copy of this letter to the Press."

(Inclosure is foregoing.)

"I hereby certify that the following notice of advertisement re prospectus of the Sligo Saw Mills and Joinery Company, Limited, has been extracted from

the file copy of the *Sligo Independent*, of 1st August, 1905, and it is a true copy."

"(Signed), ROYD SAWYER,
Editor, *Sligo Independent*."

"Sligo, 16th July, 1906"

"This list will open on Wednesday, 29th July, and close on or before Friday, 7th August."

"Sligo Saw Mills and Joinery Company, Limited (Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1862-1905)."

"Capital, £10,000 in 10,000 shares of £1 each."

"£5,000 First Mortgage Debenture Stock has been created bearing interest at 4 per cent. Subscriptions are invited for 5,000 shares of £1 each payable—

On application,	50	0	0
On allotment,	0	5	0
Three months after allotment,	0	10	0
	£1	0	0

"Shares may be paid in full on allotment, and dividends will be calculated from date of payment."

"The Directors and their friends have already applied for 1,000 shares, in addition to which 4,000 will be allotted to the Most Rev. John Lyster, M.A.; Right Hon. Horace Pinske, M.P.; and Most Rev. John Cleary, M.A., as Trustees for the fund granted by the Hon. W. Bourke-Cochran."

"Trustees for the Debenture Holders:—

"Most Rev. John Lyster, M.A., Lord Bishop of Arches."

"Right Hon. Horace Pinske, M.P."

"Most Rev. John Cleary, M.A., Lord Bishop of Elphin."

Directors:—

"Arthur Jackson, F.R.S. (W. and G. T. Pallister and Company, Sligo), Chairman."

"Alderman James P. Higgins, Sligo."

"Robert J. Moriarty, M.A., F.R.S., Sligo."

"Alderman John Connolly, F.R.S., Sligo."

"Patrick J. Kilgallen, Architect, Sligo."

"H. Campbell Perry (Harper Campbell, Limited), Sligo."

"Edward John Tighe, F.R.S. (J. and E. J. Tighe), Sligo."

"Bankers.—Ulster Bank, Limited, Sligo and Branches."

"Solicitor.—J. McCarty, Sligo."

"Auditors.—Smyle, Lynan, and Company, Chartered Accountants, Belfast and Dublin."

"Secretary and Registered Office.—James A. Golden, George's-street and Adelaide-street, Sligo."

"This Company has been formed under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, with a view to establishing a profitable industry in the town of Sligo, and that give employment to a number of people."

"The idea was originated by the action of the Hon. W. Bourke-Cochran, a native of County Sligo, now resident in America, in placing a sum of £10,000 at the disposal of the Department for the above object. After careful consideration it was thought that the establishment of a Saw Mills and Joinery Company with the latest and most modern plant for the manufacture of all classes of Joinery, Building Materials, Furniture (Church and School), and Boxes and Cases for agricultural produce offered a fair opportunity to realise the hopes entertained by the donor."

"The premises formerly occupied by Messrs. O'Connor and Callen, situate in George-street and Adelaide-street, Sligo, have been acquired on favourable terms and are considered in every way to be suitable for the Company's business."

"The Directors have secured the services of Mr. Joseph P. Kelly as Manager of the Company, and have confidence in his ability to carry on the business with remunerative results. Mr. Kelly has a large and varied experience of the manufacture of the goods proposed to be made by the Company, as he occupied a very responsible position for many years in the firm of Messrs. T. and C. Martin, Dublin."

"It is hoped that active operations may be reached in a short time. New engine and boilers are being erected, and the manager has been engaged for some time in ordering the latest and most modern tools and machinery."

"Of the £10,000 supplied by the Hon. W. Bourke-Cochran, £5,000 has been issued as Debenture Stock, charged on the assets of the Company, and the re-

raising £4,000 has been issued as fully paid-up shares of the Company.

"The Directors and their friends have already applied for £1,000, thus leaving 3,000 shares open to the public for subscription.

"The qualification of a Director is the holding of 100 shares of the Company.

"The remuneration of the Directors shall be at the rate of £100 per annum, which sum shall be divided among them in such proportions and in such manner as they shall agree, or in default of agreement equally, any Director who shall not have served during the whole period for which the remuneration is payable, receiving, however, only an amount proportioned to the time served by him.

"The amount of preliminary expenses (exclusive of cost of registration and stamp duties) is estimated at £100.

"The Directors have fixed as a minimum subscription the amount of the applications already received.

"Failure to pay any instalment when due will render the previous payments liable to be forfeited.

"Applications forms can be obtained at the offices of the Company, and of the Bankers, Solicitors, or Auditors.

"This prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

"Sligo, 20th July, 1903.

"J. J. TAYLOR, Esq., C.M., L.D., Secretary.

"Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland.

"Sir,—In reference to the evidence tendered to your Committee dealing with the origin and history of the Sligo Saw Mills Company, I am instructed, as Solicitor acting for Mr. W. Bourke-Cochran (who invested £10,000 in the Company, out of a total capital of £11,500), to briefly lay before your Committee the facts in connection with the incorporation of the Company.

"In taking this course, I am directed to point out to your Committee that Mr. Bourke-Cochran does not consider that any duty is cast on any one connected with the Company to produce evidence in reference to the matter, which was essentially a commercial undertaking. However, in view of the suggestions thrown out in the evidence tendered to your Committee, it is considered desirable to afford your Committee full information in connection with an enterprise which has not been quite as successful as its organizers had anticipated. Mr. Bourke-Cochran also feels that it would be unfair to allow the statement that no good results had been achieved by the experiment in which he invested the sum of £10,000 to go unchallenged."

RE THE SLIGO SAW MILLS AND JOINTERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

"In October, 1902, I received instructions to act for Mr. Bourke-Cochran in connection with the scheme which he had conceived for the fostering and encouragement of an industry in Sligo or its neighbourhood. Mr. Bourke-Cochran's idea was that in Ireland there existed sufficient beam power and industry on the part of the inhabitants to render any industry or scheme successful; and that one of the main reasons why progress had not been made in the industrial world of Ireland was due to the difficulty of obtaining capital available for industrial enterprises.

"In connection with the selection of an industry to carry out these ideas, Mr. Bourke-Cochran consulted the Hon. Horace Plunkett and the late Mr. W. P. Coyne, both of whom kindly undertook to assist as far as they could Mr. Bourke-Cochran to carry to a successful issue the idea he had formed for increasing the industrial development of his native county. From every point of view it was considered that the town of Sligo would be the most suitable place to start an industry. Patient and extensive inquiries were made as to the most suitable form of industry to start in Sligo. It was considered advisable to introduce as little as possible with any existing industry. The prospects of success in starting the following industries were fully considered, namely, a bacon-curing industry, a boot factory, a woollen weaving factory, and several other forms of industry; but in each case some substantial difficulty stood in the way. It was

then suggested to Mr. Bourke-Cochran that if a church and school furniture factory was established, there was a fair prospect of success, seeing that large sums of money were paid every year to Dublin, Belfast, and Glasgow by the Western province alone. In addition, Sligo, from the geographical position and its connection by sea with Canada and other timber producing countries, from which the raw material could be imported at prime cost, and also the facilities afforded for the transit of goods, seem to offer exceptional advantages for the starting of such an industry. The idea was submitted to Mr. Bourke-Cochran, who approved of same.

"In or about the month of October, 1902, and while the suggestion of starting the manufacture of church and school furniture was being considered, an opportunity arose for acquiring suitable premises in the town of Sligo. In connection with these premises, the business of saw mills and joinery had been carried on for a number of years. Instructions were given to me to inquire into the title in connection with these premises.

"On the 15th November, 1902, I attended on behalf of Mr. Bourke-Cochran a meeting at Sligo at which a number of the leading business men in Sligo were present. The Most Rev. Dr. Clancy occupied the chair, and the following gentlemen were present: Messrs. Tighe, Campbell-Perry, Kilgallon, Martin, McGarr, and Higgins. At that meeting I explained the nature of Mr. Bourke-Cochran's idea as to investing a substantial sum of money in the starting and development of a new industry in Sligo; then inquiries had been made as to a suitable industry; that the starting of an industry for the manufacture of church and school furniture seemed the most suitable; that negotiations for the purchase of premises formerly occupied by Messrs. Gallagher and Deherly, together with the fixed plant and machinery therein, for a sum of £3,000 were in progress, and that it was intended to take over the business of Messrs. Gallagher and Deherly as a going concern. The gentlemen present fully discussed the project, and appeared to approve of same. The discussion for the most part, however, turned on the manner in which Mr. Bourke-Cochran was to financially assist the project. The question of leasing Debertures and the rate of interest was fully gone into. At the date on which this meeting was held, the agreement for purchase of the premises had not been signed, and no opposition to or criticism of the starting of the proposed industry was offered by any of the gentlemen present at the meeting.

"On the 5th December, 1902, an agreement for purchase was signed by Mr. Edward Keenan, trustee for Messrs. Gallagher and Deherly, of the one part, and Mr. William P. Coyne, as express trustee of the Hon. William Bourke-Cochran, of the other part. The purchase price mentioned in the said agreement for the premises and the plant and machinery attached thereto was a sum of £3,000. The stock-in-trade was to be taken over at a valuation. The vendor contracted to show good title to the premises.

"In the meantime several meetings were held by the leading business people at Sligo, at which the gentlemen already named attended as well as Mr. Keenan, Mr. Scallan, Mr. Connolly, and Sir Jocelyn Carr-Booth. Mr. Coyne and Mr. Hill also attended some of these meetings.

"A considerable difficulty arose with regard to the legal transfer of the premises, owing to the fact that Mr. Keenan, the trustee for Messrs. Gallagher and Deherly, who entered into the contract with Mr. Coyne as Mr. Bourke-Cochran's trustee, had not a sufficiently good title; and it was not until the 20th February, 1903, that the difficulties were ultimately removed by the Belfast Banking Company (who held a mortgage for £2,700 on the premises), conveying the property to Mr. Coyne as trustee for Mr. Bourke-Cochran.

"During the period between the date when I attended the first meeting on the 15th November, 1902, up to the 20th February, 1903, it was possible at any time to withdraw from the purchase of the premises, if such a course had been considered necessary by the local people in Sligo, who were interested in the proposed industry.

"With regard to the charge that has been made that an excessive price was paid for the premises, it is well to bear in mind the following facts:—

Nov 23, 1906.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Plunkett.
S.O. &c.

Nov. 23, 1906

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Pinscott,
B.C.S.O.

"The premises were held under an indenture of fee farm grant, dated the 2nd day of April, 1868, subject to the payment of the yearly fee farm rent of £33 5s. The Poor Law Valuation of the property was £78 a year. On portion of the plot demised was a dwelling-house of the annual letting value of £21, the Poor Law Valuation of same being £18 a year. Practically the premises were held for ever free of rent. On the 30th June, 1900, Messrs. Gallagher and Doherty purchased the interest in the said premises for the sum of £3,000. The premises were regarded as sufficient security by the Belfast Banking Company—a Bank which has not the reputation of being very speculative—for advancing the sum of £3,700. From every point of view it would appear that £3,000 was not an excessive price for the premises and the fixed plant and machinery attached to same.

COST PRICE OF STOCK, LOOSE CHAFFERS, AND MACHINERY.

"It was a term of the agreement for the purchase of the premises that the purchaser should take over the stock-in-trade, loose chattels and machinery at a valuation.

The valuation made was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Valuation of stock	638	17	4
Valuation of loose chattels and machinery	49	10	0
Valuation of office furniture	4	17	4
Total	713	4	4

"After carefully going into the figures of this valuation, it was ultimately arranged that a sum of £550 should be paid for the purchase of this stock, etc. As a matter of fact the stock taken over with the premises was subsequently sold at a profit; and there is no doubt or question that a good bargain was made in respect of the purchase of the stock-in-trade.

Investment of Mr. Bourke-Cochran's Money.

"The arrangement made on behalf of Mr. Bourke-Cochran with the gentlemen who were locally supporting this industry was to place a sum of £6,000 at their disposal, debentures bearing interest at 4 per cent. to be issued to Mr. Bourke-Cochran in return. It was further arranged to invest on behalf of Mr. Bourke-Cochran a sum not exceeding £4,000 in the purchase of ordinary shares. The local people were to subscribe a sum of £1,000 at least. It was further decided that it would be best to start the company as a private company. Memorandum and Articles of Association were accordingly drawn up, and on the 3th March, 1903, the Memorandum and Articles of Association were signed by Messrs. Connolly, Jackson, Higgins, Kilgallon, Marlyn, Perry and Tynes, and it was arranged that Mr. Jackson should be appointed Chairman of the Company. In this connection it is right to point out that Mr. Jackson took no part in the selection of the projected industry and was not present at any of the preliminary meetings. After some pressure he consented to join the Board and become Chairman of the Company. The Company was duly registered on the 6th March, 1903, with a nominal capital of £10,000. The premises were then handed over to the Sligo Saw Mills and Joinery Company, and the Company then appointed their own Solicitor, Mr. McCarthy, of Sligo.

"On the 5th June, 1903, the Company issued to the Right Hon. Sir Horace Pinscott, the Most Rev. Dr. Crichton, and the Most Rev. Dr. Lyson, trustees for Mr. Bourke-Cochran twenty-four debentures of £250 each, amounting to £6,000, and executed a trust deed charging the premises in Sligo together with all assets therein with the repayment of the moneys advanced on foot of said debentures.

Preliminary Legal Costs.

"It has been stated that £1,000 was swallowed up in legal expenses. I acted as Solicitor in connection with the purchase of the premises, plant, fixed machinery, etc., from the Belfast Banking Company, Limited, for £3,000; in the formation and in-

corporation of the Sligo Saw Mills Company, and in preparation of the trust deed for the debenture holders and the issue of debentures. The entire costs in connection with these transactions, including printing Memorandum and Articles of Association, debenture deeds, etc., amounted to £339 14s. 11d. This latter sum was the net amount to which these costs were taxed by the Taxing Master.

The Prospectus.

"It appears that in or about the month of June, 1903, a prospectus was issued by the Sligo Saw Mills Company inviting the public to subscribe. It is true that in said prospectus the following statement appears:—The Company has been formed under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland with a view to establishing a profitable industry in the town of Sligo, and thus give employment to a number of people.

"The idea was originated by the action of the Hon. W. Bourke-Cochran, a native of the County Sligo, now resident in America, in placing a sum of £10,000 at the disposal of the Department for the above object."

This prospectus was drawn up under a misapprehension, and issued without the knowledge or sanction of Mr. Bourke-Cochran, or of those who acted as his behalf. As a matter of fact, in incorporating the Company as a private company the intention was not to issue any prospectus. Acting as Solicitor for the Hon. W. Bourke-Cochran, I can definitely say that he did not place the said sum at the disposal of the Department of Agriculture. It is true, however, to state that the Hon. W. Bourke-Cochran in connection with the investment of the said sum of £10,000 committed the Right Hon. Sir Horace Pinscott and Mr. W. P. O'Byrne, in their personal capacity, although they were both officially connected with the Department of Agriculture, whose officers generally were much interested in the success of the undertaking.

"At the meetings which I attended in Sligo it was clearly stated that Mr. Bourke-Cochran desired to treat the transaction as an entirely commercial transaction, although his primary object was to foster and encourage an industry for the benefit of the people of his native county. Every step in connection with the investment of Mr. Bourke-Cochran's money was taken from the point of view of protecting Mr. Bourke-Cochran's interests in the Company as far as possible. It was never suggested that the money to be invested by Mr. Bourke-Cochran was to be regarded as a mere gift or donation for the encouragement of industry.

"The issue of the prospectus had not the effect of inducing many people to apply for shares. Out of the total number of shares issued, namely, 5,000, only 486 were applied for after the issue of the prospectus.

"The Company being started, the directors immediately proceeded to deal with the question of the appointment of a manager. In connection with this appointment Mr. W. P. O'Byrne undertook to give what assistance he could. Advertisements were inserted in the newspapers inviting applications for the position, and about thirty replies were received. Ultimately, a Mr. Kelly, who had a considerable experience in connection with the timber trade (having been in the employment of Messrs. T. and G. Martin, Dublin, for several years), was appointed by the Directors. It was considered that as Mr. Bourke-Cochran was anxious to encourage Irish enterprise, and the exercise of Irish talent in the industrial field, the more freedom the Directors of the Company had in their operations, the more fruitful and beneficial would the experiment prove. As far as human judgment went, a capable and experienced manager was appointed.

"In or about the month of October, 1904, i.e., eighteen months after the incorporation of the Company, the Directors applied to Sir Horace Pinscott as one of the trustees for Mr. Bourke-Cochran, requesting to know whether Mr. Bourke-Cochran would be prepared to advance more money, as further capital was necessary to develop the Company. The Directors asked, in the alternative, that the debentures standing in Mr. Bourke-Cochran's name should be released in favour of the Bank, as the Bank were willing to grant a further overdraft unless some such course was taken. It appeared that further capital would

be required by the Company to enable them to embark on the manufacture of church and school furniture on a profitable scale—the original idea entertained by Mr. Bourke-Cockran's trustees, although some good and progress had been made in connection with the chair-making industry, which the Directors, acting on the advice of their manager, had introduced as an adjunct to the business previously carried on by Messrs. Gallagher and Debery. As a result of correspondence which ensued, the trustees for Mr. Bourke-Cockran considered it necessary to have a special report on the affairs of the Sligo Saw Mills Company, and in view of that report, which was placed before Mr. Bourke-Cockran, the conclusion arrived at was that losses were being incurred in connection with the business carried on in Sligo, and that the only way to save the Company would be either to realise its assets to the best advantage, or risk the investment of further large sums as additional capital. Mr. Bourke-Cockran was not prepared to take the latter course, and the trustees decided that the losses incurred by carrying on the Company should be stopped, and immediately proceeded to enter into negotiations for the sale of the Company's business on the most favourable terms.

"In connection with the sale of the Company the trustees were anxious that the original idea of Mr. Bourke-Cockran, of encouraging industry in Sligo, should, as far as possible, be preserved. As a result of the negotiations for sale the trustees for Mr. Bourke-Cockran, acting under the powers contained in the Deventry Trust Deed, agreed to sell the assets of the Sligo Saw Mills Company to Messrs. William Graham and Company, Limited, a successful Company in the timber and joinery business. Under the terms of the agreement the net proceeds of the sale after the discharge of all liabilities to the Bank and trade creditors, amounted to the sum of £4,570.

"In discharge of this sum the trustees agreed to take £4,570 worth of £10 guaranteed cumulative shares, paying a dividend of 3 per cent. per annum, such dividends to rank in priority to all dividend rights of all shareholders in respect of other shares in the purchasing Company's undertaking, whether present or future.

"As a result of Mr. Bourke-Cockran's venture, and by the arrangement entered into with Messrs. Graham and Company, there are twenty-two men still employed in this Saw Mill and Joinery Company, including eleven engaged at chair and furniture making. The wages amount to £22 per week, or about £1,200 per year.

"The chair-making and deal furniture referred to is a new industry for Sligo. It is not correct, therefore, in view of the above facts, to say that Mr. Bourke-Cockran's venture has failed to produce any beneficial results, or that his capital is lost.

"It may be added that Mr. Bourke-Cockran was consulted in reference to every decision and action of the trustees. He attaches no blame to any one in connection with the entire transaction, and is of opinion that were it not for the incorrect statements made in the evidence submitted to your Committee no explanation would be either necessary or advisable.

"I remain, your devoted servant,

"(Signed) JOHN J. McDONNAN."

(Witness).—What I wish to know is whether the Committee is entirely satisfied that the charges which were brought against the Department were made under a misapprehension.

(Chairman).—Personally, I have no questions.

17212 (Mr. Micks).—I do not know exactly what the charge was, but there seems to have been an effort to connect the Department with this industry—What actually happened was this. Father Hynes, who appeared before the Committee in Sligo had been informed that the Department's action had inflicted a very great injury upon the people of that town, which, very naturally, made him angry, but his information was not correct. Those who traded him, so to speak, did not realise that when he brought down the Department with his right barrel he would bring down his Bishop with his left. When this situation

was explained to Father Hynes he immediately made the *circular* *Assemblee*, and telegraphed to the papers to say that his evidence had been, in some respects, "unconsciously inaccurate." Then came the Rev. Canon Ardill. He thought, apparently, he could safely join in the attack upon the Department. What exactly he had to do with the business I don't understand.

17213 (Chairman).—I think the only point for the Committee is whether or not the Department is responsible for this more or less unsuccessful enterprise?—That is, whether we are responsible legally or morally?

17214. Whether it was the action of the Department in any way. We are not concerned whether or not the action was prudent. We are concerned with whether it can in any way be attributed to the action of the Department. It appears from these letters what the situation is pretty well, and we want to know if you wish to say anything further on that point—I only wish to say as much as is necessary to show that the Department did nothing.

17215. There is no evidence of that at all!—Some members of the Department, probably four or five, were deeply interested in Mr. Bourke-Cockran's experiment, because we thought it would throw a great deal of light on some extremely difficult problems, and I think it did throw a good deal of light. My own belief is that in the movement, to which I hope we may yet render some useful service, for the revival of industries in Ireland, there must be experimental periods and a large number of failures. It is not often that men of wealth display such public spirit as did Mr. Bourke-Cockran when he came forward and took a large risk, knowing that he might only contribute to the solution of the problem a negative result. The value of such a result is probably more than most people recognise. The choice of the industry was not arrived at without an immense amount of thought and labour, and I especially wish to mention Mr. Clancy in this respect. I have a letter from him in which he weighs the relative merits of a large number of projects—including boot-making, the wool-lens industry, which I personally favoured, a boot-curing factory, and the school and church furniture industry. I remember he and the late Dr. Coyne were both agreed upon the industry chosen, and, reading over Mr. Clancy's letter, I think he had sufficient grounds to go upon.

17216. If the Department, as a Department, was not really connected with it I do not think we ought to go into it—No. It was only in their private capacity the Department's officers assisted Mr. Bourke-Cockran, and there is this to be said, that technical instruction would very likely have been asked for, if the industry had gone further, to develop this new industry.

17217. (Mr. Brown).—Canon Ardill appears to shift the question upon whether the trustees were appointed by the Department as such or otherwise!—The Department had absolutely nothing to do with that. I can quite believe that Canon Ardill thought that the industry was actually being run by the Department, and some other people may have thought the same.

17218. (Chairman).—The prospectus looks like it!—The prospectus, of course, was a mistake, but, as the Solicitor points out, nearly all the money was subscribed before the prospectus was issued.

17219. (Mr. Micks).—Quite a number of the officials of the Department did take an interest in the matter?—Yes, including myself, were very much interested in it. Of course we were very anxious to assist the enterprise in any way that we could.

17220. And, after forming an opinion about the suitability of the buildings and all that?—Oh, yes. I believe that the buildings were perfectly suitable, but we were very largely guided by local opinion. The best business men in Sligo took an interest in it. Mr. Arthur Jackson has been an extremely successful business man, but before he took the Chairmanship a great many questions had been decided, which might have been decided otherwise if he had been in at the beginning. I mention this out of fairness to him. You could not get a better adviser in industrial or commercial matters.

Nov. 23, 1906.

Right Hon.
Mr. Horace
Plunkett,
M.P.O.

17221. Were the travelling expenses of the officials of the Department paid out of the vote of the Department?—They would take it in their ordinary records.

17222. Officials, for instance, who did not travel much, such as Dr. Coyne?—Dr. Coyne did travel a good deal, because he was the head of our Statistics and Intelligence Branch, and had to keep constantly in touch with the business men of many localities in connection with his work. He was constantly collecting information all over the country, often by personal visits.

17223. Were the visits paid to Sligo charged to the vote of the Department?—Yes, out of the vote where the official was on the permanent staff, and out of the endowment when he was a temporary official.

17224. Was it charged to the industry?—No. It was charged to the funds of the Department either out of the vote or the endowment.

17225. Does not that bring the Department into the administration of the business?—I should be very sorry to think that. It would greatly hamper our work if we could never give technical advice to anyone conducting an industry without becoming responsible for the conduct of the industry. Perhaps you mean that the personal interest of members of the Department in the industry may have given rise to the impression as to the Department's responsibility. I deny that as so; but that does not make the Department responsible.

17226. (Mr. O'Grady).—Have you had any continuing practice of a similar kind as in connection with the Bonmahon mines in the way of affording the benefit of consultation in connection with the formation of a public company or a commercial undertaking?—Continually. We have an expert officer on our staff, and we are always ready to give expert advice where it is asked, but we are very careful as to the terms on which we give it—perhaps more careful now after the Sligo incident. We avoid any action which may lead to money being invested on the strength of our intervention.

17227. We may take it that the Sligo case is one which, while it may correspond with the procedure you are prepared to take any day, will act as a sort of red flag to you?—Yes, but to some extent it differs from ordinary commercial enterprise in that there was a philanthropic side to it. Mr. Bourke-Cockran is an eminent Irishman. He was born in Ireland, and has had a brilliant career in America. I wish to take upon myself any blame which comes the way of the Department. I may not have been as careful as I should have been, as it was more than an ordinary commercial undertaking. As a matter of fact, I don't believe that a single penny was put into the industry on account of the Department's connection with it. I find Mr. Sinton's name down for £100. I should be very glad to learn that he invested on the strength of the Department's connection with the business.

17228. (Mr. Mickel).—He was M.P. for Sligo at one time, I think. Have you any official file on the subject of this Sligo industry?—It never was an official matter. I have got piles of paper which are of a confidential character, but I will be glad to show them to you. I don't think we have anything official.

17229. Is there not a record of speeches or letters on the subject?—It really only became an official business when it came before this Committee. Before that we were all acting in a private capacity as far as the conduct of the industry was concerned. In so far as the Department might assist by way of technical education, information and advice, we were prepared to do at Sligo exactly what we have done at Killybegny and elsewhere.

17230. (Chairman).—The matter might have come before the Department in the ordinary way had it reached that stage?—The whole matter was arranged between Mr. Bourke-Cockran and myself in New York, and no special action by the Department was expected. All I wanted was that Mr. Bourke-Cockran should have the advantage of any information and advice that my colleagues in the Department might be able to give him.

17231. (Mr. O'Grady).—And which is available to anybody?—Yes, anybody may get the same assistance at the hands of the Department.

17232. (Mr. Bress).—Or in the event of an existing industry if the assistance of the Department was asked there it would be given in the same way?—Certainly. I will now deal with the other subject I mentioned. Mr. Mickel may wish to ask some questions about the jam and fruit-preserve industry. I am referring to the Boyne Valley and Portadown.

17233. (Chairman).—That is to say that that was the industry that you carried on commercially with the view of showing that their produce might be dealt with commercially profitably, is that so?—Yes. In the course of our fruit developing scheme we found that it was necessary to do two things, to grow and find a market for the fresh fruit, and to deal with the other grades of fruit. We started the industry at Portadown. At Drogheda, before the Department took any part in it, a co-operative society of fruit growers had been formed for the purpose of both marketing and manufacturing the fruit of the Boyne Valley. At the Cork Exhibition, in 1903, we had an exhibit of various processes, a great many of them new to Ireland, for dealing with vegetable and fruit, and these created so much public interest that we came to the conclusion that we might induce capitalists to start these industries in fruit-growing centres in Ireland. But we found that we could not get any capitalists to go through the experimental stage, and, therefore, we determined to test these processes at Portadown and Drogheda, both in the centre of fruit districts, on a commercial scale, our intention being to hand it over to private enterprise the moment that we had proved that the industry was a paying one. But the matter was really urgent, because in every fruit development scheme we knew that the labour and expenditure would not be justified unless some means of disposing of the second class fruit was discovered. In 1903 we started at Portadown. I think the Co-Operative Society were still working away at Drogheda, but later on they got into difficulties, and we practically bought them out and took over the industry ourselves, and also developed it very considerably.

17234. Where was this trade carried on?

(Professor Campbell).—May I be allowed to explain. In Drogheda it was jam only. That failed. In the meantime Portadown was going on, and instead of closing up the Drogheda factory altogether, we simply told the manager at Portadown to start it to his business, but not to make jam at Drogheda, because jam was an existing industry, and to carry on the fruit preservation, and particularly cider.

(Witness).—We have not made anything for the past two seasons. We parted with our plant in both places in time for the crops of both 1905 and 1906 to be dealt with by private enterprise.

17235. Did not this jam-making industry give rise to very considerable opposition?—Not the jam, because the Department never made jam.

17236. (Mr. Mickel).—There was considerable opposition in England, was there not?

(Mr. Mickel here read from Confectioners' correspondence on the subject.)

17237. (Chairman).—As I understand it, a considerable amount of opposition was threatened in Parliament, and great pressure was brought to bear upon you?—That was so, and I think that if the Department had intended to carry on the industry beyond the experimental stage the opposition would have been perfectly justified.

The substance of the opposition was, I believe, that the people said, "We are paying taxes, and you are encouraging people to compete with us."

17238. (Mr. Mickel).—And is that your opinion, having regard to all the circumstances of the industrial position in Ireland?—No. My position is, that we were justified up to a certain point. As a matter of fact, no opposition was raised to our action until we had almost completed what we might call the experimental stage. If we had carried the business beyond that stage, I am not sure that it would not have been as great an injustice to Ireland as to England. We should have been encouraging private enterprise instead of encouraging it. I take some responsibility on myself for the opposition which arose. I was anxious to carry on the business a little longer

that would have been justified on the principles we had adopted, because the cost had been so great in the experimental stage that I should have liked to get back a little of the money.

17239 (Chairman).—The effect of this pressure was to cause you to dispose of the business to private firms at an earlier date than you might otherwise have done it?—But not a moment before the Department felt that it had carried out the purpose which was intended. I think if we had kept it on a little longer we could have disposed of it to better advantage, but in the Department we all recognised that where we had nothing more to learn by the experiment, we must part with it. I cannot complain that undue pressure was put upon us.

17240. My object was only to get the facts—I think the language used was unnecessary, the word "refractory."

17241. That was the language of the confessions?—Yes; that is confessions.

17242. I just want to get the facts. When, as a matter of fact, did you get rid of this affair of the factory?—In the spring of 1905.

17243. Then, what is the position now—has this commercial undertaking ceased altogether?—As far as the Department is concerned, yes.

17244. And is the business that you made being carried on by private people?—Yes, it is. I can give you the names of the people.

17245. I think we have them already?—Yes, I think so. And we are also giving technical advice, based upon our experience, to new enterprises in the South.

17246. Then, really, as I understand, quite apart from the question whether you were right or wrong in starting the business at all, you really did carry out your intention, except that you were to some extent hurried. You did it a little sooner than you would perhaps have done otherwise?—Yes. That is the exact position.

17247. (Mr. Micks).—Is it your opinion that the Department itself should undertake to industrial or trade development except as an experiment?—Well, I have never put it in that way. I would rather put it another way, that it should not take up any industrial effort which would compete with an existing industry. Possibly, the way that you put it would come to reach the same thing.

17248. In answering the question will you also state clearly your view as to developments where there are existing industries?—Yes; the reason that I hesitate to accept your question as it is framed is that we might carry on an industry in which there was really nothing experimental to be gained, in which no technical point had to be ascertained in order to induce others to carry it on—an industry new to the country. Let me say, I do not know exactly what you mean by an experiment. Do you mean of a commercial kind?

17249. Yes, of a commercial kind?—I think we might carry on an experiment on a commercial scale if the industry was of a rural character, and so legally within our powers, and if in our judgment it would lead to the introduction of a new industry, and not prejudice an existing industry.

17250. (Mr. O'Gile).—As a demonstration?—It would really be a demonstration.

17251. (Mr. Micks).—This was quite a new industry in Ireland, was it not?—Yes; a great many of the processes were new—to Ireland, at any rate.

17252. I rather gathered from a previous answer that you drew some distinction between engaging in development work where there was no industry of the kind before and where there was an industry of the kind before?—Yes.

17253. Had you England in view when you spoke of there being competition with industries?—When speaking of rural industries I had in mind industries existing in Ireland; in dealing with manufacturing industries of an urban character our powers are strictly limited. In the case of rural industries, to take an example, I would not mind experimenting in jam-making as it is being carried on in Kent and Sussex. I see no objection to that. Shall I go on now to the next point?

17254. (Chairman).—Yes, please?—Well, the next you wished to examine me on is the Munster Institute.

17255. Yes. Well, there are a few questions I may just put as to important points with regard to that. I

suppose, generally speaking, you have read the evidence given by Mr. GHEE?—Yes.

17256. I suppose down to a certain point we may take it as perhaps common ground. I mean that we may accept, I suppose, the early history previous to the creation of the Department?—You may certainly accept that.

17257. You have nothing to say as to that?—Nothing.

17258. And then comes the question of the effect of your Act. The Act of 1880, upon the existing institutions there, and that £30,000, of course, was given to that existing institution which was regulated then under an existing scheme, the scheme of the Act of 1885?—I did not quite catch the question.

17259. That scheme you have got before you, it is under the Act of 1885, is it not, the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act, 1885?—You ask if the school was managed under that scheme?

17260. Yes?—Oh, no. It was managed by the National Education Commissioners under a local committee.

17261. I say by the Governors. I say that scheme constituted the Governors?—Yes.

17262. And they managed it under the supervision of the National Education Commissioners?—Yes.

17263. The functions of the two are defined in the scheme, if I recollect right. The date of the scheme is 1884?—Yes.

17264. That is the scheme which regulates the respective provinces of the National Education Commissioners and the Governors who were incorporated?—Well, I suppose, the 15th Section would really define the functions of the Governors and the Commissioners of National Education respectively. They are to aid in the management of the present school "under such conditions and regulations, upon such terms and in such manner as the said Commissioners and the Governors may from time to time agree upon."

17265. That is right?—Well, we can accept that, of course, as the position.

17266. "Unless and until the said Commissioners and the Governors shall otherwise agree, the present school shall be carried on and managed under the same conditions and regulations on the same terms and in the same manner as if this scheme had not passed?"—Yes.

17267. Well, really the long and the short of the matter is—What is the effect upon this scheme of the Act of 1889 and of what took place afterwards?

17268. (Mr. O'Gile).—Did the Governors and the Commissioners come to an agreement under that clause?—Yes, I understood they did.

17269. Have you a copy of the agreement come to?—Not here.

17270. Well, in the office?—I am sure the National Education Commissioners would have it, but I should have thought we had one. Professor Campbell tells me we have.

(Professor Campbell).—We should have copies of all the correspondence. They gave us the correspondence, and among other things there were set out—I am perfectly clear about it—there were set out, head by head, the functions which the Governors fulfilled. Before I came over I asked my staff to get it, and they could not find it; but, of course, it may be got from the Commissioners of National Education.

17271. (Mr. O'Gile).—It is in existence?—(Professor Campbell).—It exists. I shall try when I go back to get it.

17272. (Chairman).—I think we should ask the Secretary of the Commissioners of National Education for it. I think before we come to make our report we should get it. As a matter of fact, we have had before us the correspondence. I do not think we should go into that again, and what led up to what is called the Governors' resignation?—(P.H. 240).—Yes.

17273. Then, after the Governors' resignation you dealt with this school as you would have dealt with any other agricultural schools?—Yes. We fitted it in with our general system of agricultural education. We tried to fit the Governors in, but we have not succeeded. I think they had a good deal to say for themselves on the local question, but, of course, we had the national aspects of the question to consider, and it was of paramount importance to us to fit in that institution with the general education of the country.

17274. But still, supposing the Governors had, as you say, a good deal to say for themselves on the local

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question, that is, in other words, supposing the information that was set out in the case to Mr. O'Connor substantially correctly states the local point of view—and I do not think there is any reason to suppose that it does not, so far as I know—what then?—Well, not being a lawyer I would not like to give any opinion upon it.

17275. But you have never been advised that it is wrong?—Substantially, all the legal advice is to the effect that the Government were in a position, if they wished, to object to what we wanted to do. There is no question about that.

17276. I suppose your practical view rather is that they gave you a free hand by the action they took in resigning?—I think after that we were free.

17277. That really substantially was the position?—Substantially that was our position. When they retired and took no legal action to assert their position, then, I think, that we had no option at all but just to work the institution and do as much good with it as we could.

17278. That is to say, that looking at it as practical people, having the great responsibility of working out a system of agricultural education, you had no choice but to go on?—That is my view.

17279. But still, I only want just to get this from you—still, assuming that that action of the Government had no legal effect whatever, assuming that they are a statutory corporation, they could not resign in any legal sense of the term, I suppose?—No.

17280. They could simply say, "We won't act," but they could not resign?—They could decline to exercise their functions.

17281. I do not want to look at it in an abstract way at all, but, as a practical measure, to see what is the best thing to be done now. That is what we have to consider. Assuming that this scheme, whatever the effect of it is (which I will not discuss to-day), is still in existence at this moment and applies to your Munster Institute—assuming that, your legal position is not altogether sound?—I think our legal position is, assuming what you say, decidedly unsatisfactory, and it ought to be regularised.

17282. That is exactly the point that I wanted to come at. Then, how can it be regularised? I suppose, from what you state, you would be perfectly willing, as Professor Campbell has already stated in the course of his evidence and Mr. Gill, too—that so long as you felt it consistent with the real interests of the country in the matter of agricultural education you would be perfectly willing to come to any reasonable terms with the Government, who, we will assume for the present moment, are still an existing body with existing rights?—Certainly; provided, of course, it does not get so into difficulty with the popularly constituted machinery of the Department or the local representative bodies.

17283. And, then, I suppose, it may be a case—I will say positively, for I really have not made up my mind about it at all, and I think it is a question of considerable difficulty, but I suppose that it may be that the Committee may come to the conclusion that really it is a case for an application to Parliament?—I should hope that they would come to that conclusion.

17284. To regularise the situation?—To regularise it.

17285. That is your view?—That is my view. I do not see how it could be regularised without. I see in the course of the case that the Government rely a good deal on what Mr. Gerald Balfour may have had in his mind at the time that he framed the Act of 1899, that he may have had this scheme before him. My strong belief is that Mr. Gerald Balfour was practically committed to the Government when he was drafting his Bill of 1897, but in the interval the Local Government Bill had passed, and that completely changed the situation.

17286. (Mr. Micks).—Did you say the Bill of 1897?—Between the Bill of 1897 and the Bill of 1899, which became our Act, the Local Government of Ireland was reconstituted, and that completely changed the whole aspect of affairs as regards the agricultural education of the country. This scheme, which was perfectly suited to the Grand Jury days, could not be fitted in with our more democratic form of administration. In one of my letters to the Government, which appears in

the evidence, I suggested to them that they should occupy a new position, which, I believe, would have given them a larger sphere of usefulness than they ever enjoyed before. I can quite understand their not taking that view, although I still strongly held it; but when they did not take that view we did not find ourselves able to meet them.

17287. (Chairman).—The situation seems to me to be really this, that you have here two bodies, the Department on the one hand and the Government on the other, and I think we may fairly give both bodies credit for being actuated by a strong desire to do the best for agriculture in that part of Ireland certainly, and, I should hope, in the whole of Ireland; but you have this unfortunate friction arising between them which has resulted in their not co-operating, and without raising any point as to the personal aspects of the question, I think we may give credit to both parties for a desire to do the best they can; and it does seem to me a matter in which co-operation is most urgently desirable and practical, and that the two bodies might co-operate and arrive at a feasible scheme, having regard to everything that has happened since, and all the changes in the general system of agricultural education throughout the country; and even if this should require Parliamentary sanction I do not see that there ought to be any difficulty in getting it. Is that your view?—I should be very glad that your advice in this matter were taken, and we should deal in our power to meet the Government, but, of course, we must have regard to our responsibilities to the Council of Agriculture, the Agricultural Board, and the County Councils.

17288. You must have regard to your obligations and also to your legal difficulties?—Yes.

17289. (Mr. O'Brien).—Would there be a possibility of an alteration of the scheme under the terms of Section 34, for Section 34 of the scheme provides for the possibility of amending it on application to the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland? Are you of opinion that sufficient modification could be secured in that way?—I think if the scheme was to be changed at all, it would be far better to place them on an entirely new footing. I do not think there is any magic in the charter, and I myself think it is entirely out of date. Far better than any scheme at all would be a practical working agreement between the Government and ourselves. I do not think myself it would be wise to complicate the Act of 1899 by grafting on to it a charter passed in 1894. That is my view.

17290. As I understand this section it makes provision for any change whatsoever which is not inconsistent with the conditions of the Act under which this scheme was arranged, and if I wanted to argue the matter I would ask why it should be necessary to wait for the prospect of legislation in Parliament when there is a possibility of having the scheme modified under one of its own clauses?—I think the modification would be so large that it would be a virtual tearing up of the charter.

17291. (Chairman).—Is not that a question that will arise subsequently?—Yes.

17292. If you came come to an agreement of a practical kind, then comes a question which would be not for the Committee, but for officials of the Government Departments, the law advisers, and so on, to determine, whether it should be done by Act of Parliament or by an alteration under the provision in the scheme?—I quite agree to that. I think in the evidence there is just one point that was brought before the Committee which it might seem almost discourteous for me to take no notice of, and that was a sudden change of my own attitude referred to by the Government in their evidence. I saw Mr. Beavis in his evidence on the 22nd of June refer to the conference we had at Mallow to discuss the whole question of a scheme for some agricultural colleges in Munster under the clauses of our Act allocating the £10,000, and he recalls our meeting at a house near Mallow, the house of Mr. Richard Longfield, the evening before the meeting. He says, "Our President, Sir George Colthurst, Sir Horace, and myself happened to be all staying the night before at the house of another Governor. The evening passed in the usual way, and about 11 o'clock, when we were going to bed, Sir Horace Plunkett suddenly said he had changed his mind. We say we were disappointed would be inadequate. Concomitantly is the only word I can use." Well, to tell the real truth the

evening passed in quite the usual way, but it is a habit of mine to do all my work in the very early hours of the morning.

1923. (Mr. Nichols).—After getting up or before going to bed?—After getting up; and I very much dislike discussing difficult business matters in the evening, and I did not want to open a subject of this kind. As I was saying "Good-night" to Mr. Beamish and Sir George Colman, one of them said something that led me to think that they expected me to bring out a scheme which was on the lines of one which they had drafted before our Act was passed, and I told them that since then a great many things had happened in the Department and that I had completely changed my mind. Later on in his evidence, Mr. Beamish referred to an institution very much on the plan of the original institution at Hohenheim. He says quite truly that when this scheme, in the year 1890, or early in 1900, was first divulged to me, I gave it some measure of approval, but I argued that the whole thing had been worked out by the Government for whom I had always the most cordial feelings, and whose public services I greatly admired. At that time my own study of the matter had been very slight, but the work and study of the first year in the Department brought me to the conclusion that it would be impossible, so to speak, to transplant an institution from abroad. I learned that these institutions were of slow growth, and above all, they were fitted in and were part of the general education system of the country. To bring them over to Ireland and expect them to work in our conditions as they worked in other countries would have been to ignore all the chief factors in the problem. We now have something very like the Hohenheim institution at Glasnevin; but the time certainly had not come for transplanting them over Ireland. I may have been right or wrong in the view I took, but that explains the change of attitude. I have nothing more to say on that point. I think you wished to ask me some questions as to the Department's expenditure upon Exhibitions.

1924. Yes!—And as it has been a large expenditure I thought that I had better explain fully the Department's policy. The exhibitions we have had to consider so far have been of three kinds: firstly, International Exhibitions outside Ireland (at Glasgow in 1902 and St. Louis, in 1904); secondly, International Exhibitions in Ireland (at Cork, 1903-4, and to be in Dublin in 1907); and thirdly, provincial and smaller local exhibitions in Ireland, especially that at Limerick in 1906. The view taken by the Department and concurred in by the Agricultural Board was that the three classes of Exhibition came within the sphere of the Department's operations, and might be supported in so far as they furthered its general scheme of work, but that each case should be considered on its merits and in relation to the other demands upon the Department's endowment fund. It thus happened that in the earlier years of the Department, before its aims and procedure were understood by the country, and when owing to its system of delegating its work as far as possible to local control, the putting of its schemes into operation largely depended on the public interest in its policy and procedure, exhibitions offered a means of stimulating public interest and engaging public co-operation which justified a much larger expenditure than would be admissible at a further stage in the Department's development. Furthermore, the initial difficulties in setting the new machinery to work, and the lack of teachers in technical subjects, led to a considerable saving of the actual income in the first few years, and allowed exceptional expenditures to be incurred without restricting the normal operations of the Department and the local committees. The participation of the Department in the two International Exhibitions outside Dublin had the common object of aiding and facilitating the marketing of certain Irish products, and calling the attention of capitalists and captains of industry to the resources offering opportunities of immediate development in Ireland. At Glasgow, where the Department's expenditure was on a moderate scale compared with that of other countries similarly situated, I believe that much good was done by giving to the vast numbers of visitors to that Exhibition a far better impression than they had before of the directions in which the growing industrial spirit in Ireland was likely to create a situation favourable

to trade and industry. In the case of St. Louis, our expenditure was, owing to the wantonness of the undertaking from the central office, involving the necessity for getting many things done for us which otherwise we might have been able to attend to with our own forces, and also making the cost of carriage to and from the Exhibition, insurance and travelling of officers, extremely heavy, much larger than that incurred at Glasgow. But what chiefly influenced the Department and the Board in embarking upon this troublesome undertaking was that an incidental disposition of Irish-Americans came over to Ireland with the object of obtaining representative exhibits of Ireland's industries and exhibiting these in a special Irish Pavilion, and urged upon us that a really interesting display of domestically Irish products would stimulate the demand for them in the American market and would also be the means of perhaps attracting American capital for the development of our resources. These Irish-Americans formed an Irish Exhibit Company, subscribed the necessary capital for the erection of this Pavilion, and also defrayed the cost of carriage and of insurance of exhibits to and from St. Louis, and gave free space to all exhibitors. The amount expended by these Irish-Americans, without reimbursement, was more than four times the amount expended by the Department. Neither in the case of Glasgow, nor in that of St. Louis, is it possible to form even an approximate estimate of the net value received by the country for the Department's expenditure. That a greater knowledge in the United Kingdom and in the United States of the resources of this country than had hitherto existed, resulted from our participation in these Exhibitions might easily be proved. As we do not contemplate any similar expenditure unless our financial resources are largely augmented in future years, we have not set on foot the difficult and elaborate inquiry which would be necessary in order to ascertain the exact effect of these two undertakings. Statements which have been volunteered to me, newspaper comments, and other evidence, have led us to believe that a very definite value does attach to this work, but it is quite certain that the greater part of whatever advantage may be gained for Ireland, both commercially and industrially, will have to await the more important developments of the Department's work, especially that which may be classed as educational. Nevertheless the following opinions and facts are worthy of consideration:—Mr. Edward Devoy, of St. Louis, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of representative Irish-Americans who supervised the Exhibit, and one of the most successful business men in St. Louis, writes: "I can conceive of no form of advertising, no matter what its cost, that would produce such results." Mr. Gasham, Secretary of the U. S. National Commission, says: "As an educational exhibit I believe it was not surpassed by any display on the grounds," and he speaks of the "deep interest" shown in Ireland and Irish resources as a result of the Exhibit." The U. S. Government Appraiser, who had charge of the appraisements for Customs duties, wrote:—"The display made by your Department has convinced most assuredly many people that the Irish people are capable and are producing to-day many lines of manufactures unknown or even dreamed of in this country." Mr. F. F. Skiff, the Director of Exhibits for the whole St. Louis Exposition, when writing, stated:—"It revealed to me actual facts and possibilities of resource and production in Ireland of which I most confess I was heretofore ignorant." The Exhibit, in short, brought this country before the notice of many thousands of persons who previously only knew Ireland by name, and who had no conception as to what were her capabilities and resources. Of the twenty millions of persons who visited this World's Fair a large proportion had these facts forcibly brought to their notice, not alone by their visit, but by the immense advertisement given in the various Press notices throughout the United States. I notice that the Irish exports into the United States have greatly increased since the St. Louis Exhibition, and even if we leave out the immense increase in the linen exports, which may be due to other causes, there is a smaller article for the American market there is a very important share in the increase of half a million sterling in the Irish exports to New York this year as compared with last year. There can be little doubt that in the other items of the following list,

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Right Hon.
Sir Horace
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K.C.B.

Nov. 23, 1906. The increase is distinctly feasible to the influence of the Exhibition:—

	1904-5	1905-6
	dols.	dols.
Cotton goods manufactured,	304,685	408,954
Ready-made Clothing and other		
wearing apparel,	3,843	3,993
Knit goods, stockings, &c.,	773	1,602
Lace,	27,560	87,607
Calico, Cordage, Threads, and		
Twine,	33,880	36,648
Linon Goods,	9,329,638	12,071,307
Believe,	1,793	3,628
Pipes and other Smokers' articles,	5,337	13,447
Distilled Spirits,	95,953	116,321
	\$10,443,109	\$12,738,717

Further, in New York two stores in 32d Street and 5th Avenue have been opened by a person who was connected with the Irish Exhibit Company, with branches in Saratoga and elsewhere, where only Irish goods are sold. Many of the Irish exhibitors have stated that the exhibit at St. Louis has been the means of opening up business connections in America. I now come to by far the most important of the exhibitions we have taken part in—the Cork Exhibition. This stands on a different footing altogether from any other which the Department is ever likely to take part in. It fulfilled a national purpose to a degree and in a manner for which probably no precedent exists. Briefly stated, the great difficulty the Department had in interesting public opinion as to its work was the strong preference in the public mind for direct promotion of agriculture and industry by the Department itself on a large commercial scale, rather than reliance on private enterprise, aided by the education of workers, which was the main line of policy the Department knew it must adopt. The argument in support of the more popular contention was that the alternative policy which the Department has consistently pursued would only stimulate emigration, and if the training of workers preceded the establishment of industries, those who had been trained would transfer their newly-acquired abilities to other countries where they could be more profitably employed than in Ireland. This argument has come constantly before this Committee, but it was much more widely prevalent in 1902 than it is to-day. The exhibition of working industries and a host of agricultural and horticultural operations conducted by experts, the organization of parties composed of representative men belonging to the classes the Department hoped to get into touch with from all parts of Ireland, and the explanation of the various educational exhibits by a corps of skilled demonstrators in the Department's service, unquestionably gave an impetus to the Department's work to which we owe a very considerable part of the progress which has been made in the first six years. The expenditure in this case was extremely large, but to none of the Departmental operations has closer attention been given by the two Boards, the one of which provided, and both of which concurred in the expenditure. I believe every penny thus spent was justified. The other Irish International Exhibition is that to be held in Dublin next year; and the Department's failure to give to it any large measure of support has naturally given rise to a considerable amount of indignation on the part of the promoters and guarantors of this project. The matter having been discussed both at the Council of Agriculture and the Agricultural Board, the decision of the Department is known at least to those bodies, but as it is wholly misunderstood by the great majority of those who have any concern in the matter, it may be well to state specifically here the considerations which actuated the Department, the Council, and the Board in the decision at which they had arrived. At the time of the Cork Exhibition the Department's exhibition policy—if it may be so called—was naturally very fully discussed in connection with the great expenditure of money and effort made in that year. The purpose of the Department in utilizing the Cork Exhibition has been explained. The one condition upon which the Department and the Board insisted when the undertaking grew to the very large proportions it finally assumed, was that the expenditure should not be a precedent for future years. It was agreed and publicly announced by the Vice-President that the Department's exhibit at Cork was an endeavor to illustrate in the most

practical manner possible what Ireland might do in the way of agricultural development and industrial revival. After a period which was estimated at the time at about ten years, it was agreed that it would be proper for the Department to take an active part in the promotion of another large exhibition, the main object of which should be to illustrate the progress which had been made along the lines of the practical suggestions which the Cork Exhibition was intended to convey. This decision has not been departed from by the Department. The Cork Exhibition of 1902 was followed by the so-called Greater Cork Exhibition of 1903, and great pressure was put upon the Department to induce them to ask the Boards for further contribution, which the Department refused to recommend. In 1904 the Dublin International Exhibition was projected, and was to have been held in the present year. Considerable opposition was met with in some quarters, and partly owing to this the postponement until the year 1907 took place. The matter had gone far before the Department was officially approached in the matter, generally on account of the public statement which had been made at the time of the first Cork Exhibition as to its future policy. The Vice-President was unofficially approached late in the year 1904 with a view to his helping to reconcile the promoters of the International Exhibition with those who were promoting a National Exhibition in opposition to it. It was pointed out at the time, that the Department considered another exhibition on this scale in Ireland premature, as the time had not come, by some years, for that contemplated exhibition already referred to, the object of which would be to illustrate the progress Ireland might have made since the Cork Exhibition of 1902. Nevertheless, since it was obvious that if an exhibition were to be promoted with or without the Department's co-operation, it ought not to be an object of controversy, I did my best to try to bring the two parties together, but without any measure of success. What we have actually decided to do with regard to the Exhibition of 1907 is to utilize the Home Industries Section of the Exhibition for the purpose of aiding any industries which the Department is helping to promote by technical instruction and otherwise, and a sum of £3,000 has been voted for this purpose.

17295. (Mr. Meeks).—Is that a final grant or a preliminary grant?—Well, it is regarded by the Department and the Agricultural Board as final, but I have reason to think that it is regarded by the Exhibition authorities as a preliminary grant. But I think that the Board and the Council were in fact that in the present state of the Department's funds it would be impossible for them to take any very large part in the Exhibition. There only remains the question of the small local exhibitions, and I do not think anything may be said about this, because each one is to be judged upon its merits, and we only aid them financially in so far as we see that real service is being done educationally.

17296. (Chairman).—But they are very important!—They are very important. In some ways they have a very great advantage over the large exhibitions, because more people when you wish to instruct take a practical interest in the working of the exhibition. I mean that those that you want an exhibition to help take more interest in a small local exhibition than they do in a remote exhibition on a larger scale, where, no doubt, in many ways they would see a good deal more and learn more.

17297. (Mr. O'Brien).—The larger central exhibition would serve more particularly the purpose of advertisement and of securing publicity for model methods of work, while the smaller local one would in the first place aim at securing good products of such work in the locality!—That may be one distinction between the two shows. Now, the next question, I think, is the relations between the Department and the Organisation Society.

17298. (Mr. Meeks).—Was there not a case about a horse?—Was that Mr. Pat Rogers' horse?

17299. Yes!—I think that if Professor Campbell could get the best of Mr. Pat Rogers in a horse trial he has justified his position. The position is simply this, that in order to get the best blood in the country and distribute it among the farmers who cannot themselves afford to travel and keep themselves informed of where those horses are to be got, we buy horses ourselves, and we re-sell them to those such farmers, and of course we do better than they could, for we have very wide opportunities; but, however

well we buy, we know that in the aggregate of the transactions, we must make a loss; and consequently when a man of Mr. Rogers's sagacity comes along and offers as much for a house than any house that we have got is worth to us, as far as I am concerned, we shall be only too glad to sell it to him, and perhaps buy two or three other houses with the money. But, of course, we are not in the house-dealing business, except simply for the sake of helping men who otherwise could not get good blood.

17300. There was a suggestion made by some of the County Wicklow Committee, and Mr. Frielin, the Secretary of the County Council, about employing the services of a journalist in connection with the leaflets. I do not know whether that suggestion has been brought under your notice. (Replies evidence of Mr. Frielin.)

17301. Was that brought under your notice?—No, it was not; but I think there is some wisdom as well as novelty in Mr. Frielin's suggestion, and I happen to know that those who occupy your position in Departments in other countries do not neglect the journalistic method not only in connection with the dissemination of information, but also in defending the institution in the Press.

17302. The question of additional endowment has been spoken of by Professor Campbell, Mr. Gill, and Mr. Fletcher. Now, as to the source of funds, did you ever consider certain funds held by large companies in Ulster, that is the vast incomes that are derived from Ulster by the City Companies of London—I never considered them as a possible source from which the Department could increase its endowment.

17303. Do you know the way in which they receive and expend their surpluses?—Well, I have no accurate knowledge on the subject.

17304. Do you know that practically they receive the rental of very large tracts of country there?—Yes, I have heard that.

17305. And that the expenditure of these sums is discretionary in these city gentlemen who live in

London?—Yes; so I have heard. That these lands are the lands from which the inhabitants who went to West Donegal were turned out in the plantation of 1609.

(Chairman).—James the First's time.

17306. (Mr. Michel).—James the First's time.

17307. Now do you think that allowing very large sums to leave Ireland every year to be spent over here by City of London companies, to be consumed or expended by men who have no attachment to or interest in Ireland, is justifiable as regards Irish money?—I do not think it would be proper for me in my position to give any opinion on the subject. I could hardly make a recommendation that the funds of any individuals or corporations should be appropriated by the State and handed over for the purpose of the Department. I can say generally that we should be very glad to get further funds from some source, but I do not think it would be right for me to indicate the particular persons or bodies that should be deprived of their revenues for the benefit of our Department.

17308. But would you consider the purposes upon which these moneys were spent which are received from the tenants?—I am afraid it would be quite improper for me to give an opinion on what should be done with the revenues derived from Ireland. It does not seem to me to be a question of administration. It is clearly a question for legislation.

17309. As very many of the questions here are?—But I would rather not give an opinion on a subject of that kind. I might give an opinion on the platform, but not when I am giving evidence as the head of a Department.

17310. But owing to the difficulty of getting funds, when one finds a very large amount of money going out of the country to city companies in another country one is tempted to inquire closely into such a matter. You are aware that a Committee of the House of Commons has sat on that subject?—Yes, I am aware of that.

On resuming after luncheon.

(Witness).—May I formally put this in?

17311. (Chairman).—This is your Memorandum on agricultural education in Ireland?—Yes; it was written in 1902.

17312. Written in 1901?—Yes; and except in one particular, our policy has followed the line it lays down ever since, that is to say, that we have developed in the direction of winter schools of agriculture instead of into secondary schools as we anticipated at first that it should be embodied in the Appendix, but policy have been adhered to ever since. It is important that it should be embodied in the Appendix, because it enters into the discussion between the Government of the Minister Institute and ourselves, and it is referred to in many portions of the Department's evidence.

17313. And, with the exception that you have mentioned, it still states the present policy of the Department?—Yes; it generally holds good. (Appendix No. XXXI.)

17314. Now, I think we might go on. You are on the relations of the Department with the Agricultural Organisation Society?—Yes, I notice that the question has been raised in Parliament, and is to be raised again, as to whether the Department is acting *vis-à-vis* in paying the Organisation Society to do certain of its work. I need hardly say that if the action were *vis-à-vis* the Auditor-General would have held me responsible for any payment so made and I would not have sanctioned the payment out of regard for my own pocket if there had been any doubt whatsoever upon it. Again, it has been stated that Mr. Gerald Balfour, at the time that the Bill was going through Parliament in 1899, gave a personal pledge to Mr. Dillon that the Department the Bill was creating would not subsidise the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. I was, unhappily, not present at those debates owing to an accident, and consequently I have no personal knowledge of what took place between Mr. Dillon and Mr. Gerald Balfour, but that I do know—firstly, that Mr. Gerald Balfour, in introducing the Bill, stated that it was based upon the recommendations of the Recesse Committee, and, secondly, that to have made any such provision as is alleged, in the Bill, would have been in direct opposi-

tion to those recommendations, because the whole case of the Recesse Committee for a Department based upon foreign models was that foreign Governments had relied very largely for the success of their work in developing agriculture upon the assistance of voluntary agencies like the Organisation Society. Further, I distinctly recollect that this matter having been mooted in the first year of the Department I asked Mr. Gerald Balfour whether he had given any pledge in the matter.

17315. (Chairman).—I think I ought to state that I have had a communication from Mr. Gerald Balfour to the effect that he never gave such a pledge?—Well, he told me that he had not given any such pledge. What he said was, as far as I recollect, that he had accepted, on behalf of the Government, an amendment of Mr. Dillon, but he explained to Mr. Dillon that the amendment would not have the effect which he anticipated; that otherwise he could not have accepted it.

17316. Can you state what the nature of the amendment was?—I do not remember the actual words, but only the effect of it.

17317. (Mr. Brown).—Section 15 and Section 30 of the Act?—I have no doubt that the amendment was the taking out of some sub-section in Clause 15, which deals with the apportionment of money, and that Mr. Gerald Balfour, while not mentioning specially the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, had mentioned "associations," or had indicated some agency through which the Department might do its work, which Mr. Dillon took to include the Organisation Society. Mr. Dillon, I imagine, went to Mr. Balfour to take out that sub-section, whereupon Mr. Balfour told him that Clause 15, as it would stand in the Bill, would leave the Department absolutely free (subject, of course, to the concurrence of the Agricultural Board), to administer the funds allocated for the purpose of developing agriculture through any agency that they saw fit.

17318. (Mr. Michel).—I have the original Bill here that was printed on the 8th of May, 1899?—Yes, that would tell exactly what happened. I have not that here.

17319. Clause 15, sub-clause 5 ran as follows:—“Money to be applied by the Department under this

Nov 23, 1906

Sight Hon.
Sir Horace
Pitt-Rivers,
K.C.V.O.

Nov. 25, 1906.
Right Hon.
Sir Thomas
Finlay,
K.C.V.O.

part of the Act shall be applied subject to any conditions which the Department may require—that such is in the Act of Parliament now—and may be applied either directly by the Department or indirectly through the agency or with the co-operation of any public body or Joint Committee consisting of members representing two or more public bodies with or without additional members appointed by the Department.” That is the provision in the original Bill as it was introduced. Then, in Clause 30 the Bill defines the expression “Public Body” which is used in Clause 16.—“The expression ‘Public Body’ means any body with powers of levying rates or taxes and any legally constituted public body, agricultural association, Council, or Committee, or any Society or organisation formally approved of by the Department.” That is the first draft of the Bill. Then, the next draft of the Bill was as amended by the Standing Committee on Trade. Then, you have Clause 16, Sub-Clause 5:—“Money to be applied by the Department under this part of the Act shall be applied subject to any conditions which the Department may require—that is in the Act—and may be applied either directly by the Department or indirectly through the agency or with the co-operation of any public body or joint committee consisting of members representing two or more public bodies with or without additional members appointed by the Department; but the number of members appointed by the Department shall not exceed one-third of the whole number of such Joint Committee. Provided that no money shall be applied for the purpose of aiding any trading operations carried on by any public body, or of discharging, or aiding in discharging, the trade liabilities of any such body.” Then, in the definition Clause, “The expression ‘Public Body’ means any body with powers of levying rates or taxes and any legally constituted public body, agricultural association, Council, or Committee, or any society or organisation formally approved of by the Department.” Then, the next Bill is the Bill as brought to the House of Lords. It was the Bill as approved of in the Grand Committee, from which I have just read. That was brought from the Commons on the 25th of July. (Chairman).—The change must have taken place on the Report stage.

(Mr. Dillon).—Then it was brought from the Commons to the Lords on the 25th of July, and Sub-Clause 5 of Clause 16 reads “Money to be applied by the Department under this part of the Act shall be applied subject to any conditions which the Department may require,” and in Clause 30 “The expression ‘Public Body’ means any corporation, Council, Board of Commissioners, or Committee constituted by or in pursuance of any Act, or any association constituted by any Act or Charter.” Thus the Act stands, precisely following the words of the Bill as introduced from the Commons into the Lords, and therefore the change took place between the date of the Report, the Grand Committee, and the date of the introduction of the Bill into the House of Lords, or, as the Chairman says, on Report.

(Chairman).—I think I ought to record this letter of Mr. Gerald Balfour at this stage. It exactly explains what occurred. Mr. Gerald Balfour has requested that this letter which I have received from him this morning may be on the note:—

FINLAY HILL, WORTH, W.

November 14, 1906.

“DEAR SIR KENNETH DUNN.—My attention has been called to a letter written by Mr. Dillon, M.P., to a Mr. John Gannon, and quoted by Mr. Arthur Lough in the course of the evidence given by him a few weeks ago to the Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland. In this letter it is stated that a distinct pledge was given by me, when the Act constituting the Department was going through the House of Commons in 1899, that some of the public money of the Department would be handed over to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, or other similar Association of a private character. This statement is wholly incorrect and I can only suppose that Mr. Dillon must either have misapprehended my meaning at the time or have subsequently forgotten what really passed between us. My recollection of the circumstances which I suppose Mr. Dillon has in his mind is as follows:—On the Report stage of the Bill he moved an amendment designed to make payments to private associations, out of money

at the disposal of the Department, illegal. I explained to him that, as a matter of fact, his amendment would not have the effect which he imagined, and would in no way preclude the Department from making payments out of its funds to the Agricultural Organisation Society or similar Associations if they thought it desirable to do so. Notwithstanding this explanation Mr. Dillon pressed that his amendment should be adopted, and to this I consented, wishing to save time and being assured that in itself it was perfectly inoffensive. I am absolutely certain that no pledge of the nature alleged in Mr. Dillon's letter was ever given by me either in or out of the House of Commons.

“I am, yours very truly,
“G. W. Balfour.”

17319. (Mr. Dillon).—Having regard to the evidence from the first two editions of the Bill, do you think it a somewhat natural inference that payments to an association such as those referred to in the Bill should be considered as illegal?—No such inference could be expressed on the part of Mr. Dillon if what Mr. Gerald Balfour says is to be believed.

17320. I was thinking of Mr. Lough for the moment.—Mr. Lough not having heard what Mr. Gerald Balfour did say, may very properly and very naturally have believed what Mr. Dillon said, and I am sure that Mr. Dillon himself believed it, and it is simply a conflict of evidence due to a defective memory on the one side or the other. All that I can say for certain, although I was not present at the Conference, is that shortly after this took place—certainly less than a year after the Conference took place—Mr. Gerald Balfour gave me substantially the same version of the incident that he writes now in his letter. That is all that I can say.

17321. I am not, in the least, entering into that matter. I am speaking of it as an outside observer, looking at the documents here, the Bills and the Act. When you find in the Bills an authorisation that certain kinds of associations or organisations may be subsidised, and when you find that provision struck out by the Government, would it not be natural to suppose that the Government withdrew their provision that such organisations might be subsidised?—That would be quite a natural inference on the part of one person in ten thousand that every looks at this.

17322. Take me for instance, would not that be a very natural view in my case?—I am sure that, with your legal acumen and with your familiarity with Acts of Parliament, you would not rely upon what passed in former Bills, but would simply look at the Act. There you would find that Mr. Gerald Balfour is perfectly correct in what he states, and that Mr. Dillon's amendment, so far as any operative effect goes, has simply left the Department absolutely free. Of course I have not to consider what passed between Mr. Dillon and Mr. Gerald Balfour, but to administer the Act as it appears on the Statute Book.

17323. I am not referring to anything that passed between Mr. Dillon and Mr. Balfour. I am merely referring to the record of the two Bills and the Act. You have a proposal from the Government that certain bodies should be eligible for assistance by the Department, and you have got that provision going through two editions of the Bill and passing through the Grand Committee, and subsequent to that stage you have got this enabling provision withdrawn from the Bill. Would it not be a natural inference to suppose that the withdrawing of this provision from the Bill meant that the Government did not intend to pass a provision enabling the Department to assist such organisations?—I can only say that while it is perfectly true that any historian rummaging in the archives and studying the Parliamentary stages in the passage of some Act might have come to this conclusion, any practical man, knowing the large and vital interests that were concerned, would be far less impressed with the fact that in the debates in Parliament there was no suggestion that the Organisation Society should not be utilised as similar voluntary agencies are utilised in every foreign country that is doing this kind of work.

17324. You mean that there is no decision or prohibition observable in the terms of the Act?—Yes; in the terms of the Act, nor in the debates, there is no decision observable. And now that you say that you wish to put the pledge out of the question, all that you can do

back upon in the intention of Parliament; and I think the ordinary man when he wants to ascertain the intention of Parliament, studies the course of the debates, and in the course of the debates there was nothing to show that this Department was to be strangled by having to do everything through official agencies when it could be done better by voluntary agencies.

17325. That is by lawful agencies, of course?—Yes.
17326. Any person looking at the construction of the Act would have to come to a legal opinion; but take the position of the Executive Government. The Executive Government might perhaps be influenced by the fact that an enabling provision in the Bill was struck out and not put into the Act?—Well, as far as I was concerned, my link with the Executive Government was Mr. Gerald Balfour, and what he told me left me under no doubt whatsoever as to what the intention of the Government was. What the intention of Parliament was in another question. I do not think Parliament was very much interested in the matter; in fact, I doubt whether very much interest in this particular matter was taken by anyone except Mr. Dillon.

17327. (Mr. O'Gillie).—But in administration would you regard the intention of Parliament as in any sense justifying you in passing without the provisions of the Act?—Not in passing without it; but the intention of Parliament might restrict me from obtaining the full powers under the grammatical interpretation of the Act.

17328. Do you think that it would have a similar restrictive influence upon your successor in office?—I am afraid I could not answer for him.

17329. (Chairman).—I suppose that those words having been struck out, the sole question for you and your Department as regards your legal power was whether or not this section applied to this particular matter?—The surplus remaining of the foreword money shall be applied subject, as regards any particular application to the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, for the purpose of agriculture and other rural industries or sea fisheries. That is the sole question, whether it came within that or not?—That is the sole question. I cannot conceive that there can be any legal question, because I am quite certain that the very vigilant eye of the official who presides over accounts would have detected it long ago.

17330. You do not want to have a long bill brought against you by the Auditor-General?—No, certainly not. I might mention that the whole question is to be discussed by the Council of Agriculture next week.

17331. No doubt the Committee will be furnished with copies of the Report and discussion?—Yes; and I think I should hand in the Memorandum sent to the members of the Council in accordance with instructions given to me by the Council at their last meeting dealing with this subject. (Appendix No. XXX.)

17332. This is recently drawn up, dated 15th November?—Yes. I may say that the Council of Agriculture have agreed to the principle that the organisation of the business side of farming is absolutely essential to the well-being of this agricultural industry in Ireland, and next week the sole question before them will be whether the organisation of agriculture should be done directly by the Department or whether the services of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society should be employed subject to such control as the Department may wish to exercise over the expenditure.

17333. (Mr. Brown).—I think, so far as the discussion has proceeded at the Council of Agriculture, I might say that there was practically a universal agreement that agricultural co-operation was necessary for the promotion of agriculture in Ireland?—That is so. The opinion of every man who has studied the subject is that it is quite impossible for Irish farmers to compete with foreign farmers in the British markets unless they are organised so their rivals are organised. This truth has come home to the Department far more since we have had experience in administering certain Acts for the protection of Irish farmers in these markets, and since we have had agents here watching the interests of the Irish farmers. Every week we become more convinced that all that the Government can do, and that any Government can do, for protecting the produce against fraud, all that they can legitimately do in advertising and making a market for produce, is

really of insignificant importance compared with what organised farmers can do for themselves in marketing their produce by intelligent co-operation. That is the decision that we have come to, and now we shall take vigorous steps to organise the Irish farmers. The sole question is whether we shall do it ourselves as a Department, or employ another agency—the I.A.O.S.—to do it; and that is the sole question to be decided next week, and a very momentous question it is.

17334. (Mr. Micks).—I think it would be well to have on the minutes the original resolution of the Board, page 8, volume I, of the Agricultural Board's Minutes with reference to the payment of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—With reference to the technical instruction at present carried on by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in connection with agriculture, creameries, egg-packing, poultry, fruit-growing and fax cultivation, the Vice-President submitted the following proposal:—That the agricultural instruction now carried on by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society may be taken over by the Department, and the experts engaged in such instruction may be employed by them as from April 1st, 1900, to such extent and subject to such conditions as the Department may approve. The proposal was approved. (Witness).—Do you say page 8?

17335. Page 8, Volume I.—Of the Agricultural Board's minutes?

17336. Yes?—I was referring not to the action of the Agricultural Board, but to the action of the Agricultural Council at their last meeting.

17337. I know that, but the earlier instance was the first occasion on which the Board and the Department engaged the assistance and agreed to pay for the assistance of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society?—Yes, but in putting this resolution upon the minutes in connection with the matter that we have just been discussing, it ought to be borne in mind that we were then dealing with a wholly different situation to that which confronts us now. The Department had only just been started. It was only half-started. No work had been done. The country was expecting us to get to work at something. We had not had time even to define our policy along the main lines of our work. But we wanted to make some progress; we found men doing work of the nature that we were going to do later, and we employed them on this occasion, not so much to organise the business side of farming, but actually to act as experts.

17338. This was purely instruction?—Yes. I recollect the time when I was an organiser myself, and in the days of Government neglect I had to pose as an expert. I went round organising creameries, and I had to advise farmers on all sorts of questions. But much water has flowed under the bridge since then, and now an expert is an expert and an organiser is an organiser. We must carefully draw the distinction between an expert and an organiser.

17339. What is the resolution that was arrived at by the last meeting of the Board?—Well, the resolution of the last meeting of the Board was to the effect that the whole matter should be referred to the Council for decision upon the general principle to be adopted. Being so referred, the Council had a very important debate upon it, the nature of which is described in the Memorandum that I have handed in.

17340. I mean the financial arrangements. What is the last minute you have of the financial arrangements with the Department?—I think it would be the last meeting in the volume that you have.

17341. Page 275 of Volume II, is it?—From memory, yes, that is it.

17342. The arrangement that is given at page 275, Volume II?—Yes, that is a merely provisional arrangement pending the final decision of the Council. At its last meeting the Council held the whole matter over till the meeting which takes place next week. It remains a provisional arrangement till the Council decides what is to be done, and it is one of the most important matters that have ever come before the Council.

17343. (Mr. O'Gillie).—Do I understand you correctly, Sir Horace, in this, that the first case, that which has been referred to on page 8 of the minutes, was almost entirely a question of instruction, if not entirely a question of instruction?—Yes.

17344. And that the proposals for the present and for the future refer to no question of instruction, but entirely to organisation, as distinct from instruction?

Nov. 22, 1900.

Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Piercy,
M.P.

Nov. 25, 1906.

Right Hon.
Mr. Horace
Plunkett,
M.P.O.

—Yes, the teaching of co-operative methods, without which, no matter what technical instruction you give to farmers, they will not be able to compete with foreign farmers.

17345. So that it is instruction to the extent that it is a matter of explaining and expounding and working in, a knowledge of business methods?—Yes, and also the very complicated constitution, rules, and procedure that have to be adopted by a body of farmers before they can enter into commercial undertakings. All that is explained in the Memorandum that I have sent round to the County Councils and handed in.

17346. But is that so inextricably mixed up with the organisation work of societies that it is not practicable to distinguish between them or to make different men undertake different duties, the one set educational duties, that is the instruction in business methods, and the other organisation?—I understand your point to be whether the Department itself might not have organisers—a class of officers who would do the organisation as distinguished from experts teaching the work.

17347. Well, I would rather put it the other way, whether the Department might not have a staff of officers to attend to the purely instructional work leaving the merely commercial alone, or making some other arrangement for the organising work?—That is what, if the Council followed my advice, they would do, but that other work at this stage would not be done unless some funds were provided to do it. These need to be liberally provided in the pre-Department days by individuals who saw the necessity for raising the commercial status of the farmers, especially the small farmers; but now that the Department is started they will not do that, because they hold, and I think with a great deal of justice, too, that it is the duty of the State, either indirectly through education, or directly by organisation, to place the farmers upon a higher commercial level.

17348. There is an essential difference between the problem that faced the Agricultural Board at that first meeting and the problem that is coming before the Council again—the one problem was essentially instruction, but the point that is now up for decision is not instructional business but organisation?—That is it precisely.

17349. So that there is a change in the character of the work first associated with the name of the Irish Organisation Society so far as this is concerned?—Yes. The true function of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society always was to organise, not to teach technically, but to organise for business purposes; but before there was a practical education machinery in the country they found that it was necessary to include in organisation a certain amount of expert teaching. When the Department developed its system of education they very naturally left that aside and went back to their primary function, which is simply teaching farmers methods of combination for business purposes.

17350. (Mr. McKee).—The object of both education and organisation is to improve the condition of farmers, and make them more prosperous in the country?—Certainly, that is common to both.

17351. That is what is to be aimed at?—That is the end common to both. There are just a few points that I wish to mention. A great deal of the evidence that has been submitted to the Committee has not yet become available, and consequently there may be some points upon which the Department ought to be heard. Now, I do not wish to raise any new issues, but I think that where statements of fact have been made prejudicial to any officers of the Department, or to the Department, we ought to see them as they were made.

17352. (Chairman).—You will, of course, see it as soon as it is printed, and if there should be such points we will communicate with you and we will consider any statement that you send in?—Exactly. We shall be careful not to raise any new issues, but the point I wish to make is that we want to have the facts and nothing else before the Committee.

17353. We must close the evidence to-day unless there is a real reason for holding a further meeting to take further evidence?—Well, it was in view of that I thought that I ought to ask the Committee to give the Department an opportunity of verifying any statement that may have been made which they have not seen.

17354. (Mr. McKee).—You might send it to the Secretary?—We do not want to raise any new point.

17355. (Chairman).—But if there is any matter that you think you are entitled to explain or confirm, we shall be glad to have your statement?—I have no reason to suppose that any of these statements have been made.

17356. (Chairman).—That has been my own recollection. I think almost all the points that were really controversial have been dealt with?—I would like to mention one or two points which the Department feel ought to be in the minds of the Committee when they are preparing their report. Firstly, I hope the Committee in judging on our financial policy will give due weight to our financial requirements, and will bear in mind that we intentionally restricted our expenditure in the early years, and banked up a large surplus which we knew would be required for educational buildings and equipment, when we had time to train Irishmen to teach the different sciences underlying our work. Therefore, when we say that we require further funds in order to develop our work it ought not to be open to the critic, who is unacquainted as to our financial policy, to say, "How can the Department require further funds when they have got a large balance at the bank?" That is a very important point having regard to the anticipated development of our work. As regards the evidence that has been given, we feel in the Department that although we have received some hard knocks at different times it will be of immense value to our efforts. All that we want is to get our work discussed by the people whom we are trying to interest in it. We know that in the course of the discussion some hostile criticism will necessarily be directed against us, but at the same time we already have found in the course of this inquiry that many who came to scoff have stayed to think, and we know that our schemes in the future, owing to the labours of this Committee, and to the immense amount of thought that has been stirred in the country, will be better understood. Whoever has to administer them will have a much more understanding public than has been the case hitherto. I would ask the Committee to bear in mind some of the exceptional difficulties we have had to contend with. Firstly, not only was the work new to Ireland, but the institution that was doing the work was unique. It was wholly foreign in the most important part of its constitution. We have had nothing like it in these islands before. Of course the two points in which it differs from any other institution in these islands are, firstly, the devolution of central administration upon popularly constituted bodies, and, secondly, the close linking of the central machinery with the newly popularised local government machinery. It stands to reason that a new central department doing most of its work with newly constituted administrative bodies is not going to find everything work quite smoothly and harmoniously at first. All I ask the Committee to do is to consider carefully what progress has been made by the Department in getting into fruitful working relations with these bodies, and how much more we could have been expected to do considering the nervous both at the centre and in the localities. Upon this I give no opinion whatsoever, but I think that in an aspect of the case which ought to be very carefully considered.

Secondly, we started on our work with a very strong prejudice against all Government institutions in Ireland. We were at the outset branded as a Castle Board. People did not realise at first and it took them a long time to realise how much of the Department was really in their own hands, and how absolutely they controlled the most important functions of the Department. It is only now they are beginning to see how very much real influence they have got, and how the Department is becoming an instrument of the popular will in its administration. Thirdly, unfortunately the Department has been subject to a good deal of political suspicion. It has been openly stated by the leaders of one party that the whole conception and work of the Department is intended to destroy the cause which they have most at heart. That difficulty will disappear. I say, to some extent, has been the case of it myself by writing a book which has been referred to by some witnesses. Some people may say that considering my position I ought not to have written that book. It stirred some thoughts, and I think explained our work to the people. But whether I write a book or do not write a book is really of very small concern in a question involving the

whole economic and social future of the Irish people. Again, in the early years we had great difficulty owing to what I may call the agrarian objection to our work. It was brought up against us over and over again that any improvements we effected were simply to be utilised by the landlords for increasing the rent. In one case a County Council refused to strike a rate for the purpose of the Act because of that fear. The 1863 Act and the general progress of thought in the country has done away with that difficulty. Again, you have heard a great deal about the importation of alien officers into the Department. As to that I say nothing, except that it was absolutely inevitable. It was obviously a disagreeable and unpopular thing to do. (Chairman).—I do not think we have heard anything about that.

17356. (Mr. Michs).—I have some questions to ask on 11—I had better finish this first. That was inevitable. I have not read the evidence, but I thought that had been before you.

17357. (Chairman).—I do not say it has not—all I say is we have not heard much about it—I need say no more about that. Lastly, I would submit to the Committee that we have not had a staff which is adequate for the work we have had to undertake. The staff we have had has been largely crippled by sickness owing, as far as I can judge, to overwork. Several of our leading officers have been away a great deal of time. I must say, as I said at the beginning, that in a somewhat wide and varied experience of various kind of work in different parts of the world I have never worked with a body of men who worked harder than they have done, or were more devoted to their work. But the staff is not strong enough. It is not sufficiently numerous, and we shall have in the future either to restrict our work or have more assistance. One can hardly blame the Treasury, because they were bound simply to give a staff which was adequate for the work they are actually going on, but no one could have foreseen that the work would expand at the rate it did.

17358. (Chairman).—Have we on record any additions made to the staff in these few years?

17359. (Mr. Michs).—Does not the Parliamentary return give you that?—There would still be the temporary staff paid out of the endowment.

17360. Are they not shown in the return given us by Mr. Gill?—If not, they can easily be given.

17361. (Chairman).—It would be well to make up that return showing the staff you started with, and in addition those you paid out of the endowment or out of the rates?—Yes. There is one respect in which I think the staff ought to be increased, and it really is a matter of very great importance. We are short of inspectors. This great network of—

17362. Do you mean inspectors for both agricultural and technical instruction?—Yes. There is this net work of schemes going on under County Committees and Urban District Committees all through the country. Whenever I have time I go round myself, and it has been brought home to me that it would be immensely helpful to the local authorities, and greatly to the advantage of all our work if it could be much more frequently inspected. It is a matter of my own personal knowledge at the central office that the small staff of inspectors we have are not able to be in the country nearly so much as they would be if we had more clerical assistance.

17363. Have your inspectors to do a lot of clerical work?—A great deal of clerical work.

17364. (Mr. Brown).—Would an increase of the clerical staff relieve the inspectors?—I think we could get a semi-expert staff. There is an immense amount of semi-expert work that has to be done in the office by inspectors who might otherwise be out doing practical work in the country. The Chairman mentioned the case of factory inspection, where the staff of inspectors were altogether inadequate, but there is this difference, that in the case of factories the Government is not responsible for the efficiency of the factories, but we are responsible for the efficiency of the work that we inspect.

(Chairman).—I agree it is not a parallel case.

17365. (Mr. Michs).—Did you read any summary or newspaper account of the evidence given quite recently in London by Mr. Dornan?—I really have not had time.

17366. He brought forward a scheme which I should like to have your opinion upon. He thought there

should be local instructors instead of itinerant instructors. Local farmers successful on their own farms in the district were recommended by him as instructors. Men knowing the character and methods of the occupiers, and also the capabilities of the soil, and the nature of the scheme would, in Mr. Dornan's opinion, be more successful instructors than itinerant instructors who were without practical experience. In other words he would select in the district the most intelligent farmer he could, who had been successful on his own farm, and he would employ him to aid and assist in the development of agriculture in that particular parish or district. He would expect much better results from such a system of inspection than from instruction given by itinerant instructors who have a large area to cover—I have not seen Mr. Dornan's scheme, and I should be very much interested to see it, but I thoroughly know Mr. Dornan's views, because I have discussed them with him on several occasions. With a great many of his views I agree, but in others I differ from him. In our department we have a scheme only requiring money to carry it out, which fulfils the main object of Mr. Dornan's scheme. I differ from him on certain educational points—points of practical education. The scheme, as he outlined it to me, would be so costly that I do not think it would be administratively possible, but a sort of synthesis between our system of itinerant instruction and—

17367. Split the difference?—Yes, I prefer splitting the difference to the word synthesis. Perhaps you would excuse if I did not go into the details of it now?

17368. Is it on the broad general principle of resident, as distinguished from itinerant, instruction, and local instructors, as distinguished from men who do not know the locality. There are two broad lines in his scheme that struck me as being remarkable?—Mr. Dornan and I have so thoroughly threshed this out that I do not think we should have any difficulty in coming to an agreement upon the scheme, although I should wish to get him to concede a good many points, to which the expert officers of the Department attach great importance. On the question of the qualifications that a man ought to have who is going to be a leader of agricultural operations in the neighbourhood, I should insist upon much higher technical qualifications than Mr. Dornan would. I think Mr. Dornan's scheme, as originally outlined to me, would be from our point of view simply the blind leading the blind.

17369. (Chairman).—Mr. Dornan says that as far as his experience goes, he could find a man in every parish suitable for this work?—I wish there was. Ireland would be a very much richer country than it is if that were so.

17370. The best man in the parish would answer his purpose?—The idea is that he would lead up his neighbours. I doubt whether this prophet in his own country would accomplish much. There is, too, a great deal to be said for the man without local prejudices. The main thing is to get practical men with a sound foundation of scientific knowledge—men who are at good with the plough as they are with the microscope. If you can combine those two things you have your ideal. You may utilise the inferior class of men to do the work that Mr. Dornan has in his mind, but you want to be quite sure that they are men who can utilise the ideas and practice of the practical scientist you put over them.

17371. (Mr. Michs).—What do you think as regards resident in cottage-districts to itinerant instruction?—I am absolutely with Mr. Dornan there. The only question is the question of funds. If you give us the money we have the scheme.

17372. Could we see the scheme?—Certainly. Of course you must take it as a *pro forma* scheme. We have not got the money for it. In evidence we shall give before the Royal Commission on Congestion we will show that we have had to consider the question of separate treatment for the poorer districts. It has been a great difficulty with us to decide where a paternal system, like that of the Congested Districts Board, must be adopted, and where a more democratic system which may not be so immediately as efficient but is ultimately more elevating, could be employed. We quite recognise that we shall have to provide supplementary schemes for poor districts if only we can get additional money for that.

17373. Mr. Dornan drew another distinction between a man of practical experience, such as a resident

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man would be, and a man of technical experience, such as he said the man appointed as itinerant instructor would be!—That is not our system. We have never sent round the country men who are merely scientific and not practical. I do not know whether you understood our scheme for training itinerant instructors in agriculture for work in Ireland. The first qualification is that they must absolutely come from the farm. In their young days they must have been brought up on the farm and practised agriculture as it exists. They must have a fair general knowledge in order that they may qualify for the higher scientific training. This is a question I hope the Committee will inquire into. I maintain that a young man who enters on our system of education in Ireland can get as good, I would not mind saying a better, education as a practical scientific agriculturist to-day than in any other part of the United Kingdom. That is all being done by Professor Campbell and his staff.

17374. What Mr. Doran said was in reference to a man who had a practical experience of management on his own farm and employing his own money and his own labour?—I see what you mean. You would confine the instruction of others to those who had actually made a success of farming.

17375. I would not put any idea of his proposal in that way exactly. I should say an "effort to improve their condition and to make them better farmers." I would not use the word "instruction," but we mean the same thing. I am sure—I think there is probably not very much between us. If there is anything between us it is that possibly you and Mr. Doran both imagine that we in the Department attach too much value to the scientific and too little to the practical qualifications. You have by this time a pretty full and accurate knowledge of the Department's system, and I am sure you will, on reflection, agree that there is no foundation whatever for any such belief.

17376. (Mr. Brown).—So far as successful farmers and proprietors can be useful in influencing their neighbours that is being done. You have men of that stamp already upon the County Committees, and you have the benefit of their influence?—Yes. I do not quite see what we can do to place men of the type now referred to who are doing excellent work on the County Committees, in a position to improve the methods of their neighbours. Ex hypothesi, they have been successful themselves up to the present, but for some reason or other their example has not been followed by their neighbours. Now, the Department is to come in and wave a magic wand over these men and their influence is to radiate from them, and there is to be a general levelling up of the community to the efficiency both technical and commercial of the best men in the community. There are difficulties in getting a man who is attending to his own business to take service in the Department for these objects.

17377. But you have that class of men very largely on the County Committees?—And as administrators they are admissible.

17378. And is it not a fact that you find that class of men most desire itinerant instructors?—You might also put it this way, that those who need instruction least want it most. That is our experience, and that is our whole difficulty.

17379. (Chairman).—You may put it conversely!—Yes. The men who talk about our theorists going about the country are not the men who succeed themselves. They are the failures.

17380. (Mr. Brown).—And they are not the men to accept the instruction offered to them?—The practical men do not abuse theory. It is the unpractical man who does that.

17381. (Mr. Miele).—In Mr. Doran's remarks there is nothing of that sort?—He appears to me to have given you a wrong impression. Mr. Doran and I have had many talks upon the subject, and we are much less far apart than would appear to be from the impression he and I seem to have made on your mind. We are not very far apart.

17382. He did not think that by a "magic wand" arrangement any result would be obtained. What he suggested was to pay the man to improve his neighbours?—Yes, I quite understand that, but there are very great administrative difficulties in connection with the selection of the men to begin with. It is only a small detail, but this is obvious.

17383. The whole principle of agricultural instruction under Mr. Doran's scheme seems to me to have

selection at the bottom of it. I do not look upon it as a small detail.

17384. (Chairman).—There are one or two points on which I wish to question you. You saw the evidence which we had from Kilkenny about the Barrow drainage?—I did not read it, but I know the purport of it.

17385. Suppose they asked for a large amount out of the Endowment Fund for the purpose of meeting to some extent the loss to agriculture which is caused by the want of a proper system of drainage consequent on the overflow of the river. That raises to some extent the question of how far a matter of that sort comes within your Department?—Clearly. It would be quite legal for us to do so. There is no question about that. It would be of assistance to agriculture and would be legal in the same way that we might assist agriculture by building a railway into an agricultural district. It is simply a question of relative importance and available funds.

17386. Of course this question is really under investigation in a different way?—Certainly. These are matters for the consideration of Parliament.

17387. Judging from the sort of thing specified as being necessary some would be needed on such a scale that the scheme could not be contemplated by the present Department?—It would be absolutely impossible for us to undertake expenditure of that kind.

17388. (Mr. Brown).—In connection with this matter of drainage, I should like to mention a suggestion made to the Arterial Drainage Committee. Whatever scheme of drainage is established in Ireland it is necessary that there should be some central authority. It is suggested by some witnesses that inasmuch as arterial drainage is connected with the improvement of the land, that that central authority should be the Department of Agriculture, supplied with the necessary funds. I do not know whether the matter is entirely new to us?—I should call it a correlated function. I see no reason why such work should not be entrusted to the Department, but I must not be taken as reflecting on the Board of Works' administration.

17389. (Mr. Miele).—When was the question of winter dairying first advocated for Ireland?—As far as I know Canon Bagot was the first to advocate it. In 1889 I was advocating it myself.

17390. Has any serious attempt been made by the Department to introduce winter dairying into parts of Ireland that are suitable for such method of agriculture?—I heard you ask this question of Professor Campbell.

17391. I look upon you as a specialist as regards dairy work?—All I can say is that it has been constantly advocated by my associates in the Agricultural Organisation Society for several I could give you, except that they are so thoroughly well known.

17392. I mean by the Department?—The Department has done its best to promote winter dairying. What some people forget is that the system of farming to be adopted in the country depends absolutely on the farmers. All you can do is to give them advice in the matter—to frame your agricultural schemes, if you can agree with the local committees to do so, in such a way as to instruct people in the various branches of agriculture, a knowledge of which is needed in connection with winter dairying. The question of tillage is, of course, intimately bound up with it.

17393. I understand all that; but what I want to know is merely whether the Department has made any practical effort to start any experiments in this direction, or has attempted to encourage winter dairying?—The whole of their tillage experiments in dairying districts are in that direction. In addition to that, our cattle-breeding policy has a very strong tendency towards the development of milk strains in the short-horn, and the more you do in that direction the more you facilitate winter dairying. There are two difficulties in the way of winter dairying. Firstly, the capital required for buildings; and, secondly, the labour difficulty. Of course, there is also the unwillingness of people, with a rather uncertain economic outlook, to embark on a lot of extra capital in revolutionising their system.

17394. Having regard to the opinion you yourself and so many have expressed, to the effect that we in Ireland shall never be successful competitors with Denmark unless we can introduce winter dairying, does it not seem desirable that some more strenuous efforts ought to be made to bring about winter dairying by direct, as distinct from indirect, efforts?—I don't

quite understand the distinction. If you mean that the Department itself should go in for winter dairying—

17395. No. I do not mean on their own lands, but in some way to try and get it started by guarantee, or some other means?—We are quite open to suggestions from county committees in any part of Ireland for schemes of this kind. The local committee would have to select the individuals, and so forth.

17396. Is not that a matter on which the county committees should be instructed rather than be asked to give advice?—Yes; and our inspectors are constantly instructing them on the subject. We are doing all we can.

17397. Have you issued any circular or instructions to your inspectors on the subject?—I cannot say that; but I have discussed it with the inspectors over and over again, and they are quite alive to the necessity for the change. There is no doubt in the minds of the farmers in the country upon the economic advantage of winter dairying. But they fear to undertake the capital expenditure that would be involved.

17398. And the Department do not see their way in any way at all to give them an object lesson or assist them?—An object lesson by the Department in dairy farming as a business would not help them very much. If it failed it would do much harm. If the Government succeeded it would not give confidence to private individuals. There is always this difficulty when the Government goes into business. There is a scheme in County Cork, invented by Dr. Kelly, the Bishop of Ross, for encouraging tillage, which, if successful, would probably work out in winter dairying. It is to be tried by the County Committee of Cork. I can send details to the Committee if they wish. It will be better to do that than explain it now. Although I went down to the County Committee at the time it was put into operation, I do not recollect the details.

17399. Passing from that subject. On the question of small farmers generally throughout Ireland, as distinguished from the larger and more independent farmers, you mentioned that these best instructed in farming were the most anxious to get more instruction. That accords with the evidence we have had from a great many people, but from some witnesses we have heard that in a number of very poor localities the assistance of instruction in development was more for the larger and independent farmers than for the poor farmer!—That is so in many places; and that is one of the difficulties we have to contend with. Of course, that is especially the case in congested districts, where we have been turned loose in the wake of the Congested Districts Board, with very small means.

17400. I was not thinking of the congested districts in asking that question. I was thinking rather of other parts of the country, where there are considerable tracts of poor land, while in the same county there is good land, with comparatively prosperous farmers!—I have known cases where the county committees have not quite realised the claims of the poorest section of the ratepayers. I do not think there is any hard-heartedness, but they have not quite grasped the inability of the very small farmers to avail themselves of a good many of their schemes. I must say, however, that in that respect they are improving a great deal. We want more money, so as to be able to have supplementary schemes, centrally administered, for the very poor districts.

17401. Has the Department ever issued any instructions or directions in writing to the secretary of the committee, calling attention to those parts of the county that are in the greatest need of assistance?—We have not exactly done that; but we have impressed upon the county committees the importance of certain of the schemes for the poor people. The poultry scheme, for instance, which is obviously more for the poor people than for the better-off people. I have gone with our inspectors on the round of the county committees where the schemes for the year have been adopted, and I have found that when the inspectors point out to the committees that certain schemes would be particularly beneficial to the poor districts the county committees have readily done what was right in the matter. Where there is any difficulty in getting committees to give as much as ought to be given to the very poor districts, a separate scheme should be provided outside the county scheme, just as it is in the congested districts. It is only a question of money.

17402. You know that the incomes of the county committees on agriculture are distributed in proportion to the valuation of the rural districts of the county?—They look at it generally in that way.

17403. With such a method of distribution, would not the result be that the rich districts would get more and the poor districts less?—I presume it would be so; but, then, that seems to be an equitable arrangement, because all those districts that contribute richly ought to get more. It would be very difficult to persuade the county committees to discriminate against certain districts.

17404. Do you remember when the legislation of 1899 was being promoted that the condition of the poor districts was really more dwelt on than the condition of the more wealthy districts?—Certainly.

17405. Do you not think there is a real necessity for some fundamental change in the administration, so that poor districts may be more generously dealt with?—To begin with, the congested districts are very much more liberally dealt with. Then, as a result of the Royal Commission's enquiry, I think it is highly probable that other poor districts will be dealt with very much on the same lines. But I would like to mention here one thing I forget to say, namely—that we do, as a matter of fact, deal much more liberally as regards the Department's contribution in poor districts than we do in wealthy counties.

17406. That has been stated in the evidence. I was speaking of the joint funds?—Yes, that is true. In the administration of the joint funds the only provision that can be made is to get our inspectors to impress upon the county committees the necessity for administering their schemes as equitably as possible.

17407. (Mr. Brown).—What you have been saying does not apply to technical instruction or even instruction in agriculture?—I thought Mr. Micks was rather dealing with the direct aids, such as live-stock improvements.

17408. (Mr. Micks).—What I thought was that the money spent by the committees in the wealthy districts was far more than was spent in the poor districts.

17409. (Mr. Brown).—It could only have application to the live-stock schemes; and so far as our country is concerned it has no application at all.

17410. (Mr. Micks).—I deny any one in County Kildare. I have another question. Under what legislative authority does the Department exercise its power of affixing conditions to schemes?—It is under Section 16 (5). "Money to be applied by the Department under this part of this Act shall be applied subject to any conditions which the Department may require."

17411. Can you, roughly, group the conditions which the Department make as to schemes?—The Committee have had so many schemes before it—

17412. I have analysed them myself. I can suggest them to you if you wish?—My only difficulty is that in my position I do not like to give an inaccurate statement on the matter.

17413. There are three conditions, among others, that stand out?—To begin with, the conditions are partly statutory. If you look at Section 19 (4), you will find: "No money shall be applied under this section save (a) in accordance with the provisions of a scheme approved by the Department; or (b) for defraying any administrative or incidental expenses incurred with the approval of the Department for the purposes of this Act." Then you will find another condition if you look at 16 (5) which reads: "The Department shall not, in the absence of special considerations, apply or approve of the application of money under this section (other than the capital sums in this section mentioned) to schemes in respect of which aid is not given out of money provided by local authorities or from other local sources." There the largest discussion rests with the Department as to the proportion between the local contribution and the central contribution.

17414. Do you know that that is a limitation peculiar to Ireland. It is not introduced in the Acts in England?—I have never considered the matter, but I think it is a very good limitation. I think it was the whole idea of the Recess Committee that State aid should not be given as a substitute for local effort, but rather in such a way as to evolve and supplement it.

17415. The conditions, apart from those just referred to, give the right to control time-tables, the right to approve of subjects for instruction, and the right to vote the appointment of officers. Has the Department

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ever taken any legal opinion as to their power to veto the appointment of officers?—Well, I cannot say whether we have taken any legal opinion upon it; but I think under the clause of the Act I have read our position would be a distinctly legal one. There is nothing more important in the scheme than to have properly qualified persons to carry it out. I ought to explain our practice is only to pass upon the technical qualifications of officers. We leave the local authorities to choose between the qualified.

17416. Yes. Section 16, sub-section (1) (c) (ii.), and the similar corresponding sub-section (1) (g), refers to the particular application of the funds—with the concurrence of the two Boards?—What clause?

17417. Section 16—Yes. It is stated in sub-section (1) (c) (ii.).

17418. And in Section 16, sub-section (1) (g). What steps have the Department taken in order to arrive at the meaning of those rather peculiar words?—Which words?

17419. "Particular application." Did the Department take any steps to ascertain the different meanings that might be attached to these words?—The practice of the Department is, in the first instance, to apply commonsense to these things. If any difficulty arises, and if our interpretation is disputed, then we always consult the law officers of the Crown. That is our regular procedure.

17420. Were they consulted upon these words?—We may have consulted them in some cases.

17421. Of course, it goes to the root of the whole power of the Board of Agriculture and the Board of Technical Instruction. It is what you term their domestic power—the interpretation you put upon those words?—"Particular application?"

17422. Yes. What I want to know is, has any interpretation been given by the law officers of these two words?—"Particular application." appears to me to be words carefully devised to give the Department the utmost discretion in the matter.

17423. Power?—Yes; the full power; but we try not to stretch our authority unreasonably.

17424. (Chairman).—Has ever any question arisen as regards the meaning of the words?

17425. (Mr. Miché).—I observed, on looking over files in the office, that a question was raised on those words by the Comptroller and Auditor-General?—Can you say what the particular point was?

17426. The particular point I would infer from what I saw was this. The whole of the correspondence could not be carried up far as at the moment, but I inferred from it that the Comptroller and Auditor-General's Department seemed to think that the two Boards ought to have more power than was being given to them?—At any rate we must have satisfied him in the matter.

17427. Well—I can quite understand how the Auditor-General might be under a wrong impression at first. I think I explained in my original evidence that the Act, as it was drafted, required a certain amount of give-and-take between the Department and the Boards; and that I suggested at one of the earliest, in fact, at the first meeting of the Boards, that our procedure should be as follows: The Department should give to the Boards, firstly, a general outline of its policy, and then give a forecast, with as much detail as possible, of the proposed expenditure upon the various schemes submitted. The Board should then give a covering vote, and the administration of the schemes in detail should be left to the Department. At the next meeting progress was to be reported upon the various schemes, and the Boards were to be invited to criticize, in the most minute detail if they wished, the administration by the Department of the funds voted at the previous meeting. Of course, the Department adopted any modifications in the future that the Boards wished in the matter. That procedure has worked perfectly well from the first meeting of the Boards up till now. It was a slight departure from the most strict letter of the Act, made because we found, as any business man can see, that it was absolutely necessary that a certain amount of freedom of administration should be allowed to the Department, and that they should not have to call members suddenly from all over Ireland to come together in order to pay compensation for a diseased pig, or some trifling matter of that kind.

17428. That would be an extreme case!—And it would be a wrong case, because that would come on the vote; but—I mean small matters.

17429. As to your position as Vice-President. What is your present opinion as to the authority, power, or control that should be exercised by the Chief Secretary as President of the Board?—If you ask me from the point of view of practical administration, I think that the Chief Secretary should not interfere with details at all as long as the Department is being faithfully and efficiently administered. I think he should not interfere with administration. When he has any reason to doubt that the Department is being properly administered then he should immediately institute an enquiry, and if necessary, get rid of the Vice-President. That is my own feeling in the matter.

17430. (Chairman).—Has he the power to do that?—Not directly; but a principal Secretary of State would do it at the request of the President.

17431. (Mr. Miché).—Then you think that the Vice-President ought to have the real working power, and that matters should not be submitted to the President by the Vice-President?—Yes, with this qualification that whenever any other branch of the Government or any matter of general policy, or any matter affecting legislation comes up, then I think it is the duty of the Vice-President to consult the President. It is clear one branch of the Government ought not to in any way embarrass another branch of the Government or the Government as a whole.

17432. Do you consider the Vice-President, who is not in Parliament, should direct and control the Department?—Unquestionably as regards the expenditure of the endowment, because he is made responsible to a popularly constituted machinery in Ireland. There has been such an immense amount of criticism in Parliament lately, and some people may take the other view as regards the administration of the voted money, but in my judgment no Irish interest so far has been proved to have suffered from the then Secretaries answering for the Vice-President in Parliament, instead of him being there himself.

17433. It was put forward by you, that the Vice-President should retire if he received a vote of no confidence from the Council or Boards?—If either of the Boards refused to work with the Vice-President I do not see how he could go on. I, myself, have stated over and over again to the Council that if they passed a vote of want of confidence I should immediately resign.

17434. That is as regards the Council only?—Yes. As far as the Council only is concerned, and I may say, now, if the Boards wished to get rid of me I should retire for the reason that I do not see how you could have good administration if the body controlling the money, and the person chiefly responsible for administering the work were at loggerheads.

17435. Does it not seem rather incongruous that a person should nominate one-third of a body to whom he is to be responsible?—It may be novel, but to my mind there is nothing incongruous about it. There is a great deal to be said for a man nominating some of those with whom he is going to work. I put my whole views on this matter in an address to the Council, and if this matter is to be debated now I would rather head in my address.

17436. (Chairman).—I think we ought to have it—I think you were present at the meeting.

17437. It was the last meeting, was it?—Yes.

17438. (Mr. Miché).—Do you think the Vice-President then is a minister or a civil servant, or how would you classify him?—Well, we have had it on the authority of the Prime Minister that he is in the "Plunket Category."

17439. What really is the position? Is it that of a minister or is it that of a civil servant, or what is it?—It is a new position which has never existed in these islands before, because it is governed by dual responsibility—first, either by Parliament directly or in the event of the officer not being in Parliament, then indirectly to Parliament through the Chief Secretary in respect of voted money, and, secondly, in respect of the endowment, to the popularly constituted machinery of the Department. The difficulty of discharging the two responsibilities is, in my opinion, especially in view of the weight of administrative work, better put over by an officer who is neither a minister or civil servant, if you like to put it that way.

17440. (Chairman).—It is obvious. We need not labour that point.

17441. (Mr. Smith).—It is an anomaly from the administrative point of view!—There are a great many worse anomalies. It is unique.

17442. (Chairman).—Have you anything to say about the Board of Technical Instruction?—Do you mean about its constitution?

17443. One thing that strikes me is that the county boroughs represented upon it have matters very much in their own hands!—That is true. The constitution of the Technical Instruction Board must inevitably be as urban as the Board of Agriculture is rural. The difficulty Mr. Gerald Balfour had to get over was that the greater part of technical instruction would be in the county boroughs, and these bodies would require much greater local freedom than could be given to smaller urban centres and to rural districts. I take it that was the reason he gave ten seats on the Board to the County Boroughs. I daresay, too, he thought it would be for the good of the country at large that men who knew more of the industrial and commercial life of the country than representatives of the smaller districts should be a strong element on the Board. It may also be of value to the smaller towns and country districts to have the advice of the city men even although most of the questions between the county boroughs and the Department are settled directly without the intervention of the Technical Instruction Board. At the meetings large questions of general policy come up and there is a good deal to be said for having these men there to discuss them.

17444. We have been told by one witness particularly especially as regards matters of discussion at the Technical Board that there is not nearly so much discussion or so full discussion as at the Board of Agriculture?—I think the reason of that is that the schemes are much more difficult. They are very much more questions for experts.

17445. I daresay—as regards the agricultural schemes everybody has an opinion!—They may not really have expert knowledge of the issues being discussed, but at the same time they are more familiar with them than they are with technical instruction work, which is much more difficult to understand.

17446. You are not disposed to put forward any proposal for the alteration of the Board?—I would rather not suggest any change when the thing is so new. It would be a great pity to pull the young tree up by the roots. It takes some years to get over initial difficulties. We shall be able to see later what changes are required. Of course that is a matter on which I must not have any opinion, but it appears to me the machine, considering the difficulties, has worked satisfactorily up to now, and I do not want to suggest amendments.

17447. You say it appears to you that to alter its constitution which has on the whole worked fairly well you must have more experience than the five or six years?—That is precisely my view. The wise plan is to give a little more time. I think the criticism generally ignores the short time we have been at work.

17448. (Mr. Brown).—If the Board of Technical Instruction had nothing to say to the county borough schemes there would be no authority at all!—I sometimes wish that the Board of Technical Instruction had to review the work of the Technical Instruction

Committee of the Corporation of Dublin. It might make things a little easier for the Department, but on the other hand, Balfour would resent any interference as probably Dublin would.

17449. (Chairman).—I see you have taken some steps towards giving publicity to the proceedings of the Board of Agriculture. Do you think that might be carried further with advantage?—I think one thing that is absolutely necessary is that the deliberations should be private.

17450. Would it be possible to discriminate between matters which the meeting should discuss in private, such as projects for the buying up of land and things of that sort, and matters which could be discussed in public? Could you distinguish between those questions which ought to be discussed in private and ordinary questions of policy to which there is no objection in discussing in public?—My own strong feeling is that it would distinctly be a hindrance to good business administration to have administrative matters publicly debated. I think it is an utterly sound principle because then we would have to consider how men would acquit themselves in debate instead of considering what sort of business abilities they had. It is far better to give quiet men a chance to do good work.

17451. (Mr. Brown).—You would have to be constantly considering whether the Press should be excluded on this point or that?—It would be difficult to draw the line. When any matter is decided in which the public are interested the public know the decision as soon as possible.

17452. (Chairman).—The common practice where the public are not admitted is to send a short summary of the proceedings to the Press?—Yes. That is what we do. The only question is how much fuller that press can be made.

(Chairman).—I understand Mr. Fletcher desires to make a statement.

(Mr. Fletcher).—Will you permit me to make a brief statement in reference to the evidence tendered by me yesterday. It concerns my statement that the Dublin City Technical Committee considered that they had a suitable Principal. In reply to a question by Mr. Maude asking whether the gentleman in question had a University degree, I replied that I was not sure, but believed not. I have just sought an opportunity of referring to the evidence offered by Mr. Mulligan before the Committee of Inquiry when sitting in Dublin. I see that he stated that the gentleman in question was a graduate of Trinity College, and I gladly accept that statement. The question does not in any way affect any argument used by me, but I am anxious to remove a misimpression which might prove prejudicial to the gentleman concerned, more especially as the incident is reported in an abridged form in the public Press.

(Chairman).—This, I hope, will be the close of the sittings of the Committee to take evidence. Subject only to this, that if the Committee find it necessary or desirable to receive any further evidence they will give due notice of the time and place. Subject to that I think the evidence is closed.

Mr. Herbert Plunkett.—Of course we can submit any documentary evidence?

(Chairman).—Yes.

Nov. 28, 1894.
Right Hon.
Sir Horace
Plunkett,
S.O.C.

The Committee adjourned.